INTRODUCTION
1. The August 4 2020 blast
2. Who is Beirut Heritage Initiative
3. Mission and Objectives
4. Reform, Recovery & Reconstruction Framework
5. BHI Committee and Team

TRACK RECORD
1. Phase One: Emergency Works, under ALIPH
2. Phase Two: Partial renovation
3. Phase Three: Full renovation within Clusters
4. Assistance to UNHCR: Heritage Restoration works in Beirut
5. Restoration Manuals & Specialized Presentations, with Fondation de France
6. Support our mission
The devastating explosion on August 4, 2020 caused invaluable damage to Beirut’s urban heritage. With the death toll exceeding 200, over 6500 people injured, and more than 60,000 units of offices and households destroyed, the explosion forced the displacement of over 100,000 people. As a result, the economic and cultural damages have been estimated at $8 billion, for which $2 billion would be needed for the cost of reconstruction.

Following the August 4 Beirut explosion, our city with over 5,000 years of history was left in a state of utter chaos and destruction and within mere seconds more material damage was created than a decade of civil war had seen. Large areas of Beirut were destroyed. They either became unrecognizable, or were on their way to destruction if immediate intervention did not occur. Approximately 1,000 historical buildings were damaged by the blast. These buildings included houses, apartment buildings, palaces from the 19th-century Ottoman period, and buildings from the modern period of the 1930’s and beyond.

The neighbourhoods that were the most affected by the explosion are located towards the southern and eastern ends of the harbour’s third basin. The areas hardest hit by the explosion, such as Gemmayzeh, Mar Mikhael and Ashrafieh, also had the highest concentration of historic structures in Beirut. These neighbourhoods are composed of cultural, educational, touristic, creative spaces, and small trades that perpetuate the city’s valuable and intangible heritage. Moreover, buildings and homes of this area are occupied by inhabitants of different backgrounds and income levels. Throughout the capital’s worst episodes in history, these neighbourhoods remained inhabited and are living witnesses to Beirut’s past and present. Thus, rescuing our endangered heritage is also part of preserving the city’s historical and cultural identity.
Beirut Heritage Initiative (BHI) was launched as an independent and inclusive collective, in favour of restoring the built and cultural heritage of Beirut, while bridging a vital gap of funding and coordination that exists between the owners and residents of heritage structures stricken by the August 4 explosion, and the public departments essential to facilitate legal permits for reconstruction works; namely the Directorate General of Antiquities and the Office of Governor of Beirut.

To complete this colossal project, BHI’s contractual & financial management is handled by the National Heritage Foundation (NHF) as follows: budgetary control, disbursements, and audited financial reports that are intended for donors and partners. The NHF is a non-governmental and non-profit organization, established in 1996. The foundation is overseen by a Board of Trustees and an Executive Committee, and it is committed, according to its constitutive status, to promote and mobilize all means of action to safeguard the Lebanese heritage.

BHI is organized around a team of experts and professionals and is in continuous communication between multiple stakeholders, such as the Order of Engineers and Architects of Beirut (OEA), Beirut Built Heritage Rescue 2020 (BBHR20), the Arab Center for Architecture (ACA), UN Blue Shield, Live Love Beirut (LLB), Together Li Beirut and World Monuments Fund, among many others.

In December 2020, BHI was among 7 local NGOs to be part of the International Donors Conference convened by Emmanuel Macron, President of France, and Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General. BHI is also one of the Civil Society Organizations member in the 3RF Consultative Group.

An assessment made by architects from BBHR20 shows that:
- 100 buildings were at risk of collapsing
- 200 buildings were heavily damaged (roof structure and façade)
- 100 buildings were moderately damaged (slightly impacted façade)
- 270 buildings were lightly damaged (windows, doors, plaster, finishes)

Today, the ‘Beiruti Houses’, those that survived the development pressures and perils of the past, stand as monuments for Beirut’s phenomenal rise and a reflection of the multi-layered history of the 19th and 20th century. Instantly altering the face of Beirut, the scale of destruction and the extent of damage from the explosion can be witnessed on numerous heritage buildings that are grouped into heritage clusters.

