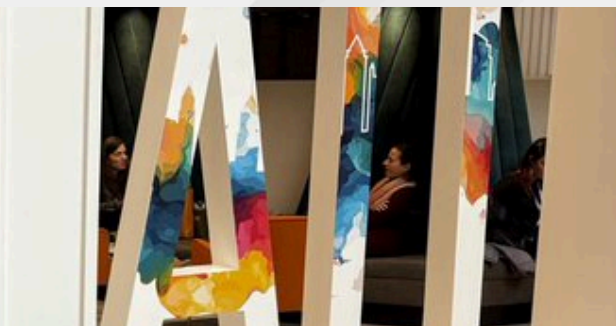
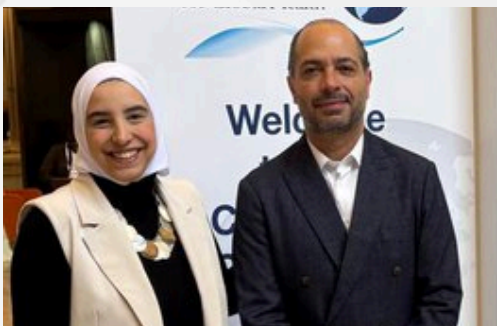




# LENS

Global Health Institute E-Newsletter



# INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**Vol 8 - Issue 1**  
**Spring-Summer 2025**

Message from the Founding Director	<b>1</b>
Global Health in the Arts	<b>3</b>
GHI Highlights	<b>6</b>
Featured Stories	<b>5</b>
Main Updates	<b>13</b>
South of Global Health Blog	<b>31</b>
Expert in the LENS	<b>33</b>
Featured GHI'ers	<b>35</b>

# MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDING DIRECTOR



**Dr. Shadi Saleh**  
GHI Founding Director

**Dear LENS readers,**

In our region, where rising temperatures, water scarcity, and growing inequalities intersect with fragile health systems, the impacts of climate change are no longer future warnings, they are today's urgent realities.

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region is at a critical crossroads, facing environmental shifts that threaten not only ecosystems but also the health and well-being of millions. Climate change is no longer an environmental concern, it is a health crisis and a matter of social justice.

At the Global Health Institute (GHI), we believe that responding to such complex and interconnected challenges requires bold, collaborative, and interdisciplinary action.

“*The Cli-Health Program launch marks a significant step toward a more integrated approach to climate, health, and social justice, paving the way for future initiatives and collaborations that prioritize equity, amplify marginalized voices, and address the disproportionate impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities.*”

This belief guided the launch of our Cli-Health Program (CHP), a new regional flagship initiative dedicated to exploring the intersection of climate, health, and social justice. Amid Lebanon's ongoing crises, we moved forward with this timely and ambitious program, in partnership with the Asfari Institute and the Issam Fares Institute, and with the valued support of the International Development Research Center (IDRC) and the Ford Foundation.

CHP brings a much-needed regional perspective to this global issue and is already creating space for meaningful dialogue, applied research, and community-driven solutions, while emphasizing social justice. It aims not only to address the health impacts of climate change, but also to confront the structural inequities that leave certain communities disproportionately affected, ensuring that our collective response is inclusive, locally informed, and grounded in the principles of social justice.

Alongside this, our Conflict Medicine Program (CMP) and Academy Division, recently hosted two regional intersectoral dialogues to rethink how we prepare health professionals to better respond in crisis-affected settings. These dialogues brought together experts from across different health sectors to explore how medical and health education can become more practical and context-sensitive, laying the groundwork for stronger, more resilient healthcare workers and health systems across the region.

At the community level, the Non-Governmental Organization Initiative (NGOi) continues to support civil society organizations. Most recently, NGOi launched its operations in Algeria, Qatar, and Kurdistan-Iraq as part of the Arab Alliance for Civil Society Organization Development (AACSD) flagship program, aiming to upskill and institutionally strengthen the CSO sector in the Arab region. In parallel, NGOi introduced a new membership experience that gives organizations access to exclusive workshops, funding opportunities, and peer-to-peer learning.

To further support these organizations and members working in the Civil Society sector, NGOi also launched the Certificate in NGO Management, a fully online and self-paced program available in English and Arabic. The certificate offers practical tools and knowledge for NGO professionals to improve how their organizations operate and grow. By making this online learning experience accessible and flexible, we aim to help NGOs become more effective and sustainable in a rapidly changing environment.

We invite you to explore our programs, initiatives, and activities through this LENS. As always, I encourage you to engage with us, share your insights, and join us in our mission to shape a brighter future for the MENA region and beyond.

“

*With 18 new members from Lebanon, Syria, and Algeria, our network is growing and becoming more connected, all working toward stronger impact across the region.*

Shadi Saleh

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# GLOBAL HEALTH IN THE ARTS



## ART IN THE LENS



**Dalia Baassiri** is a Lebanese visual artist whose work explores the intersection of personal memory, domestic space, and national trauma. Born in Sidon in 1981 and raised during Lebanon's civil war, Baassiri channels her experiences into a practice that spans painting, sculpture, and mixed media.

**Dalia Baassiri, Lebanon (1981)**

30 Years of Color; Untitled (2023)  
*Courtesy of Galerie Janine Rubeiz*

Her recent piece, *Untitled (2023)*, exhibited at Galerie Janine Rubeiz, draws strength from a tree that survived the Beirut Port explosion, stitched with remnants of wall paint from the blast, it becomes a living archive of resilience and recovery. This draws a quiet connection between environmental devastation and public health. Her work has been acquired by Barjeel Art Foundation in Sharjah along with both Dalloul Art Foundation and Saradar Collection in Lebanon and has been shown in leading institutions and fairs worldwide, including Mathaf in Doha, Abu Dhabi Art Fair, *Untitled Art Fair* in Miami, the Espronceda Institute of Art and Culture in Barcelona and many more.

