



**DOMUS  
ORIENTALIS**  
DOM WSCHODNI



**ARCHIDIECEZJI  
ŁÓDZKIEJ**



# **Polska dla Bejrutu**

## **مساعدة من بولندا لبيروت**

### **SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES IN 2021**

- I. Introduction
- II. Renovation of apartments
- III. Give a job!
- IV. Emergency assistance
- V. First Step and other projects of YBTE (Domus Orientalis Young Team in Lebanon)
- VI. Support for families of firefighters
- VII. Further plans

## *I Introduction*

*The joint mission of the Dom Wschodni - Domus Orientalis and Caritas of the Archdiocese of Łódź in Lebanon began a few days after the explosion on 04/08/2020. Thanks to two diocesan collections, the generosity of Polish donors and cooperation with Lebanese entities, we have been working for a year and a half, not slowing down and adapting activities to changing needs.*

*In the initial phase, we tried to focus on removing the effects of the explosion as quickly as possible, operating mainly in the destroyed regions of Beirut. The economic and political crisis and growing tensions forced us in 2021 to expand our activities to sensitive areas of the city, including Ain El Remmaneh (on October 14, 2021, there were tragic fights on the border of the estate, in which 7 people were killed and 30 were seriously injured) .*



*We not only stimulated the renewal of jobs and housing, but we started to conduct cultural, educational and pro-ecological activities, creating the Youth Team - YBTE, which in the future is to be the main pillar of the Eastern House in Lebanon. Young people are also responsible for coordinating the "First Step" - a scholarship project for children that we have opened.*



*We continued to carry out repairs in the port zones, but we focused more and more on interior furnishings, as other NGOs withdrew after the completion of "external" works (replacement of windows, doors, etc.). The renovated buildings were still empty many times, as people could not return to their apartments. Most of our furniture was made in the workshop of Chadi (the manager of our construction team), which allowed us to reduce costs.*

*Similarly in the case of "Give a job!" not only were we focused on reactivating microbizses destroyed during the explosion, but also helped to open several new stores, including a unique oriental flute production workshop connected to a music store.*

*Important events in 2021 there was a visit of a delegation from Poland and the organization of a joint telemost and mass in Beirut and Łódź on 02/08, which was an expression of enormous support for the troubled Lebanese people on the anniversary of the explosion in the Beirut port.*





To sum up, **in 2021** we carried out projects with a **total value of USD 47,089.27 + EUR 2,640:**

- **Renovations** of 26 buildings: 23 apartments + help in 2 schools + renovation of the space in the church of St. Michael - a total of \$ 20,537.50
- „**Give a Job!**”: assistance in 19 workplaces - USD 16,229
- **Emergency assistance:** 100 food packages, material assistance to 3 families, medical support for one girl, distribution of clothes - USD 3,358.24
- **"First Step"** and other **YBTE projects** - EUR 2,640 + USD 2,531.53
- **Help for firefighters' families** - \$ 4,433

**From the beginning of our activities, i.e. August 2020. we carried out projects with a total value of: USD 94 910.27 and EUR 2640, helping, among others when renovating 90 facilities (85 apartments) and 36 jobs,**

## **II. Apartments (renovation, equipment) - "To give them shelter" - \$ 20,537.50**

### **1. Nancy**

**About:** Nancy lives with her mother on the last floor of an old building. She was severely wounded during the explosion. She was hospitalised for a long period of time and still needed medical follow up after discharge. Her home was missing the roof of 2 rooms after the blast.

**Location:** Rmeil, Armenia St.

**Works:** Steel works (materials for steel ceiling labour for steel), cement works (material for balcony wall labour for cement).

**Cost:** 1305 USD



### **2. Richard**

**About:** He is a middle-aged married man who has been jobless for the past few years. They have one daughter who lives and works in Europe. He and his wife rely on their daughter to support them in order to survive.

