

# ST. BARBARA LEBANON RELIEF FAQ'S



## **Q: WHAT IS SBLRF?**

A: SBLRF is a 501(c)(3) organization started in 2023 by Orthodox Christians from several different parishes for the purpose of providing continuous and sustained material and spiritual support to the suffering people of Lebanon.

## **Q: How does SBLRF plan to provide support to the people of Lebanon?**

A: SBLRF will be providing support by accepting only private donations from throughout our nation and around the world. These donations will be used to purchase food, medicine, diapers, baby formula, and propane fuel. These items will be initially distributed through the church communities in Tripoli/Koura, Mt. Lebanon/Batroun/Jbeil, and Zahle/Baalbek. These communities are only the beginning and SBLRF will expand to underserved areas in Beirut, Akkar, and South Lebanon as our organization grows.

## **Q: How can you be certain that these donations will get to the people?**

A: SBLRF is committed to the highest levels of transparency to ensure that the people of Lebanon will be the true recipients of the aid they so desperately need. We will be constantly reevaluating our distribution programs to assure good use of the resources that God entrusts to us through your generosity. To ensure such a level of transparency, SBLRF is in contact with the Metropolitans of each area on a regular basis. Through personal relationships with them and their church organizations, we have 'eyes on the ground' to help us determine where our efforts can be most effective and impactful. Additionally, we are in contact with wholesalers, pharmacies, and food producers in the targeted communities. Distributions will be facilitated through church organizations and be confirmed and audited via a systematic process of detailed receipts and photos. Thus, our aid is really only a "push" (as beloved Metropolitan Antonios of Zahle has said) to help the Lebanese communities help and support their own people. The greatest safeguard against misuse of donations is our relationships in the church and to the people themselves.

## **Q: How is SBLRF different from other charitable organizations who serve in Lebanon?**

A: At the present time there are many local and international organizations functioning in Lebanon. We are thankful to anyone who is sincerely trying to help the Lebanese people. SBLRF will be complementary, not in competition with these organizations. Many of the larger organizations are working with the government or other large entities, focusing on public works or construction projects in major population areas. There are others whose main focus is on the refugee camps and Southern Lebanon, where there is much need. SBLRF is alone in directing its efforts on the areas of North and Central Lebanon where other organizations are almost completely absent. As we expand SBLRF, we will start to focus on other communities that are underserved in the dioceses of Beirut, Akkar, and South Lebanon. Additionally, SBLRF is unique in exclusively working with the Church and its organizations through well-known trusted contacts with whom we have frequent ongoing communication. The initial communities we have targeted have not seen help from any other outside organization for over two years. This has been confirmed by the hierarchs, lay leaders, and faithful of those areas. Our focus is also different than many others in that our goal is to provide continuous and consistent assistance, not simply emergency aid. The disastrous events in Lebanon, which are worsening day by day, require dependable help not only to get them back on their feet, but for their very survival. Your annual commitment will be crucial to this effort. ***"For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God" (2Co 9:12).***