These heritage clusters offer an intangible value that is handed down through generations. Carrying the memories of generations and a unique historical identity, these buildings represent Beirut’s rich history and culture. They offer the city and its inhabitants a sense of continuity in this fast changing world. Post-blast, the ongoing fight to protect and preserve these clusters gained momentum and amongst the rubble emerged a strengthened collective appreciation and awareness within the community.

BHI’s mission to protect heritage focuses on more than buildings and includes the socio-economic fabric of Beirut. From the outset, BHI set its ultimate goal to be the equitable and sustainable revitalization of devastated neighborhoods, ones that have the highest concentration of heritage clusters. These belong to different eras that include Ottoman stone and red-tile houses, French Mandate walk-ups, and post-independence early Modernist apartment buildings.
The Lebanon Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework (3RF) is a people-centered recovery and reconstruction framework focusing on a period of 18 months that will bridge the immediate humanitarian response and the medium-term recovery and reconstruction efforts to put Lebanon on a path of sustainable development.

This program was developed by the World Bank Group, the United Nations and the European Union.

The 3RF is structured around four strategic pillars:
1. Improving governance and accountability
2. Jobs and opportunities
3. Social protection, inclusion, and culture
4. Improving services and infrastructure

Each pillar identifies a set of strategic objectives and priority areas across both the recovery track and the reform and reconstruction track.

In early March, Beirut Heritage Initiative was chosen as one of the Civil Society Organization (CSO) in the 3RF consultative group (CG). BHI is a member in the Pillar 3 and Pillar 4.

BHI’s input in the 3RF is to create awareness on the Beirut Heritage, its value, its current status, redirect funding towards its rehabilitation, while creating jobs and proper trainings, and make sure it is protected and preserved by supporting project laws on heritage preservation that are still not implemented.

BHI is also taking part in the urban vision of the city, thanks to the expertise of some committee members, that have worked on urbanism and a heritage masterplan in the years prior.

The development of the 3RF was undertaken in close consultation with civil society organizations. In addition, civil society plays an important role in the implementation of the 3RF at several levels:
1. As party of the Consultative Group entrusted with strategic guidance, policy dialogue and aid coordination
2. In the Oversight and Monitoring Body responsible for ensuring strong monitoring, transparency, and mutual accountability
3. As implementers of programs

The 3RF envisages a two-phase financing strategy for recovery and reconstruction. In the short-term, international grant financing will be required to kick-start recovery and support urgent needs while advancing in parallel on necessary reforms. Once progress has been made on critical reforms and macroeconomic stabilization, concessional loans and private finance can support reconstruction and help set Lebanon on a path towards stability, growth, and sustainable development.

To support the recovery track and prepare for reconstruction, a Financing Facility will be set up to pool and align grant financing for the 3RF. This will strengthen coherence and coordination. The fund will channel support directly to Lebanese people and businesses that have been impacted by the explosion using a variety of flexible, nongovernmental implementation modalities combined with strong fiduciary monitoring and oversight.
Beirut Heritage Initiative - Report

Raymond (Rony) Araygi

is a lawyer and a former Minister of Culture (2014-2016). Araygi graduated from Saint Joseph University and has been a member of the Beirut Bar since 1989. He is the founder and Managing Partner of Araygi & Maalouly Law Firm.

In parallel, he served several years as a Senior advisor to the Minister of Public Health (1996-1998 and 2000-2004), the Minister of Agriculture (1998-2000) and the Minister of Interior and Municipalities (2004-2005).

Joy Kanaan

is an architect living and working in Beirut, as well as a lecturer at the Department of Architecture and Graphic Design at the American University of Beirut.

She is a board member of the Arab Center for Architecture (ACA), and is an associate member of the American Institute of Architects, in the USA, and a professional member of the Order of Engineers and Architects in Lebanon.

She represents the ACA within BHI.

Youmna Ziadé Karam

is an entrepreneur, and has been pursuing a career in the banking sector (SGBL and BLC bank) particularly in Corporate Banking, project management, reengineering and Corporate Social Responsibility since 2003.

She is the co-founder of Kitchenlab (2013), and serves on the Board of TAKREEM USA Foundation.

She represents the National Heritage Foundation within BHI.

Fadillah Dagher

is an architect, living and working in Beirut. Having graduated from ALBA in 1985, he is a founding member of Dagher Hanna & Partners architects.

