

# Lebanon

*IOCC's work in Lebanon began in 2001 with programs to address the needs of Lebanese affected by socio-economic instability after the civil war. With the onset of the Syria crisis in 2011, IOCC's work expanded to include responding to the influx of Syrian refugees. With funding from UN agencies and European donors, IOCC now operates throughout Lebanon with staff based in the main office in Beirut and a field office outside of Tripoli. Building on its longstanding relationship with the Orthodox Church in Lebanon, IOCC also worked with Church partners after the August 2020 explosion to assist affected families through hot meals and home rehabilitation, in addition to repairing local Sunday schools, a charity kitchen, and a sociomedical center affiliated with the Orthodox Church so they could resume operation as centers of community activity. Collaborating with the Church increases IOCC's ability to serve people in need who might otherwise struggle to access humanitarian programs.*



## Emergency Preparedness and Response

Since 2001, IOCC has responded to humanitarian and development needs in Lebanon across multiple sectors, including nutrition, education, WASH, and cash vouchers. The agency has also prioritized strengthening Lebanese communities and NGO partners and, in more recent years, assisting both refugees fleeing conflict in Syria and Lebanese families in need.

IOCC responded immediately after the Beirut port explosion of 2020, deploying nurses and psychosocial support officers to affected areas. In the following days, teams went door-to-door in heavily damaged neighborhoods, conducting needs assessments and distributing emergency hygiene supplies. In addition to

providing hot meals to nearly 6,000 people for 3–6 months and hygiene and dignity kits to almost 30,000 people, IOCC completed extensive repairs to buildings: over 545 homes, more than 125 small businesses, 5 schools, 2 Sunday schools, and 7 primary health centers. IOCC also rehabilitated Rosaire Hospital and supported procurement of medical equipment for St. George Hospital to resume operations.

In response to the ongoing economic crisis, IOCC has expanded existing programs related to provision of healthcare services through primary health centers, has continued providing hot meals in Beirut, and expanded school feeding activities throughout Lebanon.

## Food Security and Agriculture



Since 2013, IOCC has operated an award-winning community kitchen program, distributing nutritious hot meals to Syrian refugees and Lebanese in need, and training refugee and Lebanese women to prepare food in large quantities.

Currently, IOCC is distributing 1,680 ready-to-eat meals monthly to 3,500 Syrian refugee and Lebanese individuals in the most underserved neighborhoods of El-Mina, Tripoli. Amid COVID-19 lockdowns and economic crisis, IOCC distributed thousands of food rations and meals to families of public-school students and those affected by the Beirut blast.

## Health

Since 2012, IOCC has worked with partners including UNICEF to improve maternal, newborn, and child health services and awareness in the most underserved areas of Lebanon. IOCC supports the healthcare system and facilitates access to health services for children and adults through subsidization of primary healthcare services, reaching over 44,450 individuals by the end of 2022. By April 2022, IOCC had reached over 4,500 Syrian refugees through its mobile medical unit in North Lebanon. IOCC has also worked on the integration of mental health services within primary healthcare centers and has upgraded, refurbished, and contributed to operating costs of centers.

Maternal and child health programming promotes breastfeeding, healthy lifestyles with increased access to breastfeeding support, and malnutrition screening and treatment. Recently, IOCC revived the malnutrition program, providing refresher trainings to 26 primary healthcare centers and subsidizing malnutrition screening and care in 28. IOCC has also trained health staff of 12 governmental hospitals on the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative to support early initiation of breastfeeding. During 2021 and 2022, IOCC created 44 mothers' support groups across Lebanon and conducted outreach and community mobilization around health and nutrition, immunization, infant and young-child feeding, and hygiene with more than 57,800 women in 2021 and over 61,400 in 2022.

Since 2016, IOCC has implemented school-feeding programs throughout Lebanon, including upgrading and operating school kitchens and engaging the community by training and employing students' mothers as kitchen crew. As a result, IOCC has built a successful track record with school feeding, providing children in public schools with various healthful snacks to improve attendance rates and eliminate short-term hunger (currently reaching over 63,800 Lebanese and Syrian refugee students in 101 public schools). IOCC has also provided nutrition education to public-school students of all ages, organized summer camps on healthy nutrition, and developed a nutrition education package to be incorporated into the Ministry of Health's curriculum.

With the outbreak of COVID-19, IOCC mobilized a COVID-19 Rapid Response Team and helped more than 1,600 Lebanese individuals and refugees register on the official platform for the COVID-19 vaccine. IOCC also deployed a vaccination team at the five Lebanese border entry points to check children's vaccination status. From the beginning of 2021, IOCC vaccinated nearly 15,000 children against measles and screened over 230,000 people entering Lebanon for COVID-19 symptoms.

