

On Wednesday the 27th of November at 4:00 am local time, a cease-fire agreement between Israel and Lebanon came into effect. At 4:10 am local time, hundreds of people were in their cars heading home. Their cars were loaded with their families and whatever bedding and clothing they had been given. They did not care about the condition of their houses and buildings, they just wanted to go home. Many shouted out of their cars as they moved, that they would live in tents set up over the rubble of their homes until their homes were fixed.

The Euphoria witnessed, cannot be described.



Slowly but surely beautiful Lebanon was being destroyed.

Villages, towns cities, and heritage sites many of which go back to the bronze age and the Roman Empire days were being targeted and systematically demolished.



The Sun (2024). Smoke rises from the site of an Israeli airstrike that targeted the southern Lebanese village of Khatim on October 24, 2024, amid the ongoing war between Israel and Hezbollah. (Photograph). <https://thesun.my/world-news/hezbollah-says-clashing-with-israeli-troops-in-lebanon-border-village-0K1192199>

The Lebanese television stations as well as the radio stations with their superb and daring crews of correspondents, photographers, and videographers relayed on the hour the ongoing occurrences on the ground, showing the precise locations, explosions, demolished buildings, and rescue squads of Red Cross, Red Crescent, and Civil defense removing bodies from under the rubble. They also showed rescue workers targeted with missiles and killed.



Getty Images (2024). (Photograph). Retrieved from <https://www.gettyimages.com/photos/lebanon-war-troops>

The Israeli attacks first began by targeting the southern border of Lebanon destroying nearly all villages, olive groves, and cultivated fields while killing and injuring thousands forcing the rest to flee.

After multiple wars with Israel, most of the towns along the border in the Shiite-majority south became supportive of Hezbollah, which slowly gained control of nearly all of the villages. But the region also includes towns with sizable Christian, Druze, and Sunni Muslim populations, where Hezbollah has less influence.

The air attacks then expanded to other areas of the country as they moved up the southern coastline destroying all villages' land leading to the historic city of Tyre, where they destroyed much of its heritage sites and beautiful sandy beaches. The attacks did not stop there but continued with intense killing and destruction.

At the same time, the daily relentless and brutal air attacks that had started a while ago on the southern suburb of Beirut had expanded with incredible military force to different areas of the city. A central part of Beirut which is heavily populated had now been brutally hit and hundreds were killed inside their homes as their buildings crumbled.



By Kippar, M. (2006). Hours after issuing evacuation orders, Israel took aim at Tyre, an ancient port city in Lebanon, in the military's ongoing campaign against Hezbollah (Photograph). The New York Times. <https://www.nytimes.com/2006/08/07/middleeast/07tyre.html>



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The sounds of the air strikes and falling missile explosions were heard throughout the night with red clouds of smoke illuminating the night skies. Buildings collapsed in groups, burying people under the rubble. Some could be saved, although injured, and many were killed. A large number of the wounded may never recover. In the beginning, people were given about an hour to evacuate their houses, as if an hour was sufficient to pack up their entire lives, but even that diminished as the warning time to flee became shorter each night.

The airstrikes and destruction had spread to more than 50 locations in East Lebanon across the fertile Beka'a valley. A large number of villages were targeted killing people in their homes and scaring the rest into leaving.



As the air strikes came closer to the historic city of Ba'alback, with its famous Roman temple, everybody worried and prayed for its safety. This is a landmark site that can never be fixed or replaced. It is a temple where a stage was set up for very famous classic plays to be performed by famous actors and attended by famous people.



Lebanon Times, 02/03/2024 BREAKING: Israel started bombing the ancient city of Baalbek home to nearly 200,000 residents. (Photo: Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/lebanontimes020302024/>)



Big Baalbek, 02/04, November 8). From Inside the historic Palmyra Hotel in Baalbek (Photograph). Instagram Credit: @habib.h. <https://www.instagram.com/habib.h.02042024/>

However, as everyone worried and prayed that the air strikes would spare this wonderful site, another famous adjoining site was hit and completely demolished. It is a very old and famous Palmyra hotel. Hundreds of celebrities, actors, and guests stayed there and had their photographs decorating the walls. Many felt very strongly that part of history had been erased forever.