He has been working on heritage preservation for 30 years, as an advisor to the Ministry of Culture (1994-2016), and was part of the team that drafted the new law for the protection of heritage.

He represents the Order of Engineers and Architects of Beirut within BHI.

Abdul-Halim Jabr

is an architect/urban design consultant, who works actively on issues of urban design and governance in Greater Beirut, specifically in relation to the environment, old neighborhoods, and public places. He served as an advisor to the Ministry of Culture (2014-2016) and was part of the team that drafted the new law for the protection of heritage.

In May 2016, he was one of 24 candidates running for municipal council elections on the "Beirut Mesmali" list.

Lynn Tehini Kassatly

is a journalist and consultant for Cultural affairs. Since 2019, Tehini was part of the Presidency of Council of Minister team as a Cultural Advisor. She regularly works as a consultant/expert in the cultural field for various consultancy firms in the Arab world.

Tehini is an active member of Lebanon of Tomorrow (board member) and Cenaicle de la Lumière. She is also a member of the Baalbeck International Festival General Assembly.

Fadlallah Dagher

is an architect, living and working in Beirut. Having graduated from ALBA in 1985, he is a founding member of Dagher Hanna & Partners architects.

He has been working on heritage preservation for 30 years, as an advisor to the Ministry of Culture (1994-2016), and was part of the team that drafted the new law for the protection of heritage.

He represents the Order of Engineers and Architects of Beirut within BHI.

Houda Kassatly

Ethnologist, photographer, & researcher

Main Coordinator

Yasmine El-Majzoub

Architect, Field Operation Manager

Nadine Salloum

Financial Manager

Youssef El-Kassar

Civil Engineer, Site Manager

Justine Chalfoun

Architect, Photographer

Lynn Tehini Kassatly

is a journalist and consultant for Cultural affairs. Since 2019, Tehini was part of the Presidency of Council of Minister team as a Cultural Advisor. She regularly works as a consultant/expert in the cultural field for various consultancy firms in the Arab world.

Tehini is an active member of Lebanon of Tomorrow (board member) and Cenaicle de la Lumière. She is also a member of the Baalbeck International Festival General Assembly.

Yasmine Dagher

Architect, DocuComm Manager

Mia Mouawad

Grants Officer, 3RF Coordinator

Yasmine El-Majzoub

Architect, Field Operation Manager

Youssef El-Kassar

Civil Engineer, Site Manager

Justine Chalfoun

Architect, Photographer
**Urgent Roof Covering:**

*BHI* intervened on emergency works such as propping and sheltering with a grant received from the *International Alliance for the protection of heritage in conflict areas (ALIPH)*. *BHI*’s mission was to shelter 10 (or more) heritage buildings that were damaged by the Beirut blast on August 4, 2020, in coordination with the *Directorate General of Antiquities (DGA)*, and its crisis cell *Beirut Built Heritage Rescue 2020 (BBHR20).*

Immediate action was taken in October 2020. A representative from *BBHR20*, followed up on the works executed by *BHI*, by inspecting and supervising the works from beginning through completion. *BHI* was committed to shelter as many buildings as possible within the granted budget from *ALIPH*, and succeeded in doing **22 interventions**, rather than the 10 buildings initially assigned.

The sheltering provided by *BHI* was based on 4 methods:

A- *When the roof structure was not severely affected*: Repairing the pitched roof wood structure and replacing the broken roof tiles.

B- *When the roof structure was severely damaged*: Repairing the pitched roof timber structure with a temporary replacement and covering the building with a tarpaulin (*Belmark 550mg*).

C- *When the roof is made out of a reinforced concrete slab (1930’s - 1960’s constructions)*: waterproofing application including grouting and slanting.

D- *Roof’s that were covered with a tarpaulin cover, are now getting a full reconstruction.*

---

**BBHR20 zoning map.**

The red and orange zones represent the neighbourhoods that were the most affected by the blast. The Blue and Green zones are the neighbourhoods that sustained minor damage.
Summary of Works:

With the granted budget from ALIPH, BHI was able to carry a total of **22 emergency operations on 18 plots** that had endured damages from the August 4 2020 blast.

