

ALISSAR



**Association for a Social and Solidary Based Lebanon,
Actor of its Reconstruction**

Identity



Alissar is a non-profit Franco-Lebanese association, working to renew an entrepreneurial, ethical and solidarity-based Lebanon. It is specialized in the provision of upstream technical and entrepreneurial expertise as well as financial support and coaching to project holders in Lebanon (start-ups or existing companies facing the crisis) in order to help them create or sustain their businesses. It is non-confessional and apolitical.

Mission



Alissar's mission is to re-establish the sense of belonging to the same country and to participate in the improvement of social cohesion through the development of projects that put to light the resources, local "know-hows" and responsible purchasing.

Vision



We invest in Lebanon and its communities, regardless of the origins, religion or political affiliations. We strive to support economic opportunities that bring social benefits while protecting the environment. Our approach is that of the social and solidarity-based economy (job creation, balanced distribution of dividends, ecological approach, local economy). We are committed to the values of integration and participation.



Manifesto of Alissar's members

"A strengthened civil society that is multicultural, entrepreneurial and respectful of the rights of minorities and of the environment can only be beneficial to rebuild the Lebanon of tomorrow with the help of neutral and impartial aid".

Alissar first members

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« Nothing is given, nor promised, but everything is possible to those who are willing to undertake and risk. This is the wager we must take at a time when we are suffocated by lies, when we are pressed against the wall. We must hold calmly, but steadily, and the doors will open. »

Albert Camus



Project Summary

The objectives:

- On the short term: identify, support and finance the first project holders.
- On the medium term: expand to other projects through reinforced links with the NGO Partners present in Lebanon.

Location: Alissar headquarters are established in France since October 2020. This will be followed by the installation of a twin association in Lebanon in January 2021.

Partners: around six potential associative Partners have already been identified in Lebanon with a sharing of common values.

Timeline:

- October 2020: Creation of Alissar France
- December 2020: Identification of initiatives and selection of pilot projects.

Lebanese current context

- Lebanon is currently witnessing a humanitarian, social, economic, financial, health and identity crisis.
- 40% of the population is unemployed. 58% of the population is below the poverty line, of which 22% are in extreme poverty.
- Lebanon is witnessing decreasing tax revenues, rising inflation, deteriorating poverty, and galloping devaluation of the Lebanese pound.
- The double explosion of August 4, 2020 has left hundreds dead and thousands injured, 300,000 homeless. It has pulverized the centre of the capital and inflicted severe damages throughout the city. The human and material toll was very heavy and the explosion has paralyzed the port and several companies.
- Economic activity has been drastically slowed down, not only in Beirut, but throughout the country. According to World Bank estimates, the explosion caused between 3.8 and 4.6 billion dollars in damages and between 2.9 and 3.5 billion dollars of financial losses.
- Lebanon needs to support its civil society with resources that it cannot access due to this widespread crisis.
- Lebanon needs a new look at life with a differentiated way of thinking and approach.

Presentation of the policies implemented in Lebanon

- Many NGOs (about 250) are already present on the national and international scene in support of civil society.
- These NGOs address different sectors:
 1. **Civil protection**
 2. **Medical emergencies**
 3. **Education**
 4. **The reconstruction of the country**
 5. **The emancipation of women**
 6. **The care of the elderly and of people in a situation of disability**
 7. **The fight against famine**
 8. **Support for refugees**



Malfunctions & challenges

- **Lack of involvement** by municipalities and governmental departments.
- **Banking restrictions** and capital controls, leading to the lack of confidence in the banking system.
- **Extreme insecurity** due to this multi-faceted crisis and an urgent need for action at all levels (macroeconomic and microeconomic).
- **A challenge to rebuild** a sustainable entrepreneurial environment at the micro-economic level. Need for a differentiated approach that favours local know-hows, solidarity and respect for the environment, in order to overcome the current crisis and support promising ideas for Lebanon.



Project Description

- Call for project proposals, open to cooperatives, small businesses, non-profit organizations and municipalities in Lebanon.
- Provision of funding, advice and support to grant recipients following a rigorous selection process.
- Direct provision of equipment and trainings to local groups to help them start or expand a business.
- A focus on economic development in order to improve the standard of living of individuals and their families and by that, the local socio-economic fabric.
- The association is initially financed by the own funds of its founding members. Apart from small structural costs such as the local working team, all donations received will be used for the realization of projects, which will in turn contribute to the improvement of the Lebanese civil society.



