As clean-up efforts are completed in homes and businesses that are still standing, the true extent of the damage of the August 4 explosion is being revealed. Many NGOs are turning their attention to the longer, slower process of rebuilding the homes damaged across Beirut. FDCD is happy to work with our local partners and a few other NGOs in this work to provide the most efficient assistance available to those in need.

At the same time, all of us living in Beirut are still discovering the longer-term impacts of the trauma we have all experienced. Material aid is desperately needed, of course, but we also recognize that true healing is deeper than the suturing of wounds and covering of broken windows. That’s why FDCD is also working to create safe spaces to process trauma, build resilience, and come together as a community in these difficult times.

During this time of crisis, we are so grateful for the brave and selfless Lebanese volunteers helping to rebuild our city as well as for international partners who have jumped into action to aid in this recovery effort. We know that we will only move forward by holding onto one another, and we are blessed to begin this difficult journey with all of you.

With hope,
The FDCD team

IN THIS UPDATE:

- Updates from Armenia Street
- What’s next for FDCD
- Thank you to our volunteers!
UPDATES FROM THE FIELD

FDCD is excited to welcome two new team members who are working on the ground in the most impacted areas of Beirut, assessing damage and coordinating FDCD’s aid efforts.

Currently, our field team is surveying damage and speaking with as many families and impacted people as possible to get a sense of the extent of the need in these areas. We are coordinating with other NGOs and the Lebanese army to collect information about impacted families and what kinds of aid they need most urgently, to determine what organizations are best suited to provide this aid.

At the end of the week, the FDCD team will complete this process and begin working with local contractors to begin rebuilding damaged homes and small businesses.

OUR PLAN TO REBUILD

The people of Beirut have shown that they are ready and willing to help one another rebuild, but they need some coordination and material support to do so effectively. FDCD is using its strong local partnerships to connect those in need with those who can help and to provide the resources they need to rebuild.

Families know what repairs they need most urgently, and so we follow their lead. After talking with families, FDCD hires local contractors and builders and purchases necessary materials and supplies so that families can return home as soon as possible.

Looking ahead...

Beginning next month, FDCD will offer a series of workshops about trauma, self-care, and coping with the long-term effects of grief after the August 4 explosion. FDCD is working with Dr. Marie-Adele Salem, a psychologist and trauma specialist, to create a specialized curriculum for these workshops. If you are in Beirut and know of someone who would benefit from this, please don’t hesitate to reach out to info@fdcd.org

What’s in a food parcel?

We have been humbled to see the huge outpouring of food aid in Beirut. Every day, NGOs, restaurants, embassies, and charities are distributing thousands of food parcels and hot meals to families impacted by the explosion. We also know that families will still need food assistance after this initial flood of donations ends, and we want to ensure sustainable food aid continues as long as it’s needed. For now, FDCD is focusing our efforts on rebuilding, and we will begin food distribution in the coming months. The food parcels we will distribute contain a variety of ingredients needed to make nutritious, filling meals and include:

- Rice, flour, and bulghur
- Lentils, chickpeas, and fava beans
- Tuna and canned meat
- Tomato paste, oil, salt, and sugar
- Hygiene items (bleach, multipurpose detergent)

Thank you to our volunteers!

On August 10, 20 youth from across Lebanon traveled to Beirut for 3 days to assist in cleanup efforts. Together with FDCD staff, they cleaned debris in homes and covered windows in plastic sheeting, and collected plastic waste from the streets in order to recycle it.