

E-NEWSLETTER

**Non-Governmental Organizations
Initiative (NGOi)**

Vol 1 - Issue 1 - June 2020

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear NGOi Newsletter Readers,

The Non-governmental Organization (NGO) sector in Lebanon and the region has proven over time its capacity to absorb challenging situations and respond to it effectively through a variety of services across different sectors including health, education, development, advocacy, and environment, among others. The vast efforts invested by the NGOs during the most recent COVID-19 pandemic is in fact a proof of how much the sector can offer to fill many existing gaps and support the community. However, several loopholes exist at the level of inter-organizational communication and coordination, and intra-organizational structures, processes, and performance.

In this context, the Non-Governmental Organizations Initiative (NGOi) at the American University of Beirut (AUB) was launched in April 2019, to serve as a regional hub for certification, development, knowledge exchange, and enhanced communication among different NGOs operating in the Middle East and North Africa Region (MENA).

We are pleased to share with the members of the NGO sector the inaugural issue of the NGOi newsletter. The NGOi newsletter will be the central communication portal for NGOi updates, and a platform for news and updates that falls within the interest of the NGO sector.



**Dr. Shadi Saleh, PhD MPH
Founding Director, Global Health Institute**

We hope you enjoy reading the first issue of our NGOi newsletter and I invite you to visit the NGOi webpage to learn more about the services that the initiative provides. Looking forward to your interaction and support to reinforce the role of NGOs in enhancing the wellbeing and quality of life of communities in Lebanon and the region.

Shadi Saleh



ABOUT NGOi

Overview

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

Mission

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

Services

- Organizational Certification
- Self-Assessment Platform
- Capacity Building
- Performance Improvement
- Knowledge Resource Center
- Convening Platform

NGOi HIGHLIGHTS



NGOi | GHI SIGNS A PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH ASFARI FOUNDATION

January 2020

With the aim to strengthen the role of the NGO sector in the region, the NGOi at AUB signed last January, a 3-year partnership agreement with the Asfari Foundation.

Through this partnership, NGOi will focus on the organizational development of the NGOs supported by the Asfari Foundation in Lebanon and the region, through a combination of its different services including performance improvement, organizational certification and contextualized capacity building.

CONNECT COvid-19 NGOi NETwork



NGOi LAUNCHES THE COVID-19 NGOi NETWORK (CONNECT)

April 2020

In response to the COVID-19 situation in Lebanon, NGOi launched the COVID-19 NGOi Network (CONNECT), a network that aims to serve as a convening platform for NGOs responding to the COVID-19 pandemic in Lebanon, via regional groups. Each regional group consists of NGOs serving both Lebanese and refugee communities in a specific area of Lebanon including Beirut, Mount Lebanon, Bekaa, North, and South.

Through CONNECT, the NGOi provides member NGOs with contextualized knowledge resources and capacity building based on the groups' identified needs.

[Learn more](#)

ORGANIZATIONAL CERTIFICATION



ORGANIZATIONAL CERTIFICATION GUIDANCE WORKSHOPS

May-December 2019

As part of introducing local, regional, and international NGOs operating in Lebanon and the MENA region to the process of organizational certification offered by NGOi, the NGOi team held 4 organizational certification guidance workshops at AUB throughout the past year. The workshops, held in May, September, and December 2019 respectively, walked the attending NGO representatives through the step-by-step process of how to become an AUB-certified NGO with detailed explanations on the standards adopted in this process and the documentations required.

The organizational certification guidance workshops were cumulatively attended by over 160 members from more than 100 local, regional, and international NGOs.

