

Offrejoie فرح العطاء

Impact Report 2020-2023



July 2023

offrejoie.org

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Dear friends of Offrejoie,

As the three-year commemoration of the devastating Beirut port blast approaches, I stand before you with a heavy heart, but also with deep gratitude and unwavering determination.

It was on this fateful day, three years ago, that the people of Beirut and the world witnessed a catastrophe of unimaginable proportions. The explosion at the port left behind a trail of destruction, shattering lives, homes, and the very heart of our beloved city. In the face of this immense tragedy, volunteers from all communities across Lebanon and the world rallied together with Offrejoie and extended their resources, time and support in the arduous task of rebuilding our city.

For the past 40 years, we have dedicated ourselves to stand by marginalized communities and acted as a force of solidarity with the aim of rebuilding what has been lost. Over the past three years, we have strived relentlessly to honor our commitment and fulfill our promise to the people of Beirut.

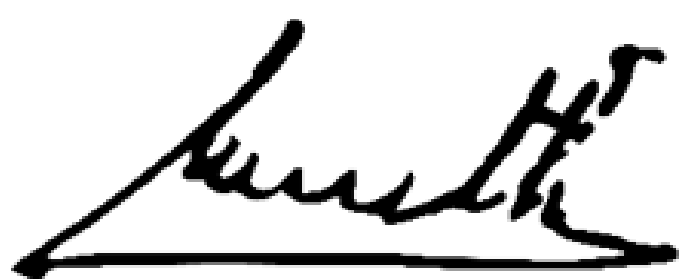
Today, as we reflect on the progress made, I am humbled to share with you the remarkable achievements of our collective efforts. With the generous support of donors and partners like you, and above all the remarkable 800,000 person-hour of our volunteers' hard work, we have made significant strides in rebuilding homes, infrastructure and reviving the spirit of the neighborhoods of Karantina, Rmeil, Mar Mikhael and other areas of the city. We are proud to present these achievements in this report. These achievements would have not been possible without the unwavering support, trust, and commitment of our donors, partners and volunteers.

However, we recognize that the journey is far from over. Despite the significant progress made, there are still many challenges to address, and countless lives that need our support. As we look to the future, we seek to expand our efforts, and maximize the impact of every contribution.

I extend my deepest gratitude to each and every person who has contributed to the recovery of Beirut and its people, and a special shout out to all the volunteers who have been relentlessly working for the past three years with Offrejoie and others. Your commitment has been the foundation upon which we have built hope. Together, let us continue to stand with the people of Beirut, for today, tomorrow, and every day that follows.

With thanks and unwavering determination,

Marc Torbey Helou
President of Offrejoie



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Offrejoie was one of the first NGOs to respond promptly after the catastrophic explosion at the port of Beirut on August 4, 2020. The remarkable work carried out by Offrejoie compelled me to contribute my efforts to such a dedicated organization, whose values of compassion, empathy, and solidarity closely align with mine.

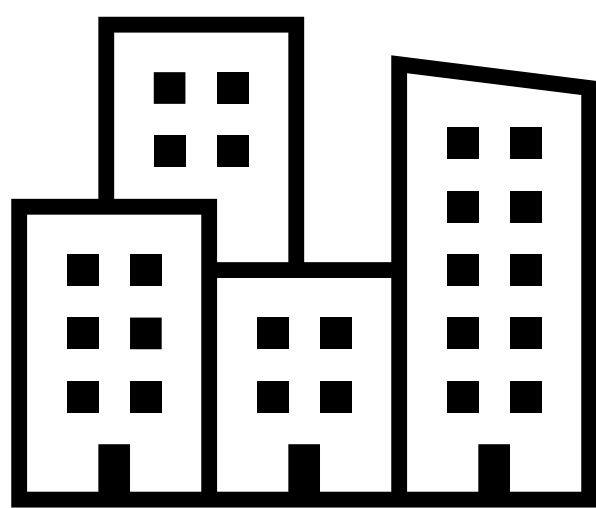
I was driven by the desire to make a positive difference in the lives of others, and I believed that volunteering with Offrejoie as a Volunteer Coordinator would allow me to do just that. Through my role, I have successfully organized and coordinated volunteer activities, ensuring the effective use of resources and empowering volunteers to make a meaningful difference.

