

LEBANESE DIASPORA

PHILANTHROPY REPORT

AUGUST 2025

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This survey was conducted in a collaboration between the Khayrallah Center for Lebanese Diaspora Studies and Catherine Abou-Khalil, a Political Science PhD candidate at Boston University.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Lebanese diaspora is a lifeline for families and communities in Lebanon. In times of economic collapse, political instability, and war, those abroad routinely step in to provide financial, emotional, and practical support. **This 2025 survey, conducted by the Khayrallah Center for Lebanese Diaspora Studies (KCLDS) and Catherine Abou-Khalil, captures the scale and depth of their generosity.**

More than three-quarters of our survey respondents send money back home, with many doing so monthly. Others donate goods, volunteer skills, and invest in community projects. Their international support includes arranging medical care, mentoring young professionals, securing visas for relatives in danger, and staying connected through regular communication.

This report offers an accessible look at who the Lebanese diaspora are, why they give, and the many ways they strengthen their homeland. It draws on both statistics and personal stories to show that giving is not just an act of charity, but a sustained expression of identity, love, and responsibility.

METHODOLOGY

The survey ran from February to April 2025 and gathered **381 complete responses from members of the Lebanese diaspora**. We reached participants through community networks, social media, and the Qualtrics database. Questions covered demographics, forms of support, motivations for giving, and personal stories. Responses included multiple-choice, check-all-that-apply, and open-ended formats. While the data was analyzed with statistical tools, this report focuses on the stories and trends that emerged in order to make the survey's findings more accessible to a wider audience.

TYPES OF SUPPORT

“I send money and gifts to my family in Lebanon to help them out.” – Anonymous Respondent

Money sent home, or **remittances**, is the most common form of support. Seventy-eight percent of respondents send money to Lebanon, most doing so monthly. These funds help cover essentials like food, rent, medical expenses, and school fees.

Amounts vary: nearly a third send \$1,000–\$4,999 per year, another third send \$5,000–\$9,999, and more than a quarter send \$10,000–\$49,999 annually.

Giving is not limited to relatives. Seventy percent of respondents **donate** to causes that benefit the wider community in Lebanon. Popular recipients include NGOs, religious institutions, schools, and community centers.

Respondents described other ways they contribute to their families and communities:

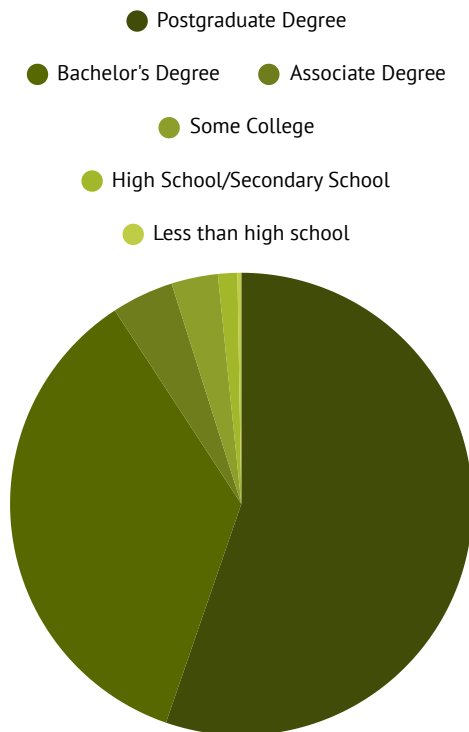
- **Financial Aid:** Paying tuition, helping with rent, and buying essentials remotely
- **Logistics:** Arranging housing, securing visas, and planning for emergencies
- **Medical Support:** Sending medications, coordinating treatment, and navigating Lebanon’s healthcare system
- **Emotional Care:** Regular calls, moral support, and help coping with stress
- **Business & Career Development:** Mentoring, hiring, and investing in family businesses
- **Community & Social Uplift:** Organizing cultural trips, fundraising, and strengthening diaspora networks



