

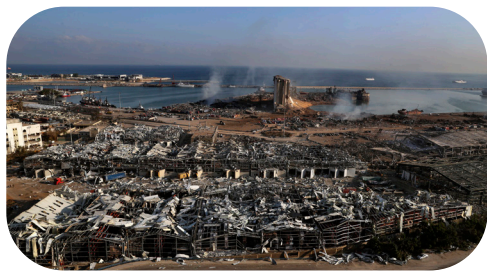


# 2020 BEIRUT DISASTER RELIEF RESPONSE



*Emergency supplies leaving MedWish International's warehouse as part of the Beirut Disaster Relief efforts in August 2020.*





## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The catastrophic explosion that devastated Lebanon's capital on August 4, 2020 left its healthcare system in disarray. Immediately upon receiving the shocking news, MedWish International moved into action. We connected with many of Beirut's hospitals to assess their most critical needs.

At a time when it wasn't clear when and if damaged hospitals would be operational again, we started our Beirut Disaster Relief Fund campaign to assist healthcare institutions.

In just a few days, our incredible donors helped us raise nearly \$50,000 for MedWish to start immediately deploying thousands of pounds of medical supplies and equipment. The need was broad, and it wasn't just for beds and PPE. It was for ventilators, wound care supplies, surgical equipment – everything imaginable.

With the support of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut and reputable partners in the U.S. and in Beirut, we deployed 5 containers by sea and more than 24 pallets were airlifted. In total, we shipped \$1,284,610 worth of medical supplies and equipment to 12 healthcare institutions. The MedWish team worked around the clock to provide direct relief.

Today, we continue to speak with generous donors interested in assisting many more facilities in Lebanon, and we are working tirelessly to continue to meet the needs of the affected healthcare institutions. Our focus has shifted from an emergency response to a long-term recovery process, with an additional \$500,000 worth of medical supplies and equipment on its way to Lebanon.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the Lebanese community during this unprecedented time. We are humbled by the trust and the generosity of our donors and partners, and we are grateful for your commitment and the impact that it has made on our efforts. We could not have done this without each and every one of you.

With my most sincere appreciation,

**Carolina Masri**  
Executive Director



***“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.” ~ Helen Keller***

# SITUATION REPORT



Aftermath of Port of Beirut explosion on August 4, 2020. Photo courtesy of AP - Bilal Hussein



The blast destroyed hospitals and clinics across the capital. Photo courtesy of Reuters - Mohamed Azakir

On August 4, 2020 a massive explosion, a result of the irresponsible storage of ammonium nitrate in warehouses by the Port of Beirut, killed more than 200 people and injured an estimated 7,500 others. It ripped through the city, causing immeasurable damage and severely impacting medical facilities that were already overwhelmed by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Following a World Health Organization (WHO) assessment of 55 healthcare centers in Beirut, WHO Regional Emergency Director Richard Brennan reported that more than 50 percent were “nonfunctional,” taking as many as 600 beds out of commission at a time when far more were needed.

Even before the blast, public health officials had warned that the health system was ill-equipped to manage the rising COVID-19 caseload. The blast, which witnesses said could be heard 149 miles away on the island of Cyprus, was a crushing blow on top of the pandemic and Lebanon’s ongoing economic crisis.

## THE INITIATIVE

The devastating explosion put a massive strain on the local healthcare system. Medical professionals struggled in the aftermath to provide care to the thousands who were injured as a result of the blast. At MedWish, we could not stand by and watch as this community struggled. However, we could not respond to the disaster alone.

With the help of incredible supporters, our team:

- Worked with prominent healthcare leaders in country to assess immediate needs.
- Contacted members of the of the local Lebanese community for support.
- Raised nearly \$50,000 to deploy multiple cargo shipments of medical aid to Beirut.
- Recruited more than 15 volunteers from the Lebanese community to help with sorting and donation collection efforts.
- Reached 334 donors who helped us raise the funds to make these efforts possible.



# DISTRIBUTION

MedWish responded to the needs emerging in the aftermath of the explosion by deploying multiple cargo containers and airlifting pallets of urgently needed medical supplies and equipment for healthcare institutions affected by this emergency. More than 36 tons of emergency relief supplies and equipment were sent to Lebanon in 2020. It is estimated that these supplies and equipment are worth \$1,284,610.

Shipment Date	Shipment Weight	Fair Market Value
8/26/20	6,661 pounds	\$158,503.96
9/16/20	14,624 pounds	\$90,662.24
9/17/20	11,586 pounds	\$236,588.83
9/18/20	15,427 pounds	\$154,507.70
10/7/20	5,034 pounds	\$86,182.40
10/7/20	13,131 pounds	\$326,006.50
11/20/20	13,249 pounds	\$232,158.38

## REBUILDING EFFORTS

Our team is in continuous communication with leaders at the affected healthcare institutions to meet the needs as they work to

rebuild over the upcoming months. Our focus has shifted from an emergency response to a long-term recovery process, with an additional \$500,000 worth of medical supplies and equipment on its way to Lebanon.