- **Roof Reconstruction**: 18% (4 roofs)
  - Ashrafieh 1161
  - Ashrafieh 1148
  - Ashrafieh 1139
  - Rmeil 292
- **Tarpaulin Cover**: 41% (9 roofs)
  - Ashrafieh 1161
  - Ashrafieh 1148
  - Ashrafieh 1139
  - Rmeil 292
- **Waterproofing**: 14% (3 roofs)
  - Ashrafieh 1161
  - Ashrafieh 1148
  - Ashrafieh 1139
- **Tile Replacement**: 27% (6 roofs)
  - Ashrafieh 1161
  - Ashrafieh 1148
  - Ashrafieh 1139
  - Rmeil 292
Sursock Palace has been severely affected by the blast on Aug. 4 2020. The North façade (facing the port) has been detached from the rest of the building. Most of the woodwork is destroyed, and internal damages include large wall cracks, ceilings, walls and roof damage. Due to the urgent need for structural consolidation, and the prevention of further collapse, a contracting company (EDRAFOR) chosen by the Sursock family, under the recommendation of BHI, and as per instructions from Michel Chalhoub (specialized engineer-restorer) supported the fragile North façade with a steel structure, thanks to the support of ALIPH.

Rmeil 310, known as Villa Mokbel, is a heritage palace located on Sursock street. The building endured severe damage on August 4, 2020, such as three arches destruction on the first level, and detachment of the North-West corner from the rest of the building. A bracing system was installed to ensure the stability of the building, and prevent any collapse. The vertical steel bracing are stabilizing the affected corner, preventing it from collapse. Furthermore, the roof structure is made out of steel, and the damage occurred mainly on the roof tiles. In early October, with the support of ALIPH, the red tiles were replaced, securing the roof and the interior before the rainy season. The windows were also sheltered with plywood boards, and tarpaulins.
PHASE II: PARTIAL RENOVATION

Rmeil 342: Three arches reconstruction

Beirut’s built heritage is mostly known for its iconic triple arched bays facing north. The destruction of those arches left the interiors of the houses exposed and structurally vulnerable. Beirut Heritage Initiative (BHI) managed to restore this unique architectural feature in two heritage buildings. The intervention included:

- The reconstruction of the sandstone arches and Carrara marble columns
- The restoration of damaged corbels or wooden beams that held the balconies’ Carrara marble slabs
- Plastering of the newly constructed arches using lime plaster

Rmeil 646 and 648 are two early modern heritage buildings, located in the centre of Mar Mikhael. The buildings endured damage such as plastering crack, carpentry loss, and interior damage. BHI is working on the rehabilitation of the façades of those buildings, and the repair of the concrete balconies.
This heritage building was severely damaged. BHI’s intervention consisted in the reconstruction of Northern façade’s triple arches, with Carrara marble columns and sandstone arches, with plaster and carpentry works, as well as the restoration of the Carrara marble balcony laid on steel trusses and wooden beams.

BHI was able to intervene further on this plot, with two other operations:
- Reconstitution of Qotrani wooden windows and arches for the new facade, a project in collaboration with Bebw’Shebbek.
- Renovation of the damaged Baghdadi ceilings using traditional techniques, in collaboration with Save Beirut’s Old Houses.
The extent of damage from the explosion can be witnessed on numerous heritage buildings that are grouped into heritage clusters. BHI’s strategy aims to respond to this urgent need to preserve and protect heritage clusters. Carrying the memories of generations and a unique historical identity, these buildings represent Beirut’s rich history and culture. They offer the city and its inhabitants a sense of continuity in this fast changing world.

1- The Shoreline Cluster:

Located less than 500 meters from the blast area, the Shoreline Cluster is composed of 35 heritage buildings. Before the construction of the Charles Helou Avenue and the extension of the port, the shoreline cluster was located on the Medawar Cliff, on the banks of the St. Andrew’s Bay. BHI is intervening on a heritage building, Medawar 479, in the middle of this cluster, and is in contact with several actors to collaborate on other heritage buildings within the cluster.

