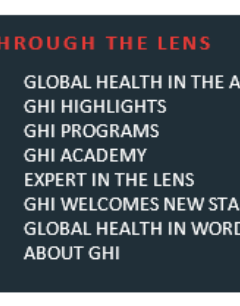




HEALTH  
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GLOBAL  
HEALTH  
INSTITUTE  
AUB



### THROUGH THE LENS

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### MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDING DIRECTOR

Dear LENS Reader,

As 2018 is off to a start, GHI is pleased to share with you the latest news and updates in this issue of LENS. The main theme of this issue is one that has been at the forefront of GHI's activities over the last year: Conflict Medicine, an emerging field and the focus of one of our flagship programs.

The inaugural year for GHI's Conflict Medicine Program (CMP) was a memorable one, in terms of research, outreach, and activities. The CMP team worked tirelessly to bring together knowledge and practice in the field of conflict medicine, which is more relevant today than ever before, and particularly in the MENA region. Key partnerships with leading academic institutions were formed to investigate the effects of war on anti-microbial resistance, both program co-directors published highly acknowledged books, and finally the CMP played a lead role in organizing the Middle East Medical Assembly conference in May 2017 that served as the first ever global congress in conflict medicine.

Going into 2018, the GHI is dedicated to advancing knowledge and expanding the field of conflict medicine. We intend to do so through close collaborations with key partners on relevant research and contextualized capacity on ecologies of war within the GHI Academy.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of the LENS, and looking forward to your continued engagement with GHI.

Shadi Saleh

### GLOBAL HEALTH IN THE ARTS



Nour Bahjat (1991): expressed in this emerging Syrian artist's own words, this work is about people bringing the "pieces together and existing in hard situations and darkness". Like many of this young contemporary artist's works, this "Untitled" piece prompts its viewers "to create their own stories" and to interpret the work based on their own personal experiences. "Untitled" Mixed Media on Canvas-Dubai 2014 (Courtesy of the artist and Aiyam Gallery.)

### GHI HIGHLIGHTS

#### GHI AND HAYKAL MEDIA JOIN EFFORTS TO ARABIZE AND CONTEXTUALIZE GLOBAL HEALTH KNOWLEDGE

January 2018 | Beirut, Lebanon



GHI signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Haykal Media on January 18, 2018 in the presence of President Fadjo R Khouri and EVP Mohamed Sayegh. The MOU outlined a collaborative framework that strategically aims to arabize and contextualize global health knowledge.

Haykal Media, based in the United Arab Emirates, provides knowledge, information, content products and services including the Arabic editions of Harvard Business Review, MIT Technology Review, and Popular Science.

The Arabization/contextualization framework is under the scope of GHI Academy, the capacity-building arm of GHI. During the signing, Mr. Abduisalam Haykal, founder and chairman of Haykal media, expressed his enthusiasm to work on this initiative in order to rebuild education in Arab Countries and Dr. Shadi Saleh, declared his intention to shape the global health dialogue.

[Read More](#)

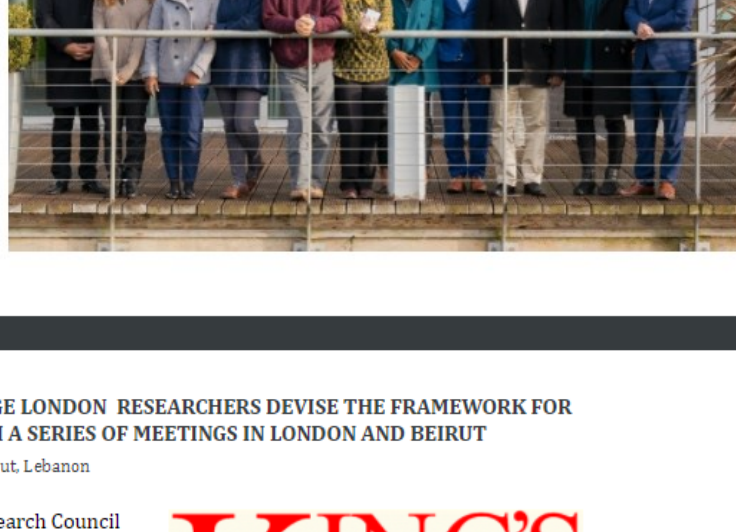
#### GHI PARTICIPATES IN THE LAUNCH OF THE NIHR RESEARCH UNIT ON HEALTH IN FRAGILITY

November 2017 | Edinburgh, Scotland

On November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> collaborative partners from the College of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences, Sierra Leone and the Institute for Global Health and Development at Queen Margaret University gathered in Edinburgh to launch the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Unit on Health in Situations of Fragility.

