

Relief and Winterisation Intervention

Supported by CREIDEAMH Network

Ballinasloe area

**Activity:** Winterization response and Relief

**Activity duration:** December 2021 - March 2022

**Location of distribution:** Bar Elias, Al-Marj, Faour, Al-Omariya and Saadnayel, Bekaa, Lebanon

**Number of items distributed (by Household):** 322 Tarpaulin, 515 Wood supplies, and clothes to 385 family.

### **I. Background:**

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 because of the ongoing financial crisis in Lebanon, where prices are rising drastically. The prices of shelter and heating materials are steadily increasing due to the currency fluctuation and the lifting of subsidies by the Lebanese government on fuel and other essential goods and materials, which has made the access to essential goods extremely challenging, especially for families who no longer have livelihoods.

Sawa for Development and Aid has been working in Lebanon for several years with a specific focus on the Beqaa region, one of the most vulnerable areas in Lebanon. Sawa's response place a great focus on the Informal Tented Settlements (ITS) considering the high level of needs existing among living households and individuals. All through the response, Sawa worked on community mobilization and have invested thus far in several community-based groups (CRPCs) in Saadnayel and other areas. Trocaire's partnership with Sawa has facilitated assistance to people in need in many ITSs located in the areas of intervention. The assistance took many forms, starting with emergency response, psychosocial support to vulnerable families, referrals to specialized services and such. Throughout the years a strong relationship has developed between the community and Sawa and the CRPCs provide a good community engagement structure.

### **II. Project Activities:**

Since the beginning of 2022, Lebanon has witnessed successive winter storms that started in January with a snowstorm "Heba" and then followed by a colder storm at the beginning of February, "Yasmine". The harsh storms that hit Lebanon has caused considerable damage to the refugees' camps and their shelters. This has been observed and identified by active actors in the areas and an immediate response and support were urgently required.

Regarding the living conditions of refugees residing in the camps, they were the most affected by these storms; as most of the camps had not been maintained for more than two years, which caused many of the covers and wood inside the tents to wear out. Blizzards came to break or damage much of the sheathing in the camps. Due to the tight financial situation of the refugees and high material prices, it was difficult to replace these covers or buy new woods for the tents. This has of course worsened the shelter conditions in these settlements. Families living in these camps have reported feeling unsafe in the tents especially with the risk of having the tents collapsing due to the broken wood.

To better assess and greatly understand the needs, the CRPC members along with Sawa teams have conducted a rapid needs assessment in the targeted camps to help them identify the most urgent needs among the groups. Ensuring the safety and access for households was recognised as the most urgent need to address. Along with the analysis of the assessment results, Sawa relief team conducted field visits to the affected camps to check on the sites and tents, hence, estimate the required materials and quantities to rehabilitate and improve the existing shelter conditions.

The community consultations have indicated a list of needs reported by the CRPCs as priority, and which included adequate shelter in the form of tarpaulin, heating equipment, bedding, and blankets. Sawa and other organisations collaborated to respond to the needs of the community. Based on these gaps, the best use of Ballinasloe funds, were Tarpaulins, tent wood and clothes, and these were 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 informal settlements was done based by Sawa in consultation with the CRPCs. 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 several years.

Through this project, tarpaulin and wood were distributed for tents damaged by the storm, as well as winter clothes for children, adults, and youth, based on the need. Sawa adopted three methods for data collection: a) data collected during the field visits made by the relief team to the camps, b) the received phone calls to the relief team's hotline and self referrals, and c) referrals and information received from the camps committees who supported through sharing

information on the tents that have been damaged, whether in their camps or other camps close to them.

### **III. Distribution of Relief Items:**

#### **Tarpaulin provision for Syrian household:**

One of the priorities that the Sawa team responded to is the camp covers, as it is not possible to keep the tent warm and prevent rain and snow intrusion if the cover is damaged or fallen due to snow. The distribution of Tarpaulins takes place after the case is received by the relief team through referral pathways mentioned above. Then the tent's dimensions are recorded and sent to the supplier who customizes it according to the tent size and requirements, the installation then takes place in the ITS. During the project implementation covers were distributed to 322 families with a total of 1935 individuals in five areas in the central Bekaa: "Bar Elias, Saad Nayel, Al-Marj, Faour, Al-Omariya" with a total of 37 camps.



Pic7: People from Barelias Camps are receiving their tarpaulin for them to install it in their tents.

