

## CLUSTER: FOOD SECURITY

**The Need** Runaway inflation, a high refugee population, anti-government protests, and Covid 19 lockdowns were leading Lebanon to a precipitous crisis prior to the Beirut Port explosion in August 2020. The explosion crippled trust in an already-fragile government and heightened economic despair, particularly in areas immediately around the port. An increasing number of people in Lebanon -- refugees as well as locals -- are facing extreme poverty, homelessness, and gender-based violence; many families are resorting to child labor and child marriage to cope with their rapidly deteriorating circumstances. Our 2020 work in Food Security provided emergency aid to families suffering from the fallout of the explosion.

### LEBANON

**Project:** Emergency Relief for Children and Families Affected by the Explosion in the Port of Beirut

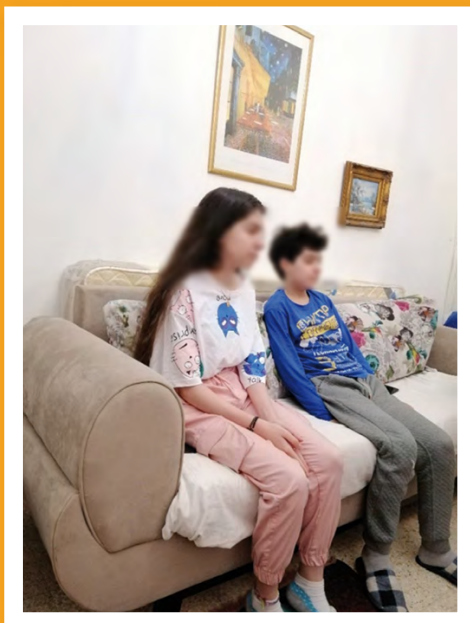


**Approach:** Relief

**Donor:** BILD hilft e.V. "Ein Herz für Kinder" and Vision Hope International

**Partner:** New Vision Foundation

Following the explosion, Vision Hope partnered with the Lebanese humanitarian organization New Vision to provide an immediate crisis response to families with young children. Through the assistance of donors, we purchased 40 sets of bedroom furniture for families who lost their homes and 40 tablets to help children continue with online school. We also provided 160 children with monthly hygiene kits and food boxes from October through December, as well as a further 160 children with hygiene kits and a one-month supply of food.



*Miriam and Jad*



### ■ "Who Can Give Back My Daughter Her Eyesight?"

William, his wife Rama, and their two adolescent children, Miriam and Jad, lived in a small apartment near the Beirut Port. The explosion not only severely damaged the family's home and many of their possessions but also injured all four of them. William lost 80 percent of his hearing from the sound of the explosion, and Miriam, who was struck in the face with debris, permanently lost vision in her left eye. Rama and Jad sustained bodily injuries, Jad so badly that he required 60 stitches. "Whatever was destroyed can be rebuilt," said Rama. "But who can give back my daughter her eyesight or my husband his hearing?"

To compound the family's struggles, hyperinflation reduced the value of William's salary from \$30 a day to about \$4 a day. Local humanitarian organizations rehabilitated the apartment building in which the family lived so that William, Rama, Miriam, and Jad could return home; however, on a devalued income, they could scarcely afford food. Through the local partner New Vision, Vision Hope began supplying the children with monthly food boxes and hygiene kits to help ease the family's financial burden. Jad also received a tablet so that he and his sister could continue online schooling. There is much work left to be done, as Lebanon's economy continues to deteriorate, and tens of thousands of families affected by the blast are still facing acute need. Yet William and Rama are grateful that their children have enough to eat and can continue their education.