

WHEN WAR REACHED OUR DOORS WE KEPT THEM OPEN

WAR RESPONSE · IMPACT UPDATE · 2026

March 1 – August 31, 2026

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01 Again at War, a repeating scene

War does not create new vulnerabilities so much as deepen the ones already there, for the displaced, the elderly, and people with disabilities most of all.



For the second time in less than three years, Lebanon found itself caught in the midst of war.

Just as families, communities, and institutions were beginning to rebuild their lives and find their footing after years of economic collapse, political instability, and previous conflicts, another devastating escalation shattered what little sense of normalcy had begun to return. Homes were abandoned overnight, schools and businesses closed, and hundreds of thousands of people were once again forced to flee in search of safety. As the conflict continues, families across the country are still living with uncertainty, loss, and displacement.

For many, this was not the beginning of a crisis, but another chapter in a long series of hardships. As needs continue to grow and change across the country, access to shelter, healthcare, food, and essential services remains increasingly difficult, leaving countless families struggling to meet even their most basic needs.

This report captures arcenciel's response so far. Beyond the numbers and activities, it reflects the experiences of the people we serve, the dedication of our staff and volunteers, and the support of our partners and donors. As the situation continues to evolve, so does our response.

A Word from our Director

Despite the uncertainty and challenges we continue to face in our own lives, the arcenciel team shows up every single day to stand by the people of Lebanon.

To our partners and donors around the world, thank you for continuing to place your trust in arcenciel during one of Lebanon's most difficult chapters. Your support allows us to keep responding, adapting, and reaching people as needs continue to emerge.

