

Offrejoie فرح العطاء

Impact Report



November 2021

offrejoie.org

Offrejoie
فرح العطاء
محبة • تسامح • احترام



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Welcome to Offrejoie Second Edition Impact Report.

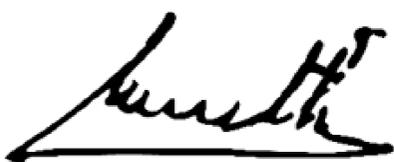
Over the last 14 months following the terrible explosion that hit Beirut on August 4, 2020, we were able to achieve many milestones even though it has been uniquely difficult. The junction of one of Lebanon's worst socio-economic and financial crises amidst deliberate inaction, the COVID-19 pandemic, the ongoing state of uncertainty has exposed another layer of challenges and compelled us to gather our strength and resilience. More than half the population is below the poverty line, suffering from plummeting purchasing power and facing difficulty in accessing basic needs, including health care, food, electricity, education and housing.

As a volunteer-based NGO, we were able to gather over 6,000 volunteers from 18 countries, to deliver our promise in rebuilding 52 buildings, 39 shops, 7 heritage buildings, the Beirut fire brigade department, Karantina church, distribute in-kind donations, and guarantee a safe return home to more than 350 families who are most affected by the blast in Karantina and Mar Mikhael due to their proximity to the explosion site. All volunteers are also dedicated to leading the way to our communities by delivering transparency and compassionate care in their work.

In a time of peculiar strain for our people, it has been gratifying to see our dedicated volunteers take it upon themselves to serve every day the Lebanese community in deep need of assistance. From the permanent team of volunteers who have been working around the clock since August 5, 2020, to make sure families who lost everything are being heard and assisted, to the volunteers behind the scenes who wrote this report, joined forces with other NGOs, and assisted families with the most pressing needs, our volunteers have been motivated to use their skills to make a difference.

In this report, you'll read more about the work of Offrejoie's volunteers to create a better living for over 350 families and for the Lebanese society at large. We firmly believe that the power of Offrejoie comes not only from the love of our country but from the passionate volunteers who live and breathe our mission daily – guided by our core values of Love, Respect and Forgiveness that have helped us overcome previous crises over our 35-year history and maintain the volunteering spirit.

Thank you, fellow volunteers, generous donors, and the Board of Directors for your trust, support, and love.



Marc-Torbey Helou
President, Offrejoie

95% completion of immediate relief effort

14 months after the blast, despite all odds and several crises, Offrejoie was able to fulfill its promise and deliver rehabilitation efforts in three key neighborhoods of Beirut which have been heavily affected. Our intervention focused not only on building rehabilitation but also on psychosocial support to children and the elderly. We created strong ties with the residents built on solidarity and trust to improve their quality of life and feel secure to go back to their homes.

Over the course of this year, Offrejoie engaged in the following impactful projects and activities with the aim of contributing to the livelihood of our greater community:

1. Mar Mikhael rehabilitation: 100% Completed
2. Khandak Ghamik and Basta glass repairs: 100% Completed
3. Beirut Fire Brigade Department: 95% Completed
4. Karantina rehabilitation : 90% Completed (excluding heritage buildings and landscaping)

2021 Highlights



52

Rehabilitated 52 buildings and houses in Karantina and Mar Mikhael through full external and internal repair works



39

Restored 39 shops and small businesses in Karantina and Mar Mikhael



30

Repaired glass windows in more than 30 buildings in Khandak Ghamik and Basta



350

Assisting more than 350 families of various socio-economic and religious backgrounds

**“I came to the site every day
and I found an extraordinary
dynamic which gave me
courage even during moments
when I lacked of it.”**

Michèle, volunteer



Overview

300

doors and windows glass repairs in Khandak Ghamik and Basta apartments

250

rehabilitated apartments in Karantina

120

rehabilitated apartments in Mar Mikhael

57

buildings fully rehabilitated including common sections such as staircases, rooftops, waterproofing, plumbing and electrical works

15

shipping containers of food, clothes, medical equipment & supplies, construction material, school supplies were received and distributed to several NGOs, municipalities, hospitals, families, orphanages across all Lebanon

10

senior women created a health station to provide care and take preventive measures to protect volunteers from getting Covid-19

8

buildings heavily restructured allowing 80 families to stay in Beirut instead of being forced to relocate to a different area in Lebanon

Beirut Fire Brigade Department Rehabilitation

6,000+

volunteers from 18 nationalities from across the globe have been deployed and dispatched on the ground

350+

families have received our support across our different projects





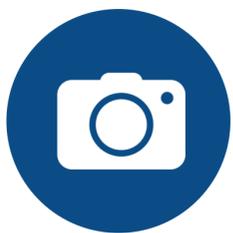
Karantina,
Medawar St.



Renovation Works

While reconstructing heritage buildings, the focus was always on preserving the architectural identity and history of these buildings. Special construction materials and techniques were being used to deal with the stone, lime plaster and wood nature of its structure.

During the past year, we were able to reconstruct three heritage buildings overcoming several difficulties such as dismantling and rebuilding entire walls stone by stone, reconstructing wooden roofing, structurally stabilizing the buildings, fabricating all wooden doors and windows in the exact way they were built. In only 8 months of reconstruction works, all residents were able to come back to their homes.

