

MARCH 2021

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# STRATEGIC RESPONSE PROGRESS REPORT

LOCATE VICTIMS BEIRUT

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Felipe Dana/Associated Press

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# MISSION

*Locate Victims Beirut's mission is to mobilize the power of virtual volunteers and the generosity of its donors.*

*Born of a desire to bring assistance and solace to those affected in the August Port explosions, we aspire to promote mutual understanding, cooperation and lasting peace amongst everyone.*

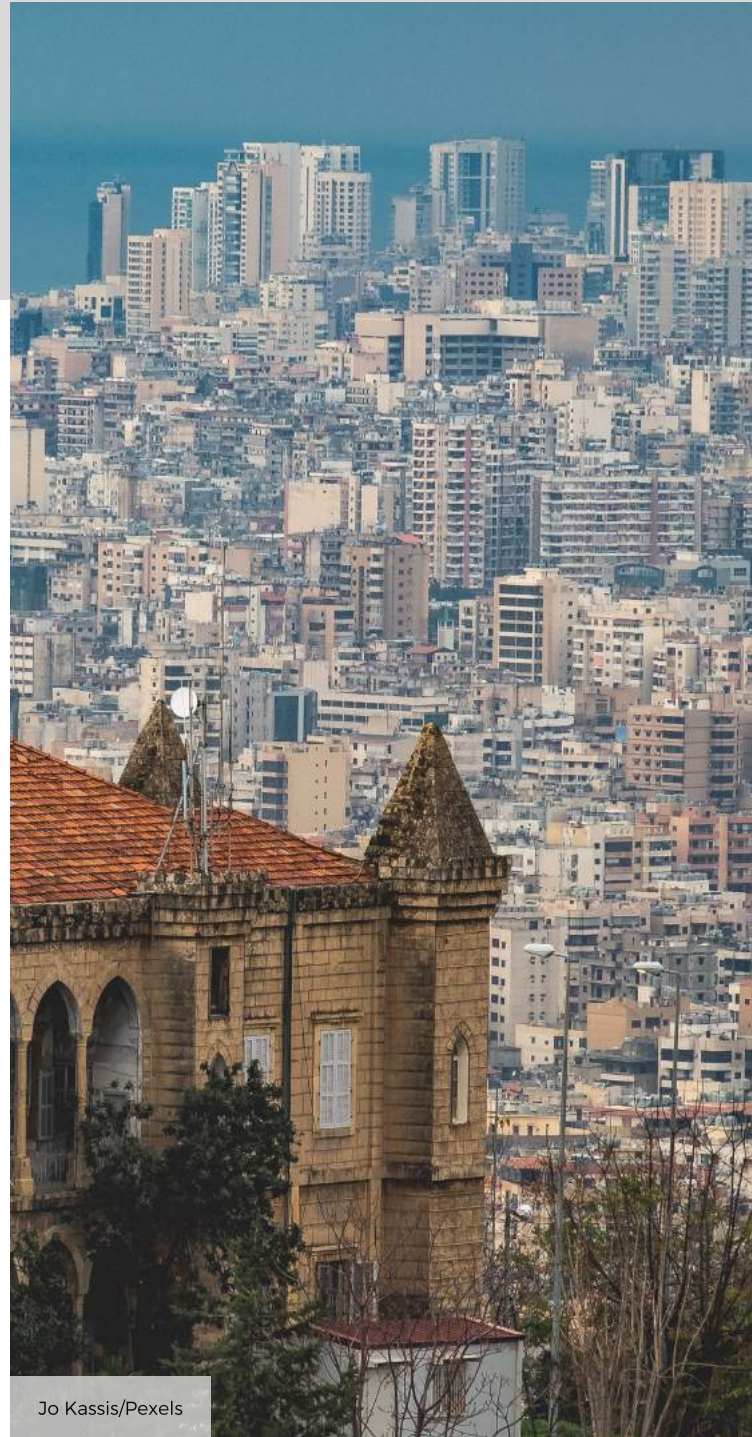
# A WORD FROM THE FOUNDERS

Locate Victims Beirut is a community youth-led initiative created to respond to the Aug 2020 Beirut port explosion. Born in Lebanon, led by the Lebanese youth, and collaborated upon by the youth from across the world, we at LVB have made it a priority to put the people affected by the blast first.

