



Educational support – Education project *Lebanon, Beirut*

For several years, Lebanon has been going through an unprecedented economic, social and financial crisis, which has plunged 80% of the population below the poverty line. This situation has been compounded by the Covid-19 crisis. The AIC Lebanon volunteers see in the youth of their country the hope of a better future, and want to promote access to education for children and young people. Between 2020 and 2023, they distributed computers and school supplies and paid the school fees of underprivileged children in Beirut to enable them to continue their education during the pandemic. Since 2023, the volunteers have also been offering vocational training to young people who have left school to enable them to re-enter the job market.



Context

Lebanon, unlike its neighbours in the Middle East region, has neither oil nor uranium. But its wealth is even greater, and is exported all over the world, due to a lack of local opportunities. Lebanon's heritage is *its youth!* Educating young people is the key to overcoming all difficulties! The resilience of young people in Lebanon has enabled the country to bounce back again and again over the last 45 years.

Context (continued)

The economic, social and financial crisis has been shaking the country for more than three years and is progressively precipitating it into an unprecedented level of poverty. More than 80% of the population now lives below the poverty line; 40% in a state of extreme poverty. In addition to the COVID crisis, skyrocketing inflation has increased unemployment levels and exponentially accelerated emigration. The country is emptying itself of its youth. Finally, the explosion in the port of Beirut on 4th August 2020 devastated the landscape of a capital that was on the point of rebuilding itself, destroying many schools.

In a shattered country, where the government is of no support, only associations can bring some comfort. It is in this context that AIC Lebanon decided to mobilise to rekindle a glimmer of hope in the eyes of disadvantaged Lebanese children.



Project theme and activities

In 2020, due to the pandemic, students all over the world found themselves isolated at home, learning at a distance and having no real contact with their teachers and school friends. In Lebanon, as elsewhere, inequalities increased and many students lacked the tools to continue their education.

In order to prevent them from failing in their studies, AIC Lebanon, with the precious help of AIC International, decided to distribute 26 computers and tablets to students from the most disadvantaged families to stop them from dropping out of school. For the two school years 21/22 and 22/23, the association also participated in the purchase of school supplies and the payment of enrolment and school fees for 45 students.

This activity is part of the association's commitment to education in Lebanon, a long-term project that has been carried out for many years. Indeed, with the help of young volunteers, the association has been welcoming every day, for several years, about thirty students after school to help them with their homework and thus ensure their progress and academic success.

Key figures

- 26 computers and tablets distributed
- 45 students received school supplies and help with paying school fees
- 40 young people followed a vocational training course



Local partner

For this project, as in its other activities, AIC Lebanon works in close collaboration with the Daughters of Charity.

Future prospects

In 2023, the association expanded its activities through a new collaboration with the IECD. This collaboration aims to ensure social and professional reintegration of young people who have left school before obtaining their secondary school certificate.

To do this, the association is offering them training in manual trades in various fields, such as mechanics, electricity, domestic assistance for seniors or sick people, early childhood support, hotel service, nail extensions or sewing. To date, 40 young people have joined this adventure and attend one of several training centres.

Thanks to the support of donors and AIC International, all the volunteers from AIC Lebanon will continue to fight tirelessly so that education remains the promise of a more positive future for all young people in the country.