



Communication on Engagement (COE) to the UN Global Compact

Period Covered: January 2022 - December 2023

Who are we?

The Lebanese Food Bank (LFB) is steadfast in its mission to narrow the malnourishment gap in Lebanon, championing inclusivity and equality without regard to religion, age, political affiliation, or race. In addition to this vital work, LFB is dedicated to raising awareness about food waste and promoting efficient management of food resources. Proudly affiliated with the Regional Food Banking Network in Dubai, which is an integral part of the Global Food Banking Network.

The LFB is governed by individuals from a variety of backgrounds bringing a vast array of knowledge, experience, and passion.

Our board members:

- Mrs. Moha Geha Kanaan – President
- Dr. Mohamad Naffi – Vice president
- Mrs. Ghina Balaa Jaroudi – Secretary
- Dr. Rabie Mohamad Katerji – Treasurer
- Me. Houssam Chamseddine - Accountant
- Mrs. Nadine Labaki Nawar – Public relations
- Mr. Marwan Pharaon - Government representative
- Mrs. Iffat Idriss – Member

Our team members:

The LFB team exemplifies dedication and commitment, tirelessly working towards positive change. They go above and beyond to make a difference in the lives of others, embodying the



spirit of service and compassion. None of the achievements in the report could have been made possible without their invaluable contributions.

Mission:

To alleviate hunger and help the environment throughout Lebanon by collecting wasted food of good quality and impartially distributing it to charities and people in need as means to social progress.

Vision:

A Hunger-free Lebanon by 2030 in alignment with SDG-2 which aims to ensure that everyone, everywhere has enough good quality food to lead a healthy life.

Values and Guiding Principles:

Accountability, Collaboration, Transparency, Sustainability.

Our achievements 2013 – 2023:

- Providing 374,610 food boxes and necessities.
- Supporting 10,955,732 underprivileged families and individuals, by providing hot healthy meals.
- Adhering to international standards of safety and hygiene; Providing families with hygiene supplies; Conducting regular training programs to our team through more than 50 trainings and workshops.
- Empowering 1,607 women: Gender equality, originating from the board level and extending to all staff, acts as an example for enhancing women's economic and social status throughout Lebanon.
 - **Increased income and economic security:** By equipping them with the skills to produce Lebanese food, the program provided them with a means to generate income and support themselves and their families.



- **Enhanced skills and knowledge:** Learning about food production, hygiene, and potentially even business management would empower them to take charge of their economic livelihoods.
 - **Entrepreneurship opportunities:** The training could inspire some women to launch their own food businesses, creating jobs for themselves and potentially others.
 - **Improved food security:** Increased production of local food could benefit the women's families and communities, especially in a time of crisis like Lebanon is currently facing.
 - **Job creation:** The program itself likely created jobs in the food production sector, and some women might go on to become employers themselves.
 - **Preservation of culinary heritage:** By focusing on Lebanese food production, the program could help preserve traditional recipes and food culture.
- By ensuring food security and creating job opportunities, we aim to eradicate hunger, thereby playing a crucial role in bolstering our country's economy and reinforcing social security.
 - Helping the families and communities affected by Beirut 4th of August explosion, paying tribute to our women and men heroes from Firefighters to Civil Defense, and the Red Cross by donating more than 100,000 USD.
 - Contributing towards food waste reduction by rescuing around 2,178 tons of cooked healthy meals and promoting sustainable consumption through conducting awareness campaigns in schools.
 - Supporting farmers to hold on to their land, purchasing 1,286 tons of farmers' product, that goes to women to benefit from when preparing 'Mouneh', hence; Ensuring circular economy.

At the Lebanese Food Bank, we're committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 17: Partnership for the Goals. We believe true progress comes through collaboration, and by working together with diverse partners, we're making significant strides in alleviating hunger and reaching out to communities across Lebanon.



Stronger Together: Our Collaborative Network

Corporate Sector: We partner with companies like Fondation CMA CGM, PepsiCo, ICC, Boston Scientific and numerous other corporations who contribute in various ways, from financial assistance to product donations.

Academic Sector: Partnerships with institutions like IC School foster knowledge sharing and capacity building. Together, we develop innovative solutions for long-term food security and empower communities towards self-sufficiency.

Public Sector: Close collaboration with local municipalities is crucial. They help us identify areas of greatest need and ensure a coordinated approach to food distribution, eliminating duplication of efforts.

Collaborating with 135 Lebanese NGOs: This extensive network of NGOs allows the Lebanese Food Bank to distribute food aid swiftly and efficiently to families in need across Lebanon, minimizing energy expenditure.

