



We Wood Beirut

An initiative by Urban Network

August 4, 2020, the night that shook the Lebanese capital to the core, leaving an unforgettable scar in its history and the memory of its people. This date marks the massive explosion that hit Beirut port and ended the lives of hundreds of innocent people, and left a large part of the city under the rubble.

We, at Urban Network, the architects, the designers, and the urban planners, walked through the debris of residential streets devastated by the explosion, and realized the need for urgent action to help our community and the many families whose homes were wrecked. How? By mobilizing as many resources as possible to meet the essential needs of those most affected by this disaster.

Short Description of the Project.....

Phase 1: Emergency Response

After inspecting damages on site, Urban Network has decided to tackle two urgent and crucial issues one ecological and the other humanitarian, using both in an ingenious way to serve our suffering community.

A. Wood Waste Management: After the blast that destroyed homes and ripped open walls, large quantities of scrap wood were thrown away during the cleanup. Through the “We Wood - Beirut” initiative, we seek to make the ultimate usage of these materials, by up-cycling and reusing them for the benefit of the local community.

B. Community Aid: The explosion’s aftermath left most houses in Beirut open and unsafe. Needless to say, people are staying up all night, taking shifts to protect their property as well as their community. Our proposal aims to make use of this scrap wood by upcycling it into brand new doors for the inhabitants of Beirut.

The team of Urban Network, already has the know-how and experience, to work with upcycled wood from several international workshops that our crew has hosted or was part of. To achieve that goal, “We Wood - Beirut”, with the support of a team of motivated volunteers, is collaborating with many different Local and international organizations.



Urban Network is a multinational platform that connects people of different disciplines and provides them with a space for sharing, debating, and discussing ideas about cities, their evolution and their design.
<https://www.instagram.com/urbannetworklb/>



MEDS (Meeting of Design Students): an international network where professionals and students from diverse design backgrounds meet for workshops and events. This 11-year experience generated what is now one of the most successful multidisciplinary design workshops in Europe.
<http://medsworkshop.com/>



SHIFT: a social innovation hub leading the transformation of post-conflict and / or marginalized zones towards peaceful and prosperous communities. It brings people together and bridges differences and distances by building capacities, raising awareness, creating opportunities, promoting success models, and mentoring.
<http://www.shiftsih.org/>



Phase 2: Sustainable Long-Term Intervention

With our partners, a sustainable vision is being drafted in order to make use of all the leftover scrap wood & traditional local carpentry to regenerate a neighborhood and revitalize what has been destroyed both on the social and architectural level. This up-cycling approach will help revitalize streets, public spaces, and even homes. Urban Network along with our partners Shift and "MEDS network" will be launching an international call for ideas in order to harness the talents of international and local designers and utilize them for the benefit of the community. Simultaneously, we will be working closely with the families and shop owners; looking after their wellbeing and their reintegration into daily life.

Fundraising Goal.....

Our primary target for this phase is to raise \$20,000 in order to cover the expenses of: collection & sorting, Storage, Woodworking, on site Repairs, Logistics & Transportation, and finally Door installation & finishing works. Please check our Crowdfunding campaign on :

<https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/help-us-rebuild-homes-after-beirut-port-explosion/>

Trust is at the core of what we are doing, without it, and without building strong connections with the community, the initiative cannot reach its target. We would humbly appreciate any support, and we urge you to donate as the on-ground, needs are increasing daily. We are very excited to get to work and we thank you in advance for being part of our initiative and of this new chapter we are launching.

With much thanks and appreciation,
Urban Network Family



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