

**Jesuits mobilise Emergency Aid for Families in Lebanon**

Jesuit Mission Australia has activated its Emergency Action Fund to assist local partner Jesuit Refugee Service Middle East & North Africa (JRS MENA) provide urgent relief efforts across the region.

The humanitarian situation in Lebanon is dire. Since 23 September 2024, Lebanon has faced widescale devastation following intensified bombings that have displaced over 1.2 million people. With more than 2,200 lives lost and entire communities uprooted, families are seeking shelter in temporary facilities, including Jesuit schools and Jesuit-run centres. The country's ongoing economic crisis, combined with escalating violence, is severely affecting the lives of vulnerable families, especially women and children.

A growing number of families are unable to meet basic needs, such as food, shelter, and medical care. Prices for essential goods and supplies have soared, increasing by more than 50% in some regions. Winter is fast approaching, and many displaced families are living in inadequate conditions, heightening the urgency for winter supplies.

JRS MENA, which has its head office in Beirut, mobilised emergency relief rapidly:

*"Immediately in response to the escalation of violence here in Lebanon, JRS was in the shelters all throughout the country, assisting the displaced. It is with your support, your encouragement and, your solidarity that we are able to provide the essential services that are needed in the midst of a war,"* said Fr Daniel Corrou SJ, Regional Director of JRS MENA.

Already over 9,300 displaced people have been reached with shelter, food baskets, hygiene kits, bedding materials, and providing essential winter kits to prepare displaced families living in shelters and on the streets for the harsh months ahead.

Additionally, JRS MENA is offering protection services, prioritising vulnerable individuals, and delivering psychosocial support for children and families dealing with the trauma of conflict and displacement.

*"The Jesuit Church here in Downtown Beirut, was built 150 years ago and has always been a refuge, a place of welcome. We have 60 people here now. Whatever their background, whatever their nationality or religion, it is their home,"* says Daniel Corrou SJ, JRS MENA Regional Director.

Australians can support the Jesuit network's response in Lebanon by donating to Jesuit Mission's Emergency Action Fund to provide life-saving support to those affected by this crisis.

To donate, visit [jesuitmission.org.au/actionfund](https://jesuitmission.org.au/actionfund) or call 02 8918 4109.

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*Caption: The Arrupe Migrant Centre at the Jesuit Church of Saint Joseph has also opened its doors to migrants looking for a place to stay after being refused access to the collective shelters. Mattresses are piled out on the ground and offices have been turned into bedrooms to provide a temporary sanctuary to those in need.*



*Caption: Despite the security risks, JRS Lebanon will not leave people in crisis and continues to deliver emergency food, shelter, medical supplies and psychosocial support to people affected and at risk.*

**Supporting Links:**

Jesuit Mission Emergency Action Fund Donation Page <https://jesuitmission.org.au/actionfund/>  
Emergency Response in Lebanon Video <https://jesuitmission.org.au/lebanon/>

**About Jesuit Mission Australia**



Jesuit Mission Australia works in over 10 countries across Asia and Africa to uphold the innate dignity of people living with the effects of poverty, especially the most marginalised and vulnerable. Funds from our supporters:

- Break cycles of poverty through teaching and education
- Protect the health of communities by providing medical care and programs that improve access to clean water and toilets
- Develop independent, sustainable communities through livelihood training and income-generating projects
- Provide vulnerable individuals with pastoral care, social inclusion and advocacy
- Support refugees in crisis
- Enable effective disaster response and relief.