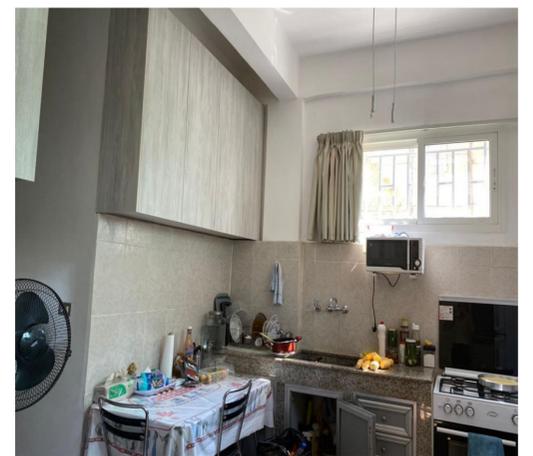


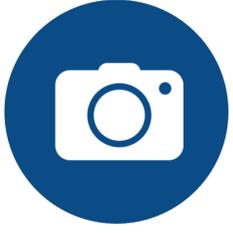
Pictures

BEFORE



AFTER





Pictures

BEFORE



AFTER





**Karantina,
Ibrahim Bacha St.**



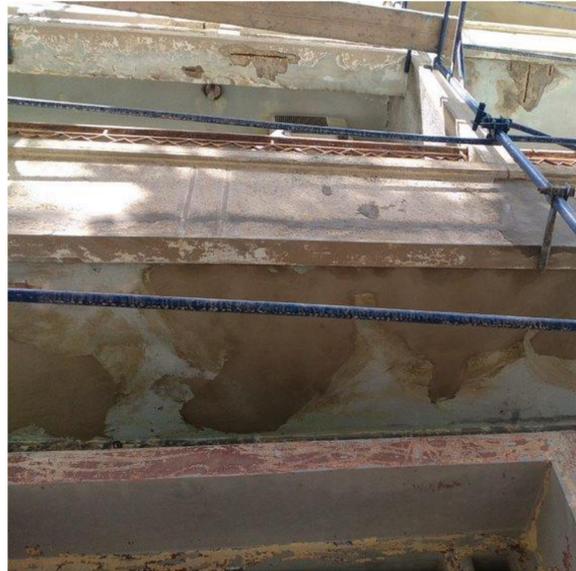
Renovation Works

This building is one of Beirut modern heritage buildings. Built in the late 50s, the architectural and historical value of this building was forgotten after going through a civil war and due to the lack of maintenance. Following our inspection, the building showed structural damage in some of its columns, beams and roof. All facades and nearly all apartments were entirely renovated. The shops were also fully restored to welcome new renters and help boost the economy of the neighborhood

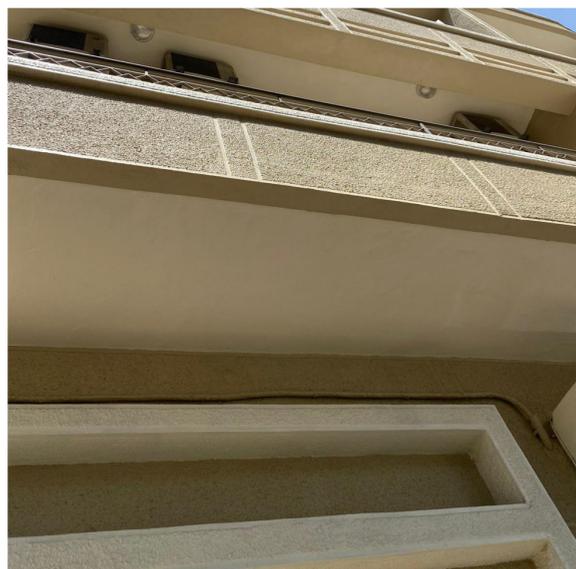


Pictures

BEFORE



AFTER





Karantina,
Raymond Raphael St.

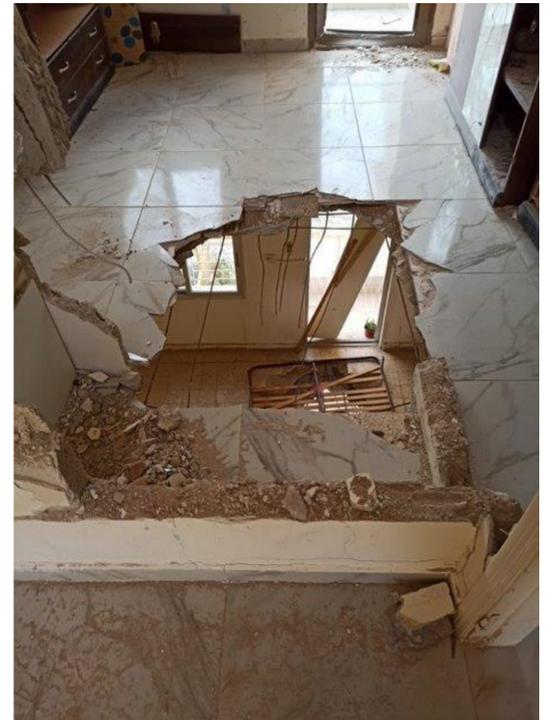
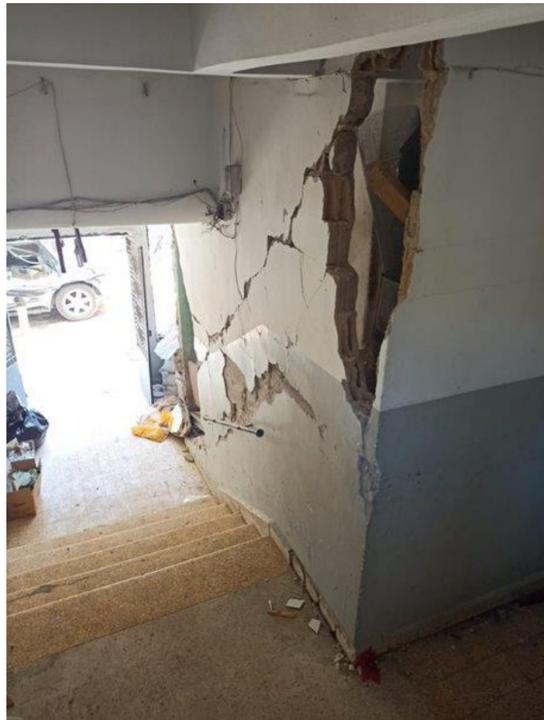
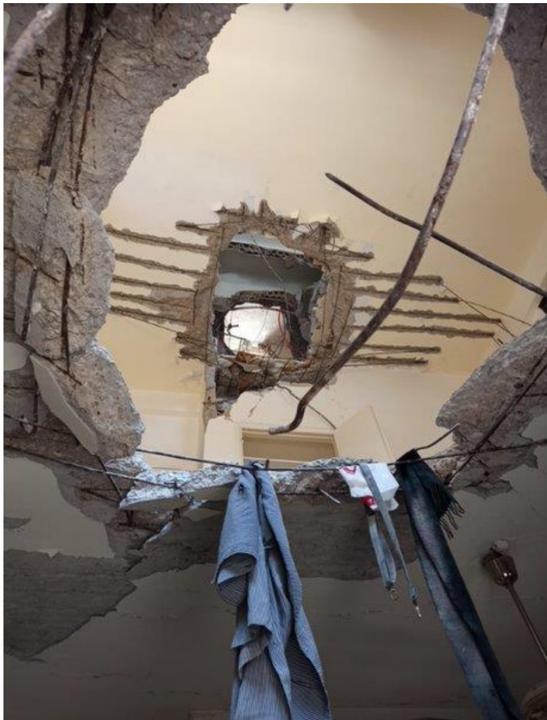