**Location:** Rmeil, Patriarch Arida St.

**Works:** New wooden main door, small WC window.

**Cost:** 325 USD + 325 USD Nuns.



### 3. Daad

*About: Daad is a middle-aged woman who lives alone after the death of her brother. Some NGOs helped her rehabilitate her old house , yet still.*

*Location: Rmeil, Jbeily S.*

*Works: Steel tent installation*

*Cost: 385 USD + 350 USD Nuns*



### 4. Joe

*About: Joe is an architect married to Carole and together they have two lovely kids. Carole was severely injured because she was standing close to the balcony facing the port. The children's bedroom was left without its window front in the aftermath of the blast.*

*Location: Medawar, Mar Mikhayel Street.*

*Works: Installation of a new aluminium frame and tempered glass.*

*Cost: 748 USD + 680 USD Nuns, 2000 USD Caritas Lebanon, 600 USD Joe*



### 5. Shukri

*About: Shukri used to live with his old mother on the last floor of a heritage building. They literally lost their roof after the blast and their beautiful home was robbed that night and during the long lockdown period in the past winter.*

*Location: Medawar, Armenia St.*

*Works: Replacing broken glass (material and labour), Painting of walls, doors and ceiling (material and labor)*

*Cost: 1732.50 USD + 1125 USD Nuns*





## 6. Antoine

*About: Antoine and his wife have one daughter in her twenties who lives abroad. they ended up being forced to leave their home after the blast due to the big damages.*

*Location: Rmeil, Qobayat St.*

*Works: New External Steel door (material and labour), wall painting and roof isolation (material and labour)*

*Cost: 742.50 USD + 625 USD Nuns*



## 7. Nadine

*About: Nadine is an optometrist who works in a hospital. She is a separated mother of 3 lovely kids, one daughter and two sons aged between 17 and 10 who live with her. The kids were traumatized by their father's brutal ways in smashing the entrance door and beating them up while the mother is at work, which required the installation of a steel door for protection.*

*Location: Tahwita*

*Works: Steel Door*

*Costs: 302.50 USD*



## 8. Youssef

*About: Youssef is a widow who works in elevator installation and maintenance. He has one married daughter and 2 grandchildren, one of them is an autistic child.*

*Location: Sin El Fil*

*Works: kitchen door installation*

*Cost: 77 USD*



### 9. Nina

About: Nina and her husband are a middle-aged couple who were severely wounded and whose home was completely swept and ravaged due to the blast. The works there needed more than one NGO to finish the rehabilitation works and to enable them to shelter back. They were forced to move out and couldn't return to their home as no furniture was left to use

Location: Medawar, Madrid St

Works: Manufacture of 1 kitchen cabinet, 2 single beds, 1 night table, 1 sofa and provision of 2 mattresses.

Cost: 1061.50 USD



### 10. Rabih

About: Rabih is a man who serves in Mar Mikhayl Church and used to sleep in the church salon. He moved with his mother and sister to an apartment facing the church that was damaged by the blast and needed restoration.

Location: Medawar, Pharaon St, Diocese bldg.

Works: Provision of 2 single beds

Cost: 407 USD



### 11. Toni

About: Toni Gerges is a very old man who lives alone and has nobody to help or care for. He is being taken care of by others to enable him to feed and survive.

Location: Medawar, Rabbat St, facing the port, +9611445205

Works: Manufacture of 3 kitchen cabinets under the sink.

Cost: 236.50 USD



### 12. Amale

About: Amale works 2 jobs. She's a catechism teacher for secondary level in La Sagesse catholic school and the assistant for the parish in Mar Mikhayel church. She lives in Rmeil along with her sister, her brother and sister-in-law. Their home endured big damages from the blast.

Location: Rmeil, Salah Labaki St,

Works: Replacement of broken glass and restoration of kitchen counter and manufacture of cabinets

Cost: 330 USD





### 13. Maurice

*About: Maurice is an old man who lives with his wife in a small apartment in very poor conditions. The blast along with the crippling economic situation hit them hard and left them without resources including broken furniture.*

*Location: Rmeil, Armenia St*

*Works: Manufacture of 2 new single beds with a night table*

*Cost: 462 USD*



### 14. Lydia

*About: Lydia and her family survived the blast but had hard time restoring all the damages that their apartment was left with, including a broken bed forcing them to sleep on the floor*

*Location: Rmeil, Jbeily St.*

*Works: Manufacture of 1 new double bed*

*Cost: 429 USD*



### 15. Therese

*About: Therese is a school administration employee who lives with her son. Their home was left in pieces and needed the effort of more than one NGO to be restored.*

*Location: Medawar, Pharaon St*

*Works: Provision of a new double bed mattress*

*Cost: 235 USD*



### 17. Raja

*About: Raja is a woman who serves church and is responsible for the charity service provided by the parish to the needy. She miraculously survived the blast, given the fact that her home is facing the port, but the apartment was in need of big restoration works in the aftermath.*