Collaboration: The Engine of Change

By working together, we can amplify our impact and create lasting change. We are constantly seeking new partnerships with organizations that share our vision of a hunger-free Lebanon.



Governance

The Lebanese Food Bank (LFB) is governed by a dedicated team comprising board members from diverse backgrounds, ensuring a robust governance structure to steer the organization towards its goals. The governance framework is built on principles of accountability, transparency, and sustainability.

SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

Key Initiatives:

- Regular board meetings to ensure transparency and accountability.
- Implementation of international standards of safety and hygiene.
- Continuous training programs for staff to maintain high governance standards.

Events and Partnerships:

- **Mother's and Child's Day Campaign**

LFB organized a campaign for Mother's and Child's Day, leveraging the power of social media to advocate for the fundamental role of mothers amidst the challenging circumstances facing Lebanon. For 48 hours, LFB hosted a live event at the Hotel Phoenicia, engaging with over 45 influencers, bloggers, and celebrities. Through insightful interviews and touching discussions, the campaign aimed to shed light on the resilience and strength of mothers navigating the hardships gripping the nation. Notably, Miss Lebanon Yasmina Zeytoun contributed to this impactful initiative, amplifying the message of appreciation and support for mothers in Lebanon. This campaign not only honored the sacrifices of mothers but also fostered a sense of unity and solidarity within the community during these hard times.

- **World Food Day**

In honor of World Food Day, the Lebanese Food Bank coordinated a dynamic awareness campaign at International College (IC) school, engaging more than 1,000 students across

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three days through a rally paper activity. This innovative approach encouraged students to actively participate in discussions and activities centered around the importance of food security and combating hunger. By engaging students in a hands-on experience, LFB fostered a deeper understanding of the challenges surrounding food access and waste. Through this collaborative effort, LFB not only raised awareness among the younger generation, but also inspired them to become advocates for positive change in their communities, reverberating the spirit of World Food Day's mission to eradicate hunger worldwide.



Human Rights

LFB is committed to preserving human dignity by providing food to those in need without discrimination based on religion, age, or political affiliation. The organization ensures that everyone has access to nutritious food, aligning with the core principles of human rights.

SDG 2: Zero Hunger

SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

Key Initiatives:

- Distribution of hot meals and food boxes to underprivileged families.
- Support for families affected by the Beirut explosion on August 4th.
- Gender equality initiatives that promote the economic and social status of women.

Events and Partnerships:

- **Hilton Foundation**

The Hilton Effect Foundation joined hands with the Lebanese Food Bank to tackle food insecurity in Beirut and Mount Lebanon. This partnership aimed to provide essential aid to families facing hardships in these regions.

Through the support of the Hilton Effect Foundation, a total of 1,771 meals were distributed over the course of nine days. These nutritious meals served as a vital source of sustenance for vulnerable households, offering relief during challenging times.

- **CMA CGM collaboration**

The CMA CGM Foundation has once again demonstrated its commitment to social responsibility by donating \$150,000 to provide essential support to communities in Lebanon. In a collaborative effort with the Lebanese Food Bank and eight social kitchens across eight different regions, this generous contribution covered the cost of 70,000 hot



meals. Beyond just providing sustenance, this initiative aims to empower women and alleviate hunger in vulnerable populations.

- **CMA CGM milk donation 12,000 milk containers**

During a time of crisis in Lebanon, when access to essential supplies became increasingly challenging, CMA CGM stepped forward with compassion and generosity. Their donation of 12,000 milk containers, each weighing 900 grams, to the Lebanese Food Bank was a lifeline for many families and children in need. During the country's difficulties in sourcing necessities, this contribution provided crucial support, ensuring that children had access to vital nutrition. CMA CGM's commitment to alleviate hardship and support vulnerable communities represents their dedication to making a positive impact.

- **Radisson Blu Martinez**

Radisson Blu Martinez Hotel demonstrated remarkable generosity and community commitment by contributing 100 meals per month to the Lebanese Food Bank throughout the year. Their consistent support played a key role in alleviating food insecurity in Lebanon, especially during challenging times. By providing nutritious meals to those in need, Radisson Blu Martinez Hotel exemplified corporate social responsibility and solidarity with the local community. Their contribution not only fed societies, but also inspired hope and resilience, showcasing the profound impact that businesses can have when they prioritize giving back to society.

