

2021: A Year of Milestones

NGOi Annual Report (2021-2022)

WHAT'S INSIDE?

Message from the Founding Director	1
Featured News	3
NGOi Highlights	4
Partnerships	7
Organizational Certification	9
Capacity Building	10
Network & Membership	12
Testimonials	13

MESSAGE

FROM THE FOUNDING DIRECTOR

Dear NGO Community,

We are pleased to share with you this issue of 'NGOi Annual Report' through which we present the main highlights and achievements of the Non-Governmental Organizations Initiative (NGOi) for the year 2021.

The past year has been a busy one for NGOi with new partnerships established, additional services launched, and a remarkable growth of our network.



In 2021, we engaged in fruitful discussions with renown regional funding agencies and philanthropies to explore ways to support civil society organizations unleash their full potential and reach operational excellence towards achieving greater impact within the communities they serve. As a result, we have partnered with the Ford Foundation and the Asfari Foundation to establish the Arab Alliance for Civil Society Organizations Development (AACSO), a flagship project of NGOi. We envision AACSO as a transformative vision for the strengthening of the NGO ecosystem in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region with more than a hundred partners involved, sixty CSOs supported, and twelve countries reached in its first phase.

In parallel, throughout the past year, we continued to support civil society organizations, particularly those operating in the MENA region mainly via capacity building, organizational development, and institutional strengthening. Most importantly, we directed our efforts to making learning opportunities accessible and available for all individuals interested in the non-profit sector by launching four online asynchronous courses in both English and Arabic. With contextualization and Arabization being at the core of all our services, our team is working with regional experts to ensure that the knowledge and resources offered are applicable to the regional context.

In 2022, we commit to bring to the NGO sector new services, outstanding opportunities for growth and development, and a state-of-the-art learning experience. We also look forward to engaging in strategic discussions and joining effort with like-minded partners to support the NGO ecosystem achieve greater impact.

Stay tuned!

Shadi Saleh

ABOUT NGOi



Overview

The Non-Governmental Organizations Initiative (NGOi) is an initiative of the American University of Beirut (AUB) that provides different services to the NGO sector in Lebanon and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

Mission

To enhance the wellbeing and quality of life of communities in the MENA region by developing and empowering the NGO sector.

Vision

To be the regional hub for the NGO sector certification, development, and knowledge exchange.

Services

-  Organizational Certification
-  Training & Capacity Building
-  Self-Assessment
-  Contextualization & Arabization
-  Knowledge Resource Center (KRC)
-  Convening Platform
-  Performance Improvement
-  Digital Communication Management

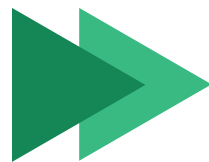
FEATURED NEWS

NGOi Partnered with Leading Philanthropies to Establish the 'Arab Alliance for CSOs Development' (AACCSOD)

In line with its mission to develop and empower the civil society sector in the Arab world, NGOi signed a strategic partnership with the Ford Foundation & the Asfari Foundation to establish the Arab Alliance for CSOs Development (AACCSOD).

AACCSOD aims to institutionally and operationally upskill the CSO sector as a critical contributor to the wellbeing and social engagement of the population in the Arab region. In addition to that, it will serve as the hub for the CSO sector's strengthening, continuous upskilling, and knowledge exchange in the Arab region.

One of the main features of AACCSOD's work will be Contextualization & Arabization of services. Stemming from our belief that empowering local CSOs will yield a better, more sustainable impact, AACCSOD will focus on developing local organizations using local experts, localized standards, and tailored capacity building programs available in local languages.



AACCSOD
ARAB ALLIANCE FOR
CSOs DEVELOPMENT

AACCSOD will focus on developing individuals as well as organizations. This will ensure a sustainable approach to organizational development and will guarantee effective change. This flagship program will be scalable beyond the first phase into a hub for Arab CSOs to convene, share, learn, and develop symbiotically.