The same day, we led an immediate response to locate survivors and update families. Over the months, we have gone over various phases to alleviate pressures faced by the families of the affected.

Through this gradual shift, we have seen sorrow, remorse, and mourning but also endurance and perseverance - and that is how we know that Beirut shall rise again, stronger than ever.

We would like to dedicate our work to the community who has been our strongest supporter and our fiercest advocate. To Lebanon, our home, and to Beirut, our Phoenix.



*Zahraa Issa*

**ZAHRAA ISSA**

FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT

*Emma Sleiman*

**EMMA SLEIMAN**

CO-PRESIDENT AND  
FOUNDER OF WEBSITE

*Akshit Anchan*

**AKSHIT ANCHAN**

DIRECTOR AT LVB



Mohamed Azakir/Reuters

## ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

With the city still reeling from the explosion at the Beirut Port on August 4th, two young adults from around the world – unbeknownst to each other – initiated separate projects – Zahraa Issa, an Instagram account and Emma Sleiman, a website. With the goal being to reunite families and loved ones by locating the missing people and to help provide aid and support to those impacted, the founders decided to merge individual projects and formed Locate Victims Beirut.

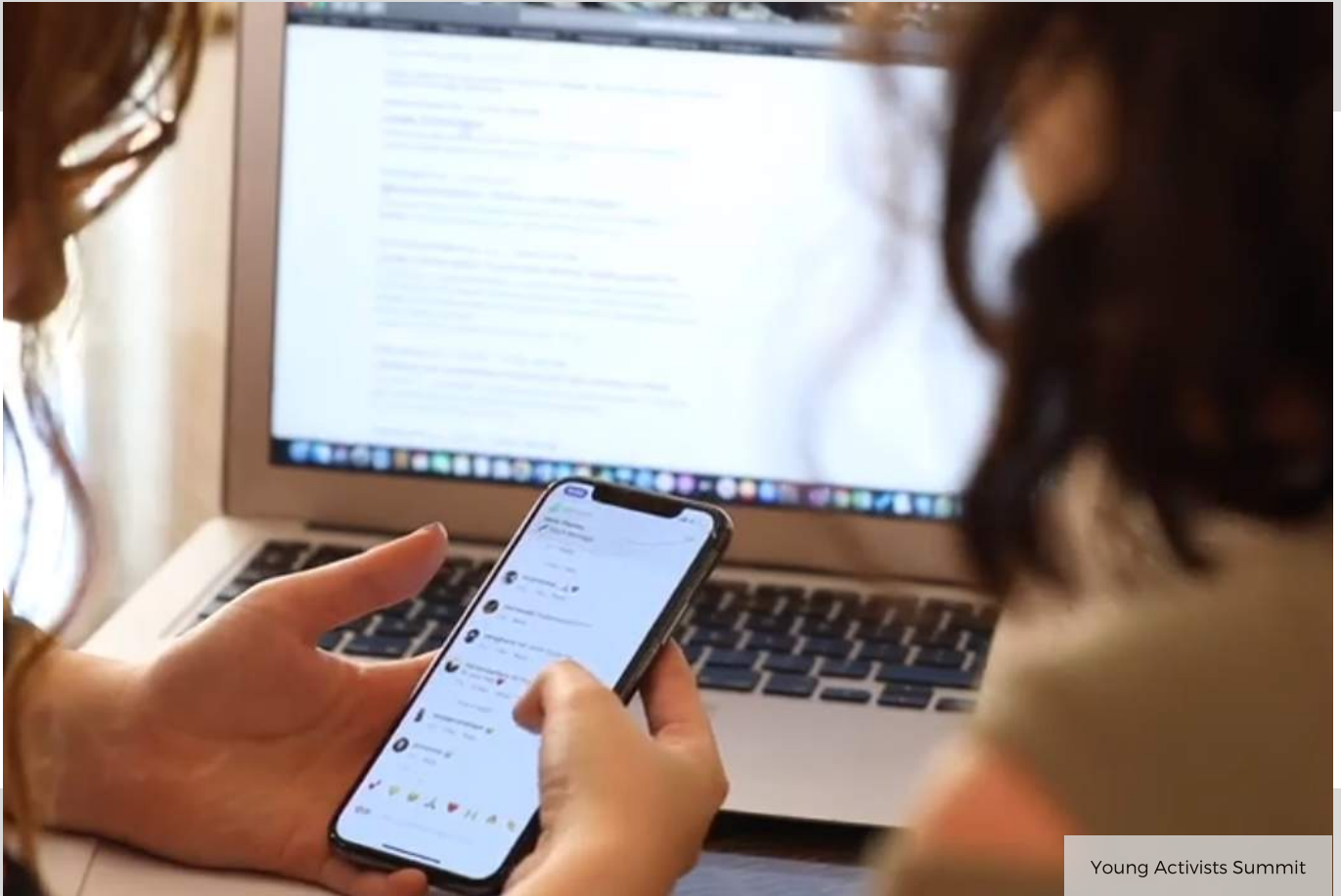
Owing to LVB's swift response, hospital staff (doctors and medical assistants),