During the 2022 cholera outbreak, IOCC mobilized a rapid response team in North Lebanon to identify possible cases and raise awareness on prevention and treatment to curb its spread. By the end of 2022, IOCC had reached over 38,000 caregivers of children with awareness on cholera prevention and had distributed oral rehydration solutions to 4,590 beneficiaries across Lebanon.





## Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene (WASH)



IOCC has constructed communal water reservoirs and installed solar-powered systems to run water pumps, providing better access and water storage to vulnerable communities across Lebanon and reaching thousands in refugee settlements, schools, and communities while focusing on sustainable energy and a “greening” approach to infrastructure.

Hygiene-awareness campaigns bring together communities to learn best practices in family hygiene, mother-child hygiene, household and food hygiene, COVID-19 prevention, and sanitation procedures. About 17,700 beneficiaries were reached during 2022.

In 2021, IOCC transformed Al Manara public school in West Bekaa into a green building, installing a comprehensive water-treatment and collection system for 1,000 students and school staff.

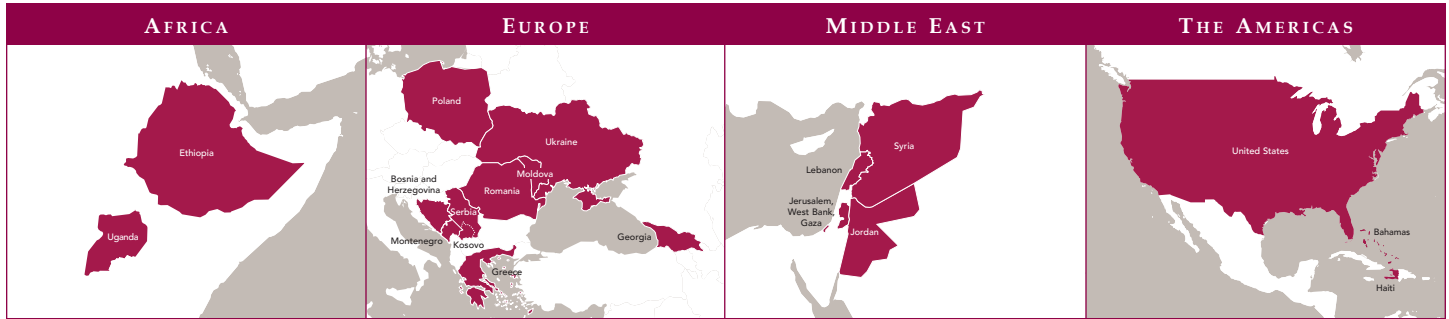
A solar-powered system now provides green energy; blackwater is treated, and greywater is combined with rainwater, treated, and used for toilet flushing. A student garden uses the school’s food waste as compost and the treated water for irrigation.

IOCC also equipped a solid-waste-management facility in Amioun, North Lebanon, with a solar-powered system and waste-sorting equipment, benefiting 10,000 individuals, and constructed and equipped a solid-waste-management facility in Aarsal, Bekaa, benefiting 11,400 individuals.

Since 2021, IOCC has been transforming eight health centers in North Lebanon, the Bekaa, and areas affected regions by the Beirut explosion into environmentally friendly “green” buildings. Health services such as consultations and laboratory tests are also subsidized there, reaching 26,350 beneficiaries by the end of 2022.

**THROUGHOUT THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**, IOCC continued its projects around the world while taking steps to protect staff, partners, and beneficiaries. All projects are continuously evaluated for multiple risk factors, and appropriate modifications made. IOCC ensures that all staff and beneficiaries receive information about COVID-19, including testing locations, and integrates this information into ongoing projects, as indicated by local health authorities.

# Active Worldwide Programs









- Ethiopia
- Uganda

- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Georgia
- Greece
- Moldova
- Montenegro
- Poland
- Romania
- Serbia including Kosovo
- Ukraine

- Jerusalem, West Bank, Gaza
- Jordan
- Lebanon
- Syria

- Bahamas
- Haiti
- United States



	Emergency Preparedness & Response .....	119,043
	Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene (WASH).....	66,540
	Sustainable Livelihoods .....	23,912
	Food Security & Agriculture.....	112,602
	Health .....	658,135
	Other (Education, Nonfood Items, Shelter, Protection) .....	2,703

## IN 2022, IOCC SERVED 982,935 PEOPLE WORLDWIDE

*IOCC was established in 1992 and is the official humanitarian organization of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States. IOCC provides emergency relief and development assistance to those in need worldwide, without discrimination, and strengthens the capacity of the Orthodox Church and local NGO and community partners. Its global operations are managed from its headquarters in Baltimore, Maryland, in the United States, with field offices in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, East Africa, and the Midwest United States. Since its founding, IOCC has distributed more than \$800 million worth of aid in over 60 countries around the world, and has extensive experience implementing programs in partnership with United States government agencies (USAID, BHA, PRM) and the United Nations (UNICEF, WFP, UNHCR, OCHA), as well as with European and international donors.*



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