Baassiri's practice continues to reflect on fragility and endurance, using everyday materials and symbols of home to address the ongoing impact of conflict on identity and place.

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# FEATURED STORIES



# HIGHLIGHTS



AUB GHI, in Partnership with WHO, Convene Regional Dialogue on Advancing Refugee Sexual and Reproductive Health in the MENA Region



CHP Awarded IDRC Grant to Enhance Climate Resilience across Communities and Health Systems in MENA



NGOi Kicks Off 2025 with a New Membership Experience for NGOs



CMP and Academy Convene Two Regional Intersectoral Dialogues to Advance Conflict-Related Training in Health Education



NGOi Launches its Operations in Algeria, Qatar, and Kurdistan-Iraq

# HIGHLIGHTED STORIES

## AUB GHI, in Partnership with WHO, Convene Regional Dialogue on Advancing Refugee Sexual and Reproductive Health in the MENA Region

June, 2025



The Global Health Institute (GHI) at the American University of Beirut (AUB) held the closing event of the Self-Efficacy and Knowledge (SEEK) project under the theme Advancing Refugee and Migrant Health in the MENA Region. The event brought together leading experts from local and international organizations from Lebanon and the region.

Through keynote speeches, panel discussions, and the screening of a SEEK project video, the event spotlighted challenges and community-led solutions in sexual and reproductive health (SRH) for displaced populations. Discussions focused on scaling culturally grounded, evidence-based interventions, like SEEK, that improve SRH outcomes and mental health support for adolescent girls and young women.

The gathering reaffirmed AUB GHI's commitment to translating research into practice, strengthening regional partnerships, and advancing inclusive, sustainable health systems for refugees and migrants.

[Watch here the full event](#)

## The Cli-Health Program Awarded IDRC Grant to Enhance Climate Resilience across Communities and Health Systems in MENA

The Cli-Health Program at AUB GHI has been awarded a **4-year grant from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC)** to implement a groundbreaking project titled: “Building Resilience to Climate Change across Communities and Health Systems in the Middle East and North Africa.”

This multi-country project aims to strengthen the capacity of health systems, health facilities, and vulnerable communities in the MENA region to respond to the growing health threats posed by climate change. The project integrates research and policy to advance climate-resilient health systems and promote equity-driven adaptation strategies and is implemented in Lebanon, Egypt, and Morocco.



With a strong regional focus, the Cli-Health Program works in close collaboration with partners across the MENA region to generate actionable evidence, inform policy, and foster regional cooperation in tackling climate-health challenges.

“

**The project is led by AUB GHI in partnership with the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI) and the Asfari Institute for Civil Society and Citizenship**



[Learn more about CHP](#)

# CMP and Academy Convene Two Regional Intersectoral Dialogues to Advance Conflict-Related Training in Health Education

January and February, 2025



As part of its ongoing efforts to institutionalize conflict-sensitive healthcare training, the Conflict Medicine Program (CMP) and the Academy Division at the Global Health Institute (GHI) hosted two high-level regional events aimed at advancing the integration of conflict-related training into the educational curricula of healthcare professionals.

“ *The events convened regional academics, humanitarians, and healthcare professionals to explore gaps and opportunities for embedding conflict-related competencies into medical and allied health education.* ”

Serving as platforms for multisectoral dialogue, the gatherings focused on equipping health professionals to respond to the complex realities of conflict-affected environments. Key topics included trauma care, mass casualty management, ethical decision-making in resource-limited settings, and the importance of interprofessional collaboration.

Participants emphasized the need for context-specific, practical approaches that reflect the challenges on the ground in conflict zones. These events form part of GHI’s broader advocacy efforts to build a resilient, deployable health workforce across the MENA region, capable of delivering effective care in times of crisis.



# EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



[Read the full press release](#)

## NGOi Kicks Off 2025 with a New Membership Experience for NGOs

January, 2025



As part of its ongoing commitment to strengthening the growth, network, and impact of its organizational members, the Non-Governmental Organization Initiative (NGOi) has introduced an enhanced membership experience to members of its network. The membership package provides organizational members with exclusive benefits. Over the past months, 18 new members joined the NGOi network from Lebanon, Syria, and Algeria.

NGOi's network is a diverse network, spanning Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Iraq, Qatar, Kuwait, and beyond.

As part of this experience, NGOi held a **members-exclusive workshop on "Raise More, Reach More: Fundraising and Outreach for NGOs"**, aimed at equipping organizational members with practical tools to enhance their fundraising and outreach efforts.

As the year unfolds, NGOi remains dedicated to engaging with the 70+ member organizations to foster a more sustainable and impactful journey for its members.

## Join the NGOi Network



## NGOi Introduces the Online Self-Paced Certificate in NGO Management

December, 2024

NGOi launched the Certificate in NGO Management to support and strengthen the operations of NGOs, as part of its continued mission.

The certificate, available in English and Arabic, offers four online self-paced courses through the Global Health Learning and Development (GHLAD) platform, and includes three core courses and one elective course.



This certificate program is designed to empower NGO professionals and aspiring leaders in the civil society sector with the tools, strategies, and knowledge needed to navigate complexities, strengthen operations, and make a lasting impact.

