

The Sound of Hope

An Initiative
by Rotary Club
of Lebanon
International

Lebanon: A Triple Disaster

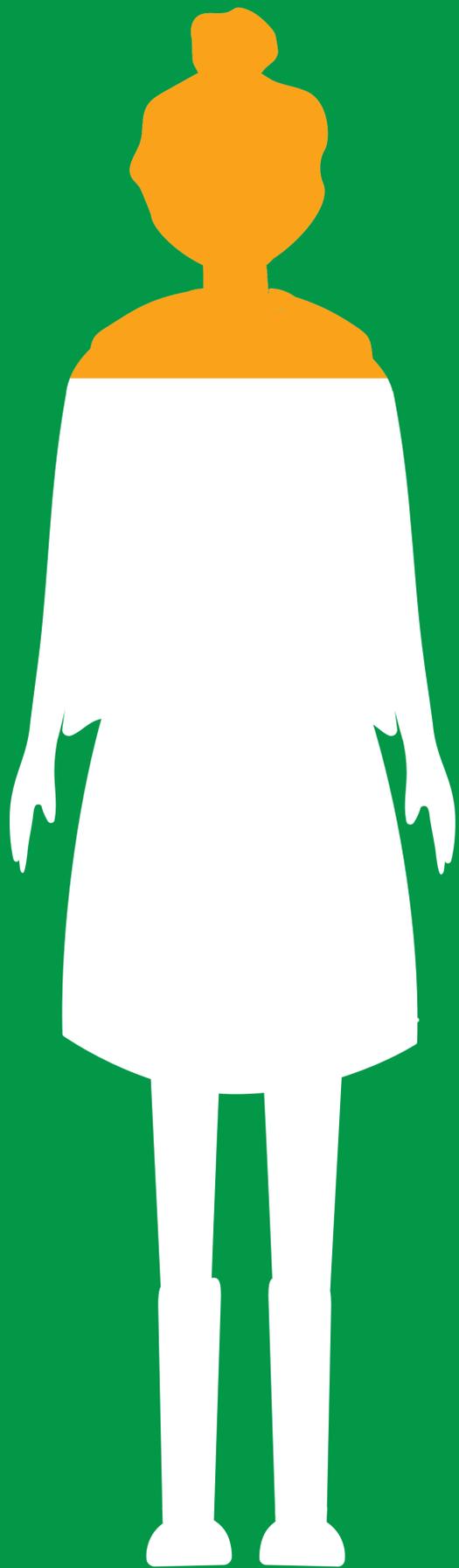
Since 2019, Lebanon has been dealing with dire consequences from its economic crisis, the Beirut Blast, and the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, plunging it into a state of darkness and despair and collapsing its healthcare sector.

With nowhere to turn to and no functional healthcare system in place, underprivileged patients suffering from profound hearing loss miss out on the chance of undergoing surgery to regain their hearing.



Image source: BBC

The Impact of Hearing



An estimated

20%

of the global population
live with hearing loss

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According to the World
Health Organization
(WHO), more than
1.5 billion people live
with hearing loss, out
of which 430 million
have **disabling hearing
loss**. It is expected that
by 2050, this number
could rise to 700 million.

Hearing holds great importance in every human's life, impacting both their **physiological and psychological health**. The gift of hearing also holds profound **socio-economic advantages**, weaving a tapestry of opportunities that those without hearing yearn for.

Through this project, we strive for an accessible and inclusive world, where every soul can revel in the transformative power of hearing, unlocking the boundless possibilities that lie within.

The Solution

Cochlear implant surgery is a procedure performed on individuals with severe hearing loss. It consists of implanting an electrode array in the inner ear to stimulate the auditory nerve. It helps people hear by bypassing damaged hair cells and improving speech comprehension, particularly for those not aided by traditional hearing aids.

For many patients grappling with profound hearing loss, this surgery represents their only chance of regaining their hearing.



Image source: Emergency Live

Our Contribution

Empowering Lives, One Sound at a Time

Rotary Club of Lebanon International will proudly be leading “The Sound of Hope” project, which is an extension of **District 2452’s Medical and Wellness Group’s** “Hearing Loss in Extreme Ages, A Hidden Disability” initiative. We will be fundraising to offer cochlear implant surgery to two deaf patients. We will also be providing vital rehabilitation support to the two patients following the surgeries, empowering them to fully regain a sense of connection, independence, and confidence.

This project will be executed in collaboration with **Promedz Lebanon**, who are helping us secure the cochlear devices, and **Geitaoui Hospital**, where both surgeries will be performed.

Our Sustainable Impact

Transform two human lives, for the rest of their lives.

The impact of this intervention extends far beyond restoring physical capabilities; it offers a chance for deaf individuals to reintegrate into society, communicate effortlessly, and meaningfully engage with their loved ones. Therefore, this initiative has the potential to **completely transform two human lives, for the rest of their lives.**

A multiplier effect.

By supporting the journey toward recovery of these two patients, Rotary Club of Lebanon International hopes to create a **multiplier effect** and treat more patients with similar needs on a yearly basis.

The Patients

A Silent Childhood

Hearing loss in children shatters their world, robbing them of the enchanting symphony of sounds that surround them. It silences their laughter, stifles their cries of joy, and isolates them from the embrace of language. Their innocent attempts at connection and understanding become a painful struggle, leaving them adrift in a sea of silence.

Amir Darwish, a six-year-old child, suffers from bilateral profound hearing loss. While he was once able to faintly hear with the help of hearing aids, today, he is completely deaf.

At such a young age, he feels indescribable frustration, as communication and self-expression become increasingly difficult by the day. His condition has completely altered his articulation and language development, and only a cochlear implant surgery could alleviate his suffering.



Amir

6 years old

An Invisible Injury

Amidst the wreckage left by the tragic Beirut Blast, yet another heartbreaking consequence emerges: some victims have experienced hearing damage as a result of the blast, which affects their physical well-being as well as their mental health, resulting in depression and anxiety.

Rita Khawly, a 26-year-old woman, has progressive hearing loss. Prior to the Beirut Blast, she could partially hear with the help of hearing aids. However, she completely lost her hearing after the explosion on August 4th.

Rita diligently works at a bakery, which becomes incredibly challenging for her when she can't lipread what customers are asking her. Her only way to regain control and confidence is to undergo the cochlear implant surgery, which is unfortunately unattainable due to financial difficulties.



Rita

26 years old

To Learn More About Our Project

You can discover more about Amir and Rita through the following documentary on YouTube that portrays the personal lives, struggles, and stories of our patients.

[Click here to watch the documentary.](#)

Support Their Journey to a New Life!

Through this initiative, we are paving the way for a future where access to hearing healthcare is not limited by financial constraints, affirming the inherent worth and potential of every individual.

Your contributions can make a **significant difference** in helping people overcome the challenges associated with hearing loss and regain their quality of life.

You can actively contribute to transforming our patients' lives by contacting our club Treasurer to make a donation.

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Rotary Club of Lebanon International 2452