



Global Health Institute E-Newsletter



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Fall 2025

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MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDING DIRECTOR



Dr. Shadi Saleh
GHI Founding Director

Dear LENS readers,

Civil society has always been a driving force for resilience and transformation in Lebanon and across our region. In difficult times, CSOs step forward, amplifying community voices and pioneering approaches that drive impact. As the focus of this issue of LENS, **the civil society sector** demonstrates how organizations across Lebanon and the region are central to advancing progress, strengthening communities and shaping sustainable solutions for the challenges we face today.

At the Global Health Institute (GHI), we are proud to contribute to this journey through the **Non-Governmental Organizations Initiative (NGOi)**, delivering institutional strengthening, tailored capacity building and contextualized services that empower civil society organizations across the region. To date, NGOi has supported more than 600 civil society organizations and extended its impact to thousands of communities across the MENA region and beyond. Through these efforts, NGOi continues to reinforce organizational resilience, enhance impact and foster meaningful partnerships that drive lasting and sustainable change.

To mark NGOi's sixth anniversary, we convened a flagship event, the **"AUB NGOi Open House 2025: Reimagining Partnerships and Sustainability in the Civil Society Sector"**. This gathering brought together over 30 exhibitors and more than 240 participants from Lebanon, Iraq, Kuwait, Syria and Turkey, including CSOs, donors and key stakeholders. The event served as a platform to celebrate achievements, explore new collaborations and reimagine bold futures for civil society. This follows our active participation at the DIHAD 2025 Exhibition in the United Arab Emirates, where our team highlighted GHI and NGOi's flagship initiatives. From tackling healthcare challenges in complex settings to empowering humanitarian leaders and strengthening NGOs across the MENA region, these programs showcase our commitment to advancing health and civil society in the region.

Beyond Lebanon, GHI continues to extend its impact through key regional and global engagements. In July of this year, we signed a **Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations International Organization for Migration (IOM) MENA Regional Office** to advance initiatives on climate change, health and migration. As part of our Cli-Health portfolio, this partnership aims to strengthen evidence-based policies and support sustainable, community-centered responses to emerging climate and health challenges.

Another key event this quarter was the co-organization of a **regional event on Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Health Systems Transformation in Egypt**. Supported by the E-Sahha/Digital Health Program in partnership with the Global Health Network (TGHN) and Zewail City of Science and Technology, the event showcased our commitment to promoting and advancing the responsible and strategic integration of AI in global health.

With the multiple conflicts occurring in our region, GHI's Conflict Medicine Program continues to be an active participant on global dialogues on how to enhance the understanding and practice in conflict medicine. Members of our team contributed to the **iPrOTeCT Conference in Rwanda**, sharing lessons on trauma registries, capacity-building and conflict-related curricula, while also forging new partnerships to strengthen regional and international collaboration.

Looking ahead, we remain focused on strengthening civil society through partnerships, capacity building, and practical solutions. By working together, we can ensure CSOs are equipped to address emerging challenges and continue driving sustainable development across the region.

As always, I encourage you to engage with us, share your insights, and join us in our mission to shape a brighter future for the MENA region and beyond.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Shadi Saleh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Shadi" and "Saleh" being capitalized and prominent.

GLOBAL HEALTH IN THE ARTS



ART IN THE LENS



AUB NGOi Open House, Mosaic, Lebanon, 2025

Celebrating Six Years of
Strengthening the Civil
Society Sector across the
MENA and Beyond

Unveiled at the AUB NGOi's Open House 2025, this mosaic is a vivid celebration of collaboration, resilience, and community impact. Made up of hundreds of photographs of event participants, the artwork forms NGOi's six-year anniversary slogan, symbolizing how collective effort creates lasting change.

The mosaic also reflects NGOi's reach across multiple countries over the past six years, underscoring the transformative power of civil society to connect communities, foster partnerships, and strengthen networks across the region.

Each individual photo contributes to a larger story of unity, diversity, and shared purpose, making the artwork a true testament to the transformative impact of civil society.

