



YOUR RELIEF IMPACT REPORT

Winter 2021



Thank you!

You are receiving this report because you are one of our most generous donors who give to relief projects. We want to share these stories with you to show you the real impact your gifts make around the world.

You are healing hearts affected by trauma

In Lebanon, your support has spoken straight to women who have experienced trauma. Yasmeen* is originally from Syria, but fled to Lebanon due to the conflict. Her daughter Maya* was severely burned when their house was destroyed by fire. The trauma these two experienced has a lasting impact.

Through your support, a program called “She Matters” helps women heal from past trauma, connect with peers, find solutions for current problems and learn new income-generating skills.

The program is run through local MCC partner LOST.

Yasmeen said the She Matters program has been profoundly helpful to her, in healing, becoming a better parent to her children and dealing with the many stresses of starting a new life in a different country.

As Maya sees her mom open up, she too begins to share. She says she would like to become a hairdresser when she grows up, so she can help other people who have lost their hair like she did. Her hope for the future

Yasmeen* holds daughter Maya* as they share their story with visiting MCC staff. (MCC photo/Evangeline Hammond)

“She Matters gives these women a very rare safe place to stop, listen, talk and realize they’re not alone.”

powerful impact. She explains that in the culture of the region, “Women are rarely given the space to talk and express themselves emotionally. Society assumes that working constantly is in a woman’s nature – that they don’t get stressed, or tired, or sad. She Matters gives these women a very rare safe space to stop, listen, talk and realize they’re not alone.”

is inspiring and speaks to the intergenerational benefits of trauma healing.

MCC staff member in Lebanon Farah Al Moussawi has seen firsthand this program’s significant and

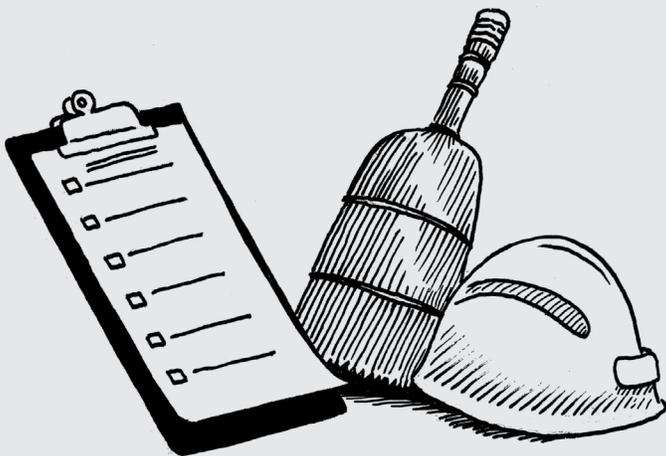
You are part of this important work to strengthen relationships and heal hearts affected by trauma. Thank you.

**Names changed for security reasons.*

Partner profile

MCC partner Lebanese Organization for Studies and Training (LOST) has over 20 years of experience working with Syrian refugees and other vulnerable communities in Lebanon. Their mission is to empower women and youth through education and livelihood projects. MCC has partnered with LOST since 2014 and a current initiative is a goat raising project.

Disaster response: Beirut explosion



(MCC illustration/Jonathan Dyck)

In the aftermath of a disaster, having people on the ground as soon as possible is crucial. Immediately after the explosion of ammonium nitrate in Beirut, Lebanon, on Aug. 4, 2020, MCC staff and partners helped with clean-up and spoke to people living near the port, assessing the extent of the damage and determining needs.

While it was difficult to wait to help, it became clear that short-term food distributions were well in hand from other organizations. Instead, our partners identified long-term food assistance and trauma healing as priorities. That way, when people ran out of emergency food and supplies, we would be ready to assist them.



Gilchen Michele Garrido Davalillo and her son Mathias Carrasco at a diaper training at the Quito Anabaptist Mennonite Christian Church. (MCC photo/Annalee Giesbrecht)

The church continues to step up and fill the gaps.

Giving a fresh start

Imagine tucking your children into bed and being uncertain if you could provide for their basic needs. For Gilchen Michele Garrido Davalillo, the challenges ahead were numerous. Would she be able to keep their bellies full? Buy them medicine if they fell ill? Keep them enrolled in school? All these things were becoming increasingly uncertain in her home country of Venezuela. The most basic needs of many citizens remained unmet as those in power failed to address medicine and food shortages. A political impasse between government and opposition groups only further contributed to the uncertainty.

On top of her worries for her little ones, Gilchen was expecting a new baby. Looking ahead to her delivery, she feared for herself and her newborn's safety. Venezuelan hospitals had become increasingly dangerous for expecting mothers, with sterile equipment in short supply. Laboring women were often turned away. Everything pointed to the need to move.

The first stop on their journey was a hospital in Colombia, where Gilchen gave birth to baby Mathias Carrasco. Newest family member in tow, they continued to Ecuador and settled in Quito, the nation's capital. There is a growing population of Venezuelans in Ecuador, but inconsistent government policies and a weak economy can make life difficult for refugees. Gilchen was unable to find a secure job to support herself and her family, leaving them without access to essentials.

Starting over from scratch is never easy. Thanks to you, Gilchen and her family received food, clothing and diapers for the new baby. Your gifts allow Anabaptist Mennonite Christian Church of Ecuador to serve refugees like Gilchen and help them get established. As newcomers from Venezuela and Colombia continue to arrive in Ecuador, government-run systems are overwhelmed. The church continues to step up and fill the gaps. Neighbors are taking notice and beginning to bring in donations. It is a testament to the power of relationships and community-led solutions. While it will take time for Gilchen to build up a life in Ecuador, with your support, she has a foundation on which to stand. Thank you for being part of this important work.

Relief highlights

Your partnership has made the following possible:

21,724

MCC relief kits were shipped

158,021

people received emergency food assistance

849,024

pounds of MCC canned meat provided protein and nutrients

(FY 19-20)

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)



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