Moving from DESPAIR to HOPE

HEART FOR LEBANON
قلبناهم لبنان
Since March of 2011, the start of the conflict in Syria, the vast majority of roughly one million Syrian refugees registered in Lebanon now find themselves impoverished and in debt, with levels of hardship increasing.

According to the 2017 annual vulnerability survey carried out by UNHCR, together with UNICEF and the World Food Program, “The share of Syrian refugee households living in extreme poverty in Lebanon – defined as less than $2.87 per person per day – increased to 58% this year from 53% in 2016.”

In September of 2017, due to a shortfall in funding, the UNHCR announced that their humanitarian response in Lebanon to refugee families would no longer be available for monthly cash assistance: a loss of $175.00 per month for each Syrian refugee family.

“Syrian refugees in Lebanon are barely keeping afloat,” said Mireille Girard, UNHCR Representative in Lebanon. “Most families are extremely vulnerable and dependent on aid from the international community. Without continued support, their situation would be even more harrowing.”

Children make up 52% of all refugees and are the most vulnerable. Having experienced war atrocities and crimes against humanity firsthand, they are definitely at great risk. Children fleeing to Lebanon, in many cases with just their mother and siblings, arrive without the basic needs for survival: food and shelter. They do not have a safe place to live, play, learn or laugh. Many refer to these children as “the lost generation” as they have been out of school, in many cases, their whole lives. We need to reach them with the Gospel of Jesus Christ before they become the last generation.

The proportion of families living below the Lebanese poverty line (of $3.84 per person per day) rose to 76% in 2017. The Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon in the 2017 study found that the number of refugees in debt remained staggeringly high at 87%. The result is that refugee families are forced to make tough decisions just trying to meet their most basic needs. One example is food insecurity which affects more than 9 out of 10 Syrian refugee families.
War comes with trauma and everlasting scars of a dark and terrifying past. Today, most Syrian refugee children know nothing more than the terror and anxiety of not knowing where the next airstrike, missile, gun shot, bomb or chemical attack will hit. Even after fleeing the country, a petrifying fear follows these Syrian refugee children wherever they go.

Heart for Lebanon's H.O.P.E. (Helping Overcome Poverty through Education) Educational Program provides a safe place for refugee children to learn, express themselves and grow. Maha, an 8-year-old girl who fled the Syrian war with her mother and elderly grandparents, is just one of the many Syrian refugee children suffering from mental and emotional trauma caused by the events of the Syrian war.

Since fleeing to Lebanon, Maha has been attending our H.O.P.E. Educational Program where she learned how to read and write for the very first time. “When Maha was born we were fleeing from place to place, so my daughter couldn’t go to school and didn’t even know what a book was,” said Khadijah, Maha’s mother. “Maha has psychological and emotional scarring because of the war and also because her biological father abused her and abused me,” said Khadijah.

Today, both mother and daughter have found a safe haven in Heart for Lebanon’s Team who listen, advise, care and love them unconditionally. Thanks to Heart for Lebanon’s support of monthly food/ hygiene packages and encouragement, Khadijah and her daughter willingly listen to the Word of God and pray with our Team. Khadijah has also dedicated her life to Jesus and asks that we pray for her daughter’s full recovery.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to reach refugee families and their children with humanitarian aid and education regardless of their religious background. Meeting physical and educational needs gives us an opportunity to speak into the lives of people who have lost all hope.
After meeting physical needs, RELATIONAL ENGAGEMENT addresses the emotional and spiritual needs of refugee families. This is accomplished primarily through home visits, faith-based programs, and children’s activities. It is through these endeavors that authentic relationships are built and from which we are able to share the love of Jesus Christ.

LIFE-CHANGE begins after a relationship has developed. At this level, Heart for Lebanon provides spiritual resources to individuals and families. These resources allow them to become familiar with and engage in sustainable spiritual growth. As a faith-based Christian ministry, Heart for Lebanon takes an unconditional holistic approach in addressing the emotional and spiritual needs of families through regular visits, offering prayer and encouragement, and providing faith-based programs including Peace Building, Reconciliation training, Bible Studies, Worship Gatherings and children’s activities, all leading to the building of lasting and authentic relationships.

