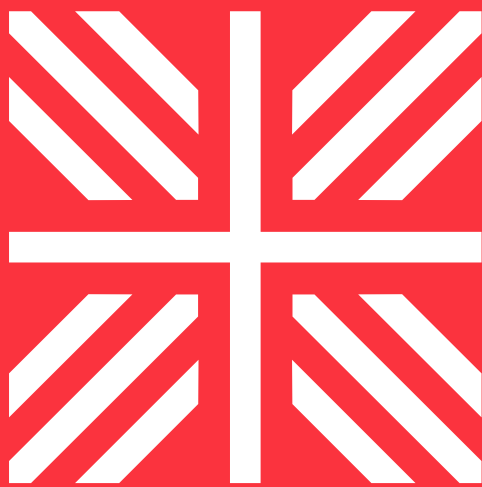
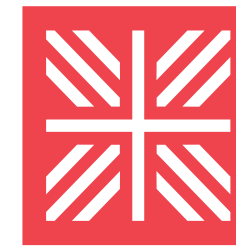


**ANNUAL
REPORT
2022**



Caritas
Lebanon



Caritas
Lebanon

Caritas
2022

Caritas Lebanon Headquarters
Dr Youssef Hajjar Street
Sin El Fil – Lebanon
Tel. +961 1 499 767
Fax +961 1 494 713
P.O.BOX 16-5274 Beirut, Lebanon

Info@caritas.org.lb
www.caritas.org.lb

    Caritas Lebanon

INDEX

Message From The President	6
Introduction	8
Health Department	14
Social Department	20
Livelihood and Development Department	26
Education Department through Social Centers	30
Protection Department	36
Social Enterprises Department	42

Media and Communication Department	48
Sectors	52
Caritas Youth	56
Jubilee Commencement Activities	62
Board of Directors' activities	78
International Relations	80
Strategic directions	84
Conclusion	85

Message From The President

Building Hope in Times of Crisis

In the midst of crises, Caritas Lebanon emerges as a beacon of hope, alongside the poor and marginalized, and a symbol of steadfast commitment. The year 2022 witnessed Caritas Lebanon continuing its mission, constantly reaching out to those in need, while simultaneously working towards a brighter future.

This annual report serves as a testimony to the dedication and accomplishments of the organization throughout the year, highlighting the key aspects that define the essence of Caritas Lebanon.

Working with a global scientific approach and transparency

Born in times of crisis, Caritas thrives in times of crisis. In an ever-changing world, Caritas Lebanon has successfully integrated and evolved to become a global player in the field of humanitarian and social services. We proudly adhere to international standards and operate with exceptional transparency. The funds that reach Caritas are considered a sacred trust, an "endowment fund", dedicated to serving those in need. We are committed to managing these resources with the utmost responsibility and transparency. We believe that our funding is guided by divine providence. God has blessed us with the generosity of donors who have placed

their trust in Caritas and recognized the importance of our work.

Expanding our horizons and meeting the nation's needs

Caritas has expanded its presence nationwide, surpassing a hundred centers, making it a significant force in understanding and addressing people's needs. Our presence in diverse regions gives us a unique advantage in local insight and a deep understanding of the challenges facing our citizens. This proximity enables us to respond quickly and effectively to crises and ongoing issues, regardless of geography or demographic composition.

Volunteers and Youth

At the core of Caritas Lebanon, there is a dedicated group of volunteers spread across all Lebanese regions, serving as the backbone of the organization. Selflessly contributing their time and expertise to help those in need, they embody the spirit of mercy and solidarity, working to ensure that our message of love and compassion reaches every corner of the nation.

Our youth division represents the present and future of Caritas Lebanon. We rely on their energy, creativity, and unwavering dedication to continue the work we have started. Their enthusiasm and fresh

perspectives bring vitality and innovative solutions to our mission, and we are confident that Caritas will continue to thrive in the years to come by means of their contributions.

Dedicated Staff and Ethical Commitment

The importance of Caritas Lebanon's staff cannot be overstated. They operate with the highest ethical standards, working within an international framework to implement both local and international projects. Their professionalism and commitment ensure the effective delivery of services, serving as a bridge between vision and execution.

Preserving the Ecclesiastical Identity and Christian Principles

Caritas Lebanon, while serving all segments of society, maintains its ecclesiastical identity and adheres to Christian principles. The organization's commitment to its faith-based roots remains unyielding. We operate according to what the Lord requires of us, making the Gospel our life's constitution and the teachings of the Church our guiding light. We are aware of the many foreign and deviant ideologies that infiltrate today's society, knocking on the doors of organizations to adopt them. However, Caritas remains resolute in its founding

principles, unwavering in its unprejudiced dedication to serving every individual.

One Heart, One Board of Directors

Caritas Lebanon operates with one goal and one heart. The Board of Directors oversees the organization's work under the supervision of the bishop appointed by the Church. This collective effort ensures that our activities are carried out in accordance with our mission, rooted in our principles, and guided by our faith.

Extending a Helping Hand to Give and Receive

At Caritas Lebanon, we are not limited to collecting donations; but we also provide an opportunity for individuals to do good. We believe that doing good is a two-way stream, where we extend one hand to receive and the other to give. Through this mutual act of kindness, we create a world where those in need are supported, and where compassion and generosity thrive. In this annual report, we look back at 2022 with gratitude, highlighting the key events achieved, the souls touched and the challenges faced. As we are guided by our mission and faith, Caritas Lebanon stands ready to face the future without being hindered by crises, continuing its commitment to building hope and spreading goodness wherever it is found.

Father Michel Abboud
Caritas Lebanon President

Introduction

Caritas
Lebanon



ومكـمـلـيـن
سـنة

50 Years...
OF SERVING HUMANITY



50 years of Dedication

Fifty years have passed since Caritas Lebanon's establishment.

Five decades filled with compassion, love, giving and devotion.

This humanitarian journey has been inspiring and full of challenges and sacrifices, elevating the spirit of charity and giving to extraordinary heights.

As we commemorate the Golden Jubilee of these continuous efforts, we proudly recall all the contributions and support from kindhearted people and devoted supporters who have stood by us since the beginning of our mission.

Challenges and Sacrifices

Throughout the past 50 years, Caritas Lebanon has faced many obstacles and challenges, but has never stopped overcoming them with courage and tenacity. During the recent difficult times in Lebanon, especially during the year 2022, the nation witnessed a severe economic collapse, with the exchange rate hitting an unsettling 46,000 LBP per dollar. Additionally, the COVID-19 epidemic worsened poverty and food insecurity, while continuing to represent a serious threat to the economy and public health.

According to Human Rights Watch research, the levels of impoverishment and malnutrition in Lebanon are worrying; These circumstances are a result of the nation's struggling economy, unstable political situation, and rising cost of living. Vulnerable families are the one who suffer the most, in the absence of a social safety system, while the majority of individuals fight to defend their social and economic rights.

Dedication to serving

Despite all these hardships, we remain dedicated to serving the poor and marginalized, because we believe that everyone deserves to be treated with respect and dignity, regardless of their faith, beliefs, backgrounds or countries.

Support Amid Pandemic

Caritas Lebanon has given thousands of individuals and families, affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, vital support by providing healthcare services, hygiene supplies, and food assistance.

And given the lack of resources and the ineffectiveness of the healthcare system, we have focused as well, on supplying medicines and medical equipment to underprivileged and displaced people.

Strengthening Community Bonds

Caritas has also worked hard to promote social integration and strengthen links within the community, by offering free psychological and social support through training programs, workshops, and counseling sessions.

Empowering Vulnerable Groups

The organization has carried out projects to improve the economic and social circumstances of vulnerable groups, including women, children, the elderly, and refugees, helping families in need to improve their standard of living.

Inclusive Education

When it comes to specialized education, Caritas has worked to empower the most vulnerable children, especially those with special needs, by ensuring they have access to school, through a variety of programs and projects that support an inclusive learning environment.

Economic Empowerment

In the field of livelihood and development, Caritas Lebanon has implemented projects and programs in the livelihood and development sector to empower economically marginalized people and

families, offering job opportunities and vocational training to improve their self-sufficiency and living conditions, thereby promoting sustainability and achieving lasting social development.

Vulnerable Protection

Under the protection section, Caritas Lebanon has worked to defend vulnerable and marginalized women and children, from abuse, exploitation and discrimination.

Social Justice Pursuit

And in order to ensure a safe and sustainable environment for people in need, we've provided social, psychological and legal support.

Our efforts are focused toward advancing social justice, peace and solidarity, but we are unable to accomplish these objectives without our donors' generous support who share our values and principles.

Funding shortage

In this context, statistics have confirmed that all non-governmental organizations in Lebanon, with Caritas Lebanon at the forefront, faced significant challenges during 2022, due to redirecting most of the resources and financial donations to the regions affected by the Russia

- Ukraine war. This funding shortage greatly impacted their ability to secure sufficient resources, aid and support for the vulnerable and affected people in Lebanon.

Opportunities in crisis

With each challenge we face, let us remember that in the midst of every crisis lies a great opportunity.

Through your generous donations and continuous support, Caritas Lebanon can continue its humanitarian mission and achieve many great humanitarian goals.

The time has come for Caritas to rely on the support of the Lebanese, both residents and expatriates. Through your contributions, even if they are small or symbolic, there is no doubt that together we will succeed in facing challenges, making a real difference and improving the lives of those most in need. Thus, we complete the humanitarian mission of Caritas!

Thanks to your generous contributions and the sacrifices of all the enthusiastic volunteers who help and comfort others, we have achieved valuable accomplishments and improved the situations of many. The strong faith and trust you have shown have added a bright light of hope and optimism to the lives of those who are most in need. Together, we face all challenges and make a difference!

Together for a better future

Let us collaborate together to overcome challenges and achieve more accomplishments for the sake of goodness and giving. Let us make fifty years of giving the beginning of a long journey of goodness and human impact. Together, let's continue building a better and brighter future for the upcoming generations, so that Lebanon becomes a country characterized by justice, mercy, and peace.

Humanitarian work will not stop

“Fifty... and continuing” with the vulnerable and marginalized, and we promise you that humanitarian work will not stop, but will continue to strive for positive change and comprehensive improvement in the social and economic reality of Lebanese society.

Partners & Donors



Health Department





Caritas Lebanon Initiatives for 2022: Positive Impact on Healthcare

Caritas Lebanon places health at the core of its priorities and strives diligently to achieve strategic goals that reflect its humanitarian and social vision, aiming to ensure everyone enjoys healthy living standards at all ages.

In line with these strategic objectives, and driven by its noble mission and principles of humanity and solidarity, Caritas continued its expansion of services in 2022, providing vital healthcare services to the community, amid Lebanon’s crowded cities and vibrant neighborhoods on one hand, and the marginalization that its remote towns and villages suffer from on the other, without providing any possible means to provide aid and healing to those in dire need.

Supporting Hospital Fees

The journey began with Caritas’ commitment to support hospital expenses, providing support to a large number of beneficiaries by covering a portion of their hospital bills, considering the financial burdens that health emergencies could impose during these challenging times. Within the framework of the ESCAPE III Hospital and Mental Health Support Program, Caritas Lebanon, in partnership

with Caritas Switzerland and Americares, provided medical and financial support to 217 beneficiaries in need of urgent and essential surgeries. Additionally, it offered 900 psychological counseling sessions and 10 awareness sessions, all within a period not exceeding six months.

Free Medical Campaigns

Furthermore, Caritas Lebanon’s Health Department made significant contributions in improving the health and well-being of those in need throughout 2022.

These efforts were characterized by a focus on free medical campaigns organized by Caritas in various regions, aiming to reach citizens who couldn’t afford the costs of accessing Caritas-affiliated healthcare centers. Consultations with specialized doctors in all fields, dental care services, laboratory tests, vaccinations, and medications were provided as part of its efforts to combat diseases and prevent them.

