

## Introduction to Karma

Karma is a dedicated Lebanese organization established in 2015 with the primary objective of providing comprehensive support to underprivileged children and adolescents suffering from chronic and severe diseases, particularly focusing on cancer and thalassemia. Registered under the number 2565, the organization emerged from a heartfelt initiative that began in 2012 to save a two-year-old girl named Myriam who suffers from leukemia. Through the collective efforts of her family and friends, she successfully received a life-saving bone marrow transplant.



Karma's mission is to ensure financial and psychosocial support for underprivileged children and youth suffering from cancer or thalassemia across Lebanon. At the heart of Karma's vision lies the profound belief in equal access to the fundamental human right of healthcare for all children.

## Karma's Principles

Karma adheres to principles that guide its operations and ensures the effective utilization of resources:

- **Focus on secondary and tertiary health care:** Karma focuses on chronic and or severe diseases affecting children and adolescents, with a primary focus on cancer and thalassemia.
- **Inclusive support:** Karma does not discriminate on the basis of national or ethnic origin, religion, race, color, gender, and political affiliation.
- **Efficient resource allocation:** Karma strives to keep administrative costs at a minimum, ensuring that all revenues and donations directly fund medical treatments of children in need.

## Karma's holistic Programs and Initiatives

In pursuit of its mission, Karma operates two distinct programs - **one dedicated to addressing thalassemia and the other focuses on cancer**. The organization is committed to meeting the various needs of patients and their families, ensuring a comprehensive approach to their well-being through:

**Financial Support:** Karma prioritizes the provision of financial assistance, aiming to either partially or fully cover the treatment costs for patients under its care. Furthermore, Karma plays a pivotal role in facilitating the admission processes with hospitals and the follow up with healthcare professionals.

**Psychological Support:** Recognizing that healing extends beyond medical treatments, Karma mobilizes a dynamic network of multidisciplinary professionals to offer continuous assistance to patients and their families throughout their treatment journey. By addressing emotional, social, and practical needs, Karma ensures a holistic and empowering support system that complements



medical interventions.

### Identification of needs

Karma's patient referral system usually operates through healthcare workers, previous beneficiary families, and organizations such as UNHCR and other NGOs familiar with the services. Following a referral, our organization conducts an assessment encompassing both the patient's medical condition and the economic situation of the family.

This evaluation is documented in a detailed report, shedding light on the specific needs of each patient. Subsequently, Karma determines the most appropriate form of assistance. This decision-making process may involve providing direct support, collaborating with external organizations for comprehensive aid, or facilitating hospital treatment when deemed necessary.

### Unique capabilities/Differentiators

Karma distinguishes itself through its exceptional capabilities firmly grounded in effective financial stewardship and an unwavering dedication to values and ethics. To date, Karma has helped 120 children with cancer, out of which 4 are continuing their treatment today, and 32 children with thalassemia whose hospitalization for blood transfusion was supported for a period of 6 months in 2021 and 2022. Currently, Karma is running a thalassemia project that provides multidisciplinary comprehensive care to a total of 90 vulnerable patients with thalassemia in Lebanon.

The organization's dedication to a comprehensive support system, addressing both financial and psychosocial aspects, reflects a profound understanding of the multifaceted challenges faced by patients and their families. In navigating the complex healthcare landscape, Karma's strong ethical standards, transparent operations, and effective resource allocations distinguish it as a compassionate and responsible force working positively to change the lives of those it serves.

### Partnerships and Collaborations

Karma's efforts extend through its sister organization, Acute Support for Children and Adolescents in Lebanon (ASCAL). These two entities collaborate by jointly covering the treatment fees, referring patients, participating in fundraising activities together, and coordinating on administrative and operational processes. Additionally, Karma maintains ongoing partnerships with Elias Hrawi Governmental Hospital in Zahle where thalassemia patients receive their treatment, and Rafik Hariri University Hospital, focusing on the financial coverage of four pediatric cancer patients undergoing treatment.

Furthermore, Karma has forged a strategic alliance with the Lebanese Red Cross to ensure a sustainable supply of safe blood for weekly transfusions, organizing blood donation campaigns to meet demand.

Moreover, Karma has collaborated with Medical Hope, Anera, and Humedica to ensure comprehensive and impactful healthcare initiatives for the children.

### Key Donors

Karma has received support from individual donors, in addition to prominent organizations such as the Ouidad Hachem Foundation, Donner Sang Compter (DSC), and Médecins Sans Frontières France (MSF).

### Key Contacts

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