

# EBF 2021 Appeal 1: Hope for LEBANON

## Context

Lebanon is in a state of unprecedented social upheaval. A catastrophic economic collapse, coupled with the adverse impact of COVID-19, has propelled people and institutions across the country into a desperate state of survival. No sphere of society has been left unaffected, including the education sector.

## The case of the Beirut Baptist School (BBS)

BBS is an important ministry of the Lebanese Society for Educational and Social Development (LSESD). For the past 10 years it has been an income-generating ministry but this is no longer the case. In the past two years, the dollar value of BBS's income (Lebanese Lira-based tuition) has decreased fourteen-fold.

According to the United Nations report, the multidimensional poverty rate in Lebanon has nearly doubled from 42% in 2019, to 82% in 2021. For many the education of their children has become a luxury they no longer can afford. Hence, increasing fees is not yet possible at this stage particularly since most parents are already struggling to survive on lira-based salaries.

## Continuing the Mission: a lighthouse in the heart of Beirut

BBS is more than a school — it is a lighthouse to its community. As an inclusive Christian school with a majority non-Christian student body (92% non-Christian), the school not only provides excellent education but serves as a source of hope and Christian witness to its entire community. BBS shares the love of Christ with the entire surrounding neighborhood, including around 1,220 students and their families.

## Help to sustain the BBS that is sharing hope amidst crisis

You can do this by donating for

### 1. Student Tuition Subsidies

With unemployment and poverty rates rising many families are unable to cover the full tuition costs for their children. Yet BBS remains committed

to serving students from all socioeconomic levels and backgrounds. A gift toward financial aid/tuition subsidies would directly help students, their families, and the school by 1) allowing students to remain in school while 2) reducing financial stress of families, which also 3) ensures that the school is able to pay operational costs, including teacher and staff salaries.

- **BBS has around 1,220 students and the required support for one student for one school year is around US\$400 (~350 Euros).**

### 2. Teacher/Staff Salaries

BBS's excellence is due, in large part, to its 170 quality teachers and staff. Yet after a year of stress and fatigue, with Lira-based salaries that continue to diminish, many teachers/staff are finding it difficult to cope and several teachers have left the country. For reference, a teacher salary of 2,411,000 LL at BBS used to be equivalent to \$1,600/month; today it is worth \$115/month. Yet a school cannot succeed without a strong base of teachers.

- **Monthly support of US\$200 (~175 Euros) would help one BBS teacher/staff to stay in the country and continue working at BBS.**

**We appeal to our EBF member Unions to support the BBS, that in the name of Christ is ministering to children and their families in Lebanon, torn apart by many catastrophes.**



### **EBF BANK DETAILS**

**Beneficiary:** European Baptist Federation  
**Address:** Postjesweg 150, 1061 AX Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
**Bank Name:** Spar- und Kreditbank Evangelisch-Freikirchlicher Gemeinden eG  
**IBAN:** DE64 5009 2100 0000 1717 00  
**BIC / SWIFT:** GENODE51BH2  
**Purpose:** Hope for Lebanon