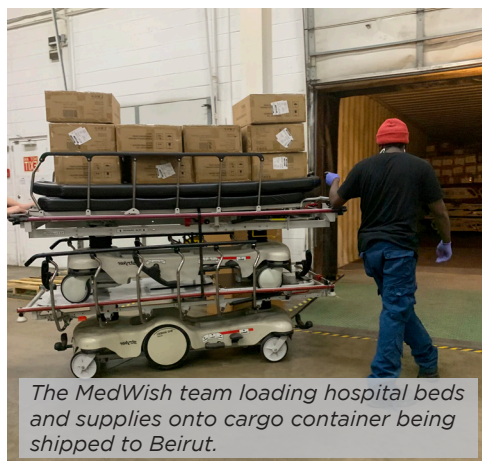
Shipment Date	Shipment Weight	Fair Market Value
1/12/21	12,166 pounds	\$206,864.63
2/09/21	11,454 pounds	\$222,416.57
2/14/21	15,973 pounds	\$126,368.31

## RECIPIENTS

American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC), Baabda Governmental Hospital, Beirut Governmental Hospital Quarantina, Bikhazi Hospital Beirut, Children's Cancer Center of Lebanon (CCCL), Hôpital Français du Levant, Hospital Wardieh Rosary Sisters Hospital, LAU Medical Center Rizk Hospital, Lebanese Hospital Geitaoui, Rafik Hariri University Hospital, Saint George Hospital University Medical Center, and Tripoli Hospital.



Volunteers from the Cleveland Lebanese community sorting supplies for disaster relief efforts.



The MedWish team loading hospital beds and supplies onto cargo container being shipped to Beirut.



Supplies and equipment from MedWish arriving at the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC).

# TESTIMONIALS

"We are very grateful for MedWish International for rushing to extend its humanitarian hand to the AUBMC and its patients. Supplies arrived at a time when we were suffering from major shortages of PPE due to the COVID pandemic. I applaud the efforts in securing this generous donation and for the magnanimity of this giving to help the people of Lebanon under these most strenuous conditions."

**Ghazi Zaatari, MD**  
**Faculty of Medicine Interim Dean**  
**American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC)**

"The Beirut Governmental University Hospital Quarantina wishes to thank you for the donation. This will help rehabilitate and restore the hospital after the massive damage caused by the explosion. Your support helps to further our mission through renovation of our hospital."

**Michel Matar, MD - Chairman of the Board**  
**Karen Sakr - General Director**  
**Beirut Governmental Hospital Quarantina**



"Your willingness to contribute to the reconstruction of our academic medical center makes a true difference. This donation brings us a step closer to repairing and rebuilding what has been destroyed and it is truly inspiring that you hold us dear to your heart. Thank you again."

**Michel Mawad, MD**  
**Chairman and General Manager**  
**LAU Medical Center - Rizk Hospital**

"In a difficult economic and health situation in our country, your contributions to the Lebanese health sector is highly appreciated. We are grateful and we promise to continue our mission."

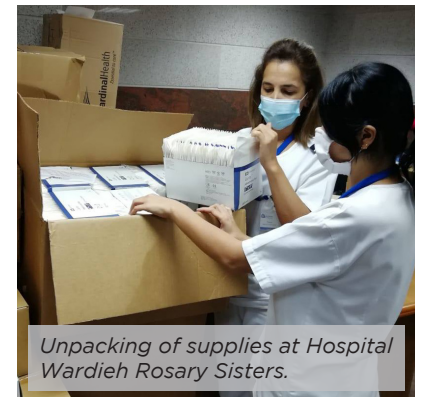
**The Bikhazi Hospital Administration**  
**Bikhazi Hospital Beirut**

"The helping hand you extended and your generous medical supplies and medical equipment donation were well received and will go towards our general hospital to continue serving our community. Thank you once again for your kind and generous support and we look forward to maintaining a liaison with you."

**Sister Nicolas Akiki**  
**Director**  
**Hospital Wardieh - Rosary Sisters Hospital**

"We would like to thank MedWish International for their donation, which will help us proceed with our mission in helping people to heal, in assisting them and giving them the right help and the appropriate care. From all of the Levant Hospital's team, thank you."

**Eliane Maalouf**  
**Marketing & Communications Manager**  
**Hôpital Français du Levant**



"Thank you, because your support - especially during these critical times - means a lot to each and every one of us; because in spite of all the anxiety and worries everyone is going through, you didn't forget those little fighters who are actually suffering the most during this phase."

**Hana Chaar Choueib**  
**General Manager**  
**The Children's Cancer Center of Lebanon (CCCL)**

"MedWish International's help for our hospital in the form of pallets containing various emergency medical consumables and basic equipment came at a crucial moment in the hospital's history, in the aftermath of the devastating Beirut Port 4th of August 2020 explosion. The hospital was severely damaged and in dire need for medical supplies and other resources to continue its missions towards the patients and the population. MedWish, we are thankful for your kind initiative!"