In collaboration with “La Chaine de Espoir” association, Caritas organized medical and awareness campaigns in Rabieh, Antelias, Jezzine, Lebbaa, Tripoli, Bsharri, Sibael,

Khirbet Anafar, Mashghara, Kfaryachit, Achah and other regions. These campaigns shed light on Congenital Orthopedic Disorders in children, who benefited from free medical examinations under the supervision of specialized pediatricians.

Moreover, Caritas, in collaboration with “Teeth on Wheels,” provided dental check-ups, including oral examinations, teeth and gum cleaning, light fillings, and individual dental X-rays. The campaign also included general medical consultations, a cardiologist, and the distribution of free medications, along with medical examinations for children.

A Package of Medical Services in Primary Healthcare Centers
Also in the medical field, Caritas organized in healthcare centers, sessions covering psycho-motor therapy, speech therapy, physical therapy, and psychological support, in addition to awareness sessions on various health topics.

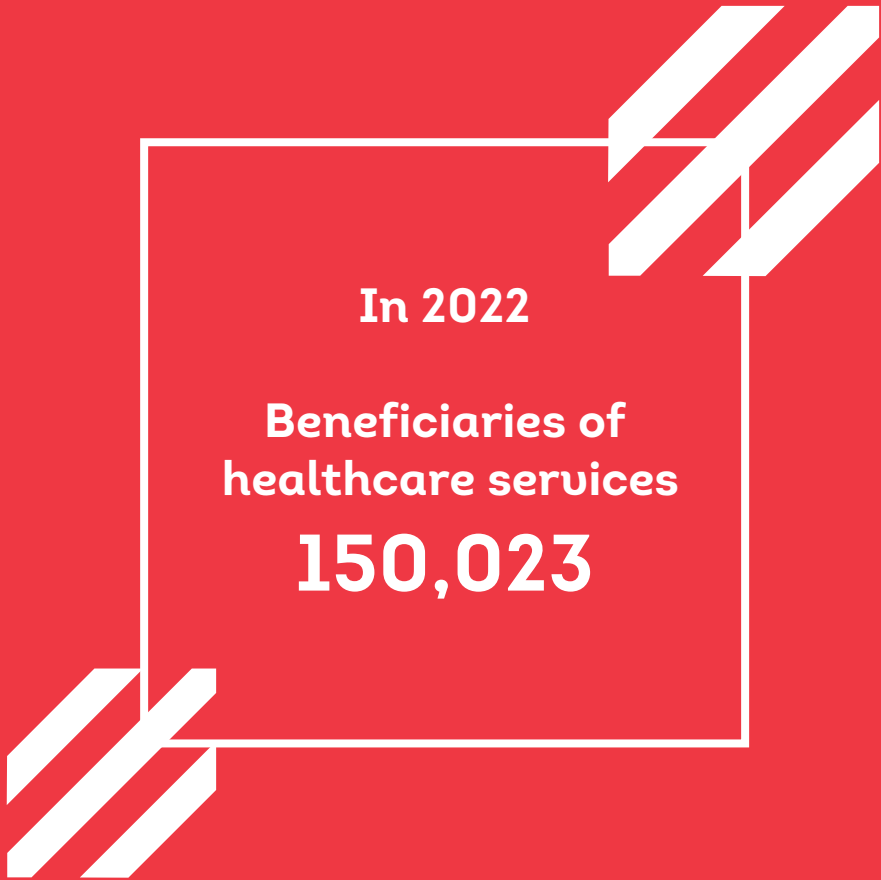
Caritas provided as well, nutritional care services to beneficiaries, including assessment, education, and monitoring under the supervision of nutrition specialists, ensuring that everyone receives a proper diet.

Caritas Health Department consists of 10 Primary Healthcare Centers (PHCC) and 9 Mobile Medical Units (MMU) distributed throughout all regions of Lebanon.



10 PHCC
Primary HealthCare Center

08 MMU
Mobile Medical Unit



→ Nutrition Services	2136
→ Hospitalization	1500
→ Paramedical Services	12734
→ Dental Care	1729
→ Medicine Distribution	477541
→ Medical Consultations	57718
→ Diagnostic Exams	11670
→ Vaccination	4120
→ Awareness Sessions	3577
→ MHPSS	8591
→ Nursing Care	54324

Social Department





The Lebanese are unable to secure their social and economic rights

2022 Human Rights Watch report confirms that “the majority of people in Lebanon are unable to secure their social and economic rights, amid a worsening economic crisis, with low-income families bearing the heaviest burden.”

Between November 2021 and January 2022, Human Rights Watch conducted a survey on a representative sample of 1,209 families in Lebanon, to gather information about individuals’ economic conditions and their ability to afford food, medicine, housing and education. The survey results highlighted the severity of the situation, indicating that nearly 70% of families struggled to cover their expenses or were consistently late in paying their basic bills in the previous year.

According to the report, families with members with special needs, female-headed households, and those with low incomes were more at risk in making ends meet, even though families from all economic backgrounds were struggling to meet basic needs. While almost 94% of those in the lowest income quintile reported difficulty covering basic needs, 26% of those with the highest incomes also reported such difficulties.

Positive Impact on the lives of Thousands

Amidst all that is happening, the social department of Caritas Lebanon remains committed to its mission of providing support and assistance to individuals and communities in need, by offering various services and programs, including social support, healthcare, nutrition, financial support and assistance in meeting their basic needs.

In 2022, the efforts of all those working in this department had a significant positive impact on the lives of thousands of beneficiaries, helping them overcome the challenges they faced, through diverse programs that encompass social support, healthcare, nutrition, financial assistance, and aid in meeting their basic needs.

The role of social workers focuses on providing support and assistance to families and elderly individuals living in difficult conditions and social vulnerability. Their role extends beyond providing basic necessities like food, housing, and clothing, as they also offer psychological and emotional support and provide social and cultural activities, to help individuals overcome the challenges and difficulties they may encounter in their daily lives,

strengthening their determination and enhancing their psychological and social well-being.

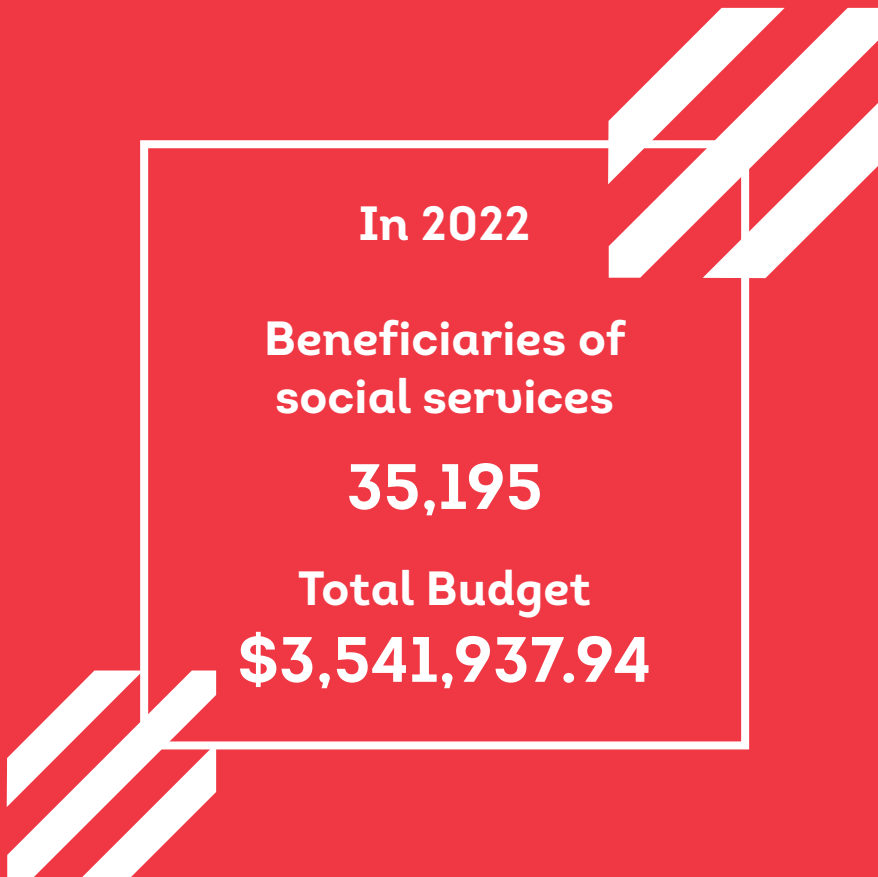
**Collaborative Programs:
Contribution and Impact**

Caritas Lebanon, in collaboration with the United Nations World Food Program (WFP), worked to provide food rations to those most in need, ensuring people have access to nutritious meals. Additionally, approximately 1,200 hot meals were distributed daily to those in need by the Robert Mouawad Charitable Association.

Caritas continued to provide support and assistance to vulnerable families, whether through cooperation with Maronite dioceses in diaspora countries, like Australia and the United States, or through the “Family to Family” program, which involves financially capable families donating to those in need through an ongoing monthly process. Donors have the option to adopt a specific family, and this process is facilitated by Caritas in a transparent manner that respects the wishes of donors and beneficiaries. On the other hand, Caritas distributed hygiene kits to beneficiaries to promote personal hygiene and prevent the spread of diseases. Special bags containing essential items for infant care were also provided for children. Additionally, bags tailored to the needs of the elderly were distributed to enhance their comfort and quality of life.

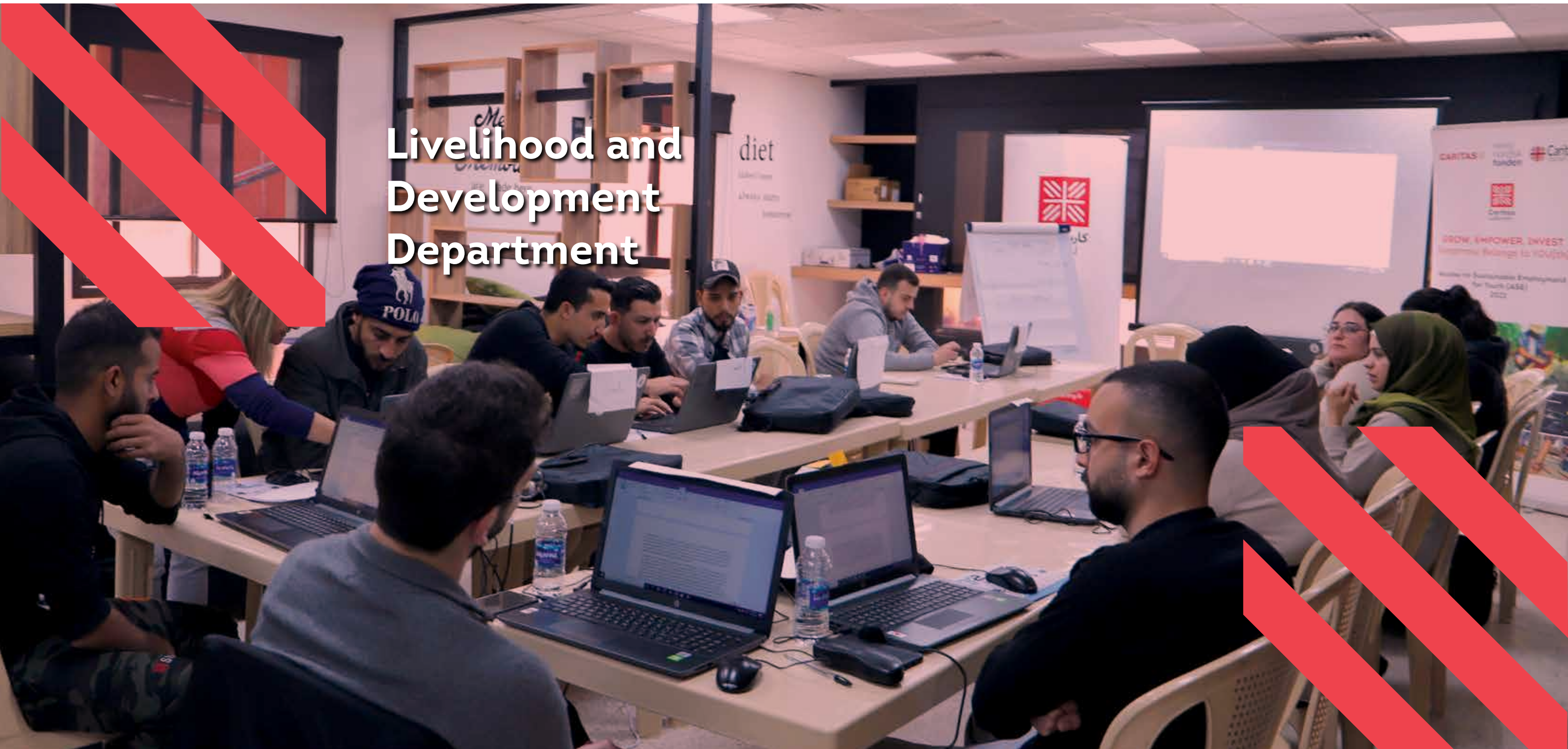
Given the harsh winter conditions in Lebanon, Caritas provided heating supplies to vulnerable communities. This support included the distribution of warm clothing, blankets, and other essential items to help individuals adapt to cold weather and protect their health.