[Know more about the NGOi Organizational Certification](#)

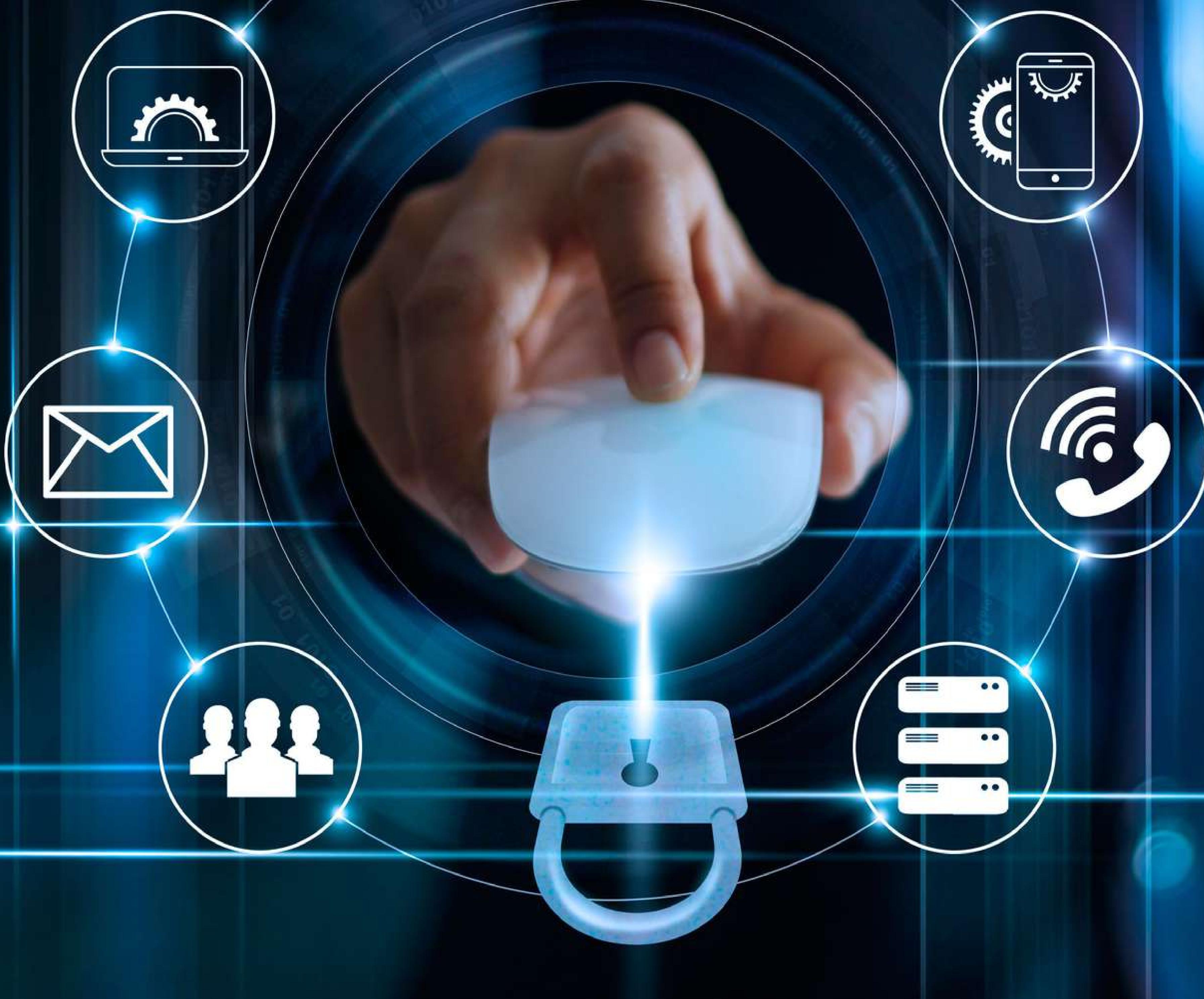


AKKAROUNA AND BESME BECAME AUB-CERTIFIED THROUGH NGOI'S ORGANIZATIONAL CERTIFICATION

November 2019 - June 2020

"Besme International Group for Humanitarian Assistance" and "Akkarouna" received their gold certification and became as such AUB-certified NGOs after successfully fulfilling the requirements of the NGOi organizational certification process. Both AUB-certified NGOs received their certification during ceremonies held at AUB in presence of the NGOs' management teams, and NGOi's leadership.

The NGOi 'Organizational Certification' service is a voluntary and non-governmental review process that assesses the governance and administrative structures as well as operational principles of the NGOs using evidence-based criteria.