AACCSOD WILL SERVE

12 COUNTRIES OF
THE ARAB WORLD

AACCSOD WILL SUPPORT

60+ CSOs IN TARGETED
COUNTRIES

AACCSOD WILL BRING TOGETHER

100+ FUNDERS, PARTNERS,
& EXPERTS

AACCSOD WILL OFFER

24 ONLINE COURSES IN
MULTIPLE LANGUAGES

HIGHLIGHTS

NGOi Launched an Asynchronous Online Course on Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) in English and Arabic

Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, & Learning for NGOs

التدقيق، التقييم، المساءلة والتعليم للمنظمات غير الحكومية

NOW AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH & ARABIC
Online Asynchronous on GHLAD

متوفر الآن للتعلم غير المتزامن عن بعد
بنسخته العربية والإنجليزية

REGISTER NOW

To support individuals and NGOs' staff in pursuing learning opportunities at their own pace, NGOi launched an online asynchronous version of its "Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) for NGOs" course, in both English and Arabic.

The course equips MEAL managers, officers, and program managers with skills needed to monitor the progress of activities implementation against planned targets, evaluate progress toward expected results, and utilize this information to continuously learn, adapt, and report to stakeholders. The course adopts dynamic learning tools to enhance the educational experience of the learners and enrich their hands-on practices.

Enroll Now in the MEAL online asynchronous course

HIGHLIGHTS

NGOi Launched an Asynchronous Online Version of the “Project & Program Management for NGOs” Course in both English & Arabic

With project and program management being one of the most requested skills in the non-profit industry, NGOi has launched in March 2022 an online asynchronous version of its “Project & Program Management for NGOs” course.

The course is accessible to all learners via the Global Health Institute's (GHI) online learning platform and is available in both English and Arabic. It is designed to effectively train professionals working in the NGO sector in leading projects and programs at NGOs by properly assessing the needs of the community, identifying key donors, setting the project scope, building the project’s schedule and budget, and planning adequately for risks.

The course enables participants to engage in an active learning experience that boosts knowledge retention and promotes critical thinking.

Project & Program Management For NGOs

NOW AVAILABLE
for Online Self-Paced Learning in English & Arabic

REGISTER NOW

PROJECT & PROGRAM MANAGEMENT FOR NGOs

\$500.00

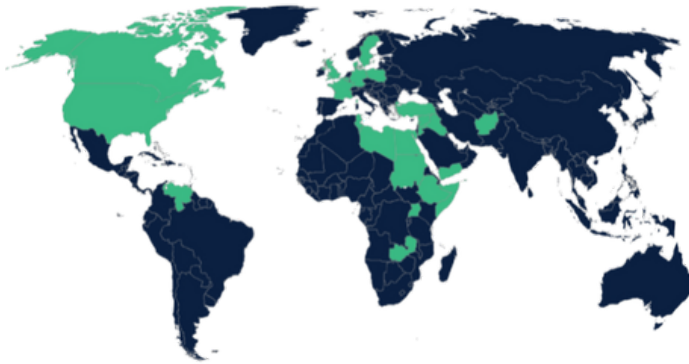
ENROLL NOW

Join our community of learners

Enroll now in this course

HIGHLIGHTS

284 Staff Members of 124 NGOs from the MENA Region and Beyond Participated in NGOi's Training Courses in 2021

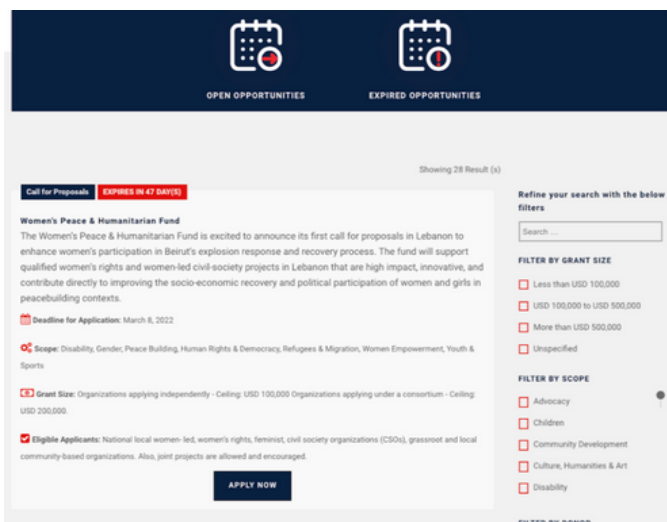


As part of its training and capacity building service, NGOi built the capacities of 284 staff members of 124 NGOs from the MENA Region, who participated in NGOi's training courses in 2021.

Participants from Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Poland, Sudan, Syria, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States, and Yemen, were enrolled in different online synchronous courses that were offered by NGOi for the past year.

These included courses on communication, disaster risk reduction, as well as monitoring and evaluation for NGOs among others.

