



Childhood cancer: the Sanofi Espoir Foundation responds to humanitarian emergencies in Lebanon

October 13, 2020

The Sanofi Espoir Foundation is present in 36 countries via its *My Child Matters* program to fight pediatric cancer, and is extending its action to Lebanon. As the terrible explosions that plunged Beirut into mourning at the beginning of August have seriously damaged the Children's Cancer Center of Lebanon (CCCL), the Foundation has decided, as part of its response to humanitarian emergencies, to help this pediatric oncology establishment by supporting the work of UNICEF.

"This commitment extends our efforts to help Lebanese patients which began on August 7th with the transport of nearly 4 metric tons of medical products, and continued with a donation of 1.6 metric tons of medicines at the beginning of September as part of the "A Humanitarian Ship for Lebanon" operation," says Valérie Faillat, Head of the Sanofi Espoir Foundation. "Helping children suffering from cancer is also one of the Foundation's main focus areas, through the My Child Matters program set up in 2005."

The Sanofi Espoir Foundation will provide financial support for two types of projects. Firstly, the funds will contribute to the continuation of the Wellness Program set up in 2019, which will benefit more than 300 children. *"The aim is to improve children self-esteem, cope with their negative emotions and reduce their level of stress and pain,"* explain the UNICEF Lebanon teams. For six months, children with cancer from the CCCL and partner hospitals will be able to participate in sessions on music, yoga, arts and crafts, and breathing/relaxation.

Secondly, the Foundation's support will help raise awareness about the disease so that it can be detected earlier and thereby increase the chances of a cure. Supporting a range of actions from awareness workshops and social networks to physical or virtual meetings should help identify symptoms more effectively, learn about risk factors, and encourage healthier lifestyles.

The Children's Cancer Center of Lebanon, a state-of-the-art organization

Inaugurated in 2002, the Children's Cancer Center of Lebanon provides free treatment to an average of 300 patients a year, representing 40% of cancer patients in Lebanon. This non-profit organization has an annual budget of \$15 million and is equipped for surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, stem cell transplantation and supportive care. Since it was founded, the CCCL has treated over 2,000 children and provided consultation services to an additional 5,000 patients from Lebanon and neighboring countries. It boasts a cure rate of 80%, ranking it among the very best institutions.