The research unit is focused on assessing how situations like conflict and displacement affect a country's capacity to deliver essential health services. The meetings marked the initiation of a four-year project at GHI in collaboration with partners from Sierra Leone and the United Kingdom.

[Read More](#)



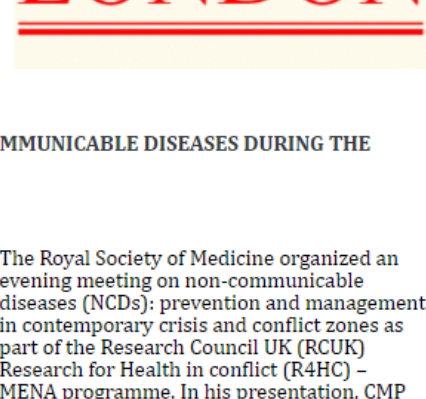
### GHI PROGRAMS

#### CMP AND KING'S COLLEGE LONDON RESEARCHERS DEVISE THE FRAMEWORK FOR AMR PROJECT THROUGH A SERIES OF MEETINGS IN LONDON AND BEIRUT

January 2018 | London, UK/Beirut, Lebanon

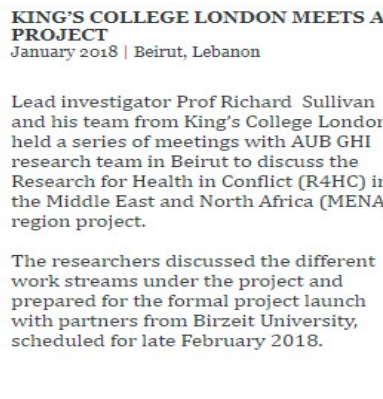
As part of the Medical Research Council Global Development Award on Antimicrobial Resistance project, a series of meetings were held in London and Beirut in January in order to finalize the framework of the project: examining the link between war wounds and antimicrobial resistance.

Researchers from AUB GHI met with the lead investigator on the project and his team at King's College London and at AUB for this purpose.



#### DR. ABU SITTA TALKS WAR AND NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES DURING THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE MEETING

January 2018 | Beirut, Lebanon



The Royal Society of Medicine organized an evening meeting on non-communicable diseases (NCDs): prevention and management in contemporary crisis and conflict zones as part of the Research Council UK (RCUK) Research for Health in Conflict (R4HC) - MENA programme. In his presentation, CMP Co-director Dr. Abu Sitta discussed the ecology of war and understanding NCDs in conflict.

[Read More](#)

#### KING'S COLLEGE LONDON MEETS AUB GHI TEAM TO DISCUSS R4HC MENA PROJECT

January 2018 | Beirut, Lebanon

Lead investigator Prof Richard Sullivan and his team from King's College London held a series of meetings with AUB GHI research team in Beirut to discuss the Research for Health in Conflict (R4HC) in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region project.

The researchers discussed the different work streams under the project and prepared for the formal project launch, scheduled for late February 2018.



### REFUGEE HEALTH PROGRAM

CMP

#### RHP CO-ORGANIZER OF THE THIRD HIGH LEVEL CONSULTATION ON HIV IN CONSERVATIVE SOCIAL SETTINGS

January 2018 | Beirut, Lebanon

AUB GHI co-organized and hosted "The Third High-Level Consultation on HIV in Conservative Social Settings". The workshop was co-organized with the International AIDS Society and Human Rights at the State University of New York at Albany. The meeting comprised a series of keynote presentations and panel discussions by global experts to discuss HIV from cultural, social, religious and governmental perspectives with an emphasis on conservative settings and vulnerable populations including refugees.

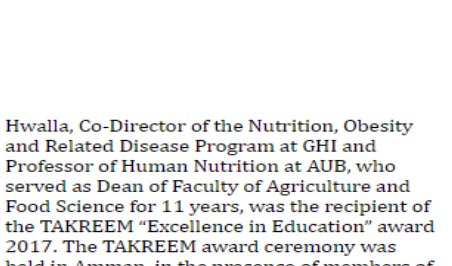


The meeting was concluded by an action plan to be presented at the 22nd International AIDS Conference, Amsterdam, Netherlands on 23-27 July 2018.

#### RHP CO-DIRECTORS PRESENT AT THE 4TH CONFERENCE OF THE ALLIANCE OF LEAD UNIVERSITIES ON MIGRATION

November 2017 | Beirut, Lebanon

During the 4th Conference of the Alliance of Lead Universities on Migration (ALUM), RHP co-directors Dr. Jomaa and Dr. Fouad presented on the role of universities in responding to the refugee crisis. Dr. Jomaa discussed food and nutrition security status of Syrian refugees and host communities during the current protracted crisis in Lebanon. In his turn, Dr. Fouad presented on the changing health needs in protracted crises and the transition from humanitarian aid to rebuilding health systems.



