



Global Health Institute E-Newsletter



HUMAN TRAFFICKING & VICTIM SUPPORT

Protection, Vulnerability, and Victim-Centered Response Mechanisms

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Table of Contents

1 Message from the Founding Director

4 Global Health in the Arts

6 Featured Highlights

13 Main Updates

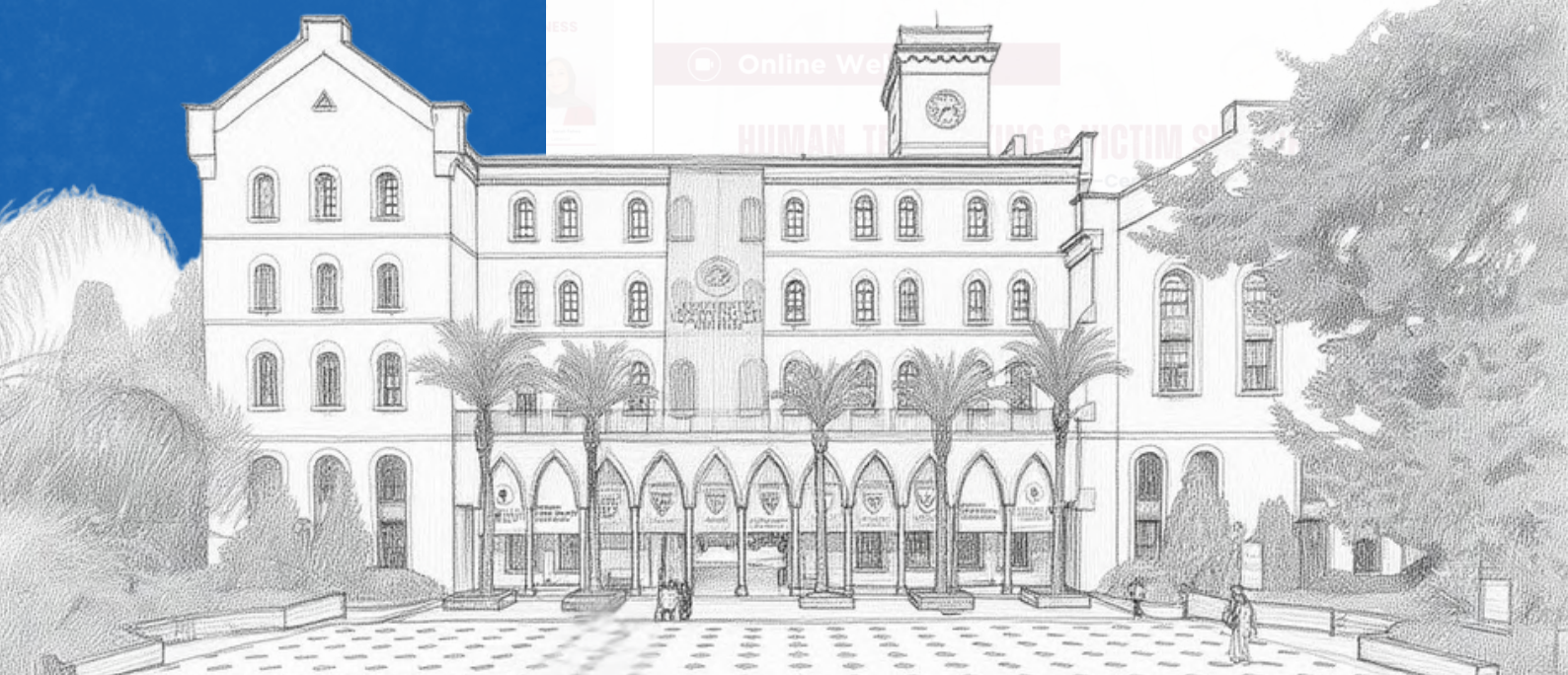
27 Capacity Building

32 GHI Assist

36 GHI Blog

38 Featured Expert

40 Featured GHI'ers



GHI FOUNDING DIRECTOR

Dr. Shadi Saleh



Dear LENS readers,

The health challenges facing our region and the world today are increasingly shaped by forces that extend well beyond the traditional boundaries of health. Conflict and insecurity affect health systems and humanitarian response; climate change is intensifying risks to health and wellbeing; technological advances are transforming how health services are delivered; and growing geopolitical complexities are reshaping the way countries and institutions cooperate.

In this increasingly interconnected landscape, addressing health challenges requires more than scientific knowledge alone. It requires collaboration across disciplines and sectors, more capable institutions, informed diplomacy, and the ability to translate evidence into meaningful action.

At the Global Health Institute (GHI), this understanding has always been central to our work. We seek to bring together research, education, innovation, policy engagement, and partnerships to address complex global health challenges while remaining grounded in the realities of the communities and systems we serve.

In line with this vision, I am particularly proud of the official launch of the Global Health Diplomacy and Security Program (GHDP) at GHI. This program marks an important step in strengthening our contribution to health diplomacy in the MENA region and beyond. With GHDP, we aim to strengthen the connection between knowledge and diplomacy, support evidence-informed dialogue, and amplify the voice and perspectives of our region in global health governance.

This work builds on GHI's role as Secretariat of the World Health Summit Academic Alliance Working Group on Health and Science Diplomacy, where we continue to engage with academic, global health, and multilateral partners from different regions. A particularly important development has been the selection of Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (Fiocruz), Brazil, as the host of the inaugural Regional Health and Science Diplomacy Lab. By bringing together stakeholders from Lusophone countries around a shared health and science diplomacy priority, the Lab creates an opportunity to exchange experiences across the Global South and, importantly, to move beyond dialogue toward regional collaboration and tangible outputs.

O

ur work in Conflict Medicine similarly reflects the need to connect evidence with action in some of the most challenging health environments. As part of the Global Registry of Humanitarian Healthcare Workforce (GROHW), GHI is working to strengthen connections between healthcare professionals and humanitarian

organizations responding to conflict and crisis. At the same time, our continued engagement with the iPrOTeCT consortium and research on conflict-related injuries and trauma data systems is strengthening the evidence base needed to better understand the burden of conflict and improve health system responses. These efforts reinforce our commitment to supporting health systems and professionals not only during crises, but also in preparing for their consequences.

The Cli-Health Program (CHP) continues to advance our work at the intersection of climate change and health by connecting local evidence, capacity building, and digital innovation. With its selection as a sub-grantee under the MENA Hub for Action Research on Climate Change and Health (MARCH), CHP is generating evidence on the knowledge and capacity needs of primary health care workers in Lebanon and Jordan and translating these insights into action. The evidence generated will inform an AI-enabled, contextually tailored learning intervention designed to strengthen the workforce's capacity to better prepare for and respond to the growing health impacts of climate change. As part of this initiative, CHP is contributing to more climate-resilient primary health care systems while developing an approach with the potential to be adapted and scaled across the MENA region.