*Location: Mar Mikhail*

*Works: Paint for doors*

*Cost: 132 USD*



### 17. Betta

*About: Betta is an old woman who lives with her old man and 2 middle-aged sons in a tiny apartment where basic needs were almost non-existent after the blast.*

*Location: Burj Hammoud*

*Works: Manufacture of 2 sofas, installation of 1 new window, cement works, wood restoration, replacement of 1 broken glass, installation of new wood window frame, fence and steel cover, for new window and painting for external window and door, and transportation fees for home appliances.*

*Cost: 495 USD + 450 Nuns*

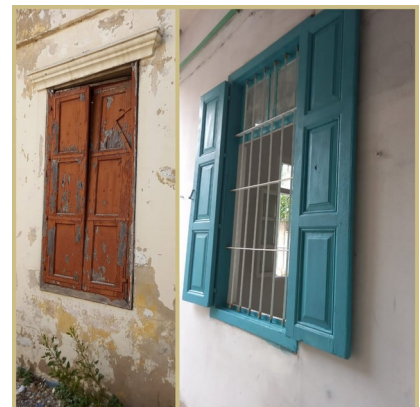


### 18. Tania

*About: Tania and her parents were sent a notice for eviction by the new year from their home in Ashrafieh, The only option left was to relocate to a shared property owned by her mother's family. The house was in need of much restoration work in the aftermath of the blast. What mattered the most is to shelter the family before they get kicked out on the streets.*

*Works: Sanitary works, cement and tiles works, wood works including restoration and installation of a new door and new windows and external wooden shutters, paint.*

*Cost: 3850 USD + 3500 USD Nuns)*





### 19. Christiane

About: Christiane is a young lady who lives alone in a very beautiful heritage house and works in a bank.. She had to relocate for months before being able to relocate. Her home was hugely affected by the blast and her vintage family inherited furniture was left in pieces. The process to restore her home required the intervention of a bunch of NGOs

Location: Medawar, Armenia St.

Works: Furniture restoration

Cost: 660 USD



### 20. Joyce

About: Joyce is a Cameroonian young woman who works in house cleaning in Lebanon. She shares the apartment with Margaret, a Kenyan. Both have been suffering from mosquito bites and rats raiding the apartment due to the broken glass from the blast and couldn't afford installing new glass windows.

Location: Nabaa

Works: Glass installation

Cost: 187 USD



### 21. St Michel Church (Salon)

About: Our spiritual capital and the headquarters of our works. The Church damages are huge, and the need to rehabilitate the salon that was turned into HQ for relief efforts/ chapel/ parish activity center was of high importance. Turning this part of the church a versatile place was crucial in these difficult times

Location: Medawar, Mar Mikhael St.

Works: Cement works (walls), Electrical installation for ceiling lighting (materials and labour)

Cost: 1315 USD



## **22. Les filles de la charité of St Vincent de Paul free school in Clemenceau**

About: this school has been closed for years now. After the blast, the premises were open to host few NGOs whose purpose was to serve the people affected from the explosion and need a location within the area

Location: Ras Beirut, Clemenceau st.

Works: Installation of roof bricks and assembly of wooden desks

Cost: 555 USD



## **23. La Sagesse School Ashrafieh**

About: La Sagesse Schools is a network of Catholic schools established by the Maronite Archdiocese of Beirut. The Ashrafieh branch that is annexed to the diocese was ravaged by the explosion. Till today, restoration works are still ongoing with little financial resources and big challenges. The teachers' lounges needed water coolers as the ones from before were unrepairable.

Location: Ashrafieh, La Sagesse School St.

Works: Provision 2 new water coolers

Cost: 165 USD



## **24. The Lift Project-AYN EL REMMANEH**

About: The building sheltering many families with elderly and young children was in need of an elevator, especially to enable the Raad old couple who live on the last floor to go out of their apartment and have a taste of life after being stuck on their 5th floor for years now.

Location: Ayn El Remmaneh, El A'ilat St

Works: Installation of a steel door for the engine room, Labour for painting the entrance and the stairs.