The conference was hosted by AUB and organized by AUB's Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs, the Alliance of Lead Universities on Migration, the London School of Economics Institute of Global Affairs, and the AUB+Refugees Initiative.

#### NORD CO-DIRECTOR RECEIVES TAKREEM AWARD

Amman, Jordan



Hwalla, Co-Director of the Nutrition, Obesity and Related Disease Program at GHI and Professor of Human Nutrition at AUB, who served as Dean of Faculty of Agriculture and Food Science for 11 years, was the recipient of the TAKREEM "Excellence in Education" award 2017. The TAKREEM award ceremony was held in Amman, in the presence of members of the Hashemite Royal Family Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein and over 1000 attendees.

TAKREEM Al Hussein and honors Arabo who have excelled in the fields of education, science, culture, environment, economy and humanitarian aid. Dr. Hwalla was recognized for her role in leading the Nutrition and Food Sciences Department at AUB and establishing the dietetics profession in Lebanon and the Middle East and North Africa region.

### GHI ACADEMY

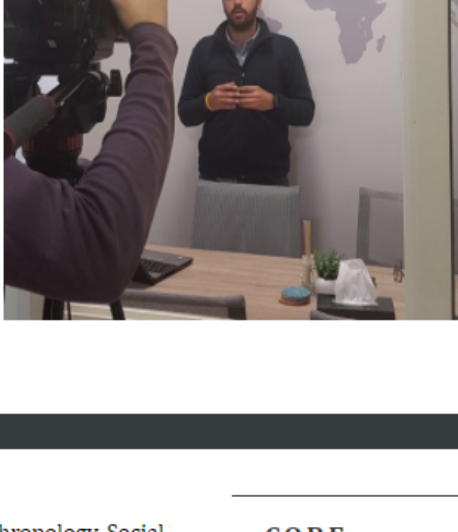
#### CONTEXTUALIZATION AND ARABIZATION OF HUMANITARIAN KNOWLEDGE

November 2017 | Beirut, Lebanon

In partnership with the Humanitarian Leadership Academy, GHI Academy launched a project that aims at developing and contextualizing humanitarian capacity building tools and programs for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region.

The project will focus on the adaptation and arabization of humanitarian knowledge through the contextualization and translation of humanitarian e-learning courses. These courses that cover essential humanitarian competencies will be accessible by humanitarian practitioners in the MENA region through user friendly e-learning platform.

This is accompanied by the development of an e-learning contextualization framework that would provide practitioners with the relevant methodologies to enable transferring and replicating context specific knowledge across boundaries.



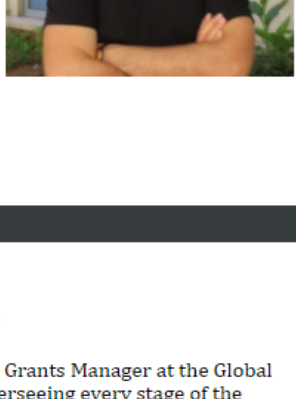
### EXPERTS IN THE LENS

Omar Dewachi is Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Social Medicine and Global Health at the American University of Beirut (AUB). Trained as a physician in Iraq during the 1990s, he received his doctorate in social anthropology from Harvard University in 2008. He has conducted extensive fieldwork on the human, social, and environmental impacts of decades of sanctions and military interventions in Iraq—including the exodus of Iraqi doctors, the breakdown of state medical infrastructure, and the long-term toxic legacies of war.

He is the author of *Ungovernable Life: Mandatory Medicine and Statecraft in Iraq* (Stanford University Press, 2017), which is the first historical and ethnographic study documenting the rise and fall of state medicine in Iraq. He is currently conducting ethnographic research on the ecologies of wounds and wounding that explores the biosocial life of war wounds and the changing modes of care across the Middle East. The project focuses on examining the different pathways of Anti-Microbial Resistance in war wounds through the experiences of patients, doctors and institutions across the region. He is the author of numerous publications that have appeared in a number of medical, anthropological, and global health journals, including the *Lancet*.

### CORE EXPERT PROFILE

OMAR DEWACHI, MBChB, PhD  
CMP Co-Director



### GHI WELCOMES NEW STAFF

Olfat Khattar MA  
GRANTS MANAGER

Olfat Khattar is the Grants Manager at the Global Health Institute overseeing every stage of the grant making work processes inside GHI from RFP development through completed project while maintaining substantial database for proposals and active grants.