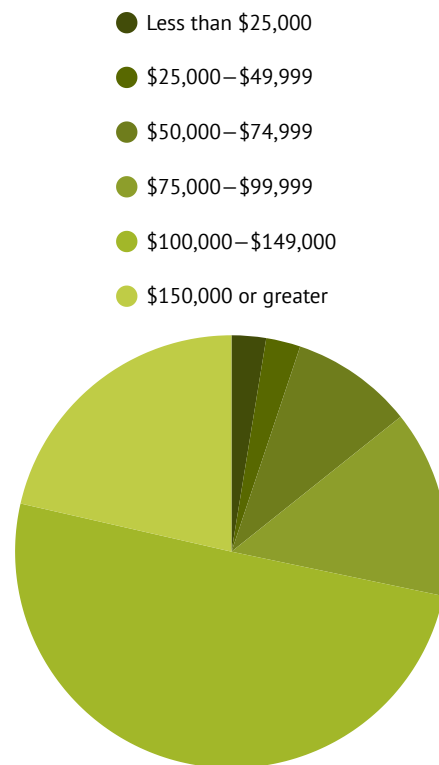
DEMOGRAPHICS

Of the **381 people** who took our survey, 32 percent identified as women, 67 percent identified as men, and 1 percent identified as non-binary. The age of our respondents varied, with the largest concentration being 35–44 years of age (35%), closely followed by the 25–34 group (33%). The age group of 18–24 had the least representation in the survey.

Education Level of Respondents



Yearly Income of Respondents

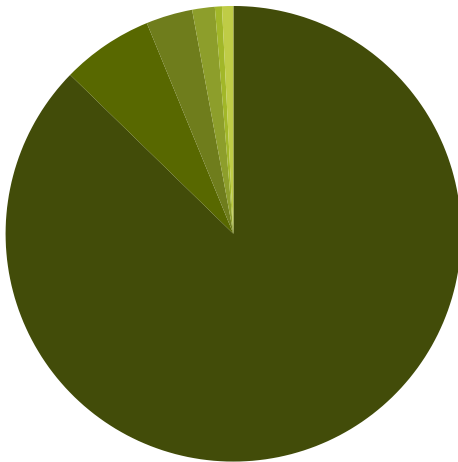


Ninety-one percent of the respondents have earned a bachelor's degree or higher; more than half hold post-graduate degrees and about one-third have a bachelor's degree. In all, **about 98 percent had attained at least some college education or greater**. These numbers corroborate the findings of a 2019 KCLDS report, which found that 82.6 percent of Lebanese Americans had a bachelor's degree or higher compared to 38.6 percent of the US-born population as a whole.

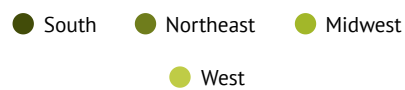
DEMOGRAPHICS

In terms of global geographic region, the majority of respondents live in North America, and mostly the United States in particular. Other geographic regions including Europe, Asia, Oceania, South America, and Africa were represented as well, albeit to a smaller degree.

Respondents by World Region



Distribution of Respondents by US Region



Lebanese Americans from regions all across the United States are well represented in our survey. Forty percent of Lebanese Americans were from the US South, which encompasses the Southeast, Southwest, and South Atlantic regions. About 26 percent hailed from the Northeast, and about 19 percent were from the West and 15 percent from the Midwest.

DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

Demographic	Typical Yearly Remittance Amount	Remittance Participation	Donation Participation
Female	\$1,000–\$4,999	74.5%	79.3%
Male	\$10,000–\$49,999	81.0%	65.7%
18-24	\$1,000–\$4,999	60.0%	75.0%
25-34	\$5,000–\$9,999	73.8%	68.0%
35-44	\$10,000–\$49,999	80.8%	65.4%
45-54	\$5,000–\$9,999	80.0%	82.9%
55-64	\$1,000–\$4,999	80.5%	86.1%
High School/ Secondary	\$5,000–\$9,999	60.0%	20.0%
Some college	< \$500	71.4%	46.2%
Associate Degree	\$5,000–\$9,999	78.6%	64.3%
Bachelor's Degree	\$10,000–\$49,999	75.0%	63.6%
Postgraduate Degree	\$1,000–\$4,999	80.9%	77.1%

Gender, Age, and Level of Education

Certain demographic groups from our dataset display patterns in their remittance and donation participation.

Males tend to send larger remittances than females. Conversely, females are more likely to donate to organizations but send smaller remittance amounts on average.

