

Global Health Institute E-Newsletter











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Vol 6 - issue 2 Spring 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDING DIRECTOR



Dear LENS readers,

It is becoming quite evident that Artificial Intelligence (AI) will play a key role in shaping the future of humanity. This includes transforming how health care is delivered, diseases are researched, and evidence is analyzed to synthesize solutions among many other applications. The ecosystem of global health is a prime area where benefits from AI can be reaped, but also can have a considerable negative impact if the adoption and use is not monitored and perhaps regulated.

In this context, the Global Health Institute at AUB was keen on being proactive in exploring the potential of AI (and digital health in general) through adoption, implementation and evaluation to key global health challenges in our region, and the global south. So, it comes with great pride to announce that GHI has been designated as the MENA Hub for the Global Health and Artificial Intelligence Network (GHAIN MENA). This initiative, supported by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), is an expression of solid commitment to understanding and advancing the intersection of AI and global health, and its potential. Over the next three years, GHI, in collaboration with our esteemed partners, the Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET) and the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), will lead efforts to enhance research capacity in the MENA region on AI, with the first area of focus being Sexual, Reproductive, and Maternal Health (SRMH) services and outcomes. By leveraging our expertise and resources, we aim to drive meaningful progress in the field of AI and global health. We firmly believe that GHAIN MENA has the potential to make a significant and lasting impact, and we are thrilled to embark on this transformative journey together with our partners. As we move forward, we eagerly anticipate the remarkable advancements and outcomes that will emerge from this pioneering and groundbreaking endeavor.

This quarter marked another milestone for GHI with the official launch of the Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness Program (EPaPP). The inaugural event of EPAPP was a distinguished panel of local, regional and international experts who shared profound insights on the challenges and opportunities around epidemic and pandemic preparedness in the MENA region. EPaPP's is the fourth program in GHI Program's division, with a primary strategic goal is to serve as a platform for research and evidence on epidemic and pandemic preparedness with a special focus on the MENA region, which has suffered significantly in recent years, and where investment in infrastructure has not been at a level that can respond to epidemic and pandemic challenges.

You know by now that we keep our NGOi team busy. As part of the Arab Alliance for Civil Society Organization Development (AACSOD - أقصد) flagship program, I am pleased to announce that NGOi has started the first cycle of institutional strengthening and organizational development for fifteen Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) from Egypt, Tunisia, and Jordan. This came with NGOi celebrating its 4th anniversary, last month. During the past four years, NGOi has offered different services, implemented many projects, and established several partnerships with key donors and philanthropies to support the development of the NGO sector in MENA by institutionally strengthening and building the capacity of different actors in it. To date, 457 NGOs in 26 countries benefited from NGOi services, and we are looking forward to continuing serving the civil society sector in the coming years.

I invite you to read this LENS to know more about our ever-growing initiatives and new projects. You can also check out our latest updates and activities through our active social media platforms; GHI and its teams are a click away!

Shadi Saleh

GLOBAL HEALTH IN THE ARTS

ART IN THE LENS



SANTOINE 'MAYO' MALLIARAKIS, Egypt (1905 - 1990) Homme de Profil (Profile of a Man), 1960s, Oil on canvas, 65 x 54 cm Courtesy of Ramzi & Saeda Dalloul Art Foundation

Antoine Malliarakis, better known as "Mayo", was born in Port Said, Egypt, and showed an interest in art since very young especially for aquarelle and drawing. Between Egypt and Europe, Mayo was engaged in parallel with his art work, with other creative activities: He has contributed to the elaboration of the Art and Liberty group, founded in 1938 in Cairo by the Egyptian poet Georges Henein (1914-1973). He is also known as a theater costume designer, especially for the Théâtre des Mathurins in Paris.

In the work entitled Homme de Profil (Profile of a Man), Mayo depicted the face of a man in profile, and replaced the hair with entangled hand digits to represent the complexity of the constantly thinking human brain. The eyes are not shown. The rest of the face suggests a state of fear, suffering or other unease despite the enveloping luminosity in warm yellows that surrounds the figure.

Could Mayo's painting have been a premonition of the advent of today's complex web of digital technology and artificial intelligence, with all the hyperreality in the interplay of light and dark that it brings forth to humanity?