2- The Gholam & Mulberry Clusters:

The Gholam Cluster & Mulberry Cluster are located less than 500 meters away from the explosion site. Both clusters endured severe damage from the blast. BHI is intervening on a heritage building (Rmeil 722) in the Gholam Cluster, in collaboration with Together Li Beirut, and is assisting LiveLoveBeirut on the renovation of 5 heritage buildings in the Mulberry Cluster.
Rmeil 722: Beit Chaoul

Rmeil 722, is a heritage building located at the juncture between Gemmayzeh and Mar Mikhael. Built between 1860 -1900, it is composed of a commercial ground floor and two residential floors. Severe damage have been inflicted upon this building as it lies along the direct axes of the port explosion.

In October 2020, BHI sheltered the building under a grant from ALIPH to secure it from further damage during the winter storms. In April 2021, with the help of multiple donors, BHI was able to secure the fund needed for the building’s full restoration. Consequently, BHI will be contributing to the safeguarding of the neighbourhood’s heritage cluster.

Restoration works will follow the guidelines of a thorough study conducted by Architect-Restorer Pierre Ghanem from BBHR which was commissioned by the DGA and funded by the DAI. So far, 75% of the works have been completed on site and the expected end date of the works is September 2021. In addition, a grant has been also allocated to the refurbishment of the Gholam Public Stairs by the French ministries of Culture and Ecological Transition.
Medawar 479: The Blue House

Medawar 479, known as “The Blue House”, is a heritage building located between Pasteur Street, and Charles Helou Avenue. Due to its proximity to the port, the explosion inflicted damages upon its structure, interior, roof, carpentry...

Prior to the construction of the Charles Helou Avenue and the port’s expansion, the building sat on the cliffs of the Medawar shoreline overlooking the sea. Its construction was phased by two stages, whereby the first two floors were constructed in the early 1900’s, and the third around the 1920’s.

A generous grant allocated to BHI from the Honor Frost Foundation will enable its full restoration. The scope of restoration works includes structural consolidation, reconstruction of the pitched roof and the North façade, and interior renovations.

The restoration works will follow the guidelines of a thorough study conducted by Architect-Restorer Joe Kallas. After the launch of the tender process, ACE (Awaida Contracting & Engineering) was chosen as the contractor for the restoration works. Works are to start in October 2021.
The objective of the project is to assist UNHCR in conducting restoration of heritage buildings affected by the Beirut Blast. FNP - Beirut Heritage Initiative Campaign will provide the assistance through preparation of technical documents allowing UNHCR’s selected contractor to execute works in an adequate manner, supervision of the execution works, and hand over of works with relevant reports to UNHCR. INTERSOS will support the intervention by ensuring the funding from UNHCR to FNP - Beirut Heritage Initiative Campaign in the framework of the project is compliant with the requirements and providing financial oversight of the expenditures done by FNP - Beirut Heritage Initiative Campaign.

Ms Grace Rihan Hanna, architect-restorer from the Beirut Built Heritage Rescue 2020, was selected as the project manager and heritage expert, to carry out this project.

Methodology:
Once a unit is selected, a survey is done to assess damages in terms of quantities. They are highlighted on a current situation “minute” (Plan).

The data collected for unit selection and survey are registered on an Excel template sheet that covers three main aspects:
1. An architectural assessment for each unit describing its typology, damage type and general information
2. A technical assessment that groups the site photos, the current situation plan and the intervention BOQ for that same unit
3. A social status report of the family living inside that specific unit along with the legal documents of the owner/tenant of the unit - an ID copy and a proof of residency being a real estate affidavit, a lease agreement or an electricity or water bill.

Once approved by the UNHCR, the site work begins under the team supervision and inspection.
The project with the Fondation de France has 3 components:

1. Publication of two technical manuals, on heritage buildings built between 1860-1925 and 1925-1970
2. Specialized presentations (refer to page 30 & 31)
3. Site visits and assessments

The manuals, trainings and expertise are necessary for the renovation of the affected heritage houses, awaiting for funding for proper intervention.

Our project benefits a large number of people and different target groups. From the inhabitants of these houses which need to be restored, to the engineers, architects, associations, trades, craftsmen who participate in this reconstruction.

All of our actions are therefore beneficial to multiple sectors. With the proper know-how, each house or business restored will induces a revitalization of the city, the social life, and the economic activity. By restoring the buildings, we encourage the inhabitants to return to their homes and thereby resume their main activities. Our policy is directed not towards aid for the restoration of a building, but of a group of buildings, within clusters, in order to encourage residents to establish themselves in their neighbourhoods.