Our collaborative approach has resulted in the participation of over 6,000 volunteers from 17 different countries over the past few years. Engaging in this experience has been incredibly fulfilling, granting me a profound understanding of the challenges faced by marginalized communities and highlighting the transformative power of collective action. I have honed valuable leadership and organizational skills while witnessing firsthand the positive impact that can be achieved when individuals unite with a shared purpose.

I am immensely grateful for the opportunity to be part of an organization with a demonstrated track record of making a positive impact on the lives of those in need. Additionally, working alongside Offrejoie's president, Marc Torbey El Helou, has been particularly inspiring, as he has consistently exemplified the belief that "Nothing is impossible."

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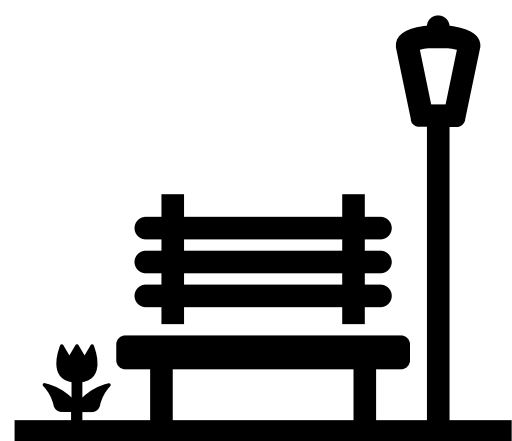
- Nour, Volunteer Coordinator

**1400**

Over the past three years, Offrejoie has completed the renovation of 1,400 **residential apartments** and 39 shops in 157 buildings located in the neighborhoods of Karantina, Rmeil, Mar Mikhael and home to 5,000 people. In addition to the internal rehabilitation of the apartments, works included the full renovation of the external façades of all 157 buildings, in addition to internal works in common areas such as rewiring of electrical connections, water pipes, repairs to the staircases, roof and replacement of water tanks. **(photos on page 6)**

**12**

In addition, working closely with the Directorate General of Antiquities (DGA) and **heritage building** experts, Offrejoie completed the restoration of 12 of the most rich heritage buildings in the targeted neighborhoods. Offrejoie has maintained the highest standards during the restoration works with the aim of preserving Beirut's cultural heritage. **(photos on page 7)**

**5000**

Public spaces play a crucial role in the recovery of the targeted neighborhoods, Offrejoie has therefore prioritized, working jointly with the municipality of Beirut, the restoration of a public garden in Karantina, the rehabilitation of sidewalks and the installation of solar street lighting in both Mar Mikhael and Karantina. Over 5,000 people residing in the targeted neighborhoods have benefited from improved public infrastructure. **(photos on page 9)**

Offrejoie has also supported the community in the restoration of a church and a mosque in Karantina and distributed through partners over 35 containers of in-kind assistance (medical equipment, medicine, cloths, food, school stationary, etc.) received in the aftermath of the port blast. The distributions were completed in partnership with 15 non-governmental organizations, 5 hospitals and 12 public schools.