rana el asmar



02 The crisis in numbers

The scale of an ongoing crisis

Displacement at the Height of the Crisis

1M+

displaced people

139.6K+

IDPs in collective shelters

682

collective
shelters opened

178

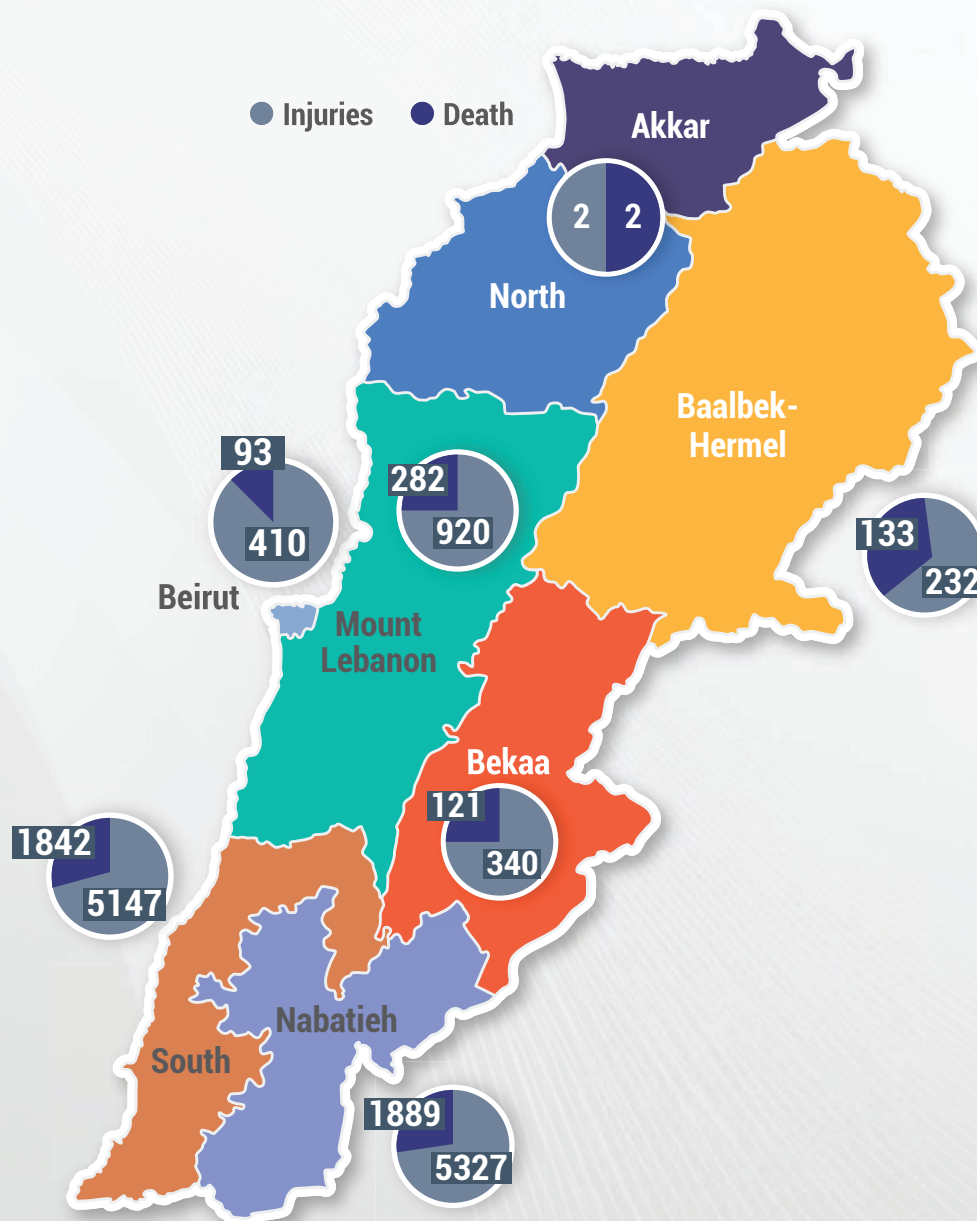
shelters
open today

Where displaced families sought shelter

Outside shelters · 86.7%

In shelters · 13.3%

The Human Toll - Till August 31st



Deaths (dark) / injuries (light) by governorate
Casualties recorded as of August 31, 2026

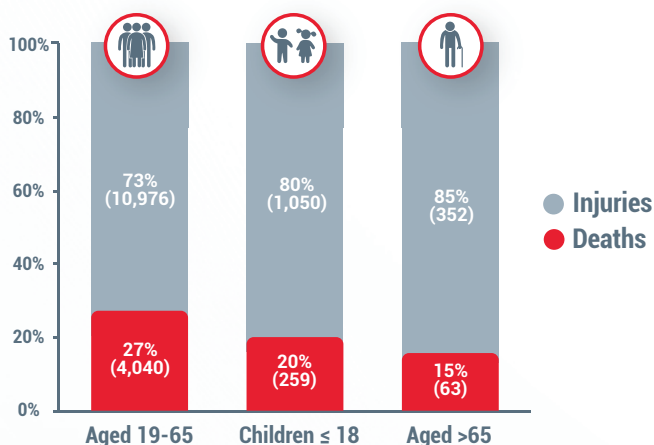
02 The crisis in numbers

The scale of an ongoing crisis

Governorate	Deaths	Injuries
Nabatieh	1,889	5,327
South	1,842	5,147
North	282	920
Baalbek-Hermel	133	232
Bekaa	121	340
Beirut / Mount Lebanon	93	410
Akkar	2	2

Who the casualties are

Casualties recorded to date



16,740 casualties recorded to date = **12,378** injuries + **4,362** deaths

The Health Care Sector Remains Under Attack



17

Hospitals
Damaged



3

Hospitals
Closed



180

Attacks on EMS



184

Ambulances
& Vehicles
damaged



135

Health workers & Responders killed

130 EMS · 5 hospital staff



416

Health workers & Responders injured

269 EMS · 147 hospital staff

Source: Republic of Lebanon Ministry of Public Health — Public Health Emergency Operation Center, 2 March – 31 August 2026

03 arcenciel's Impact snapshot

An ongoing crisis. An ongoing response. The headline numbers, March 1 – August 31, 2026

SERVICES DELIVERED

181K

Services delivered across Lebanon from March 1 to August 31, 2026, from hot meals and hygiene kits to wheelchairs, medical beds and physiotherapy.

PEOPLE SERVED

20K+

Estimated total reach of Displaced and war-affected people reached with direct services so far.

Every service provided can extend beyond one individual, supporting families, caregivers and others around them. The true number of people impacted by the response is far greater than those directly served.



arcenciel's Ecolodge in Taanayel temporarily shifted from its tourism activities to welcome and accommodate families displaced by the war.