The knowledge contained in the manuals, the practices and solutions it proposes are already applied either during the various interventions that we carry out ourselves, or during the interventions of our partners and other actors who work in the affected neighbourhoods.
SPECIALIZED PRESENTATIONS IN REHABILITATION AND CONSERVATION METHODS
BUILT HERITAGE 1860 - 1925

BEIRUT HERITAGE INITIATIVE IS HOSTING A SERIES OF ONLINE PRESENTATIONS ON THE RESTORATION OF HERITAGE AND TRADITIONAL BUILDINGS IN BEIRUT. THE PRESENTATIONS ARE TAILORED TO PROFESSIONALS AND NGO'S ACTIVE IN THE FIELD OF CONSTRUCTION, INTRODUCING THE METHODS THAT RESPECT THE INTEGRITY OF THE ORIGINAL STRUCTURES. THE SESSIONS WILL BE LED BY EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONALS, HERITAGE ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS.

INTRODUCTION TO THE BEIRUTI HOUSES
1860 - 1925
Fadlallah Dagher

STRUCTURAL RESTORATION OF THE HERITAGE BUILDINGS FOLLOWING THE BLAST
Michel Chalhoub

TIMBER ROOFS: RESTORING A FORGOTTEN KNOW-HOW
Jean Samaha

UNDERSTANDING THE LOCAL CARPENTRY: DOORS, WINDOWS & TRIPLE ARCHES
Paula Abou Harb

CONSERVATION OF THE HISTORICAL FINISHES: PLASTER, MURALS AND FLOORING
Nathalie Chahine

HERITAGE BUILDINGS & CLUSTERS IN THE FABRIC OF THE CITY
Abdul-Halim Jabr

BEIRUT HERITAGE INITIATIVE IS HOSTING A SERIES OF ONLINE PRESENTATIONS ON THE RESTORATION OF MODERN BUILDINGS IN BEIRUT. THE PRESENTATIONS ARE TAILORED TO PROFESSIONALS AND NGO'S ACTIVE IN THE FIELD OF CONSTRUCTION, INTRODUCING THE METHODS THAT RESPECT THE INTEGRITY OF THE ORIGINAL STRUCTURES. THE SESSIONS WILL BE LED BY EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONALS, AND ARCHITECTS.

INTRODUCTION TO THE MODERN HERITAGE
1925 - 1970
Naji Assi

EFFICIENT BUILDING RENOVATION
Aram Yeretzian

STRUCTURAL DISORDERS: PATHOLOGY, REPAIR, SOLUTIONS
Rodolphe Mattar

FINISHES: PLASTER, HANDRAILS AND FLOORING
Fadlallah Dagher

TOWARDS AN INTEGRATED AND INCLUSIVE FUTURE FOR OUR URBAN HERITAGE
Abdul-Halim Jabr

ACCESSIBILITY
Georges Xantopoulos
WE RELY HEAVILY ON DONATIONS AND FUNDRAISING TO BE ABLE TO MEET OUR AIMS TO PROTECT OUR BUILT HERITAGE.

EACH AND EVERY DONATION WILL HAVE A MULTIPLIER EFFECT AND HAS THE POWER TO INFLUENCE AND MAKE A PROMINENT CHANGE IN SAFEGUARDING OUR VALUED HERITAGE.

Online Donations:
www.helplebanon.com/donation/Beirut-Heritage-Initiative

Local Donations (LBP):
LB84 0056 0000 0000 0031 5885 0033

Local Donations (USD):
LB57 0056 0000 0000 0031 5885 0034

International Donations (USD):
LB30 0056 0000 0000 0031 5885 0035

International Donations (Euro):
LB03 0056 0000 0000 5885 0036

SWIFT CODE: AUDLBBX

BANK ADDRESS:
BANK AUDI ACHRAFIEH, SOFIL

BENEFICIARY:
FONDATION NATIONALE DU PATRIMOINE (BHI - DONATION)

REASON FOR TRANSFER:
DONATION FOR BEIRUT HERITAGE INITIATIVE

ONGOING COLLABORATIONS

THE HOUSES OF BEIRUT

Shop here The Houses of Beirut book and posters

HERE’S TO BEIRUT

Get you set of two recycled glasses.