Donation and remittance frequency and amounts shift with age. Younger people lean toward giving “during emergency situations” while gift frequency tends to stabilize to at least “more than once a year” in older groups. Older groups also tend towards sending larger remittance amounts.

Bachelor's degree holders give the largest amounts on average, but postgraduate degree holders have the highest degree of participation.

DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

Yearly Income

Over 85% of our survey respondents have a yearly income at or above \$75k, so most significant insights lie within this group.

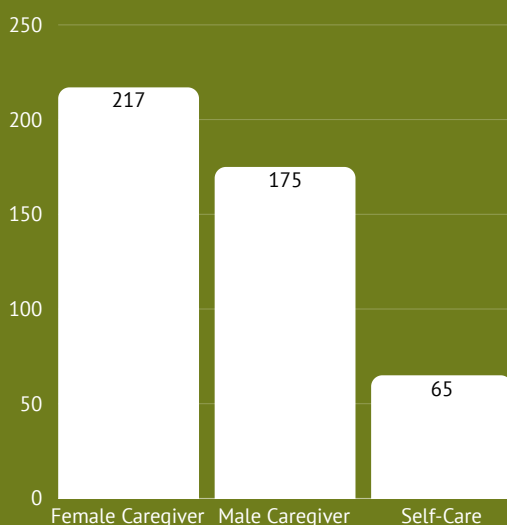
Lower income respondents still send remittances, but fewer give consistently.

Wealthier groups donate and send remittances in larger amounts and higher frequencies.

Yearly Income	Typical Yearly Remittance Amount	Remittance Participation	Donation Participation
< \$25k	\$5,000–\$9,999	44.4%	50.0%
\$25k–\$49k	\$500–\$999	71.4%	70.0%
\$50k–\$74k	\$1,000–\$4,999	72.4%	69.7%
\$75k–\$99k	\$5,000–\$9,999	67.3%	60.0%
\$100k–\$149k	\$10,000–\$49,999	89.5%	68.4%
\$150k+	\$1,000–\$4,999	70.4%	82.9%

Due to the widespread geographic variation of the survey responses, the sample sizes in each geographic group are too small to provide any substantial insights.

CARE LABOR INSIGHTS



One section of our survey asked respondents to designate who takes care of their elderly or sick family members in Lebanon. Of the total number of respondents, 217 women provided the needed care labor, as compared to 175 men who provided that care; these demonstrate a more even gender distribution compared to past reports.

In addition, 65 respondents indicated that they were unable to provide the needed care, thus leaving their loved ones to care for themselves.

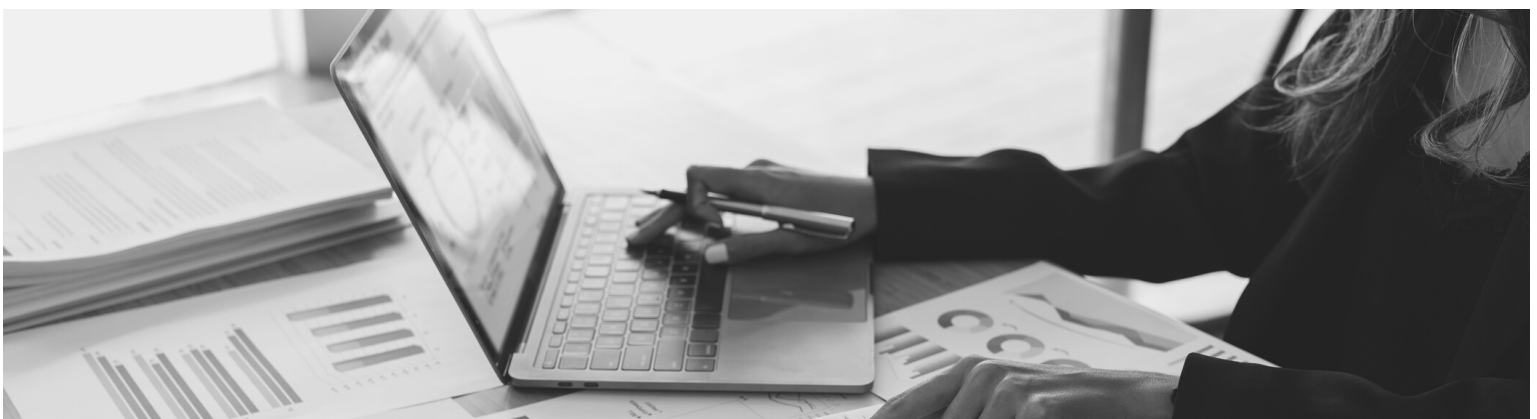
SITUATIONAL EVOLUTION

From crisis responders to long-term partners – the diaspora's role has transformed.