FEATURED STORIES



HIGHLIGHTS



Over 150 NGOs Unite at NGOi Open House 2025 to Reimagine Partnerships and Drive Regional Impact



GHI Co-Organizes a Regional Event on Artificial Intelligence for Health Systems Transformation in Egypt alongside Partners and Key Stakeholders



GHI signs a Memorandum of Understanding with IOM Regional Office for MENA in a Jointly Organized Forum on Climate Change, Health and Migration



CMP Participates in iProTeCT Conference in Rwanda

HIGHLIGHTED STORIES

Over 150 NGOs Unite at NGOi Open House 2025 to Reimagine Partnerships and Drive Regional Impact

September 2025



The Non-Governmental Organizations Initiative (NGOi) at the American University of Beirut hosted its Annual Open House 2025 on September 30 at AUB's West Hall, uniting over 150 NGOs, experts, and partners from Lebanon and the region for a day of dialogue, exhibition, and networking.

The event featured an NGO exhibition with 30 organizations from Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, Qatar, Kuwait, and Turkey, spotlighting their community-driven work and impact across diverse contexts.

A highlight of the day was the panel discussion, "Reimagining Partnerships: Building an Institutionally Strong and Sustainable Civil Society Ecosystem," which brought together leaders from diverse backgrounds, including Her Excellency Anne Meskanen, Ambassador of Finland to Lebanon; Wael Darwish, Country Director of Caritas Switzerland in Lebanon and Syria; Maya Ibrahimchah, Founder and President of Beit El Baraka and Beit Kanz; and Dr. Tania Haddad, Associate Professor at AUB. The conversation explored innovative ways to strengthen the civil society ecosystem through collaboration, localization, and sustainability.



Complementing the discussions, interactive workshops focused on partnership-building, financial resilience, and communication strategies, equipping participants with practical tools to enhance their organizational capacity.

The Open House reaffirmed NGOi's role as a regional hub for capacity building and collaboration, driving innovation and sustainability across the civil society landscape.



Watch here

CMP Participates in iPrOTeCT Conference in Rwanda

June 2025

The Conflict Medicine Program (CMP) team participated in the three-day iPrOTeCT conference in Kigali, Rwanda, which convened researchers, clinicians, and policymakers to advance trauma data and care in conflict-affected settings. The event brought together regional and international stakeholders to share research findings, examine challenges, and explore strategies for strengthening data-driven responses.



During the conference, the CMP team presented their ongoing projects highlighting lessons learned on trauma registries, capacity-building, and the integration of conflict-related curricula. The gathering also served as a platform to build partnerships and identify pathways for collaboration and knowledge exchange.



CMP's active engagement underscored its commitment to advancing evidence-based solutions for trauma care in fragile and conflict-affected settings, while positioning the program as a key contributor to regional and global dialogue on conflict medicine.



GHI Signs a Memorandum of Understanding with IOM Regional Office for MENA in a Jointly Organized Forum on Climate Change, Health and Migration

July 2025



As part of its commitment to advancing action and setting priority agendas at the intersection of climate change, health and social justice, the Cli-Health Program (CHP) at Global Health Institute convened a Forum titled **“Navigating the Climate-Health-Migration Nexus”** in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Regional office for MENA. The forum brought together more than 150 participants including policymakers, researchers, practitioners, and humanitarian actors to bridge evidence and practice on the interconnected challenges of climate change, global health, and human mobility in the region.

A key highlight was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between GHI and IOM, establishing a long-term partnership to advance research and policy on this nexus.



The event marked an important milestone for GHI, reinforcing its leadership in advancing inclusive, justice-centered approaches to climate resilience and health systems.

READ
the event
Press Release

GHI Director Dr. Shadi Saleh Selected Amongst 5 Global Thought Leaders to Reimagine Global Health

July 2025

The Wellcome Trust selected Dr. Shadi Saleh, founding director of the Global Health Institute (GHI) at AUB, to contribute one of five global proposals reimagining the future of global health. Representing the Middle East and Central Asia, Dr. Saleh joined leading experts from Africa, Latin America, Asia-Pacific, and Europe/North America.

Published in September 2025, these proposals offered regional perspectives to help shape an inclusive global health dialogue. Dr. Saleh’s selection highlighted AUB and GHI’s growing role as regional and global conveners in advancing health innovation and systems transformation.