- **August 4 memorial**

Since 2021, the Lebanese Food Bank has upheld a poignant tradition of providing food in memory of the August 4 Beirut explosion victims, particularly honoring the Civil Defense members who tragically lost their lives. This annual commemoration underscores the resilience of the Lebanese people in the face of adversity and pays tribute to those who sacrificed their lives in service to others. Through the provision of sustainability during this solemn occasion, the Lebanese Food Bank not only honors the memory of the victims but also offers support and solace to their families and communities. This



compassionate gesture embodies the spirit of solidarity and remembrance, fostering a sense of unity and compassion amidst the collective mourning for the lives lost.

- **School awareness**

The Lebanese Food Bank has launched a targeted awareness campaign within schools and universities to tackle the demanding issues of food waste and hunger. Through engaging presentations, workshops, and interactive activities, LFB aims to educate students about the detrimental effects of food waste on both the environment and society, while also emphasizing practical solutions to combat it. By fostering a culture of mindfulness and responsibility around food consumption and waste, the Lebanese Food Bank empowers young people to make the right choices and take action to reduce waste in their communities. Through these initiatives, the Lebanese Food Bank is not only raising awareness, but also inspiring a new generation of leaders committed to ending hunger and fostering social change.



Environment

LFB promotes a sustainable environment by reducing food waste and managing food resources efficiently. The organization raises awareness about environmental sustainability through various campaigns and initiatives.

SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

SDG 13: Climate Action

Key Initiatives:

- Conducting awareness campaigns in schools to educate about food waste reduction.
- Supporting farmers by purchasing their produce, which helps sustain local agriculture and ensures a circular economy.
- Promoting sustainable consumption through efficient management of food resources.

Events and Partnerships:

- **Matbakh el Kel and GIZ**

Throughout 2023, a noteworthy collaboration unfolded between Matbakh el Kel and GIZ, leveraging Lebanese Food Bank trucks to distribute 115,151 hot meals across various regions in Lebanon. This partnership combined Matbakh el Kel's culinary expertise with GIZ's commitment to community development, ensuring that hot, nutritious meals reached those in need. Utilizing the extensive reach of Lebanese Food Bank trucks, they covered numerous areas, providing essential sustenance to vulnerable communities. This initiative not only addressed immediate hunger but also fostered a sense of unity and support amidst challenging times, showcasing the impactful results achievable through collaborative efforts in humanitarian endeavors.



- **Blankets**

The Lebanese Food Bank received a generous donation of 400 blankets, a heartwarming contribution to their mission of providing aid to families in need. While LFB primarily focuses on food security, this donation underscores the trust and belief donors have in our ability to make a meaningful difference in people's lives beyond just nourishment. With winter looming and many families in villages struggling to stay warm, these blankets will provide essential comfort and relief. The gesture exemplifies the interconnectedness of humanitarian efforts and the profound impact that collective support can have on communities facing adversity.

- **Carrefour collaboration for Ramadan**

During Ramadan, the Lebanese Food Bank established a meaningful collaboration with Carrefour. As shoppers visited Carrefour for their Ramadan groceries and essentials, they were given the opportunity to contribute to LFB's cause. Through strategically placed donation points and engaging awareness campaigns within Carrefour stores, customers were encouraged to extend a helping hand to those facing food insecurity in Lebanon. This collaborative effort not only provided a convenient platform for individuals to donate, but also fostered a sense of community and compassion among shoppers. Together, LFB and Carrefour showed the power of collective action in making a positive impact on the lives of vulnerable communities, particularly during the holy month of Ramadan.

- **Oxfam donation**

The Lebanese Food Bank received a significant donation from Oxfam, consisting of 14 tons of flour destined to support families across Lebanon. This generous contribution under the title "نخبز بالأفراح" (We Bake with Joy) aimed to empower women and families by providing them with the means to prepare bread, a staple of Lebanese cuisine.



Anti-Corruption

LFB upholds the highest standards of transparency and accountability in its operations. The organization is committed to combating corruption and ensuring that all its activities are conducted with integrity and honesty.

SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

Key Initiatives:

- Transparent reporting of all financial transactions and activities.
- Regular audits to ensure compliance with anti-corruption policies.
- Training programs for staff to promote ethical behavior and awareness about anti-corruption measures.

Events and Partnerships:

- **PepsiCo & Pepsi foundation donations**

The Lebanese Food Bank received a significant boost in its efforts to alleviate hunger during the festive seasons of Ramadan and Christmas through a generous donation of \$80,000 from PepsiCo & Pepsi Foundation. This funding directly supported LFB's Muneh (Lebanese products) Boxes project and hot meals program, ensuring that vulnerable communities received essential nourishment during times of celebration. Moreover, volunteers from PepsiCo actively participated in both activities, expressing the spirit of corporate social responsibility by offering their time and energy to serve those in need. This collaboration between LFB and PepsiCo demonstrates the power of partnership in addressing food insecurity and making a tangible difference in the lives of individuals and families during critical times of the year.

