

## **"Beirut: Restoration and Development"**

Our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program refers to our responsibility toward our own employees, and the communities, economies and environments we work within. By responsibility we deliberate actions towards improving the state of people, the community and the environment albeit by consciously reducing adverse impact during our work, or by initiatives from C.A.T. Group Company and employees towards the above-mentioned.

Moreover, C.A.T. Group recognizes the need to help its employees, whoever needs assistance and take the measurements needed to protect their safety and well-being.

One of our CSR programs consists of an array of diverse initiatives implemented after the Beirut Blast which occurred on the 4<sup>th</sup> August 2020. The devastating impact of the blast on the livelihood of the country after the destruction of its vibrant economic district plus the deterioration of the economy and the pandemic in combination is beyond description. All this is just too much for any person, community or country to bear. C.A.T. Group stepped up by a diverse series of interventions mentioned below. A Social sustainability Committee was formed at the board level in recognition of the importance of this CSR program.

Initiatives include:

1. The Assistance of 3 affected employees, which were granted house repair assistance with the value of USD 17,200.
2. The Partial rehabilitation of 3 hospitals. Value of activity: USD 410,000.
3. Supporting institutions by rehabilitating and providing school supplies with the approximate value of UDS 300,000.
4. Microsoft License Agreement were distributed to five schools with the contribution of USD 31,825.

5. Supporting talented Engineering students by providing them with full scholarship at 4 higher-learning institutions with the assistance of USD 50,000.
6. Private Vaccination of Employees and families as an initiative to assist the Ministry of Health and the Lebanese community in the alleviation of the pain and suffering caused by the COVID Pandemic. Value of movement: USD 6,500.
7. The Partnership with "Jouzour Lobnan" (an NGO), to plant 100 trees in the name of all the fathers of C.A.T. Group with the value of USD 3,000.

Beneficiaries covered:

- Our Employees
- Employee families
- Schools
- Local Universities
- Beirut hospitals
- Home of elderly
- The Lebanese Cedar Tree and the environment

### **1. The Assistance of 3 affected employees**

Some employees of C.A.T Group's primary home and means of transportation were partially or totally damaged, to relieve some of the stress of making ends meet, a team from our HR and PTD visited the houses of 3 employees and assessed the damages, estimated the necessary repairs. Furthermore, 3 employees were granted housing repair assistance and 5 employees' car repairs were covered.

### **2. The Partial rehabilitation of 3 hospitals**

C.A.T Group aimed to reinforce hospitals that are the pillars of our Health System especially amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic whereby they will need all the assistance possible.

Affected by the Beirut Blast and the Economic crisis, Beirut hospitals are having difficulties providing the needed equipment

and treatments for their patients. C.A.T. Group took the initiative in assisting the following hospitals:

- AL Makassed General Hospital was provided with C-arm machine which is required for the operation room as it is committed to making high-quality healthcare universally accessible in Lebanon.
- Hospital St. Joseph des Soeurs de la Croix -Centre is a private, non-profit medical institution in Dora, Lebanon. It is a residency hospital for the students of Saint-Joseph University and the Lebanese University medical schools. The hospital serves the heavily populated northern suburbs of



Beirut. A contribution was made to acquire ventilators to the pediatric care unit of the hospital. This support was made to thank the

hospital for the care they had provided to a member of C.A.T. Group following the injuries he sustained from the explosion.

- Hopital Des Soeurs du Rosaire was assisted to help with the damages and reconstruction. The hospital suffered extensive structural and equipment damage and is no longer operational in all its medical and administrative units.
- Last but not least, a contribution was made to hospitals related to COVID assistance that was offered in April 2020.

### **3. Supporting Institutions**

After a closer look, we found that several bleeding sectors in our country need our assistance as well, particularly the educational system, damaged apartments, elderly care centres, and preservation of heritage buildings which are fundamental assets in our society.

Zahret el Ehsan is one of the schools that C.A.T. Group had the pleasure to assist. It is a private school located in the centre of Beirut. The school has been around since 1880 and prides itself in educating smart, well-read, and autonomous individuals to become the best students they can be. A contribution was made to help with the process of rehabilitation of this institution with the value of USD 150,000. The establishment also provides many after-school activities such as theatre classes, music classes, dancing classes, sporting events, and many more. It also houses a technology club for all students interested in computers. C.A.T. Group assisted by purchasing laptops and tablets required for online learning and teaching. The endowment was used to purchase servers instead of needed to the same school with the value of USD 78,280.

Also, the C.A.T. Group assisted an orphanage house Centre St. Charbel des Saint Coeurs, Baabdat to help with their monthly expenses. The contribution considered the salaries for one year. SCSSC is a centre taking care of disadvantaged children, mainly orphans from 4 - 16 years, or coming from poor families with financial, emotional and other social problems. SCSSC

provides these children with education, psychological and emotional support.