FEATURED STORIES

HIGHLIGHTS



GHI Launches the Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness Program in the Presence of Esteemed Health Experts



NGOi Initiates Institutional Strengthening and Support to Fifteen Civil Society Organizations in Egypt, Tunisia, and Jordan as Part of the AACSOD Program

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

NOW ACCEPTING PROJECTS SUBMISSIONS! GHAIN MENA Launches a Call for Proposals on the Use of Artificial Intelligence to Improve Sexual, Reproductive, and Maternal Health Outcomes

TOP STORIES

GHI Launches the Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness Program in the Presence of Esteemed Health Experts

March 2023



The Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness (EPaPP) was formally launched on March 23, 2023 at AUB. The launch event gathered a distinguished panel of local, regional and international experts who shared profound insights on the challenges and opportunities around epidemic and pandemic preparedness in the MENA region.

The opening ceremony began with introductory remarks by Dr. Lina Choueriri, AUB's Deputy Provost, and Dr. Shadi Saleh, the Founding Director of GHI, to set the stage for an engaging discussion on the significance of epidemic and pandemic preparedness in the region. Dr. Zahi Abdul Sater, GHI's Senior Advisor for Partnership and Innovation, then presented a comprehensive overview of the program's aims and projects.

The panel consisted of five experts with diverse backgrounds. Dr. Antoine Abou Fayad, Assistant Professor of Experimental Pathology, Immunology, and Microbiology at AUB, advised on how the region can employ technology and innovation to improve preparedness and response in the region. Ms. Chaitali Sinha, Senior Program Specialist at IDRC, discussed strengthening national and regional capacity for equitable epidemic and pandemic preparedness. Dr. Jaouad Mahjour, Assistant Director-General of Emergency Preparedness at the World Health Organization (WHO), Switzerland, shared his insights on how the MENA region can learn from the experiences of other countries in responding to future epidemics and pandemics. Dr. Souha Kanj, Head of the Infectious Diseases Division at the AUBMC, brought forth her valuable recommendations on building a sustainable and resilient health workforce. Lastly, Mr. Zahi Chahine, Head of the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Unit at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers at UNDP, Lebanon, provided insights on the roles and opportunities played by local NGOs in responding to and preparing for future pandemics.

The discussion explored the complex and multi-faceted issue of pandemic preparedness in the MENA region, highlighting the critical role of collaboration and knowledge-sharing across different sectors and stakeholders. The esteemed panelists emphasized on the pressing need for continued investment and prioritization of pandemic preparedness in the MENA region, with a focus on equity and community engagement.

Read the full press release

NGOi Initiates Institutional Strengthening and Support to Fifteen Civil Society Organizations in Egypt, Tunisia, and Jordan as Part of the AACSOD Program

January-February 2023



As part of the Arab Alliance for Civil Society Organization Development (AACSOD - أقصد) flagship program, NGOi started the first cycle of institutional strengthening and organizational development for fifteen Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Egypt, Tunisia, and Jordan.

The CSOs undergoing the organizational development journey were selected based on an open call for applications followed by a thorough review and selection process. Selected CSOs attended a two-day virtual orientation session during which they were introduced to the AACSOD institutional strengthening portal and the different program requirements.

In parallel, NGOi organized a three-day in-person workshop in February 2023 for AACSOD's selected National Experts from Egypt, Tunisia, and Jordan during which the experts were introduced to standard operating procedures of NGOi and AACSOD.

The AACSOD national experts engage with the selected CSOs by working directly with their teams to set organizational performance improvement plans, follow-up on progress, and provide mentoring and coaching along the organizational development journey.

Learn more about AACSOD

The GHAIN MENA Launches a Call for Proposals on the Use of Artificial Intelligence to Improve Sexual, Reproductive, and Maternal Health Outcomes

May 2023



The Global Health Artificial Intelligence Network in MENA (GHAIN MENA), an initiative led by GHI's E-Sahha Program has launched an open call for proposals for projects submissions from institutions/researchers in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

The call for proposals is dedicated to research and innovation projects focused on designing, testing, implementing or scaling up AI-based interventions that aim to improve sexual, reproductive, and maternal health (SRMH) outcomes in MENA. The call particularly focuses on key priority areas including improving SRMH outcomes, promoting adolescents sexual and reproductive health, enhancing access to and quality of SRMH services in primary healthcare settings, addressing gender-based violence, advocating for and supporting family planning, and building the capacity of healthcare providers in SRMH, among others.

A total of 300,000\$ will be awarded to six applicants from MENA (maximum of \$50,000 per project) to implement their proposed projects for a duration of up to 18 months.

For further **details about this call for proposals** including **eligibility & instructions on how to apply**, check <u>this</u> <u>link</u>.

Deadline to Apply: July 14, 2023 at 11:59 pm (Beirut time; GMT+3:00).