Renovation Works

This building in Karantina has been severely damaged from the explosion debris where a block of cement of 2 tons hits its rooftop as well as all the floors, creating mass damage to the building's structure.



Pictures



BEFORE





Pictures



Karantina,
Raymond Raphael
St.



AFTER



Karantina, Beirut Fire Brigade



Renovation Works

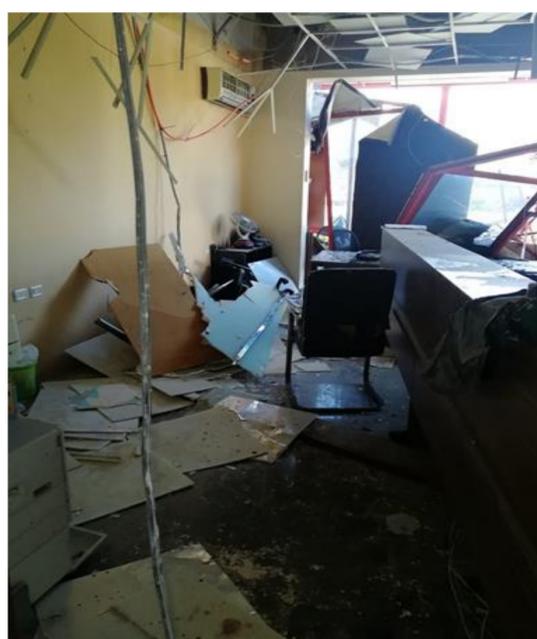
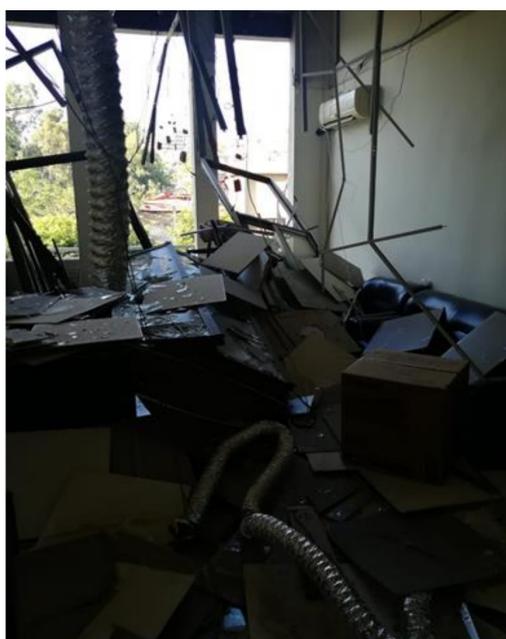
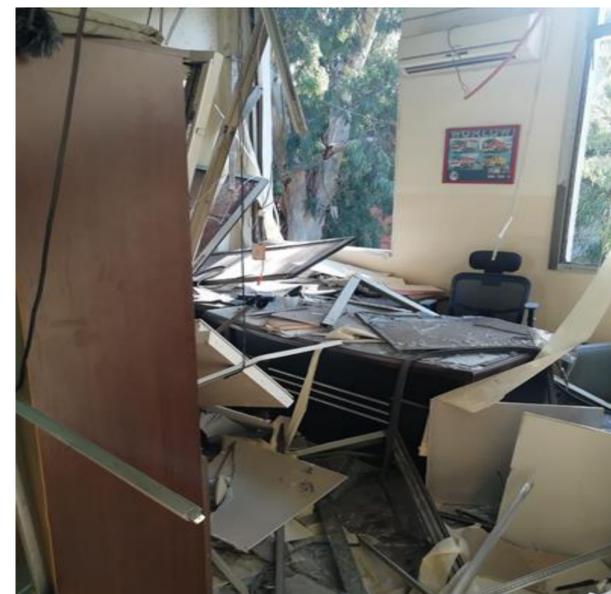
Lebanon lost 10 members of its Beirut Fire Brigade during their rescue mission on the explosion site. Their headquarters was heavily damaged because of its proximity to the Beirut port. Three months later and in the absence of any action from the Government of Lebanon, Offrejoie took the responsibility to start the rehabilitation works with an assessment of the building:

- Interior works were needed with more than 30 walls required demolishing
- 4 columns needed jacketing due to structural failure
- Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (MEP) works were completely reinstalled and upgraded to the highest standards.
- Full exterior and interior paint, windows, doors, false ceiling, flooring and all related construction works were implemented.