- **Next Step NGO collaboration during Christmas**

The Lebanese Food Bank collaborated with Next Step NGO, dedicated to empowering individuals with special needs and integrating them fully into society. Together, they

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championed the notion of inclusivity, acknowledging the fundamental worth and potential of every individual, regardless of disability. Through various initiatives and programs, LFB and Next Step NGO worked tirelessly to provide opportunities for those with special needs to thrive and contribute meaningfully to their communities. Moreover, during the festive season of Christmas, Next Step and PepsiCo volunteers joined forces with LFB to cook hearty meals for 100 families in need at Karamel Kitchen in Achrafieh. This collaborative effort not only nourished bodies but also nurtured spirits, embodying the spirit of compassion and solidarity during a time of celebration.



Labor Rights

LFB is committed to ensuring fair labor practices and protecting the rights of its employees and volunteers. The organization fosters a safe and supportive working environment where everyone is treated with respect and dignity.

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

Key Initiatives:

- Ensuring fair wages and safe working conditions for all employees.
- Providing opportunities for skill development and career advancement.
- Promoting gender equality and inclusivity within the workforce.

Events and Partnerships:

- **Mounif Habib from Tripoli to Beirut**

On May 6, 2023, Mr. Mounif Habib, a Lebanese American young man, embarked on a remarkable running journey from Tripoli to Beirut with a noble cause in mind. His mission was to raise funds for the Lebanese Food Bank. Through his absolute determination and unwavering commitment, Mr. Habib not only completed the challenging run but also succeeded in generating substantial donations. Thanks to his efforts, 218 Lebanese families were provided with essential food support, offering them a glimmer of hope during difficult times. Mr. Habib's selfless act exemplifies the power of individual initiative and community solidarity in making a tangible difference in the lives of others.

- **Cargill cooked meals**

The Lebanese Food Bank Association, in collaboration with Cargill as a generous donor, combined efforts to alleviate food insecurity in Lebanon. This collaborative initiative aimed to provide essential support to families in need, particularly in the areas of Sin El Fil and Aramoun.



Through the generous contribution from Cargill, a total of 1,925 hot meals were donated to families facing economic hardships. These nutritious meals were distributed over a period of 20 days, ensuring sustained assistance during a critical time.

The partnership between the Lebanese Food Bank Association and Cargill represents the power of collaboration in addressing pressing social issues.

This initiative not only provided immediate relief but also fostered a sense of solidarity and support within the community. It underscores the importance of collective action and corporate social responsibility in addressing food insecurity and promoting social welfare.

- **Event children of army martyrs**

The Lebanese Food Bank stood in solidarity with the children of army martyrs by participating in a special event dedicated to honoring their resilience and sacrifice. Partnering with Joué Club, LFB distributed over 400 gifts to children aged between 3 and 12 years old, bringing joy and comfort to their lives. This act of generosity not only provided tangible expressions of support to these young ones, but also served as a touching reminder of the community's appreciation for their families' sacrifices.

- **ICC group donations**

The ICC group illustrated the power of collective generosity by gathering their employees to contribute in-kind donations to the Lebanese Food Bank (LFB). Through their intensive efforts, a diverse collection of essential items and goods were gathered to support LFB's mission of alleviating hunger and aiding vulnerable communities. By channeling their collective resources towards a common cause, the ICC group showcased the profound impact that small acts of generosity can have in fostering positive change within the community.

- **Christmas Event in Yarzé for 200 kids**

LFB coordinated a heartwarming event during Christmas, bringing joy and festive cheer to 200 children in need. Alongside providing nourishing hot meals, LFB delighted the



children with goody bags and thoughtful gifts, creating a memorable experience filled with warmth and generosity. To enhance the celebration, volunteers from Youth National Developments NGO dedicated their time to setting up engaging game stations, eliciting smiles and laughter from the children.

In conclusion, the Lebanese Food Bank has made significant strides in aligning its operations with the principles of the UN Global Compact. Through its efforts in governance, human rights, environmental sustainability, anti-corruption, and labor rights.

LFB continues to make a positive impact on the community and contributes towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

This report highlights the key achievements and ongoing efforts of the Lebanese Food Bank from January 2022 to December 2023, demonstrating our commitment to the UN Global Compact and our dedication to making a meaningful difference in our community.