The data retrieved from this survey illustrates how economic and societal crises can cause a drastic evolution in overseas care. When viewed in comparison to the KCLDS 2016 Lebanese American Philanthropy survey, our 2025 data shows a staggering increase in aid sent directly to Lebanon, with remittance rates skyrocketing by 51% and donation rates increasing by 42%.

This increase aligns with widely reported spikes in money sent to Lebanon after a series of tragic crises in 2019 and 2020, including the 2019 financial collapse and the 2020 Beirut port explosion. This state of crisis resulted in a collapse of the value of the Lebanese pound and a dramatic decrease in size of the Lebanese middle class, with many previously secure families falling into poverty. According to the UN, over 80% of the population of Lebanon lived in multidimensional poverty by 2021. This economic collapse dramatically increased the need for remittances and humanitarian aid, leaving many families reliant on their relatives of the diaspora for financial help.

As Lebanon recovers from this state of crisis, giving has become systematic in comparison to the reactive, emergency-based giving nature of times past. Remittances and donations have grown in both frequency and amount, and the Lebanese diaspora has become beyond vital to their families back home.



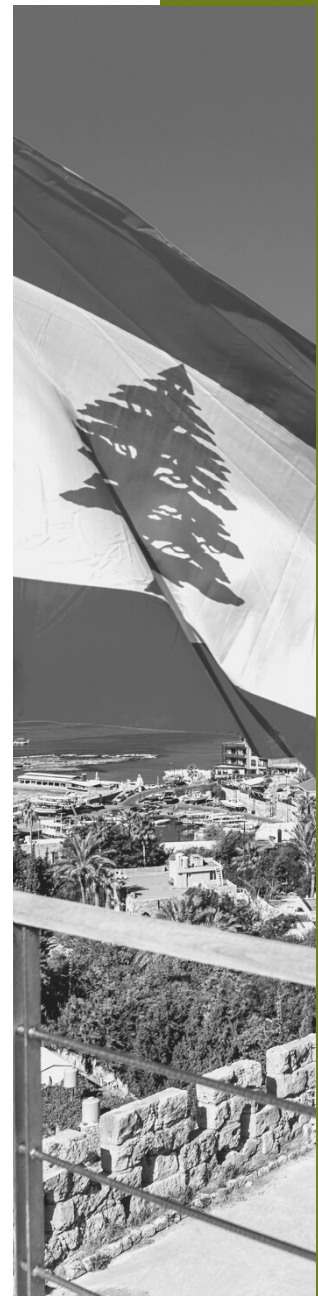
CONCLUSION

The Lebanese Diaspora remains a steadfast lifeline. The difference now is in the scale, regularity, and creativity of support. If these patterns persist, the diaspora will continue to shape Lebanon's resilience and recovery in profound ways.

The 2016, 2020, and 2021 KCLDS surveys of Lebanese Americans showed a community deeply proud of its heritage and willing to step in when Lebanon faced hardship. These earlier studies showed support that was often reactive and focused on sending remittances or making donations during emergencies.

This 2025 survey reveals a significant shift. The commitment remains strong, but the patterns have evolved: 78% send money regularly; 70% donate to organized causes; and many also contribute medical, emotional, professional, and logistical help. This giving is more **structured, creative, and sustained**, even among those without close family in Lebanon. The diaspora has moved from being primarily crisis responders to long-term partners in Lebanon's resilience.

Previous KCLDS surveys of Lebanese Americans documented surges in generosity in the wake of major disasters. In contrast, the 2025 data suggests a more consistent, planned approach to giving. While emergencies still trigger increased aid, there is a broader base of ongoing support — both financial and non-financial — aimed at sustaining communities in Lebanon over time.





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