SELF-ASSESSMENT PLATFORM

Welcome, Organization's Name

Completed Standard Incomplete Standard Expiry Date: 25-06-2020

Self-Assessment Progress: 0%

INSTRUCTIONS
Indicate for each question of the self-assessment whether it is met, partially met, or not met within your organization, based on the definitions below.

Met: The criterion consistently exists, is sufficient, and fully meets the purpose.
Partially Met: The criterion exists but is insufficient and does not fully meet the purpose.
Not Met: The criterion does not exist at all.

TO UNDERGO THE SELF-ASSESSMENT SURVEY, CLICK [HERE](#)

NGO Self-Assessment Report				
Standard	Score	Status	Recommendations	
Governance & Strategic Planning	1.43/5	✗	Learn More	
Financial Management	3.5/5	✓	Learn More	
Risk Management & Compliance	2/5	✗	Learn More	
Legal Matters Management	3.1/5	✓	Learn More	
Community Centricity	1.88/5	✗	Learn More	
Staff & Volunteers Management	1.41/5	✗	Learn More	
Program & Project Management	1.15/5	✗	Learn More	
Resources & Assets Management	0/5	✗	Learn More	
Proposals Management & Writing	0.75/5	✗	Learn More	
Communication & Reporting	0.94/5	✗	Learn More	
TOTAL	1.07 /5	✗		

* Indicate from the below checklist, the performance improvement recommendations that you wish to consult with an NGOi expert on its actual application. This request will be redirected to the NGOi Performance Improvement Service.

STANDARD 1 - GOVERNANCE & STRATEGIC PLANNING

6	2	6	2.43/5
Met	Partially Met	Not Met	Score
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RECOMMENDED PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * <input type="checkbox"/> Revise existing ByLaws or develop ByLaws if non-existent. <input type="checkbox"/> Take notes of every governing body's meeting minutes (including board meetings and committee steering meetings) and keep track of it. <input type="checkbox"/> Revise your organization's monitoring & evaluation (M&E) plan or develop an M&E plan that measures your organization's success in meeting its strategy, if non-existent. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RECOMMENDED CAPACITY BUILDING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Planning & Governance This course provides professionals working in non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with an understanding of the vital role of the governing body, the importance of proper development of strategic planning, and the significance of governance inside NGOs. With this course, learners will be able to plan and execute the strategic plan and develop governance practices. 			

NGOi LAUNCHES THE SELF-ASSESSMENT PLATFORM

June 2020

To support NGOs in identifying their operational gaps and areas in need for improvement, the NGOi self-assessment platform was launched this June. The platform, hosted on the NGOi website, enables NGOs in Lebanon and the region to undergo a simple yet thorough online self-assessment survey based on 10 standards set by NGOi for the assessment of organizational structures, procedures, and processes. Upon the completion of the self-assessment, a detailed scoring for each standard is provided, with corresponding performance improvement and capacity building recommendations depending on the scores obtained.

CAPACITY BUILDING

**CONNECT
Covid-19 NGOi NETwork**

WEBINAR

This Webinar is Open for CONNECT Members Only

Reforming NGOs Funding to Address Challenges of COVID-19 Situation in Lebanon

April 23, 2020 | 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Ramzi Hage, MPA
Catholic Relief Services
Lebanon

**CONNECT
Covid-19 NGOi NETwork**

WEBINAR

This Webinar is Open for CONNECT & NGOi Members

How Can the Generated COVID-19 Data Guide the NGOs' Response in Lebanon?

April 30, 2020 | 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Dr. Salim Adib, MD, DrPH
American University of Beirut
Lebanon

NGOi OFFERS CONNECT'S MEMBER NGOS CONTEXTUALIZED WEBINARS

April-June 2020

As part of CONNECT's efforts to facilitate capacity building, NGOi delivered, in the months of April, May and June a series of contextualized webinars to support NGOs in improving their response to COVID-19. The topics discussed focused on the NGO funding crisis, the challenges these organizations are facing during the COVID-19 pandemic and the techniques to develop fundraising strategies. In addition, attendees learned how to understand the generated COVID-19 data and use it to plan their NGOs' response. The webinars received a positive feedback from attendees who stressed on the importance of these capacity building webinars in providing them with the best practices and evidence.