**GHI DIRECTOR SHADI SALEH
AMONG FIVE GLOBAL THOUGHT
LEADERS COMMISSIONED BY
WELLCOME TRUST TO REIMAGINE
THE FUTURE OF GLOBAL HEALTH**
[READ THE FULL STORY](#)

GHI Co-Organizes Regional Event on AI for Health Systems in Egypt

July 2025

As part of the Responsible Artificial Intelligence for Global Health (RAI4GH) initiative, the Global Health Institute (GHI) co-organized the regional hybrid event “Artificial Intelligence for Health Systems Transformation: Policy, Partnerships, and Systems Readiness” in Giza, Egypt. Hosted by Zewail City in collaboration with TGHN, HealthAI, AI Sarosh, and supported by IDRC and FCDO, the event convened regional and global experts to share case studies, exchange insights, and explore practical solutions for integrating AI into health systems across the MENA region.

The event fostered multisectoral dialogue, partnership building, and pathways for AI-driven health system transformation.



GHI Showcases Conflict-Related Training Portfolio to AUB Board of Trustees

May 2025



Through its Conflict Medicine Program, the Global Health Institute (GHI) presented the American University of Beirut (AUB) Board of Trustees its ongoing efforts to integrate conflict-responsive training across health disciplines in the MENA region.

The session featured faculty experts from Medicine, Nursing, and Public Health, who underscored the value of interdisciplinary collaboration in preparing healthcare professionals to respond effectively in conflict-affected settings. Drawing on field-based experience, the panel demonstrated how diverse disciplines can contribute to advancing conflict medicine education and strengthening health systems.

The meeting reaffirmed GHI's as a regional and global leader in conflict-responsive health training and capacity-building.

MAIN UPDATES



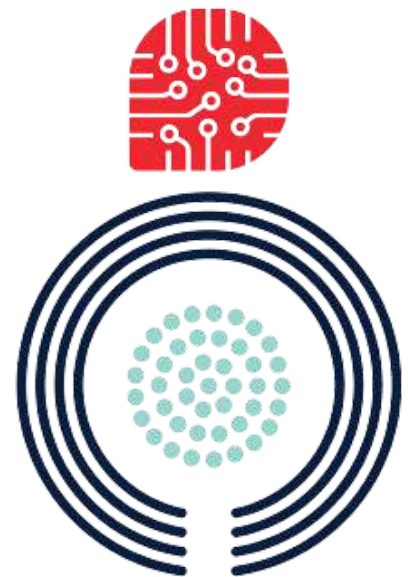
GHI PROGRAMS

E-SAHHA PROGRAM ESP

The GAIN MHI Project Featured as Digital Health Solution that Improves Maternal Health at the Geneva Digital Health Day 2025

The E-Sahha Program (ESP) participated in the Geneva Digital Health Day in May 2025 in Geneva, Switzerland, where the team pitched the Gamification, Artificial Intelligence, and mHealth Network for Maternal Health Improvement (GAIN MHI) project, a multicomponent digital health solution designed to improve maternal health outcomes among marginalized populations in Lebanon.

This integrated solution, which combines AI, gamification, and mHealth technologies, exemplifies a commitment to equity, accessibility, and evidence-based practices in maternal healthcare. Benefiting a total of 1,996 pregnant refugee and disadvantaged women across 19 primary healthcare centers in Lebanon, the GAIN MHI project also demonstrates a scalable and adaptable model that can be implemented in diverse contexts to improve maternal health outcomes at a broader population level.



[Learn More about GAIN MHI](#)

GHI Contributes to Panel on Ethical and Political Dimensions of AI in Global Health



As the only hub for AI in Global Health in the MENA region, the GHI team participated in the 2nd Annual AI for Global Health Innovation Conference at Lebanese Hospital Geitaoui, hosted by the Emergent Lebanon initiative of AI for Pandemic and Epidemic Preparedness (AI4PEP) and supported by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

GHI's Associate Director, Ms. Nour El Arnaout, moderated the panel discussion "Politics and Ethics of AI for Health: A Global South Perspective," which brought together regional and international experts to discuss the ethical, political, and societal implications of AI in health. The panel highlighted the importance of designing responsible AI solutions that are culturally sensitive, equitable, and reflective of local health realities in the Global South.