NGOi Upgraded its Membership Benefits to Support Member Organizations in Searching for Funding Opportunities More Efficiently



To support NGOs that are part of its network in searching for funding opportunities more efficiently, NGOi launched a new platform as an upgrade to the original funding alert shared monthly with its member organizations.

Characterized by its user-friendly interface, the platform allows member organizations to navigate across different open funding opportunities and select the ones that match their preference using multiple filters including scope, amount, funding agency, and deadline.

[More about NGOi membership packages](#)

PARTNERSHIPS

NGOi Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Save the Children International to Support Local Civil Society Organizations



In alignment with its commitment to strengthen and develop the institutional capacities of grassroots organizations, NGOi signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Save the Children International (SCI).

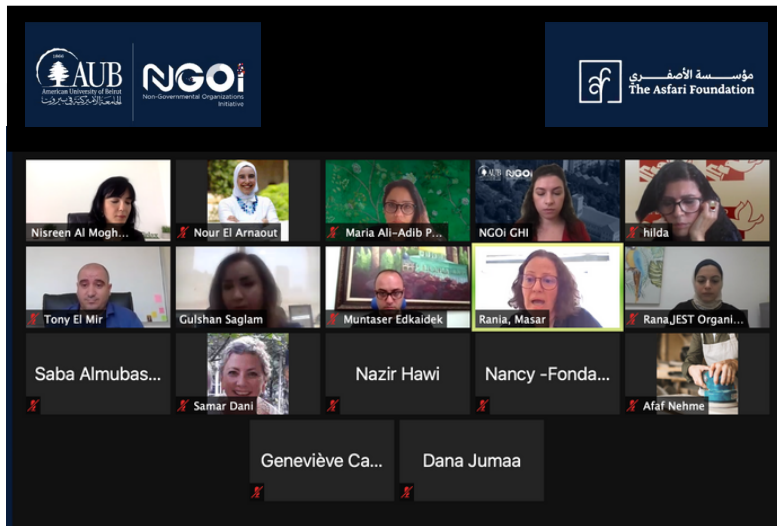
The signing was held at AUB, in the presence of GHI-NGOi's Director Dr. Shadi Saleh, SCI Deputy Country Director in Lebanon Mr. Mohamed Mannaa, and members of the two teams. This MOU marked Save the Children's first partnership with an academic institution in Lebanon.

As part of the MOU, both parties will work together on supporting SCI's partners to pursue performance improvement, capacity building, and organizational development endeavors through NGOi's service portfolio.

[Read the full press release](#)

[Check out NGOi services](#)

NGOi Partnered with the Asfari Foundation to Enhance Knowledge Sharing Practices among NGOs in the MENA Region



Believing in the promising potential of local and regional NGOs, NGOi partnered with the Asfari Foundation to explore different notions related to the concept and practice of knowledge sharing among NGOs in the MENA region. To do so, a systematic multi-level assessment approach was adopted including a desk review, a survey, and roundtable discussions with local and regional NGOs operating in the region.

The assessment also included discussions with funding agencies/donors that are believed to have a key role in such endeavors. The multi-level assessment generated key findings revolving around the need to build the capacity of NGOs to share knowledge in digital formats, provide them with adequate tools, and offer them an enabling virtual environment to share and access context-specific knowledge.

15 CSOs Underwent Organizational Self-Assessment, Capacity Building, and Certification with NGOi in Partnership with ACTED



NGOi partnered with ACTED on the “Ta’cir” project (Towards an Active Participation of Civil Society Reform Process), funded by the European Union (EU), to support 15 civil society organizations (CSOs) in assessing their organizational gaps, through NGOi’s self-assessment platform. Based on their self-assessment score, five CSOs were shortlisted to undergo the organizational certification process.

As part of this partnership, NGOi offered two face-to-face courses on communication, transparency, and advocacy to representatives from the 15 CSOs.

ORGANIZATIONAL CERTIFICATION

Makhzoumi Foundation, LebRelief, & Al-Shifaa for Humanitarian & Medical Services Received NGOi's Organizational Certification

After successful fulfillment of NGOi's organizational certification requirements, "Makhzoumi Foundation" (Platinum Level), "LebRelief" (Platinum Level) and "Al-Shifaa for Humanitarian & Medical Services" (Silver Level) became AUB-certified NGOs.

Representatives of the respective NGOs received their trophies and certification at AUB during ceremonies held in the presence of the NGOi leadership and team.