To address the nutritional needs of infants, Caritas Lebanon distributed specialized infant bags for two age groups: 0-1 year and 1-3 years. These bags ensured the provision of essential nutrients for the growth and development of young children during their crucial early years.



→ Basic Assistance	10532
→ Food Rations	14347
→ Hygiene Kits	1137
→ Baby Kits	990
→ Elderly Kits	2433
→ Winter Assistance	2606
→ Infant Milk (0-1 year)	1000
→ Infant Milk (1-3 years)	1000
→ Feminine Hygiene Kits	1150

Livelihood and Development Department



Create positive change and improve living conditions for all

Strategic Design and Ambitious Vision

Driven by its humanitarian mission and commitment to eradicating poverty and hunger, while achieving sustainable development for communities and cities, Caritas Lebanon works with a strategic and ambitious vision to create positive change and improve living conditions for all.

ASE Project: Ensuring Sustainable Employment Opportunities for Youth

In this context, the Livelihood and development Department of Caritas Lebanon, focused through 2022, on empowering young individuals seeking to enhance their livelihoods. This was achieved through various training programs aimed at boosting their knowledge and skills in two professional fields: employment or self-employment. The goal was to equip them with the tools and support needed to ensure sustainable employment opportunities as part of the ASE project (Access to Sustainable Employment for Youth), funded by the Novo Nordisk Foundation, in partnership with Caritas Denmark and Caritas Switzerland.

Job Opportunities

Within the employment track, Caritas collaborated with local projects and businesses to secure employment opportunities for participants.

To enhance participants' professional capabilities, the project included eight sessions dedicated to technical and vocational education and training (TVET) in specific sectors. This aimed to improve participants' technical knowledge and open doors for job opportunities in various industries.

Caritas also organized 3 intensive training sessions on employability, to provide participants with essential practical skills, such as resume writing, interview preparation, and communication strategies. Recognizing the importance of legal awareness in the workplace, Caritas Lebanon dedicated a session to inform participants about their rights and responsibilities in the employment sector. This aimed to raise legal awareness among young individuals, empower them with the necessary knowledge to address potential challenges, and ensure fair treatment at the workplace.

Technical and Financial Support for Start-ups and Small Businesses

The ASE project also included technical and financial support for start-ups and small businesses. Through career guidance and mentoring, aspiring young entrepreneurs were equipped with the necessary skills to establish and manage their own businesses, fostering self-reliance and economic growth.

Soft skills training is considered one of the main aspects of the project's initiative. During eight sessions, participants received guidance on effective communication, teamwork, problem solving and basic personal skills that help cultivate professional ethics and increase successful engagement in the business world.

Furthermore, the project provided participants with guidance on business development and marketing strategies through 15 sessions. That equipped individuals with the knowledge needed to initiate or expand their projects, ultimately promoting economic growth and sustainability.

Given the growing importance of digital skills in the current job market, the project included three sessions dedicated to teaching participants basic digital skills, including computer skills and essential internet networking, thus providing them with the competencies necessary to excel in the digital age.

"Hand in Hand" Project: Providing Income to the Most Vulnerable

In addition, Caritas Lebanon, in collaboration with Caritas Switzerland, implemented the "Hand in Hand: Integrated Social Protection and Livelihoods Enhancement for Lebanese and Syrians" project, which lasted for 24 months.

The project was primarily associated with the rehabilitation of Caritas social housing, providing cash to secure employment and decent income for workers of various nationalities, regardless of whether they possessed suitable skills or not. The project aimed to contribute to sustainable poverty reduction for both refugees and vulnerable host communities through:

- Providing decent and affordable social housing for low-income Lebanese families.
 - Enhancing social protection for low-income Syrian and Lebanese families through a sustainable system of social institutions.
- To achieve these results, Caritas employed the following strategies:
- Renovating 7 buildings (74 apartments in total) in Dekwaneh, as part of the "cash-for-work" program. This provided income for Syrian refugees and low-income Lebanese individuals, enabling them to meet their basic needs and thus contribute to sustainable poverty reduction in these vulnerable communities.
 - Formulating appropriate policies to guide donations.
 - Adopting a policy for social resource governance and donations and updating rent guidelines within the organization.

Education Department



Quality education for All



The education system within Caritas Lebanon plays a crucial role in empowering and supporting individuals, especially children, in accessing education. It offers a range of programs and initiatives that contribute to creating an integrated educational environment, by providing comprehensive services and addressing special needs.

The key strategic goals of Caritas include ensuring fair and inclusive quality education for all members of society, by enhancing learning opportunities throughout life, thereby contributing to building a knowledgeable and academically successful community.

In this context, Caritas operates at various educational levels, including formal education from primary to secondary, vocational training, and informal education. This includes identifying out-of-school children (OOSC), supporting them after school hours to complete their homework (HWS), as well as providing basic literacy and numeracy services for youth.

4 educational centers to support vulnerable children
Caritas Lebanon aims to support children facing physical and/or mental learning difficulties to provide equal learning opportunities and employment prospects for a sustainable future. To achieve this goal, the organization includes 4 educational centers:

- **Patriarch Sfeir Center in Zahle for children with learning difficulties.**
- **HOPE Centers in Baalbeck.**
- **Beit Georgette and Hanna Romanos in Lebbaa for children with learning difficulties.**
- **Fghal Center for children with special needs.**

These centers comprise approximately 100 teachers, therapists, social workers, physical therapists, speech therapists and special coordinators, all dedicated to providing specialized support and individualized education to meet the children's needs.

These initiatives aim not only to prevent early dropout and child labor, but also to help students achieve academic and personal success.

Various programs and initiatives

In 2022, Caritas provided financial support to 507 Lebanese students by contributing to their school fees, ensuring that they have access to quality education.

Additionally, 470 Lebanese students with special needs benefited from over 3,400 specialized therapy sessions, including physical therapy, speech therapy and psychological therapy.

Caritas also extended its services to non-formal education students, supporting 94,903 students through basic literacy and numeracy services for children and youth, early dropout prevention, after-school programs, and completion of homework assignments, in addition to educational awareness sessions for Syrian refugee students and stateless individuals.

Furthermore, daily transportation allowances were provided to 252 Lebanese students and 60 Lebanese teachers to facilitate their access to educational facilities.

Recognizing the importance of addressing the social and economic challenges facing the most vulnerable families, Caritas, through its multi-purpose cash assistance program, supported 287 Lebanese families, benefiting approximately 1,148 individuals.

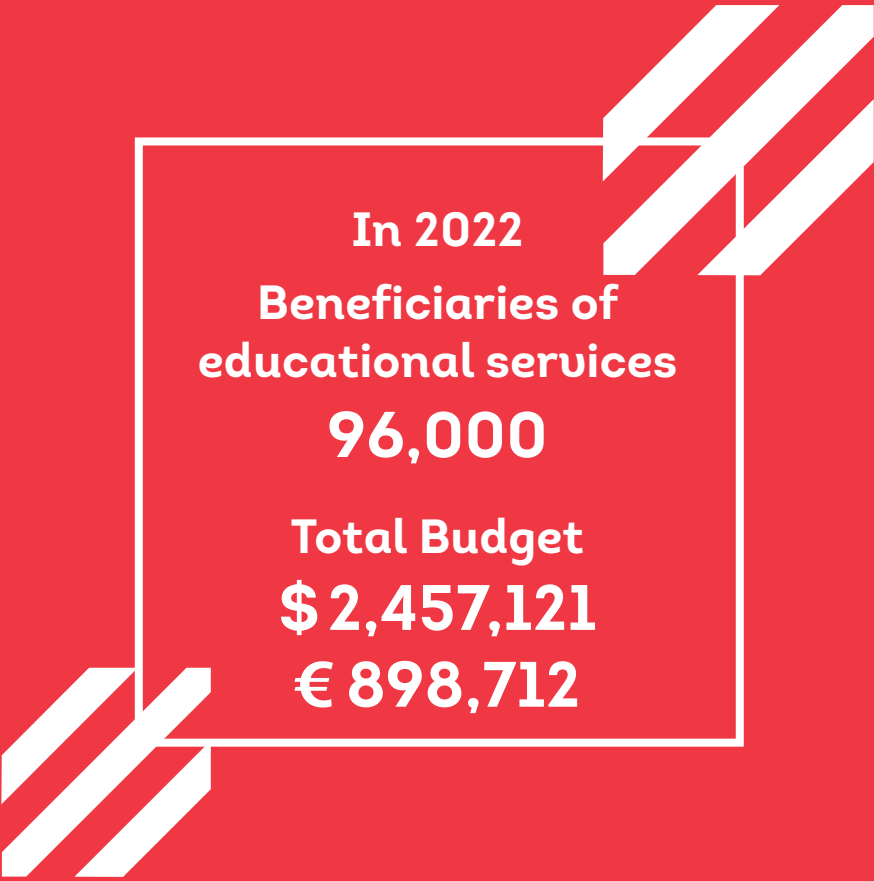
Caritas also equipped students with practical skills and implemented vocational activities for 100 Lebanese students,

creating employment opportunities for them. In this regard, approximately 6,558 awareness sessions were organized, primarily targeting Syrian refugee students and their parents.

During summer, Caritas' education department launched a summer school program, benefiting a large number of students. As a result, approximately 35,987 Lebanese and Syrian refugee students participated in educational and recreational activities, helping them continue to develop and grow.

Additionally, Caritas provided an after-school program for 200 students, both Lebanese and Syrian refugees, to create a safe and suitable environment for children to complete their school tasks and receive additional assistance.

In total, approximately 96,000 individuals benefited in 2022, from various programs and initiatives conducted by the education department, with a budget of 898,712 euros and 2,457,121 US dollars, in line with its commitment to improving education and empowering vulnerable individuals in the country.



Protection Department

A photograph of a young child from behind, wearing a bright yellow long-sleeved shirt. The child is carrying a red drawstring backpack with a white Caritas Lebanon logo, which features a stylized cross and the text 'Caritas Lebanon'. The child is walking in a crowd of people, with other individuals visible in the background. The image is framed by red diagonal stripes on the left and right sides.

Caritas
Lebanon



Protecting the Rights regardless of nationality, ethnicity, religious affiliation or political beliefs

Protecting the Rights of Vulnerable Groups

Caritas Lebanon's strategic vision is evident in its continuous efforts to promote the rights of marginalized communities and vulnerable groups, protecting them from threats and exploitation, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, religious affiliation or political beliefs.

In collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Caritas works to enhance protection and support for refugees and migrants. It provides shelter and protection services for women, children and the elderly through:

- 4 shelters that accommodate women, children, patients, and elderly, including a shelter for human trafficking victims.
- Beth Aleph school, established in 2010 in collaboration with Caritas Austria/Salzburg Archdiocese and the Lazarists, to receive and educate the children (3 to 6 years) of foreign migrant workers and refugees from the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

Caritas aims to empower them through a variety of innovative services and programs, including:

- First aid
- Food assistance

- Medical assistance
- Legal assistance
- Social follow-up
- Psychological support
- Educational programs at Beth Aleph school
- Vocational training in shelters
- Awareness sessions on human rights, child rights, combating human trafficking, and gender-based violence
- Reintegration and referrals in home countries
- Launching awareness campaigns to amend the sponsorship system and advocate for migrant rights.

Caritas Lebanon is the only organization authorized by the General Security to operate 24/7 within the General Security - Investigation and Procedures Department, providing humanitarian, medical, psychological and legal assistance, as well as recreational activities for detainees. It also refers human trafficking victims to Caritas shelters.

Challenges

One of the primary challenges faced by Caritas in 2022, was insufficient funding to cover all the centers' costs and needs, notably Beth Aleph school, which faced significant

difficulties preventing the expansion of supportive programs and projects.

Another challenge arose due to strikes and disruptions that paralyzed the judiciary system, making it difficult to address legal cases related to migrant workers who sought Caritas for protection and legal support, as a result of the problems they faced in Lebanon, from their employers abandoning them in light of the economic conditions, confiscation of their documents, non-payment of wages, physical, sexual and psychological abuse, among others.

Despite these difficulties, Caritas continued to provide a wide range of activities and services in its centers, focusing on raising awareness, ensuring safety and advocating for protection rights. The most prominent of which are:

Awareness sessions

Caritas conducted numerous awareness campaigns to educate refugees and migrants about their rights, duties, potential risks, as well as available services.

Activities and services at community centers

Caritas organized various activities and services in its centers, including life skills development programs, vocational skills training, and learning skills. These activities involved 91,263 participants in total during the year.

Outreach

Caritas maintained contact with 14,332 individuals, referring them to its centers for appropriate services and providing psychological and social support (PSS).

Safe shelters

Around 260 people, primarily women and their children, live in Caritas shelters, in which they find a safe environment, as all basic services are available, including individual counseling, psychological support, and social follow-up, in addition to basic assistance, including meals, housing and hygiene supplies.

Services for detainees

Caritas supported 8,833 detainees through case management services, medical consultations, medication provision, psychological counseling, and non-food items. Additionally, 6,710 detainees participated in recreational activities for psychosocial and social support.

Legal services

Caritas provided legal awareness, legal consultations and legal representation, as well as securing civil documents for 30,587 refugees and migrants to protect their rights and ensure access to justice.

Medical assistance

In addressing healthcare needs of vulnerable groups, Caritas Lebanon provided medical assistance to 53,962 individuals, including medical consultations, laboratory tests, medications, physical therapy sessions, speech therapy and psychological therapy.

Non-cash support for persons with specific needs (PwSN)

Approximately 3,000 individuals received case management services, 12,121 received psychological and social support, and 8,027 received counseling and psychological support. These services aimed to protect the vulnerable individuals' rights and ensure their access to justice.

Child protection

Caritas provided case management, psychological and social support, and counseling to 1,323 children (refugees, migrants, and detainees), psychosocial support to 5,491 children, and counseling to 628 low-risk cases.

Cash-Based Interventions

Caritas Lebanon implemented cash-based interventions to support 4,885 families through urgent cash assistance programs and cash assistance for protection. These initiatives aimed to provide financial support to families in need, enabling them to meet their basic needs.

In-kind Distribution

Approximately 7,674 families in the Mount Lebanon and North regions received in-kind assistance, including essential supplies, alleviating the suffering of families in need.

In summary, in 2022, a total of 392,510 beneficiaries received support and services from the Protection Department, with a total budget of 955,972.95 euros, equivalent to 1,331,300.30 US dollars or 251,584,000.00 Lebanese pounds. Additionally, an extra budget was allocated for individuals with specific needs, totaling 274,528 US dollars and 2,561,938,994.50 Lebanese pounds.

Caritas Lebanon's extensive efforts in providing a wide range of support and services to vulnerable communities and individuals, despite the challenges faced, demonstrate its commitment to protecting human rights, promoting safety, and advocating for the rights of those in need.

These efforts encompassed awareness campaigns to educate refugees and

migrants about their rights, legal support to address issues of exploitation and abuse, and comprehensive medical assistance to address healthcare needs. The provision of safe shelters, vocational training, and psychosocial support contributed to creating a supportive environment for women, children, and elderly.

Furthermore, Caritas's involvement with detainees ensured that individuals in difficult circumstances received the necessary care, both medically and psychologically, along with legal support to protect their rights. The focus on child protection and non-cash support for persons with specific needs underscores Caritas's dedication to addressing the unique challenges faced by these vulnerable groups.

Cash-based interventions and in-kind distribution initiatives demonstrated the organization's commitment to meeting the immediate needs of families experiencing hardship, further alleviating their suffering. In conclusion, Caritas Lebanon's tireless efforts in the field of protection in 2022, highlight its vital role in safeguarding the rights and well-being of vulnerable communities and individuals, making a significant impact on the lives of those it serves. Despite financial and operational challenges, Caritas remained steadfast in its mission to provide essential support, raise awareness, and advocate for justice and human rights.

Social Enterprises Division





Contributing to job creation & Securing self-supporting resources

Caritas Lebanon aims, through its Social Enterprises Division, to contribute to creating job opportunities and securing self-supporting resources for the organization. This enables Caritas to achieve a significant positive impact and generate sustainable revenue. The Division includes several departments:

Agricultural Processing Center in Deir al-Ahmar

This center aims to manufacture traditional Lebanese products, by purchasing raw materials from local farmers in Deir al-Ahmar, with the aim of providing local job opportunities and supporting the agricultural sector in the region.

The center produces approximately 30 products annually, benefiting over 1,000 small-scale farmers and collaborating with around 55 farmers and suppliers. Additionally, more than 30 women and school students work at the factory. The center's economic and social role includes employing local labor and supporting more than 100 people by providing services such as grinding thyme, sumac, bulgur, and more.

IT Academy

The IT Academy, established in December 2016, initially focused on enhancing computer and information software skills of Caritas Lebanon employees. However, its services expanded to include individuals outside the Caritas framework, aiming to develop knowledge and educational services for a broader audience, and to provide digital literacy programs to individuals outside the framework of Caritas (union of municipalities, social institutions, parishes).

The academy offers the following courses:

- Digital Literacy (18 hours of training)
- Microsoft Office Specialist (18 hours of training)
- Microsoft Office Expert (18 hours of training).

At the end of the course, successful participants in the MOS or MOE training course, receive a certificate issued by Microsoft, because Caritas deals with a Microsoft Certified Trainer and a Certified Testing Center.

**Caritas Social Kitchen
(Soup Kitchen – U Feed)**

Caritas Social Kitchen started its operation in May 2019 with support from Caritas Germany. It provides various food meals (daily dish, breakfast, lunch, etc.) for an allowance that was set at 20% less than the market price, given its social mission.

The kitchen consists of two sections:

**Al- Mahabba Restaurant”
(Free Restaurant)**

serves hot meals to about 200 people in need 3 times a week (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday), so that the individual receives two food rations. Daily meals are distributed to individuals registered according to regulations organized by the Dekwaneh Region in Caritas Lebanon.

The non-free section

offers various meals (a daily dish, breakfast and lunch...) in exchange for a fee, with prices 20% lower than market rates.

Social Housing

Caritas Lebanon’s Social Housing initiative aims to develop affordable housing for low-income individuals and families in need. The organization owns 11 residential buildings with 125 housing units and two warehouses for this purpose.

“Intajouna” Cooperative

The Al-Mahabab Cooperative for Local Production, known by the trade name “Intajouna,” carries out the process of marketing agricultural products.

“Deir Al-Ahmar Agricultural Processing Center” is considered one of the most important customers of the Cooperative, which purchases their products, markets and sells them, in addition to serving a large number of craftsmen and food manufacturing professionals.

All of these efforts are aimed at achieving the cooperative’s stated goals in its founding system, which include supporting farmers through various available means. This ensures various social objectives within the general and comprehensive development vision of Caritas, including:

- Ensuring the sustainability of farmers in their villages and securing sustainable investment in agricultural lands, along with regular marketing of their products to ensure self-sufficiency.
- Supporting civil society institutions (associations, cooperatives, small-scale farmers, and producers) by marketing their products or purchasing them for resale.
- Strengthening development cooperation with associations, links, and cooperatives engaged in agricultural and productive exchange.

In 2022, “Intajouna” cooperative continued its mission to empower farmers and

enhance their ability to produce and promote local products on one hand, and encourage local consumption and provide a platform for farmers to market their products and increase their income on the other hand, thus promoting sustainable development in rural areas.

Through its cooperative model and dedicated efforts, “Intajouna” marketed and sold agricultural products for farmers and associations in various regions, including “Deir Al-Ahmar Agricultural Processing Center”, which played a vital role as one of the main suppliers of agricultural products to the cooperative. It aimed to purchase raw materials from local farmers, produce traditional Lebanese products like dairy and other food items, and then market and sell them to consumers.

However, amidst the economic crisis, “Intajouna” faced a significant challenge in 2022, which was the deterioration of the Lebanese lira due to uncontrolled exchange rate fluctuations. This affected consumers’ purchasing power and the cost of obtaining agricultural products from farmers.

In light of this reality, the cooperative worked diligently to strike a balance between making local products available to a wide range of customers by adjusting pricing strategies and supporting farmers’ livelihoods by ensuring fair compensation for them.

Communication
Department

“There is no better way to thank God for your sight than by giving a helping hand to someone in the dark”

- Helen Keller

Communication involves identifying and meeting social human needs; And in doing so, empowering the institutions that understand and have the capacity to recognize these needs to play a crucial role in alleviating the suffering of the societies and individuals that fall under these strains on a daily basis.

The role of the Communication department at CL during 2022, was a multi-faceted activities driven exercise. It has made it its duty to shed a light on all the activities undertaken by CL, in all its active departments, mainly the Health department, especially that the health and the hospitalization sectors has become a huge burden on the Lebanese and foreign cultures on the Lebanese soil, expanding to the Social, Education and Livelihoods departments, and reaching to the Protection department.

Understanding the urge and rise of the less fortunate societies in our country, the challenges facing great relief organizations like CL became its daily concerns, and took into consideration that the main pillars of its work, are built on transparency, high levels of accountability and sound corporate governance. All these attributes coupled with a highly qualified and skilled

personnel, rich on both spiritual and professional levels, make Caritas Lebanon the relief organization to address when implementing worldwide programs and projects. It makes it as well the top-of-mind organization to go to whenever individuals and groups are in distress.

The communication department at CL made sure during 2022 to bring to light the interventions that took place at the level of all its departments.

And the 50 years Jubilee was a major milestone in its activity. As a product of a multi-talented task force provided by the organization, an exceptional video clip with a new jubilee anthem was created, portraying CL's work and its impact on people's lives; this clip was complemented by 50 stories showcasing this work through the last 50 years, with a promise to continue being present for the less fortunate, the needy and the poor expressed through the campaign's slogan: "50 years and remaining to serve humanity". This path of humanitarian aid was archived in a long documentary, for the next generations serving Caritas Lebanon and its mission. Nationwide celebrations took place across the many sectors and were transmitted live or broadcasted through social media

platforms and website. We provided continuous audio-visual presence of CL members on radios and television stations talk shows to outline the importance of the organization's presence and its positive impact on the Lebanese territory in these past times of turmoil.

The different departments' activities did not go unnoticed neither. As the Communication Department's role is to highlight the importance of the international community's part in financing projects and keeping on its support to the Lebanese society through Caritas Lebanon, we highlighted the effect of these projects' execution and the change they brought to beneficiaries' lives, through success stories, short videos, events organization and continuous coverage of all activities within these projects.

