

"To give them shelter and tools to rebuild a dignified life!" - apartment repairs and "Give a job!" as part of the "Solidarity with Beirut" project.

Love saved them!

At 18:06 on August 4, 2020, Tania and Mario looked from the window of their apartment at the fire in the Beirut port. When a powerful explosion hit their apartment, Mario suffered so badly that he could treat the wounds of his semiconscious wife with only one hand. They miraculously survived. Till now, the casualties have not been counted, and there are reports of over 220 dead, some of which have remained unidentified so far. Thousands of damaged apartments and buildings, some of them wiped off the face of the earth. Chaos, pain, anger, clashes in the streets, emptiness ...



In the morning after the explosion, we rushed to the port area. A day later we met with father Elia from the destroyed St. Michael's Church in the Mar Mikhael area. We hastily created the Team with which we continue to this day. Father Elia promised that before renovating the church, he would set up local workplaces and renovate parishioners apartments.



Like all other organizations, we started with the installation of doors and windows to protect the interiors of damaged facilities from the coming rain. We visited families, trying not only to help them rebuild the devastation, but also to take away some of their pain. Hourly stories full of tears.

First evaluation

Half a year after the explosion, Tania and Mario were still recovering (Mario has over 100 stitches on his body, and Tania suffers from headaches to this day), and their apartment doors and windows were renovated by one of the NGOs. But inside, everything was broken, so they couldn't come back.

Half a year after the explosionf father Przemek sat down with father Elia, in one of the church rooms. This place became the coordination center of numerous NGOs (even Muslims helped hand-in-hand with Christians), a distribution point and even a trauma treatment therapy after an outbreak. We summarized the work done so far, the church walls were still cracked, water was dripping from the ceiling.

On the other hand, life was returning around the Church: flats were renovated and workplaces were reactivated.



And we already have helped in over 60 apartments and 17 workplaces:



When Beirut's tragedy become forgotten by the world...

In February 2022 - almost 1.5 years after the explosion - we visited Mario and Tania's apartment. Many NGOs withdrew, leaving the work unfinished. Some of the buildings were renovated from the outside, but many apartments were still empty as people do not have any furniture, including beds to sleep on. Another issue was that little help was provided to people who were not among the poorest before the crisis and explosion. Tania and Mario are an example of a couple that did well until the crisis. After the explosion, the middle class did not receive the same support as the poorest, which led to situations in which not only their apartments but also micro-enterprises were not restored. They become the victims of their own creativity and hardworking approach...



We visited them again in May 2022. The works in their apartment have been completed by us, and our dear couple beamed with joy. Like the first time, Mario held his wife, saying in a low voice, "I'm only fine when I know she's happy."



Their energy, affection and optimism have also affected us in a good way, giving us the motivation to continue the Mission. Together with Caritas Łódź, we were one of the first to help Beirut in removing the effects of the explosion - today we are one of the last to remain.

We have received a touching letter from Tania and Mario - for us, for you! You can find it on our website! We are continuing our Polish Mission, and so far we have managed to:

As part of the reconstruction of damaged apartments and other objects / purchase of equipment:

a) Carry out works in 81 apartments - mainly replacement of glass, windows, doors, reconstruction of broken walls and purchase of furniture of other types of equipment necessary to return to the apartments - in the Mar Mikhail district and other near port areas

b) Help with 21 apartments, including building an elevator in one of the buildings in the Ain el Remmaneh estate:

c) Help with 6 other facilities: replacement of windows in a dilapidated sports club in Burj Hammoud, assistance in renovating the roof of a school in Clemenenscau, work in St. Michael's Church, installing glass in a school in Ain el Remmaneh, coolers for the School in Ashrafiyeh, playground fence at the school in Nabaa
Cost: \$ 60,633.50

"Give me a job!" :

Help reactivate 38 jobs (mainly shops and service establishments) through renovation works and the purchase of the necessary equipment.
Cost: \$ 29,391