Technology and innovation are also an important part of our efforts to strengthen health systems. With GHAIN MENA, GHI is supporting the scaling of responsible AI solutions developed to address pressing health challenges across the region. The selection of three solutions for scale-up demonstrates the potential of locally developed innovations to improve health outcomes when supported with appropriate partnerships, tailored capacity building, and enabling ecosystems. It also reinforces our commitment to ensuring that digital health innovation is not only technologically promising, but also contextually relevant, responsibly developed, and positioned for sustainable impact.

Preparedness remains equally fundamental to resilient health systems. Under the Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness Program (EPaPP), 12 fellows from across the region have been selected to join the Certificate in Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness. The fellows bring diverse professional experience from public health institutions, ministries of health, international organizations, humanitarian agencies, universities, and frontline health programs, contributing to a growing network of professionals equipped to strengthen epidemic and pandemic preparedness across MENA.

Within the GHI Academy and GHLAD platform, we continue to expand access to flexible and contextualized learning opportunities for professionals across the health, humanitarian, and civil society sectors. With more than 3,500 registrants from over 70 countries and more than 55 offerings, GHLAD continues to provide accessible pathways for professionals to build knowledge and skills at their own pace, while our Institutional Learning Packages allow organizations to strengthen the capacities of their teams through flexible and tailored learning.

Our engagement with civil society and humanitarian organizations via NGOi reflects GHI's commitment to strengthening the institutions and people that underpin resilient health systems. At DIHAD 2026, GHI reconnected with humanitarian and development actors from across the region, contributing to conversations on health, humanitarian action, and strengthening civil society institutions. Our participation in the Ford Foundation's Weaving Resilience Global Gathering similarly provided an opportunity to bring a MENA perspective to global discussions on organizational resilience and the realities of operating in conflict-affected environments. These engagements allow us not only to share our experience, but also to learn from partners working across diverse and challenging contexts.

Taken together, these efforts reflect the scope of GHI's work and, more importantly, the connections between the different areas of our work. Our role is to help build these connections, strengthen the capacity to act on them, and generate evidence that supports informed decision-making and more sustainable, context-responsive solutions.

This is ultimately what gives meaning to our work at GHI, not simply responding to individual challenges, but contributing to the knowledge, capacities, and partnerships needed to address complex health challenges in ways that are grounded in context and capable of creating sustainable impact. We remain committed to ensuring that regional perspectives contribute meaningfully to the global health dialogue.

I am grateful to our partners and collaborators who share this commitment, and especially proud of the GHI team, whose dedication and expertise continue to turn this vision into meaningful work across the region and beyond.



Shadi Saleh



4

**GLOBAL
HEALTH IN
THE ARTS**

ART IN THE LENS



Pierre and Cedric Koukjian

Chaîne de Lumière

Courtesy of the artist

Installed in Bikfaya, Lebanon, Chaîne de Lumière is a monumental sculpture composed of seven interlocking links crafted in hand-hammered stainless steel.

At its heart, the work is a symbol of unity, connection and togetherness. A chain derives its strength not from any single link, but from the relationship between them. In the same way, the sculpture reflects our belief that individuals, communities and cultures are strengthened through cooperation, dialogue and mutual support.

Its links remain distinct while forming a single, interconnected structure, a simple visual expression of how our differences can coexist within something larger and stronger. The reflective stainless-steel surface continually captures the light, the landscape, and the people around it, allowing the sculpture to become part of its surroundings and inviting reflection on humanity's shared future, of which we are all a part.

Chaîne de Lumière ultimately represents the strength we find in one another and the idea that meaningful progress is achieved collectively rather than individually.



6

**FEATURED
HIGHLIGHTS**

FEATURED HIGHLIGHTS

GHDP LAUNCHED

TO STRENGTHEN HEALTH DIPLOMACY AND SECURITY ACCROSS THE MENA REGION

June 2026

The Global Health Diplomacy and Security Program (GHDP) at the Global Health Institute, American University of Beirut (AUB), was officially launched as a regional platform dedicated to advancing research, dialogue, and capacity strengthening at the intersection of health, diplomacy, and security.

The launch brought together senior government officials, diplomats, global health leaders, policymakers, academics, and practitioners to discuss the evolving role of health diplomacy in addressing regional and global challenges.

The program featured a ministerial address by Dr. Rakan Nassereddine, Lebanon's Minister



of Public Health, followed by opening remarks from Dr. Fadlo Khuri, President of AUB, and Dr. Shadi Saleh, Founding Director of AUB's Global Health Institute, and a keynote address by Dr. Hanan Balkhy, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean.



A high-level panel, “Shaping the Future of Global Health Diplomacy: Leveraging Knowledge and Evidence,” moderated by Ms.Yara Mourad, Assistant Director at the Issam Fares Institute at AUB, featured Ambassador Luís Sampaio, MP Fadi Alame, and Dr. Theresa Madubuko.



The launch marked the beginning of GHDP’s regional agenda to connect evidence with diplomacy, strengthen cross-sector collaboration, and amplify the MENA region’s voice in global health governance.

> [READ THE PRESS RELEASE](#) 



> [CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE FULL EVENT](#)

FEATURED HIGHLIGHTS

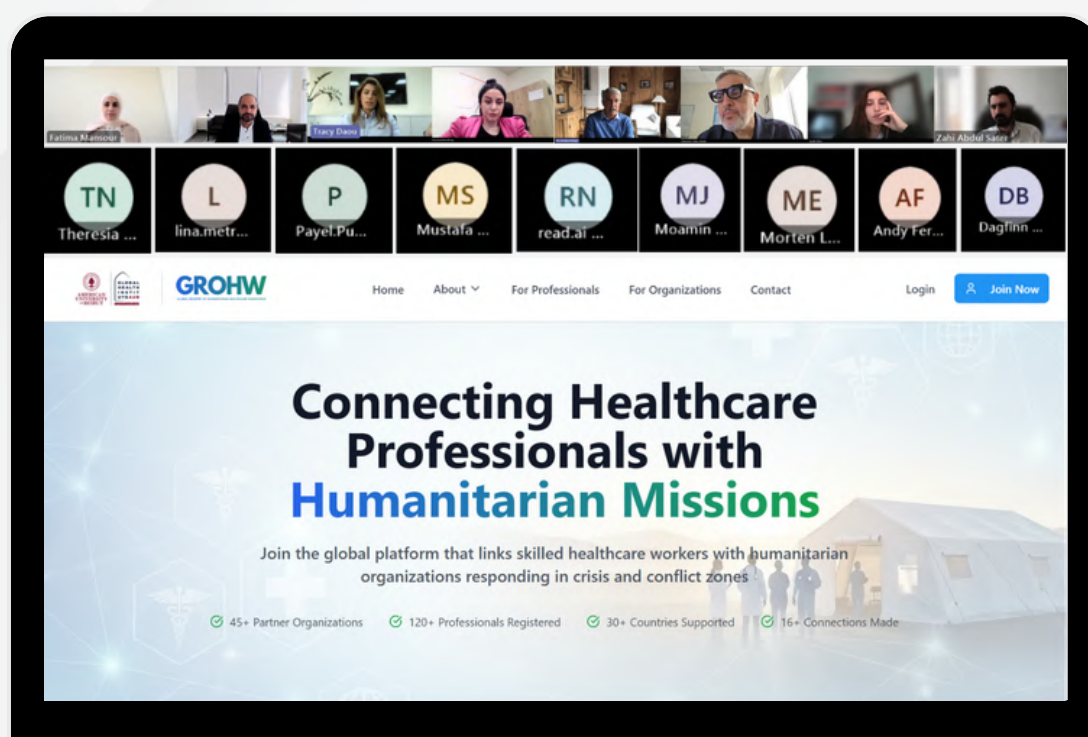
CMP Soft Launches the Global Registry of Humanitarian Healthcare Workforce (GROHW)