first-responders, and relatives accessed their resources and were able to quickly identify and locate victims and survivors of the blast.

*"The process has been getting more structured and efficient, and there are people working on all fronts."*

The young founders – two of many involved in the project – say that they were motivated by their feelings of helplessness, as well as the lack of action by the government.

The organization wants to show the world that the new generation is capable of creating change, and that together they can rebuild Beirut.



Young Activists Summit

## THE LOCATE VICTIMS BEIRUT TEAM

A project such as this involved overseeing a lot of moving parts. This warranted a team of 12 people and 40+ volunteers based around the world.

At the forefront of the organization are its Founders, Zahraa Issa and Emma Sleiman. Then the Directors; Akshit Anchan (of Outreach and Web-IT Dev), Jason Paul Bouramia (of Data Analysis for Database), Elie Khoury & Halla Ahmad Daas & Mia Ready (of General Operations), Kinda Ghandour (of

Graphic Design), Tarek Ihab Labban (of Information and Accessibility), Joanna Chalhoub (of Social Media Operations), and Elissa Halaoui & Annabel Ezedine (of Social Media Public Relations).

We owe a great deal of thanks and regards to Mowafak Allaham (our Database Technical Expert), and Aya Mouallem & Tayma Abdalhadi (the heads of our Volunteer Team). We also a volunteer effort consisting of over 40 volunteers based all the world.

# PRIMARY IMPACT

Locate Victims Beirut is a non-partisan, independent organization run by youth from Lebanon and around the world.

Immediately upon launch, our goals were to locate survivors and victims in hospitals in Beirut, verify the veracity of facts as presented by the media and public, and to coordinate with on-ground emergency response units.

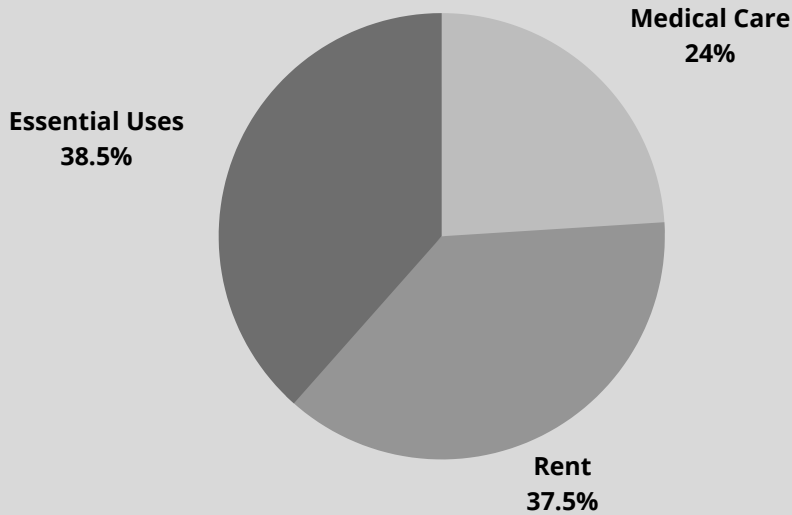
LVB began efforts by maintaining a uniform and coordinative Instagram & Website feed with details of missing people (vetted by a comprehensive background check). We relied on a highly-efficient system of data derived from the community, then screened and assessed by a combined effort of