The extensive medical campaigns in different Lebanese regions, included medicine distribution and the multitude of awareness session for early detection of illnesses, women healthcare and hygiene, awareness on cancer diseases. Keeping the people informed on the workshops to facilitate sustained employment towards the young generation under the ASE project and the social housing project "Hand in Hand" within the Livelihoods department, the educational programs for children with learning difficulties or the broader scope of afterschool programs and accompaniment of students to get proper education. Trainings to eradicate computer illiteracy, and programs that

fall under the Protection and Migrants Department, like the foreign workers' rights advocacy workshops under the MIRA project and activities at Beith Aleph. Caritas Lebanon website was uplifted and upgraded in 2022, and realized additional traffic and visibility for the organization with the local and international stakeholders and especially with the Lebanese vibrant diaspora.

The communication department organized the Media, Journalists and Information professionals gathering in the presence of eminent media figures and under the patronage and in the presence of the Minister of Information Dr. Ziad Makari. Throughout 2022, the department handled all communication and visibility material catering for the total activities of CL, including flyers, posters, banners, multimedia material, presentations and campaigns, like the campaign for awareness against Gender Based Violence, campaigns against Child Labor, etc., and intervened towards the training of volunteers and social workers through presentations around communication skills, efficient coverage of events and personal societal engagement.

Our role resumes in bringing out the positive image of CL, and doing so with pride and a feeling of self-fulfillment, as Mother Theresa said:

“The miracle is not that we do this work, but that we are happy to do it”

The Sectors

Sectors' Message

The sectors are the fundamental entities established by the Catholic Church to oversee social work, with a total of 35 sectors spread across various regions in Lebanon, from north to south, including Beirut, Mount Lebanon, Bekaa, and Chouf. They rely on voluntary work carried out by the heads of sectors, their offices, delegates, and social assistants in collaboration with Caritas Youth.

The sectors maintain continuous communication with the central office, involving ongoing coordination between the central office and the heads of sectors, overseen by the coordinator of the sectors entities. Their work involves monitoring needs, overseeing program implementation, initiating initiatives and activities in various forms.

The sectors work in coordination with parishes, civil and pastoral organizations in the regions, and collaborate with civil institutions to monitor the conditions of the population and support those in need. This includes organizing recreational activities and providing material, financial, and moral support to families, children, elderly, and those most affected by

the challenging economic and living conditions.

Furthermore, the sectors build bridges with parishes and communities scattered around the world, continuously providing them with financial support, medicines, food supplies, and even stationery to contribute to development, relief, and alleviating the difficulties faced by individuals and families in Lebanon.

"In unity, we continue"

In 2022, the coordination of the sectors diligently and steadfastly pursued its work, despite the challenges faced by the sectors, and the obstacles that have hindered numerous projects and activities due to the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic and the escalating economic crisis.

Within the scope of their responsibilities, the sectors' coordination assessed the performance of each sector and monitored its work in line with Caritas' message and spirit. They led the meetings of the sectors' offices, revitalized sectors' structures at all levels, assisted in selecting and training volunteers to perform their assigned tasks, facilitated communication between bishops, general heads, general

presidents, and parish priests to form sectors' committees. They organized essential training courses to improve performance in the sectors and prepared monthly, quarterly, and annual reports related to the activities of the sectors.

The key tasks accomplished by the sectors' coordination in 2022 include:

- Appointing 9 new Head of sectors, including:
 - Mrs. Eliane Joseph Azar for Ashrafieh sector.
 - Mr. Antoine Ayoub Sayf for Keserwan2 sector.
 - Monseigneur Maroun Joseph Ghafari for Tyre sector.
 - Engineer Tanios Badih Madi for Bint Jbeil sector.
 - Mrs. Roula Edmond Murad for Upper Metn sector.
 - Dr. Souleima Ghorayeb El Boustany for Upper Chouf sector.
 - Dr. Charbel Hanna Boutros for Baabda2 sector.
 - Father President Samir Fouad Ghawi for Harf sector.
 - Mrs. Margot Georges Wehbe for Zawiye sector.

- Renewing the delegates in the parishes.
- Conducting 58 visits to the sectors to assess their conditions and needs, reinforce memorandums and administrative measures, enhance the spirit of Caritas, support their activities and establish a strong link between them and the central Caritas administration.
- Implementing administrative memorandums in regular meetings.
- Holding 10 meetings with the Heads of sectors via Zoom, in the presence of Father Michel Abboud.
- Organizing 4 meetings that brought together the Heads of sectors, their deputies, secretaries, treasurers, spiritual guides and social assistants.

The sectors embodied the spirit of cooperation that characterizes Caritas Lebanon. Despite the challenges faced in 2022, Caritas Lebanon did not hesitate to provide support and assistance to those in need and meet their urgent needs. This reflects the commitment to continue working diligently and determinedly to provide support and assistance to those in need, achieve sustainable development, and build a better and more humane society for all.

Beirut: 3 sectors		
Ashrafieh	Mrs. Elena Joseph Azar Abi Khair	
Rmeil	Mrs. Paula Shukrallah Naim Sehnaoui	
Ras Beirut	Ms. Antoinette Kamel Nicolas Sandouq	
Mount Lebanon I: 8 Sectors		
Metn I	Mrs. Hoda Jamil Nassar al-Rayes	
Metn II	Dr. Paula Abdo Karam Hrawi	
Metn III	Mrs. Marie Therese Gerges Labaki	
Metn IV	Father Youssef Michel Chahine	
Metn V	Mrs. Laudy Gerges Imad Nseir	
Kesrouan I	Mrs. Gracia George Atallah Romanos	
Kesrouan II	Mr. Antoine Ayoub Seif	
Jbeil	Mrs. Alexandra Moussa Terezia Aoun	
Mount Lebanon II: 6 Sectors		
Baabda I	Ms. Fadia Abdullah Brax	
Baabda II	Dr. Charbel Hanna Boutros	
Aley – Bhamdoun	Mr. Boulos Nassif Yammine	
Upper Shouf	Ms Souleima Youssef Ghorayeb El- Boustany	
Littoral Shouf	Mrs. Jocelyn Amin Matar	
Upper Metn	Mrs. Rola Edmond Murad	
Al Haraf	Father Samir Fouad Ghawi	NEW

Bekaa: 6 Sectors	
Zahle	Mr. Fadi Anis Saba
Middle Bekaa	Mr. Ghassan Nassar Nassar
West Bekaa-Rashaya	Mrs. Carol Jean Karam Abboud
East Bekaa	Mr. Roukoz Ibrahim Fleihan
Northern Bekaa	Monseigneur Paul Sobhi Keyrouz
Baalbek	Mr. Zuzu Tawfik Al-Droubi
Northern Lebanon: 7 Sectors	
Batroun	Eng. Elie Tannous El Samrani
Koura	Lawyer George Yaqoub Al-Tahan
Zgharta	Ehden, Father Youhanna Youssef Makhlouf
Zgharta	Mrs. Margo Gerges Wehbe
El Jibbeh	Bsharre, Dr. Elia Elia Elia
Tripoli	Mrs. Katia Shukri Makari Rizk
Akkar	Mr. Michel Jamil Nassour
South Lebanon: 5 Sectors	
Jezzine	Lawyer Antoine Boulos Bou Rached
Saida al-Zahrani- Nabatieh	Mr. Yasser Siham Samya
Tyre	Father Maroun Youssef Ghafari
Marjayoun & Hasbaya	Eng. Basel Hanna Abdo Khoury
Bint Jbeil	Eng Tanios Badih Madi



Caritas
Youth

Caritas
Lebanon Youth



مدرج 2



As an integral component of Caritas Lebanon, Caritas Youth has dedicated itself to empowering and mobilizing young individuals to be effective and have a positive impact on society. In line with Caritas' mission to promote social justice, solidarity and peace, the youth worked diligently to respond to the diverse needs of young people and the communities they serve.

2022 was a year full of hard work for Caritas Lebanon's youth, as they executed a variety of projects that made a significant difference in the lives of our beneficiaries. Within the framework of the food program in collaboration with the World Food Program (WFP), Youth provided support to the vulnerable families during these challenging times, ensuring that thousands of individuals received essential food items. They also distributed hot soup to beneficiaries through the "SOUP STATION" project and provided hot meals to those in need in Mount Lebanon, Beirut, and the North, known as the "Hot Meals" project. To promote a culture of peace and harmony, the "Harmony" project focused on the role of arts, music and dance in enhancing social understanding, cooperation and cohesion.

Concerned about the students' well-being and mental health, Caritas Youth, through the "Zivic" project, worked to raise awareness among young people about the importance of combating bullying in schools. By fostering and enhancing creativity as a mean of self-expression, Caritas aims to equip young individuals

with the necessary tools to create a more open and compassionate society.

Furthermore, the youth participated in a wide range of activities, including official visits, emergency operations, training sessions, and youth camps, aimed at enhancing leadership skills, personal development, and creating opportunities for dialogue and exchange among young people. Their commitment to environmental sustainability also led to campaigns for reforestation and beach cleanups, allowing young individuals to actively contribute to the preservation of our planet.

In summary, Caritas Youth implemented approximately 5,359 activities in 2022, reaching 346,404 beneficiaries through projects and initiatives in various regions. All of these achievements would not have been possible without the efforts of talented and enthusiastic youth groups, along with volunteers and team members. Their unwavering commitment, passion and dedication were the driving force behind their success. Heartfelt thanks to every individual who contributed their time, skills, and resources to achieve this success and make a difference.

Youth Department Projects 2022

Projects	#of activities	#Beneficiaries	Services
WFP	264	5000	Distribution of Food Kits
Soup Station	100	400	Distribution of Soup
Hot Meals	2600	5200	Distribution of Hot Meals in Mount Lebanon-Beirut - North Lebanon
Heartmony	4	10	Peace Building through arts, music and dance
Ziuiik	50	75	Antibullying Awareness in 10 Schools
Department Activities	50	1000	Official Visits - National Activities
ERU	83	1000	Emergency Operation
THYME	4	60	Training for youth
TOTAL	3155	12745	

Youth in Sectors Activities

Type	#of activities	#Beneficiaries	Services
Environmental	41	4000	Reforestation Campaigns - Beach Cleanups...
Social	1505	273425	Hot Meals & food kits distributions - Sports -International Days...
Health	59	16650	Awareness Campaigns - Distribution of PPEs
Recreational	99	9149	Festivals - Animation - Games
Fundraising		0	
Spiritual	254	24476	Retreats - Mass
Cultural	27	1492	Forums - Campaigns
Camp	24	1036	Summer Camps and Youth Camps
Development	44	1270	Renovation of houses - Public playgrounds and gardens...
Trainings	28	2161	For youth
TOTAL	2204	333659	