HOPE is delivered through …

One way in which Heart for Lebanon spreads the gospel is through our weekly Bible studies where Syrian and Iraqi refugees voluntarily attend to grow deeper in their faith walk.

When Fatima first attended the Bible study in her tent community, she didn’t expect her life to change so drastically. “Both my kids and I have benefitted a lot, our eyes have been opened to things we were never knowledgable about,” Fatima said about her walk with Jesus. “We never knew how important Jesus is… when we were in Syria no one ever told us about Jesus,” Fatima explained.

As a new follower of Christ, Fatima is eager to talk about the many miracles that Jesus performed during his life on earth. More importantly, Fatima is eager to express her newfound hope in a living God.

Today, prayer has become an important part of Fatima’s life. “Every time I am faced with an issue I pray to Jesus and with Him by my side my struggles are simplified,” Fatima said about her incredible faith in our savior Jesus Christ.
RELIEF AND COMMUNITY CARE
We are expanding our depth of support for those who desperately need help to survive. This care includes monthly supplemental food and hygiene distributions, clean water, and other necessary items including shoes, small wood stoves, winter clothes, and blankets. There are over 1 million Syrian refugees that are looking for hope. Heart for Lebanon is doing for one what we wish we could do for the more than 1 million.

CHILDREN AT RISK
This initiative focuses on the “Lost Generation” of children. Syrian refugee children under the age of 18 represent half of the refugee population in Lebanon. Without an education they will not develop the capacity and character necessary for a stable job in the future. For those who live in the tent settlements, we have a Hope on Wheels ministry providing educational fun and encouragement to every child who wants to participate. Currently, Heart for Lebanon’s H.O.P.E. Educational Program ministers to 300 students and our Hope on Wheels program ministers to an average of 600 children per month, giving these children a place and opportunity to be a kid again.

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE
Our new Hope Ministry Center – Bekaa is located at the crossroads of the migration route (an area with the most refugees and some of the poorest refugees in the country). This facility will more than double our ministry capacity in the Bekaa Valley - allowing us to provide additional humanitarian aid, a Christian education for 250 refugee children, a place for social and worship gatherings, as well as house Service Team guests. Construction began in June 2016, and is expected to be completed by January 2020.
FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY:

We believe that transparency and accountability are critical for an effective ministry. As Christ followers we believe we are accountable to one another in all aspects of our faith. The Heart for Lebanon Board is very engaged in praying and financially investing.

FIVE-YEAR FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Core Ministry Expenses: $14,216,888 (88%)
- Administration: $1,163,703 (7%)
- Fundraising: $791,122 (5%)

Your financial investment and prayers are taking us beyond aid to cultivating transformation among people. It is more than a donation, it’s an investment given with the expectation of a return. This pushes Heart for Lebanon to honor it’s investors by planning for long-term success and remaining accountable in how we steward our resources. Every dollar counts.

Those supporting Heart for Lebanon are investing in people who are the next generation of believers to return to Syria and rebuild the nation as followers of Christ.

GOVERNANCE:
Scott McDonald, Chairman
Jack Hibbard, Vice Chairman
John Crump, Secretary
Tom Atema Jr., Treasurer
Kerri Bruce
Bill Cleaver
John Jordan
Saundria Keck
Durwood Snead

CONTACT:
CAMILLE MELKI, CEO/Founder
camille.melki@heartforlebanon.org
TOM ATEMA, COO /Co-Founder
tom.atema@heartforlebanon.org
PO Box 1294,
Black Mountain, NC 28711
828-505-8432

Dixon Hughes Goodman, an independent accounting firm provides the Board of Directors with an annual audit. A copy of the most recent financial audit is available upon request.

To read more stories and see videos of lives changed, visit us at:
WWW.HEARTFORLEBANON.ORG

facebook.com/HeartForLebanon
twitter.com/HeartforLebanon
instagram.com/HeartforLebanon

Charity Navigator
Four Star Charity
ECFA