

# Mine Detection Dog Partnership Program

## Update for the American Task Force for Lebanon

February 2021

The Marshall Legacy Institute (MLI) sends its sincere thanks to the American Task Force for Lebanon for your enduring support of our humanitarian mission to free the world of landmines and other dangerous explosives. It is through your generous sponsorship of two Mine Detection Dogs (MDDs) that you continue to save and improve lives, help expedite landmine removal operations, and return land to the people for productive and safe use in Lebanon. Please read below for an update on Mine Detection Dog *Zaatar*, sponsored by the ATFL community.

### Lebanon

**MDD *Zaatar***, sponsored in 2018, is continuing to sniff out landmines with the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF). In 2020, *Zaatar* helped to search 17,350 square meters of land in Al Omra, southern Lebanon, and Jrabta, northern Lebanon. Close to 1,105 individuals will benefit from the release of land in these areas, which will be used for agricultural purposes. Al Omra is located along the southern border of Lebanon, a region that is not only most densely contaminated with landmines, but is also one of the poorest in the country. By helping to clear land, our MDD teams are paving the way toward a more prosperous, mine-free future for communities in vulnerable areas.



Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and the deadly explosion that rocked Beirut on August 4th, the MDD teams continued to work with the LAF throughout the year. We are incredibly relieved to report that none of our dogs or handlers were injured in the deadly explosion.



*MDD Zaatar works with handler (both photos)*