

## — Emmaüs International Solidarity Fund

A unique and exceptional support action has been implemented through the Emmaüs International Solidarity Mechanism fund. In the wake of the current difficult situation in Lebanon, it became crucial to encourage women to take active business steps, while offering and designing for them a customized 'loan product'. AEP has added new responses to its main mission and activity, with a special focus on home based businesses for vulnerable women unable to pay loan charges (interest and file fees) but in desperate need for a microloan to ensure: 1) financial self-sufficiency, 2) the improvement of their socio-economic status, 3) reduced poverty risk and the support of their households with rising unemployment.



**218 loans**  
granted in 2021  
for a total amount of  
**1,867,000,000 LBP**

## — Nothing to lose

The legislative elections in May this year will have a slightly different tone to them. That of a glimmer of hope in an cloud of gloom – albeit that many remain skeptical about any real possibility of change.

The events of the last few horrid years – those of financial bankruptcy, soaring inflation, punishing poverty and cruel but avertible disasters – have ensured that the Lebanese are now compelled to cling to this pontoon of hope. We must see these elections as a beam of light, glimmering in the foggy future.

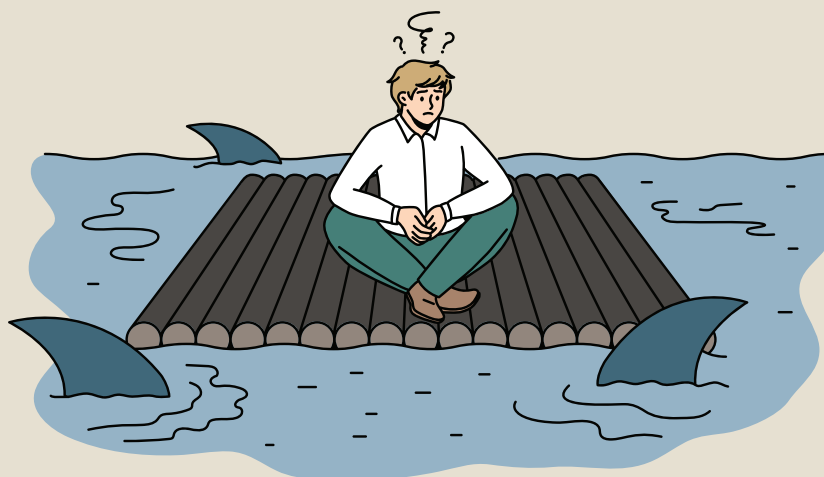
And what of our resolve? The famous resilience for which we are justifiably renowned is not some legend but a tangible cable on which, if anything, we have lately tugged too hard. For businesses are still in survival mode, are they not?... With the consequential damage to health and education and the inevitable emigration of those who can take no more and no longer wish to help.

Yet there are so many who do, and the young, the brave, are stepping up to take the torch of civil duty – callously dropped by the official authorities who more resemble zombies. Dozens of usually voluntary associations continue to do an admirable job of direct or auxiliary aid, with the valuable contribution of the diaspora, international NGOs and friendly countries, all equally fed up with corruption and apathy.

The private sector has been no less enthusiastic and we can see Lebanese captains of industry, traders, restaurateurs, and technicians, everywhere developing their businesses or starting up new ones. Notwithstanding the menace of Covid and the country's maligned reputation, they are bringing in the dollars needed to stave off 'disaster' and succeed!

It is on their efforts, and those of NGOs, that this country's exit from the tunnel, and a well-deserved bright future will depend.

 Nicolas Sbeih



## Fondation de France (FDF) and San Zeno Funds mobilize for Lebanon

Thanks to the generous support of our partners Fondazione SanZeno and Fondation de France, we were able to stand by our borrowers who were severely affected by the port explosion. We granted them financial support to restore their businesses and/or houses and waived remaining loan dues to AEP.



This initiative was kicked off in late 2020, thanks to Emmaüs International fund, and complemented by the support of our two funders. Beneficiaries are now back on track and have again become productive. The speed at which our partners responded helped enormously and the pace of rebuilding was truly striking.

The completion of these important milestones helped our beneficiaries to re-enter the economic cycle, supporting their families' needs and generating income. This gave them back hope in themselves, so that they again became independent members of society. AEP remained true to its mission to help the most vulnerable communities.