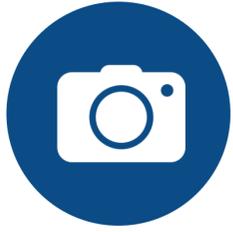
Pictures

BEFORE





Karantina,
Beirut Fire Brigade



Pictures

DURING



AFTER





Karantina,
Maroun Aouad St.



Renovation Works

A new roof has been added to this building. Part of the slab and columns were dismantled and replaced by new ones. The almost 50 years old building was never painted before we painted it with quality waterproofed paint. The build was also renovated inside out with full interior and exterior works.



Pictures

BEFORE



AFTER





Karantina, Saydet el Naja Church



Renovation Works

Saydet el Naja Church was built in 1727 and got destroyed during the civil war. Its first renovation took place at the end of the 20th century. This church was once again destroyed due to the Beirut port explosion on August 4, 2020. Offrejoie took care of its architectural and structural renovation as well as the restoration of its religious and cultural values by renovating the smallest details to restore its identity.



Pictures

BEFORE





Karantina,
Saydet el Naja
Church



Pictures

DURING





Karantina,
Saydet el Naja
Church



Pictures

AFTER



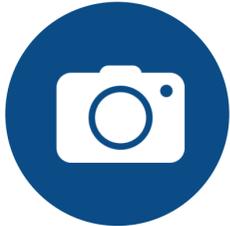


Karantina,
Fawakher St.

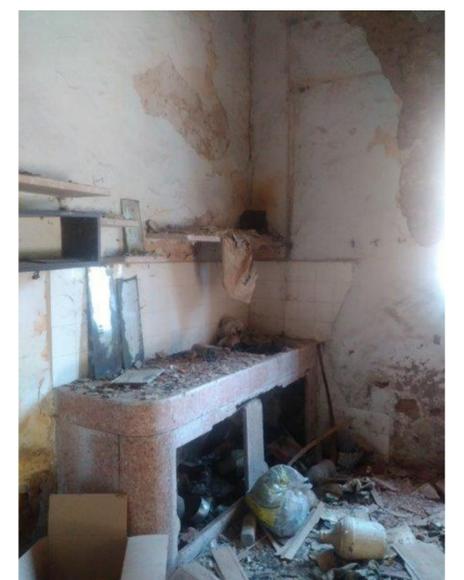


Renovation Works

This building is one of the most damaged buildings in Karantina. It was built in the early 20th century, made out of sandstone and belonging to the Tamish monastery. The building suffered immense structural damage, from dismantling two walls and a corner of the building to rebuild them including the arches. The concrete roof being hit by the explosion had to be replaced by a new slab.



Pictures



BEFORE

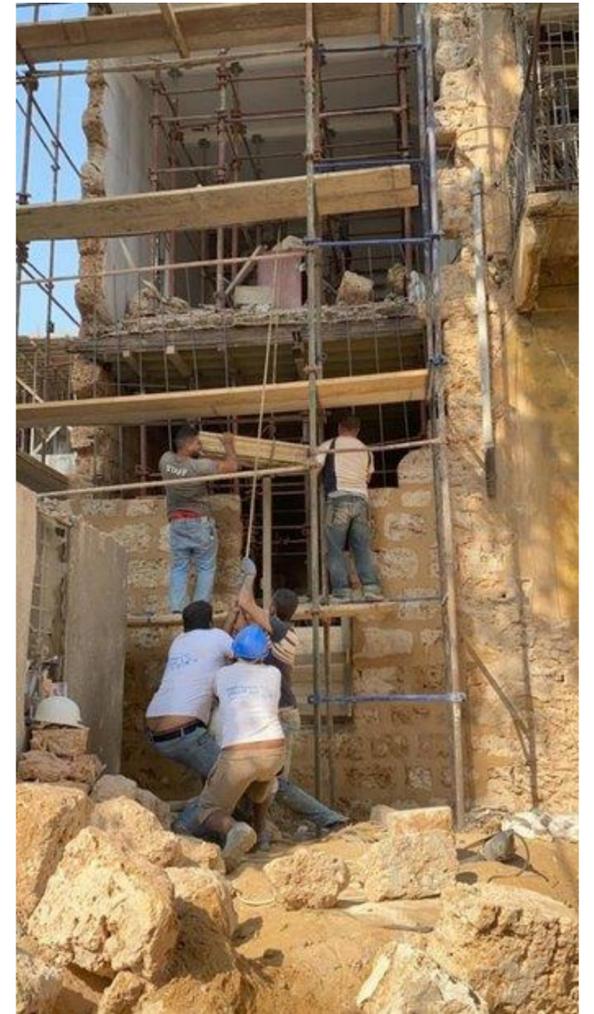


Karantina,
Fawakher St.