[More about the Certificate](#)

# MAIN UPDATES



# GHI PROGRAMS

## E-SAHHA PROGRAM **ESP**



### **The GAIN MHI Project Featured through ESP Team Participation in Global Conferences**

The E-Sahha Program (ESP) engaged in two prominent global health events to present key learnings from its initiatives, as part of its commitment to the dissemination of knowledge and best practices in responsible digital health innovation.

At the Global Digital Health Forum (GDHF) held in Nairobi, Kenya in December 2024, the ESP team presented the Gamification, Artificial Intelligence, and mHealth Network for Maternal Health Improvement (GAIN MHI) project, a multicomponent digital health intervention designed to improve maternal health outcomes among marginalized populations in Lebanon.



In February 2025, at the Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH) conference in Atlanta, USA, the ESP team further highlighted how GAIN MHI harnesses mobile messaging, gamified learning, and AI to support pregnant women, their spouses, and healthcare providers, demonstrating its potential for broader adaptation in low-resource settings.

[Learn more about GAIN MHI](#)

[Read the paper here](#)

# GHI PROGRAMS

## E-SAHHA PROGRAM ESP

### GHAIN MENA Builds the Capacity of Researchers and Innovators on Responsible Artificial Intelligence in Health



**GHAIN MENA** aims to empower researchers from different institutions of the MENA region to design and implement responsible AI-based digital health interventions through partnerships and tailored capacity building.

[Learn More](#)

GHI conducted a series of one-on-one mentoring sessions for GHAIN MENA subgrantees based in Morocco, Lebanon, Turkey, Qatar, Jordan, and Palestine, as part of the Global Health and Artificial Intelligence Network in MENA (GHAIN MENA) capacity strengthening initiatives.

These sessions offered personalized guidance on project development, research design, and the integration of gender equity and inclusion principles into responsible AI innovations for global health for the Network's researchers and innovators.

[Explore ESP projects](#)

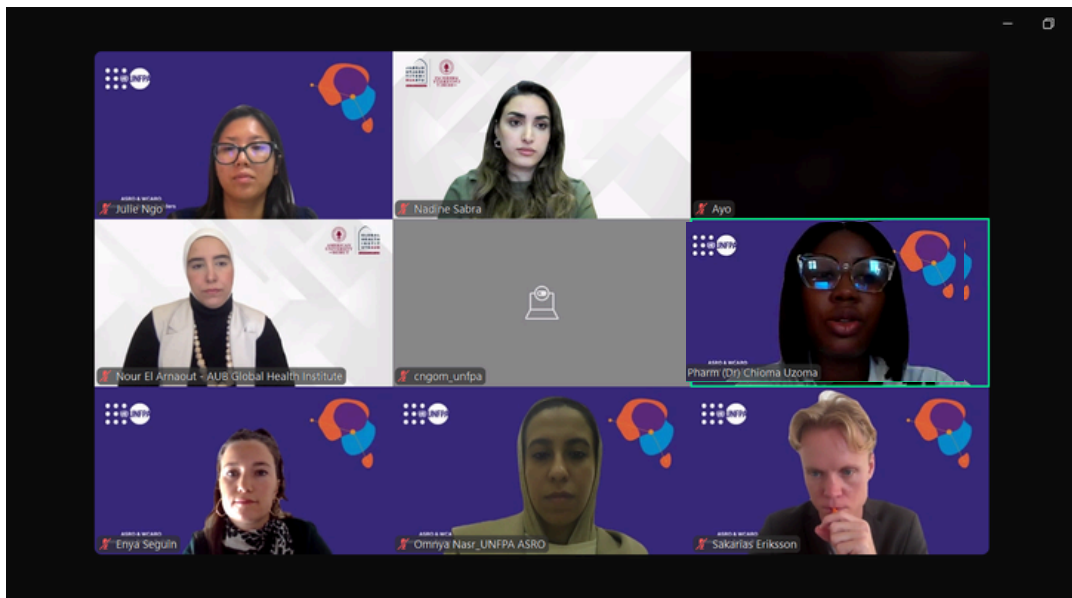
# GHI PROGRAMS

## E-SAHHA PROGRAM ESP

### **GHI and UNFPA Co-Deliver a Virtual Panel Discussion on Use of AI to Improve Sexual, Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, and Adolescent Health**

In collaboration with the UNFPA Arab States and West and Central Africa Regional Offices, the E-Sahha Program (ESP) team co-designed and facilitated a virtual panel discussion titled "**AI to Accelerate Sexual, Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, and Adolescent Health (SRMNAH).**"

This session explored the transformative role of AI in SRMNAH, showcasing examples such as the GAIN MHI and the GHAIN MENA initiatives. The discussion focused on scaling AI innovations regionally and addressing key challenges in designing AI-driven SRMNAH solutions.



[Learn more about GHI's digital health projects](#)

# GHI PROGRAMS

## CLI-HEALTH PROGRAM **CHP**

### **The Cli-Health Program Hosts its First Webinar on Geographic Information Systems Innovations for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in MENA**

*December, 2024*

The Cli-Health Program (CHP) at AUB GHI hosted its first dynamic webinar on December 5, 2024, titled “Mapping Climate Impacts on Health: Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Innovations for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the MENA Region.”

More than 150 registrants including students, academicians, scientists and representatives of non-governmental organizations signed up for the webinar from 25 different countries.

The webinar explored the transformative potential of GIS technologies in strengthening disaster preparedness, response, and resilience across the MENA region. It placed particular emphasis on applications related to hydro-meteorological hazards, emergency operations, and routine natural hazard monitoring.



