



YOUR MCC IMPACT REPORT

Winter 2021



Thank you!

You are receiving this report because you are one of our most generous donors.

We want to share these stories with you to show you the real impact your gifts make around the world.

Sending soap where it is needed most

Imagine the unique challenges you might encounter when sharing a house with four other families. Several things probably spring to mind, like sharing a bathroom, preparing meals and finding personal space. Miriam Awad* knows firsthand how difficult it can be. She and many other Palestinian refugees living in informal communities in Lebanon are forced to be creative with their space.

When COVID-19 cases began spreading throughout Lebanon, these informal communities were identified as high-risk areas — it is impossible to be socially distanced in such tight

quarters. Miriam's husband and his brothers lost their jobs, leaving the five families without any income. All their remaining money went to buy food to keep everyone fed. Buying cleaning supplies to protect them from the virus would simply have to wait.

As inflation and high demand drove up prices of essential items, Miriam realized it would be a long time before they could buy soap or disinfectant. She had to make the remaining dish soap last. On a particularly bad day, she remembers washing the dishes with a single drop of soap.

A staff member, name withheld for security reasons, from MCC partner PARD prepares to distribute a kit filled with cleaning supplies. (MCC photo/Olivia Osley)

Eventually, she had no choice but to clean the house with only water. Miriam became anxious for her family's health. How long before someone got sick? The health awareness sessions she had attended could only help so much: knowledge cannot make hands clean without soap, she reflected.

One day, news of a COVID-19 hygiene kit distribution reached Miriam's house. She ran out the door to go sign up. Because of your gifts, MCC partner PARD could provide kits packed with soap, disinfectant, cleaning cloths and several other useful items to the families who needed them most. Miriam felt deeply relieved as she carried the items home. Now she could put what she'd learned into practice. She will need to replace the soap and cleaners eventually, but for now, you have lessened Miriam's anxiety and provided for her family's continued good health.

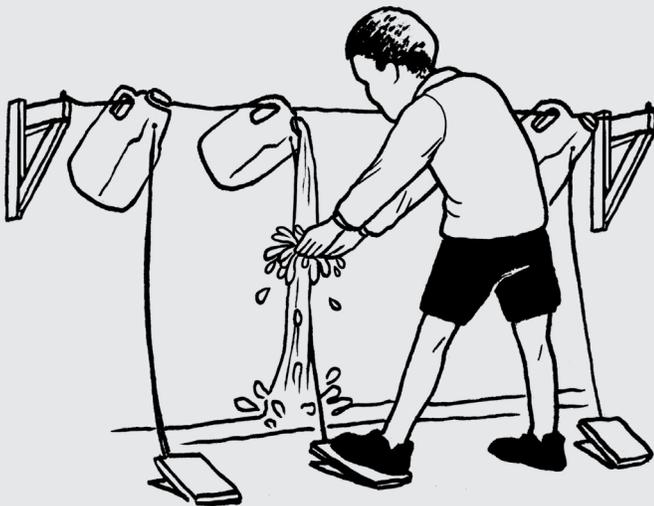
Partner profile

MCC partner PARD (Popular Aid for Relief and Development) was founded in 1985 by a group of volunteers with experience in medicine and social services. Much of their work is with Palestinian refugees, a group facing unique challenges due to their uncertain legal status in Lebanon.

MCC has partnered with PARD since 1996 to address both immediate needs after disasters and long-term needs such as high-quality education. PARD's current initiatives include educational activities for refugee children and food assistance for those affected by the explosion in Beirut in August 2020.

**Name changed for security reasons.*

How it works—tippy taps



(MCC illustration/Jonathan Dyck)

In communities where clean water is in short supply, creative solutions are needed to protect from disease. What is an efficient, inexpensive way to wash hands?

Enter a simple invention: tippy taps! By tapping on the foot pedal, the user can tip over the pail of water and wash their hands with no fuss and limited waste. Tippy taps can be found in both schools and households in places like Burundi and Uganda.



Zenebich Andamu, left, and Hirut Yakob share stories at a Meserete Kristos Church (MKC) peace training event about their experience in church and community leadership. (MCC photo/Rose Shenk)

“Wherever I go, I will tell people to live in peace instead of fighting with each other.”

The ripple effect of peacebuilding

Did you know that the largest Anabaptist conference in the world is located in Ethiopia? More than 1,110 congregations are part of the Meserete Kristos Church (MKC), whose name means “Christ is the foundation.” The church began with the first Mennonite missionaries who came to Ethiopia in the 1950s.

Through your support, MKC hosts peacebuilding sessions twice a year for youth and women’s ministry leaders and Sunday school teachers across Ethiopia. As the attendees return to their communities and share what they’ve learned, ripples of peace spread across the country.

Your impact looks different in each new setting it reaches. For one Sunday school class, the lessons their teacher Alemayehu brought back from the sessions touched them deeply. After hearing about building right relationships and showing love through action, the children decided to buy clothes for a classmate in need. The scene Alemayehu witnessed when the children offered their gifts was an emotional one, full of tears and thankful prayer.

For another attendee, the peacebuilding strategies she learned helped her resolve a conflict between three young men at her college. Mekedes Ashagre approached the fighting group and asked them to be wise and consider the consequences of their actions. Listening to her words cooled their tempers. After spending more time together, the young men came to see Mekedes as a mentor. She explains her role this way: “As a peace ambassador, wherever I go I will tell people to live in peace instead of fighting with each other.”

Thank you for building peace with us!

Hope in the midst of COVID-19

Your gifts at work:



24,936 households provided with locally purchased COVID-19 hygiene kits



1,899 health staff and volunteers provided with personal protective equipment in 14 countries



122,178 people received emergency food assistance



9,449 cans of meat distributed to communities in need in the U.S.



4,400 hygiene kits distributed to communities in need in Canada

(Numbers as of Dec. 1, 2020)

Your partnership has made the following possible:

12,073

people received psychological support or trauma counseling

48,065

people gained an improved water source

849,024

pounds of MCC canned meat provided protein and nutrients

(FY 19-20)



Meet George

Twenty-four-year-old George Sarkis remembers writing his university entrance exams as a teenager with the sounds of conflict erupting outside. George worried about how growing up against the backdrop of war would affect the children of Syria. While working full time as a dentist, George also serves as the program coordinator for MCC partner Child-Friendly Spaces. There, he and his team provide a safe environment for children to play and to heal from their trauma.

Learn more about your impact: mcc.org