May 2026

The Conflict Medicine Program (CMP) at the Global Health Institute (GHI) has soft launched the Global Registry of Humanitarian Healthcare Workforce (GROHW), a digital platform designed to connect healthcare professionals with humanitarian organizations responding to conflict and crisis.

The soft launch took place in the presence of partnering humanitarian organizations, providing an opportunity to introduce the platform and its role in supporting connections between healthcare professionals and organizations operating in humanitarian settings. GROHW provides a centralized space where healthcare professionals can register their expertise, experience, and availability, while organizations can identify professionals whose skills align with their needs.

Through GROHW, CMP aims to support greater preparedness and coordination across the humanitarian health workforce and facilitate connections between healthcare expertise and humanitarian response opportunities.



[> LEARN MORE ABOUT GROHW](#)

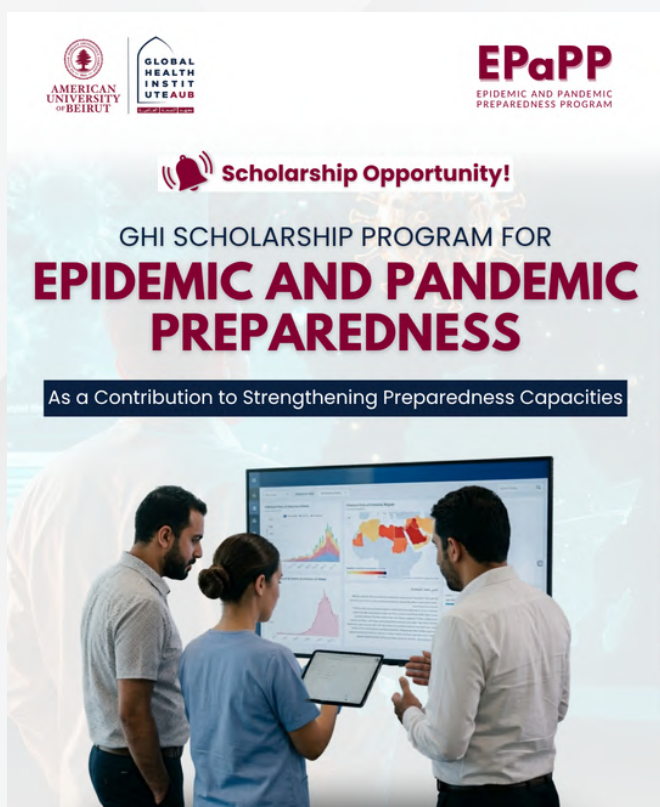
FEATURED HIGHLIGHTS

GHI Academy Offers 12 Scholarships for the Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness Certificate

June 2026

The Global Health Institute (GHI) at the American University of Beirut (AUB), through its GHI Academy and Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness Program (EPPaP), has announced a new scholarship scheme for its Certificate in Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness, aimed at expanding access to specialized training and strengthening capacities in epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response.

Twelve fellows from 8 countries were selected from a pool of around 200 applicants to enroll in the certificate program to develop their knowledge, practical skills, and leadership competencies needed to prevent, detect, prepare for, respond to, and recover from epidemics and pandemics, contributing to stronger health security and resilience across diverse settings.



[EXPLORE THE CERTIFICATE IN EPIDEMIC AND PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS](#)

FEATURED HIGHLIGHTS

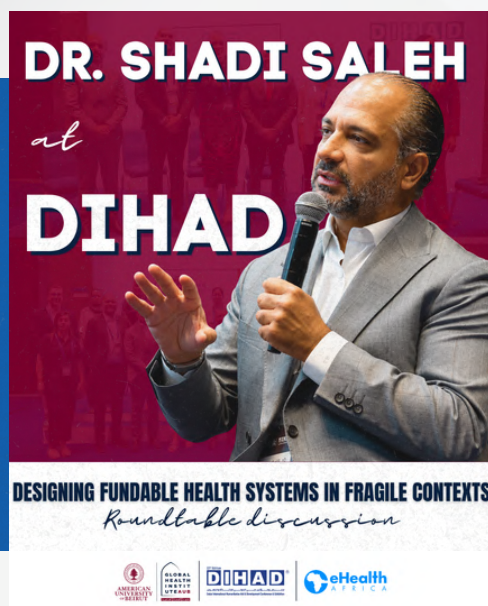
AUB GHI Exhibits at DIHAD 2026

August, 2026

AUB GHI returned to the Dubai International Humanitarian Aid & Development Conference and Exhibition (DIHAD) in 2026, continuing its engagement with the region's leading platform for humanitarian and development actors. DIHAD provided a space to exchange perspectives on how to strengthen systems and build the capacity of professionals in the face of today's challenges.

Building on the work of the NGOi and Academy division in building the capacity of professionals and organizations across the MENA region, AUB GHI's team contributed to conversations at the intersection of health, humanitarian action, and civil society institutional strengthening.

> [WATCH THE RECAP VIDEO](#) 🖱️



As part of this year's participation, Dr. Shadi Saleh also joined eHealth Africa's strategic roundtable, "Designing Fundable Health Systems in Fragile Contexts: What Actually Works for Scale and Investment," where discussions centered on moving health system solutions beyond pilot stages toward models that are scalable, sustainable, and investable.

FEATURED HIGHLIGHTS

The Cli-Health Program Awarded MARCH Sub-Grant to Strengthen Climate-Health Capacity of Primary Health Care Workers in Lebanon and Jordan

May, 2026

The Cli-Health Program (CHP) at the AUB Global Health Institute (GHI) was selected as a sub-grantee under the MENA Hub for Action Research on Climate Change and Health (MARCH) for the project, “Empowering Primary Health Care Workforce to Respond to Climate-Related Crises in Lebanon and Jordan: A Capacity Gap Assessment and Tech-Enabled Intervention.”

Building on CHP’s commitment to developing locally relevant and evidence-driven solutions, the project will generate evidence on the knowledge and capacity needs of primary health care workers in Lebanon and Jordan and translate these insights into action.