[Watch the webinar](#)

“

**This event marks a key step in CHP’s mission to drive climate-informed solutions that protect health and communities worldwide.**



# GHI PROGRAMS

## EPIDEMIC AND PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM EPAPP

### EPaPP Webinar Series Builds Momentum on Regional Preparedness

*April, 2024*

EPaPP continues to build regional knowledge through its dynamic webinar series, aimed at tackling pressing health threats and advancing preparedness efforts. Following the success of the inaugural session on antimicrobial resistance, two additional webinars were held.



The second webinar, titled **“Field Lessons from Lebanon’s Cholera Response: Implications and Challenges Beyond Borders,”** brought together four key national experts. Together, they shared firsthand experiences and insights from Lebanon’s recent cholera outbreak, discussing the implications for preparedness in fragile and resource-constrained settings.

Webinar | Lessons from Lebanon’s Cholera Response

The third webinar, **“Preparedness Beyond Borders: Strengthening National and Regional Collaborations for Disaster Risk Reduction in the MENA Region”**. The session highlighted the importance of multisectoral coordination and cross-border collaboration in building resilient systems capable of responding to complex emergencies.

Webinar | Preparedness Beyond Borders

# GHI PROGRAMS

## EPIDEMIC AND PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM EPAPP

### Raising Public Awareness Amid Crisis: Health Tips During Conflict

October, 2024

In response to the ongoing conflict in Lebanon, EPaPP intensified its public health communication efforts to raise awareness on infectious disease risks amid conflict and displacement.



The program shared key prevention messages and practical guidance to minimize health risks during emergencies. A series of short educational clips featuring Dr. Abdulrahman Bizri provided accessible tips on preventing infectious disease transmission.

This timely initiative underscores EPaPP's commitment to safeguarding public health even in the most fragile settings.



**Watch | Essential Steps to Prevent Disease Spread  
Among Displaced Populations in Crisis Shelters**

# GHI PROGRAMS


## EPIDEMIC AND PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM EPAPP

### Advancing Training Through a Context-Aware Certificate

As part of its strategic goal to strengthen capacity in the Arab region, EPaPP is advancing the development of the Certificate in Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness (CEPP). This four-course, contextualized training program is designed to address the region's unique preparedness challenges through a needs-based approach.

The CEPP aims to equip learners with essential knowledge and practical skills to effectively prepare for and respond to public health emergencies.

[Learn more](#)



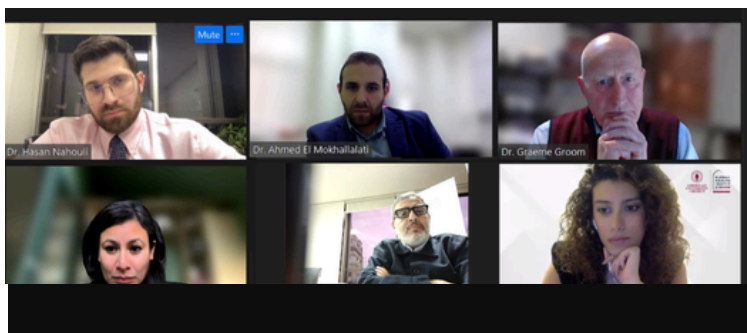
The graphic shows the title 'Certificate in Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness' and 'Four Online Courses' against a background of colorful virus particles. Below the graphic is a table with the following details:

Type	Certificate
Format	Online Asynchronous
Language	English

## CONFLICT MEDICINE PROGRAM CMP

### CMP Hosts a Webinar on Surgical Realities in War Zones

November, 2024



The Conflict Medicine Program (CMP) hosted an online panel discussion titled "Insights from the Frontlines of War: Surgeons' Experiences in Lebanon and Gaza." The webinar brought together four esteemed surgeons, Dr. Ahmed El Mokhallalati (Gaza), Dr. Graeme Groom (UK), Dr. Nada Al Hadithy (UK), and Dr. Hasan Nahouli (Lebanon), and was moderated by Dr. Ghassan Abu Sittah, Director of CMP.

The discussion offered insights into the medical, ethical, and psychological complexities of performing surgery in active conflict zones. Panelists shared firsthand experiences treating war-related injuries, highlighting how the nature and severity of trauma in conflict settings differ dramatically from peacetime practice.

[Watch here](#)

# GHI PROGRAMS

## CONFLICT MEDICINE PROGRAM **CMP**

### **CMP Publishes Review on Trauma Data in Conflict-Affected MENA Countries**

*April, 2025*

CMP recently completed a comprehensive review titled “**Review of Trauma Data in Conflict MENA Nations: An Appeal for Registry Sharing,**” accepted for publication in the Journal of Surgical Research. The paper provides a structured analysis of trauma data collection efforts across six conflict-affected countries in the MENA region: Lebanon, Gaza/West Bank, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and Libya.

The review draws on **77 clinical publications** and identifies **79 trauma datasets**, revealing that the majority of existing trauma data originates from foreign military sources. The findings highlight important gaps in local data accessibility and ownership, which limit the ability of clinicians, researchers, and policymakers in the region to evaluate trauma care practices and inform system-level improvements.



[Check out more publications](#)

### **CMP and Academy Host an Info Session on Conflict Medicine Program and Certificate in Conflict Medicine**

*March, 2025*

In collaboration with the Academy Division at the Global Health Institute (GHI), CMP hosted an information session to introduce students and early-career professionals to the work of CMP and the Certificate in Conflict Medicine (CCM).

