



# SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP



**BY BECOMING A SPONSOR, YOU GIVE THE OPPORTUNITY  
TO A CHILD TO BUILD A BETTER FUTURE!**

## WHO ARE WE?

Mission Enfance is an international solidarity organisation  
founded in 1991, whose objective is  
**to bring help to children in distress in the world.**

Our **operational objective**, beyond creating or strengthening local school  
systems, is to **make schooling effective for children in difficult regions.**

## THE COUNTRIES

**In Vietnam, Lebanon, Armenia and Burkina Faso,**  
access to school is often difficult for children.

The economic situation of parents, the distance between schools and their  
homes, the labour that children sometimes represent for families,  
**all these reasons keep children away from school.**

Mission Enfance, thanks to its local  
partners, **identifies the most  
vulnerable children  
and the structures that can  
take care of them.**

**Thanks to sponsorship,**  
these children are welcomed  
in schools, in homes or  
in after-school activity centres.

**They live their childhood!**



# EDUCATION IS THE DOOR TO THEIR FUTURE...



Your sponsorship will **allow a child to continue his/her education** in good conditions and in his/her own environment.

This donation will allow him/her to go to school but also be clothed and fed.

Your godchild receives **all the necessary conditions to grow up in a reassuring, stable and fulfilling environment.**

Through your relationship as sponsors,  
**you discover their world while sharing yours!**

## ...YOU ARE THE KEY!

The sponsor commits to paying **€35 per month, €120 per quarter or €420 per year for at least one year.**

For a **child or student sponsorship**, throughout the year, you exchange letters, you receive school reports, he/she shares his/her life with you.

For a **project sponsorship**, the people in charge of our literacy centres or our nurseries send you an annual report on the living conditions of the children and babies you sponsor.

Once a year, our sponsorship manager visits each of the godchildren in the field **to ensure that your sponsorship is effective, to see how the children are progressing and to forward your letters.** This mission also allows us to send you **a precise report on your sponsorship and to give you updated news on your godchild.**

**After  
tax reduction  
your sponsorship  
amounts to  
12€  
per month**

**To turn this key towards the future, contact Marie Vauban  
at +377 92 05 32 03 / [parrainage@enfance.org](mailto:parrainage@enfance.org)**



# SCHOOL AND PROJECT SPONSORSHIP IN BURKINA FASO



**BY BECOMING A SPONSOR, YOU GIVE A CHILD  
THE OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD A BETTER FUTURE!**

## THE LEBANESE REPUBLIC, A LITTLE HISTORY...

Lebanon, officially the Republic of Lebanon, is a largely mountainous Arab country in the Middle East. It borders two countries, Syria to the east on 376 km and Israel to the south on 79 km. It is bordered by the Mediterranean Sea to the west, with 220 km of coastline. Beirut is its capital. The official language is Arabic, however, half of the Lebanese are French-speaking and English is widely used. The national currency is the Lebanese pound.

**The country's emblem, which appears on its flag, is the Lebanese cedar.** Its wood, rot-proof and very light, is said to have been used in the construction of the Temple of Solomon in Jerusalem. The Phoenicians also used it to build their legendary ships.

**Because of its multi-confessional composition, Lebanon has a political system based on a distribution of power proportional to the weight of each religious community.**

The modern state, as it exists today with its borders, was created in 1924 by Georges Clemenceau, who drew the borders, as the country was then under French mandate.

Its culture, religious demography and geography are varied. Lebanon has been occupied over the centuries by various civilizations. **It is also renowned in the world for its gastronomy and, in the Arab world, for its music.**

Before the civil war which ravaged it between 1975 and 1990, the country experienced, between its independence and the beginning of the war, a period of relative economic prosperity and political stability, made possible by the strong growth of the tourism and agriculture sectors as well as the financial and services sector (banking, insurance...).

**The country was thus considered the safe haven of the Levant, and was also known as "The Switzerland of the Middle East", due to its financial strength.** Lebanon attracted a large number of tourists, largely due to the fact that Beirut, the country's capital, was known as the "Paris of the Middle East".





# SCHOOL AND PROJECT SPONSORSHIP IN LEBANON

Immediately after the end of the civil war, great efforts were made to rebuild the country, through huge investments by the government with the support of the Lebanese diaspora. **By early 2006, the country had achieved some stability, and with the reconstruction of Beirut completed,** tourists began to flock again. However, the Israeli-Lebanese war of 2006 put an end to tourism, and caused great damage to the country's civil infrastructure, not to mention the economic slowdown that followed...

