

Greetings everyone

15 August 2020

It has been 10 days since the Beirut explosion that destroyed Beirut happened and it still feels like yesterday but also feels like a year ago. I am just in awe of the response of people who are coming by the thousands to volunteer and help

Before I start relating all that has happened in the first 10 days, I just want to start by thanking each one of you who have contributed financially to our disaster response. Your help is allowing us to be very effective on the ground



The day after the explosion, we, at TM went down to the streets to distribute sandwiches to people who were removing rubble from their homes and were able to see the amount of destruction with our own eyes and we saw the work conditions of people who were trying to remove rubble without proper equipment and went out to buy gloves, shovels, heavy brooms, a wheel barrow and bags to gather glass and devised a plan for the next few days. Everyday one of our teams would go to our center to make between 450 and 600 sandwiches then join the second team who would head since the early morning to the destroyed area to help remove rubble.



We took a tent, some tables and brought lots of water to distribute to the people who are on the ground working

We installed our headquarters in front of a hospital who was in the front row facing the explosion and that had no more glass, no more aluminum frames no ceiling etc and spent the next 5 days going there everyday removing rubble , distributing gloves and bringing trucks to move out glass, and gather aluminum for recycling. We made friends with the hospital staff and became the ones leading all the volunteers arriving on scene to their assigned cleaning area and protecting the material in the hospital that was good enough to be used again from being taken away and sold.



We also coordinated with other NGOs to divide Beirut into sectors and try to cover the whole area and many volunteers joined our teams to assess homes and see how we can help. In parallel we opened a one day big clothes distribution in a very poor area affected by the blast and many many people came and took whatever they needed.



A week later, most of the streets were clean thanks to thousands of people who came from the whole regions to assist the beyrutis but we had a big list of people needing some repairs to be done in their homes . Many of the people can't afford to do repairs as the economic situation in Lebanon has been struggling and people have lost their jobs, and the Lebanese pound has lost 60 % of its purchase power. The government is not able to assist as well and we haven't seen any governmental entity in the streets anywhere we went.

We hired some workers who could do aluminum work, glass installment and carpentry and have since been going from house to house assessing people, prioritizing people and installing glass.



Sadly despite people living a tragedy, some people under the guise of volunteers have been entering homes saying they want to help clean and have stolen from already destroyed homes. And many have been spending their nights sleeping at their broken front door to protect their home from burglars. Our mission now is both to be there and extend a listening ear to people

who need to talk about their experience, say a short prayer, encourage people to still hope for a better tomorrow but also to bring workers and repair glass and doors so that people will have a safe home.



With the Lord's help we are targeting to repair 1000 homes this month. We have done 38 homes so far and keep going. We have 5 repair teams working on the ground and looking to hire more.

Blessings from the land of the cedars of the Lord
From me (Nuna) and the whole TM team