

## Lebanon Appeal for Lifesaving Emergency Response (Phase I)

25 September 2024

“She weeps bitterly in the night,  
with tears on her cheeks;  
among all her lovers  
she has none to comfort her;”

**Lamentations 1 : 2**



### Background

While hostilities have been ongoing since October 2023 in the South, the latest wave of violence has seen Israeli airstrikes targeting Hezbollah positions in South Lebanon and Beqaa, signaling a wide-scale escalation and resulting in significant casualties and widespread displacement. On September 23, 2024, Israeli strikes killed over 558 people in Lebanon, including more than 94 women and 50 children, in addition to 1,835 injured<sup>1</sup>. This tragic toll underscores the severe humanitarian impact of the conflict on Lebanese civilians.

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<sup>1</sup> "Israeli Strikes Kill Hundreds in Lebanon's Deadliest Day of Conflict Since 2006," PBS News, last modified September 23, 2024, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/israeli-strikes-kill-more-than-270-as-lebanon-sees-deadliest-day-of-conflict-since-2006>.

In less than 48 hours, **tens of thousands** of people have been forced to flee their homes due to the escalation of cross-border hostilities<sup>2</sup>. This recent displacement adds to the **over 112,000** internally displaced persons (IDPs) from previous conflicts. Entire communities are being uprooted, with families carrying only what they can manage as they seek safety. The ongoing threat of airstrikes, along with the destruction of homes and infrastructure, has left many living in fear and uncertainty. This situation is likely to place further strain on Lebanon's already fragile economy, compounding the challenges of political instability and a protracted economic crisis.

The displacement crisis in Lebanon has overwhelmed the nation, with schools, churches, and mosques now serving as makeshift shelters for those fleeing violence. In a sign of the expected **protracted nature** of the crisis, the Ministry of Education has opened all public schools as shelters, further straining the education system. Israeli airstrikes on September 23rd, among the most intense in modern warfare, have hit key areas, including Beirut, causing widespread destruction and further displacement. Humanitarian organizations and the government are struggling to provide adequate support as resources are stretched thin, while tensions rise across the country. Amidst this turmoil, the resilience of the Lebanese people is being tested, and the need for humanitarian aid and efforts to rebuild shattered communities is more urgent than ever.

## Objectives

Through this appeal, Compassion Protestant Society aims to provide **critical lifesaving support** to those displaced by conflict, particularly families whose homes have been destroyed. The focus will be on ensuring access to **safe and dignified shelter, essential life-sustaining assistance, and education and psychosocial support for children**. In response to the tragic events of September 23, NESSL has opened the Zahle Evangelical Center to host displaced individuals, and we are preparing a comprehensive intervention to address both immediate and future needs. We urgently seek the continued support of our partners to sustain this essential aid and provide long-term relief to those affected by this crisis.



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<sup>2</sup> "Dramatic Uptick in Violence As Guterres Voices Grave Alarm at Lebanon-Israel Escalation," UN News, last modified September 24, 2024, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/09/1154686>.

## Planned Activities

- 1. Shelter Solutions for displaced families**
  - 2. Lifesaving Basic Assistance for affected families**  
*(including families supported in previous intervention)*
  - 3. Psychosocial Support & Emergency Education Services for Children.**
  - 4. Capacity building for volunteers for faith-driven action.**
- **Duration:** from **October 2024** till end of **March 2025** (*6 months*)

## Target Beneficiaries

We will extend our help to all those in need, regardless of their religious affiliation or any other distinctions. We see this as an opportunity for the church to truly embody its mission. It is our identity to be there for those in need, witnessing to Jesus through our care and love.

## Approach & Expected Outcomes

While the planned intervention won't solve all presented challenges, it ensures the beneficiaries' survival by providing essential assistance in a way that honors their dignity. Our approach will emphasize cooperation and **building synergies** to ensure efficiency, optimal use of allocated resources, and complementarity of services. Assistance will be planned for a **6-month period**, during which we will conduct a **comprehensive needs assessment** to explore collaborative future action with our partners.

## Preliminary Budget

Item Description	Amount (USD)
Shelter Solutions	\$70,000.00
Lifesaving Basic Assistance	\$180,000.00
PSS & Education Services	\$60,000.00
Implementation Costs <i>(incl. mobilization and capacity building)</i>	\$40,000.00
Indirect Cost Recovery (7%)	\$24,500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$374,500.000</b>

## **About Compassion Protestant Society**

Founded in 2019, Compassion Protestant Society (CPS) is the diaconal arm of the National Evangelical Synod in Syria and Lebanon (NESSL). As a faith-based organization, CPS sees itself as the embodiment of the church's call to serve the most vulnerable across religious, ethnic, gender, and political divides. Rooted in giving genuine witness to Christ's merciful love, CPS seeks to partake in the suffering of the people of Syria and Lebanon through actively addressing their needs in a multisectoral approach, particularly in the fields of education, protection, health, and peacebuilding.

***“Faithful to our Call, Compassion to all.”***

## **Closing Words**

Christian Churches and NGOs are called to be vessels for God's mission and reconciliation, to act and serve among those fragile families. The crucified Christ is embracing the pain of war-affected people from all parties and backgrounds. It is a time to care with love and compassion. Waiting for sanity to prevail, we will do good in the name of Christ.

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**Rev. Joseph Kassab**

*General Secretary*

National Evangelical Synod of Syria & Lebanon (NESSL)

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**Amir D Bitar**

*Executive Director*

Compassion Protestant Society (CPS)

**For donations, please use the below details:**

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