Cost: 1045 USD + 3200 USD = 4245 USD







## 25. Samir

*About: Samir is a lonely man living alone in Ayn el Remmaneh. He works in St Georges Hospital.*

*Location: Ayn el Remmaneh*

*Works: Windows renovation – new glass.*

*Costs: 25 USD*

## 26. Edmond

*About: Another older person from Ayn el Remmaneh whose glass was broken during the blast.*

*Location: Ain el Remmaneh*

*Works: Glass restoration*

*Costs: 130 USD*

### **III. „GIVE A JOB!” - „To give them tools to rebuild decent life!” - 16 229 USD**

#### **1. Elie & Roula**

*About: Elie and Roula are the parents of Ralph – firefighter who died during the blast in August 2020. After their son's death. They both decided to quit their jobs and set up a small coffee shop to be close to the family at all times and in the very same neighborhood where Ralph grew and loved to serve.*

*Location: Ayn el Remmaneh*

*Works: new ceiling, sanitary works, plumber, external curtain and small wood works, small billboard.*

*Cost: 650 USD*



#### **2. Davo**

*About: Davo is son of Roula and Elle. We decided to help him to open a shop next to his father's so he can try to rely on himself and build his own family in the future.*

*Location: Ain el Remmaned*

*Works: aluminium works for the main entrance*

*Costs: 1005 USD*



#### **3. Elie**

*About: Elie Mezher owns a little furniture gallery in Ayn El Remmaneh. He lost his shop windows during the blast and due to the crisis was left unable to replace them. He and his wife have two sons and 1 daughter.*

*Location: Ayn El Remmaneh*

*Works:*

*Costs: 96 USD*





#### 4. Serge

About: He is a family man and the father of a lovely girl aged 4. He and his wife both run small shops in the Mar Mikhael area to support their family and be able to put bread on the table. Both shops were damaged in the blast. He sells cell phones and cell phone accessories and services in his small shop.

Location: Rmeil, Armenia st

Works: Billboard installation.

Cost: 120 USD + 120 USD Nuns).



#### 5. Liwan

About: Liwan is a company specialized in arts and crafts, mainly focused on traditional items in clothing. Their showroom was left with a little storage corner to save what was left from the merchandise after the blast because of its location facing the port. Marlene Rizkallah is the manager of the company.

Location: Medawar, Madrid St.

Works: Cement, sanitary and electricity works, wooden door installation for w/c (materials and labour work)

Cost: 462 USD + 375 USD Nuns)



#### 6. Elie

About: Elie runs a cellphones shop owned by his father François. He lives with his parents and is planning to get married soon.

Location: Dekwaneh

Works: Aluminium door restoration, glass replacement (material and labour), billboard installation (labour)

Cost: 330 USD



### **7. Toni**

*About: Toni is a firefighter and a family man who also runs a little workshop for car upholstery. A proud diver with a big heart who never hesitates to rush and help the needy.*

*Location: Medawar, Al Khodor St*

*Works: Installation of steel shutter door (material and labour)*

*Cost: 176 USD*



### **8. Toni**

*About: Salma Bakery is owned by Toni and his wife Nohad, they decided to open this bakery more than a year ago, and make use of his little experience in baking after a long period of unemployment. They have one boy.*

*Location: Rmeil, Khatshadourian St*

*Works: External tent (material and labour)*

*Cost: 341 USD*



### **9. Sumar**

*About: Sumar is our volunteer, serving to people 24/7. We decided to help her to restore her office to continue her work in the field of her education, which is law. This will help her to continue her mission and secure financial sources for her every day life.*

*Location: Ghobeiry Square.*

*Works: New main door, sanitary works for w/c and kitchen, painting, flooring, tiles work, electrical work)*

*Cost: 2200 USD*



### **10. Rani**

*About: Rani runs a cleaning services company. The office was swept in the blast and left him with little to get back on their feet. Needless to say, the economic crisis had its toll on his ability to restore and give his business the needed kickstart.*

*Location: Medawar, Lamartine St.*

*Works: Paint works for walls and doors.*

*Cost: 588.50 USD*





### 11. Mary

About: Mary and her husband have 2 children. They live and own a snack shop in a building facing the port. Their home was swept by the blast and they needed to be offered a shelter for a year before they could come back home and try to resume their lives. The snack shop needed rehabilitation works to reopen

Location: Medawar, Alexander Fleming St

Works: Restoration for gypsum ceiling, paint and installation of new glass.

Cost: 154 USD + 140 USD Nuns)



### 12. Gaby

About: Gaby is a family man who lives in the diocese building and owns a little kiosk at the corner of the parking area. He was wounded during the blast and his kiosk was robbed that night. He managed to reopen in very poor conditions just to be able to survive but needed help.

Location: Medawar, Pharaon St.

Works: Installation of new wooden shelves and a new lock for steel door.