The evidence generated will inform an AI-enabled, contextually tailored learning intervention designed to strengthen workforce capacities to better prepare for and respond to the growing health impacts of climate change.

Through this initiative, CHP will bring together local evidence, capacity building, and digital innovation to contribute to more climate-resilient primary health care systems, while developing an approach with the potential to be adapted and scaled across the MENA region.





13

**MAIN
UPDATES**

GHI PROGRAMS

E-SAHHA/DIGITAL HEALTH PROGRAM (ESP)

GHI Supports the Scaling of AI Solutions under the GHAIN MENA Hub

April, 2026

As part of the GHAIN MENA Hub's activities, three GHAIN MENA grantees were selected to scale their responsible AI solutions following a rigorous application and selection process. The grantees had the opportunity to showcase their work and demonstrate how their innovations can contribute to addressing health challenges and improving health outcomes across the region.



The three solutions selected were a WhatsApp-based AI Health Navigator from Turkey, which provides culturally appropriate information on maternal, child, and sexual and reproductive health for displaced populations; AI Scholar MaternaCare from Qatar, an AI-powered platform developed by Hamad Bin Khalifa University to Improve detection of fetal abnormalities and strengthen maternal and reproductive health services; and Oumoumati from Morocco, a web and mobile application developed by Université Mohammed VI des Sciences et de la Santé to help healthcare workers identify pregnancy risks early, monitor pregnancies, and facilitate timely referral of high-risk cases. The solutions were awarded first, second, and third place, respectively.

This work is funded by the UK government through its Global Research and Technology Development portfolio as well as Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

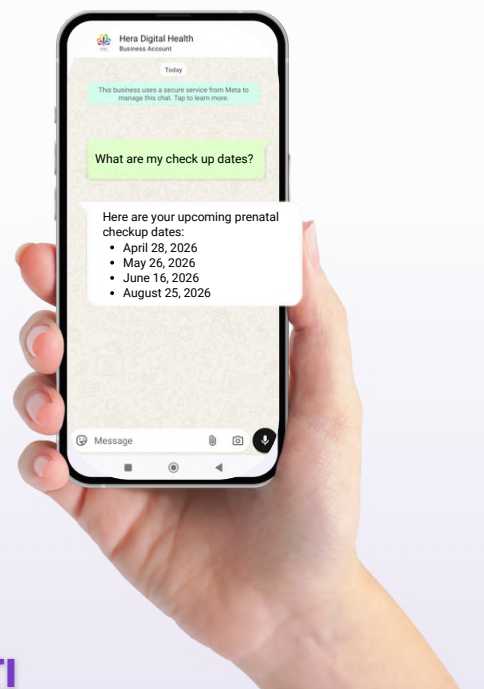
GHAIN MENA is a 3-year project led by the E-Sahha Program at GHI that aims to empower researchers from different institutions of the MENA region to design and implement responsible AI-based digital health interventions through partnerships, tailored capacity building, and a sub-granting scheme.

Learn more about [GHAIN MENA](#) 

E-SAHHA/DIGITAL HEALTH PROGRAM (ESP)

TOP 2: AI SCHOLAR MATERNACARE

AI Platform Designed to Strengthen Maternal and Reproductive Healthcare Services



TOP 1: AMTI

WhatsApp-Based AI Health Navigator Delivering Information on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Culturally Appropriate Maternal and Child Health Among Displaced Women



TOP 3: OUMOUMATI

A Web and Mobile App that Helps Health Workers Detect Pregnancy Risks Early, Monitor Pregnancies, and Refer High-Risk Cases Promptly

E-SAHHA/DIGITAL HEALTH PROGRAM (ESP)

GHI's E-Sahha Program Receives Funding to Scale the GAIN MHI App from Lebanon to Morocco

April, 2026

The Global Health Institute (GHI) at the American University of Beirut has received funding from the MENA Observatory on Responsible AI, hosted at the American University in Cairo and supported by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), to scale the Gamification, AI, and mHealth Network for Maternal Health Improvement (GAIN MHI) App from Lebanon to Morocco. The scale-up builds on the successful proof of concept implemented in Lebanon and aims to adapt and expand the solution within the Moroccan healthcare context.

The GAIN MHI App is an AI- and gamification-based digital health application designed specifically for healthcare professionals (HCPs). By combining gamification with AI-powered personalization, the app delivers tailored, interactive, and evidence-informed content to support HCPs in maternal healthcare and strengthen their knowledge, engagement, and practice.

This expansion highlights the potential of responsible AI and digital health solutions to move beyond proof of concept, adapt to diverse contexts, and scale across the MENA region.

> [Learn more](#) 



CLI-HEALTH PROGRAM (CHP)

The Cli-Health Program Hosts a Webinar on Conflict-Induced Environmental Degradation and its Impacts on Climate, Displacement, and Health

June, 2026

The Cli-Health Program hosted a virtual panel Titled “Conflict-Induced Environmental Degradation: Impacts on Climate, Displacement, and Health” in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Regional Office for MENA.

The session brought together policymakers, practitioners, researchers, humanitarian actors, and community representatives to examine how conflict-related environmental degradation interacts with climate stressors to affect public health, reduce adaptive capacity, and contribute to complex and protracted displacement across the MENA region.

The panel featured speakers from the Lebanese Parliament, Geneva Water Hub, the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Drawing on operational experiences and country examples, the session focused on advancing context-specific, evidence-based approaches and translating field-based insights into actionable priorities for governments and practitioners working across the climate-health-migration nexus.



[WATCH THE FULL WEBINAR](#)

CLI-HEALTH PROGRAM (CHP)

The Cli-Health Program (CHP) Participates in the 2nd Regional Conference on Climate Change and Health in the Arab Region (CCHAR-II 2026)

August, 2026

The Cli-Health Program (CHP) at the AUB Global Health Institute (GHI) participated in the 2nd Conference on Climate Change and Health in the Arab Region (CCHAR-II 2026) in Amman, Jordan, joining regional policymakers, researchers, and practitioners working to advance climate-health action across the Arab region.



Under the theme “Policy Translation and Implementation,” the conference was an opportunity to showcase CHP growing climate-health portfolio, strengthen regional partnerships, and exchange knowledge on emerging research and solutions across MENA.

CHP engaged in discussions around some of the region’s most pressing priorities, from climate-health governance and health system preparedness to bridging the gap between evidence, policy, and implementation.

The engagement reinforces CHP’s growing role for advancing climate-health research, capacity building, and collaboration, connecting evidence with action and fostering partnerships to advance more contextually relevant and climate-resilient health systems across MENA.

[> LEARN MORE ABOUT CHP](#)

EPIDEMIC AND PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM (EPAPP)

EPaPP Launches “Preparedness Beyond Borders” Regional Panel Series

July 2026

EPaPP launched Preparedness Beyond Borders: A Regional Panel Series on Epidemic Preparedness and Surveillance, a regional initiative bringing together policymakers, practitioners, researchers, and other key stakeholders to exchange perspectives on some of the most pressing preparedness and surveillance challenges facing the MENA region. The series aims to strengthen cross-sectoral dialogue around gaps in disease surveillance, population mobility, displacement, fragility, and regional coordination.