Residential Buildings

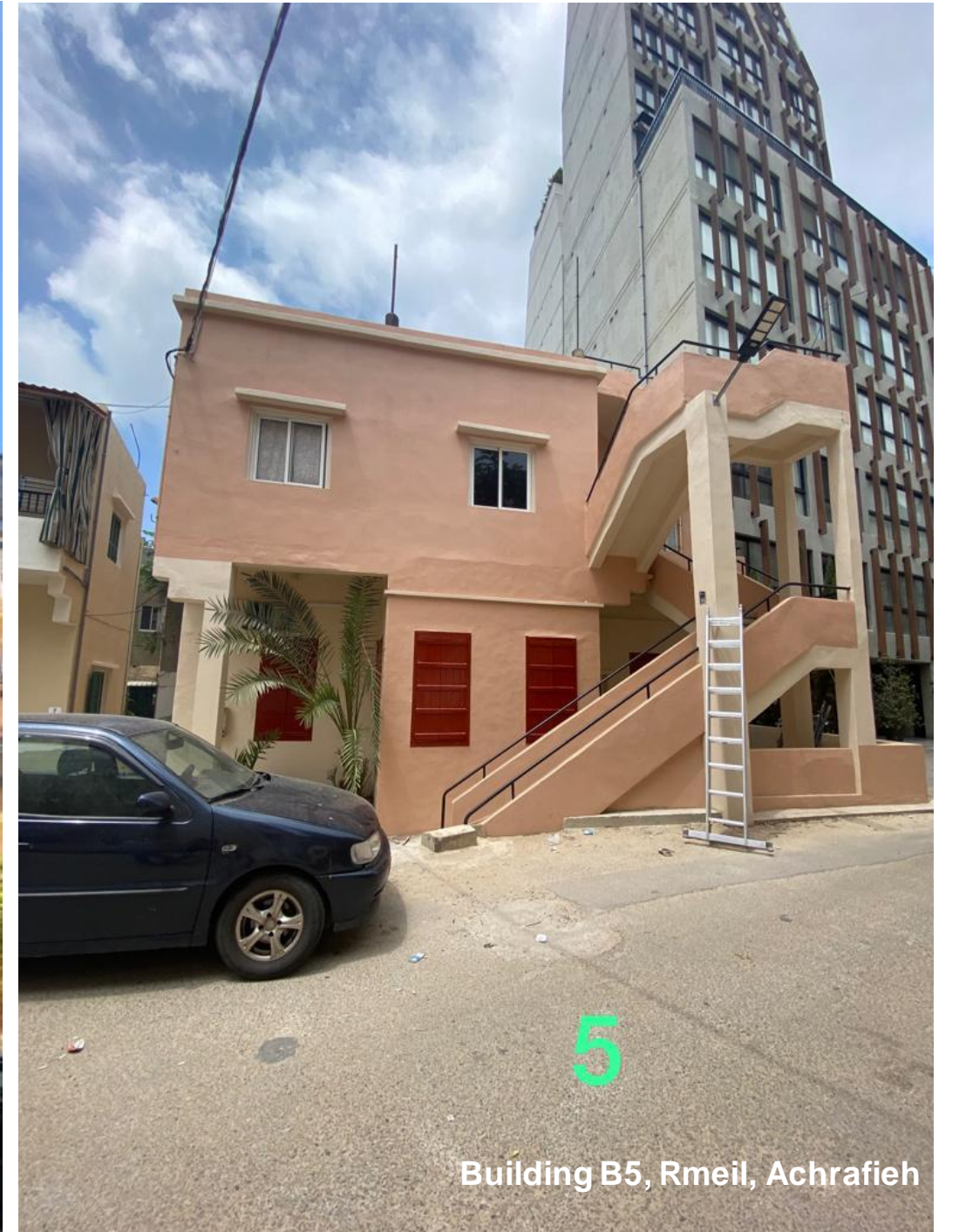
Building B7, Rmeil, Achrafieh



Building B6, Rmeil, Achrafieh



Building B5, Rmeil, Achrafieh



Building B20, Rmeil, Achrafieh



Building B4, Rmeil, Achrafieh



Building B3, Rmeil, Achrafieh



Building B10, Rmeil, Achrafieh



Building B1, Rmeil, Achrafieh



Heritage Buildings

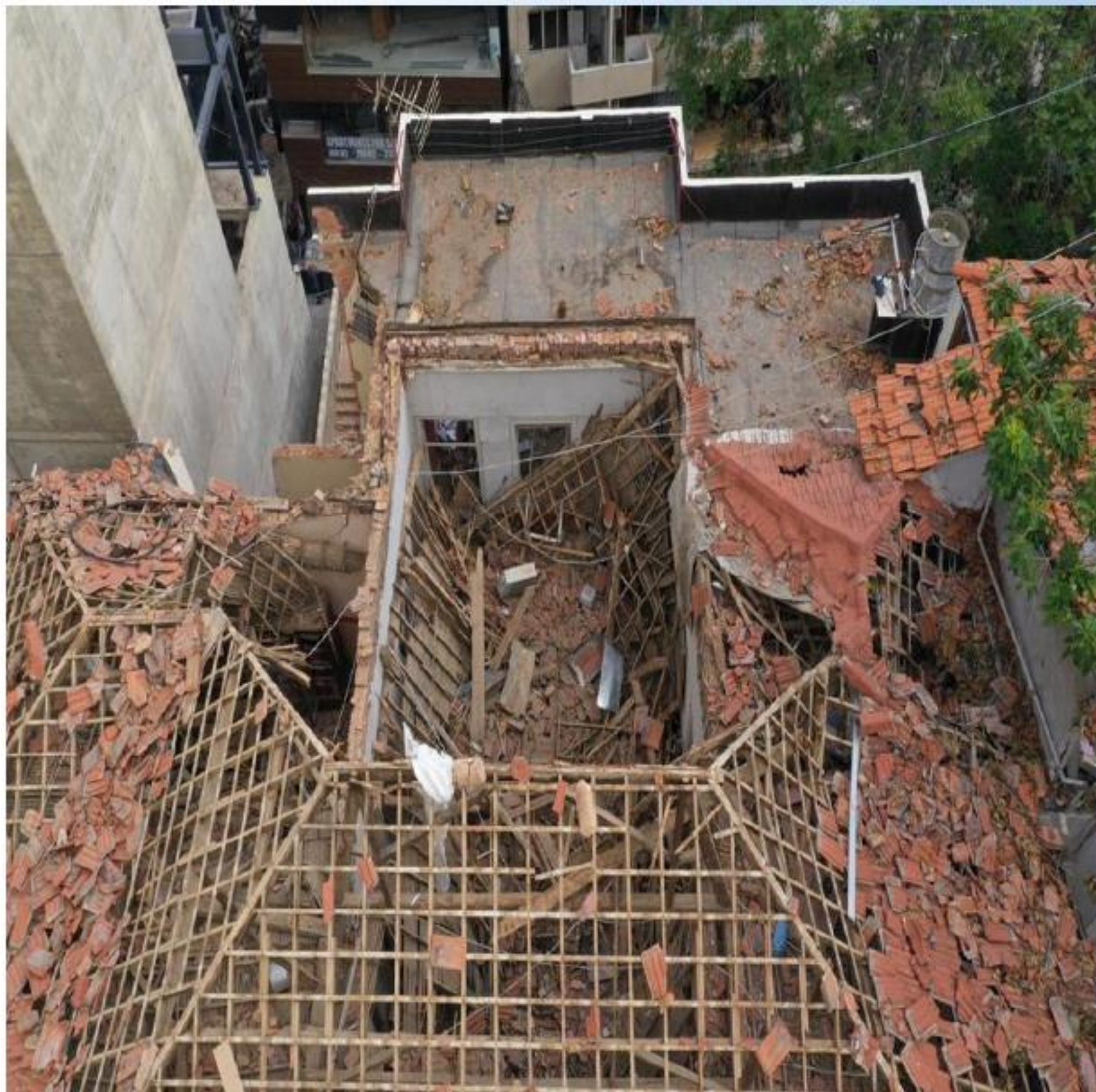


Building B1, Rmeil, Achrafieh



BEFORE

AFTER



Building B19, Rmeil, Achrafieh

Heritage Buildings



Building M5, Karantina



Building A12, Karantina



Building B19, Rmeil



Building B5, Karantina



Building B22, Rmeil