TOTAL Activities
Implemented by the Youth Department

2022

Number of
Activities

5359

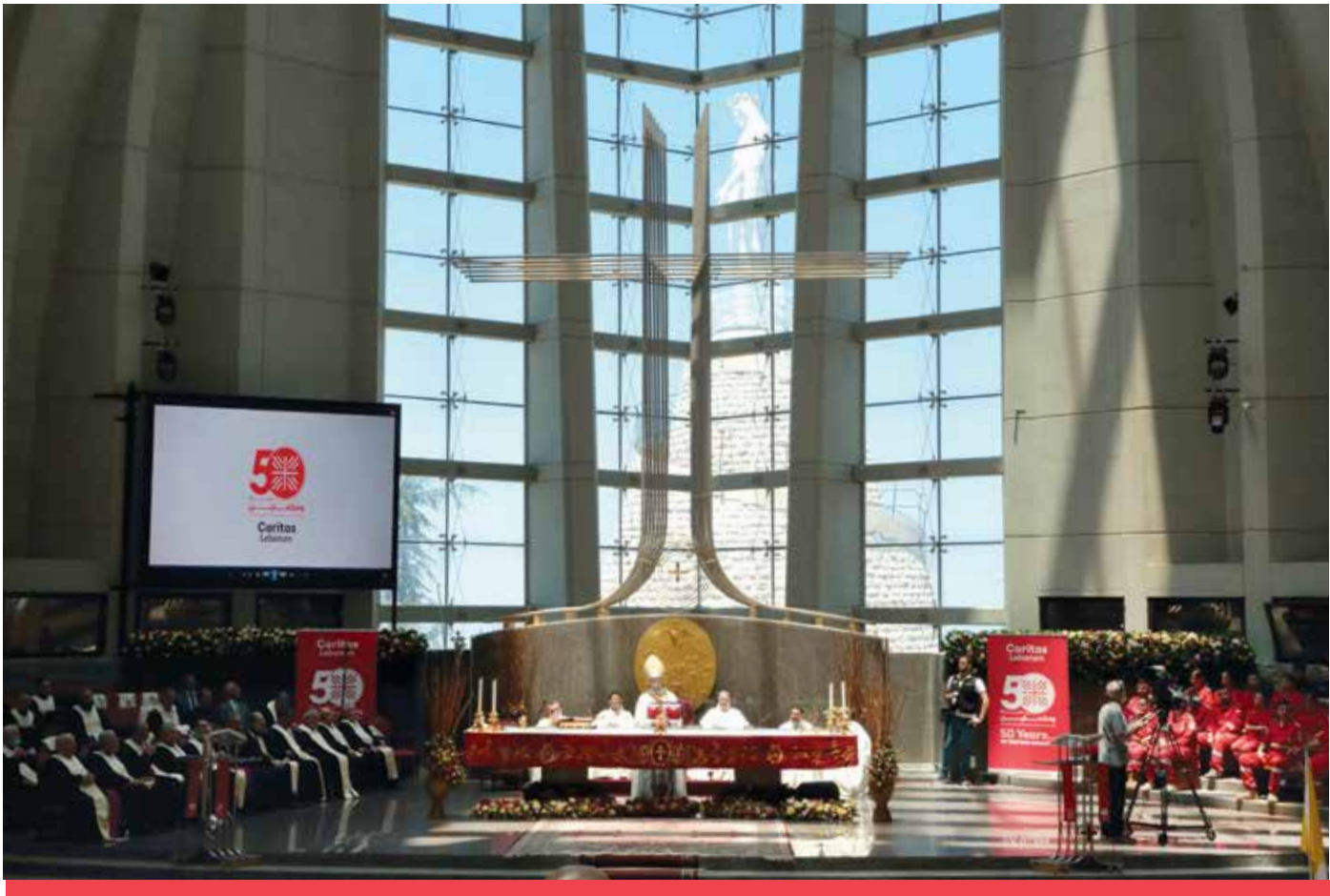
Number of
Beneficiaries

346404



The Jubilee Commencement Activities





Mass in Our Lady of Lebanon Basilica Celebrating Caritas Lebanon’s Golden Jubilee

A mass honoring Caritas Lebanon’s Golden Jubilee at the Basilica of Our Lady of Lebanon in Harissa with the theme “Fifty and we will remain.” Caritas Lebanon celebrated its golden jubilee with a divine liturgy at the Basilica attended by dignitaries, clergy, and a large media presence. The liturgy was presided over by His Beatitude Patriarch Mar Bechara Boutros al-Rahi, with the assistance of Caritas President Father Michel Abboud, Bishop Samir Mazloum, the first president of Caritas, Bishop Michel Aoun, the supervisor of Caritas’ activities, Bishop Antoine Bou Najem, and Father Fadi Tabet, the head of the sanctuary.

Patriarch Al-Rahi

During his sermon, Patriarch Mar Bechara Boutros Al-Rahi said: “Fifty years ago, Caritas Lebanon accepted the challenge of faith and saw its unexpected benefits. Today, it is still growing now, offering more services and programs all around Lebanon. Together, let’s make this act of gratitude with them and seek even greater faith.

Caritas Lebanon was founded in Sidon in 1972 under the name Caritas Lebanon South, initiated by the bishops of the South, particularly the Jesuit Brother Elie

Maamari, who met Caritas in Germany. As the needs grew, especially beyond the South due to events that extended beyond the region starting in 1975, Caritas extended its work to Beirut and various regions of Lebanon, attempting to address the consequences of local wars that spread like wildfire, wreaking havoc on the nation and society, leaving catastrophic damage to both people and infrastructure. Caritas expanded its work to Beirut and other regions of Lebanon as the needs increased, particularly outside the South in 1975. These efforts were made in an effort to address the fallout from local wars that spread like wildfire, wreaking chaos on the country and society and causing catastrophic damage to both people and infrastructure.

It adopted the name Caritas Lebanon and became under the care of the Council of Catholic Patriarchs and Bishops in Lebanon, serving as the pastoral-social arm of the Church.

Over half a century, Caritas Lebanon established its presence on the social work map in Lebanon, being a witness and advocate for the Church’s social teaching concerning the dignity of the human person

and their right to a dignified, free life. It did so without discrimination, with a constant call for solidarity and cooperation for the sake of humanity, created in the image of God.

Caritas' journey has been marked by a spirit of companionship and love that characterized its generations. It met the expectations of the Church and the citizens, and gained trust through its sincerity and transparency with local and foreign donors, governments, official and civil organizations, and individuals from various backgrounds.

Thus, Caritas continuously faces the enormous challenge with the strength of faith and love, doubling its determination to give more, guided by the needs of each phase, adapting to the needs, without forgetting that the poor are present at all times.

As it was in the beginning, Caritas remains a mirror of organization and good management, with genuine messengers overseeing its affairs, living and promoting its spirit through its programs, structures, regions, centers, benefactors, volunteers and youth. The Church, through Caritas, seeks out those in need and strives to provide them with life and abundance.

The great test of the amazing catch through the power of faith in the word of God was lived by the blessed "Abouna Yaacoub," who came to Lebanon from its coasts to its mountains, sowing the word in the hearts of children, youth and the

people in schools and parishes. Especially in preparing children for their first communion at an early age, he repeated, "Plant the Eucharist in the hearts of children and harvest saints."

"Abouna Yaacoub" lived the challenge of faith when he began his major projects of serving and caring for patients of all kinds. His dream began during World War I when he saw tens of thousands of Christians dying of hunger, hanging, and exile without a cross over their graves. He started his project with the blessing of his superior and the widow's mite. He raised a high cross on the hill of Jal el-Dib, along with a church called "Our Lady of the Sea".

The project grew to become a hospital for people with mental, psychological, and nervous diseases, and the Monastery of Christ the King was to serve sick and elderly priests.

In order to continue the mission, he founded the Association of the sisters of the Cross, who are dedicated to serving its institutions in the spirit of our father Yacoub, among them, we mention Deir al-Salib Hospital, which serves a thousand resident patients, Our Lady Hospital Antelias for elderly women, Saint Joseph Hospital in Dora, and Deir al-Qamar Hospital for girls with special needs, in addition to schools, orphanages, and social and missionary centers in Lebanon and abroad.

It is truly the miracle of amazing fishing

that is being realized day after day. How we wish that our civil and political officials had even a seed of the faith and the courage required to confront the total collapse politically, economically, financially, and socially.

We pray to God to make the jubilee of Caritas Lebanon a season of increasing blessings and goodness, through the intercession of Our Lady of Lebanon, the Virgin Mary, and the blessed "Abouna Yaacoub," a son of our land. With faith in the word of God, we raise the hymn of glory and thanks to the Holy Trinity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever, Amen.

Father Abboud

As for Caritas Lebanon President Father Michel Aboud, he said: "Everyone who has worked with Caritas knows how much they received while giving. How much joy they felt while bringing joy. How much support they received while supporting others. We have experienced more and more divine care. How we grieve when we remember those who have left us for eternal life, they took from Caritas and wished to give back in return, but they couldn't. We believe they intercede for us in heaven, alongside the saints.

We often stand helpless in the face of mothers' tears and fathers' silence. They come to us seeking help, and we offer what we can, but the pain overwhelms us because we cannot always respond. Yes,

the need has become bigger, and poverty and illness lurk among the majority of the people, and we have no strength to meet all the needs. But our trust in God through the generosity of hearts, pushes us not to worry or fear. God has blessed us with many blessings over the years, and we all need you to remain ready for the continuity of our work.

The story of Caritas has been written over these years with the strength of giving by many benefactors, within Lebanon and abroad. With the confidence of donor organizations and their continued work with us, with the courage of volunteers' sacrifice and service, with the dedication and our employees' commitment, with the wisdom of supervisors, presidents, officials and administrators. It was written with the enthusiasm and passion of youth. And we continue.

Today, we celebrate the feast of Blessed Father Yaacoub Kabouchi, the patron of Caritas Lebanon, who relied on divine care and saw a life project in every marginalized person, inspiring us with his example.

Finally, the clip of Caritas's new anthem, titled "You have become the feast" was shown. It was written by Dr. Antoine Saad, composed by Joseph Khalife, and supervised by Father Charles Sawaya.



Saida celebrating the 50 years jubilee

On the occasion of its 50th anniversary, Caritas Lebanon celebrated its golden jubilee in the city of Saida, where the organization first started in Lebanon, with the participation of Saida Deputies Dr. Osama Saad and Dr. Abdul Rahman El Bizri, Former Deputy Bahia Hariri, Mufti of Saida Skheikh Salim Soussan, Jaafari Mufti of Saida Sheikh Mohamad Osseiran, Pastor of the Maronite Diocese of Byblos and the Supervisor of Caritas Lebanon Archbishop Michel Aoun, Pastor of the Diocese of Saida and Deir el-Qamar for the Roman Catholic Church, Archbishop Elie El-Haddad, Bishop of the Diocese of Saida and Deir al-Qamar for the Maronite community, Bishop Maroun al-Ammar, Representative of Archbishop Elias Kfoury, Father Ibrahim Saad, Head of the Lebanese Catholic Media Center Father Abdo Abou Kassem, Mayor of Saida, Eng. Mohammad Al-Saudi alongside other representatives.

They were received by President Father Michel Abboud, Vice President Dr. Nicolas Al-Hajjar, Executive Director Gilbert Zouein, Board members, Head of Saida Sector Yasser Samya and members from Saida along with Caritas Lebanon Youth.

Dr. Al-Hajjar

In his speech, Dr. Al-Hajjar said: "Today we celebrate the fiftieth jubilee of this event, which

is characterized by a typical two-stop aspect of the history of Caritas in its motherland and its birthplace, the city of Saida.

He explained that "the first stance is theological and embodies the signs of resilience and stubbornness of Christian history rooted in the land of Saida, and in the conscience of its people, which is based on spiritual values and moral virtues in their journey towards the Kingdom of God," noting that "today, as yesterday, the flame of love is carried by Caritas, the social arm of the Catholic Church, illuminates the darkness and obscurity for those who turn to it".

Al-Hajjar emphasized that "over time, the courageous contributions and stances of the city's men in political and social life continued until martyrdom. Saida has excelled in the coexistence among its people, and was distinguished by the harmony of its churches and mosques, where each religion raises its prayers to the Creator in its own language and style, blending the sounds of church bells with the calls to prayer from its mosques, creating a harmonious symphony, offering worship and praise to the one and only God".

After that, the Head of Saida sector Yasser Samya was honored and he was given the celebration shield, and certificates were handed over to Caritas members and supporters.

President Aoun awards Caritas the Lebanese Silver Order of Merit with Palms on the occasion of its 50 Years Jubilee

Caritas Lebanon President Father Michel Abboud received from President Michel Aoun, on behalf of Caritas Lebanon organization, the Silver Medal of Merit, at the Presidential Palace in Baabda, to honor its 50 years of serving humanity.

