



WE STILL BELIEVE

#BEIRUT2020

● **ON AUGUST 4, 2020: A MASSIVE EXPLOSION ROCKED THE PORT OF BEIRUT.**

THE DISASTER LEFT

MORE THAN
200
DEAD PEOPLE

300
THOUSANDS
PEOPLE MADE
HOMELESS

80
THOUSANDS
CHILDREN
DISPLACED

On August 4, 2020, a massive explosion rocked the Port of Beirut, destroying much of the port and severely damaging dense residential and commercial areas within a twenty kilometers radius from the site of the blast.

The disaster resulted in more than 200 casualties and more than 6,000 injured, as reported by the World Bank and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Additionally, 300,000 people became homeless, including 80,000 children who have been displaced, as reported by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). Many Hospitals, schools, and companies also became nonfunctional.

Beyond the human tragedy, the economic impact of the explosion is notable at the national level. The scale and magnitude of the disaster has left hundreds of thousands of people in need of immediate aid including food, shelter, protection, as well as support to rebuild their lives and livelihoods. People affected are also suffering from psychological distress and trauma.

Lebanon is already struggling amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and its existing financial and economic crisis; including the impairment of its banking sector, a deposits risk, an exchange rate collapse, a default on sovereign debt, a triple digit inflation rates, and a severe economic contraction. Lebanon's economic crisis and unprecedented devaluation of the local currency have led to food, raw material, and supply chain prices to rise steadily, even prior to the explosion. As a result, more than 50% of the Lebanese people are currently living below poverty line. The existing economic crisis and COVID-19 therefore collide and deepen the impact of the explosion.

Huge efforts and critical interventions in different areas across all sectors are therefore required to help people overcome the disaster and get out of the trauma.

BELIEVE'S RESPONSE

As Lebanese Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) registered with the Ministry of Interior under the No. 280, we have been active since 2015 in peacebuilding and empowering young people to become positive change agents in their communities. Today more than ever, we stand by our Lebanon, our Beirut, and our people, and we ask you to stand by us and support our humanitarian cause **"We still Believe #Beirut2020"**. Our campaign serves as a bridge between the Lebanese families affected by the blast and those willing to extend a helping hand.

In order to support the recovery of Lebanon from these multiple shocks, it is imperative to quickly intervene in order to ensure both short-term relief and longer-term recovery of the Lebanese affected by the Beirut blast. Believe will therefore help them recover by **(1)** providing immediate and direct assistance (financial and material support) to foster a life with dignity; **(2)** building their emotional resilience and restoring their psycho-social well-being; and **(3)** creating a memorial to serve as a historical touchstone commemorating the victims, and linking the past to the present and to a better future.



**WE BELIEVE
IN LIVING
WITH DIGNITY**

Billions of dollars have been lost overnight due to the explosion. The social, economic, and psychological effects of the blast will remain for years to come.

The first stage for a fast recovery in such a crisis is to ensure decent living conditions for the families impacted by the blast, and to provide them with direct assistance. Believe will therefore answer their immediate and essential needs through financial and material support so that they can return to their homes and resume their normal daily life.

Given the magnitude of the damage, this is our plea for cash-based interventions to restore decent living condition for those affected by this disaster. Our aim is to relieve the affected families from the financial burden of rehabilitation.

This will create a positive transformative change for them, which will improve their performance and psycho-social well-being.

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WE BELIEVE IN EMOTIONAL RESILIENCE

The word trauma comes from the Latin word for wound. The extent of the wounds of traumatic experiences can affect the body, mind, spirit, and relationships equally. The predominant therapeutic models used for treating trauma in survivors of major disasters have been pathology-based, and individually focused on identifying and reducing symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), which is categorized as a mental disorder.

It's common to experience stress and grief after a disaster. While some people can recover without any formal help, others may require additional support to help them get their lives back on track. The aim of the Believe program for empowering the community is to strengthen emotional resilience by healing the wounds caused by the disaster at both the individual and community levels.

Based on our expertise in social and emotional intelligence, we will not only utilize our own programs to build emotional resilience, but also team-up with psychosocial experts to heal the survivors and their family members.



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Designed and Rendered
by Architect **Charbel A. Etel**



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WE BELIEVE IN BUILDING A FUTURE

History is more than just the living record of nations, leaders, people and wars. It's also our story and our cultural identity. It's packed with tales of how we worked hard, stood up and even died for what we believe in. If we ignored our history, we won't learn from our own past mistakes and successes, therefore we can never build a better future.

To preserve our legacy and pass it on to future generations, and to ensure that they will be able to interpret and understand the events which affected Lebanon and their long-term impact on the country's history and future; we will construct the "Freedom's Anchor", a reconciliation and memorial space for both the blast and past civil wars.

The memorial, designed by Charbel Etel founder of Pilcrow Architects a start-up architecture studio, will serve as a historical touchstone so that the Lebanese youth and future generations understand the sacrifices made by past generations. It will help them embrace their cultural identity, learn from their past, and connect with their present to build a better future. Rebuilding Beirut after the blast will take years, but despite this unprecedented level of devastation, the Memorial and Reconciliation Space will help safeguard the history of the 2020 disaster, and that of civil wars.

The memorial will be built on the coast of Beirut. It will serve as a space to give homage to the victims and martyrs. It will also be a healing place for all the Lebanese, a meeting space for those who survived where they can share their pain, and a constant reminder that we are all responsible for our own future and for the freedom of our country.



BELIEVE MANIFESTO

WE STILL BELIEVE

In the beauty of Lebanon
and the charm of Beirut

In the determination
and strength of the Lebanese people

In the right of the Lebanese people
to choose their own destiny

WE STILL BELIEVE

In the culture of Life

In the power of Love

In the force of Peace

BECAUSE

This is our land

This is our dignity

This is where our ancestors and martyrs
were laid to rest

**WE STILL BELIEVE
THAT LEBANON IS A MESSAGE
TO THE WHOLE WORLD
AND WE ARE HERE TO STAY.**





WE STILL BELIEVE IN HELPING HANDS

www.believe.ngo  [believe.lb](https://www.facebook.com/believe.lb)

Because small streams make big rivers, small acts can change lives. You too can make a difference in someone else's life, by donating or fundraising.

For your kind donations, please contact us on
E. info@believe.ngo, **T.** +961 76 52 77 33

BANK ACCOUNT

Bank Name: Audi
Branch: Jeita
Account Name: Believe
Swift Code : AUDBLBBX

FOR FOREIGN CURRENCIES

Account Number: 00663967-0004
IBAN: LB68005600000000006639670004

FOR LEBANESE POUND

Account Number: 00663967-0002
IBAN: LB68005600000000006639670002