Apply now

MAIN ACTIVITIES

GHI PROGRAMS

E-SAHHA PROGRAM ESP

The Global Health Institute Receives Funding to Serve as a Regional Hub for Artificial Intelligence in Global Health

January 2023



Building on its track record in digital health, the Global Health Institute at the American University of Beirut has been selected to serve as a regional hub for Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Global Health in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region.

To serve this purpose, GHI has established the Global Health Artificial Intelligence Network in MENA (GHAIN MENA), a 3-year initiative supported by International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and led by the E-Sahha Program at the AUB GHI in partnership with the Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET) and the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST).

The GHAIN MENA network aims to empower researchers from different institutions of the MENA region to design and implement responsible Albased digital health interventions through partnerships and tailored capacity building.

Learn more about GHAIN MENA

E-SAHHA PROGRAM ESP

The E-Sahha Program Initiates the Evaluation of its GAIN MHI Digital Health Intervention March 2023



GAIN MHI Workshop 2023 | UNRWA Staff



GAIN MHI Workshop 2023 | MOPH Staff

After a year of implementation of the multi-component digital health intervention of the Gamification, Artificial Intelligence and mHealth Network for Maternal Health Improvement (GAIN MHI) project at twenty primary healthcare centers (PHCs) across Lebanon, the E-Sahha Program has launched the post-intervention phase of the project.

As part of the post-intervention phase, the program will be evaluating the role of the employed digital health intervention in enhancing the uptake of antenatal care services among disadvantaged Lebanese and refugee pregnant women based on clinical indicators and data that will be collected by the centers' staff in partnership with the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

The project research team conducted a 2-day training workshop for the PHCs directors, nurses, and midwives who will be involved in the data collection process.

The GAIN MHI project aims to improve maternal health and enhance the uptake of antenatal care services among disadvantaged and refugee pregnant women through the employment of an innovative contextualized multi-component digital health intervention.

Learn more about GAIN MHI

CONFLICT MEDICINE PROGRAM CMP

CMP Publishes Two New Articles in BMJ Global Health and Frontiers in Oncology



The CMP team published two new articles lately, about antimicrobial resistance and cancer research in the MENA region.

The first paper "Antimicrobial resistance and the Iraq wars: armed conflict as an under investigated pathway with growing significance" addressed the growing concern of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in Iraq. It described the emergence of AMR in Iraq in relation the series of conflicts that have plagued the country of the years and in relation to its compromised healthcare infrastructure. This paper caught significant attention in the media as in just a few months, multiple international news outlets cited this study as a core reference in their articles.

The second paper "The state of cancer research in fragile and conflict-affected settings in the Middle East and North Africa Region: A bibliometrics analysis" examined the trends of cancer research in fragile and conflict affected settings in the MENA region from 2000 to 2021. The study found that there is a strong need for additional efforts to improve cancer research outcome in fragile and conflict affected settings in the MENA region through additional investments in research related capacity building and collaborations.



REFUGEE HEALTH PROGRAM RHP

RHP and WHO Collaborate on the "SEEK" Project for Syrian Refugee Girls and Young Women



RHP is currently preparing for the implementation of the "Self-efficacy and knowledge (SEEK)" project. Funded by the elrha - R2HC, this 18-month grant is conducted in collaboration with the Department of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research at the World health Organization (WHO).

The project targets Syrian refugee girls and young women aged 15-24 years, and aims to improve their Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and use of selected SRH services, primarily in relation to family planning and mental well-being.

The effectiveness of the intervention will be done through a community-based randomized controlled trial (RCT). The experimental group (EG) which consists of half the target population will receive the intervention package, while the control group (CG) will not be receiving the intervention until the end of the study. The intervention sessions will be given in selected PHC centers in Bekaa.

Upcoming events will include an initiation workshop with the SEEK team and partners, a stakeholder engagement day, and a series of trainings for personnel who will collect data and personnel who will deliver the intervention sessions. These events are scheduled to take place during the summer of 2023, whereas the intervention is scheduled to be delivered during the fall of 2023.

More about RHP

GHI ACADEMY

HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP DIPLOMA HLD

Over 188 Learners Registered for the Humanitarian Leadership Diploma



As of now, over 188 learners have enrolled in the Humanitarian Leadership Diploma (HLD), registering for a substantial number of approximately 515 courses, since its adoption in an online asynchronous format.

