

# Trócaire



سوا للتنمية والإغاثة  
Sawa for Dev & Aid

## Relief and Winterisation Intervention

Supported by

CREIDEAMH Network  
Greater Ballinasloe Area

**Activity:** Distribution of winterisation items  
**Activity duration:** 1 month (March 2021)  
**Location of distribution:** Al-Omariya, Saadnayel, Bekaa, Lebanon  
**Dates of distribution:** March 30 and 31, 2021  
**Number of items distributed:** 480 blankets and 480 mattresses

**Result:** 160 vulnerable families in the Bekaa valley received three blankets and three mattresses each through a relief initiative targeting winterisation need

### Background:

Sawa has worked with and supported Syrians for a number of years who are living in the Al Omariya settlements in Saadnayel, Bekaa. With support from Trócaire, over a number of years Sawa has provided basic emergency assistance as well and psychosocial support to vulnerable families, many of whom have lived in the settlement for several years as a result of the crisis in Syria. A strong relationship has developed between the community and Sawa.

Each year, Syrian refugee communities settled in the Bekaa Valley are subjected to harsh weather conditions as their shelters are inadequate to withstand the winter months. Procuring supplies is increasingly difficult for families as a result of the ongoing financial crisis in Lebanon, where prices are rising drastically.

### Project Activity:

Sawa consulted with the community to identify their needs during the winter period. A number of needs were identified by households in the settlements, which included: adequate shelter in the form of tarpaulin; heating equipment; and bedding and blankets. Sawa and other organisations collaborated to respond to the needs of the community.

Based on gaps from other relief interventions and on assessments from Sawa's field team, the items identified as being most critical, and the best use of Ballinasloe funds, were mattresses and blankets, which became the focus of this intervention.

This project was planned to cover a period that is usually extremely challenging for the local community due to the hard weather conditions.



The selected households were Syrian refugee households residing in informal settlements in Saadnayel in the Bekaa governorate. Selection of households was done based on SAWA's database of 1,600 households identified and assessed between January and end of February 2021. The assessment looked at vulnerabilities which increased because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the deteriorating socio-economic situation, the collapse of the market and loss of livelihoods, and those most affected by the critical winter season in the governorate. All were Syrian refugees who have lived in the settlement areas for a number of years.

The items that were procured were thick, twin size fleece blankets and twin-size mattresses (180\*80\*10). Quality was a consideration during procurement in order for the intervention to be both effective and durable. After some price revisions on the items, 480 blankets and 480 mattresses were requested, which arrived on March 29<sup>th</sup>.

The original plan was to distribute two blankets and two mattresses per household but the team, following consultation with the community, advised to increase these amounts to three mattresses and three blankets based on the number of family members per household and the level of vulnerability experienced by each household. This would decrease the number of households reached, but we were able to cover this gap with another private donation.

## **Distribution**

The distribution was part of SAWA's annual winterisation campaign which was delayed due to strict Covid-19 lockdown restrictions introduced in Lebanon. Most retailers and businesses were banned or unable to operate over the month-long lockdown, causing delays and difficulties with procurement and supply quantities. Demand for specific items and high prices also negatively affected procurement. This greatly impacted the procurement and logistical activities, while movement restrictions caused further delays to the distribution dates. These restrictions resulted in a delay of approximately one month, which was very challenging for the community but somewhat understandable in a context of very high Covid-19 cases.

During the delays in February, the community experience harsh weather conditions of snow and heavy rain and flooding. Brief videos of the situation are here:

<https://www.facebook.com/sawafordaid/videos/246033380516957>

<https://www.facebook.com/sawafordaid/videos/278295773637485>

The distributions occurred over two days and were completed on March 31<sup>st</sup>, with team members following SAWA's SOPs for distribution in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and wearing masks at all times as well as having other safety supplies accessible to them in order to reduce coronavirus risks. The team also assisted the recipients by delivering the items to their residences after signing the distribution list.

This grant covered 160 households, supporting 839 individuals. An additional 33 households were covered by the private donation and therefore, a total of 193 households (or 1028 individuals) receiving winterisation assistance.

The team and beneficiaries would like to express their deepest appreciation to the fundraising efforts of people in the Ballinasloe area, without which this intervention would not have been possible.

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## Financial Report

**Trocaire / Sawa Winterisation project**Period Mar-21  
Total Budget available: € 12,392**Program costs**

| Item                                  | Unit               | Unit Cost euro | No of Units  | Total (€)     |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|
| Daily Workers                         | Individual / month | 248            | 4            | 992           |
| Transportation                        | lumpsum            | 248            | 1            | 248           |
| Safety supplies for distribution team | lumpsum            | 81             | 1            | 81            |
| Matresses                             | piece              | 13.4           | 480          | 6,446         |
| Blankets                              | piece              | 7.8            | 480          | 3,760         |
| Overhead costs for Sawa               | lumpsum            |                |              | 865           |
|                                       |                    |                | <b>Total</b> | <b>12,392</b> |