The road to organizational certification includes a self-assessment and an audit process that assess the organization's procedures and systems in place across 10 different standards considered as core for NGOs management.

The certification process promotes the organizational systems-thinking mindset and fosters a culture of continuous improvement within the organization.



Know more about NGOi's organizational certification

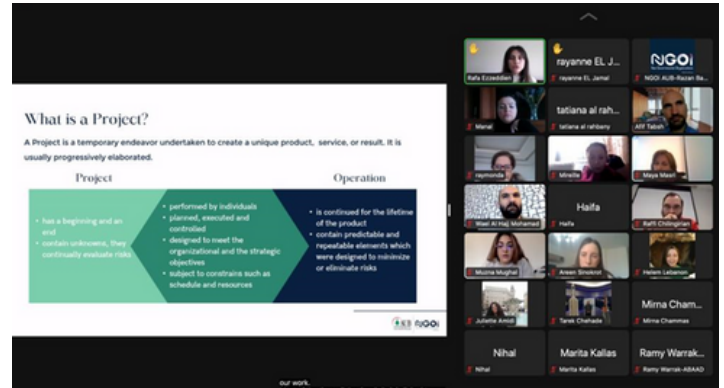
CAPACITY BUILDING

NGOi Built Capacity of NGOs in Project and Program Management Through a 4-Day Online Course

As part its capacity building activities, NGOi offered in February 2022 an online synchronous course on “Project & Program Management for NGOs”.

The course, which spanned across the period of 4 days, provided participants with key tools and techniques in project and program management that comply with international standards and regional common practices.

More than 70 participants from 43 different NGOs operating in the MENA region attended the training and engaged in interactive team-based virtual sessions and case studies. Despite its online format, the course was characterized by its dynamic approach of delivery that enhanced the learning experience of the attendees.



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

NGOi Built the Capacity of More than 170 NGOs' Staff Members on Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning



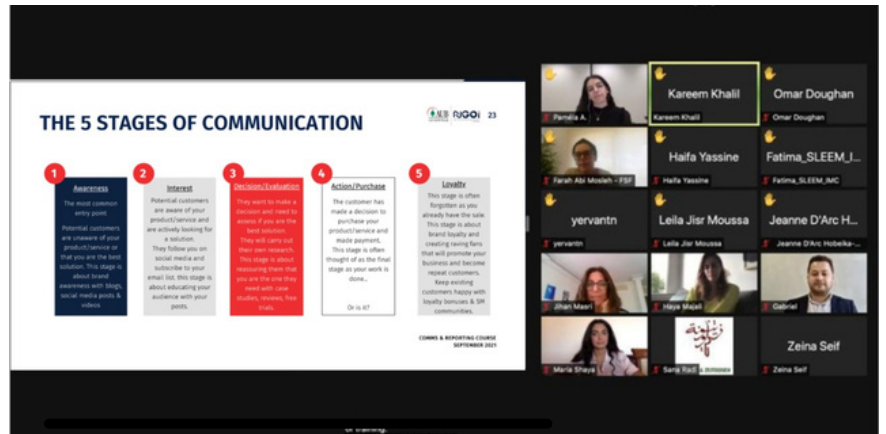
Triggered by the high demand and learning needs exhibited among NGOs' staff to gain further knowledge and experience in MEAL, NGOi offered twice a 4-day online synchronous course on “Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) for NGOs”.

More than 170 participants from different organizations in Lebanon and the MENA region attended the courses. Despite their virtual mode of delivery, the courses were characterized by their engaging approach of sharing knowledge that enhanced the learning experience of the participants.

Attendees were also engaged in virtual group work sessions as part of the courses, to apply the knowledge gained in real-life case studies.

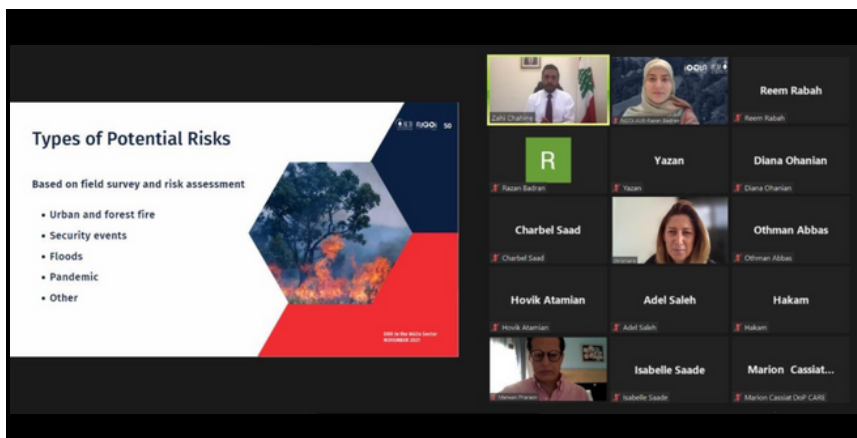
NGOi Introduced NGOs to Communication Strategies and Essentials of Reporting to Donors Through a 4-Day Online Training

