



# Lebanon Humanitarian Crisis

2023 Impact Report

# Dear Supporters,

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Together we share a common goal to help people in Lebanon.

Decades of ongoing economic and political crises continue to worsen, and the devastating 2020 Beirut Port Explosion further deteriorated a dire humanitarian situation.

Right now, more than 80 per cent of Lebanon's population lives below the poverty line, and they face ongoing challenges in accessing everyday essentials like healthcare. With each passing day, the humanitarian situation becomes more urgent. To provide much-needed humanitarian aid to the region, the Canadian Red Cross and the Lebanese Red Cross formed a partnership to ease suffering in Lebanon.

The Canadian Red Cross and the Lebanese Red Cross began partnering in 2012 and have recently signed a five-year bilateral partnership agreement. By working together, we are utilizing local expertise, supporting the essential operating capacity of the Lebanese Red Cross, enhancing trust and sustainability. Together we are strengthening health systems by increasing access to critical and affordable health services, while continuing to deliver primary healthcare services, improving emergency preparedness and response.

So far, we have supported the Lebanese Red Cross to provide emergency medical services through ambulance and pre-hospital care. Trained staff and volunteers are providing support through mobile medical units, including sexual and reproductive health services, clinics and community health outreach activities.

As the conflict in the Middle East continues and people in Lebanon face growing challenges, together, with the Lebanese Red Cross, your support is there for them during this difficult time. I hope you share in our pride in reading about the many people we have helped to access health services.

Thank you,



**Conrad Sauvé**  
President and CEO  
Canadian Red Cross



*"Our longstanding partnership with the Canadian Red Cross has evolved to become an example of localized action and strategic partnerships. The needs in Lebanon are immense and increasing, and the Lebanese Red Cross, the largest volunteer-based organization in Lebanon, is committed to supporting the most vulnerable most notably through its ambulance services and primary healthcare clinics. During this catastrophic economic collapse that the country is going through, we would not be able to sustain those vital health services without the support of key partners such as the Canadian Red Cross."*

– Georges Kettaneh, Lebanese Red Cross Secretary General

# Our Impact | 2023

Through the vital support provided by Lebanese Red Cross personnel, thousands of people in Lebanon have been able to access healthcare during one year of your support. From accessing community outreach programs, to visiting primary health clinics, to receiving emergency medical services—our partnership is alleviating stress and improving health across Lebanon.



## Establishing Primary Health Services Locations

**Four** primary health clinics are supported in the municipalities of Nabatieh, Hermel, Baalbeck, and Jezzine.

## Enabling Routine Medical Treatment

It is thanks to our supporters that people in Lebanon are accessing lifesaving treatment, health information, and support from community outreach programs. From January 1, 2023–December 31, 2023, your support has enabled over **52,000** people to receive medical support.

SERVICE	TOTAL PATIENTS
Mobile Medical Unit – Tyre, Lebanon	6,315
Primary Health Clinics	23,858
Community Outreach	20,536
Sexual and Reproductive Health Mobile Medical Unit	1,326
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>52,035</b>

## Access to Emergency Medical Services

In times of crisis, it is because of our supporters that the Red Cross has assisted over **14,000 people** experiencing medical emergencies in Lebanon. From January 1, 2023–December 31, 2023, your support has enabled emergency missions, the transportation of patients to and from medical facilities and allows people to receive treatment in their homes or as walk-ins at Emergency Medical Services stations.

NUMBER OF PATIENTS SERVED THROUGH EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES	
Emergency Missions	6,347
Transport Missions to and from Medical Facilities	4,101
High Priority Transport (H-H)	481
Care at Home	63
Basic First Aid Care at Emergency Medical Services Stations	3,227
Injuries in Posts	91
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,310</b>

# Enabling Access to Women’s Healthcare Through Your Support



Lebanese Red Cross

Thanks to your support, the Lebanese Red Cross mobilized a Mobile Medical Unit that specializes in providing sexual and reproductive health services for a nominal fee. These health services, made possible at a reduced price because of your support, is making access to health services more accessible. Not only does the Red Cross Mobile Medical Unit travel and see patients to address their unmet health needs, but it also offers support that is specific to the needs of women.

The Mobile Medical Unit offers sexual and reproductive health care. In Bablyen, Lebanon, a schoolteacher could not afford the cost of her annual mammogram. With thanks to the Red Cross Mobile Medical Unit, the schoolteacher was able to receive the exam—instead of making the difficult financial decision between affording her living expenses, or her health.

*She told the Red Cross staffer, “I’m glad you are offering this service at such a cost-friendly price. Because otherwise, I would not have been able to obtain a mammogram this year either. You’re helping women take care of their health.”*

**Thanks to your support, people in Lebanon can access the healthcare services they need, especially women.**

## Support in Action



**10** staff from primary health clinics, including nurses, midwives, and social workers, were trained in Protection and Gender, and Inclusion topics, including clinical management of rape, sexual and gender-based violence, and menstrual health management, amongst others.



**1,326** women supported with their sexual and reproductive health through the Mobile Medical Unit.



**Two** Mobile Medical Units are operational (one specialized in sexual and reproductive health services).

# A Mother Empowering her Daughters

## Red Cross Teachings Bear Unexpected Fruit



"In Nabatiyah, Lebanon, the Lebanese Red Cross initiated programs to empower locals with mental health and self-care skills amidst challenging circumstances. Brochures were given out, teaching various ways to help manage negative emotions. These included seeking support, expressing feelings, relaxation methods, and meditation.

One day, a mother thanked the local Lebanese Red Cross staff because she found these self-care skills to be very beneficial for her own mental health. She even kept her Red Cross self-care brochure on her kitchen freezer for easy access. Whenever she felt overwhelmed or anxious, she would open her brochure, choose a technique, and complete the steps. **She said that she always felt better afterwards and saw significant improvements in her own well-being over time.** Recognizing just how

critical these Red Cross self-care skills are, she became inspired by her own transformation. The mother taught the techniques to her daughters because she wanted them to understand the importance of caring for their own mental health amidst frustration, anxiety, or other challenging situations.

Hearing from this mother is another strong reminder about the importance of prioritizing mental health, particularly in times of crisis. Self-care is especially important for caregivers who are experiencing challenging circumstances. Her inspiring story emphasizes the critical role that mental and physical well-being plays in the lives of people experiencing a complex emergency. "

**- AS TOLD BY A LEBANESE RED CROSS STAFF MEMBER**



### The Red Cross Brochure Techniques

- "Get active and incorporate regular exercise into your routine."
- "Nurture your relationships and spend quality time with loved ones."
- "Immerse yourself in the music you love."

**It is thanks to our supporters that people in Lebanon are receiving the tools and knowledge to help maintain their health and the health of their families.**

# An Impactful Year And an Ongoing Commitment



Lebanese Red Cross

The conflict in southern Lebanon has been ongoing since the late 1960s. However, with the October 2023 escalation of violence in Israel and Gaza, the region has experienced near-daily violence. This continues to shake an increasingly unstable situation. The Lebanese Red Cross continues to respond to the dire humanitarian situation, providing medical assistance and support to affected populations.

It is with thanks to our supporters that Canadian Red Cross, along with other National Societies, can provide health services to those in need.

Ibrahim Malla / IFRC



**We thank you for your support and hope you feel proud of the impact you have made over the last year.**



Thanks to your support, people in Lebanon can access emergency medical services and health services they may not otherwise have.

**Thank you for your commitment to helping to meet the immense humanitarian needs of the people of Lebanon.**



**Let's Stay Connected**

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