The session placed cross-border surveillance and regional coordination at the center of the preparedness agenda, examining the structural and operational challenges that can hinder effective disease detection and response across borders. The session examined cross-border surveillance and regional coordination, emphasizing the structural and operational gaps that affect timely disease detection and coordinated response across borders.

The series opened with its first panel, “The Border Is Not the Boundary: Cross-Border Surveillance and Regional Preparedness in MENA.”

The panel featured Dr. Mohamad Awadelgeed, Head of the Emergency Preparedness Department at Sudan’s Federal Ministry of Health; Ms. Farah Massoud, MENA Program Manager at the Institute for Global Health Sciences, University of California, San Francisco; and Dr. Mahmoud Megdadi, Public Health Officer at the International Organization for Migration in Jordan.

Drawing on their operational and institutional experience, the panelists discussed gaps in cross-border surveillance, the realities of border health in complex settings, and the coordination needed among health authorities and regional actors to strengthen epidemic preparedness across MENA.



[WATCH THE WEBINAR](#)

EPIDEMIC AND PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM (EPAPP)

EPaPP Convenes Regional Discussion on Ebola Preparedness

June 2026

In response to the ongoing Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, EPaPP hosted the virtual panel “Ebola Beyond Borders: Current Realities, Scientific Insights, and Health Systems Preparedness in MENA”. The session brought together experts from Africa and the MENA region to examine the evolving outbreak and its implications for health emergency preparedness.

The panel featured Dr. Elia Badjo, President of the Council on Health and the Academy of Medicine in the Democratic Republic of Congo; Dr. Rania Attia, Senior Epidemiologist at the International Organization for Migration Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa; and Dr. Naji Aoun, Director of the Infectious Diseases Department and Head of Infection Control and Stewardship at Clemenceau Medical Center in Lebanon.

Discussions examined the epidemiological situation, factors contributing to the emergence and spread of the outbreak, ongoing response measures, and what the situation means for preparedness in MENA. The webinar, alongside a series of social media updates on the outbreak, forms part of EPaPP’s commitment to strengthening evidence-informed communication and regional awareness of emerging epidemic threats and their implications for preparedness and response.



[WATCH THE FULL PANEL](#)

EPIDEMIC AND PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM (EPAPP)

EPaPP Selects 12 Fellows for the Certificate in Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness

July 2026

EPaPP selected 12 scholarship recipients to join the Certificate in Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness (CEPP), following a competitive call that attracted applications from across the region.

The selected fellows bring diverse professional experience from national public health institutions, ministries of health, international organizations, humanitarian agencies, universities, and frontline health programs.

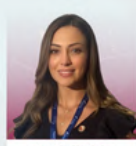
Their backgrounds span epidemiological surveillance, immunization, antimicrobial resistance, community health, emergency response, research, and public health preparedness.





12 FELLOWS

GHI SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR
EPIDEMIC AND PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS

 Prof. Sheikh Al-Shoteri Yemen	 Ms. May Younis Lebanon	 Dr. Zayid Almayahi Oman	 Mrs. Sarah Fahes Lebanon
 Dr. Muhammed Al Azebi Libya	 Dr. Esraa Abdelkarim Marise Egypt	 Dr. Salman Almarsharawi Palestine	 Ms. Maisam Ibdah Jordan
 Dr. Omar Al-Maqdi Yemen	 Mrs. Layal Mohamad France	 Mr. Ali Sherri Lebanon	 Dr. Yara Khalaf Egypt

Through the scholarship initiative, EPaPP aims to expand access to specialized preparedness training while supporting a diverse network of professionals contributing to stronger epidemic and pandemic preparedness across MENA.

> [LEARN MORE ABOUT CEPP](#)

CONFLICT MEDICINE PROGRAM (CMP)

CMP Advances Global Partnerships for Trauma Research at the iProTeCT Consortium Meeting in Sri Lanka

July 2026



The Conflict Medicine Program (CMP) at the Global Health Institute (GHI) participated in the 2026 iProTeCT All-Group Meeting in Sri Lanka, hosted by the University of Moratuwa.

The meeting brought together consortium partners from AUB in Lebanon, Imperial College London in the United Kingdom, the

University of Global Health Equity and University of Rwanda in Rwanda, and the University of Moratuwa in Sri Lanka.

CMP shared progress across its work on understanding the burden of conflict-related injuries, strengthening trauma data systems, advancing conflict-related healthcare education, and developing approaches to support the humanitarian health workforce. Partners also reflected on achievements and implementation challenges and discussed priorities for the remaining project period.



The meeting provided an opportunity to strengthen collaboration across the consortium, exchange experiences across different settings, and identify opportunities for continued collaboration and impact beyond the iProTeCT project.

CONFLICT MEDICINE PROGRAM (CMP)

CMP Research Presented at the 2026 Blast Injury Conference

June 2026

The Conflict Medicine Program (CMP) presented ongoing research at the 2026 Blast Injury Conference, at Imperial College London highlighting its work on conflict-related injuries and trauma data systems in the MENA region.

Research presented included preliminary findings from the study on the long-term burden of lower-limb amputation among conflict-affected populations in Iraq, alongside findings from CMP's work examining trauma data availability and registries across conflict-affected MENA settings. Together, the studies highlight both the long-term consequences of conflict-related injuries and the importance of strengthening data systems to better understand their burden.



Participation in the conference provided an opportunity to share emerging evidence with an international audience and contribute to broader discussions on improving trauma care, research, and health system responses in conflict-affected settings.

GLOBAL HEALTH DIPLOMACY AND SECURITY PROGRAM (GHDP)

GHDP Explores the Future of Multilateral Health Diplomacy

May 2026

The Global Health Diplomacy and Security Program (GHDP) at the Global Health Institute (GHI), American University of Beirut (AUB), brought together leading voices in diplomacy and global health for a webinar exploring “Multilateral Health Diplomacy vs Nationalist Agendas: Competition, Cooperation, and Global Health Security.”

Against a backdrop of rising nationalist tendencies and increasingly complex cross-border health threats, the discussion examined the evolving tension between national interests and multilateral approaches to global health governance. Speakers explored how these dynamics affect global health security, equitable access to health technologies, and the resilience of health systems.

The webinar featured Prof. Ilona Kickbusch, Founder and Chair of the Global Health Centre at the Geneva Graduate Institute, and H.E. Ambassador Luis Sampaio, distinguished diplomat and President of the Strategic Council of Coimbra Health. The discussion was moderated by Dr. Shadi Saleh, Founding Director of the Global Health Institute, who guided the exchange on the strategic role of diplomacy in navigating competing priorities and sustaining international cooperation.



