



## ISLAMIC RELIEF MALAYSIA

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August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
For Immediate Release

### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### **LEBANON NEEDS IMMEDIATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

**Bangi** – The non-governmental organization (NGO), Islamic Relief Malaysia has set an initial target of RM300,000 to help Lebanese people affected by the warehouse explosion in Beirut Port last Tuesday.

The funds will be raised within a month through Dariku Untukmu... Selamatkan Mereka! LEBANON campaign that has launched recently.

Chief Executive Officer of Islamic Relief Malaysia, Zairulshahfuddin Zainal Abidin, said Islamic Relief is currently in a state of readiness and working at its best to help the people of Lebanon.

“A few hours after the explosion, Islamic Relief Lebanon was already on the ground to monitor the situation closely in exploring the main assistance needed.

“Until now, the search and rescue (SAR) operation is still being continued by various parties. More than 154 people were reported dead meanwhile more than 5000 people were injured and hundreds more have yet to be found.

“Previously, Lebanon encountered crises from various angles. The Covid-19 cases are soaring at an alarming rate and now, an explosion measuring 4.5 on the Richter scale plunging Lebanon deeper into crisis. The hospital can no longer accommodate the growing number of patients,” said Zairulshahfuddin.

Therefore, Zairulshahfuddin call for the public to help those affected in Lebanon by donating via Islamic Relief Malaysia.

### **Worst Tragedy**

Meanwhile, the Country Director of Islamic Relief Lebanon, Nidal Ali, said he is still shocked by the unexpected incident.

“All of us in Beirut is still shocked after the recent explosion. I was at home by the time the glass door of our house balcony shattered. At first, we thought it was an earthquake.

“This is another tragedy for this country which is already stands on brink of collapse. In recent decades, the economic crisis has reached its worst where almost half of the population lives below the poverty line while another 35% are unemployed. Many people of Lebanon are refugees who have been suffering for ages. Now, they find it increasingly difficult to survive even to provide basic food supplies.

“In October last year, we had to stop all long-term programs and prioritize food pack distribution due to the current economic crisis that has made humanitarian issues increasingly critical.

“This all happened before the rife of coronavirus pandemic around the world and Lebanon experienced a surge in cases in recent weeks that filled health centres and hospitals.

“Islamic Relief has already started its response. We are currently looking to provide drinking water and food for people who have lost their homes. In a few days, we will also start helping to clear the streets full of debris caused by the blast, and providing people who are currently unemployed with cash to help out. In the longer-term, we will need to continue providing food parcels as the seaport has been destroyed, which means food imports will be significantly reduced to a country that is already on its knees,” explains Nidal.

The public can offer assistance by donating through Dariku Untukmu... Selamatkan Mereka! LEBANON campaign. Kindly visit the Islamic Relief Malaysia website, [www.islamic-relief.org.my](http://www.islamic-relief.org.my) or you may call the hunting line at +603-8926 3434 for more information.

## **About Islamic Relief**

Islamic Relief is an independent international humanitarian aid and development organization. Islamic Relief is headquartered in the United Kingdom and was founded in 1984. Islamic Relief serves in more than 45 countries, assisting more than 120 million people. The scope of Islamic Relief assistance covers emergency assistance, integrated sustainable development, disaster risk reduction, and advocacy.

## **About Islamic Relief Lebanon**

Islamic Relief has been operating in Lebanon since 2006 by providing emergency responses such as food, clean water supply, and necessities to those affected by war in the country.

After the war has ended, Islamic Relief continued its humanitarian relief by focusing on the inland along the southern border. In addition to reconstruct hospitals and repair damaged water facilities, Islamic Relief has carried out sustainable livelihood projects to sustain the beneficiaries' sources of income.

Islamic Relief Lebanon has also helped refugees with the total amount of 1.5 million Syrian refugees and more than 300,000 Palestinian refugees.

## **About Islamic Relief Malaysia**

YABhg. Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad officiated the establishment of Islamic Relief Malaysia in 2005, which aspires to continue Islamic Relief humanitarian assistance in the Asia-Pacific region. Currently, Islamic Relief Malaysia serves as a fundraising and project implementer for international and local projects.

For more information on Islamic Relief Malaysia humanitarian programs, please visit our official website or contact 03-8926 3434.

Your donation can be channelled to the following bank accounts under the name of Islamic Relief Malaysia:

**MAYBANK ISLAMIC | 5621 4270 8704**

**MBSB BANK | 1005 0251 0000 0166**

**CIMB ISLAMIC | 860 2073818**

**BANK ISLAM | 12 029 01 006564 3**

**AFFIN ISLAMIC | 10 671 000278 4**

**BANK RAKYAT | 11080 10000 35**

or via:

**CHARITY SHOPPE | CASH or CREDIT CARD**

Zairulshahfuddin Zainal Abidin

Chief Executive Officer

Islamic Relief Malaysia

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