

Lebanon, a country in crisis

The disaster of Tuesday, August 4 is imperative as it occurs in the midst of a vast economic crisis in Lebanon. National currency in free fall, institutions adrift, middle class in full collapse, massive layoffs, drastic banking restrictions, power cuts ... The country has been plagued by social discontent for months symbolized by major protests. Added to this economic crisis is the health crisis linked to the coronavirus pandemic: Lebanon, a country relatively unaffected at the start of the Covid-19 crisis, is now in the throes of a violent second wave, with nearly 200 new cases per day.

Chaos, after the double explosion in the port of Beirut.

Tuesday, August 4, in Beirut, a deadly double blast of incredible violence sowed chaos in the port of the capital of Lebanon. Half of the city is affected and 300,000 people are now homeless. Three hospitals in the city were damaged by the double explosion.

After the tragedy, the questions and the anger of the population were demonstrated in the streets of Beirut before being arrested by tear gas from the police. The country is going through an unprecedented political crisis and the Lebanese denounce the corruption of the authorities.

Since the double explosion which caused immense damage and deaths in Beirut, the Lebanese are organizing to clear the devastated homes - hand in hand.

This tragedy, which left more than 5,000 wounded, tens of missing and hundreds of thousands of homeless in nearby devastated neighborhoods, is fueling the anger of the population against the political class, accused of incompetence and corruption.

Rescue operations still continue in the devastated port of Beirut. Every hour counts for the victims, their parents, their brothers and sisters, their children ... Every hour counts for all of us!

Immense suffering has befallen us all; really a tragedy confronts us!

At SESOBEL¹, more than 1400 children suffering from intellectual and/or motor disabilities or from autism, are taken care of annually in terms of medical, social, educational, rehabilitation, and human assistance. They come from every region in Lebanon and abroad and were welcomed regardless of community, religion or ethnic backgrounds.

81% of our children and youth come from modest families, living in very tough conditions which become even worse with a child with disability.

¹ Social Service for the Welfare of Lebanese Children. A nongovernmental organization founded in 1976 and registered at the Ministry of Interior under No. 42S.I. at the service of children and youth with disability and their parents. www.sesobel.org

SESOBEL mainly relies on state contributions, donations, sponsorships, contributions, donations In-Kind, in order to persevere in its action.

Now, we have all passed through a traumatizing catastrophe that hit us all very hard and are trying to recover in different ways:

What to do in front of so many uncertainties.... Stop or continue to struggle... to at least maintain the basic or even vital services to our children and their parents, especially around 300 families in urgent need...

All we have left are you, big hearts, willing to support us!

Today more than ever, we need you. SESOBEL has no other alternatives but to rely on people like you to persevere in its humanitarian journey hoping to receive the needed support to overcome the difficulties and ensure a life with dignity and joy to the children and youth with disability and their families.

Help the children, Help their families, Help SESOBEL face the actual challenge:

- **Vital Medication needed monthly for families (around 15,000,000 LBP/month = 10,000 USD/month / \$ rate 1500)**
- **Food for more than 300 families – 5 persons (around 300,000LBP/box = 200 USD/Box / \$ rate 1500)**
- **Direct donation to SESOBEL in order to persevere in its mission towards children and their parents in terms of global care and social and psychological support, and therefore save more than 200 personnel and their dependent families**

Note that 16 houses of our children were destroyed ... but benefactors were able to offer the necessary aid for reconstruction.

Your help is vital!

You can be proud, knowing you are contributing to this important cause! We count on you!

In the name of children with disability and their parents, we thank you once again for all that you are doing to support us.

Best regards,

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Project Manager

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