GHI PROGRAMS

E-SAHHA PROGRAM ESP

The E-Sahha Program Publishes in Frontiers in Digital Health



A new article titled “Evaluating the Impact of Engaging Healthcare Providers in an AI-Based Gamified mHealth Intervention for Improving Maternal Health Outcomes Among Disadvantaged Pregnant Women in Lebanon.” was published in Frontiers in Digital Health highlighting findings from the Gamification, Artificial Intelligence, and mHealth Network for Maternal Health Improvement (GAIN MHI) project.

The study highlighted that actively involving healthcare providers in AI-powered, gamified mHealth interventions can enhance maternal healthcare utilization and outcomes. It underscores how digital health innovations, when paired with professional clinical guidance, can help overcome barriers in healthcare delivery, particularly in resource-limited settings.

[Read the full publication](#)[Explore ESP projects](#)

GHI PROGRAMS

Cli-Health PROGRAM CHP

The Cli-Health Program Launches the ‘Voices on Climate Change and Health’ Campaign

Recognizing the importance of community and expert voices, the Cli-Health Program launched the Voices on Climate Change and Health campaign. The initiative features short videos from experts, healthcare professionals, humanitarian workers, and community members, highlighting how climate change is affecting health and wellbeing in Lebanon and across the region.



The campaign was launched during the Forum on Navigating the Climate–Health–Migration Nexus and will continue on GHI’s social media platforms to spread awareness on the links between climate and health.

GHI PROGRAMS

Cli-Health PROGRAM CHP

The Cli-Health Program Joins Global Discussions at the 2025 Global Symposium on Climate Justice and Impacted Populations

July 2024



Representing the MENA region, GHI's Associate Director Nour El Arnaout highlighted the work of GHI's Cli-Health Program at the 2025 Global Symposium on Climate Justice and Impacted Populations, co-hosted by UNFPA and the Government of Brazil, and bringing together policymakers, climate and health experts, youth leaders, development practitioners and civil society.

As a panelist on the Climate-induced Displacement, Migration and Conflict session, she underscored the disproportionate health impact of climate change on displaced and disadvantaged populations in MENA, linking it to social justice and SRHR.

She stressed the need for evidence-based, context-sensitive approaches to protect vulnerable communities.

AUB GHI and IOM MENA Forge Strategic Partnership on Climate, Health and Mobility

July 2024

In a joint effort to tackle the growing challenges at the intersection of climate change, health and mobility, AUB GHI and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa formed a strategic partnership. The AUB GHI leadership team, Founding Director Dr. Shadi Saleh and Associate Director Nour El Arnaout, met with IOM representatives in Cairo, including Mr. Suhrob Shanshoeff, along with senior officers Ms. Masako



Ueda and Dr. Michela Martini, to finalize the terms of collaboration.

Discussions focused on joint opportunities to strengthen health, migration, and climate resilience across the region. The partnership was formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) during the IOM MENA team's visit to Lebanon.

GHI PROGRAMS

Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness Program EPaPP

EPaPP Strengthens Regional Preparedness with a Certificate, Forum and Public Awareness

The Global Health Institute's Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness Program (EPaPP) is stepping up efforts to advance preparedness in the region. On October 16, 2025, AUB will host the EPaPP Forum 2025, bringing together regional stakeholders and international partners to tackle evolving preparedness needs.

This year's Forum will mark the official launch of the Certificate in Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness (CEPP), the first regionally contextualized program of its kind, developed with local expertise to build capacities in detection, response, policy, and risk communication. Learners can already pre-register for CEPP on the Global Health Learning and Development (GHLAD) platform.

In parallel, EPaPP is finalizing the Preparedness Information Hub (PIH), a comprehensive platform designed to centralize research, datasets, and guidelines to inform evidence-based decision-making across the region.

