



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
Emergency Fund – Crisis in Lebanon
August 7 to 23rd, 11:59 pm

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1. WHAT IS HAPPENING?

On Tuesday August 4th, two explosions at the port of Lebanon's capital city of Beirut sent an enormous shockwave across the city killing hundreds of people, leaving more than 6,000 injured and throwing tens of thousands onto the street. Since then, Lebanon has been plunged into a state of catastrophe that calls for our solidarity. This is yet another trial for a people already struggling with an unprecedented social, economic, and political crisis, and the explosion is further threatening the food and social security of the population. This tragedy comes at a time when hospitals, already short of resources, are trying to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lebanon's economy is in freefall. Many are sinking further into debt. The availability of food in the country is at high risk and this explosion will have long-lasting impacts on Lebanon's precarious food security.

In the past years, the influx of Syrian refugees to Lebanon has created significant demographic pressure on this small country of 6.8 million people (including 1.5 million Syrian refugees) already struggling with its own economic and social challenges. This demographic pressure has had a significant impact on the country's infrastructure and basic services, such as water, electricity, health, education and social services. The number of people living below the poverty line in Lebanon has increased by almost two thirds since 2011 and the local employment rate has decreased significantly, accentuating humanitarian needs among the local population.

Lebanon also has a large population of migrant workers who are particularly vulnerable because of their precarious status, many of whom have been affected by the explosions, making their situation all the more insecure.

Since October 2019, a wave of protests has overwhelmed the capital and other cities in Lebanon in response to a steep deterioration in the quality of life. The country's economic crisis has caused the Lebanese pound to lose more than 80 per cent of its value, which has impacted the country at all levels. The price of a basic food basket has more than doubled in the past six months. The unemployment rate has soared as a result of the economic crisis and this has been further aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Even before the explosion, up to 45 per cent of the country's population was at risk of falling below the poverty line. The explosion is further fuelling public discontent and protests have resumed. Many Lebanese do not want aid channelled through the government, which it considers corrupt.

The population is calling for a page to be turned in the country's history, governance that is respectful of people's dignity and the country's unity, and greater social justice.

More than ever, the people of Lebanon need our solidarity as they face the challenges brought on by the explosions and a deepening social and economic crisis.

2. WHAT IS DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE’S RESPONSE?

Development and Peace’s work in Lebanon is focused on responding to the immediate needs of vulnerable communities, defending social and economic rights and building lasting peace. We work with local communities as well as Syrian and Palestinian refugees and migrant populations.

Our partners on the ground are already working to help those impacted by this disaster, providing them with urgent help: people need food, drinking water, health care, medication, and shelter.

In the immediate, we will continue to support Caritas Lebanon and will also work with other local civil society organisations with whom we have worked in the past, most recently to help the influx of Syrian refugees.

There will also be a need to quickly assess the medium and long-term impacts and develop a response. Many people have lost their homes and their source of income. This is a catastrophic situation in a country already facing an economic and financial crisis that has brought its share of challenges for the most disadvantaged.

Development and Peace plans on maintaining its ongoing projects in Lebanon and will intensify its support to meet the immediate and long-term needs of the population.

Development and Peace has been active in Lebanon since 2005. The organization has supported various projects, including support to Iraqi refugees, a humanitarian and reconstruction program following Israeli raids in 2006, aid to Palestinian refugees, a large-scale response to the Syrian refugee crisis supported the Canadian government, support to migrants, as well as a program to build democracy, social justice, pluralism and peace.

3. WHAT ARE THE MOST URGENT NEEDS RIGHT NOW?

In the short term, populations affected by the explosion are in urgent need of food, health care, psychosocial support, shelter, and hygiene kits.

Beyond our emergency response, our partners continue to work in the region to meet the growing needs of communities facing an economic and political crisis and increased food insecurity that threatens the most vulnerable populations, such as Syrian and Palestinian refugees and migrant workers who are at risk of being left behind.

This is a complex situation, but Lebanese civil society is mobilized and has a rich diversity of experiences. It has an essential role to play through the catastrophe of August 4th, the country’s multiple crises and transformations taking place within Lebanon.

4. WILL THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT MATCH DONATIONS?

The Honourable Karina Gould, Minister of International Development, announced on August 8, 2020, that individual donations by Canadians to the Humanitarian Coalition and its members will be matched, up to a maximum of \$5 million between August 4 and August 23rd, 11:59 p.m. Development and Peace is participating in this matching fund as a member of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. The monies resulting from the matching will be placed in a fund managed by the Humanitarian Coalition.

5. HOW CAN I MAKE A DONATION?

A) Donations by credit card (VISA, MASTERCARD, AMEX)

- **Online:** www.devp.org

Donations can be sent securely via the Development and Peace website. Simply click on the web banner on the homepage

In step 2 – *Information*, under the section *I am giving towards*

Choose the option – **Emergency Fund – Lebanon Crisis**.