Some of the numbers behind our response



30K

Hot Meals Served



6,591

Medications and Medical Materials Provided



1,136

Hygiene Kits Distributed



1,565

Therapy Sessions



20K

Clothing Items Distributed



121K

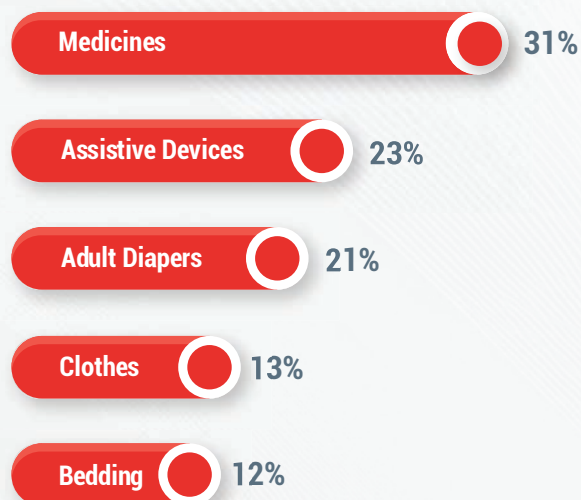
Incontinence Products

Figures reflect services delivered between March 1 and August 31, 2026. arcenciel's response remains ongoing.

04 What families told us

More than 3,000 household needs assessments conducted between March 1 and August 31, 2026.
What families tell us continues to shape where and how we respond.

Share of the Top 5 Reported Needs



61% of households count 3–5 members;
33% count 6 or more

55% of assessed households are
internally displaced

3 needs per household on average,
families rarely lack just one thing

Key finding, the invisible need.

Diapers are rarely the first thing that comes to mind in an emergency, yet our assessments revealed nearly 2,000 requests, with 61% for adults. This often-overlooked need highlights the daily realities faced by older adults and persons with disabilities during displacement.

05 Emergency Relief

Meeting essential needs as the emergency continues: Food & Clothing

This Wouldn't Be Possible Without

cuisine
d'arcenciel 



30K

meals served so far, making food assistance one of the largest parts of our response.

Cuisine d'arcenciel was launched just before the war and was still finding its place when the conflict began. Overnight, our inclusive social kitchen shifted from preparing for its opening to preparing hot meals for displaced families and people seeking refuge in shelters. What began as an inclusive community kitchen quickly became a lifeline for thousands of people affected by the war. As the emergency continues to evolve, so does the response. The team continues reaching vulnerable families across Lebanon, including persons with disabilities and others struggling to access a daily meal. The destination may change, but the purpose remains the same: making sure that, even on the hardest days, someone can still receive a warm meal. As needs continue to evolve, Cuisine d'arcenciel remains ready to serve wherever it can make the greatest difference.



This Wouldn't Be Possible Without



As families continue to face displacement and financial hardship, clothing remains an important part of our emergency response. Through arcenciel's La Boutique, donated clothing is sorted, repaired when needed, and given a second life in the hands of people who need it.

Across Lebanon, families are able to choose clothing that meets their needs and begin rebuilding some of what was left behind. What one family no longer needs can become something another family relies on, a simple exchange of support, from people to people.



20K

essential clothing items distributed so far to people who lost or left belongings behind

05 Emergency Relief

Ensuring No Basic Need Went Unmet: Hygiene & Personal Care



1,136

Hygiene kits distributed providing the basics families had to leave behind.

When families had to leave their homes in a hurry, many everyday essentials were left behind. Hygiene kits provided the basics, soap, shampoo, toothbrushes and other personal care items, helping families take care of themselves while away from home.



121K

Incontinence products provided to people who relied on them every day.

For many people, incontinence products aren't optional; they're part of everyday life. Displacement has made them harder to find and afford, so making sure people continue to have access to them remains an important part of our response.

Spotlight: An Everyday Need

Diapers became harder to access during displacement.



112K

packs of diapers provided

Diaper Requests

TOTAL REQUESTS

39%

Baby Diapers

61%

Adult Diapers

61K baby diapers delivered . 51K adult diapers delivered

More than half of all diaper requests were for adults, revealing an essential need that can easily be overlooked during an emergency.