## UPDATES ON THE TYRE FARM

Walid Miri'i director of the Tyre farm, whose home is in the Palestinian camp adjacent to the farm, had fled in fear along with a large number of his neighbors when their camp was hit. But his concern for the farm increased daily pushing him to defy the falling missiles and airstrikes to go check on the farm. He was greatly relieved to see that the chickens had survived on the feed he had left them and the bees were fine but had lost one of their queens. He watered the vegetables that he and his students had planted and saw that the avocados, oranges, and lemons were ripe and ready to be picked. So he decided that he would defy the danger of going to the farm for short intervals to keep it alive.

Then the cease-fire news was announced which saw him gathering his family and returning home in the camp.



## UPDATES ON SABRA CENTER

Hundreds of residents including some of our teachers had fled the Sabra and Shatila camp area after the shrapnel from rockets of successive air strikes on nearby areas had fallen upon them. But our teachers and parents were anxious not to lose the year. And so the Center bravely resumed the different programs. A hybrid learning model which was started during the Corona days was revived with in-person classes for students who could come and remote learning for those who couldn't. However, the cease-fire saw all happy to be in their classrooms.



## UPDATES ON SAIDA CENTER

Despite the fear of more airstrikes that destroyed nearby buildings and killed hundreds of people, the Center stayed open. The program run in this center is for Syrian students who follow the Syrian curriculum and who must work to graduate this year. They had the option of attending in person or following the classes online. However they do it, they must be ready by the end of the year to travel to Syria to take their final exams there. Seventy of these students had to sit for a special qualifying exam in Syria before being allowed to continue their studies.



For this, they needed to travel to Syria, which could be dangerous in these times. A bus took them to the borders where they left the bus and had to climb down and up 2 huge trenches caused by the Israeli missiles to cross into Syria. Thankfully, they are now back to continuing their studies in their classrooms.



## UPDATES ON DBAYEH LIBRARY

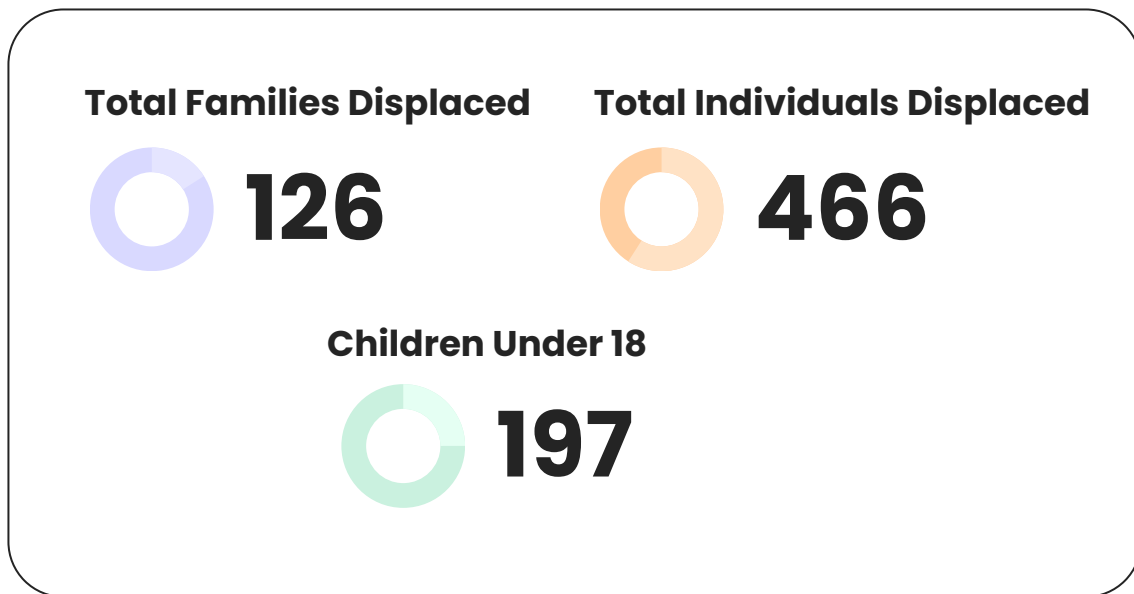
This camp continues to host families who took refuge in the camp and around it. They received clothes, mattresses, blankets, pillows, and towels in addition to being served sandwiches in the morning and hot meals at noon. An entrepreneurship training program for starting your own business was set up to encourage those interested to think about income-generating projects for the future. For example, we started the simple project of baking bread on a device known as SAJ. The flatbread being produced with different kinds of toppings added is now being distributed. In the future, anyone who was taught can profit from such a project.

