



***SUPPORT FOR THE  
RECONSTRUCTION  
AND REHABILITATION  
OF MOST VULNERABLE  
URBAN AREAS IN BEIRUT  
IMPACTED BY  
THE PORT EXPLOSION***

## Introduction

On 4 August 2020, a massive explosion at the Port of Beirut devastated the city, causing widespread destruction to homes, businesses, municipal infrastructure, heritage assets and disrupted vast sectors of economic activity, impacting the lives and livelihoods of many.

In March 2021, through a US\$ 2.16 million grant from the Government of Japan, UN-Habitat initiated a project to address urgent urban recovery and reconstruction needs of the city. In line with Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, the objective of the project is to support the recovery and rehabilitation of Beirut through building back better, targeting vulnerable population groups and neighbourhoods, impacted by the explosion.

With an underlying focus of improving the resilience of the city against future shocks, specific focus was placed on: residential heritage building rehabilitation; municipal and community infrastructure and public space rehabilitation; COVID-19 prevention and awareness-raising; and, livelihood/cash-for-work through skills training and participation in rehabilitation works.

### PROJECT COMPONENTS:

- **Reviving the Rmeil Cluster - 11 residential heritage buildings and connecting common spaces**
- **Rehabilitating and reviving key municipal and community infrastructure and public spaces**
- **Installing 15 handwashing stations to mitigate COVID-19 community transmission**
- **Cash-for-work activities**



#### ***Beneficiaries***

Total	25,600
Direct	7,500
Indirect	13,000

# Reviving the Rmeil Cluster

Beneficiaries	
Direct	60
Indirect	1,000+



## Partners

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- Directorate General of Antiquities
- Municipality of Beirut and engineering and public works departments
- Governorate of Beirut
- Order of Engineers and Architects
- Electricité du Liban
- Beirut and Mount Lebanon Water Establishment
- Ogero telecommunications company

## Implementing partners

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- Live Love Lebanon
- PARC Interpeoples' Cooperation (PARCIC) and Union of Relief and Development Associations (URDA)

## Activity highlights

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- Restoring and strengthening 11 multi-story buildings of heritage-value, including reviving, and connecting common spaces between them
- Developing the skills of 100+ men and women to take part in cash-for-work component

## How was the “build back better” approach adopted in the Rmeil Cluster?

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1. Buildings were entirely reinforced structurally with innovative technologies to be resilient against natural and human-made disasters
2. Buildings were fitted for future renewable energy use
3. Storm and sewage water networks were separated and connected to public networks
4. Rainwater flow is better managed within communal area through use of water sensitive urban design guidelines
5. Wiring for telecommunications services including landlines and internet moved underground for safety
6. Buildings and communal spaces are now well-connected and accessible

# Supporting the Beirut Fire Brigade's emergency response coordination

## Beneficiaries

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| Direct   | 3 fire brigade centres located in Karantina, Tarek El Jdede and Bashoura |
| Indirect | Residents of Beirut estimated 1.3 million                                |

## Activity highlights

- Provided the Beirut Fire Brigade with critical communication equipment, as well as laptops and a CCTV system
- Enhanced communication connectivity between fire brigade centres for timely and effective emergency response and coordination
- Equipped the Beirut Fire Brigade dormitories with furniture and a skid steer loader

# Upgrading three alleyways in Maraach neighbourhood in Bourj Hammoud

## Beneficiaries

- |          |       |
|----------|-------|
| Direct   | 800   |
| Indirect | 3,000 |

In partnership with:



## Partners

- Municipality of Bourj Hammoud
- Lebanese Center for Energy Conservation (LCEC)
- Regional Technical Office of the Municipality of Bourj Hammoud

## Implementing partner

Polish Center for International Aid

## Activity highlights

- Three alleyways in Maraach, Bourj Hammoud now feature:
- Upgraded storm water systems to reduce flooding during winter
  - Street, traffic direction and speed limit enhancement
  - Improved pedestrian accessibility by removing obstructions and enhancing sidewalks
  - Localised solid waste management interventions

# Rehabilitating and reactivating two public spaces in Beirut: William Hawi and Laziza parks



<b>Beneficiaries</b>	
Direct _____ <b>165</b> Indirect _____ <b>800</b>	

## Implementing partner

Rashet Kheir

## Activity highlights

- Rehabilitation and reactivation of William Hawi Garden and Laziza public spaces and multiple activities engaging the community in their reactivation
- Installation of PV panels on plot 922 Laziza Park, providing renewable energy to the public space and streets in the vicinity of the park, as well as to a social service provider in the community
- Community members have participated in various recreational activities such as urban gardening, Zumba, yoga, art classes, painting, arts and crafts, community markets and much more

# Installing handwashing stations to mitigate COVID-19 community transmission

<b>Beneficiaries</b>	
Direct _____ <b>3,190</b> Indirect _____ <b>6,000</b>	

## Implementing Partner

Campaign for the Children of Palestine (CCP) Japan

## Activity highlights

15 handwashing stations were installed in key locations including schools, hospitals and sidewalks to provide basic access to sanitation measures and mitigate community transmission of COVID-19, while raising awareness on good hygiene.

For more info  
about the project:



**UN HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

In partnership with:



Funded by:



Rmeil Cluster reconstruction  
and rehabilitation works by:

**LIVE LOVE**

Production and supply  
of handwashing stations by:



Cash-for-work component implementation by:



URDA  
اتحاد الجمعيات الأهلية والتنمية  
Union of Rehab & Development Associations

Public space  
revitalization