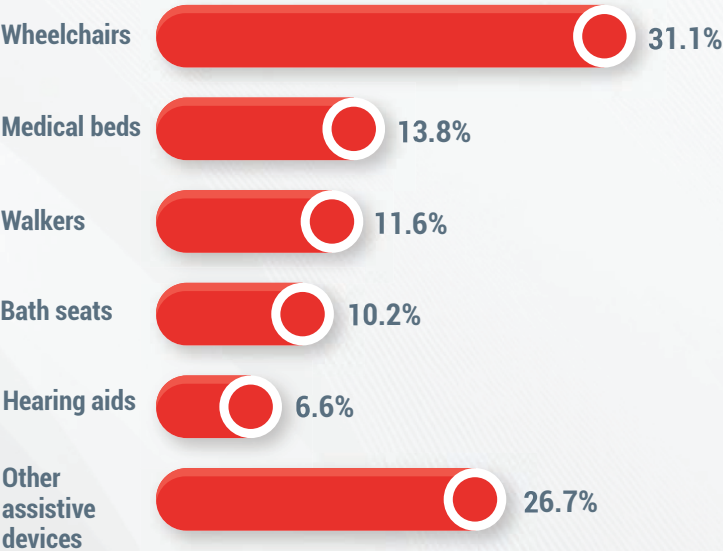
06 Disability in Displacement

Restoring Independence: When assistive devices are left behind, independence can be too. This is where arcenciel's years of expertise continue to matter most

61%

of assessed households include at least one person with a disability nearly six in ten of the families reached through our needs assessments.

Top 5 Assistive Devices Requested



854
Assistive Devices
Delivered So Far

Assistive devices were the second most reported need. For persons with disabilities, leaving home can also mean leaving behind a wheelchair, hearing aid, medical bed or other equipment they rely on every day. Replacing these devices can mean regaining the ability to move, communicate and live more independently during displacement.



06 Stories of Disability in Displacement

Four stories that show what restoring independence can look like in displacement



When Mohsen contacted us, his wheelchair was badly damaged, making it difficult for him to move around independently. Our team repaired and restored it, allowing him to get back to his daily life.

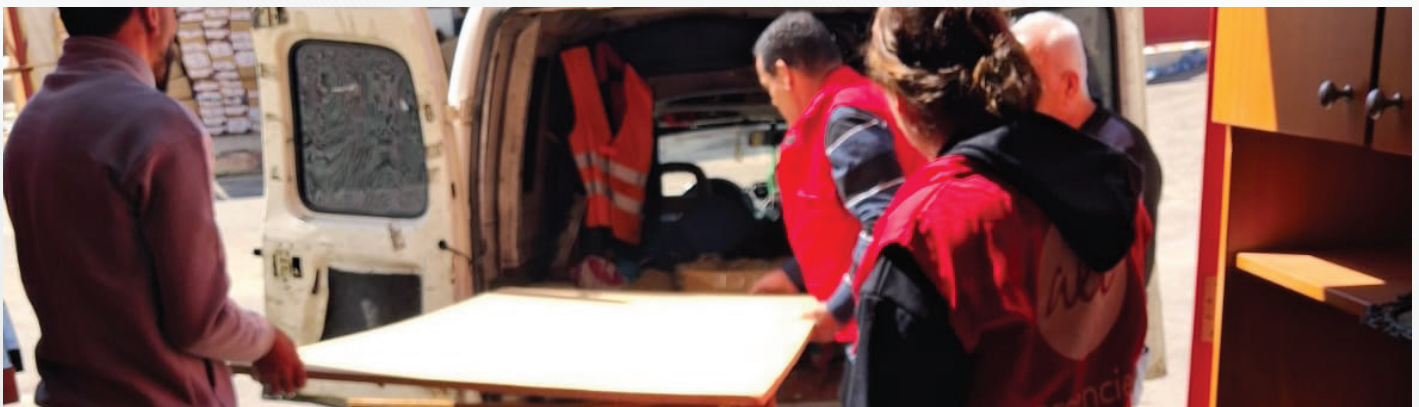
Not long after, he returned to the center. This time, he came on his own, using the wheelchair we had repaired, simply to thank the team. Sometimes, the impact of a repair is best seen in what someone is able to do again.



When 7-year-old Abbas and his family were forced to evacuate, they had to leave his wheelchair behind. At the shelter, he relied on a stroller that kept him mostly in a lying position, making it difficult to see, play, or interact with the children around him.

arcenciel provided Abbas with a wheelchair adapted to his needs, giving him a safer and more comfortable position.

For Abbas, sitting up meant more than comfort. It meant seeing what was happening around him, interacting with other children, and being part of life around him, even if, for the time being, that life was inside a shelter.