the team and our volunteers, and finally distributed via social channels. As the situation was constantly evolving, statuses of each person was regularly updated around the clock.

Soon, a comprehensive database was established which would provide emergency data on each person. Personal data, besides names and pictures, were protected and cloaked to uphold privacy (unless requested otherwise by the relative) and our representatives relied updates to the families of the concerned.



Hussein Malla/Associated Press



## USE OF FUNDS RAISED

We immediately put the money raised to use. Precise numbers of this operation, including the exact value of donations and distributions has been detailed in the next page.

## CONTINUED SUPPORT

After the near completion of the preliminary phase of locating survivors and victims of the August 2020 Beirut Port explosions, the second phase of operations came into effect. Phase Two began with a fundraiser supported by international community. LVB has received a lot of praise for its efforts; however we owe everything to the strong support of the community.

Aid has been offered to the public in the form of rent, food provisions, medical care (medications and even hospitalization for critical patients), home renovations, and other essentials.

One remarkably successful scenario was that of Eleni, a migrant domestic worker who was severely impacted by the explosion. She lost consciousness, sustained significant head trauma and a leg injury. Her survival is quite the miracle. However, she lost everything; the ability to carry out any physical activity (i.e. work), all her life savings and belongings. With the support of LVB, she was admitted into a local rehab center in Beirut. She's now back on her feet in her home in Ethiopia, having started a successful business. Such is the impact that we wish to make in a person's life.



# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Below is a comprehensive table that details the usage of funds obtained. We would like to express our thanks to the community, who has been the centerstone of the support we have received. Furthermore, we would like

to thank the **Young Activists Summit**, a dev.tv x UN Initiative, **Sisley Paris**, and the **Act Now Youth Network** by the Innovation in Politics Institute, both of whom have made incredibly generous donations to the cause.

Description of Fund Usage	Amount in Leb Pounds
Medications	LBP 1,700,000
Medications	LBP 386,000
Hospital Fee	LBP 613,000
Hospital Fee	LBP 2,700,018
Pharmacy Payment	LBP 359,523
Pharmacy Payment	LBP 30,327
Pharmacy Payment	LBP 205,576
Pharmacy Payment	LBP 52,915
Rent	LBP 2,225,000
Rent	LBP 1,945,000
Rent	LBP 2,025,000
Rent	LBP 1,825,000
Rent	LBP 2,025,000
Home Renovations	LBP 2,025,000
Home Renovations	LBP 261,000
Home Renovations	LBP 261,000
Money to be Donated (Intended for home renovations which have already begun. Currently being transferred & is an estimate based on the current rate of the Lebanese Pound (against the American Dollar) as of 02/03/2021)	LBP 18,000,000
Food Provision	LBP 515,000
Food Provision	LBP 413,000
Food Provision	LBP 157,000
Food Provision	LBP 157,000
Food Provision	LBP 157,000
Food Provision	LBP 157,000
Food Provision	LBP 157,000
Food Provision	LBP 211,000
Food Provision	LBP 211,000
Essential Needs	LBP 2,112,659
Essential Needs	LBP 1,015,000
Essential Needs	LBP 1,518,000
Families' Essential Needs	LBP 1,920,000