Father Abboud was accompanied by Caritas Lebanon's General Supervisor Bishop Michel Aoun, Vice President Dr. Nicolas Al- Hajjar, as well as, members of Caritas Lebanon: Fady Karam, Nadim Nader, Father Ziad Al-Haddad, May Merhej, Mireille Haddad, Dola Chamoun, Philip Saleh, Serge Karnaby, Gilbert Zoueïn, George Abi Hanna, Roger Chahine, Nayla El-Khoury, Azar Azar and Andre Kweik.

Dr. Chedid

At the beginning of the ceremony, the Director General of Protocols at the Presidency of the Republic Dr. Nabil Chedid acknowledged that Caritas "is the guardian of the Lebanese people ever since it was founded and whose sole work and presence is hope and triumph over pain. It heals the wounds of so many people, regardless of their religious and political views. Caritas's journey with Lebanon is an endless journey filled with the highest devotion for humankind. It has been done

before by many of the former presidents and even today with Father Michel who breathed life and spirit back into the people giving them a symbol of hope and perseverance".

He added: "For all that Caritas has done in the name of Lebanon to help the vulnerable people, President Michel Aoun has decided to award Caritas Lebanon the Silver Lebanese Order of Merit Medal and to take this as a moment not only to appreciate everything that they have done but also as a show of loyalty."

Bishop Aoun

Following the commencement of the ceremony, President Aoun presented the medal to Father Abboud, after which Bishop Aoun thanked the President for his initiative towards Caritas throughout its 50 years of service to humanity". The bishop stated: "We are overwhelmed with joy today when our country's President appreciates all that Caritas has done. In spite of the difficult circumstances that Lebanon is going through and the limited resources that it has, Caritas has been able to provide humanitarian aid and develop projects to support the vulnerable".

Father Abboud

In turn, Father Abboud thanked President Aoun for "for this honor and this award that you have specifically chosen to extend to Caritas Lebanon upon its golden jubilee. This merit that is presented to Caritas, is written with the cries of the people, with the tears of a mother, with a father who stands before us, beside us and inside of our centers pleading for help and asking us to stand by them and help them raise their kids. It was written with the pain of every sick person who needed a pill to relieve his pain, with the sigh of every elderly person we received in our home". He added: "We dedicate this medal to everyone who marked the history of Caritas Lebanon, those who worked for it, those who volunteered for it, and those who served in its boards of directors,

including bishops, priests, consecrated people, affiliates, and veterans from fifty years ago until now... And we do not forget all those who have spent their lives and Caritas is still in power. Their memory, and those who came before us, and they accompany us from their heights, and we are strengthened by their prayers".

President Aoun

President Aoun acknowledges Caritas Lebanon and its President and all "the work it has been doing regardless of a person's age, gender, race, religion and political standing". He added: "Caritas works in silence and does not seek acknowledgment and praise in whatever they do, which is why when you extend a helping hand to the people in need you imprint yourselves in their hearts forever."



A Media Gathering on the occasion of Caritas Lebanon golden jubilee

Caritas Lebanon organized a gathering for media professionals and journalists celebrating its fiftieth anniversary (golden jubilee) at the main center in Sin El Fil, in the presence of Minister of Information Ziad Makary, Caritas Lebanon President Father Michel Abboud, National News Agency (NNA) Director Ziad Harfouche, Catholic Information Center Director, Father Abdo Abu Kasem, Head of "Labora" Association, Father Toni Khadra, as well as scores of media professionals and Caritas senior staff.

Father Abboud

In his delivered word marking the occasion, Father Michel Abboud addressed his speech to the media professionals by saying: "The pinnacle of giving lies in giving what we have, and because you are media professionals, your giving is the media and the word, because Christ is the word and image of God, and for this reason he was the first media person and you are following in his footsteps."

He added: "In this difficult stage, there are two types of vulnerable people. The first is knocking on the door of Caritas asking for help, and the second is suffering silently. Here comes your role as media professionals to guide people to Caritas

and to guide Caritas to vulnerable people, especially those who are suffering in silence, with the necessity of Preserving their dignity".

Father Abboud pointed out that "we now have a new category called the "new poor". They are people who used to live and work in dignity, but the financial collapse led them to poverty. To this end, Caritas launched a family-to-family appeal in order to help them, and this appeal has begun to bear fruit in Australia and Poland and we are working to expand it to include other countries. Therefore, it must be reminded periodically that among these people are school teachers who have lost the value of their salaries significantly".

Father Abboud concluded: "It remains important that we do not all forget where we come from and what we want. Caritas has worked in the past in the heart of crises, and we are not afraid today as long as the media is with us to spread the word and help us continue".

Minister Makary

Finally, Minister Makary spoke and said: "Fifty years, during which Caritas walked with steady steps towards a clear goal, which is the human being, as a value in itself, and it never tainted itself with religious,



sectarian and confessional affiliations, and here lies its strength".

He also pointed out that "in the past two years, as financial pressures tightened on the Lebanese people, Caritas was a true cedar tree among the aged cedars of Lebanon, standing firm with its deep roots against the harsh economic winds, providing the Lebanese people with the necessary oxygen to breathe in the midst of suffocating policies."

He continued: "I realize the magnitude of the efforts made by Caritas under the leadership of the honorable Father Michel Abboud, and I appreciate and commend them, for it is these blessed efforts and their counterparts that allow the Lebanese to persevere in the face of waves of displacement and refuge that threaten to sweep them away from their land, after they have borne the burdens alone of their economic, social, security, and environmental security, while the entire world watches and asks for more."

And he concluded: "we wish for our small homeland, with its vast mission that transcends its geographical boundaries, to once again manifest as a model of harmonious human coexistence, where diversity is a divine gift, and unity in living is a divine blessing".

Documentaries

The ceremony included a number of documentaries which shed light on the Caritas' achievements in all fields over the past fifty years in all Lebanese regions, and it focused on the testimonies and personal experiences of some families who benefited from Caritas aid.

Tour around the HQ

After a chat between Father Abboud and the attendees, they toured the various parts of the Head Quarter, which concluded with a tribute lunch in honor of the media professionals and the distribution of souvenirs to commemorate the occasion.



Board of Directors Activities

As the economic, financial and living crisis continues to grip the country, resulting in increased unemployment rates and worsening poverty conditions, Caritas Board of Directors is compelled to make immediate decisions and take actions to address the challenges facing the Lebanese citizens. They aim to alleviate the burden on the most vulnerable groups, providing necessary support and assistance to individuals and families who have been affected.

The Board of Directors holds regular meetings either weekly or bi-weekly, during which all Caritas' activities are discussed, and mandatory decisions are made for their implementation by the management. This commitment to regular board meetings is part of the board's dedication to meet periodically, either on a weekly or bi-weekly basis, to discuss all the organization's work and activities. This includes evaluating the progress of various programs and projects, deliberating on future plans, and improving strategies, all with the goal of achieving the desired positive change.

The First General Assembly Meeting at Caritas HQ Sin El Fil

Caritas Lebanon held its annual ordinary general assembly meeting at its main headquarters in Sin El Fil, under the presidency of His Beatitude Maronite Patriarch Mar Bechara Boutros al-Rahi, represented by the General Supervisor of Caritas, Bishop Michel Aoun. The meeting was attended by Caritas President Father Michel Abboud, and Deputy President Dr. Nicolas El-Hajjar, representing the Maronite Patriarch of the Royal Maronite Catholics, in addition to members of the Board of Directors, General Superintendents, as well as representatives of Catholic bishops and members of the General Presidents' Council and General Presidents' Council associates, board members, regional presidents, managers, and department heads at Caritas.

Mass for Caritas' Intentions

The meeting began with a mass offered for the intentions of Caritas family, presided over by Bishop Aoun, assisted by Father Abboud and the General Spiritual Guide of Caritas, Father Charbel Sawaya, along with a group of priests.

Father Abboud's Speech

Following the mass, Father Abboud delivered a speech emphasizing that “what distinguishes Caritas from other charitable organizations is that it operates in the name of Jesus, seeks His presence in the suffering of the afflicted, and sees His face in the poor and marginalized.” He also highlighted that “after fifty years of its founding, Caritas continues to strive to remain present within the nation, the universal Church, and on the map of the international community, serving the poor with all the strength it has been given.”

Father Abboud recalled “the visit made by the Board of Directors, at the request of His Excellency Bishop Aoun and under his presidency, to His Holiness Pope Francis, who showed great insight into the situation in Lebanon down to the smallest details, and encouraged Caritas Lebanon to continue its humanitarian mission. In turn, we expressed to him our commitment to raising our voices high and addressing the international community, as we refuse to remain silent while people are suffering.” He added: “Recently, we have been meeting with ambassadors of the international community in Lebanon to explain to them the reality of the situation in Lebanon, based on our interaction with the people on the ground. We informed them that Lebanon receives many grants, but the problem lies in the lack of coordination and organization among the various organizations in distributing this aid to those in need. Caritas is present to

work globally and scientifically in all the projects it implements, especially since it is present, through its sectors, in all Lebanese regions and knows the needs of its people because they are knocking on its door.”

Father Abboud also emphasized that “the annual campaign donations have reached 5 billion Lebanese pounds, compared to just 800 million pounds last year, indicating the significant response from citizens to Caritas. This places a greater responsibility on us to move forward.”

He also revealed that “Caritas administrative bodies are working to enhance supervision of its reports and financial accounts according to clear scientific standards.”

Opening of the Assembly's Proceedings

Following this, the assembly's proceedings were opened, and approval was given for the minutes of the previous general assembly meeting held in 2021. The report of Caritas' activities and work was presented, as well as the review and discussion of the approval of financial statements and the balance sheet for the fiscal year. The external auditor presented his report on this matter. As a result of the vote, the majority approved the following: the report of activities, financial data, the budget, and the renewal of the monitoring commissioner.

At the conclusion of the assembly's proceedings, an honorary luncheon was held in honor of the attendees.

President of Caritas Lebanon Re-election

Father Michel Sarkis Abboud was re-elected as President of Caritas Lebanon, and Dr. Nicolas Al-Hajjar as Vice-President, for a second term lasting until the end of February 2026, during the session of the Council of Catholic Patriarchs and Bishops in Lebanon, held on Thursday, November 10, 2022.

Second ordinary General Assembly

On November 11, 2022, Caritas Lebanon held its second ordinary General Assembly during the meeting of the Council of Catholic Patriarchs and Bishops in Lebanon at the Patriarchal See in Bkerké. The assembly was attended by Cardinal Mar Bechara Boutros Rahi, Maronite Patriarch, Mar Ignatius Joseph III Yonan, Patriarch of the Syriac Catholic Church, Mar Joseph Arbach, Patriarch of Antioch and All the East for the Syriac Catholics, Mar Raphaël Bedros XXI Minassian, Catholicos Patriarch of Cilicia of the Armenians, Bishop Michel Aoun, the supervisor of Caritas, Caritas President Father Michel Abboud, Vice President Nicolas El-Hajjar, local archbishops, the General Presidents, members of the affiliated board, regional presidents; and representatives of the youth.

Bishop Aoun opened the session with a speech emphasizing Caritas' commitment to addressing the crises with seriousness and love. Patriarch Rahi congratulated the re-election of the President and Vice President, expressing confidence in their

leadership based on the success of their previous term.

Father Abboud thanked the Council of Patriarchs and Bishops for their trust and reiterated Caritas' mission to help all those in need.

The General Secretary of Caritas, Fadi Karam, discussed various annual activities, and the General Treasurer, Nadim Nader, presented the annual budget, which was approved by the board members at the end of the assembly.