Olfat joined the Office of Grants and Contracts at AUB, in 2003. In 2010, she moved to Qatar and worked as the Post Award Manager in the Office of Academic Research at Qatar University until 2016. Olfat attended several NCURA (National Council of University Research Administrators) trainings related to Projects and Financial Management/ Administration, in addition to Alliance Oracle Conference.

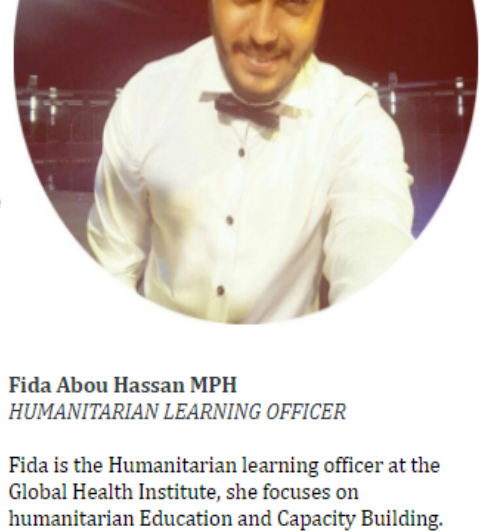
Olfat holds a Maitrise in Anthropology and a Bachelor in Social Sciences from the Lebanese University. She has over 14 years of experience in research pre-award/post-award administration, contract and fund management, and compliance management.



#### Hussein Ismail MPH HUMANITARIAN LEARNING COORDINATOR

Hussein Ismail is the Humanitarian Learning Coordinator at the Global Health Institute, initiating and coordinating all activities under GHI's humanitarian learning portfolio for strengthening and building up contextualized humanitarian knowledge in the region.

Hussein started his career pathway in the humanitarian field as a volunteer in relief and emergency medical services organizations. He then started his professional work in this sector, specifically in project management, monitoring and evaluation, and consultation on the development of humanitarian programs. Hussein is currently pursuing his Masters in Public Health Management and Policy at AUB. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the AUB.



#### Fida Abou Hassan MPH HUMANITARIAN LEARNING OFFICER

Fida is the Humanitarian learning officer at the Global Health Institute, she focuses on humanitarian Education and Capacity Building. Prior to joining the GHI Academy, she worked with the American Near East Refugee Aid Association and gained field experience through Educational and Health programs supporting the Palestinian and Syrian refugee population in Lebanon.

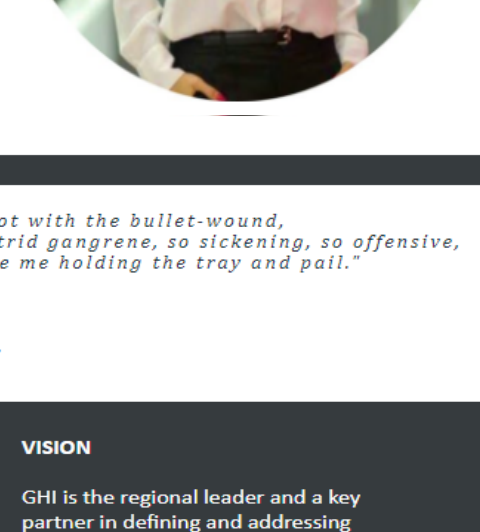
Fida is a holder of a Master in Public health with a concentration in Health Promotion and Community Health from the AUB and a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics from AUB as well.



#### Mireille El Haber MSc PR & COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Mireille El Haber is the PR & Communication officer at the Global Health Institute, overseeing and adequate and integral communication plan for internal & external communication.

Mireille is a holder of a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and a Master of Science in Nutrition & Sports physiology with honors from University of Saint Joseph Beirut. Mireille has shifted in the last 3 years of her career from clinical nutrition to Health & Nutrition marketing communication.



### GLOBAL HEALTH IN WORDS

"I dress the perforated shoulder, the foot with the bullet-wound, Cleanse the one with a gnawing and putrid gangrene, so sickening, so offensive, While the attendant stands behind aside me holding the tray and pail."

Walt Whitman  
American poet, essayist, and journalist.

### ABOUT GHI

The Global Health Institute at the American University of Beirut is part of AUB's new vision on health, HEALTH 2025. GHI is the first such freestanding institute in the Middle East and North Africa region, and one of the very few in the Global South.

### MISSION

The Global Health Institute at AUB addresses global health challenges with a focus on context and sustainable impact by employing an interdisciplinary approach. The primary focus of GHI are challenges that are affecting the MENA region, but have relevance to and impact on other regions in the Global South.

### VISION

GHI is the regional leader and a key partner in defining and addressing the global health agenda, especially components relevant to the MENA region and other regions in the Global South. GHI will transform the global health dialogue to focus on contextualized solutions that are sustainable and proportionally dependent on local and regional capacity.

### CONTACT US

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