## CURRENT HISTORY

For many years now, **the Lebanese people have been terribly impoverished,** which is why Mission Enfance has never been able to give up its mission of school support for Lebanese children, started 30 years ago and accentuated, since 2012, with the arrival of Syrian refugees.

But **the acceleration of its economic and political decline dates back to the end of 2019.** The country's public debt stands at \$80 billion, or 50% of GDP. Corruption is eating away at the country's economy in various sectors. 0.1% of the wealthiest Lebanese (around 3000 individuals) earn as much as the poorest 50%. the economic crisis worsened throughout the year 2020 until the explosion in the port of Beirut in August. **The impact of the political events as well as the recent health crisis and repeated confinements have affected the poor first and foremost, but also a middle class that is struggling to cope with a precarious economy.** Beyond the psychological trauma, it is very difficult, if not impossible, for a family to afford schooling for their children today.

**The misery encountered during our latest missions is all the more scandalous** as we are in a modern country, entering slums surrounded by skyscrapers, without windows, without doors, without partitions. **During our distributions of food parcels and money,** we have visited poor neighbourhoods such as Karantina, but also buildings in Ashrafieh, a neighbourhood populated yesterday by middle-class families who now accept our bread.



In 2023, with the resumption of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Lebanon once again finds itself in a climate of high insecurity, further accentuating the vulnerability of its entire population.



# SCHOOL AND PROJECT SPONSORSHIP IN LEBANON

## SCHOOL IN LEBANON

The Lebanese school system is **inspired by the French school system**. Children enter kindergarten at age 3. After two years of kindergarten (petite and grande section), the child enters EB1. Primary school consists of 6 years (EB1 to EB6). The supplementary school consists of 3 years and leads to the certificate examination (EB7 to EB9). Secondary school then leads in 3 years to the baccalaureate (EB10, 1ère, Terminale). The timetable differs according to the school, but in general, children are welcomed from 7.30 a.m. to 1.30 or 2 p.m. The afternoon is devoted to homework, which is a very important part of Lebanese education. **But children from poor families find it very difficult to work alone** (their parents are often illiterate or absent and cannot help them, they rarely have the space at home to be alone...). **This is why more and more tutoring centres have been created.** Arabic is the official language of the country but French or English is often taught from kindergarten onwards.

**Public schools coexist with public schools.** There are two types of public schools: so-called "free" schools, which cater for the poorest children, and fee-paying schools, which are reserved for the wealthier classes of the population. In fact, all schools, public or private, charge fees. In all schools, school fees have risen sharply, to cope with increases in teachers' salaries. The cost of enrolling a child in school is almost half of the minimum monthly wage. In addition, books and school supplies are paid for by the family.

**Public schools are highly criticised for their low standards** (lack of motivation of teachers), especially at primary level. **The "free" schools, generally run by religious congregations, have to pay their teachers without any help from the state and take in children from families who are often totally unable to pay the school fees.** They sometimes even help families to buy books and supplies. These schools have serious difficulties in paying the general costs (fuel, electricity, salaries, etc.). But they have the advantage of **offering an education system that is much more adapted to the poor population:** psychologists and social workers are often part of the teaching team and the children are thus given appropriate follow-up for the problems they may encounter.



**Today, the school situation in Lebanon is worrying. Sponsorship of disadvantaged children is essential, because without this help, they would simply not have access to school: school fees are unaffordable for these families who live in poverty.**



# SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP IN LEBANON

## YOUR GODCHILD'S CENTRES

Mission Enfance sponsors more than 130 children in Lebanon, distributed in different schools. For each school, a person in charge is designated, either via a centre with which Mission Enfance collaborates or via the school itself, in order to ensure the good management of the sponsorships.

**The Good Shepherd home in Ain Saadeh** is a boarding house for about forty girls, orphans or children under judicial protection (family or financial problems). The families, whose fathers were often killed or disabled during the war, live in poverty. These children, deeply marked by the tragedies experienced in their families, are entirely dependent on the centre: food, accommodation, health. Their schooling is provided in neighbouring schools and represents an increasingly heavy expense.



**The Saint Vincent de Paul school** is located in Bourj Hammoud, a very poor and overcrowded area of Beirut. The parents are often refugees, driven out of their village during the war and living in very precarious conditions. It is a mixed, semi-private primary school, with 500 children from the Petit Jardin class to the sixth grade.

**The recreation and school support centre in the Roueisset district**, created by Mission Enfance, is located in a suburb of Beirut, where 30,000 people, including 5,000 children, live in miserable conditions with all that this entails: promiscuity, delinquency, drugs, prostitution. 80% of the adults are illiterate and many children do not attend school.

