

50 days Post Blast report

Beirut September 25<sup>th</sup>

Dear Friends,

I am happy to share some updates regarding the situation in Beirut after August 4<sup>th</sup> Blast of Beirut Port.

As you know, our political class did nothing, to date, to bring any relief to the population. Rather they are still under dispute on how to form the new government and install their people in the ministries...

As for the international community, a huge effort was made, over the world. Tons of aid reached Lebanon for foreign governments, NGOs, and individuals

Reconstruction did not really start yet, but at this stage, the roads are being cleaned, assessments are being done by NGOs and private sector to assess damages, especially those occurred to old traditional building that can collapse anytime.

Field hospitals are set in the near areas (as 4 major hospitals of Beirut were totally wiped out and all patients dispatched in other regions). Medical support and foods also arrived massively and are also being distributed to the needy and homeless

A big solidarity is seen among population who are hosting people who abandoned their houses. And a lot of effort is being made right now to repair roofs before the beginning of rains

Fair Trade Lebanon did lose a few windows, quickly repaired and a team member was hit on his head with glass. But he is all right and back to work.

As for our work, we are very happy to inform our partners and friends that despite everything, FTL has exported, through the ports, 3 containers the last 3 weeks, one to Germany and Austria, One to France and one to the UK.

The blast generated a big support campaign with client placing new orders, and organizing public fund raising.

EZA succeeded in raising almost 13,700 Euros and also placed a new order. These funds will support will be used to prepare food baskets at the cooperatives we work with, and distribute them amongst the most needy with the Association of Saint Vincent of Paul. The food box cost is 40 euros, it supports a family of 5 people for 30 days. The raised amount will hence benefit to around 340 families.

As for the near future, we look with hope to better days, as our youth is working hard cleaning the streets and helping NGOs in the huge work to do in Beirut. We also look forward to increasing our export sales as what we need most is "Trade not Aid".

Aid is crucial, but it ends quickly.

As for Trade, it can assure a decent income and sustain the people in their hometowns,

We at fair trade Lebanon are all very proud of all clients, and sincerely grateful to all the support,

Allow me on a personal note to say: God Bless you all

Sincerely

Philippe