



Success Story: Ensuring Safe Collection and Storage of Solid Waste in the Aftermath of the Beirut Port Explosion

Following the devastating explosion in the port of Beirut on August 4, and in close coordination with USAID's Community Support Program, the USAID Diverting Waste by Encouraging Reuse and Recycling (DAWERR) activity implemented an emergency response plan to ensure the safe collection and storage of solid waste after the devastating Port explosion in August that adversely impacted the area surrounding the Beirut Port, namely Karantina, Charles Helou, Gemmayze and Mar Mkhayel.

As part of the response, the DAWERR Activity team carried out specific solid waste management interventions to recover as many trees as possible; cleared the roads of wood branches and materials that could represent a hazard to areas and communities; and diverted wood biomass from landfills. A total of 129 trees were properly managed (e.g., removed, pruned), equivalent to around 127 metric tons (MT) of wood being diverted from landfills, from which around 20 tons of wood logs were distributed to families in need. "We received wood logs to heat our houses in the coming winter. We are deeply thankful for this initiative that contributed to reducing our spending during these difficult economic times," said Mr. Naim El Jawhari from Abey, Chouf, a member of one of the families that received assistance.



In addition, approximately 34 cubic meters of wood chips were transported to a compost facility in Aychiyye, South Lebanon, resulting in 40 MT of finished end-product compost as a source of fertilizer to be distributed to farmers in the region. These post-explosion interventions align with USAID's efforts to introduce sustainable solutions that increase the reuse, recycling, and monetization of solid waste. This falls within the scope of the five-year DAWERR Activity, which is establishing sustainable and replicable integrated solid waste diversion and valorization solutions in rural areas of Lebanon. The DAWERR Activity is implemented by ECODIT LLC in partnership with local organizations that include Compost Baladi.

USAID Diverting Waste by Encouraging Reuse and Recycling Activity Overview

Period of Performance: August 2020 – July 2025

Value: \$15 million

Client: United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Contact: Capricia Chabarekh, Project Manager, Environment and Air Quality, cchabarekh@ecodit.com