[Watch the webinars](#)



NGOi BUILDS CAPACITY OF NGOS' STAFF ON SUSTAINABLE FINANCIAL STRATEGIES AND EFFECTIVE FUNDRAISING TECHNIQUES

February 2020

As part of its capacity building activities, NGOi offered last February its third NGOi course on "NGOs Sustainability & Effective Fundraising Techniques". The four-day course was attended by 32 staff members from 24 different NGOs operating in Lebanon. With a focus on NGOs sustainability, participants learned how to maximize the financial sustainability of their NGOs and develop targeted fundraising approaches based on different types of donors. The course was characterized by its dynamic way of delivery which enhanced the learning experience of the attendees through group work and real scenarios.

[Browse the NGOi courses](#)



NGOi BUILDS THE CAPACITY OF NGOS' STAFF IN PROPOSAL MANAGEMENT AND DONOR IDENTIFICATION

July 2019

The NGOi at AUB initiated its capacity building activities with a course on "Donor Identification and Proposal Management", delivered during the months of July-August 2019. The course was attended by 30 professionals from more than 25 different NGOs operating in Lebanon.

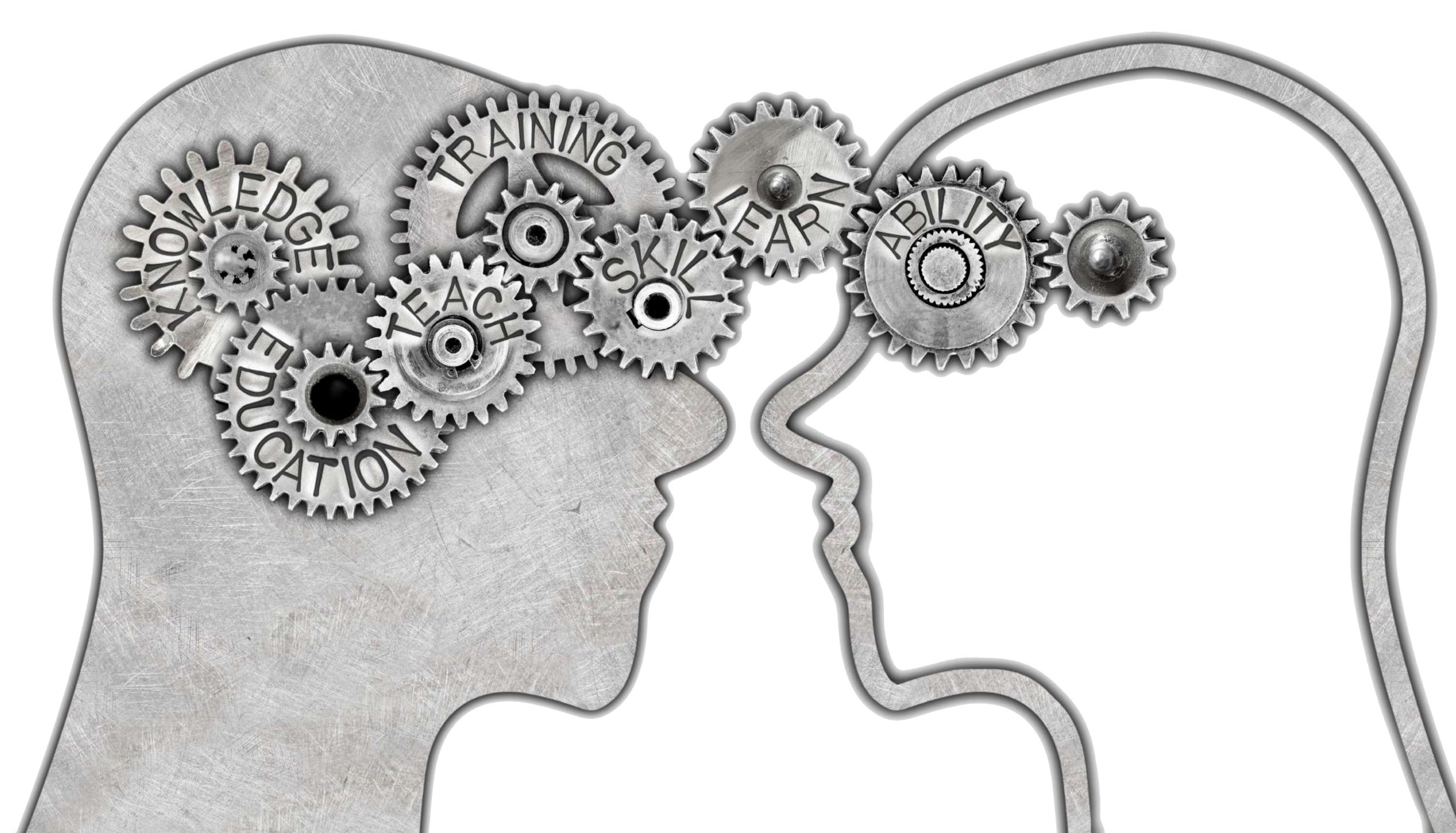
Throughout the course, participants strengthened their understanding of how to identify, qualify, and segment donors effectively for their organization, and how to successfully write targeted proposals.