Beyond capacity-building, EPaPP has expanded its public outreach, raising awareness on urgent health threats such as measles, hepatitis, and climate-related risks like heatwaves.

Through timely communications and community-focused content, the program continues to engage the public while reinforcing the importance of epidemic and pandemic preparedness.



GHI PROGRAMS

CONFLICT MEDICINE PROGRAM CMP

CMP Engages with Rwanda to Advance National Health Priorities

June 2025

As part of the iProTeCT initiative, representatives from the Global Health Institute (GHI) and Imperial College London (ICL) met with the Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC) to explore opportunities for collaboration.



CMP team members, along with RBC leadership and experts from GHI and ICL, discussed how clinical and biomedical engineering approaches can address national health priorities. The discussions highlighted the potential for joint efforts to strengthen trauma and injury research within Rwanda's healthcare system.

CMP Publishes Qualitative Study on Trauma Registries in Conflict-Affected MENA

August 2025

The Conflict Medicine Program (CMP) at GHI published a landmark article in *Conflict and Health* on the challenges and opportunities for trauma registries in conflict-affected MENA countries.

Based on expert interviews, the study highlights barriers in data collection, management, and infrastructure and calls for regional efforts to standardize datasets, build local capacity, and invest in sustainable systems.



The article provides critical insights to strengthen trauma data and support both humanitarian response and long-term health system recovery.

[Read the full publication](#)

GHI PROGRAMS

REFUGEE HEALTH PROGRAM RHP

RHP Participates in the 2025 Humanitarian Health Research Forum in Nairobi

May 2024



The Global Health Institute (GHI) took part in the 2025 Humanitarian Health Research Forum, co-hosted by Elrha and the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) in Nairobi. The RHP team shared key insights and lessons learned from its community-based research conducted during the

war in Lebanon. The forum provided an important platform to connect with global experts, contribute to international discussions, and reinforce RHP's commitment to advancing evidence-based health interventions in humanitarian crises.

RHP Launches Video Series on PTSD in Children Post-Conflict

July - August 2024



RHP developed a series of awareness videos focusing on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) among children after conflict. The series simplifies the clinical understanding of PTSD symptoms to better reach the

general public. The videos highlight what PTSD looks like in children, the impact of the 2024 war, and how healing and support are possible through community care and mental health services.

[Watch here](#)

GHI PROGRAMS

REFUGEE HEALTH PROGRAM RHP

New Publication on Miscarriage and Failed Pregnancy among Syrian Refugee Women in Lebanon

August 2025

The Refugee Health Program (RHP) at AUB GHI published a new peer-reviewed article titled “Demographic and Clinical Predictors of Miscarriage and Failed Pregnancy among Syrian Refugee Women and Girls in Lebanon.” Drawing on baseline

data from the SEEK study, the paper examines key predictors of adverse pregnancy outcomes, including husband’s age, pregnancy desire, and antenatal care. Findings emphasize the urgent need for community-based interventions to strengthen sexual and reproductive health (SRH) literacy and expand access to care in humanitarian settings.



[Read the full publication](#)

Stakeholder Engagement in Beqaa to Strengthen SRH and MHPSS Services

August 2025



As part of its continued engagement strategy, the RHP team visited the two Primary Healthcare Centers (PHCs) in Beqaa where the SEEK intervention was implemented. During this visit, findings were shared with local stakeholders to validate results and inform program adaptation.

This dialogue will help update the SEEK manual to better reflect the Syrian refugees context in Lebanon

and improve support for adolescent girls and women in both sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS).

GHI PROGRAMS

REFUGEE HEALTH PROGRAM RHP

RHP Presented at the “Research in Crisis Settings: Challenges and Opportunities” Conference

September 2025

The RHP team delivered an oral presentation at the Research in Crisis Settings: Challenges and Opportunities Conference at the American University of Beirut campus.

This platform allowed RHP to share lessons learned from the SEEK trial and highlight opportunities for advancing evidence-based health interventions in humanitarian contexts.



