

LEBANON CAMP

Information



**ORDEN DE MALTA
ESPAÑA**

LEBANON PROJECT

01 WHERE

The camp takes place at the Kfardebian center for the disabled (former orphanage), which is rented by the Lebanese Association of the Order of Malta (“Lebanese Association”) from the Order of the Perpetual Succour. It is a privileged location to host the project in the best possible conditions. Lebanon does not always have the relative political stability that it has had in recent years, and neighbouring countries such as Syria or Iraq maintain political and social tensions.

Notwithstanding this, during the stay in Lebanon we are in permanent contact with our brothers of the Lebanese Association, apart from the service to our Lords the sick, they consider the safety of our volunteers among their most important priorities.

The Lebanese Association has more than 20 years of experience developing the Lebanon Project and the level of personal involvement is very high in terms of the security protocol

that all projects within the borders of their country must comply with. It should be noted that the Kfardebien center is in a Christian area, far from the unstable areas of the country on the borders with countries in conflict.



The Lebanese Association has used it for projects aimed at very young people, even families with children, making it safer than many places in Europe.

02 CONTEXT

The Lebanese government, given the country's situation, only contributes (in the best of cases) USD 10 per patient per day to the few healthcare centers where physically and / or psychologically handicapped people are found.

It is an extremely scarce quantity and, practically in all cases, insufficient to meet all the needs that our Lords the sick, may have.



Compared with the budget of other countries (such as the United Kingdom where £ 175 per day is invested per patient with similar pathologies), the aid received in Lebanon is very scarce.

Therefore, those who run the assistance centres are usually very humble religious congregations, with few personnel, and in difficult conditions, giving their lives to the service of the less fortunate.

As a result of all the above, every day, each religious and / or social worker has to attend to around 20 people at the same time, being impossible for them to deliver a personalized treatment and therefore, limiting the personal development and care of each one of our Lords the sick.

03 VISION

The project seeks to promote the Hospitaller spirit of the Order of Malta; the service to our Lords, the poor and needy, under a coexistence between volunteers of different nationalities, ages and varied cultures. Offering the love of the Lord in the form of time and care for those who need it most.

With this vision, the objective of the project is to seek that our Lords, the sick, obtain personalized attention, whether in

their physical, psychological or affective needs. The idea is that they enjoy a week of leisure and coexistence both with the volunteers and with their colleagues and friends. In other words, get them to have a week of vacation surrounded by love and affection.

By achieving this, it is also possible to help people who work in welfare institutions, reducing their workload during that period of time.



04 HISTORY

1998: YOUTH FROM GERMANY AND LEBANON UNDER THE FLAG OF THE ORDER OF MALTA STARTED THE LEBANON PROJECT

The first week-long summer camp was organized in the town of Chabrouh, located in the Faraya Valley in the Lebanese mountains about twenty years ago. Since then, the Chabrouh centre has been refurbished, and since 2012 it has served full capacity each summer, with around 15 week-long camps taking place each year.

These camps have been nurtured by young people from Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, France, Switzerland and Lebanon, with the recent incorporation of Spain since 2016.

The project initially served 400 "guests" (as our Lords the sick are called) per year, reaching more than 1,000 per year during

the last years. In statistical terms, this meant that it went from meeting 10% of the demand from healthcare institutions to 25% today.

Over time, the facilities have been expanded, in order to continue growing the project to serve more guests. However, there is still much to do so that all our Lords enjoy a week of annual vacation.



05 YOU WILL FIND

GUESTS:

They come from various centers and shelters in Lebanon. The ages range from 7 to 70, of both sexes and of various religions. His disabilities are of all kinds, both physical and mental; the most common cases are:

- Severe mental retardation
- Down's Syndrome
- Cerebral palsy
- Autism, epilepsy, etc.
- Multiple disabilities

VOLUNTEERS:

Most of the volunteers are between the ages of 18 and 30 years old. No prior experience is required as care training is delivered before each camp on the kick-off day.

For the rookies: We only ask for tenacity, creativity, a lot of patience and empathy. And above all, the spirit of service and affection towards the "guests" must prevail, a characteristic charism of the Order of Malta. The volunteers are of

different nationalities, including Lebanese who assist us in the translation to communicate with the "guests". Even though most volunteers in a camp usually come from the country that organizes it, the official language of the camps is English.

These volunteers include the Staff, which is made up of:

- A leader and person in charge of the project (project leader).
- A person in charge of the camp with the title of "*Masoul/e*" or Camp Leader.
- A logistician.
- The Mummies or Daddies in charge of the meals, the kitchen and the laundry.
- A chaplain or "*Abuna*", in charge of the spiritual assistance of the project.
- A doctor or "*Hakim/a*", in charge of the health of all the members of the camp.

There are also veteran volunteers, performing the function of team leaders.

06 DAY-TO-DAY

What do we do in the camp?

At the beginning of the camp, each guest is assigned to a volunteer who will be responsible for him/her the entire camp, taking care of their hygiene, food and well-being. This volunteer always has the support of the rest of the Camp. The greatest responsibility of each volunteer will be to make their "guest" spend their best week of vacation feeling loved and cared for.

The system of 1 volunteer 1 guest is fundamental, this makes the patient be better cared for, in a more personal way creating a very special bond between the guest and the volunteer.

The guests develop with the volunteers an inner strength that makes them more tolerant, giving them greater acceptance capacity for the rest of the year. Many guests have no family or visitors. Lack of personal ties exacerbates many of their illnesses causing depression, apathy, and

isolation. Therefore, this one-to-one relationship is as beneficial or more than medication. The post-camp impact on the institutions where the guests live was notable from the beginning of the project.

Many guests do not leave their institutions for the rest of the year, so the camps are a very important experience for them.

Volunteers grow in empathy, independence, self-confidence, tolerance, and respect. The daily presence of a chaplain at the camp helps strengthen the faith and spirituality of the volunteers as well. Likewise, coexistence tasks will be assigned among the volunteers, which

promote and facilitate life in community as part of the learning of the charism of the Order of Malta.



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07 INFORMATION

The start and end dates of the 2 to 3 camps (variable depending on the evolution of the Covid-19) will be the following:

- Departure: July 23/24

- Return: August 15

To register for this Project it is necessary to fill out the following form:

<https://colabora.ordendemalta.es/lebanon-camp/>

The registration deadlines will depend on the speed in which the places are filled. Without prejudice to this, the deadline to register is June 20, 2022.

Finally, we kindly inform that participation in the camps that will take place during the current year will be subject to a Covid protocol yet to be determined by the Lebanon Project Steering Committee. This protocol will be mandatory for all participants without exception.

For more information regarding the camp, or any questions, please contact Marta Jareño or Sofía Fernández de Villavicencio at the following email: proyecto.libano@ordendemalta.es



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