## Testimonials

“ I am a widow of 63 years old. I live alone in the small neighborhood of Sin El Fil in Beirut. My 22 year old son died eight years ago, when he was the victim of a heroin overdose. I work as a cleaner in a private school in Beirut, but since the closure of all education sectors in Lebanon due to COVID-19, I found myself jobless with no income to cover my rent and daily expenses. I am struggling to buy enough food and without the assistance of AEP I would have stayed hungry for a month. ”

Samira, Sin-el-fil

“ I lost my husband 3 years ago; cancer took him away from me and his children. Since then, my heart breaking hardship has not ended. I am raising six youngsters alone (two of whom suffer from mental disability) with no external support apart from income I earn from my “job”; cleaning houses and the stairs of other buildings. The food parcel I received from AEP relieved my family for at least 2 months, it's been over a year since I bought milk for my children! I am so touched, so thankful, so happy to see food on my kitchen's shelves. Thank you, and may I wish you every success in your initiatives! ”

D.S, North Beqaa

### AEP Chocolate Tradition

This year, 750 kilos of chocolate were prepared with great care by five mothers, passionate about their work for over ten years. AEP chocolate is a mission of professional assistance, encouraging small artisans to realize their dreams and contribute to the needs of their households. High quality artisanal chocolate is made with utmost love and know-how, offering our customers its exceptional taste and the chance to help others.



## Food Aid Supply

**Lebanon has been facing unprecedented difficulties; the economic crisis, aggravated by the pandemic, topped by the port blast, has brought new challenges of food security to the country.**

In the last two months, prices have increased dramatically. Lebanese economists express their fears of a further deterioration, pointing out that even before these crises, prices in Lebanon were 30 percent higher than in neighboring countries.

The Food Aid Initiative supported by **Fondation Abbé Pierre (FAP), Fondazione SanZeno and Emmaüs International**, thanks to the contribution of group members, enabled AEP to distribute to vulnerable families living in poverty across Lebanon: 900 food boxes in 2020 and more than 500 food boxes in 2021, increasing their resilience during this challenging period.

Through this project, we were able to make a significant impact on the community and its female entrepreneurs. Out of the twenty items contained in the food parcel, five were bought from AEP’s women borrowers, who produce mouneh and live in rural areas across Lebanon. Twenty-one borrowers benefited from our initiative, helping these ladies to liquidate a large quantity of their products.

On behalf of all the beneficiaries, we would like to thank AEP’s partners for their trust and collaboration. We look forward to further expanding our initiative in the coming years, so as to reach out to more communities all over the country, especially in remote areas.

**500**  
food boxes  
distributed  
around the country



B5 Fund

## Building Beirut Businesses Back and Better – B5 Fund

AEP was selected to participate in the Building Beirut Businesses Back and Better Fund (B5), financed by the Lebanon Financing Facility (LFF), a multi-donor trust fund established in December 2020. It is managed by the World Bank to pool and coordinate grant resources for the socio-economic recovery after the Port of Beirut explosion of August 4, 2020. The objective of the B5 Fund is to support targeted Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs), damaged by the explosion and sustain the operation of eligible Microfinance Institutions (MFIs). The B5 Fund will also help to preserve private sector jobs and reduce business closures and layoffs. The project was implemented by Kafalat SAL, a joint stock company established as a financial institution under the Lebanese Code of Commerce. As a microfinance NGO with more than thirty years’ experience in the field, AEP’s role will be to assess, select and evaluate applications and recovery needs, so as to decide on grant amounts to be disbursed. The AEP Board and team are proud to take part in this unique project to support small entrepreneurs.

## Objectives for 2022

- > Study and find new solutions for AEP borrowers during this hard period
- > Diversify the loan portfolio so as to better meet the needs of the sector.
- > Go beyond credits and study new strategies and an action plan to enlarge AEP activity.
- > Develop our partnerships with a variety of suitable national and international institutions.