When Malak was forced to leave her home in South Lebanon, she evacuated without her wheelchair and moved in with relatives in Beirut.

As a wheelchair user, adjusting to a home that was not accessible made an already difficult displacement even harder. arcenciel provided her with a wheelchair fitted to her needs and a bath seat to make daily life in her temporary home safer and easier.

For Malak, this support meant regaining some of the independence she had lost when she was forced to leave home.



When 4-year-old Zeinab was displaced with her family, she arrived at arcenciel with poor posture that required attention. Following an assessment by our health team, she received a custom wooden seating support adapted to her needs. But our support didn't stop there.

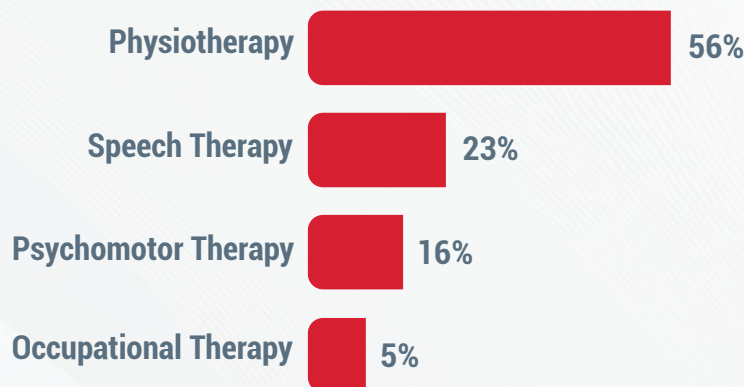
With Zeinab preparing to start school the following year, the team also referred her to an inclusive school where she could learn, participate, and grow in an accessible environment. What started with an immediate physical need became a step toward her future.

07 Rehabilitation in Displacement

For many, the war interrupted more than daily life; it interrupted their recovery. Our rehabilitation teams continue to make sure care does not stop because of displacement

Therapy Needs

18% of assessed households report an ongoing need for therapy.



1,565

Therapy Sessions
delivered so far
(including physiotherapy,
psychomotor therapy, etc.)

Recovery doesn't stop because of a crisis.

For children, older adults, and persons with disabilities, missing therapy can mean losing progress that took months or years to achieve. Keeping these services available throughout the emergency helps people preserve their mobility and independence.

When Marwa and her family were forced to leave their village in the Bekaa, they had to leave all her assistive devices behind. With quadriplegia and movement limited to her right index finger, these were essential to her daily life. Returning for them was no longer an option, their home had been completely destroyed.

Her needs went beyond replacing a single device. arcenciel provided Marwa with a medical bed and air mattress for safe positioning and pressure sore prevention, as well as a wheelchair adapted to her needs. Diapers and medication were also provided, easing some of the recurring costs her family was facing during displacement.

From mobility and positioning to medication and everyday care, supporting Marwa meant looking at what she needed as a whole, not just replacing what the war had taken away.



08 A Space to be Children Again

Psychosocial support provided by arcenciel's social circus, Cirquenciel

War continues to disrupt children's routines. Schools close, families leave their homes, and shelters become their new surroundings.

Through Cirquenciel, circus and play continue to create a space where, for a little while, children can move, laugh, express themselves and simply be children again.



101

Youth entertainment sessions
& shows delivered so far



1,254

Children reached so far

A space to be children again

Two siblings from Nabatieh arrived at a displacement shelter after being forced to leave their home and village. During the war, they also lost their father in an airstrike. Amid the grief and uncertainty around them, they began joining Cirquenciel's social circus sessions. For a little while, their days became about something else: playing, moving, learning new activities and spending time with other children. Circus could not change what they had been through. But it could give them moments where the war was not at the center of everything.



Helping a child find his confidence

War was already part of this child's story. Injured during the 2024 war, he was displaced again with his family during the 2026 war, bringing back much of the fear and stress he had experienced before.

Through Cirquenciel's social circus sessions, he found a space to play, learn new skills and connect with other children. Little by little, the team saw his confidence return. He became proud of what he could do and, in a time when so much was beyond his control, found something that was his to achieve.

09 Stories from the Response

Some of the people and stories behind the numbers

"The Impact You Can't Measure"



Theresa Saade
Social Unit

At first, H.C.'s needs seemed straightforward. An elderly man displaced by the war, he was sleeping on the floor of a collective shelter and living with chronic back pain. We came to provide him with a bed and a lumbar support belt. But as we sat together, he shared a story that none of us expected.