**Sis. Hadia Abi Chebli and Pr. Pierre Yared**  
**General Managers**  
**Lebanese Hospital Geitaoui**



# TESTIMONIALS

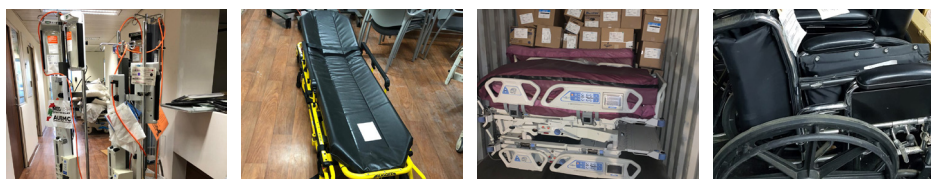


"Our hospital, situated extremely close to the epicentre of the explosion, heartbreakingly lost four of our cherished nursing staff, twelve patients and one visitor. Also, more than a 100 of our healthcare professionals, doctors, residents, nurses and administrative staff sustained injuries, some of which are critical. Our hospital encompasses five basement levels, nine above ground levels with 55 departments and 400 beds. The impact of the blast has left us with nothing but a skeleton of concrete and steel. Only with the support of philanthropists, such as yourselves, is when we can start to rise again and recuperate the damages affecting our hospital. We send you our heartfelt appreciation for your donation and wish you all the health and safety. Together We Can!"

**Edgard E. Joujou**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Saint George Hospital University Medical Center

"The support RHUH received from MedWish was very helpful. RHUH, as the largest public hospital, and the main institution receiving COVID patients, has been under mounting stresses as Lebanon descends further into a financial and health crisis. However, this donation allowed RHUH to continue with providing a much needed care to a rapidly increasing vulnerable population. I offer our many thanks and appreciation."

**Dr. Firaas Abiad**  
Director  
Rafik Hariri University Hospital



"As a physician of Lebanese origin living in the USA, I was scrambling to help Beirut in the aftermath of the colossal disaster and was fortunate to connect with MedWish leadership. Their response to the disaster was swift supporting several hospitals with essential medical supplies, making a great impact, even going the extra mile to ensure customs clearance and timely delivery. Thank you MedWish for your monumental efforts to help Beirut heal its wounds."

**Jamil Bayram, MD, MPH, EMDM**  
Emergency Physician - USA

"Anera's partnership with MedWish is fairly new, beginning immediately after the horrific Beirut blast in August. But we have already done so much together - delivering six shipments of critically needed medicines and supplies in response to that tragedy. We look forward to doing more together to save lives in Lebanon, and hopefully, soon in other Middle Eastern countries. This is a valuable and mutually supportive partnership."

**Sean Carroll**  
President & CEO  
Anera

## SPECIAL THANKS



**Adonis Hijaz, MD**  
Fundraising Campaign Representative  
University Hospitals Cleveland  
Medical Center

**Jamil D. Bayram, MD, MPH, EMDM, MEd, PhDc**  
Emergency Physician - USA

**Lara Odeh**  
On the Ground Hospitals Liaison  
American Lebanese Bundle of  
Everything Inc.

**Rima Fakhri Slaiby**  
Miss USA 2010

***There are so many people to thank... to all those who helped make this possible one way or another, THANK YOU!***

# DONOR LIST

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PROVIDES MORE THAN 1,250 SURGICAL MASKS TO HOSPITALS AND CLINICS



**\$100**

COVERS A CASE OF GLOVES FOR CAREGIVERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS



**\$250**

SUPPLIES HEALTHCARE WORKERS WITH 550 ISOLATION GOWNS



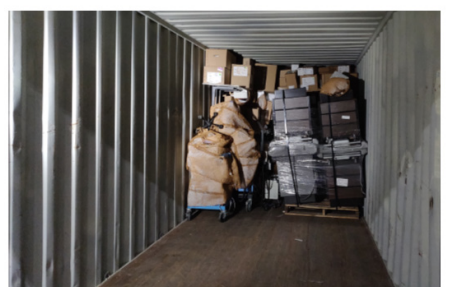
**\$500**

DELIVERS ONE PALLET OF LIFESAVING RESPIRATORY SUPPLIES



**\$1,000**

DELIVERS TWO PALLETS OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES



**\$2,500**

COVERS 1/2 THE COST OF A 20 FT CONTAINER OF SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT

*The above are representative services and supplies that are part of the different programs we offer. The cost of each item or service is an approximation and will vary based on actual costs incurred and needed. Your donation will be used for the general operating needs of MedWish International.*

## HOW TO DONATE:

Your financial contribution will help us continue the work of supporting the local and global medical community during this unprecedented health emergency and beyond. You can help us raise these critical dollars by donating TODAY!

**ONLINE:** [www.medwish.org/donate](http://www.medwish.org/donate)

**TEXT:** Text "MEDWISH" to 243725

**PHONE:** (216) 692-1685 x 11

**MAIL:** Please mail your check, made payable to **MedWish International**, to 1625 E. 31st St., Cleveland, OH 44114.

**MedWish is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization and your donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please keep your donation receipt for your tax record.**