The displaced children were not neglected as they received remedial classes in essential subjects so as not to miss the scholastic year. They also were included in all the recreational activities offered in the camp to integrate them with the rest of the children and make them feel safe.

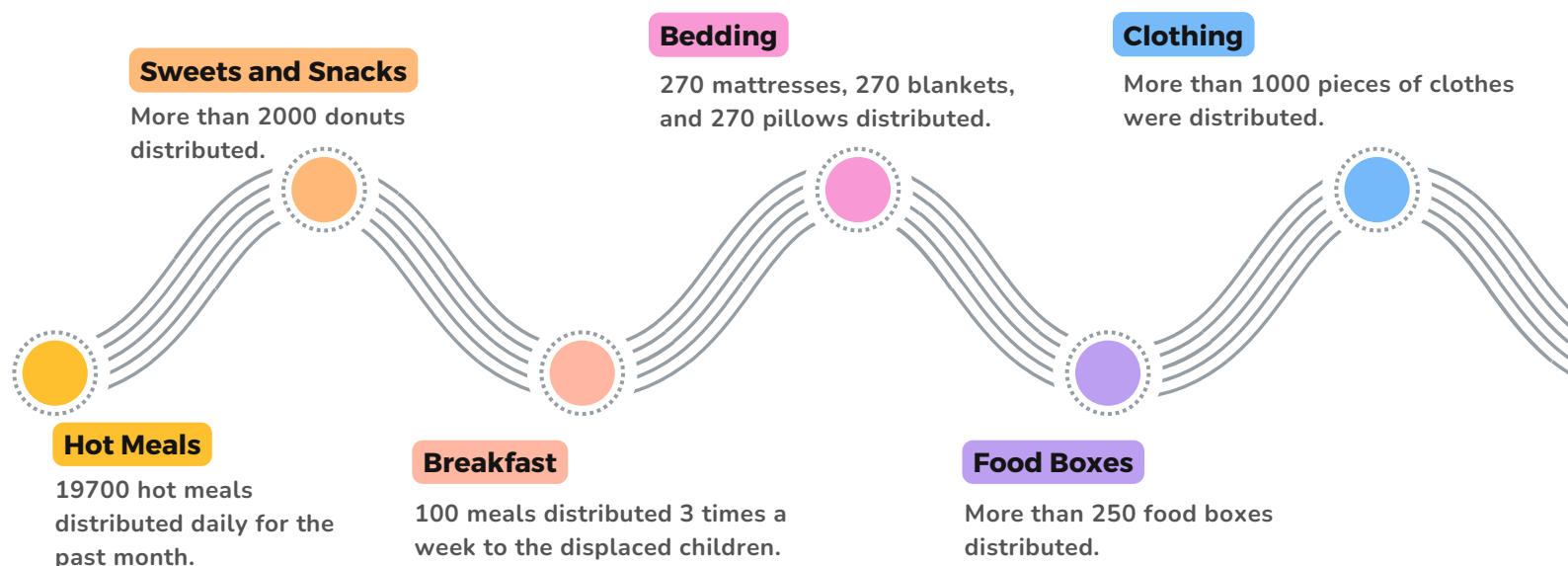
Many families have checked on their homes and can't wait to head home.



# Displaced Population in Dbayeh Center:



# Intervention details in Dbayeh Center:



**Support is still needed and will be greatly appreciated.**