

Imam Sadr Foundation

Socio-medical Programs

Preparedness and Response to Emergencies and Relief - Models and Memories

The Imam Sadr Foundation remains fully prepared to assist whenever needed, striving to serve and uplift the community. From this commitment, it has responded to many major crises that have affected the nation through its socio-medical centers:

-The October 2023 ,8 War in the Southern Lebanon

Amid the Israeli bombardment of southern Lebanon, marked by widespread destruction and loss of life, Imam Sadr Foundation, in close cooperation with its partners, swiftly mobilized to take immediate action. It provided essential services and humanitarian aid to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and those who remained in the border areas. These urgent responses addressed various sectors, notably:

- **Healthcare Sector:** The response involved mobile medical units, offering clinical consultations, laboratory tests, medications, medical supplies, and social assistance. In the realm of mental health, consecutive psychosocial support sessions were held, along with counseling and psychological treatments. Training sessions were also conducted based on needs, such as Psychological First Aid (PFA) and self-care for service providers. Additionally, Imam Sadr Foundation inaugurated a primary healthcare center on the main road to Qlaileh toward Naqoura, along with a mobile medical unit (Primary Care Satellite Unit/PSU), as part of the OCHA/LHF project. This unit offered preventive and curative medical services to citizens who remained in their villages and internally displaced persons.
- **Protection and Gender-Based Violence:** Assistance included case management for survivors of violence, psychological first aid, and psychosocial support as preventive measures against violence. Awareness programs focused on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, and vocational training for young women included work methodologies under "Cash for Work" programs.
- **Food Security Sector:** Tens of thousands of hot meals, food parcels, and food vouchers were distributed.
- **Basic Assistance Sector:** Blankets, clothing, children's supplies, and solar-powered lamps were distributed.
- **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Sector:** Necessary hygiene kits and sanitation materials were distributed.

Additionally, children's recreational activities were organized by Imam Sadr's scouting group. Diesel fuel was also provided for collective shelters and the Disaster Risk Reduction Unit.

Beirut Port Explosion (From August 4 to October 2020 ,31)

• Context:

On August 2020 ,4, amidst a backdrop of political, economic, social, and humanitarian crises, Lebanon was struck by a devastating explosion that ravaged extensive areas of its capital, Beirut

• The Aftermath of the Explosion

The impact of the explosion extended far beyond the immediate vicinity of the port. Approximately 200 lives were lost, and over 6,500 individuals sustained serious or minor injuries. Nearly 300,000 residents of the capital found themselves homeless overnight. The catastrophic blast shattered windows, destroyed buildings and infrastructure, and instilled fear and trauma in both children and adults.

Moreover, the explosion severely damaged hospitals, which were already struggling to contain the spread of COVID-19. The Lebanese healthcare system also faced shortages of equipment and medical supplies, along with a lack of staff, forcing medical personnel to treat the injured in the streets and on sidewalks.

• Emergency Response

In the wake of the devastating explosion in Lebanon, just hours after the incident, the Disaster Management Committee of Imam Sadr Foundation swiftly formulated an action plan to assist victims, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups, including children, individuals with special needs, and women.

The action plan included the following measures:

- Assessing the situation and its consequences.
- Developing an intervention plan.
- Mobilizing human resources, including nurses, doctors, social workers, scouts, and volunteers.
- Collaborating and networking with partners and other entities involved in the rescue efforts.
- Expanding relief operations to cover various areas in and around Beirut, such as Mar Mikhael, Nowayri, Nabaa, Ramlet al-Baida, Bashoura, Ashrafieh, Sin el Fil, and more.

Key Interventions:

- A team of 47 volunteers was dispatched to help clear debris, repair homes that were still somewhat habitable, and provide food and other supplies.
- Food vouchers were distributed to 135 families in the affected areas, in collaboration with local partners and primary healthcare centers in the region. This initiative was supported by the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) as part of the "PEER-Preparing to Excel in Emergency Response" project.

- Psychological consultations were provided in coordination with HelpAge International, based on anxiety and depression scales from the Institute for Development, Research, Advocacy, and Applied Care (IDRAAC).
- Training sessions in psychological first aid were conducted for frontline workers from national and international NGOs, in cooperation with the National Mental Health Program.
- Psychosocial support sessions were held for affected individuals in the impacted areas, including specific sessions for the elderly.
- Awareness sessions were conducted, along with the distribution of disinfectants and activities to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among those affected.
- Continuous distribution of medication and other medical supplies.

Notable Intervention Sites:

- University of Balamand
- Ecole des Filles de la Charité
- Lebanese Hospital Geitaoui
- Beirut Governmental Hospital - Karantina
- Offre Joie Association
- Karagheusian Primary Healthcare Center, Bourj Hammoud

-COVID-19 Pandemic

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Imam Sadr Foundation did not spare any effort to provide all the needed support through various means. Their response can be summarized as follows:

- **Establishment of a Central Crisis Management Cell:** This cell consisted of administrative, health, educational, and logistical teams based in the cultural compound of the Foundation. They focused on planning, organizing, coordinating, training, monitoring, and evaluating the crisis response.
- **Training Non-Health Workers:** Trainers and workers from non-health sectors were prepared, with work policies and procedures aligned with the guidelines of the Ministry of Public Health and the World Health Organization (WHO).
- **Participation in Crisis Management Networks:** This included working with Catholic Relief Services (CRS), AUB NGOi CONNECT, and UNHCR, and coordinating with municipalities and federations of municipalities in areas served by the socio-medical centers.
- **Provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs):** PPEs were provided to healthcare workers in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health and CRS.
- **Home Visits for Vulnerable Groups:** Services were delivered through home visits, especially for those with chronic diseases, the elderly, and people with disabilities.