#### **Wood distribution:**

The snow that gathered on the tents caused the wood that holds the tent to break. The people tried to repair or replace some, but purchasing new wood for the tents became difficult for families due to the high prices. Sawa's intervention, with Ballinasloe funds, supported the

provision of the needed wood for damaged tents to 515 families from 38 camps with a total of 3391 individuals. The distribution covered three areas: “Saad Nayel, Bar Elias, and Omariya.”



Pic9: Saadnayel- SAWA's team with volunteers from the community during rebuilding damaged tents by using woods, shaders and many other materials provided in this project.

#### Distribution of clothes:

Many children suffered from cold due to the snowstorm and extreme cold during winter, especially since rain and snow water leaked to many of the tents. Within this intervention, children were prioritized for clothes distribution. In total, 385 families from 17 camps benefited from the distribution of clothes, with a sum of 2,024 individuals in total. The distribution covered five areas: Bar Elias, Saad Nayel, Al-Marj, Al-Omariya, and Abu Jabal.





Sawa's relief team during the winter clothes distribution in Sadnayel refugee camp- January 2022

#### **IV. Challenges and Lessons Learned:**

- Sawa relief team received a lot of calls asking for support, however, due to funding limitations not all cases were supported. However, Sawa activated the response network and called for an emergency meeting of organizations working in the Bekaa, to activate the referral system between organizations and try to cover all cases.
- Sawa protection team conducted field visits to the affected families and provided them with psychosocial support, hence, referred cases in greater need to the available services in the area.
- The camp committees have played a key role in raising the awareness and referring cases from their settlements. This has been done after attending training sessions organized and conducted by Sawa team.
- Sawa's work and achievements with the formed committees is proving efficient in the provided response and referrals. Sawa seeks to maintain the role of the committees by including them as permanent members of the response network that was established in the Bekaa and which brings together the local organizations working there.

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.

**V. Financial Snapshot:**

Below is a budget figure statement of the project, funding the project activities was shared between the received grant from Ballinsaloe (€15,208) and Trocaire own's fund (€34,792).

<b>Budget &amp; Expenditure Report</b>		
<b>Partner:</b>	<b>SAWA</b>	
<b>Project Title:</b>	<b>Winterisation Emergency Response</b>	
<b>Project Period:</b>	<b>1-Jan-2022 31-March-2022</b>	
<b>Budgeted exchange rate (LCY to EUR)</b>		
	<b>Subhead</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>
<b>Budget Line Reference</b>		<b>Total Expenditure</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>CRPC Support</b>	
<b>A1</b>	winterization (Clothes)	<b>8,298</b>
<b>A2</b>	Winterization (Tarpoline)	<b>29,142</b>
<b>A3</b>	Wood for tents	<b>11,549</b>
<b>A4</b>	Relief team	<b>902</b>
<b>A5</b>	Transportation	<b>108</b>
		<b>50,000</b>
	<b>Grand total</b>	<b>€ 50,000</b>

VI. Media from the implementation:



Pic1: Sawa's relief team with support from Community Resilience and Preparedness Committees (CRPCs) are packing winter for distribution in Saadnayel camp- January 2022



Pic2: Sawa's relief team during the winter clothes distribution in Sadnayel refugee camp- January 2022





Pic3: Saadnayel- Children in Saadnayel refugee camp received their winter clothes kit in January 2022



Pic4: Tent Shader for a damaged tent before providing new tarpaulin in Barlias camp



Pic5: Barelias- After providing the tent with a new shader.



Pic6: People from Barelias Camps are receiving their tarpaulin for them to install it in their tents.



Pic7: People from Barelias Camps are receiving their tarpaulin for them to install it in their tents.





Pic8: A damaged tent in Saadnayel during Hiba storm. Sawa's team supported the family in rebuilding the tent safely, by providing them wood, covers (shader) and volunteers to help in the rebuilding work.





Pic9: Saadnayeel- SAWA's team with volunteers from the community during rebuilding damaged tents by using woods, shaders and many other materials provided in this project.



Pic10: SAWA's relief team conducting the needs assessment of the most affected households in Saadnayel- December 2022





Pic11: SAWA's relief team are distributing wood materials in Saadnayel camp to the most affected households to strengthen their tents.



Pic12: SAWA's relief team are distributing wood materials in Saadnayel camp to the most affected households to strengthen their tents.



Pic13: Barelias- Sawa's relief team were among the first responders during the HIBA storm. In this picture, they were supporting the most affected families in relocation and conducting initial needs assessment.





Pic14: Barlias camp during the HIBA Storm that hit Bekaa in December 2022

**Video during rebuilding the tent:**

<https://fb.watch/bCW2PVBiey/>

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