The discussion highlighted the importance of renewing multilateral engagement, strengthening diplomatic cooperation, and developing more resilient and equitable approaches to global health governance. It also underscored the role of health diplomacy in bridging political interests and collective action when addressing cross-border health threats.

[> WATCH NOW](#)

GLOBAL HEALTH DIPLOMACY AND SECURITY PROGRAM (GHDP)

GHDP Examines Global Governance of Major Disease Outbreaks

July, 2026

The Global Health Diplomacy and Security Program (GHDP) at the Global Health Institute (GHI), American University of Beirut (AUB), in collaboration with its Co-Lead Partner, Paris Cité University, hosted a webinar titled “Global Governance of Major Outbreaks of Deadly Infectious Diseases,” under the World Health Summit (WHS) Academic Alliance Working Group on Health Science and Diplomacy.

Against the backdrop of renewed Ebola outbreaks and other emerging infectious disease threats, the session examined how the international community can coordinate effective responses to major epidemics, focusing on governance, preparedness, equity, research, and international cooperation.

WHS Academic Alliance Working Group on Health and Science Diplomacy

GLOBAL HEALTH DIPLOMACY AND SECURITY PROGRAM

Université Paris Cité

ONLINE WEBINAR

GLOBAL GOVERNANCE OF MAJOR OUTBREAKS OF DEADLY INFECTIOUS DISEASES

PROF. ANTOINE FLAHAULT
MODERATOR
PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH,
UNIVERSITY OF PARIS CITÉ

PROF. MICHEL KAZATCHKINE
FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
THE GLOBAL FUND AND SPECIAL
ENVOY OF THE WHO REGIONAL
DIRECTOR FOR EUROPE

PROF. YAZDAN YAZDANPANAH
DIRECTOR OF THE ANRS
EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES
AGENCY

PROF. ALEXANDRA CALMY
DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE OF GLOBAL
HEALTH, UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA

Monday, July 6, 2026
01:00 – 02:00 PM Beirut Time | **12:00 – 01:00 PM CEST** Paris Time

REGISTER NOW

The discussion featured Prof. Michel Kazatchkine, Former Executive Director of the Global Fund and Special Envoy of the WHO Regional Director for Europe; Prof. Alexandra Calmy, Director of the Institute of Global Health at the University of Geneva; and Prof. Yazdan Yazdanpanah, Director of the ANRS Emerging Infectious Diseases Agency in Paris. The session was moderated by Prof. Antoine Flahault, Professor of Public Health at Paris Cité University.

Through this webinar, GHDP aims to advance dialogue on the governance challenges at the heart of global health security and promote international cooperation for more effective outbreak response.

> WATCH THE FULL WEBINAR

GLOBAL HEALTH DIPLOMACY AND SECURITY PROGRAM (GHDP)

GHDP Expands Global Engagement Through Inaugural Regional Health and Science Diplomacy Lab

August, 2026

The Global Health Diplomacy and Security Program (GHDP) at the Global Health Institute, American University of Beirut (AUB), serving as Secretariat of the World Health Summit (WHS) Academic Alliance Working Group on Health and Science Diplomacy, is pleased to announce the selection of Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (Fiocruz), Brazil, as the host of the inaugural Regional Health and Science Diplomacy Lab.



Following ongoing discussions and a successful introductory meeting in August, Fiocruz accepted the invitation to host the first Lab, which will bring together stakeholders from Lusophone countries around a shared health and science diplomacy priority.

The initiative marks an important step in the Working Group's efforts to foster dialogue and collaboration across regions, while creating space for diverse perspectives and experiences to contribute to global health diplomacy.

For GHDP, the Lab represents an opportunity to extend its engagement beyond the MENA region, strengthen connections across the Global South, and support the translation of health diplomacy dialogue into regional collaboration and tangible outputs.

[> LEARN MORE ABOUT GHDP](#)



27

**CAPACITY
BUILDING**

GHI ACADEMY

GHI Academy and NGOi Host Webinar on Human Trafficking

June, 2026

The Non-Governmental Organizations Initiative (NGOi) and the GHI Academy at the American University of Beirut hosted a webinar on “Human Trafficking: Protection, Vulnerability, and Victim-Centered Response Mechanisms.”

Delivered by Dr. Rawad Salika, Head of the Human Rights, Organizations and Migration Department at the General Security Directorate in Lebanon, the webinar highlighted key legal frameworks, forms of exploitation, trafficking indicators, and victim-centered approaches to identification, referral, and support.



100+
REGISTRANTS

20+
COUNTRIES

[WATCH THE WEBINAR HERE](#)

CREEW Fellowship Program Continues to Advance Research Capacity in Conflict Settings

The CREEW fellowship program is supporting fellows in advancing field-based research at the intersection of conflict, environment, and health. The three fellows in the current cohort have finalized their research projects and manuscripts and are now progressing through the journal submission process.

Through field-based research and structured mentorship, the fellowship contributes to building research capacity and generating knowledge on health and environmental challenges in conflict-affected settings.

➤ [Learn more about CREEW](#)



GHLAD Platform Continues to Expand Access to Flexible and Contextualized Learning

The Global Health Learning and Development (GHLAD) platform supports continuous capacity building by providing flexible, self-paced learning opportunities for professionals across the health, humanitarian, and civil society sectors. With 3,500+ registrants from 70+ countries and 55+ offerings, GHLAD enables learners to access context-relevant knowledge and skills at their own pace.

[Download the GHLAD Guide](#) to explore online self-paced learning offerings across the Humanitarian, Health, and Civil Society sectors.

Organizations looking to strengthen the capacities of their teams can also benefit from the Institutional Learning Packages (ILPs), which provide flexible, self-paced learning for staff members at a reduced rate, along with customized monitoring dashboards to track learners' progress.

[Explore Institutional Learning Packages.](#)

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

Health, Humanitarian and Civil Society Sectors



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GHI Academy Strengthens Organizational Capacity Through Tailored Trainings

The GHI Academy develops tailored training programs based on organizations' identified learning needs and priorities, with flexibility in language, format, and delivery setting.