[More about RHP](#)

GHI ACADEMY

CAPACITY BUILDING COMPONENT

GHI Academy Builds Capacity in Applying Artificial Intelligence and Digital Health Solutions in Low-Resource Settings

July 2025

In collaboration with GHI's Digital Health Program, the GHI Academy successfully delivered an online synchronous course on "Artificial Intelligence and Digital Health Solutions and Programs in Low-Resource Settings."

The training brought together more than 20 participants representing 18 organizations across 10 countries, including Germany, Kenya, Lebanon, Nigeria, the Philippines, South Africa, Sweden, Uganda, the UAE, and the United States.



Over four days, participants gained insights into assessing local needs and designing inclusive, responsible, and scalable digital health programs tailored to low-resource settings.

GHI Academy Prepares to Launch Two New Certificates in the Health Sector

As part of its continued mission to strengthen capacity in global health, the GHI Academy is preparing to launch two new online certificates by the end of 2025.

Certificate in Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness (CEPP)

Supports healthcare workers and public health professionals with the essential knowledge and skills needed to effectively prepare for and respond to future epidemics and pandemics.

[Enroll now](#)

Certificate in Climate Change and Health (CCH)

Equips learners with the knowledge and skills needed to understand and address the health impacts of climate change in the MENA region, with a strong focus on social justice, resilience, and policy action.

[Get notified and be the first to enroll](#)

Stay connected
& explore future learning opportunities
[Subscribe to GHI Academy mailing list](#)

GHI Academy Launches the Institutional Learning Package (ILP) for Organizational

With the aim of supporting organizations in institutionalizing continuous and systematic capacity building for their staff, the GHI Academy launched three new Institutional Learning Packages (ILPs).

These ILPs are designed for organizations seeking to empower their teams through flexible, self-paced learning while benefiting from reduced fees on group registrations. Through the ILPs, institutions gain access to the Institutional Learning Dashboard, which enables them to monitor employee progress across their learning journey and supports the planning of organizational professional development initiatives.

[Explore ILP packages here](#)

[Reach out to ghi.academy@aub.edu.lb](mailto:ghi.academy@aub.edu.lb)

AUB GHI Exhibits at DIHAD 2025

May 2025



AUB GHI participated in DIHAD Exhibition 2025, showcasing the institute's flagship initiatives in redefining healthcare in areas of conflict, empowering leaders in the humanitarian sector, and strengthening NGOs across the MENA region.

The exhibition provided an opportunity to engage with regional and international development actors, share best practices, and explore how GHI is tackling global health and humanitarian challenges in MENA through an interdisciplinary and contextualized approach.



ONLINE OFFERINGS

GHI ACADEMY

GLOBAL HEALTH LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT PLATFORM GHLAD

GHLAD continues to serve as a trusted online platform for continuous learning and growth

Dedicated to continuous learning and professional growth, the Global Health Learning and Development (GHLAD) platform offers over 50 self-paced online courses across the health, humanitarian, and civil society sectors. Combining flexibility with contextualized learning, GHLAD has supported 3,500+ registrants from more than 70 countries.

Download GHI's Guide to GHLAD



GHI ACADEMY

GLOBAL HEALTH LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT PLATFORM GHLAD

Equipping Humanitarians to Lead with Purpose with the Humanitarian Leadership Diploma

The Humanitarian Leadership Diploma (HLD) advances the leadership skills of humanitarian workers and increases the readiness of organizations to effectively tackle humanitarian projects. Learners can choose to enroll in the full diploma (8 courses) or select individual courses of their choice.

[More about the Diploma](#)[Enroll now](#)

Turning Medical Knowledge into Lifesaving Action with The Certificate in Conflict Medicine

CCM empowers healthcare practitioners by advancing their skills in conducting research and delivering medical care, that is contextualized to the settings of conflict and fragility. CCM is available in 3 specialties, where learners can choose to enroll in a full certificate (4 courses) or select individual courses.

[More about the Certificate](#)[Enroll now](#)

**Check out the online offerings
certificates, diplomas, & courses
available on GHLAD**

[REGISTER NOW](#)

GHI ASSIST

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS INITIATIVE NGOi

NGOi Builds the Capacity of NGOs Staff on Budgeting, Financial Management, and Risk Mitigation Strategies through a 4-Day In-Person Course

May 2024



NGOi delivered an in-person course during the month of May 2025 for a period of 4 days and provided participants with the knowledge and skills needed to strengthen their organization's financial systems and risk assessment. More than 55 individuals from more than 35 organizations engaged in interactive team-based work sessions and discussions. The participants received necessary insights on how to build practical skills in budgeting, financial planning, and proposal alignment.