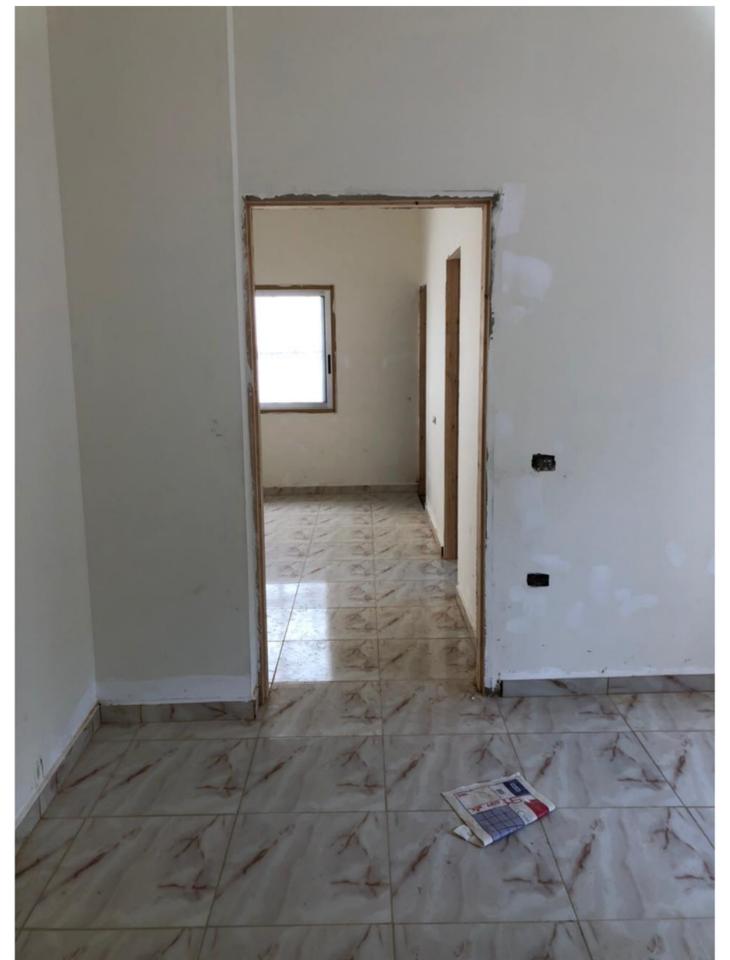


Pictures

DURING



AFTER





Renovation Works

Offrejoie has reconstructed this century-old limestone building where its roof slab was completely removed and replaced by a new one with proper waterproofing. The building was missing a staircase structure and has been added during the renovation to maintain the heritage aspect of the building. The mosaic flooring was removed and restored with old mosaic with a fine polish. The families will return in November 2021 to a fully restored building.