#### **4. Microsoft License Agreement**

Microsoft License Agreement was distributed to five schools and the responsible parent entity. These schools are located in various districts of Beirut, namely Ras Beirut, Achrafieh and Mar Elias, and are hosting over 3600 multi-confessional students in total.

This donation targets and benefits around 5,000 individuals distributed among the students, teachers and employees of the five schools in addition to the employees of the Orthodox Archdiocese of Beirut.



#### **5. Supporting talented Engineering students**

C.A.T. Group is conscious about the impact of Lebanon's socio-economic disruptions upon the wellbeing of its future youth and talent, whereby many students of exceptional talent have difficulties meeting their academic fiscal responsibilities, thus making it difficult for those students to continue in private and reputable universities.

The current challenges that local private universities face in these uncertain times in Lebanon is unprecedented. Therefore, the C.A.T. Group has decided to contribute financial aid to talented Engineering students at certain higher-learning institutions; many

of which the C.A.T. Group's own engineers, C-Suite, shareholders, and founders graduated from.

This contribution was divided into the following:

- The American University of Beirut. AUB was founded in 1866, it is a teaching-centred research university based on the American liberal arts model of higher education. AUB has over 8,000 students and 800 faculty members.
- The Lebanese American University, founded in the 1830s with 8,000 students which are committed to academic excellence, student-centeredness, civic engagement, the advancement of scholarship, the education of the whole person, and the formation of leaders in a diverse world.
- Saint Joseph University founded in 1875 is a private Lebanese university that brings together 13 faculties and 18 specialized institutes and schools attached to the various faculties.
- The Balamand University is a private non-profit independent Lebanese institution of Higher Education licensed by the State of Lebanon which was founded in 1988.

## **6. Private Vaccination of Employees and families**

To help alleviate the current suffering of the Lebanese population caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic and to protect our employees from its negative consequences, C.A.T. Group has implemented several precautionary measures in all our Areas.

Safety & Wellbeing is one of C.A.T. Group's values that we concentrate on, our employees' health and safety are our top priority.

175 people have taken the vaccine so far. The plan is to purchase approximately 2000 vaccines for employees and family members of C.A.T. Group.

Also, we are working further on contributing 8000 vaccines to the Lebanese Society to introduce this vaccine to as many people as we can in order to reduce and decrease the mortality and release the healthcare sector that has been overwhelmed.

### **The Partnership with "Jouzour Lobnan"**

After the chaos that occurred on August the 4<sup>th</sup>, it is a major priority for C.A.T. Group to help decrease pollution and to find ways to cleanse Beirut.

On the occasion of Father's Day, and in respect of World Environment Day, we have partnered with an NGO "Jouzour Loubnan" for an initial investment.

We planted 100 Lebanese cedar trees in the name of all the fathers of C.A.T. as they have the power to symbolize, inspire and express our deepest feelings of love, gratitude, protection and happiness for fatherhood.

In fact, Cedars are the national emblem of our fatherland, representative of life, wisdom, power & prosperity, symbolic of sustainability. It's the most famous cedar patch and one of the last vestiges of old-growth forests.

Cedar does not produce flowers. Instead, it reproduces via cones. It is a monoecious plant which means that it produces male and female cones on the same tree. It's symbolizes resilience, immortality, strength, and elevation.



*The C.A.T. Group CEO and a few colleagues waiting to get vaccinated in Mount-Lebanon Hospital.*

Along with the initiatives that had been mentioned above, C.A.T. Group accomplished other CSR programs as the following:

- On the Occasion of Mother's Day, C.A.T. Group

offered plants to all the mothers which were purchased from two local businesses. Our team collaborated with two different artisanal local shops (Concrete Rush and LSA Vitrine) and purchased a diversity of plants in a range of beautiful and visually appealing pots made of concrete and marble. *Concrete Rush* and *LSA Vitrine* are both small



online businesses run by two females. Through purchasing from these shops, we achieved 2 objectives, namely: encourage women to be independent and run their own



business and help local businesses that are suffering from the economic crisis.

- India reached an unprecedented number of COVID-19 deaths.. Unfortunately, a massive number of patients are dying due to a lack of oxygen or access to hospital beds. C.A.T. Group formed a CSR Committee to support and help alleviate this mass suffering aiming to answer a pressing need in areas where our employees' families live, standing in solidarity with our Indian-national employees. Our team reached out to ICBF (Indian Community Benevolent Forum) to provide oxygen machines and medical equipment.

C.A.T. Group is looking forward to continuing its CSR engagement to positively impact change.