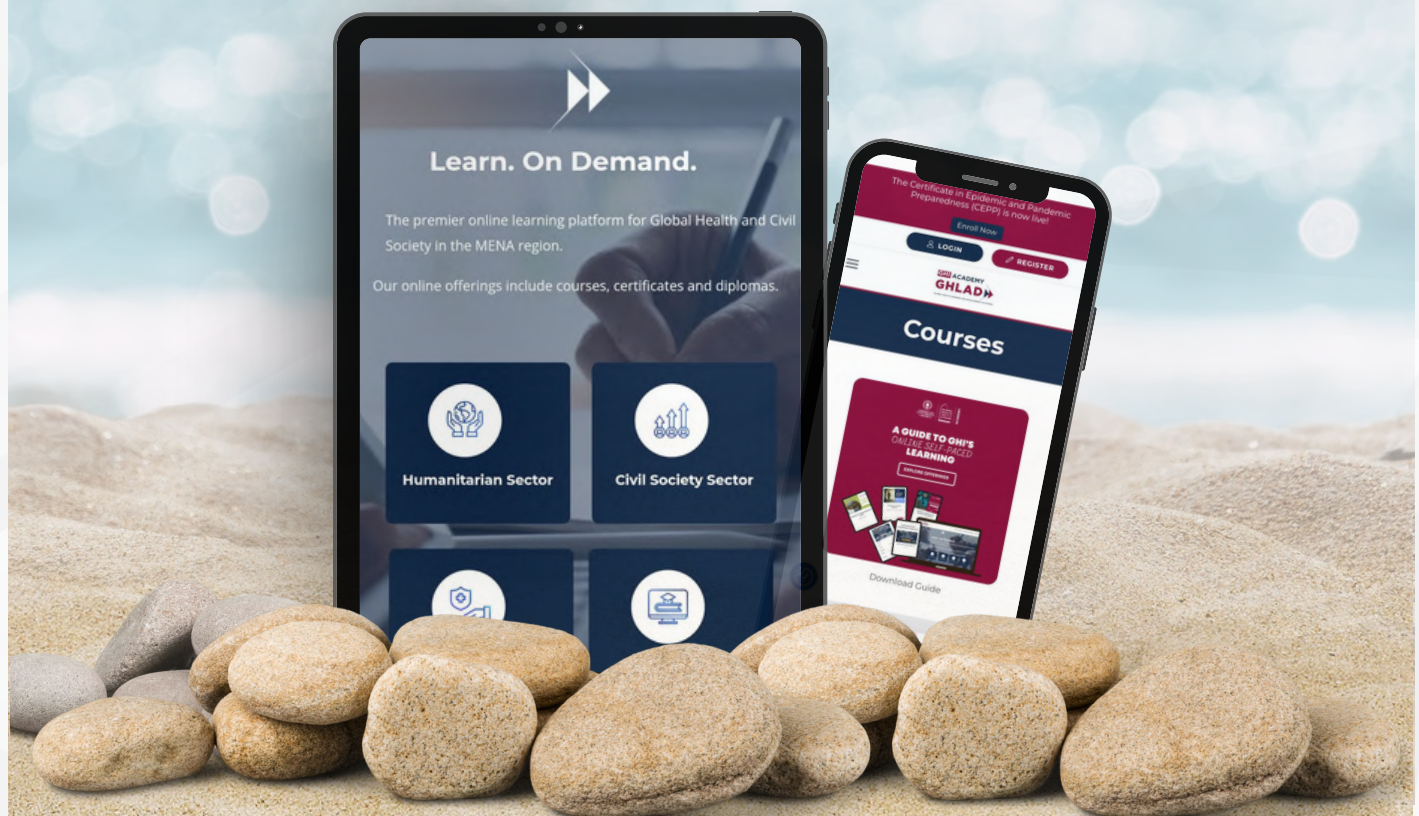
Tailored trainings are developed with education specialists and subject matter experts to provide context-relevant learning aligned with each organization's needs.

➤ [Request a tailored training](#) ✎

GHLAD Summer Promotion Supports Access to Online Learning

As part of its efforts to support continuous professional development, the GHI Academy launched its annual summer promotion, offering learners 15% off online self-paced courses on the Global Health Learning and Development (GHLAD) platform during July and August.

The promotion encouraged learners to use the summer period to strengthen their knowledge and skills through flexible learning opportunities across the humanitarian, health, and civil society sectors.





32

GHI ASSIST

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS INITIATIVE (NGOI)

NGOi Hosts Members-Exclusive Workshop Series on Crisis Preparedness and Coordination

May - June 2026

As part of its continued commitment to support its members operating in increasingly fragile and challenging contexts, NGOi delivered a members-exclusive online workshop series titled “Navigating Crisis: NGO Preparedness & Coordination.” The two-part series aimed to strengthen organizational preparedness, stakeholder coordination, and emergency response capacities amid ongoing regional instability.

The first workshop of the series, “NGO Preparedness and Emergency Response: Operational Readiness in Crisis,” focused on risk and threat analysis, contingency planning, organizational preparedness, coordination, safety, and staff wellbeing. Participants reflected on their organizations’ readiness and explored practical approaches to maintaining safe and effective operations during emergencies.

The second workshop, “Inter-Agency Coordination & Stakeholder Engagement in Fragile Contexts,” addressed coordination frameworks, stakeholder engagement, information management, and evidence-based planning. Through practical discussions and exercises, participants explored ways to strengthen collaboration and support more coordinated and informed humanitarian responses.



Through initiatives such as this series, NGOi continues to engage its 95+ member organizations across more than 10 countries in the MENA region, fostering knowledge exchange and strengthening their ability to prepare for, adapt to, and respond effectively to crises.

[> JOIN THE NGOi NETWORK](#)

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS INITIATIVE (NGOI)

NGOi Delivers an Online Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability & Learning (MEAL) Course to Participants Across Eight Countries

June 2026

In June 2026, NGOi delivered an online synchronous course on “Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) for NGOs.” The course equipped participants with practical knowledge and tools to strengthen program monitoring, assess results, promote accountability, and integrate learning into project planning and implementation.

Delivered over four days, the course brought together 46 registrants from Lebanon, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, Palestine, Norway, Kuwait, and Egypt, creating a diverse learning environment that encouraged knowledge exchange, practical exercises, and discussions on applying MEAL approaches across different organizational contexts.