Pictures

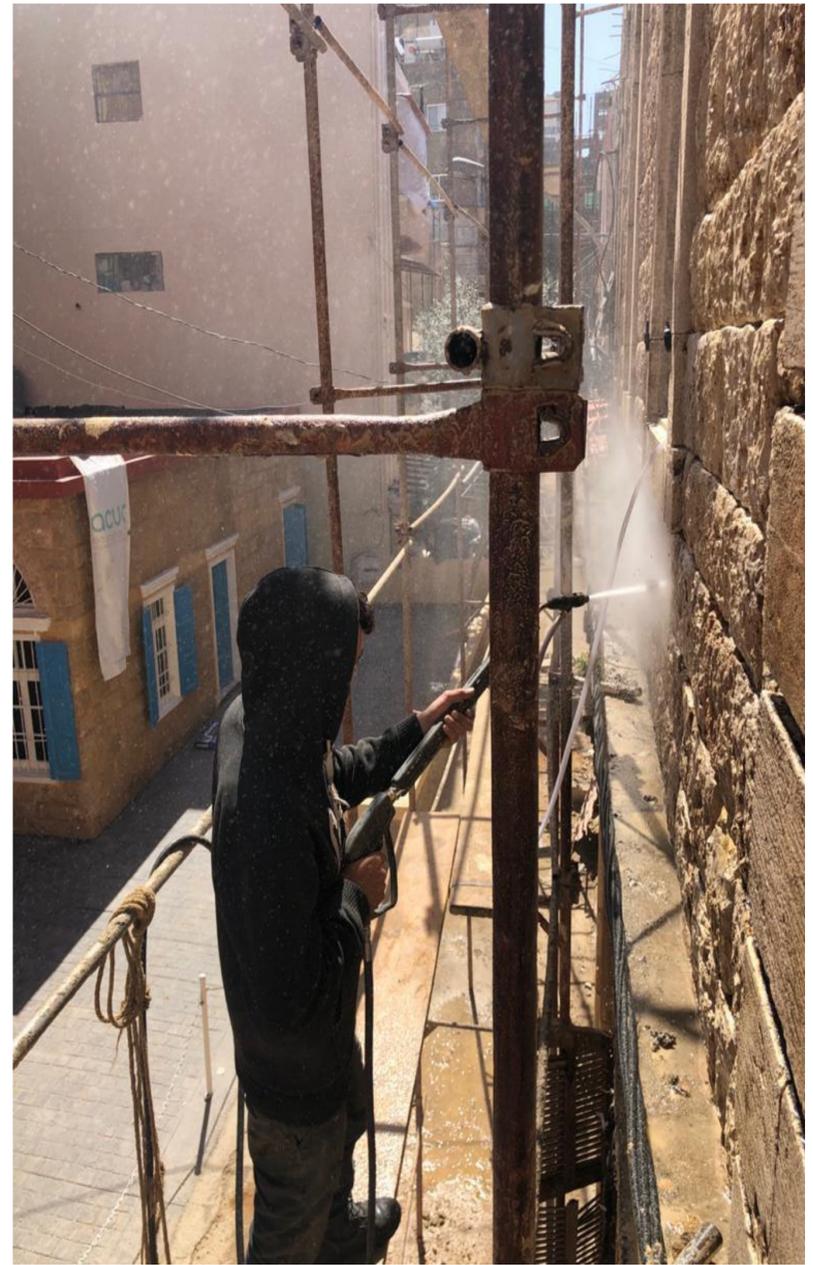


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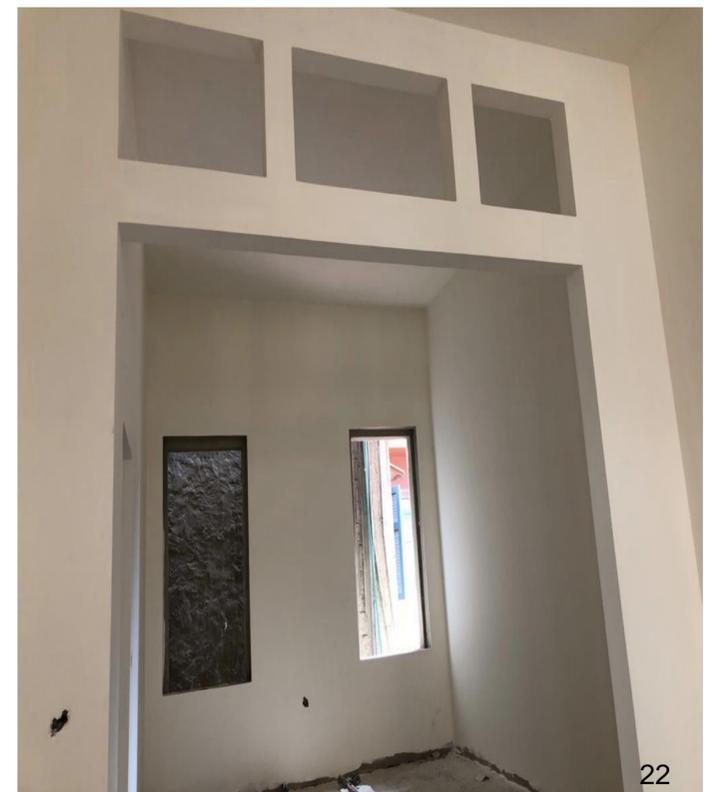
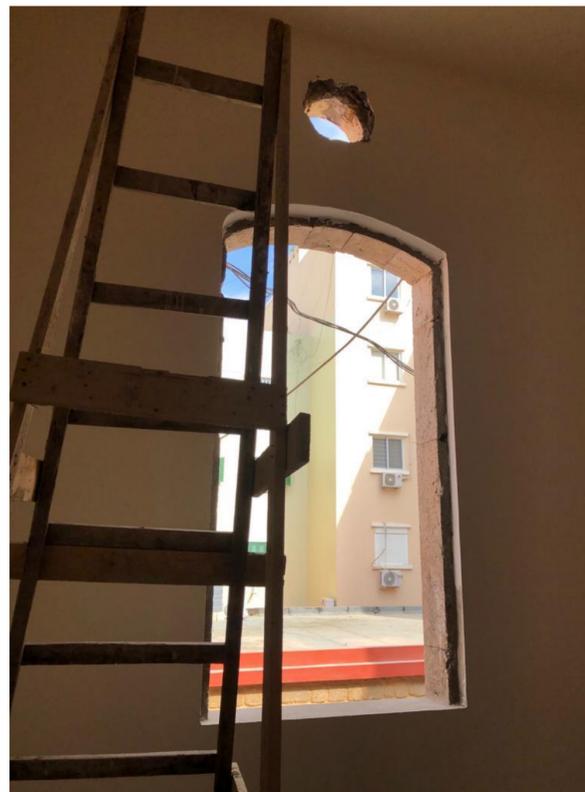


Pictures

DURING



AFTER





Mar Mikhael,
Rabbat St.



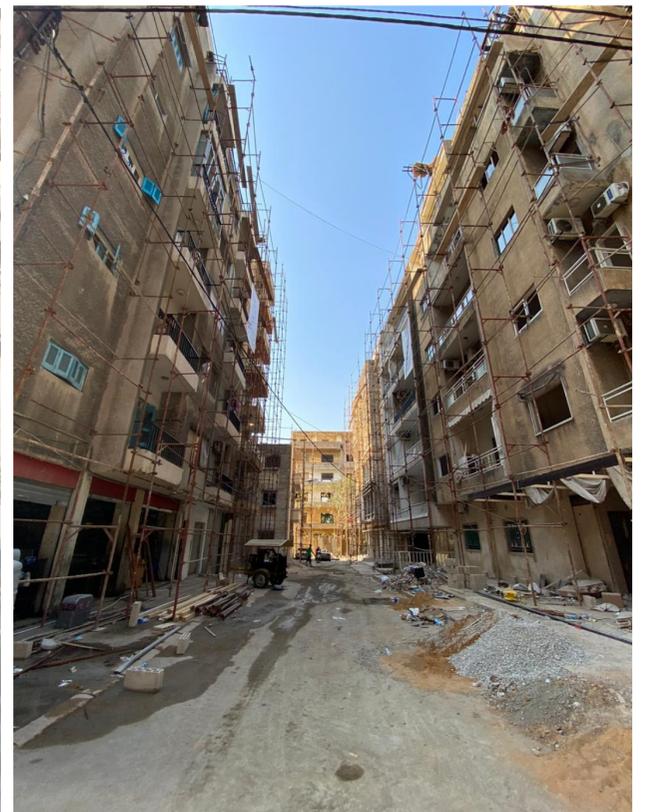
Renovation Works

A total of 15 buildings in Mar Mikhael have been rehabilitated to become the first rehabilitated neighborhood in Beirut after the explosion. All shops are now functional and most of the residents returned back home.