[Explore the full list of NGOi courses](#)

NGOi Hosts a Members-Only Workshop on AI for NGOs

June 2024

As part of its ongoing commitment to strengthening the growth, network, and impact of its organizational members, NGOi delivered a members-exclusive online workshop on 'Artificial Intelligence for NGOs: Optimizing Operations through Intelligent Tools'. The workshop aimed to explore how AI tools can enhance the work of NGOs and optimize operations to boost efficiency and maximize impact across the sector.

NGOi remains committed to engaging with the 95+ member organizations from 10+ countries in the MENA region to foster a more sustainable and impactful journey for its members.



NGOi Attends the Ford Foundation's 'Weaving Resilience' Meeting in Ghana

July 2025



NGOi's Associate Director Nour El Arnaout and Manager Alaa Merhi joined the 3-day Weaving Resilience Network annual meeting held by the Ford Foundation in Accra, Ghana. As the only MENA hub dedicated to institutional strengthening of civil society, NGOi showcased its most impactful service that aims to support CSOs in the region with enhancing their governance systems, internal capacity, and long-term resilience.

The meeting offered insightful exchanges of best practices with other hubs from Africa, Latin America, Central America, and Indonesia, fostering cross-regional dialogues on how to build a stronger and more sustainable civil society sector in the Global South.

[Learn more about AACSD](#)

NGOi Concludes the EU-Funded Project: Empowering Civil Society and Youth for an Inclusive Digital Transformation



NGOi, in partnership with Acted, Digital Opportunity Trust (DOT) Lebanon, and ESA Business School, concluded the EU-funded project "Empowering Civil Society and Youth for an Inclusive Digital Transformation", supported by the European Union in Lebanon.

Over the past 30 months, NGOi has closely supported and built the capacity 10 youth-led and youth-focused CSOs, strengthening their institutional and operational capacity through a structured development process.

GHI ASSIST

NON-
GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS
INITIATIVE
NGOi

This collaboration highlights NGOi's commitment to empowering young leaders and promoting inclusivity to enable them to become influential development actors in Lebanon.

NGOi Delivers a Tailored MEAL Training for UNRWA Camp Improvement Programme Team

September 2025



NGOi delivered a tailored course on Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) to 8 staff members of the UNRWA Camp Improvement Programme, supported by GIZ.

The course introduced participants to MEAL systems and tools that can transform programs into impactful, evidence-based initiatives, strengthening their skills in tracking performance, improving accountability, and enhancing learning processes for more effective planning and decision-making.



[Request a tailored course](#)

GHI BLOG



"SOUTH OF GLOBAL HEALTH" BLOG

GHI's blog, "South of Global Health" encompasses more than 40 published articles on a variety of intersectional health-related issues. Since its inception, the blog has published articles on refugee health needs, health in conflict, mental and telemental health, gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual reproductive health, communicable and non-communicable diseases and health systems. Submitting scholars hail from the American University of Beirut, War Child Holland, Medical Aid for Palestinians, University of Chester, German University of Cairo, Syria Public Health Network, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, Lancet Migration, University of Cambridge, University College London and the Research for Health in Conflict Group.

[Read more on the blog](#)

[Submit an article](#)

South of Global Health blog has an open and ongoing Call for Blog Entries. It accepts pieces between 500 and 1000 words, and adopts footnotes in IEEE as its referencing style.

Kindly submit all entries at ghi@aub.edu.lb with the subject "South of Global Health Blog Entry".