The Humanitarian Leadership Diploma (HLD) was developed by the Academy Division of the Global Health Institute (GHI), and consists of eight online asynchronous courses that are delivered through GHI's online learning platform, the Global Health Learning and Development (GHLAD) platform.

HLD is an online capacity-building program that adopts innovative learning modalities. It aims to equip humanitarian workers in the MENA region with relevant and contextualized humanitarian leadership and technical skills to better manage humanitarian projects and resources.

Learn more about the Diploma Register for the full Diploma

CERTIFICATE IN CONFLICT MEDICINE CCM

More Than 70 Learners Enrolled in the Certificate in Conflict Medicine Since Its Launching

Since the launching of the Certificate in Conflict Medicine (CCM), over 70 learners from Iraq, Yemen, Palestine, Syria, and Lebanon have enrolled in the certificate.

The CCM was developed by the Global Health Institute, in partnership with R4HC Consortium and is delivered on GHI's online learning platform, GHLAD.

This contextualized certificate is intended to develop the competencies of medical practitioners, nurses, medical trainees, medical and nursing students, and other allied health professionals in settings of conflict and fragility.

Through its online asynchronous modality, this certificate offers the flexibility for learners to learn at their own pace, regardless of the geographical location.





CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE ECOLOGY OF WAR CREEW

CREEW Launches the Second Cohort of its Fellowship Program

February 2023



In partnership with the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute, the Center for Research and Education in the Ecology of War (CREEW) fellowship program at the Global Health Institute has launched the Field-Based Mentored Research Cohort of its fellowship program.

Throughout this cohort, selected fellows from Palestine and Jordan have been implementing their research projects in their home countries with the guidance of their mentors and the CREEW team.

The research projects currently being implemented aim to address the research gaps relating to cancer in settings of conflict, including the burden of cancer among patients coming from conflict countries, the impact of conflict on the prognosis of endometrial cancer, and the perceptions towards introducing home-based palliative care for advanced cancer in settings of conflict.

Through these projects, the CREEW fellowship program aims to provide research capacity-building opportunities to practitioners in conflict areas and to contribute to the development of evidence-based practices in similar settings.

More about CREEW

GHI ASSIST

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS INITIATIVE NGOI

Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) Becomes an AUB-Certified NGO through NGOi's Organizational Certification

December 2022



After successful fulfillment of NGOi's organizational certification requirements, Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) received their NGOi organizational certification in January 2023.

YMCA became AUB-NGOi certified following an institutional strengthening and organizational development journey through the partnership of NGOi with the Asfari Foundation.

The certification ceremony took place at AUB in the presence of YMCA's management who engaged in a fruitful discussion with the NGOi team about the organizations' future plans for institutional strengthening and improvement.

The road to organizational certification includes a self-assessment and an audit process that assesses 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.

Learn more about how to become an AUB-certified NGO

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS INITIATIVE NGOI

NGOi Builds the Capacity of NGOs Staff on Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning through 4-Day in-Person Course

March 2023



NGOi initiated its 2023 training schedule with a course on "Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability & Learning (MEAL) for NGOs" that was delievered in-person at AUB during the month of March 2023.

The course spanned across a period of 4 days and provided participants with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively design, plan, and manage MEAL programs at their NGOs. The course also touched upon aspects related to MEAL cycles and logic models.

More than 35 individuals from different organizations engaged in interactive team-based work sessions and discussions. The participants were able to enjoy an active learning experience that promoted critical thinking and knowledge exchange among them.



Listen to the feedback of our learners

Explore the full list of NGOi courses

Enroll in NGOi's online self-paced courses

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS INITIATIVE NGOI

NGOi Celebrates its 4th Year Anniversary by Introducing New Benefits to the NGO Sector

April 2022

LAUNCHING THE GROUP LEARNING BUNDLE



20% DISCOUNT FOR GROUPS OF 6+ LEARNERS ON NGOI'S ONLINE SELF-PACED COURSES

Request your PROMO CODE by email: ngoi@aub.edu.lb



In celebration of its 4-year anniversary, NGOi has launched the #4Years4NGOs anniversary campaign across various social media platforms highlighting key achievements of the initiative.

For the past four years, NGOi has offered different services, implemented many projects, and established several partnerships with key donors and philanthropies to support the development of the NGO sector in MENA by institutionally strengthening and building the capacity of different actors in it.

During the campaign, NGOi also revealed the 'Group Learning Bundle'; a new benefit introduced to encourage interactive group learning in the NGO sector. The group learning bundle allows groups of 6 or more employees, colleagues, or friends to collectively benefit from a 20% discount on NGOi's online self-paced courses.