Cost: 126.50 USD + 100 USD Nuns)



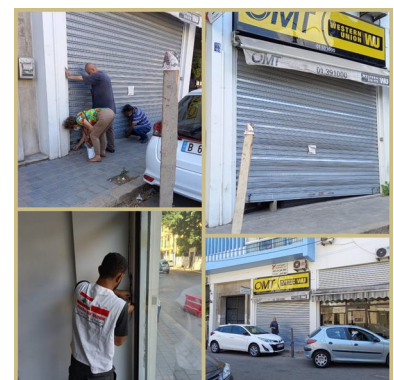
### 14. Nelly

About: Nelly is the mayor of Medawar area, her office located facing the church was damaged and the electric steel shutter was much needed to be replaced as she and her brother-in-law/assistant are both old and have no strength to lift the shutters manually.

Location: Medawar, Pharaon St

Works: Installation of a new electrical engine for steel shutters.

Cost: 347 USD



#### 14. Imad

About: Imad and his brothers own a family business and operate cranes and other heavy machinery in the Karantina area, close to the port. The blast caused big damages to their machinery and swept the container they used as their operation and administration office. They are tough guys who immediately started repairing but found themselves working outdoors seeking refuge in shadowy corners.

Location: Medawar, Karantina.

Works: Construction of a steel office using sandwich panels and aluminium profiles.

Cost: 1320 USD + 700 USD paid by them)



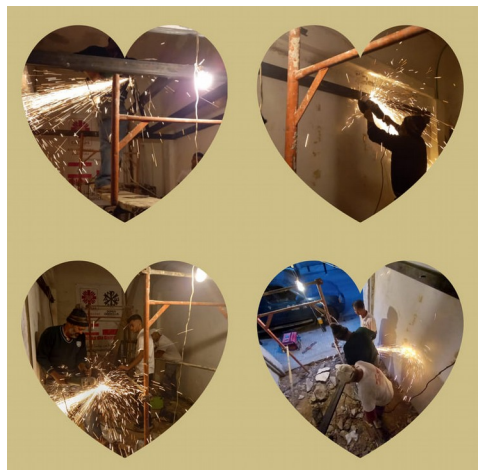
#### 15. Toni

About: Toni is a musician who plays and teaches the oriental flute. He and his wife share 4 wonderful children who are also very talented. They wanted to open a music shop near their home where he can make the flutes he sells, and where 2 of his daughters can teach music .

Location: Rmeil, Badawi St

Works: Cement and tiling for the floor, sanitary works, installation of a small sign board, a wooden main façade, a steel attic, wooden shelves and an external steel shutter, provision of a small desk and walls paint.

Cost: 4345 USD





### 16. Nelly

About: Nelly is a single mom of a little boy, she used to work in a studio, but with the crisis unfolding and the salaries losing their value, she decided to open a little shop to sell coffee, refreshments and snacks for passers.

Location: Medawar, Pharaon St

Works: Restoration of steel tent, Installation of external curtains and provision of 6 chairs.

Cost: 385 USD + 350 USD Nuns)



### 17. Issa

About: Issa owns a plexi factory and showroom. The ceiling of the back of his showroom fell in the blast. He tried to restore but faced water leak problems that could have caused electrocution

Location: Medawar, Alexander Fleming St

Works: Cement works and waterproofing the roof.

Cost: 1795 USD



### 18. Mark

About: Mark is a trainer who was stuck under the rubble and survived his injuries. He lives with his mother Therese and runs a little pizza place by himself where he makes his own dough and bakes pizza for his customers.

Location: Rmeil, Qobayat St.

Works: Cement works, installation of an external steel ceiling and and external curtain, provision of a medium industrial fridge and restoration of tables.

Cost: 853 USD + 775 USD Nuns)



### 19. Youmna

About: Youmna is a widow who runs an antique shop. She lost her husband last year and lives with her only daughter.

Location Rmeil, Qobayat St

Works: Cement works, installation of an external steel ceiling, 2 new wooden façade entrance, 2 doors and a new steel shutter door.