Objectives

- To bring, thanks to the funding and expertise provided by its members, supporters and the Lebanese diaspora, technical and financial assistance to the selected projects (new initiatives or existing enterprises to be developed).
- To launch microeconomic activities and synergies while waiting for the structural and multi-sectorial reforms desperately needed by the civil society.
- To establish academic links between France and Lebanon in the field of the solidarity based economy

Communication

- Communications with the institutions specialized in "empowerment" across all regions and communities in Lebanon.
- Campaigning through Social Networks



Targeted areas of intervention

→ Expected results from the evaluation in progress

- EDUCATION
- ARTISTIC & CULTURAL AWAKENING
- WOMEN EMPOWERMENT
- AGRICULTURE & FOOD
- ENVIRONMENT FRIENDLY APPLICATION
- PLANTS, COSMETICS & NATURAL MEDICINE
- WATER & IRRIGATION
- NEW ENERGIES
- ADVANCED IT APPLICATION
- INCREASED ACCESS FOR ICT (Information & Communication Technologies)

Development of these areas with the aim of minimizing imports and enable exportation of products

Granting Conditions

- Investment in projects carried out by one or more people working under a cooperative or a company, that will lead to improvements in employment, the environment, exports, quality of life, etc...
- The project must:
 1. Present a clear benefits for the community as a whole, beyond a single individual
 2. Benefit low-income or underserved communities in Lebanon.
 3. Use up to 70% of the Lebanese resources
 4. Use Lebanese know-how
 5. Create jobs for the youth
 6. Environmental friendly



Potential Partners to Alissar (under assessment)

- **AL-MAJMOUA** : Lebanese Association for Development, co-ordinating body Credit Small business development. Micro finance NGO that funds small businesses, for example helping out this lady to open a small epicery, or helping this guy to open his small shop in the village, up to 61,1million dollar in donation. They help women in particular. Link: (<https://www.almajmoua.org/meet.aspx>)
- **ALME Association Libanaise pour la Maitrise de l'Energie** : Academic/Research Institute / Appropriate technology / Environment Community, this NGO targets big projects that include international companies, local ministries and municipalities. Link : (<http://www.almeelebanon.com/Projects>)
- **Dar Al-Amal NGO** : Community development, Women & Youth Service organization, this NGO is specialized in children protection, to help get out of streets, to continue their studies. Micro projects to be financed. Link: (<http://dar-alamal.org/readmore.php?id=6>)
- **Lebanese Development Cooperative**: Development NGO, offers credit to small business in rural areas mostly, in order to facilitate their development Community technology Service organization. Link (<http://coopcld.org>)
- **Khaddit Beirut**: The road map to recovery, community-led and locally-driven. Rebuilding bars, shops and business in the Beirut, especially in the area affected by the blast. (<https://khadditbeirut.com/>)
- **The Nawaya Network** : startup NGO that donate and help people get in touch with their inner skills to survive and make a living. Project implementation for youth across Lebanon, micro finance for local projects that will create employment. Link: (<http://www.nawaya.org/entrepreneurship>)
- **Injaz** : aims to educate and prepare Lebanon's youth to become qualified and successful employees and entrepreneurs. Educate the youth about work readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy. Link: (<http://www.injaz-lebanon.org/about/overview.html>)
- **Berytech** : they have different program. For example, Beirut hope initiative, that came to life after Beirut's explosion to support startups and small business. Another program, Agrytech, Agri-food startup accelerator programLink: (<https://berytch.org/>)
- **Fondation Diane** : environmental NGO that gives awareness and fund eco-sustainable development programs. Link: (<https://www.fondation-diane.org/>)



Long – Term Impacts



- Job Creation
- Economic Growth
- Social and solidarity-based cooperation
- Protection of the environment
- Rebuilding the country
- Renewed confidence in the country's economic system
- Improved quality of Life
- Preserved dignity and empowerment
- Reinforced sense of belonging





You can send us **support** or **donate** through the web site www.alissar.org)
or describe your project at : projects@alissar.org

Thank You!