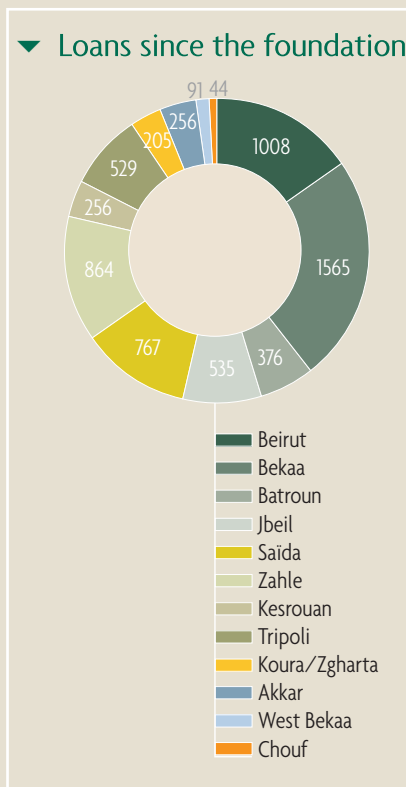
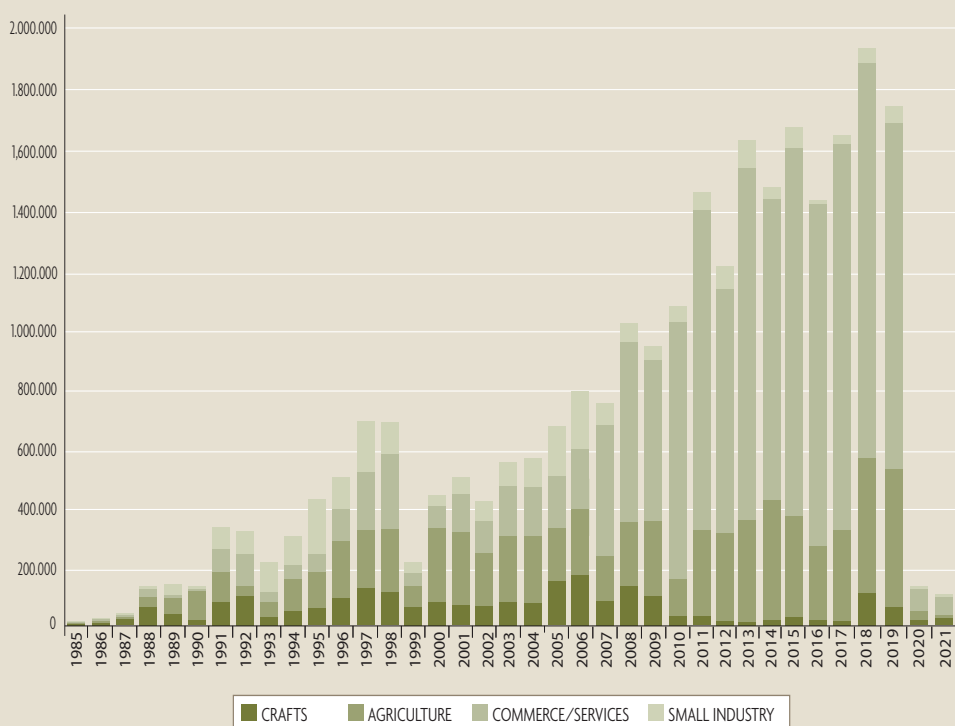
## Achievements

— Ever since its foundation in October 1984 until the 31<sup>th</sup> of december 2018, the “Parabank” has granted **6 496 loans** for a sum of **26 329 448 US\$** among which

Coverage rate:  
**65%**

→ **6 392 familial loans** for a sum of **25 492 957 US\$**  
 → **97 collective loans** for a sum of **703 529 US\$**  
 → **7 cooperative loans** for a sum of **132 962 US\$**

### ▼ Distribution of the granted loans per year and per sector



▶ Year 2021	Granted loans:	→ Number	<b>218</b>
		→ Amount	<b>1,867,000,000 LBP</b>
	Average outstanding loans:	→ Number	<b>774</b>
		→ Amount in USD	<b>1,052,014 US\$</b>
		→ Amount in LBP	<b>2,090,584,417 LBP</b>

### ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE :

<b>President :</b> Camille Chedid	<b>Vice-President :</b> Wafaa Abou Charaf	<b>Secretary :</b> Dolly Haddad	<b>Treasury :</b> Samira Khoury
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<b>Members :</b>	Antoine Eid Janet el Tawil	Roger Melki Chady Rached	Nicolas Sbeih
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**Planning and coordination :** Lara Hassoun

### AEP's Address

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 Badaro, Beirut  
 Tel. / Fax (961) 1 382610  
 P.O.Box : 116-5439 Museum 1106/2040 Beirut, Lebanon  
 E- mail: [aep@inco.com.lb](mailto:aep@inco.com.lb)  
 Website : [www.aep.org.lb](http://www.aep.org.lb)



AEP Liban



AEPLebanon



## How to help the AEP?

The AEP needs your financial and/or technical solidarity and support. If you are convinced with the efficiency of its socio-economic action, many participation options are proposed to you: donations, loans, professional advice for the creditors or informing your neighborhood about the goals and actions of the AEP

### YES, I WISH TO HELP THE AEP

Name and family name (Mrs., Ms, and M.)

Complete address

Postal code

Tel

Fax

E-Mail

#### BY DONATING

I wish to pay the annual subscription :

150 000LL

or 100 Euros

or 100 US\$

I wish to make a donation to support the AEP in its action :

Amount of the donation

L.L. or

Euros. or

US\$

The donations are paid to the AEP via :  check,  postal check,  cash,

Bank transfer:

IBAN : LB7300220000000242112219500 N° compte: 0242112219500

IBAN : LB020022000002400X0122195000 (US\$ fresh account)

IBAN : LB74002200000069400122195XF Account N°: 69400X0122195900 (Euros fresh account)

Swift Code : MEDLLBBX Bank Name : BANKMED - ACHRAFIEH BRANCH

#### BY ADVISING

I wish, depending on my competences, to advise the creditors in their professional activity.

Field

available time

#### BY INFORMING

I wish to inform about the goals and actions of the AEP.

Number of required bulletins

- Check the mentions that interest you and send this page to the AEP address.

The team of the AEP is at your complete disposal for any information on this number: 01/382610 from 8h till 16h from Monday to Friday

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