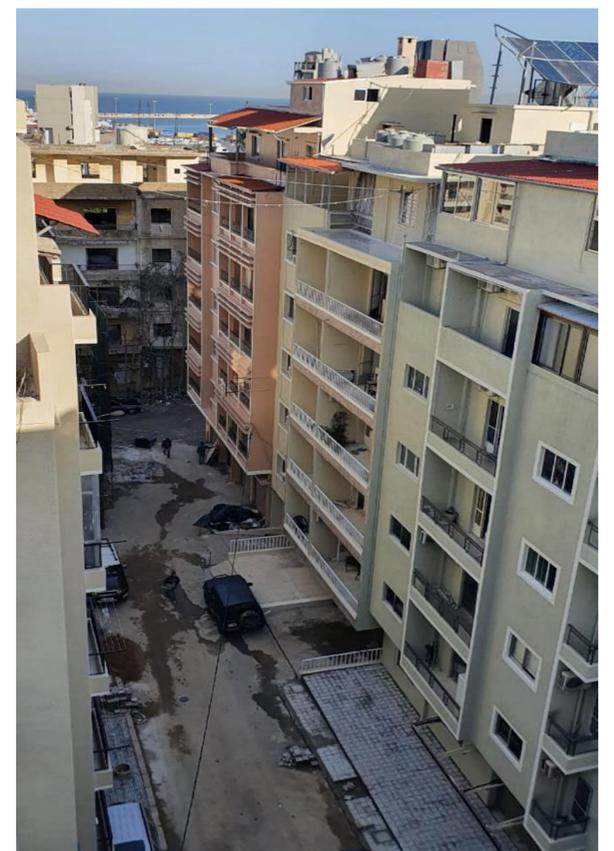


Pictures

BEFORE

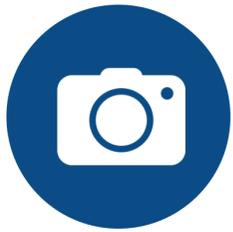


AFTER





Mar Mikhael,
Rabbat St.

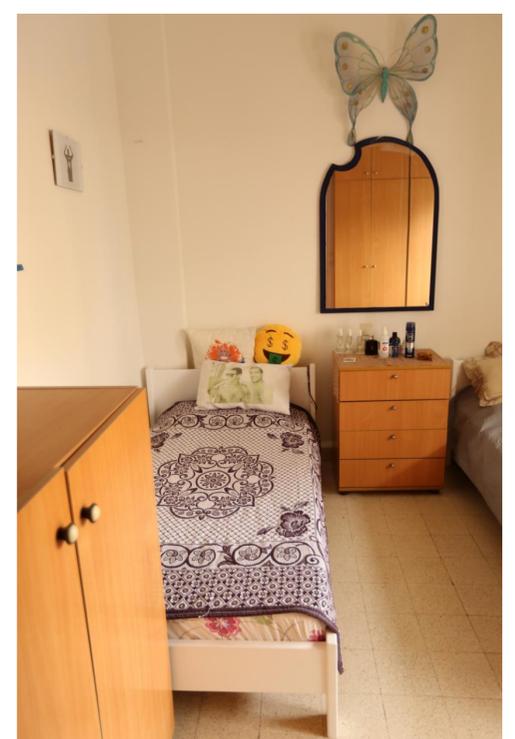


Pictures

BEFORE



AFTER



“Offrejoie has given me love, joy, patience, solace and a lot of hope when everything seemed hopelessly lost. I am happy to be part of this dynamic team that offers love, hope and happiness. Everything is in the gift of sharing. Thank you for this beautiful gift which consists in generously giving of our time, our tenderness, our love, our patience.”

Randa, Health Team Volunteer

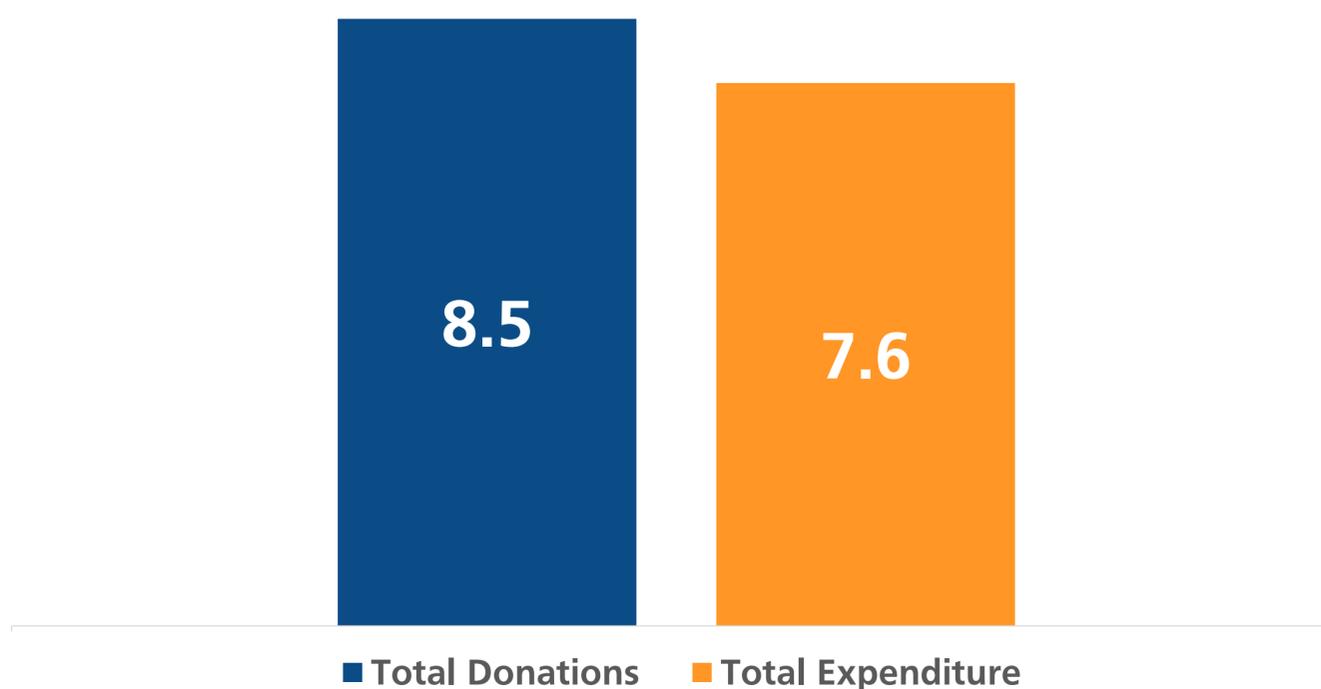


Donations and Expenditures

Offrejoie would have not been able to respond to the scale it has, following the blast, if it wasn't for the generous support of our private individual donors and corporations in Lebanon and abroad. In addition, even amid the worst economic crisis, the Lebanese private sector offered invaluable in-kind support such as construction material and technical expertise.

