

COVID-19 Needs for Philemon Project

1. **Child Sponsorship** – since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, Lebanon has been experiencing an extreme economic crisis. The devaluation of the currency combined with people either losing their jobs or being paid half of their salary, has affected the most vulnerable of our community more than most. The parents of GROW children were already on low incomes before Covid-19, and now they need to get back to work. Their first priority is to put their children somewhere safe. We can provide the safe place, but each family should pay LL 150,000 (\$100) per month, to contribute towards the costs. Since Covid-19, most families cannot pay the fees we ask for. Sponsorship of \$50 per month will enable these families to be able to return their children to GROW.

$\$50 \times 80 \text{ children} = \4000 per month

2. **Nutrition & Hygiene** – Our aim at GROW is to provide for a child's physical needs, as well as for their cognitive, emotional and spiritual needs. We provide nutritious meals each day – breakfast, lunch and a snack. The financial crisis and inflation has meant that the cost of providing meat, cheese, fruit, vegetables etc., has increased substantially. We would like to continue providing nutritious meals, as well as support our families by either cooking meals for them or providing food packages / parcels and hygiene items to help them in their homes.

3. **Medical Fund** – As we get to know our families, we realize more and more, that they do not prioritize their own health, because they have to pay to see a doctor. This causes ongoing health issues, and even though we refer them to a subsidized clinic locally, which is run by Resurrection Church Beirut, they often do not go, even though the fees are very low. We would like to provide a medical fund that parents can access when they attend the AlShafy clinic (just a few minutes walk from GROW), so that they can have medical consultations and tests for free.