Public Spaces



Public Garden
Karantina



Sidewalks and
solar lighting



Community Buildings

AL KHODR MOSQUE KARANTINA



FIRE BRIGADE



AL SAYDEH CHURCH - KARANTINA



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My experience with Offrejoie has been incredibly rewarding. Their dedication to providing support and hope in Lebanon is commendable, and I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to their impactful work as they act as a pillar of strength for the community.

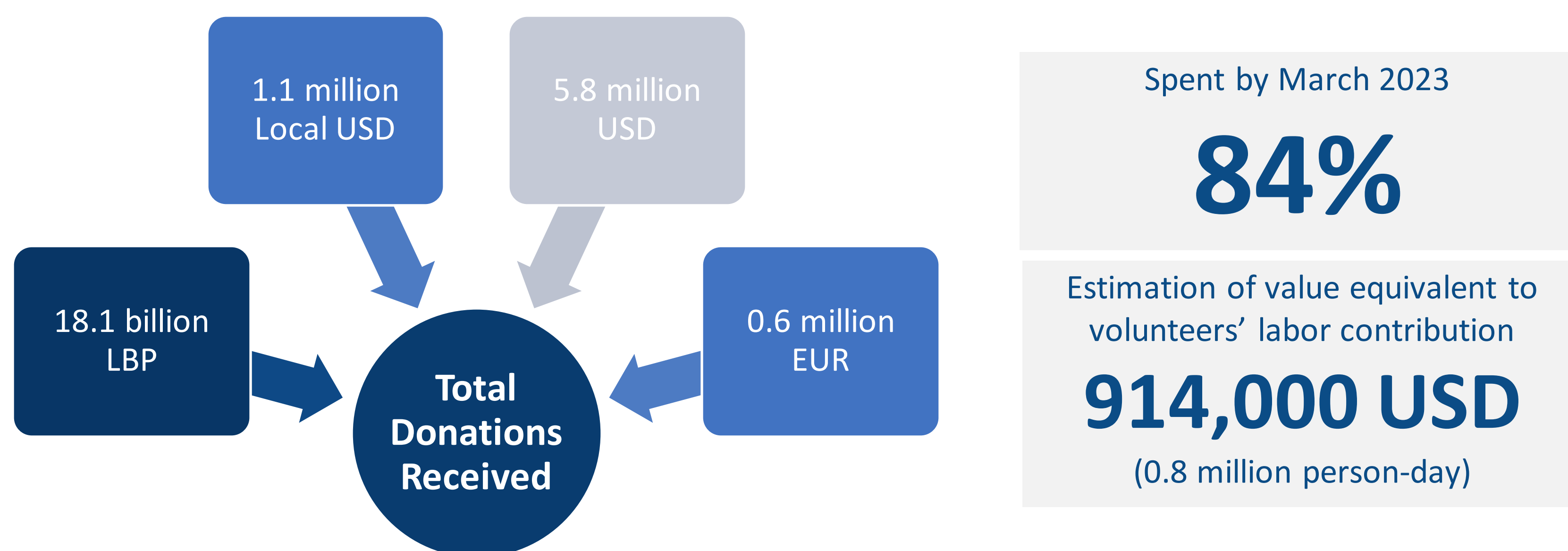
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- Fadi, Volunteer