Through this centre, the children benefit from sponsorship in the surrounding schools as well as academic support and various extra-curricular activities, allowing them to develop in an environment dedicated to them.



**The Beirut Dispensary** is located on the main road leading to the Roueisset district and is run by Sister Georgette. It opens its doors to Lebanese of all faiths and also to Syrian and Iraqi refugees who live in the neighbourhood. It is the only dispensary in the area. The inhabitants of this neighbourhood have neither social security nor insurance. The clinic helps the poorest people, especially women and children who are victims of violence, discrimination, abuse and poverty. It also provides many children with educational support and extracurricular activities.



# PROJECT SPONSORSHIP IN LEBANON

## PROJECTS IN LEBANON

Mission Enfance supports **two projects in Lebanon**: the Recreation and School Support Centre in the Roueisset district of Beirut and the Deir Al Ahmar centre, in the agricultural plain of the Bekaa.

In the agricultural plain of the Bekaa, known for its intensive hashish production during the 1975 war, many young people are today without support, in broken families, and without sources of income. 66% of the parents are illiterate in this region. No educational support can be given by the parents. **The Good Shepherd Sisters have been working in the Bekaa for 15 years to support the youth of Deir Al Ahmar**, the main town in this difficult region.



With Sister Amira, and since 2012, Mission Enfance supports Syrian refugees through our centre in Deir Al Ahmar, where more than 1,000 families live. **We provide professional training to 400 Lebanese and Syrian women in technical trades** (sewing, computing, beautician, electricity, English), **100 women from the village and the refugee camps receive health awareness and education**. We also welcome **500 children (350 Syrians, 150 Lebanese) for activities and training**. The school founded in our centre offers a better education than in the Lebanese schools in the region, in the opinion of the teachers of the schools in the region... The refugee children who cannot be registered in the Lebanese schools thus have this chance to pursue a normal schooling, alongside the Lebanese children.

**The Recreation and School Support Centre in the Roueisset district** is located in this suburb of Beirut, where 30,000 people, including 5,000 children, live in miserable conditions with all that this entails: promiscuity, delinquency, drugs and prostitution. 80% of the adults are illiterate and many children do not attend school.



Since 1995, the Good Shepherd Sisters have been working in this neighbourhood. In 1999, Mission Enfance financed the purchase of a house at the entrance of the neighbourhood. **The house, well decorated and fitted out, is a real refuge for the children who come there every day** to study and on Saturdays for recreational activities. Sister Aida relies on sponsorship to provide schooling for other children who do not yet have this opportunity because their parents have no resources. In 2002 and 2003, Mission Enfance bought and fitted out a new room in order to allow new children of this district to participate in the animations of the Roueisset Centre.



# SCHOOL AND PROJECT SPONSORSHIP IN LEBANON

## MISSION CHILDHOOD AND YOU

**You pay 35 € per month for your godchild, i.e. 420 € annually. Your donation represents the only way for these children to go to school.**

➔ For school sponsorship, the amount is divided as follows :

★ 384 € are allocated to sponsorship. As the sponsorship money is pooled, this sum allows the child to go to school, to be fed and to take care of his health. But your sponsorship also allows us to take charge of a second godchild and to participate in the local costs inherent to the functioning of the sponsorship: transport and salary of the local sponsorship coordinator, holiday and evening classes for your godchild, solidarity fund for his family.

★ 36 € covers management costs (stamps, telephone, sponsorship mail, etc.) and monitoring missions in the field.

➔ For project sponsorship, the amount is divided as follows

★ 384 € are allocated to the centres, via the person in charge on the spot, for their functioning, staff salaries, food and care for the children, clothes, material for the animation.

★ 36 € covers management costs (stamps, telephone, sponsorship mail, etc.) and monitoring missions in the field.

All the sums indicated are **sent directly to the people in charge in the different centres and schools**, who with their teams verify the presence of the children in the schools and check on them. This process is also carried out under our supervision, and we ensure this through our field visits and regular exchanges with the managers.

