LEBANON

Lebanon is host to the second highest number of Syrian refugees fleeing the violence and destruction that gripped the country over the last decade. As these refugees struggle to establish a new life and source of income, many poor Lebanese families are also facing hardships finding employment in part due to the country’s deep economic crisis. In addition to these struggles, a massive explosion in Beirut in 2020 upended the lives of hundreds of thousands in the capital city.

Lutheran World Relief has worked at the nexus of humanitarian assistance and development in the Middle East since 1948 and in late 2017, we began working in Lebanon to address the diminishing economic opportunities and improve social cohesion between Lebanese locals and Syrian refugees. When the explosion rocked Beirut, we rushed to respond.

OUR GLOBAL APPROACHES

Humanitarian Assistance
Lutheran World Relief meets the immediate needs of households, internally displaced people (IDPs), and refugees affected by conflict, disasters, and food and water crises through food, material resources and cash assistance, as well as shelter and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) resources they need to start, diversify and strengthen livelihoods and reduce their vulnerabilities in the future.

Agriculture
Lutheran World Relief works with smallholder farmers to increase their food security and their participation in and income from agriculture value chains. We train farmers in climate smart agricultural practices, post-harvest processing and storage, as well as in improved animal husbandry. We strengthen the capacity of cooperatives and unions that serve these farmers through trainings in governance and financial management, facilitating joint negotiation of credit and other services, and boosting collective marketing and sales.

Climate Resilience
Lutheran World Relief works with rural communities to adapt to and mitigate the effects of a changing climate on their agriculture-based livelihoods. We emphasize environmental rehabilitation through the implementation of soil and water conservation works and watershed management on community land, as well as tree seedling production for community-led reforestation.
**Project Examples**

**Returning Evacuees To Urban Residences Now (RETURN)**

Through the RETURN project, funded by USAID's Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance, Lutheran World Relief is facilitating the safe return of 2,000 of the most vulnerable survivors of the Beirut blast to their residences, repairing damaged homes to habitable status and affording some stability to families already coping with economic, political and pandemic crises.

**Women’s Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP): Expanding Women’s Labor Force in Lebanon (EWLFL)**

This W-GDP project supports women entrepreneurs as catalysts for positive change in business, as well as in their families and communities, with gender-appropriate and gender-specific interventions. Through the project, Lutheran World Relief provides a gender-focused, tailored, externally accredited certification to the women entrepreneurs of USAID’s private sector development programs in Lebanon, some of whom may not have access to higher education or other formal certification programs, to demonstrate their knowledge and gain external corroboration for their businesses in the market. Lutheran World Relief also carries out complementary activities to improve the enabling business environment and link the women to business opportunities that strengthen their resilience capacities.

**Agriculture for Peace in Lebanon**

Through the Agriculture for Peace in Lebanon project, Lutheran World Relief offered Lebanese families and Syrian refugees specialized training on crop production, quality control and marketing, as well as employment opportunities, including an opportunity for women and men to learn how to produce crops in greenhouses. Lutheran World Relief also employed the local work force to repair and improve irrigation canals and water networks. This work was complemented by training in conflict resolution and prevention techniques, easing social tensions between Lebanese locals and Syrian refugees through income generating collaborations.

**Improving the Livelihood Conditions of Host Communities & Syrians Working in Agriculture**

Lutheran World Relief worked with Lebanese farmers from host communities and Syrian refugees working in agriculture to strengthen the capacity of 52 small and medium enterprises. The project installed drip irrigation networks and provided technical training to the Lebanese farmers and Syrian refugees. By the close of the project, participants were effectively using water from the drip irrigation schemes, producing higher quality crops with higher yields and saving money.

**Conflict Management and Community Livelihoods Development**

The goal of this project was to defuse tensions between Lebanese locals and Syrian refugees through mutually beneficial local economic development. Key municipality staff and Lebanese and Syrian community leaders were trained in local resource management and conflict prevention to help mitigate resource-based tensions and defuse local conflicts as project participants engaged together in agriculture-based livelihood strengthening activities.

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**The Corus Effect**

Founded by Lutherans in the United States at the end of World War II to serve refugees, Lutheran World Relief has grown into a leading humanitarian assistance and development organization that specializes in analyzing market systems, strengthening agriculture value chains and the capacities of enterprises, and promoting livelihood diversification, rural financing, climate smart and improved agriculture practices, and sustainable water and land management.

Lutheran World Relief is a part of the Corus International family, an ensemble of long-serving, global leaders in international development and humanitarian assistance committed to ending poverty and building healthy communities across Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East, and Africa. Founded in 2020 and drawing on a combined heritage of nearly 150 years, Corus connects and catalyzes non-profit and for-profit subsidiaries that include IMA World Health, CGA Technologies, Ground Up Investing and LWR Farmers Market Coffee in addition to Lutheran World Relief.

Alongside communities and local partners in fragile settings, our dedicated experts across our organizations integrate disciplines, approaches and resources to overcome global health challenges, develop productive and stable economies, improve resilience in the face of climate change, and respond to natural disasters and humanitarian crises.

With the support of our family’s diverse set of partners and funding – from multi- and bilateral institutions and foundations to the private sector and individuals – we invest in solutions that are innovative, scalable, holistic and move the needle towards transformational change.