

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 after the August 2020 Beirut Port explosion to assist affected families through hot meals and home rehabilitation, in addition to repairing local Sunday schools, a charity kitchen, a sociomedical center affiliated with the Orthodox Church so they could resume operation as centers of community activity, and rehabilitated and equipped a church-affiliated dental clinic.



Emergency Preparedness and Response

Since 2001, IOCC has responded to humanitarian and development needs in Lebanon across multiple sectors, including nutrition, health, education, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and cash vouchers. The agency has also prioritized strengthening Lebanese communities and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners and, in more recent years, assisting both refugees fleeing conflict in Syria and Lebanese families in need or affected by the hostilities.

At the early onset of COVID-19, IOCC immediately responded to the health emergency, provided necessary training to staff on infection prevention and control and mobilized a

COVID-19 rapid response team (RRT) that responded quickly and effectively to the crisis minimizing the spread of the virus, providing care to those affected, and supporting public health initiatives.

IOCC responded immediately after the Beirut port explosion of 2020, deploying nurses, midwives and psychosocial support officers to affected areas to provide essential health-care services. 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



Emergency Preparedness and Response *(continued)*

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 (PHCCs), has continued providing hot meals in Beirut, and expanded school feeding activities throughout Lebanon.

Since 2024, the escalating violence and military operations in Lebanon have displaced nearly a million people, primarily from southern Lebanon and the southern suburbs of Beirut, overwhelming shelters across the country where hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees and Lebanese nationals have sought refuge. In response, IOCC Lebanon has addressed the rapidly growing needs of displaced persons, providing support in 128 collective shelters across the country. This included the distribution of mattresses, blankets, hot

meals, kitchen supplies, and first aid kits in Mount Lebanon and North Lebanon, along with mobile medical unit consultations and medication services for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in collective shelters and PHCCs under the UNHCR-funded project. Additionally, with funding from Diakonie ACT Austria (DAA), IOCC provided hot meals to IDPs, psychosocial support (PSS), and menstrual hygiene kits to females of reproductive age, while also distributing food parcels to returnees in South Lebanon, Bekaa, and Beirut following the ceasefire declaration.

Counseling, awareness, and referral services have been offered by health outreach volunteers, and supported PHCCs have provided medical consultations, diagnostic services, and outreach led by midwives. Psychological first aid, breastfeeding counseling, and needs assessments for individuals with specific needs were also part of the support, along with specialized mental health services and referrals to hospitals. Under a UNICEF-funded health project, displaced persons in collective shelters have received infant and young child feeding assessments (IYCF), awareness sessions, counseling for pregnant and lactating women, malnutrition screening, and nutritional supplements.

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 1680 ready-to-eat meals monthly to 1300 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.

To sustain the community kitchen program and shift to a stabilization model, consultants developed a business plan and marketing strategy that supports diverse income-generating approaches, with pro-

ceeds reinvested into charitable activities. In 2024, IOCC linked the kitchen to an agricultural farm, strengthening market ties, fostering a local value chain, and creating jobs for vulnerable women who receive training throughout the project.

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 (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.

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 32,511 individuals by the end of 2024. By January 2025, IOCC had reached over 11,036 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. IOCC has also been conducting outreach and community mobilization around health and

nutrition, immunization, infant and young-child feeding, and hygiene with more than 82,345 women in 2024. To support the overall health of infants and young children, IOCC incorporated the early childhood development (ECD) program in its core activities and has established 20 ECD corners and mother and child units throughout Lebanon.

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.

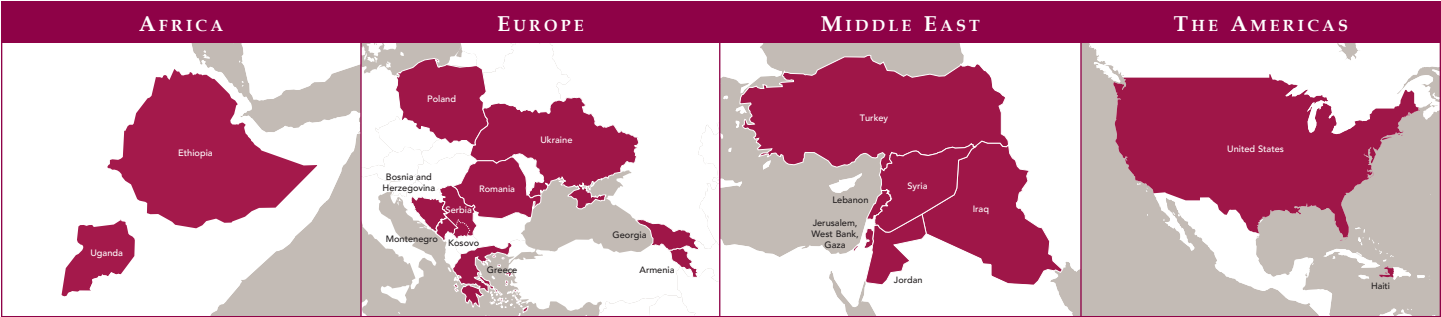
In 2021, IOCC transformed Al Manara public school in West Bekaa into a green building, installing a comprehensive water-treatment and collection system for 1,000 students and school staff.

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, benefitting 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 47,531 beneficiaries by the end of January 2025.

Active Worldwide Programs



- AFRICA**
 - Ethiopia
 - Uganda
- EUROPE**
 - Armenia
 - Bosnia and Herzegovina
 - Georgia
 - Greece
 - Montenegro
 - Poland
 - Romania
 - Serbia including Kosovo
 - Ukraine
- MIDDLE EAST**
 - Iraq
 - Jerusalem, West Bank, Gaza
 - Jordan
 - Lebanon
 - Syria
 - Turkey
- THE AMERICAS**
 - Haiti
 - United States



● Emergency Preparedness & Response	110,270
● Sustainable Livelihoods	26,290
● Food Security & Agriculture.....	108,902
● Health	742,444
● Other (Education, Nonfood Items, Shelter, Protection)	159,618

IN 2024, IOCC SERVED 1,147,524 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 US. Since its founding, IOCC has distributed more than \$858 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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