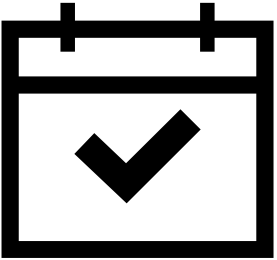
For the good of your godchild, **please send us your payments regularly so that we can send them without delay.** If you have opted for direct debit, we thank you for replenishing your bank or postal account to avoid any problems. **Each unpaid direct debit costs the association 7€, i.e. 1/4 of a month's sponsorship.**



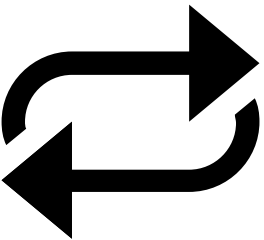


# SCHOOL AND PROJECT SPONSORSHIP IN LEBANON

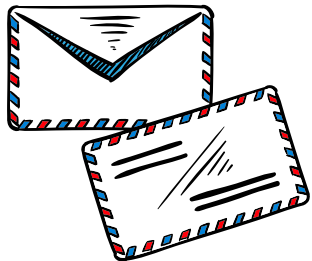
## YOUR GODCHILD / THE PROJECT AND YOU



You have agreed to pay **€35 per month** to contribute to your godchild's school fees. This does not mean that we will take full responsibility: your godchild's family will also contribute, according to their means, to the school fees. Sponsorship implies continuous and regular action, which is why we have proposed a commitment over a minimum period of one year. But for this education to be effective, it would be preferable that it be financed and conducted for 3 years.



The sponsorship normally ends when your godchild leaves school. It can also happen that a child leaves the centre prematurely, because he/she changes region or for any other reason. Mission Enfance does not have the possibility to continue helping children individually, outside the centres. Therefore, when the case arises, we will inform you and we will propose you to postpone your support to another child.



At least twice a year, your godchild will write a few words or make a drawing for you. This letter will be attached to a report on the school evolution of your godchild, his/her progress, his/her difficulties. This mail, transmitted to Mission Enfance by its local correspondents, will then be sent to you. All mail goes through our intermediary in order to be sure of its routing. A first letter from your godchild will be sent to you in a few weeks: this delay is necessary to start the correspondence system.



Your godchild will be very happy to receive mail from you too... Beyond the pleasure they will give him/her, your letters will be a real encouragement! Like all children in the world, your godchild will need to feel supported in his or her efforts: congratulate him or her on his or her progress and you will help him or her to do better in his or her studies. You can also send your godchild small gifts that you enclose with your letter.

**If you sponsor a project such as the Deir Al Ahmar centre in the Bekaa or the Roueisset recreation centre in Beirut, you will receive an annual report from the project manager.**



# SCHOOL AND PROJECT SPONSORSHIP IN LEBANON

## YOUR GODCHILD/THE PROJECT AND YOU

### → **SOME RULES TO FOLLOW :**

- ★ All mail goes through Mission Enfance.
- ★ The reference number of the child's file will appear on each letter.
- ★ Your address does not appear on the mail intended for your godchild (some parents would not hesitate to write to you to ask for help or a gift, which is contrary to the Mission Enfance approach).
- ★ The small presents do not exceed 200 g and the size of an A4 envelope (we must not create new inequalities or injustices between the children we help). Moreover, your gifts will be transported by a member of the Mission Enfance team who can only carry 20 kg of luggage). If you want to "do more", send us your donations to our address, specifying that it is an additional donation for your godchild. You can also make an additional donation for the centres (by mentioning it specifically) and this money will be allocated to the project (purchase of basic goods, educational material...).

### → **SOME ADVICE:**

- ★ Write simple words and phrases about your everyday life. Many things that seem commonplace to you are completely foreign to him/her and will be of great interest to him/her. Your godchild will particularly appreciate receiving photos or postcards that will introduce him/her to our country.
- ★ Be patient... it will take some time for your mail to arrive. At the headquarters of Mission Enfance, we have to check the references of the letters, group them by country... When a control mission leaves Monaco for Lebanon, we take the mail with us which is distributed individually and directly to the children by a member of Mission Enfance. During the same mission, we will take back the letter written by your godchild. This is why it may take some time before you receive an answer. But you can be sure that your efforts to correspond will always please your godchild.
- ★ Meeting your godchild: It is difficult to bring your godchild to France: used to a certain way of life, such a trip must be carefully considered. On the other hand, if you go to Lebanon, you can visit your godchild, preferably during the school period. In this case, we thank you for contacting our association and we will inform our local representative of your visit: he will be able to better welcome you. The same applies to the centres.



# SCHOOL AND PROJECT SPONSORSHIP IN LEBANON

## MONITORING MISSIONS

**The money paid by the sponsors is entirely used for the children.** Mission Enfance establishes an aid programme and carries out control missions to ensure the good use of the sums paid. **The association meets each sponsored child in order to follow his personal situation and to report to you.**

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND CONTACT

It is a team that welcomes you to its premises and answers all your questions:

Marie Vauban, sponsorship manager  
Charlotte Giannola, assistant

Do not hesitate to contact us from Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 12:30 and 14:00 to 17:00:



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