Donations and Expenditures

Offrejoie would not have been able to respond to the scale it has, following the blast, if it weren'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.



Breakdown of expenses per category



■ Construction materials and equipments ■ Skilled laborers ■ Operational expenses on site ■ General expenses Offre Joie ■ Financial fees

The above figures cover the period starting August 2020 and until March 2023. Donations in Fresh dollars were converted according to the daily parallel rate. **Our financial statements are audited by Nexia Majzoub & Partners, CPAs.**

Target and Plan

25

Homes that are in the pipeline for the next phase

500

Underprivileged children benefiting from summer camps and other activities

3,000

People supported with in-kind items distributions

450

Volunteers expected to participate in camps to support the rehabilitation of the Community Center

Beirut Community Center Opening 2023

Offrejoie is launching in the second half of 2023 its Community Center in Beirut. The aim of the center is to provide protection and support for the most vulnerable individuals in the community, enabling them access to essential services and fostering their overall well-being. The establishment of a community center is an effort to address a social protection gap left by the dwindling public services particularly towards women, persons with disability, the elderly and the homeless in Beirut.

Three key activities that will be initiated in the Community Center before the end of 2023:

- provide a safe and welcoming space (this includes use of shower facilities and public areas of the center) and offer hot and nutritious meals to those in need on a regular basis.
- organize learning and recreational activities for children using the designated child-friendly space within the community center, offering them a safe and enjoyable environment.
- provide social engagement activities, companionship, and assistance tailored to the unique needs of the elderly, ensuring their well-being and inclusion within the community.

Through the Community Center, Offrejoie aims to support at least 3,000 unique beneficiaries on a yearly basis.

Sustainability: Offrejoie will work on the development of a long-term sustainability plan, exploring income-generating activities, establishing partnerships with local businesses, and seeking opportunities for social enterprise initiatives with the objective of diversifying the sources of funding complementing donor grant funding on the mid-long term. In addition to the financial sustainability of the center, other aspects such as environmental sustainability will be adopted in the management of the community center (on solid waste management, water and other natural resources management, reliance on renewable energy).

Accountability: In its management of the community center, Offrejoie will prioritize accountability to its beneficiaries by implementing a feedback collection and response mechanism. It encourages open communication through suggestion boxes, feedback forms, and community meetings.

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Les rencontres faites au sein d'Offrejoie, les actions quotidiennes à Karantina, m'ont permis de découvrir une partie de la vie libanaise, que la plupart des étrangers ne voient pas en allant au Liban. Et de réaliser pleinement l'ampleur de la détresse humanitaire au Liban, c'est une expérience humaine enrichissante pour grandir et se découvrir.

Grâce à Offrejoie, j'ai pu mettre mon année sabbatique au profit d'une grande cause. J'ai fait des rencontres incroyables, j'ai pu découvrir une seconde famille au Liban. Cette expérience m'a permis de grandir en tant que personne, de découvrir le Liban et de prendre du recul sur la vie.

J'encourage tous les jeunes Français à venir découvrir cette expérience au Liban au sein d'Offrejoie. Or c'est du donnant – donnant.

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- Tanguy, International Volunteer





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