NGOi offered a 4-day online synchronous course on “Communication Strategies in the New Era & Essentials of Reporting to Donors for NGOs”, to effectively help NGOs disseminate information about their work to their key stakeholders including beneficiaries and donors.



The course equipped the participants with skills needed to plan, implement, and evaluate communication activities including communication campaigns. It also focused on effective reporting strategies and best practices of reporting to donors.

NGOi Upskilled the NGO sector to Mitigate, Manage, and Respond to Disasters through Two Courses on Disaster Risk Reduction



Considering the risks and disasters that the MENA region has witnessed the past few years, NGOi offered two courses on disaster risk reduction (DRR) in 2021.

The first course served as an introduction to DRR and aimed to familiarize staff working in national and international NGOs with the concepts, mechanisms, processes, and best practices in DRR.

The second aimed to build the capacity of NGOs' staff in identifying donors and funding opportunities that support DRR planning and implementation, with an emphasis on proposal writing requirements.

Check out available NGOi courses

NGOI NETWORK & MEMBERSHIP



Nineteen individual and Thirty-four organizational members joined the NGOi network in 2021! With the growing NGOi network, new benefits have been added to the yearly membership package.

KNOWLEDGE RESOURCE CENTER

NGOi's Knowledge Resource Center (KRC) provides guides, articles, toolkits and templates that can assist NGOs in their day-to-day operations. The KRC also includes helpful resources for proposal writing and development of new policies and procedures.

Today, the KRC offers to the NGO sector in the MENA region more than 400 resources on advocacy, communication, financial management, fundraising and proposal management, governance and strategic planning, human capital management, monitoring and evaluation, partnerships and sustainability, project and program management, risk and disaster management, as well as structuring and legal compliance.

403
RESOURCES
including



106
ARTICLES



135
GUIDES &
TEMPLATES



[More about the Knowledge Resource Center](#)

TESTIMONIALS



May Makhzoumi
Makhzoumi Foundation

"Being certified as organization by AUB NGOi was a distinguished step in fulfilling our mission. The NGOi team has supported us along the way and guided us in finding the appropriate tools and guides that make us as successful as possible in our role in serving the community. The focus on everything, including departments, personnel, governance, and safety has set a place for boundless teamwork."



Hussein Soueidan
Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) for NGOs Course

"This course helped me develop the knowledge needed when working on M&E projects. As a result of my enrollment in this course, I was able to get a senior position in an international NGO where I am working as an M&E specialist. If you are currently working as an M&E specialist or thinking of developing your M&E skills, I really recommend that you take this course."



Maria Shaya
Himaya
Communications Strategies in the new Era & Essentials of Reporting to Donors Course

"Everything I've previously learned about communications was from practice and hands-on experience. Now I know how to think and plan better for the upcoming year, using clear guidelines and tools to revamp our NGO's communications strategy, enhance our internal and external procedures and policies, and execute campaigns that have a bigger impact."



Yusuf AlKhalil
Al Shifaa for Medical and Humanitarian Services in Lebanon

"Our organization underwent an organizational assessment through NGOi's self-assessment platform. Through this platform, we were able to identify our gaps. The platform provided us with operational recommendations to improve and develop our performance. I call humanitarian associations and organizations to embark on this experience because it is very user-friendly and simple, it also allows you to enhance your competencies and performance and develop your departments in line with donors' requirements."



ghiaub



ghi.aub.edu.lb/ngoi



Non-Governmental Organizations Initiative (NGO)
American University of Beirut
PO Box 11-0236 | Riad El-Solh | Zip code 1107 2020 | Beirut, Lebanon
Tel: +961-1-350000 | ext. 4832 | ngoi@aub.edu.lb

2022 American University of Beirut. All Rights Reserved