In 2006, H.C. was in Canada, completing the paperwork to bring his family to join him and begin a new life. Before they could leave, a missile struck their apartment in Dahieh, killing his wife and four sons. He returned to Lebanon not to welcome them, but to bury them, and chose to remain close to where they now rest.

After a long pause, he quietly told us:

"Since that day, I haven't really been alive. But something comes back to life in me when people come to help me, seeing them try to make life easier, seeing them care, and I enjoy sitting with anyone just to talk and have some company."

The bed and the support belt eased his physical pain. But what stayed with him most wasn't what we brought, it was the time we spent with him. Sometimes the most important thing we bring is our presence, the willingness to hear a story, to sit in someone's grief with them, and not look away. Personally, he reminded me to hold onto every moment I have with my family. He gave me as much as we gave him, maybe even more.

"Redefining Who Needs Support"



Rabih Alam
Social Unit

B.M. arrived at the shelter just days before giving birth. Displaced and preparing for a cesarean section, she had nothing ready for her baby. She didn't have maternity clothes, no diapers, nothing to wrap her newborn in. Like everyone else in the shelter, she was sleeping on a mattress on the floor, knowing she would soon have to recover from surgery there too.

So we brought her a real bed, soft pajamas for after the operation, diapers, and clothes for her baby. Just enough to let her heal, and to hold her child without worrying about everything she was missing.

Her story opened our eyes to something we hadn't noticed before. Women recovering from cesareans, and others healing after surgery, need a proper bed, but since they're not considered persons with disabilities, they don't qualify for a medical one. So they end up sleeping on the floor, right when their bodies need rest the most.

Her story opened our eyes to a gap we had not considered before. Since then, our approach has expanded to include regular beds for pregnant women and post-surgical cases in the shelters we support, an adaptation that continues to shape how we respond to needs that might otherwise be overlooked.

09 Stories from the Response

Some of the people and stories behind the numbers

"More from the field"



Nadia R.

La Boutique Social

After the economic crisis and the war, I started thinking twice before spending on anything. Buying clothes became something I kept putting off, even when I needed them, because there was always something more urgent to pay for.

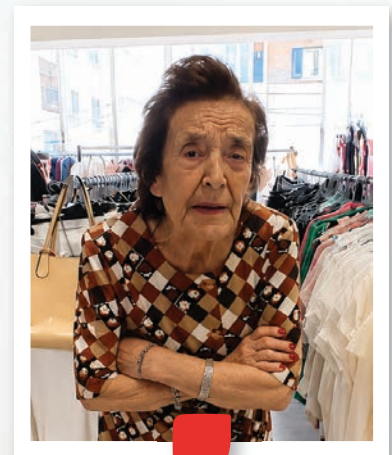
At arcenciel's boutique, I can find clothes I like at prices I can afford. That may sound simple, but it means a lot to me. Being able to choose what I wear helps me feel comfortable, confident, and more like myself again.

At a time when so much in my life has changed, the boutique has given me back a small but meaningful sense of stability, and joy.

During the war, many people around me were struggling to cover even their most basic needs. Clothes became difficult to replace, and some of my neighbors could not always reach the boutique themselves.

The employees at arcenciel's boutique welcomed me with patience and care. She helped repair some of my old clothes and gave them a second life instead of letting them go to waste. I also began choosing affordable pieces for neighbors who needed them.

In such a difficult time, these small acts meant a lot. The boutique helped us make the most of what we had, support one another, and hold on to a sense of who we truly are regardless of the difficulty of the situation.



Marie H.

La Boutique Social

As the war continues, we are seeing La Boutique become much more than a place for clothing. People come to us with donations, our team sorts and repairs what can be used, and our sewing workshop makes what families are missing, from bedsheets to pillows. These items then find their way into the hands of people who need them. It really feels like support moving from one person to another, and La Boutique is simply the link between them.



Feyrouz Hatoum

Head of La Boutique Social

10 Thank you to our Supporters

arcenciel's war response is made possible by the partners and donors who stood with us.

Projects with the following partners are already underway:



Our Response Continues to Grow

New projects have recently started with:



For Partnership and Funding Inquiries

✉ GP@arcenciel.org

**Thank you for standing with arcenciel
as we stand with the people of Lebanon**

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