

COVI and Misericordie d'Italia: A Major Joint Humanitarian Mission for Lebanon Begins

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ROME, June 19, 2026 – Next Sunday, a crucial humanitarian expedition will take off from the military airport of Pratica di Mare, heading to Beirut. The operation marks a new chapter in the synergy between the State and the third sector, highlighting the strategic cooperation between the Joint Operational Command (COVI) of the Defense and the National Confederation of Misericordie d'Italia.

The primary objective of the mission is the transfer and distribution of 55 pallets of essential medicines, including anti-inflammatories, painkillers, anti-allergics, and life-saving medical supplies. These aids are destined for the most vulnerable and affected groups by the crisis in Lebanon, the "Country of Cedars," where the economic and social collapse has generated a severe health emergency.

The Origin of the Mission and the Role of the Private Sector

The humanitarian initiative stems from an urgent appeal launched by Caritas Lebanon, formally conveyed through the Apostolic Nunciature in Beirut. The request for medical assistance was promptly met by the sensitivity of the Italian industrial fabric: Bruno Farmaceutici S.p.A. of Rome responded with a substantial and generous donation of the entire pharmaceutical stock.

The complex logistics chain behind the operation also saw the essential operational contribution of Ala Trasporti for the movement of materials, and Euromed Pharma Service, which provided its warehouses and specialist support for the packaging of the delicate air shipment.



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The Operational Model on the Ground

Once landed in Beirut, the medical cargo will be taken over by the Italian military contingent operating within the MIBIL (Italian Bilateral Military Mission in Lebanon). Subsequently, the thorough distribution among needy civilians will be coordinated on the ground by Caritas Lebanon and the Lebanese National Association of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta.

COVI and Misericordie: A Strategic Partnership

This intervention represents a tangible application of the memorandum of understanding signed between COVI and Misericordie d’Italia. The agreement programmatically aims to merge the exceptional and irreplaceable transport and logistical projection capabilities of the Italian

Defense with the centuries-old experience of Catholic volunteering in managing major international emergencies.

"*This mission demonstrates how solidarity can transform into concrete help when institutions, volunteers, and the business world choose to work together for the common good. I wish to express our gratitude to the Apostolic Nuncio in Beirut Mons. Paolo Borgia, to Bruno Farmaceutici for the high value of the donation, to COVI for the valuable support provided, and to our Emergency Area.*"

– **Domenico Giani**, President of the National Confederation of Misericordie d'Italia

"*This initiative confirms the value of collaboration between Defense and national volunteering. The presence of the Armed Forces in Lebanon (with UNIFIL, MIBIL, and MTC4L) allows us to ensure security and stability in the area, while simultaneously supporting humanitarian projects like this, thanks to our logistical, organizational capabilities, and deep knowledge of the local context. The added value of Defense is precisely being on the ground alongside civil society.*"

– **General of the Army Corps Giovanni Maria Iannucci**, Joint Operational Commander (COVI)

The mission reaffirms Italy's integrated approach in foreign operational theaters: not only maintaining peace and geopolitical stability through security assets but also a constant and profound attention to the primary needs of local populations afflicted by conflicts and systemic crises.