The session provided an overview of CMP’s mission to strengthen healthcare delivery in conflict-affected settings through research, training, and advocacy.

Attendees also received details about CCM, a specialized online certificate designed to empower healthcare practitioners by advancing their skills in conducting research and delivering medical care that is contextualized to the settings of conflict and fragility.

[Watch the full session](#)

## GHI Participates in Rwanda Conference on Medical Education During Crises

*March, 2025*

As part of its continued efforts to advance conflict-related medical education, the Conflict Medicine Program (CMP) and Academy Division participated in a panel discussion at the Advancing Medical Education in Africa Conference, at Kigali in Rwanda.

The session, titled “Medical Education During Crises and Natural Disasters,” gathered academics, public health leaders, and humanitarian professionals from across the region. Representing Lebanon and Gaza, GHI shared its experience in developing and delivering conflict-contextualized medical education.

[More about CMP](#)

## GHI PROGRAMS

### REFUGEE HEALTH PROGRAM **RHP**

## RHP Team Wraps Up SEEK Intervention with Strong Community Engagement

*December, 2024*



Between September and December 2024, RHP successfully implemented the “Self-Efficacy and Knowledge (SEEK) Trial to Improve Sexual Reproductive Health and Well-Being in Humanitarian Settings” across two community-based Primary Healthcare Centers (PHCs) in Beqaa. Over the course of eight sessions, three trained Syrian paraprofessionals delivered the intervention package to participants from the experimental group, with ongoing support from the RHP research team.

Following the intervention period, endline data collection was conducted in December 2024. In January 2025, semi-structured qualitative interviews were carried out to explore post-intervention experiences and outcomes.

In February 2025, a Community Validation Workshop was held at the two participating PHCs. During the session, preliminary findings were shared with PHC directors, staff, paraprofessionals, LWCs, and participants. Their feedback helped validate the relevance and accuracy of the results in the context of community health priorities.

To assess the longer-term effects of the intervention, a follow-up data collection round was conducted in March 2025. This included both the experimental and control groups and will contribute to a comprehensive evaluation of the SEEK trial's impact.

[More about RHP](#)

## **RHP Hosts Expert Webinar on Post-War Mental Health Needs of Internally Displaced People in Lebanon**

*February, 2025*



**ONLINE WEBINAR RECORDING**

**Post-War Mental Health Considerations for  
Internally Displaced People in Lebanon**

RHP hosted an online webinar titled **“Post-War Mental Health Considerations for Internally Displaced People in Lebanon.”** The session brought together mental health professionals, researchers, and humanitarian actors to examine the profound psychological impact of conflict and displacement on affected communities. The webinar featured two leading experts in the field: Dr. Tania Bosqui, Associate Professor and Clinical Psychologist at the American University of Beirut, and Dr. Fadi Maalouf, Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychiatry at the American University of Beirut Medical Center.

Together, they unpacked the long-term mental health effects of war, focusing on the needs of internally displaced populations in Lebanon. The discussion explored evidence-based approaches to mental health and psychosocial support, and emphasized the urgent need for integrated mental health services within humanitarian response efforts.

[Watch here](#)

# GHI ACADEMY

## CAPACITY BUILDING COMPONENT

### Academy Webinar with Dr. Hachach Explores Telemedicine for War Wounds in Conflict Zones

*April, 2025*

The Academy holds a webinar about the role of telemedicine and augmented reality in the management of war wounds in conflict fragile settings through a collaboration with Dr. Nadine Hacach, the founder and CEO of Proxime.



The webinar featured a discussion about how telemedicine serves as a lifeline in conflict settings, transforming how to connect, treat, and train local providers. The webinar attracted 125 participants from 21 different countries such as Turkey, Sweden, UK, USA, Canada, Belgium, Germany, Finland, Columbia, UAE, India, Kenya, Iraq, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, among others.

[Watch the webinar](#)

## CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE ECOLOGY OF WAR **CREEW**

### CREEW Selects 2025 Fellows to Address Climate and Health in Conflict Settings

*April, 2025*



The Academy Division's **Center for Research and Education in the Ecology of War (CREEW)** selected 3 fellows for its 2025 GHI fully sponsored fellowship program with a thematic topic focused on “Preparing for Climate Change Impact on Health in Conflict Settings”.

This year’s fellows are from Afghanistan, Syria, and Lebanon, where two of them are currently working with the World Health Organization country offices. The fellows successfully completed the didactic phase of the program, which included enrolling in the Certificate in Conflict Medicine and participating in a series of workshops designed to build their research capacity, including literature review and research proposal development. Each fellow presented their proposal to the CREEW Scientific Advisory Committee and has now moved into the implementation phase of their research projects.

[More about CREEW 2025 fellows](#)



# ONLINE OFFERINGS

## HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP DIPLOMA **HLD**

### **Step Into Leadership: Join 1,000+ Humanitarian Professionals Worldwide**

More than 1,000 learners from across 70+ countries, including Egypt, Jordan, Sudan, Yemen, Somalia, Venezuela, and Portugal, have enrolled in one or more courses within the Humanitarian Leadership Diploma (HLD).

Developed by GHI and delivered through its Global Health Learning and Development (GHLAD) platform, the diploma is made up of eight self-paced online courses designed to build essential leadership skills for managing humanitarian projects in complex and challenging contexts.

