

# LEBANESE DIASPORA ORGANIZATIONS' HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE NOVEMBER 2024

The Lebanese diaspora, estimated by the Lebanese government at 15.4 million, is one of the largest globally. It plays a vital role in Lebanon's economy, contributing 54% of the country's GDP in 2021. Research by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) underscores the critical role of the diaspora in supporting those affected by Lebanon's ongoing economic crisis, which began in 2019. Additionally, the diaspora has provided aid during major crises, including the Beirut port explosion, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the 2021 fuel crisis.

In October 2024, DEMAC launched a comprehensive mapping of the Lebanese diaspora's humanitarian response following the escalation of hostilities in the country. As of November 28, 2024, the escalated conflict had caused over 3,961 deaths, injured 16,520 and displaced nearly 1.5 million people. Despite the recent ceasefire agreement, humanitarian and recovery needs remain significant, and the diaspora continues to mobilize in response.

## CASE STUDIES

### Associació Catalunya-Líban (ACL) - Spain

Founded in 1982, ACL focuses on emergency relief, advocacy, and cultural exchange. ACL launched a 2024 emergency campaign in response to Israeli attacks on Lebanon, raising €50,000 through various initiatives. Through strong local partnership, the funding provided food, medication, medical supplies, and winter aid. ACL also converted centers into shelters for displaced families, with medical staff volunteering to support care efforts.

### Stouh Beirut/Les toits de Beyrouth - France

Established in France in 2013, Stouh Beirut amplifies marginalized voices through storytelling and cultural initiatives while providing vital humanitarian aid. Known for their cultural initiatives, Stouh Beirut rally diaspora and international support through gala events and concerts. In response to the 2024 escalation of hostilities in Lebanon they raised funds to deliver \$60,000 worth of food, water, and mattresses near the Lebanon-Israel border, with more efforts underway.

## DIASPORA ORGANIZATIONS MAPPED

23 formally registered 49 informal

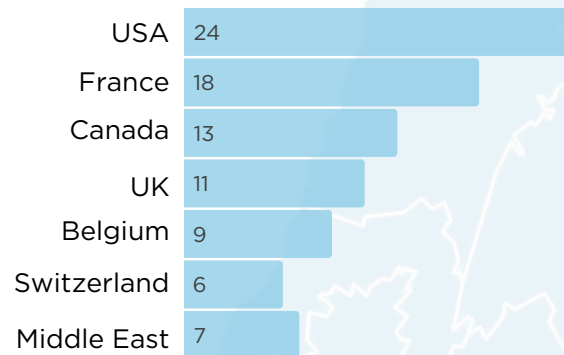
126 organizations mapped

45% Europe 13 also responding to crisis in Gaza

31% North America

24% Elsewhere

## HEADQUARTERS



## MAIN FINDINGS

- Most responses have focused on delivering emergency relief through financial donations and direct humanitarian aid, including essentials like food, shelter, and medical supplies. These efforts are largely carried out through local partnerships.
- The diaspora groups mapped are operating independently from each other, likely due to the large number of newly formed initiatives created in response to the current crisis or the 2020 Beirut port explosion. In contrast, longer-established organizations identified from previous mappings conducted in 2023 are not always actively communicating or responding to the current emergency.
- Aid and responses supporting simultaneous crises (for example, those in Lebanon and Gaza) are limited to a few organizations but widespread geographically with networks in the United States, Canada, Belgium, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.
- 2/3 of the organizations mapped concentrated their efforts on fundraising. Fundraising events account for the largest share (39%) of fundraising activities, likely because they engage communities directly and can generate significant support through personal interaction.

## AREAS OF INTERVENTION



FOOD HEALTH EDUCATION SHELTER

