

# Tahaddi Responds to the Beirut Blast



## ***Youth Help in the Clean-Up Effort***

Our staff members and youth are part of an incredible and spontaneous citizen-led clean-up effort that is bringing together Lebanese from across the country and emergency personnel from around the globe. The loss and destruction is indescribable but we are also encouraged by the love and commitment of youth who, with kitchen brooms, garden shovels and rubber gloves, are picking up the pieces and rebuilding our country.



## ***Psychological Support***

Even if there was no destruction in the Hay El Gharbeh neighborhood, the explosion was strongly felt. This was terrifying in itself and also brought back painful memories of war. Tahaddi's psychosocial team has been offering immediate psychological support to children and adults. Our counselors are using art and drama to help the community process what happened and the tremendous fear and instability we all felt.



# COVID-19 Restrictions Won't Stop Us From Learning!



**“ I only attended school until Grade 3. I can read a bit in Arabic and know a few words in English. At home, alongside my daughter, I am trying to learn new English letters. I love the art projects and eagerly waited for the new assignments each Thursday...! ”**

**Alia, mother of a student**

For the past 3 months, 209 children were online 3 to 5 hours a day via WhatsApp chat. They were studying Arabic, English, math and science, as well as art, music, and theater. In addition to the lessons, exercises were sent by Tahaddi's team of speech and psychomotor therapists to encourage students to expand their motor, visual and auditory skills. It was very touching to see how eager the preschoolers (ages 3 to 5) were to complete their daily activities and stay connected to their educators. Students in Tahaddi's special education program also participated online and showed tremendous commitment. Many parents, despite being illiterate, sat with their children to support them in their studies and to communicate with the educators.

Every morning, the virtual bell rang on WhatsApp and the children prepared themselves for the day. One student shared that she loved how our educators greeted them every morning: "They were always nice, kind and patient with us," she said.

Our team of social workers and psychologists gave awareness sessions on COVID-19 prevention measures and also on internet safety. Given the stresses of confinement, the psychosocial team facilitated conversations with both parents and students on how to manage emotions positively and support one another during these unusual times.

Thanks to generous donations, the Tahaddi Education Center was able to secure 21 phones to lend to families who are the most economically vulnerable and did not have a phone. It also enabled us to provide families with emergency cash assistance on a monthly basis to cover the cost of rent, food and expensive internet fees during the lockdown when most parents lost their incomes. This was essential for supporting the families, reducing food insecurity, and keeping children in school as opposed to working.



[Watch this short video of Bilal, one of the students in our remote learning program](#)

**Every day, Bilal sat on his door step doing his school work. This was the best spot to catch his neighbor's internet signal, which the families share, and also to avoid waking up his younger brother!**



# FADWA'S JOURNEY



**“Someone finally saw what I was going through”**

Fadwa is a Syrian mother from Manbij, north of Aleppo. While she and her family managed to escape the war in Syria and flee to Lebanon, they haven't found life easy in Beirut.

Fadwa and her husband struggle to find stable work. Her husband works only occasionally at the local wholesale vegetable market making less than \$5 a day. Fadwa and her children earn a meager income by selling tissue boxes on the street or by peeling garlic to sell to restaurants. If the entire family works for over 8 hours a day, they are able to peel 10 kilos of garlic, earning a total of 5,000 LL, which is now less than \$1.

The family arrived mid-year, so the children were not able to register for school. When talking about her eldest daughter, Razan, Fadwa explains, “She was the first in her class when she was in Syria. Now, I feel she is very down and emotionally distant. She is always quiet, alone, and complains that she feels unwell. I just want her to be happy. I want her to feel alive again”.

“Six months ago, I was introduced to Tahaddi, and this really changed many things for us.” Fadwa and her family are now enrolled in our relief program and have received food vouchers for the past five months. The Tahaddi Health Center also provides them free medical care. “We wouldn't have been able to eat if it weren't for this aid. I have nothing to rely on except these vouchers. Before that, we used to live on bread and tea. One time, we went three days with hardly any food. Now, thankfully, despite the situation, we can buy rice, sugar, vegetables...I thank God every day. Finally, someone saw what I was going through”.



***The family's two children, Razan and Raouf, have now also joined Tahaddi's online summer activities, and their mother is happy to see her children busy and enjoying themselves.***

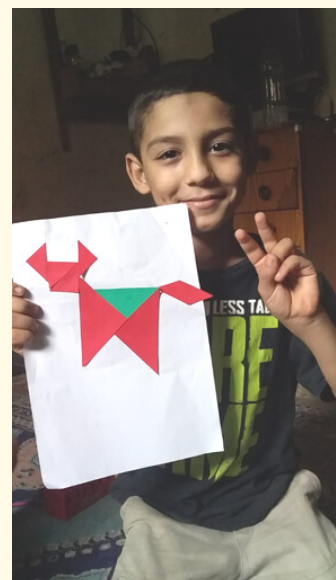
# SUMMER FUN AT HOME



To keep kids engaged and learning during the school holidays, the Education Center provided 350 children with a wide range of activities to do remotely. The education team produced WhatsApp video tutorials to guide children through science experiments, physical exercises such as jump rope drills, games and crafts. Educators prepared kits on a weekly basis that included all the materials needed for the activities and filled sacks for each child. These cloth pouches were sewn with love by the Tahaddi Sewing Atelier. The children proudly showed off their creations to their educators and schoolmates over WhatsApp and enjoyed many playful hours with their siblings and friends!



**Watch our  
summer activities  
videos [here!](#)**



# Bringing COVID-19 Testing to the Community



The Tahaddi Health Center is playing a vital role during the COVID-19 crisis by acting as a critical link between the community and the public health authorities.

Early in June, the Tahaddi team, in conjunction with the Municipality and Ministry of Health, organized testing to be done onsite at our center after fear of a local outbreak. Thankfully, there were no positive cases among those tested. However, since then there have been clusters of cases in the neighborhood. The Tahaddi team aims to act quickly to reduce further spread given the very dense living conditions. One of the key ways we do this is by supporting families in medical isolation through providing food and emotional support by phone, as well as medical advice.



# YOUR DONATIONS TO THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE WENT A LONG WAY:



## MARCH

**97** Families received cash assistance

**163** Families received food vouchers

## APRIL

**221** Families received cash assistance

**334** Families received food vouchers

## MAY

**209** Families received cash assistance

**263** Families received food vouchers

## JUNE

**300** Families received cash assistance

**477** Families received food vouchers

## JULY

**276** Families received cash assistance

**477** Families received food vouchers

+

**201** Families received food boxes

**909** Families received hygiene kits



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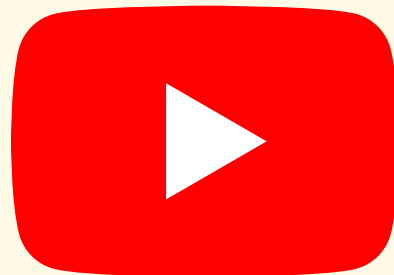
# MASKS, MASKS, AND MORE MASKS!

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The Tahaddi Sewing Atelier has been hard at work sewing masks. The seamstresses have produced more than 6,000 masks so far, which were distributed all over Lebanon in partnership with private businesses, partner NGOs and schools.

**FOLLOW THE SEWING  
ATELIER ON INSTAGRAM!  
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