[Register for the full Diploma](#)



# CERTIFICATE IN CONFLICT MEDICINE **CCM**

## More than 340 Learners Enrolled in the Certificate in Conflict Medicine

More than 560 learners from different countries including Afghanistan, Lebanon, Jordan, Qatar, Palestine, Iraq, Yemen, Syria, Switzerland, Italy, United Kingdom, United States, among others, have taken part in the Certificate in Conflict Medicine (CCM).

CCM is a program by GHI designed to equip healthcare professionals and students with the knowledge and tools to provide care in settings affected by conflict and fragility. It consists of four online self-paced courses delivered via GHI's online learning platform, the Global Health Learning and Development (GHLAD) platform. Tailored for medical, nursing, pharmacy, and allied health professionals, CCM empowers learners to deliver context-sensitive, evidence-based healthcare where it's needed most.



### See what the learners had to say about the certificate:

#### **Yomn Rafaela Naji**

The course provided interesting information about cancer in Lebanon. It provides important resources for researchers, physicians, and NGOs interested in research and funding pertaining to cancer.

#### **Fatima Khalil**

The course was a positive learning experience. Clear objectives and relevant content kept me engaged. The course met my expectations and I appreciate the effort invested.

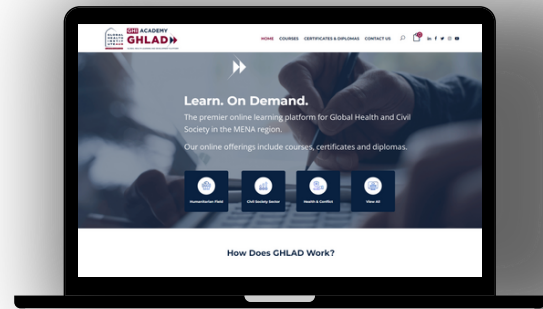
[More about the Certificate](#)

[Enroll now](#)

# GLOBAL HEALTH LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT PLATFORM GHLAD

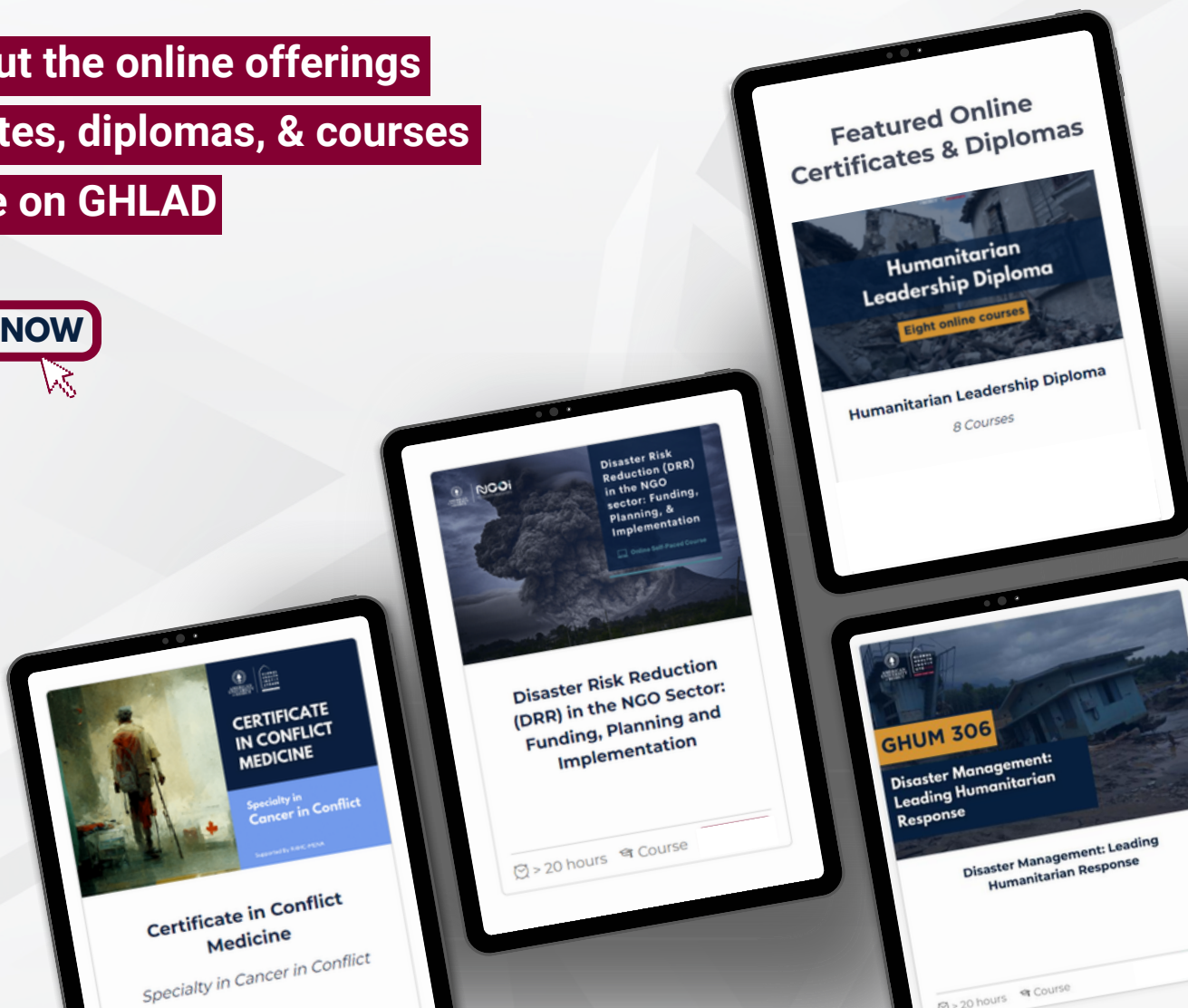
## With Over 3,385 Learners from 71 Countries, GHLAD is Transforming Global Health Education

The Global Health Learning and Development Platform (GHLAD), launched by the Academy Division, is providing self-paced, online training to professionals worldwide. To date, more than 3,385 learners from 71 countries have accessed over 50 diverse courses focused on humanitarian response, health in conflict, and civil society. Offering flexible, contextualized education, GHLAD empowers learners to advance their knowledge at their own pace.



