

40-Day Report (Since September 23, 2024) : Grassroots Campaign for Displaced Families in Lebanon

In response to the latest Israeli aggression over Lebanon and the resulting displacement crisis, our grassroots initiative was launched on September 23, 2024, to mobilize the Wadi el Zeineh community in providing refuge and essential support to families fleeing southern Lebanon. Over the past 40 days, we have dedicated ourselves, a group of life long neighbors and friends, to creating safe, dignified spaces for displaced individuals, supporting them with shelter, food, medical assistance, educational resources, and community-based emotional care.

This report summarizes our efforts, accomplishments, and the ongoing needs as we continue to support displaced families during this critical time.

1. Shelter Operations and Capacity

Since the campaign's inception, we have established and sustained three shelter locations for displaced families:

- **Farhat center Shelter:** Currently hosts 15 families (87 individuals).
- **Wedding Venue Shelter:** Hosts 6 families (22 individuals).
- **Rented House Shelter:** Accommodates 4 families (20 individuals).

These shelters were set up and maintained with the collaboration of local organizations and residents who provided bedding (mattresses, pillows, sheets, and blankets) and helped with daily upkeep. Our operational model emphasizes treating all residents as valued guests, with responsibilities shared to maintain dignity and self-agency within the shelter communities staying away from hierarchies and top-down dynamics.

2. Daily Meal Distribution

Access to nutritious food has been one of our primary focuses. We provide two hot meals daily, alternating between preparing meals in a shared kitchen and purchasing ready-to-eat items from local vendors:

- **Food Preparation:** Hot meals such as rice, pasta, bulgur, meat, chicken, and vegetarian options are cooked every other day.
- **Purchasing Meals:** On alternate days, sandwiches (e.g., falafel, burgers, lahm baajin, shawarma) are bought to provide variety.

To date, 75% of our funds have been allocated to food-related expenses.

In addition to shelter residents, meal distribution extends to displaced children and families in the broader area every other day:

- **Beit Jala UNRWA School:** 250 children's meals provided.
- **Local Shelters in Wadi el Zeineh:** 80 meals distributed to other nearby shelters.
- **Local Families Hosting Displaced Individuals:** 50 meals distributed to individuals staying with local relatives.

We are committed to a community based approach, thus we made sure to get all items from different small family owned businesses in order to support the local economy.

3. Provision of Essential Supplies

We have consistently supplied shelter residents with essential materials and personal care items to support daily life. The supplies distributed include:

- **Sleeping Materials:** Mattresses, pillows, sheets, and seasonal blankets.
- **Hygiene Products:** Comprehensive hygiene kits containing soap, shampoo, diapers, pads, toothpaste, toothbrushes, detergents, and other essentials.
- **Medical Supplies and Services:** Medicine, paramedical items, doctor check-ups, nurse visits, and hospitalizations as needed.
- **Clothing and Winter Gear:** Seasonal clothing provided to help families adjust to changing weather conditions.
- **Heating and Internet:** Stoves and gas for warmth, and internet connectivity to support children in accessing remote schooling.

Approximately 22% of our funds have been allocated to cover these necessities, utilities, and medical needs in addition to services done for free sporadically by different local medical organizations.

4. Educational and Recreational Support for Children

Recognizing the impact of displacement on children, we've partnered with local volunteers, entertainers, teachers, and youth groups to offer supportive activities across Wadi el Zeineh shelters:

- **Educational Activities:** Volunteer teachers conduct lessons where possible to provide continuity in education.
- **Recreational Support:** Scouts, entertainers, and local volunteers coordinate games, arts, and storytelling sessions, giving children a sense of normalcy and joy amid displacement.