



## For Immediate Release

### Partnering for Beirut

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and the Canadian International Development Organization (CIDO) announce an exciting collaboration.

September 8, 2020

Kitchener, Ont. - Today, Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and the Canadian International Development Organization (CIDO) are excited to announce an agreement to work together to bring more aid to the people of Beirut.

Nearly one month ago, the world watched as Beirut was devastated by a catastrophic explosion at a port in Lebanon's capital. Estimates indicate 300,000 people are without homes, 5,000 to 7,000 have been injured and at least 220 people have died.

In the aftermath of the explosion, MCC quickly connected with our team in Beirut to assess the damage and begin planning how we could help. Numerous organizations distributed food immediately after the explosion. However, MCC will address the need that will still be there when they are gone, working with partners to identify and support households that are most in need. More information about MCC's response is available [here](#).

"For over 100 years, MCC has been responding to basic human needs and working for peace and justice. When noted humanitarian, Waterloo entrepreneur and founder of CIDO, Shawky Fahel, approached MCC, we were excited," said MCC Ontario Executive Director, John Head. "Mr. Fahel brings a lifetime of experience and a unique perspective as an immigrant to Canada, a business and innovation leader and a public policy expert. Our shared values of promoting peace, change, conflict prevention and the creation of healthy environments make this partnership a great fit."

When asked why CIDO wanted to partner with MCC, Mr. Fahel said, "MCC has a reputation of staying behind and continuing to support communities long after the international focus has moved on. They are committed to real change in communities working towards long-term goals." He continued, "this is just the beginning of a long collaboration between CIDO and MCC as we work together to support our shared values."

Funds received through this partnership will be used for water, shelter, food, health, psychosocial support, education and peacebuilding. Donations are accepted online at [mcco.ca/CIDO](http://mcco.ca/CIDO) or by calling 519-745-8458. Charitable receipts will be issued.

***About Canadian International Development Organization (CIDO):*** CIDO, a Canadian Registered Charity, was established in 1988 by Waterloo entrepreneur and philanthropist Shawky Fabel, CIDO partners with organizations to invest in projects that promote peace, change, conflict prevention and the creation of healthy environments that empower people to create lasting change in their lives and communities.

For more information about CIDO or interview requests, please contact Shawky Fabel at 519-651-9433 (cell) or [shawky@cido.ca](mailto:shawky@cido.ca).

***About Mennonite Central Committee (MCC):*** MCC, a Canadian Registered Charity, is a global, non-profit organization that envisions communities worldwide in right relationship with God, one another and creation. MCC has been sharing God's love and compassion for all, by responding to basic human needs and working for peace and justice, for almost 100 years. In all our programs, we are committed to relationships with our local partners and churches — their needs guide our priorities. We strive to make peace a part of everything we do. When responding to disasters we work with local groups to distribute resources in a way that minimizes conflict. In our development work, we consult with communities to make sure the projects meet their needs. We also advocate for policies that will lead to a more peaceful world. MCC appears on the Canada's 2020 Best Charities List released by Maclean's.

For more information about MCC or interview requests, please contact Sheryl Bruggeling, Communications and Events Senior Manager at 519-745-8458 ext 265 (office), 289-407-4758 (cell) or [sherylbruggeling@mcco.ca](mailto:sherylbruggeling@mcco.ca).