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

[REGISTER NOW](#)



# GHI ASSIST

## NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS INITIATIVE NGOI

### Four Egyptian and Tunisian Non-Governmental Organizations Become 'AUB-Certified' Through NGOi's Organizational Certification

November - December, 2024



After successful fulfillment of NGOi's organizational certification requirements, 'National Foundation for Peace, Development and Human Rights', 'Selima', 'Attalaki Organization' and 'African Association for Geospatial Development' became AUB-certified NGOs. The certified NGOs underwent an organizational development process with NGOi supported by the Asfari Foundation and Ford Foundation following which they were awarded the NGOi Organizational Certification.

NGOi's Organizational Certification is valid for 2 years, after which the certified organization can choose to undergo a re-certification.

[Learn more about how to become an AUB-certified NGO](#)

### NGOi Showcases Civil Society's Role in Times of Crisis Through a Special Panel Series

December, 2024

In the midst of Lebanon's escalating situation, NGOi launched a panel series titled 'The Civil Society Sector in Lebanon: A Beacon of Hope' dedicated to highlighting the vital role of civil society in responding to the crisis.

The series brought together various civil society actors, including NGOs/CSOs and individuals working on the ground, experts from the field, and representatives of donor agencies, among others.

The series kicked off with a webinar titled “Civil Society Response to the Conflict in Lebanon: Considerations & Success Factors,” which explored the key steps for a successful response to the crisis from experts in the field.



Following this, the second webinar, “Civil society response to the conflict in Lebanon: Data from Local

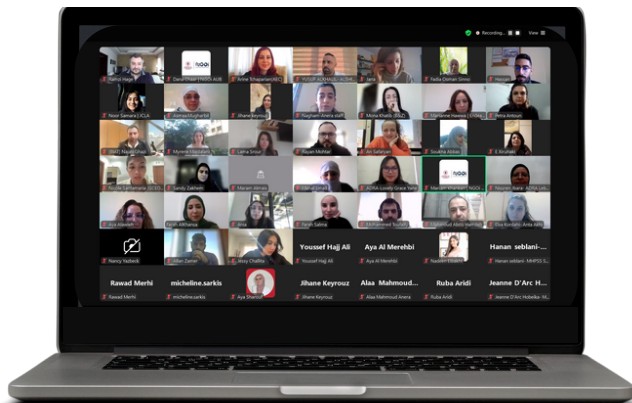
Organizations”, featured key speakers from Lebanese local civil society organizations highlighting the implications of the crisis in Lebanon on key areas, including education, mental health, cancer care, migrant workers, gender-based violence, and basic emergency needs.

[Watch NGOi Webinar Panel 1](#)

[Watch NGOi Webinar Panel 2](#)

## **NGOi Builds the Capacity of NGOs Staff on Proposal Writing & Business Development for NGOs through 4-Day Online Synchronous Course**

*January, 2025*



NGOi initiated its 2025 capacity building schedule with a course on “Proposal Writing & Business Development for NGOs”, delivered online during the month of January 2025.

The course spanned across a period of 4 days and provided participants with the knowledge and skills needed to craft compelling proposals. More than 60 individuals from more than 35 organizations across 7 countries engaged in interactive team-based work sessions and discussions.

The participants were able receive exclusive insights from a special guest speaker, Ms. Roula Abbas, an expert in evaluating NGO proposals on EU committees.

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

## NGOi Launches its Operations in Algeria, Qatar, and Kurdistan-Iraq

February, 2025



As part of the Arab Alliance for Civil Society Organization Development (AACSO) flagship program, AUB NGoI expanded its operations to Algeria, Qatar, and Kurdistan-Iraq. AACSO provides services to CSOs across the Arab world, aiming to upskill and institutionally strengthen the CSO sector.

With the aim to standardize the operations of AACSO across all areas of operations, NGoI organized a workshop at AUB, bringing together national experts who will be engaged with the program over the coming years in the three areas of operations. The national experts will support and guide fifteen CSOs in Algeria, Qatar, and Kurdistan-Iraq throughout their institutional strengthening journey.

The training aimed to introduce the national experts to their role and responsibilities as part of the AACSO program and to onboard and align them with AACSO strategy.

[Listen to the Regional & National Experts about their engagement](#)

[Learn more about AACSO](#)

# 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](mailto:ghi@aub.edu.lb) with the subject "South of Global Health Blog Entry".

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**FEATURED**

**EXPERT**



# EXPERT IN THE LENS

## CORE EXPERT PROFILE



### **Dr. Kenza Khomsi**

*Climate, Air Quality and Environmental Health Expert*

*Scientific Advisor*

*UN & Multilateral Engagement Leader*

**Dr. Kenza Khomsi** is a distinguished expert in climate change, air quality, and environmental health, with over two decades of experience at the intersection of science, policy, and multilateral collaboration. Her work focuses on advancing climate-resilient urban systems, public health protection, and evidence-based environmental governance, particularly across Africa and the MENA region.