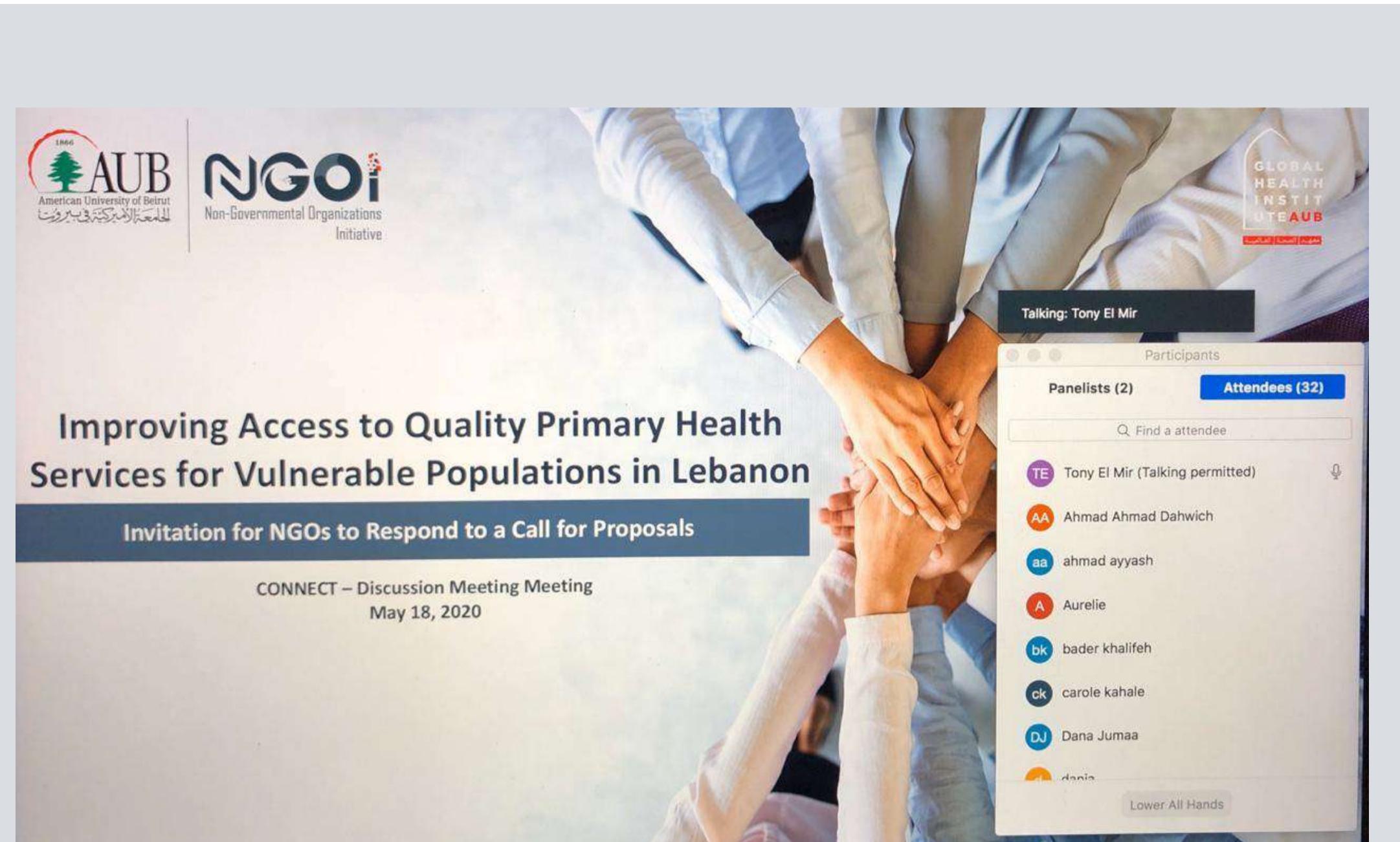
NGOi EQUIPS NGOS' STAFF WITH PRACTICAL METHODS AND SKILLS TO ASSESS COMMUNITY NEEDS