Thanks to secure software that automatically encrypts the information you send and makes it unreadable by a third party, your data (credit card number and personal information) are completely secure. Only the Development and Peace staff members responsible for managing donations have access to your personal file and the amount of your donation.

- **By phone:** toll free number **1 888 664-3387**

B) Donations by cheque or money order:

Make out a **cheque** or **money order** to Development and Peace and mail it to:

1425 René-Lévesque Boul. West, 3rd Floor, Montreal, Quebec H3G 1T7

Write **Emergency Fund – Crisis in Lebanon** at the bottom of the cheque as a reference.

6. WHAT WILL BE DONE WITH THE DONATIONS RECEIVED?

All donations received for this emergency will be used to support those affected by the explosions and those most vulnerable to the impacts of the social and economic crisis in Lebanon. We will work with the Caritas federation and our trusted network of partners in the field.

Development and Peace will act in solidarity with civil society to support those most in need and with local organizations, who are working side-by-side with impoverished communities and the Lebanese population at large to develop sustainable solutions to the crises hitting the country,

Regular updates will be provided on our website on the situation and on our response to the crisis.

7. WHAT PERCENTAGE OF MY DONATION WILL GO TOWARDS ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS?

Development and Peace applies an administrative fee of 15% on emergency donations received from the public; this amount is to cover the financial and administrative costs attached to developing and managing emergency programs in general. These 15% costs can be broken down as follows:

- Five percent covers the extra work arising from the emergency situation, such as accounting procedures, recording donations, telephone operators, fundraising, sending out receipts, etc.
- Ten percent is allocated directly to the costs of program management and emergency relief staff for operating costs, travel, communications, etc.

It is impossible not to have any costs at all in a fundraising operation. For example, a donation by credit card is never given in its entirety to our organization: the company issuing the credit card keeps a small percentage of the donation. When a transfer of funds is carried out, fees are charged to the donating organization, even if it is a humanitarian donation. Finally, issuing tax receipts entails costs, notably labour and postage.

8. WILL I RECEIVE A TAX RECEIPT?

If the donor makes a donation of \$10 or more, he or she will automatically receive an income tax receipt. If a donation is less than \$10 and the donor wants a receipt, we will issue one upon request.

If a fundraising activity is organized, it is preferable to mail the proceeds by sending a single cheque made payable to Development and Peace. It is also very important to provide a list of

donors with their contact details and the amount of their donations so that a tax receipt can be issued for each donor.

9. WHAT IS DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE’S REGISTRATION NUMBER?

Our registration number is **11882 9902 RR0001**.

Development and Peace is a charitable organization recognized by the Canada Revenue Agency. This recognition was granted October 20, 1967. The status of our organization can be checked at any time on the *Canada Revenue Agency* website, in the *Charities and Giving* division (www.arc.gc.ca).

10. CAN I SEND YOU MEDICINES, BLANKETS OR OTHER NON-PERISHABLES?

No, Development and Peace does not accept such gifts. Sending these goods by boat or plane is very expensive and time consuming. In addition, companies or institutions in the affected country can provide these goods and deliver them much more quickly to where they are needed.

11. CAN I VOLUNTEER IN THE REGION AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS?

Development and Peace does not send volunteers and prefers, for reasons of efficiency, to support local organizations already in place. These NGOs have the personnel on site to organize the efficient distribution of food and goods and to reach communities affected by this disaster.

12. I WANT TO ORGANIZE A FUNDRAISER. HOW CAN YOU HELP ME?

If you would like to launch a fundraising initiative for this emergency, please contact the local Development and Peace staff person responsible for your region. Staff will be able to provide you with information on actions already being planned in your region and provide support in organizing any local initiatives. The name of your regional representative and his/her contact information can be found by clicking on the *Contact Us* tab at the top of the homepage of the Development and Peace website: www.devp.org.

If a local fundraising activity is organized, it is preferable to send in the proceeds by issuing a single check payable to Development and Peace. It is also very important to provide Development and Peace with the list of donors, their contact information and the amount of their donation so that we will be able to issue a tax receipt for each donor.

13. CAN WE MAKE A DIRECT DEPOSIT INTO A DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE ACCOUNT?

No. It is preferable to send the donation by the ways proposed in Question 5.

14. WILL THERE BE A COLLECTION IN CATHOLIC PARISHES THROUGHOUT CANADA?

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are taking a regional approach to parish collections to respect local health guidelines. If the bishop of your diocese or your parish priest has shown an interest in holding a collection, please contact your local animator for support. We also encourage you to share our web button (see attached document Promotion) with your parish or diocese so they can display it on their website.

15. WHO DO I CONTACT?

If a **journalist** asks for information about this emergency, please forward take his coordinates and send them as quickly as possible to **Marie-Hélène Bachand** (ext. 318) mhbachand@devp.org.

If a **government representative**, the **representative of an embassy**, the **representative of a diocese or archdiocese**, an **officer or director of an organization** requests information about the emergency, take their contact information and send it as soon as possible to Luke Stocking at lstocking@devp.org or **Genevieve Gallant** Genevieve.Gallant@devp.org.