Cost: 935 USD + 850 USD Nuns)



## IV. Distributions and other emergency help ("Because it's important to be with them") - 3358,24 USD

### 1. Distribution:

- 50 food packages with father. Ellie Rahme – 1000 USD
- 50 packages in Ain El Remmaneh and other areas, also to the people who are helping in Marm Mikhail Church 1115 USD
- Distribution of clothes for the poorest people from Ain el Remmaneh/Chiyeh through the social shop – 100 USD



### 2. Financial support:

- Mr Levon – 243,24 USD
- Little Sisters of Nazareth – 200 USD
- Miss Nadia, lonely old widow – 200 USD
- Support for the people in St Michel Church – 200 USD
- 



### 3. Medical support:

- medical treatment for a girl name Naya - 300 USD



## V. „The First Step” and „YBTE” projects („Cause Young people are the Hope!”)

### a) „The First Step” - 2640 EUR:

In autumn, we launched a scholarship project for children from the **Notre Dames Des Anges** school in the **Badaro** neighborhood in Beirut. The school is located near the Tayuneh roundbout and the Ain el Remmaneh district, where tragic clashes took place on October 14, 2021 (7 people died and 30 were injured).



We are currently looking after 40 children, with the prospect of extending the support. The project is coordinated by Melissa, who is a member of the Domus Orientalis Young Team in Lebanon – **YBTE (YoungBestTeamEver)**.

### b) YBTE – 2531,53 USD:

The Young Team was created to stimulate other aspects of activities, such as ecological projects, cultural and educational activities and inter-religious dialogue. YBTE is also introducing the project "Wojtek Helps!".



So far, apart from the coordination of the "First Step", YBTE conducts the following activities:

a) **Green Projects:** 6 public beach cleanings and 1 street cleaning in Ain El Remmaneh – 150 USD

b) **Workshops with children:**

- 5 series of workshops "Wojtek Helps!": in the Church of St. Michael, at Chiyeh Park and twice at the Badaro School for First Step Children – 100 USD
- Games and fun in Chiyeh Park combined with the distribution of 100 pencil cases for the poorest children – 500 USD
- Workshops on the occasion of St. Barbara in Chiyeh Park (197,90 USD) and St. Michael (13,63 USD)
- Christmas activities in the church of St. Michael and at the House for Girls in Cherfe: donation of 35 packets for girls (each received pajamas, a coloring book and a packet of sweets) and 10 gallons of oil, a box of cheese and two cartons of canned food for the kitchen – 920 USD



c) **Psychological Support:** Hiba is currently working with the Nadine's family, running a therapy for 3 children / Leia's therapy was included in the project for firefighters families – 250 USD

d) **Media:** Anthony has created a number of amazing videos to promote our activities.



**YBTE**  
Domus Orientalis

**VI. Support for the families of 10 firemen who died at port on 4<sup>th</sup> of August, 2020 ("United in Pain", [www.helpforfirefighters.pl](http://www.helpforfirefighters.pl)) - 4433 USD:**

- First phase of the project was conducted with polish firemen under the supervision of the Main Chef of the Fire Brigade in Poland. Together with we collected 3200\$, which we delivered to all 10 families in January 2021. Promo materials for the project were prepared by Michał Kłosiński.
- As a next step we organised additional financial support for the family of M. Hawa, for the widow S.Khaki and for the 3 families from Qartaba.
- We are also providing psychological support to Lea, daughter of R. Khaki, and a walker for her brother
- *As a part of "Give a Job!" we helped to the family of R. Mallahee to open 2 shops*





## **VII. Further plans**

*Due to the deepening crisis, the currency collapse, the emigration of people of productive age, the lack of basic articles and medicines, as well as the threat of a new civil war, our actions should be directed not only at removing the effects of the explosion in Beirut in the long term. It is necessary to focus on broadly understood support in order to help in the survival and gradual building of the stability and prosperity of people living on the verge of poverty (including those who were considered middle-class and even wealthy), as well as to participate in building a civil society that may be a recipe for sectarianism that divides the Lebanese.*

*Hence, not only purely aid projects will be extremely important, but also everything that will be "accompaniment" and "bringing light and hope": educational projects, concerts, cultural activities, meetings, ecological projects - going to areas with a concentration of various religious groups . So our presence in the Ain el Remmaneh district and surrounding neighborhoods will play an increasingly important role, as these are the most sensitive areas of Beirut.*

### **Further actions:**

- Further restorations in destroyed areas aiming provision of furniture etc. with an increasing focus on the project "Give a Job!" (also in other districts),
- Distribution of food packages and other emergency help.
- Accompaniment to the families we have helped so far, not only by further material support or distributions, but also "ordinary" visits, talks or joint prayers;
- Developing the **Young Team of Domus Orientalis (YBTE)** projects, cultural and educational activities, psychological support, eco projects.
- Continuation of the aid project for the families of firefighters.

**We are ready for the Further Mission! Walk with us! SIŁA! (STRENGTH)!**