November 2019

A four-day course on 'Methods of Assessing Community Needs' was delivered last November to 35 staff members from 15 different local and international NGOs operating in Lebanon. Through this course, participants learnt about designing and selecting appropriate methods to assess the needs of communities in different situations and contexts, and disseminating findings to relevant stakeholders. The course received remarkably positive feedback from the participants who emphasized the importance of the hands-on training component of the course in linking the theoretical concepts to actual field-based projects.



CONVENING PLATFORM



NGOi HOLDS VIRTUAL MEETINGS WITH NGO GROUPS TO ENCOURAGE INTER-ORGANIZATIONS COLLABORATION AND COMMUNICATION

April-May 2020

To further encourage NGOs to collaborate and communicate more effectively among each others, especially in times of COVID-19, NGOi organized through CONNECT, a series of virtual meetings with large groups of NGOs. These meetings allowed NGOs to introduce their mission and vision to other NGO members, shedding light on their different activities as well as gaps that could be complemented through collaboration. In addition, NGOi invited CONNECT members to come together and discuss the formation of consortia to respond to a call for proposals, which was thoroughly discussed during a virtual meeting with interested NGO members.

[Know more about the NGOi Convening Platform](#)



NGOi HOLDS A SEMINAR ON COMPLIANCE AND LEGAL MANAGEMENT FOR NGOS

February 2020

As part of its continuous efforts to convene NGOs and build their capacity, NGOi held last February a seminar on "Compliance & Legal Management for NGOs". During the seminar, the NGO's legal framework and identity, legal compliance, as well as the NGO's establishment and termination were discussed.

More than 60 participants from over 30 organizations, including law firms and NGOs, attended this event. The seminar was followed by an extended Q&A session during which attendees interacted together and shared experiences.

NGOi provides the NGO sector in the MENA Region with a Knowledge Resource Center, a hub comprising relevant and reliable material that keep NGOs' staff and leadership up to date.



[Access the Knowledge Resource Center](#)

NGOi offers both organizations and individuals a yearly membership plan to join the NGOi network and enjoy its benefits. Join other NGOs in being part of the NGOi network and enjoy a wide range of benefits:

20% discount on all NGOi training & capacity building courses

Monthly Funding Alerts

15% discount on access to the organizational self-assessment platform

Organizational Members



[Join the NGOi network](#)

About NGOi Organizational Certification



"It is very important to be assessed by a reputable organization like AUB in order for us to know if our NGO is operating within the right standards. When our organization's documents were reviewed and the gaps were identified, we worked on improving these documents and refining our departments and work in the field."

