

## Finding refuge for Taha and Hassan (Lebanon)



It was the day after Kana, in south Lebanon, was bombed and 37 children were killed. The atmosphere at the Contact and Resource Center (CRC) was intense as staff were desperately arranging for disabled persons and their families to be moved out of harm's way in the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah.

Taha phoned the CRC. "We have fled our village," he said. "Our families have been carrying me and my brother on their backs for 16 hours. We left our wheelchairs in the south. We're on the road with nothing on us except our clothes. We're tired, hungry, and we need a place to stay."

Dealing with war is not new to the CRC. Since 1978, the Center has worked with disabled victims of Lebanon's civil war. It has grown into an institution that works to enhance the future of people who are disabled and has become a leader in social rehabilitation.

CRC staff worked all afternoon to secure transportation through the Red Cross for Taha, his brother Hassan, and 14 family members. Then food, utensils, clothes, and water were provided as they took refuge in the north of the country. Emergency funding from ELCA International Disaster Response allows the CRC to help Taha, Hassan, and many other people who are disabled and now are displaced by this recent conflict.

To learn more about ELCA International Disaster Response, go to [www.elca.org/disaster](http://www.elca.org/disaster)

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