She currently chairs the Expert Team on Integrated Urban Services (ET-URB) under the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), leading global efforts to strengthen city-level climate services and decision-making tools. Her leadership supports the integration of weather, climate, air quality, and hydrological services into urban planning and public health responses. In Morocco, she serves as the National Coordinator of the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) at the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), where she plays a key role in supporting the country's transition to a sustainable, inclusive, and low-carbon economy through cross-sectoral coordination and strategic policy engagement.

In addition to her roles at WMO and UNIDO, Dr. Khomsi is active on several global expert groups. She is a member of the Scientific Advisory Group for the WMO Global Greenhouse Gas Watch and the WMO Capacity Building Expert Team on Atmospheric Composition. She has also contributed to the WMO's work on health and urban services as a member of SERCOM/SC-DRR, and served as national focal point for the Global Atmosphere Watch and health-related climate services.

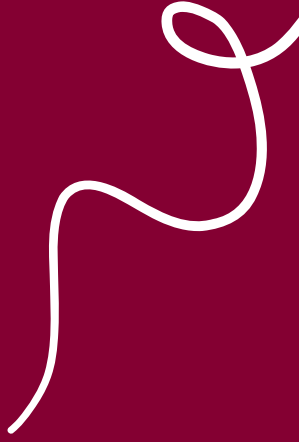
Since 2021, she has been a member of the Scientific Advisory Panel of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), contributing to the Coalition's action on short-lived climate pollutants. She also represents North Africa in the Africa Clean Air Programme, and in 2024, joined the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Global Methane Hub, supporting the development of tools to monitor and reduce methane emissions. Alongside her advisory work, Dr. Khomsi is committed to education and capacity building. She is Associate Faculty at Mohammed VI University of Sciences and Health and has mentored students and professionals through teaching roles at several institutions.

“Protecting health in a changing climate is not only a scientific challenge—it's a moral imperative. Our resilience depends on bridging evidence, equity, and action across borders and disciplines.”

*Dr. Kenza Khomsi*

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# FEATURED GHI'ERS



# GHI WELCOMES NEW STAFF



**Khaled El Iskandarani, MPH**  
Research Assistant, E-Sahha Program

*"I am a public health professional seeking to contribute to global health efforts in making health more accessible for all."*

Khaled is the research assistant for the E-Sahha Program. During his previous work experiences, he has successfully contributed to multiple projects related to sexual and reproductive health, antimicrobial resistance, and refugee health. Khaled graduated from the American University of Beirut with Master of Public Health degree and a certificate of public health in conflicts and protracted crises.



**Dalia Sarieddine, MPH**  
Coordination Officer, Non-Governmental Organizations Initiative

*"Driving meaningful change in public health starts with strengthening the systems that serve communities; sustainably, equitably, and with purpose."*

Dalia Sarieddine joined the Non-Governmental Organizations Initiative (NGOi) at GHI, as a coordination officer, where she supports the operational implementation of NGOi's projects and activities. She previously held a project coordinator role with GHI's Refugee Health Program and Academy Division. Dalia holds a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree and a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics - Coordinated Program from the American University of Beirut. She is both a US Registered Dietitian and licensed dietitian in Lebanon. Her professional experience spans public health research, project coordination, and Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL).



**Jaafar Tfayli**  
Research Assistant, Cli-Health Program

*"Driven by purpose and passion, I navigate public health challenges to create innovative solutions with a lasting impact."*

Jaafar is a passionate advocate for youth engagement, public health, and humanitarian aid, with a strong background in emergency response, healthcare, and community engagement. Holding a Bachelor's in Medical Laboratory Technology and pursuing a Master of Public Health. Through leadership, resilience, and purpose-driven action, he strives to create sustainable solutions and lasting impact on global health and humanitarian efforts.



**Rawad Malaeb, ME**  
Program Manager, Refugee Health Program

*"Empowering communities starts with strengthening research systems to address local needs and implementing contextualized solutions that drive evidence-based policymaking."*

Rawad is a dedicated Program Manager with experience in the humanitarian, development, and capacity building sectors. He has managed several multi-sector programs focused on refugee wellbeing, education, and livelihood. Rawad is passionate about systems strengthening and creating impactful partnerships by developing sustainable solutions that improve programs effectiveness and community resilience. He holds a Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering, with wide research experience and data analytics skills. He is committed to enhancing evidence-based policymaking to improve access to critical health services for marginalized and displaced populations.

# GHI WELCOMES NEW INTERNS



## **Hanan Nader**

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

Hanan Nader joined the GHI Internship Program to gain hands-on experience in global health. Her time at GHI provided a dynamic and enriching environment, allowing her to contribute to capacity-building efforts, support business development, and manage databases, gaining valuable insights into health programs.



## **Nasri Daher**

**Master's Degree in Food Safety, American University of Beirut, Lebanon**

Nasri joined the GHI Internship Program to enhance his expertise in the field of Social Media and Communication. As a holder of a MS in Food Safety, Nasri believes in the importance of food safety as an essential part of public health. And he is eager to use his knowledge in social media and design to promote awareness in his field of study.



## **Dima Mrad**

**Bachelor of Science in Biology, Lebanese American University**

Dima joined the GHI Internship Program to gain practical experience in the Global Health field. She supported the Academy division's capacity-building efforts and contributed to business development and database management, gaining insight into health programs.

## APPLY TO GHI INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



# WORD IN THE LENS



“ There is no stronger argument for climate action than health; and there is no stronger motivation for climate action than the health of our children. ”

- **Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** -  
Director-General, WHO



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