Mrs. Gulshan Saglam
General Manager
Besme International Group for
Humanitarian Assistance (AUB Certified NGO)

"Akkarouna's experience with NGOi was an amazing one as it aided in enhancing the work and the development of our NGO based on the self-assessment exercise that we did as a team and the organizational certification process as a whole. The AUB NGOi certification is an added value to Akkarouna as it will allow the organization to acquire a better credibility in front of donors and open new partnership opportunities. I encourage all NGOs operating in Lebanon to join the NGOi network and seek the organizational certification to better improve their work in a scientific and systematic manner."

Mrs. Azza Adra
General Director
Akkarouna (AUB Certified NGO)

About NGOi Training and Capacity Building

"When I found out about this course, I was very enthusiastic to attend and learn more about donor identification and proposal writing. Despite my 37 years of experience in this field, the course provided me with tools and theories that will help me reach higher levels in my mission."

Mrs. Sossy Sagharian
Consultant

"Because of the interactive methodology and the course content, I was able to acquire new knowledge in the field of assessing community needs."

Mrs. Rosabelle Chedid
Organizational Development Research Officer
Lebanese Red Cross

"I would like to thank the NGO Initiative for delivering a course on fundraising to the NGO; I believe it was a very interactive and a beneficial course especially for my work in my organization."

Mr. Fadi Husseini
Financial Officer
HOOPs Club



iNGOs' and Regional NGOs' Contribution to the COVID-19 Response in the MENA



REGIONAL NGOS PARTNERING WITH UNITED NATION AGENCIES AND MINISTRIES IN JORDAN TO REDUCE THE OVER-CROWDEDNESS AT HOSPITALS

Hospitals in Jordan have been pressured in responding to COVID-19 cases together at once with other emergency cases. In response to this health crisis, the Jordan Health Aid Society (JHAS) and the United Nations Development Programme joined efforts and coordinated with the Ministry of Health and Al-Basheer Public Hospital to set up an ER triage tent at the entrance of the hospital. With the increasing numbers of COVID-19 cases in the country, the tent aided in alleviating the overcrowding and dealing with the large number of ER patients while respecting physical distancing and preventing the spread of the virus and other infections. The tent currently operates on a 24-hour basis; a team of 24 doctors and 24 nurses are divided over 3 shifts and are fully equipped with the personal protective equipment to treat around 800 non-COVID-19 patients.

[Original news article](#)



iNGOS-ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIP IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 IN DJIBOUTI: SUPPLYING HOSPITALS WITH 3D-PRINTED FACE SHIELDS

To better respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and deal with the shortage of protective medical equipment, specifically face shields, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in partnership with Terre des Hommes (TDH) and the University of Djibouti launched a digital training space that was initially set up by IOM for young migrants in Djibouti. The digital machines in the fabrication lab, including laser cutter and 3D printers, were deployed to produce medical plastic face shield for health professionals treating COVID-19 patients without using any protection equipment. Throughout the fabrication process, the face shield prototypes were being reviewed and tested by the medical staff in 2 hospitals in Djibouti. Upon approval, and with the high need for life-saving products, the 2 health facilities ordered 300 pieces to be used by their medical team.