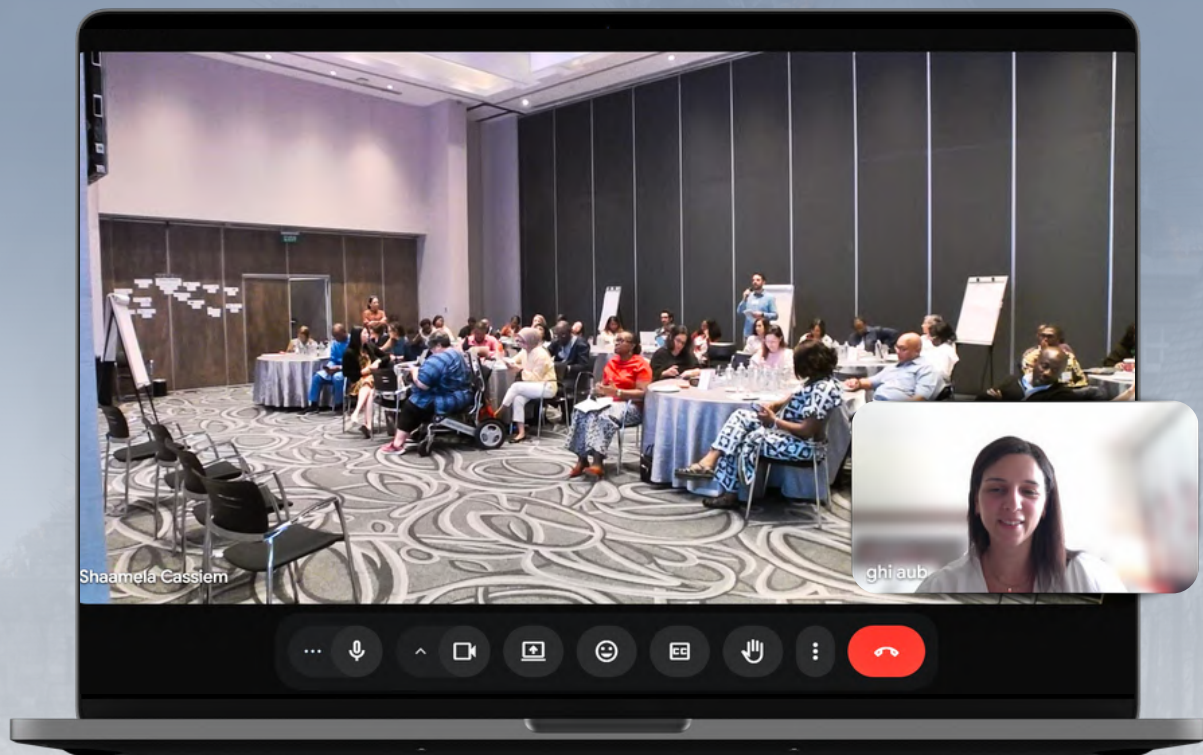
[EXPLORE THE FULL LIST OF NGOi COURSES](#)

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS INITIATIVE (NGOI)

NGOi Joins the Ford Foundation's 'Weaving Resilience' Global Gathering in Nairobi

August, 2026

NGOi engaged virtually in the Ford Foundation's Weaving Resilience Network Global Gathering, held in Nairobi, bringing together hubs working to strengthen the resilience of civil society across the Global South.



As part of the "Radical Solidarity" session, NGOi's Manager shared reflections on operating in conflict settings, exploring how conflict affects organizational work and wellbeing, and how organizations adapt while sustaining their work amid uncertainty. The discussion highlighted the challenges conflict creates for programs, resources, partnerships, and staff wellbeing, as well as the ways organizations continuously adapt to remain responsive to their communities.

As a MENA hub dedicated to institutional strengthening of civil society, NGOi brought a regional perspective shaped by first-hand experience navigating conflict, contributing to the broader exchange among hubs from across the Global South.



36

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".



38

**FEATURED
EXPERT**

FEATURED EXPERT

Amb. Luís de Almeida Sampaio



*Distinguished
Diplomat, President of
the Strategic Council of
Coimbra Health and
Executive Committee
Member of the World
Health Summit
Academic Alliance*

His career in international cooperation and bilateral diplomacy includes serving as President of the Portuguese Development Cooperation Institute (IPAD) from 2002 to 2004 and Ambassador of Portugal in Algiers from 2004 to 2008. During Portugal's Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2007, he also served as Coordinator of the Middle East Peace Process (MEPP). He subsequently served as Ambassador of Portugal in Belgrade, with accreditation to North Macedonia and Montenegro, from 2008 to 2012, and as Ambassador in Berlin from 2012 to 2015.

Ambassador Luís de Almeida Sampaio is a distinguished Portuguese diplomat with more than four decades of international experience spanning diplomacy, international security, development cooperation, European affairs, and health diplomacy. A graduate in Law from the University of Coimbra, he entered the Portuguese diplomatic service in 1983 and has since held senior diplomatic and advisory positions across Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and international organizations.

During his tenure in Berlin, Ambassador Sampaio was awarded the Francisco de Mello e Torres Prize for "Best Ambassador of the Year" and authored *Diplomacy in Times of Financial Crisis*, reflecting his broader engagement with international relations and contemporary diplomatic challenges. From 2015 to 2019, he served as Ambassador Permanent Representative of Portugal to NATO, followed by his appointment as Ambassador of Portugal in Prague from 2019 to 2024.

He began his diplomatic career with the Portuguese Mission to NATO in 1987 and subsequently served as Deputy Chief of Staff to NATO Secretary General Manfred Wörner from 1990 to 1992. From 1995 to 1998, he was Diplomatic Adviser to Portuguese European Commissioner João de Deus Pinheiro. He later served as NATO political and diplomatic adviser to the International Peace Stabilization Force (SFOR) in Bosnia-Herzegovina, before becoming Minister-Counsellor at the Portuguese Embassy in Luanda from 1999 to 2002.

Beyond his diplomatic career, Ambassador Sampaio has developed a strong focus on health diplomacy, international cooperation, and the intersection of health and foreign policy. He currently serves as Chairman of Coimbra Health and as a member of the Executive Committee of the World Health Summit Academic Alliance. He is also a member of the Advisory Board and Ambassador of Forum Health XXI, as well as a Visiting Professor and Alumni Ambassador of the University of Coimbra.

Throughout more than 40 years of diplomatic service, Ambassador Sampaio has participated in hundreds of international meetings and conferences and has published numerous articles in the fields of health diplomacy, political science, and international relations. His extensive experience across diplomatic, multilateral, development, security, and health spheres has positioned him as a prominent voice on the role of diplomacy in addressing complex global challenges.

"My diplomatic experience has taught me that global health is not merely a field of international cooperation; it is one of its most powerful instruments. By bringing together diplomacy's capacity to build trust and academia's ability to generate knowledge, Global Health Diplomacy can keep channels of dialogue open, bridge political divides, and transform shared health challenges into opportunities for peace and collective action."

Ambassador Luís de Almeida Sampaio



40

**FEATURED
GHI'ERS**

GHI WELCOMES NEW INTERNS



**ZEINAB
AL HAJJ**

"Seize the day"

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

Transcribing interviews of war survivors has been eye-opening to what I have taken for granted in my daily life. The experience was a turning point because I was able to truly witness how unheard vulnerable populations are. And working in an environment that is guided by a motto of helping others exposed me to the link between data-driven interventions and their impact on people.



**GHINA ABDUL
RAZZAK**

"you've got this"

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

My experience at GHI has expanded my knowledge on research mechanisms beyond theoretical framework. I became more appreciative of the lived experiences portrayed through psychological research. Witnessing how injuries translated into social, emotional and educational difficulties, I recognized the role of psychological research in developing community-based interventions and fostering supportive environments.



**CHRISTINA
ABI HABIB**

"The journey starts here"

Bachelor's Degree in Journalism, Lebanese University, Lebanon

My internship at GHI gave me practical experience in communication and writing. I worked on announcements, social media posts, and communication pieces, while also supporting editing, proofreading, and fact-checking. These tasks helped me see how clear and structured language can make public health messages stronger and easier to share. Through this work, I became more aware of the importance of communication in connecting communities and supporting health initiatives.

● **Join GHI's Internship Program** ●

WORD IN THE LENS



LENS | Summer 2026 | 42



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