FEATURED EXPERT





Eng. Bader Al-Mubarak

Chairman, Kuwait Association for Needy Families

Eng. Bader Al-Mubarak is one of the prominent figures in the field of charitable and humanitarian work in the State of Kuwait. He combines extensive administrative experience with a sincere passion for serving the community, a combination that is clearly reflected in his distinguished career filled with pioneering humanitarian initiatives. Al-Mubarak is the founder and Chairman of the Board of the Kuwait Association for Needy Families, an organization that stems from his deep belief in the importance of supporting needy families inside Kuwait, regardless of their backgrounds or nationalities. He also holds the position of Regional Director (Kuwait) for the Arab Union for Productive Families and Handicraft Industries.

At a time of mounting social and humanitarian challenges, **Al-Mubarak has demonstrated exceptional leadership in the field of local charitable work** through his direct oversight of an active humanitarian association since 2018. His vision is characterized by a focus on sustainable impact, effective execution, and the strategic expansion of both the scope and quality of programs serving needy population in Kuwait.

During his leadership, the association provided total assistance amounting to 7,461,416 KD over a five-year period starting from 2020. These efforts encompassed diverse areas such as rent payment, orphan sponsorship, food and clothing provision, education, seasonal aid, and debt relief for people in debt. The aid distributed as following, starting with 1,030,688 KD in 2020, rising to 1,546,300 KD in 2021, and 1,762,972 KD in 2022. Although there was a temporary decrease to 1,152,000 KD in 2023, the year 2024 saw a remarkable surge with 1,969,456 KD disbursed, the highest amount during this period.

More than 37,000 families benefited from these programs inside Kuwait, reflecting not only the breadth of support provided but also the depth of impact achieved. These outcomes demonstrate not merely numerical growth, but a qualitative transformation in the lives of thousands of families, reinforcing their dignity and enhancing their stability.

Through vision and action, we transform charitable work into lasting social impact

Eng. Bader Al-Mubarak continues to play a pivotal role in advancing humanitarian efforts in Kuwait. With a forward-looking vision, he remains committed to updating systems, enhancing transparency, and expanding services to support needy families and strengthen Kuwaiti society.

Eng. Bader Al-Mubarak

FEATURED GHI'ERS



GHI WELCOMES NEW STAFF



Nour El Zaouk, MPH

Program Manager, Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness Program | EPaPP

"Driven by evidence and powered by collaboration, I believe in strengthening health systems today to protect lives tomorrow."

Nour is a public health professional with a Master's in Health Promotion and Community Health from the American University of Beirut. She has over six years of experience leading research, monitoring and evaluation, and donor-funded programs with organizations including USAID Lebanon, UNAIDS, and the Global Fund. She is currently Program Manager of the Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness Program (EPaPP) at AUB's Global Health Institute, with expertise in project design, stakeholder engagement, and global health security.



Sarah Kassab

E-Learning Specialist, Academy Division

"Passionate about transforming education, I strive to design inclusive and contextualized learning opportunities that support educators and learners across the region."

Sarah Kassab is an E-Learning Specialist at AUB GHI, with over eight years of experience in teaching, training, curriculum development, and instructional design. She holds a Master's degree in Science Education from AUB. Her work focuses on designing contextualized and inclusive learning programs that address regional needs, close educational gaps, and expand access to professional learning opportunities, particularly through the development of digital training content and Communities of Practice that promote sustainable growth for educators and professionals.

GHI WELCOMES NEW INTERNS



Celine El Tawil

Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, American University of Beirut Mediterraneo

During my internship at the Global Health Institute, I contributed to research activities including data tracking, transcription, translation, and thematic analysis, within the Conflict Medicine Program. The experience deepened my understanding of global health challenges and enhanced my technical and analytical skills. GHI showed me that research drives meaningful change. It shaped the way I approach impact through evidence and commitment.



Jana Fakhri

Master's Degree in Neuroscience, American University of Beirut, Lebanon

My internship experience at the Global Health Institute within the Conflict Medicine Program, has been an enriching and eye-opening journey. Coming in with a background in biology and neuroscience, I was eager to gain research exposure and hands-on skills in a professional setting. Over the course of my internship, I developed valuable competencies while working on meaningful projects, which gave me the chance to apply my academic knowledge to real-world health research.

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WORD IN THE LENS



“ If we want any significant development,
we must co-opt civil society. ”

Nelson Mandela

Activist and former President of South Africa



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