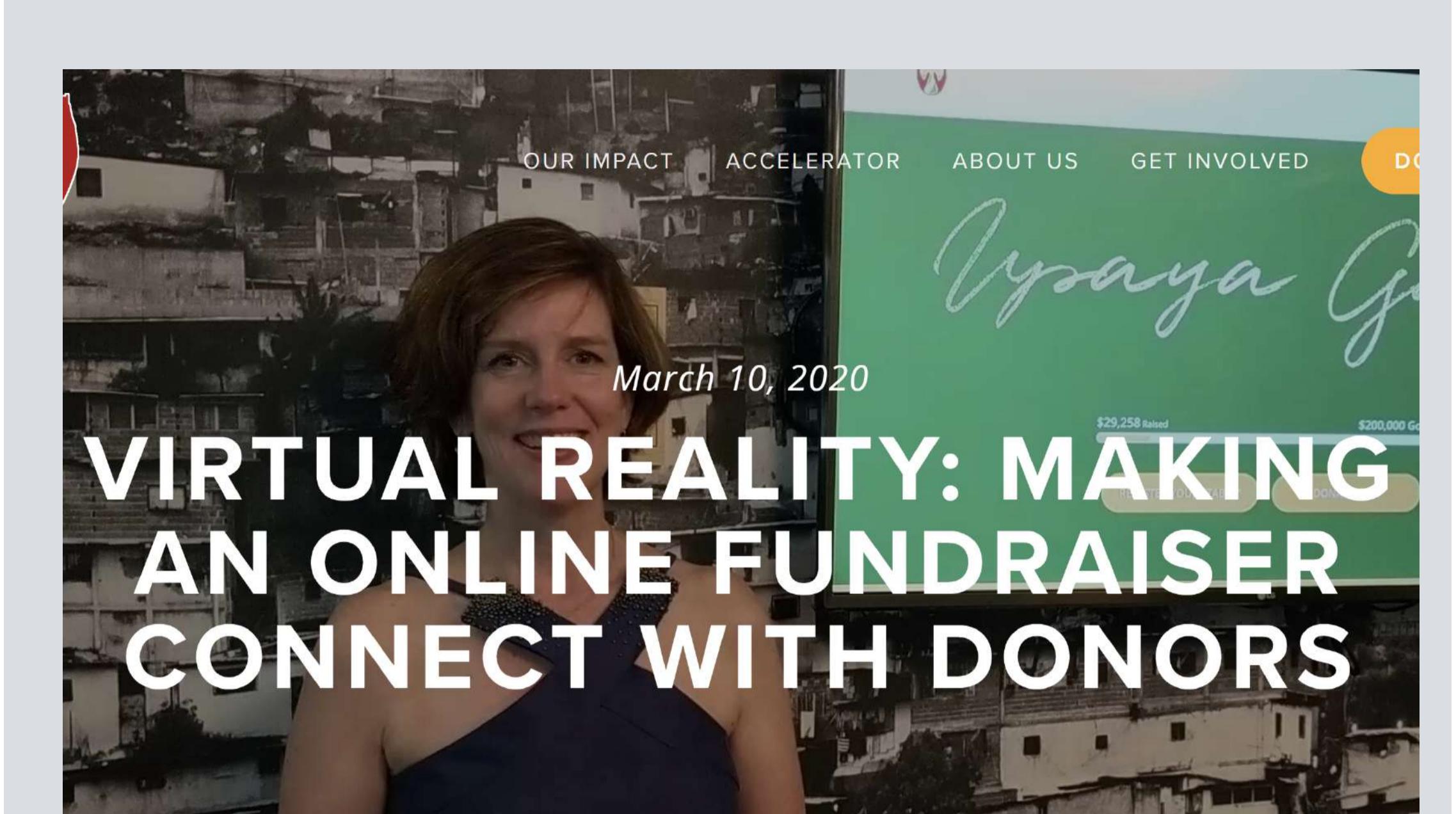
[Original news article](#)



RESPONDING TO COVID-19 IN AL-ZAATARI AND KING ABDULLAH PARK REFUGEE CAMPS: TAILORING DIGITAL TOOLS TO FACILITATE ITS RESPONSE

During the 1st and 2nd week of March, right after the COVID-19 outbreak, Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) initiated its COVID-19 preparedness campaign in Al- Zaatari and King Abdullah Park Refugee camps in Jordan. This campaign consisted of live awareness raising sessions on personal hygiene and handwashing protocols and targeted over 6,700 camp residents. In order to cope with the nation-wide lockdown, ACTED shifted its campaign's strategy and tailored its response to the challenges raised by this crisis through sharing key messages and COVID-19 updates with the refugees and camp residents via WhatsApp.

[Original news article](#)



NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS CREATING SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISING STORIES BY SHIFTING FROM A FACE-TO-FACE EVENT TO A VIRTUAL ONE

Taking into consideration the current COVID-19 situation, Upaya, a non-Profit organization based in Seattle, cancelled its annual in-person Gala and did it differently this year. The organization hosted a "Virtual Gala" and engaged with its donors through an online and well-organized fundraising event. Through the 4-day online auction and fundraising campaign, Upaya was able to raise up to \$295,000 and engage with the community in a fun and innovative manner.

[Original news article](#)



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