Caritas Lebanon Board Members and Directors

Church authority

- Head of the Assembly of the Catholic Patriarchs and Bishops in Lebanon His Beatitude Mar Bechara Boutros Al-Rahi
- Beatitudes and Excellencies the Catholic Patriarchs and Bishops of Lebanon
- Reverends, Catholic Abbots and Abbesses in Lebanon
- Representative of the Assembly of the Catholic Patriarchs and Bishops in Lebanon and the Supervisor of Caritas Lebanon: His Excellency Archbishop Michel Aoun

General Assembly

Their Beatitudes, the Patriarchs of the Catholic Churches, residing in Lebanon
Their Excellencies, Bishops of the Catholic Dioceses
Three male representatives of the Council of Superior Majors
Three female representatives of the Council of Superior Majors
Affiliates

Board of Directors

Father Michel Abboud	President
Dr. Nicolas Ibrahim Al-Hajjar	Vice-President
Lawyer Fadi Habib Karam	Secretary General
Mr. Nadeem Pierre Nader	Treasurer
Father Charles Elias Sawaya	Chaplain
Father Ziad Al-Haddad	Representative of men’s monastic order
Father Rafi Ohanisyan	Armenian Catholic Church
Judge Mireille Al-Haddad	Roman Melkite Catholic Church
Mr. Serge Said Antoine Karnaby	The Syriac Church
Mr. Philippe Antoine Saleh	Latin Church
Mrs. Dola Hakim	Chaldean Church
Dr. May Merhej Sayegh	Representative of women’s monastic order

Administration

Mr. Gilbert Fares Zouein	Executive Director
Mr. Azar Azar	Director of Operations
Mr. André Kweik	Director of Social Institutions
Mrs. Nayla El Khoury	Director of Programs
Mr. Roger Chahine	Director of Finance
Mr. Georges Abi Hanna	Human Resources Manager

Key Media Statements by Father Abboud

Father Abboud for “Hiwar” TV Show: Caritas Remains Steadfast in Crises

Father Michel Abboud, in a statement on “Hiwar” TV Show with the journalist Gaby Lteif, affirmed that “without foreign donors, Caritas Lebanon would not have been able to assist others on our homeland”, pointing out that “the aid we receive within Lebanon constitutes about 3% of the total donations. But the sister Caritas organizations we collaborate with in Lebanon, alongside international entities that have placed their trust in Caritas, due to its transparency, productivity, global reach and unionization in its approach, allow us to connect and work together to implement projects.”

Father Abboud observed that “the need to assist the Lebanese people is increasing, as as we witness the emergence of a new status in Lebanon “the new poor”, stressing that “the aid and programs implemented by Caritas include everyone, without discrimination based on sect, religion, or consideration of political affiliation.”

He added: “Many families turn to Caritas for help, as this organization understands the people’s needs. The “Family to Family” program is one in which families capable of donating, support vulnerable families through a monthly process characterized by continuity. Donors can also choose to sponsor a specific family. This process is carried out through a clear program that respects the donor’s wishes on one side and the recipients on the other. “

International Relations

Father Abboud participates in the Caritas International Conference in Rome

Caritas Lebanon President Father Michel Abboud participated in a conference organized by Caritas International (CI) on November 21 and 22, 2022, in Rome. This conference, attended by leaders from sister Caritas organizations around the world, focused on promoting partnership and fraternal cooperation as a key factor in enhancing local leadership at this crucial time when positioning has become a priority for the international community. During the conference, successful practices and activities were assessed, as well as vulnerabilities and challenges. Key measures, roles, and responsibilities at all levels were identified, and a common path was proposed to implement the partnership and fraternal cooperation guidelines.

Father Michel Abboud in Florence, Italy
Caritas Lebanon President Father Michel Abboud participated in Florence Italy, in a seminar titled “A l’origine de la gratuité” or “The Origin of Generosity”, which is an annual traditional gathering where people involved in volunteering and helping others share their testimonies about the meaning

of generosity in their lives based on their personal experiences in this context. Father Abboud discussed everything he witnessed in Lebanon amidst the challenging conditions the country is going through, and the role that Caritas and the church play in assisting those in need. He also talked about the Christian presence in the Middle East and its relationship with other religions.

A delegation from Caritas Lebanon to meet with Pope Francis at the Vatican
A delegation from Caritas Lebanon led by Archbishop Michel Aoun and Caritas President Father Michel Abboud.

After a series of gestures and aid provided by the Vatican to Lebanon, Pope Francis stated: “Lebanon is suffering greatly and cannot rise without the determination of its people, who must stand up so that the cedars of Lebanon do not fall.” He emphasized: “I will visit Lebanon, as I have promised, and I will fulfill that promise”. He directed a message to Archbishop Aoun, saying: “I invite you, my brother, as I invite the clergy in Lebanon and the Church as a whole, to embrace poverty so that you can serve your people. The Church cannot be rich while the people are poor.” He also

congratulated Caritas Lebanon “for all its great work during these difficult times in Lebanon.”

From his side, Father Abboud addressed the Pope, saying: “Your Holiness, the burden is heavy on us these days. We cannot leave our people to suffer and perish. We strive with all our might, and we are here so that you can raise your voice loudly with us to the international community, donors, and churches worldwide, so that they stand with us more and more.” Then the delegation presented symbolic gifts to the Pope, crafted by Caritas Youth Department, Special Cases Centers Department, and Migrant Workers Department.

Father Michel Abboud participates in the Maronite World Conference in the United States
Invited by the Bishop of the Archdiocese of Our Lady of Lebanon in Los Angeles, Bishop Elias Abdallah Zaidan, and the Bishop of the Maronite Church in Brooklyn New York, Bishop Gregory Mansour, Caritas Lebanon President Father Michel Abboud, visited the United States to participate in the annual Maronite World Conference (NAM).

During his visit, he had multiple meetings with priests and conference participants, where he explained the challenging economic and living conditions in Lebanon, the role played by Caritas in this context, and the urgent need for support to help the Lebanese people in these circumstances.

He also met with a delegation from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which included the agency’s Executive Director, Adam Nicholas Philips, the agency’s Desk Officer Emily Rostkowski, the agency’s Presidential Management Fellow, Demetria Charlifue, the Director of the Office of International Justice and Peace at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Lucas Koach, Monsignor Peter Fahd Azar, Rector of Our Lady of Lebanon Seminary, and several officials.

He thanked them for all the programs implemented, whether in collaboration with Caritas Lebanon or other organizations in Lebanon, in support of the Lebanese people. In turn, the officials at the agency expressed their willingness and determination to support Caritas and stand by Lebanon and the Lebanese people to help them overcome this difficult period.

Father Michel Abboud in France
Within the framework of strengthening partnerships and attracting projects and donations to serve the Lebanese people through Caritas Lebanon, Father Michel Abboud, accompanied by Vice President Dr. Nicolas El- Hajjar, embarked on a tour in France, where they met with a group of donors.

L’OEUVRE D’ORIENT
The first meeting was with L’OEUVRE D’ORIENT, represented by its President

Mr. Jean-Yves Tolot and General Director Monsignor Pascal Gollnisch, in the presence of journalist Bareha El Ahmar. The discussion revolved around avenues of cooperation and the continuation of projects undertaken by Caritas. Monsignor Gollnisch presented the various projects that L'OEUVRE D'ORIENT has been carrying out in Lebanon for many years, emphasizing the importance of active collaboration with Caritas.

SECOURS CATHOLIQUE

Furthermore, Father Abboud and Dr. El Hajjar met with the President of SECOURS CATHOLIQUE Caritas France, Véronique Devise, and the General Director, Benoît-Xavier Loridon. They discussed the evolving situation in Lebanon, which continues to deteriorate day by day, and explored ways to activate projects between the two parties. They also emphasized the current focus of donors on Ukraine and stressed the importance of international attention to Lebanon, which is still grappling with its economic, financial, and social crisis.

CHAINE DE L'ESPOIR

Following this, Father Abboud and Dr. El Hajjar met with Anouchka Finker, the CEO of the French association CHAINE DE L'ESPOIR, and David Ligneau, Desk Manager Middle East & East Europe in the association, which focuses on medical matters and has several joint projects with Caritas Lebanon.

During the meeting, Father Abboud explained the deteriorating health situation

in Lebanon, emphasizing the urgency of rapid intervention to prevent deaths and assist those in need of medical treatment.

Meeting with the officials of French-Lebanese organizations

The tour concluded with a celebratory Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Lebanon in Paris, in the presence of Monsignor Roukoz Barrak. Following the Mass, there was a meeting with the officials of French-Lebanese organizations that work to assist the Lebanese people. These organizations, along with Caritas Lebanon, had previously collaborated on projects, including the sending of in-kind assistance to Lebanon, as well as other initiatives such as family sponsorship, emergency medical care, and a network for communication with expatriates and resident Lebanese. The participants discussed ways to enhance communication, interaction, and cooperation between expatriate and resident Lebanon.

Father Abboud in Damascus to participate in a conference under the theme "The Church: A House of Love - A Joint Synodal Journey."

At the invitation of the Apostolic Nunciature in Syria, a conference entitled "The Church: A House of Love - A Joint Synodal Journey" was launched at the EBLA Conference Center in Damascus.

This conference, whose idea originated during Cardinal Sandri's visit to Syria in November 2021, where he witnessed the deteriorating economic and social

situation in Syria, aims to call on the Syrian Catholic Church to work together to confront the catastrophic developments in the country's economic situation.

The conference was attended by the Papal Ambassador in Syria, Cardinal Mario Zenari, the Dean of the Congregation for the Eastern Churches in Rome, Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, Patriarch of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church, Youssef Absi, and Patriarch of the Syriac Catholic Church, Ignatius Joseph III Younan. Representatives from the 17 Catholic archdioceses in Syria, 36 monastic orders, 36 Catholic associations, and the management of the four Catholic hospitals also attended.

Representatives from Caritas organizations from various countries also participated in the conference, including Caritas Lebanon, represented by its President Father Michel Abboud, Executive Director Gilbert Zouein, and Treasurer Nadim Nader.

The conference program included lectures, life testimonies, discussions, and dialogues, presentations on humanitarian work in Syria, action plans and recommendations.

As part of enhancing cooperation between Caritas and various institutions, whether international, governmental, military, or official, Father Michel Abboud conducted numerous meetings and encounters. These meetings took place either in his office at the main headquarters in Sin El Fil or during his

visits with members of the board of directors.

Caritas President met with several ambassadors of the international community, officials from international organizations operating in Lebanon, as well as ministers and members of parliament in the Lebanese government. He also made visits to security authorities and coordinated with the Lebanese Army.

Moreover, Father Abboud held meetings with various ecclesiastical authorities, where he met with all the Catholic Patriarchs and Bishops in Lebanon through his regular visits to them or his tours in the regions.

Strategic Directions

Health

Caritas Lebanon health department focuses on addressing the basic health needs of the most vulnerable families. Its primary goal is to integrate healthcare services into the “National Primary Healthcare System” by enhancing access to comprehensive primary healthcare (PHCC), ensuring quality hospital care, and referrals to specialized centers.

Education

The mission of the education department extends beyond ensuring fair and inclusive quality education for all children. It involves working closely with them to mitigate the negative social and psychological impact of social crises, safeguard their mental and physical health, and develop strong personalities capable of building successful, long-term social relationships with others.

Social Work

The social work department focuses on professional social intervention to secure a better life for Lebanese beneficiaries, by reducing poverty, eliminating hunger, providing protection services, empowerment, reintegration, and assisting in emergencies. Beneficiary services are available through various methods, and the department executes programs targeting families, elderly, women, children, youth and persons with special needs.

Livelihood and development

The Livelihood and development department aims to alleviate the social and economic shock of the Lebanese crisis on the most vulnerable populations. This is achieved by building capacities, creating employment opportunities, increasing individual incomes, providing both temporary and sustainable assistance, improving housing conditions for some and ensuring safe housing for others, and offering humanitarian and social services that promote respect and protection of individual rights, welfare, and dignity, in accordance with both international and local laws.

Conclusion

At the end of this challenging year, we must express gratitude and appreciation to all the donors and partners who generously contributed to supporting Caritas Lebanon’s efforts. Without your continuous support, achieving these successes and meeting the needs of those in need would not have been possible.

Caritas Lebanon’s vision remains clear and strong for the coming years, continuing to work diligently and with dedication, hoping for more support and partnership in the years ahead to achieve a better and more stable future for Lebanon, where every individual can live with dignity and benefit from development and progress opportunities.