In the upcoming year, NGOi remains committed to bring new opportunities and services to the sector.

Check out NGOi Services

GHI BLOG

"SOUTH OF GLOBAL HEALTH" BLOG

GHI's blog, "South of Global Health" encompasses more than 30 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.



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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

CORE EXPERT PROFILE

Dr. Nazir Hawi

President and Co-Founder of LARA NGO Chair of Board of Directors of the Institute of Internet and Technology Addiction (INTA) at Notre Dame University (NDU) Full Professor at NDU



Dr. Nazir Hawi is a Full Professor at the Computer Science Department with over 40 years of teaching experience in Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning, Data Science, and Computer Programming. Prof. Hawi specializes in applying AI to improve health outcomes, with a particular focus on mental health.

As a committed advocate for enhancing people's lives, Dr. Hawi established the Lebanese Association for Rehabilitation and Awareness (LARA), a nongovernmental organization, in 2017, to address new emerging field of technology addiction. Additionally, in 2018, he founded the Institute of Internet and Technology Addiction (INTA) at Notre Dame University, which has become a leading research, awareness, and prevention center in Lebanon and the wider region.

Prof. Hawi was ranked among the top 2% scientists in the world for the last three years as per the Stanford University listing based on Scopus data. His extensive scientific research spans various domains, including Al, Data Science, Expert Systems, Mental Health, Education, and Digital Addictions. His contributions to the field include the introduction of novel concepts such as ediscipline and em-factor. His expertise extends to scale development, and he has successfully created and validated several instruments that assess digital addictions and related vulnerabilities. Notably, his scales, such as the Digital Addiction Scale for Children, Multidimensional Vulnerability Assessment Tool, Social Media Addiction Questionnaire, and Hate Speech Survey, have been translated into multiple languages, including Arabic, Chinese, Turkish, Brazilian, Malay, and Filipino. While the English versions of these scales have been widely utilized globally, the Arabic translations have found application in 14 Arab countries.

In addition to his academic achievements, Prof. Hawi actively contributes to various international networks and local organizations focused on addressing different aspects of digital addictions. He frequently serves as an invited speaker at major events, sharing his insights and research findings.

Prof. Hawi have made numerous appearances on local and international media platforms, contributing his expertise on the impact of technology addiction and was recently featured on CNBC documentary "The rise of dumb phones".

Looking ahead, Professor Hawi envisions a future where AI seamlessly integrates with existing healthcare systems, supporting healthcare professionals in making accurate diagnoses, guiding treatment decisions, and ultimately improving patient outcomes. This vision requires collaboration between technology innovators, healthcare practitioners, and policymakers to harness AI's potential fully. Together, we can create a global health landscape that is accessible, efficient, and responsive to the diverse needs of individuals and communities worldwide.

66 Let us unite in harnessing the transformative power of AI to pave the way towards a healthier, more inclusive world.

Dr. Nazir Hawi

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FEATURED COLLEAGUES

GHI WELCOMES NEW STAFF



Dana Nathalie Chaar, Bsc E-Learning assistant, NGOi

"I aim to empower our e-learners through enhanced online education and an interactive learning experience."

Dana holds a Bachelor's degree in Public Health and Development Sciences from the University of Balamand. Prior to her current position as an E-Learning Assistant, she was working as a Data Collector at GHI. Her goal is to provide e-learners with an interactive and dynamic learning experience.



Ghiwa El Khatib, MSc

Initiative Coordination Officer, NGOi

"Education is the roadmap to a sustainable society."

Ghiwa holds a Master's degree in International commercial negotiations from the Lebanese University. Her experience is built on multiple years of working with NGOs on different taskforces. Currently she is working as an initiative coordination officer with NGOi team. She believes that communication and negotiation are the key to achievement.

GHI WELCOMES NEW INTERNS



Maya Tohme Graphic Design, Lebanese International University

During her internship at the Global Health Institute, Maya had the opportunity to work closely with the communication team and develop new expertise, learn new skills in graphic design, and discover her potential. Her internship at GHI allowed her to embrace new experiences and create visually appealing and effective designs across various mediums.



Joodi Mourhli

Nursing, American University of Beirut

Joodi's experience at GHI helped her gain practical experience. Throughout her internship, she had the opportunity to work on projects and gain hands-on experience in her field of study. She also managed to develop her skills in data collection, search strategy formulation, and stakeholder mapping, which will undoubtedly be valuable in her future endeavors.

Apply to the internship program

WORD IN THE LENS



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