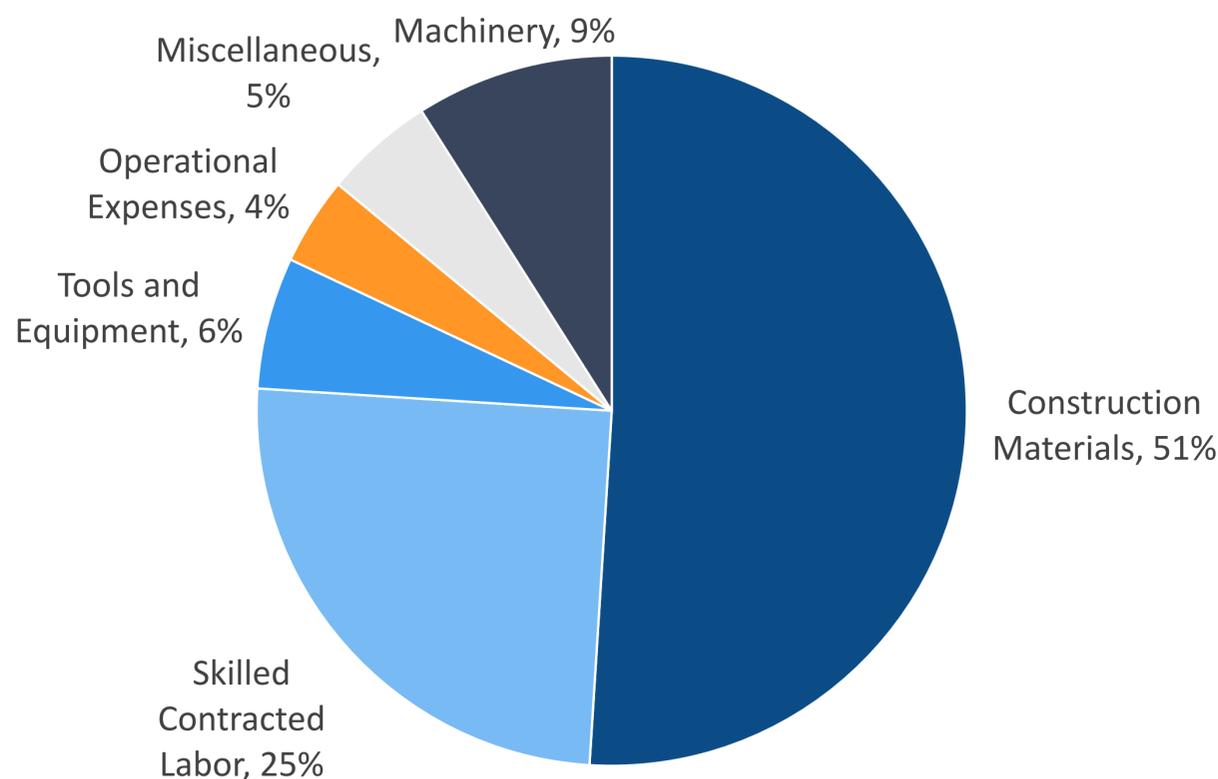
Offrejoie optimized costs by leveraging the skills and engagement of the residents of the neighborhoods, the pro-bono expertise of local companies, and above all its network of local and international volunteers to reduce the cost of manpower where possible.

Donation/Expenditure (in million USD)



NB: the figures presented are based on the official rate of 1,500 LBP | USD

Distribution of Expenses per category



The above figures cover the period starting August 2020 till September 2021. Donations in Fresh dollars were converted according to the daily parallel rate. Our financial statements are figures are audited by Nexia Majzoub & Partners, CPAs.

“The level of transparency, corporate governance, dedication and passion to serve is amongst the very best we have witnessed, not only in Lebanon, but across all the NGOs in the many countries we cover.”

Anonymous Donor

Target and Plan

100

Number of Homes that are in the pipeline for the next phase

500

Individuals we aim to impact within the next phase

Our Focus for the Future

In the coming months, we are hoping to:

- Complete rehabilitation works of all heritage buildings in Karantina.
- Finalize the design plans and hand over a full study to start implementing the rehabilitation of public spaces, gardens and communal areas in Karantina.
- Assist with furniture and household appliances' needs when possible.
- Continue distributing in-kind donations across Lebanon to individuals, families, hospitals and other organizations in dire need of support.
- Distribute unutilized construction supplies in our warehouse for renovation needs to individuals or families in need.
- Organize a week full of activities open to the public to showcase the work in these areas. International and local artists will be joining us to celebrate the completion of our works.
- Continue build bridges among communities to foster co-existence and peace in this crisis.

“Joining Offrejoie was a life-changing experience. I showed up in October 2020 not knowing anyone nor expecting anything. I left 10 months later with a new family - other volunteers from around the world, and most importantly the families of Karantina. I received much more than I gave: team-building activities, stronger forearms, good communications skills in three languages, and most importantly a new outlook and perspective on life.”

Samer, permanent volunteer





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