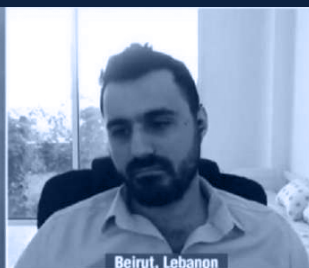




معهد الصحة العالمية

LENS

GLOBAL HEALTH INSTITUTE E-NEWSLETTER



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Vol 4 - Issue 3
December 2021

Message from the Founding Director



Dear LENS readers,

Health inequities that specifically affect women remain large and unjustifiable. Despite the significant global progress, women's health is still at risk with a considerable proportion lacking access to basic health services, especially in low- and middle-income countries.

The strong belief that the health of women and girls determines the health and well-being of communities led us at GHI to initiate and support different initiatives over the past few years that aim at strengthening and empowering women to play a more active role in the wellbeing of their communities, with a focus on women's health. This work spans across our three divisions: Programs, Academy and ASSIST.

In light of this, we wanted to dedicate this issue of the LENS to highlight women's health as a core global health agenda. The issue includes highlights of GHI's efforts and initiatives, an example of which is the Mobile University for Health (MUH) initiative that focuses on training female community health workers on priority health topics including women's health, mental health, psychosocial support, and non-communicable diseases. More recently, MUH launched its Community of Practice (COP) component that engages women and girls in practical approaches to enhance their health, and that of their communities.

MUH is a flagship initiative at GHI among a rich portfolio of research, capacity building and community-based activities that reflect our commitment to women's health as a core area of focus. For us at GHI, this commitment is a moral and professional obligation especially in a region where most women face considerable challenges to seek and receive basic rights, including health.

On another front, this last quarter witnessed a key event for GHI. The Sijilli project which GHI launched in 2017 has been featured in a dedicated documentary by BBC as part of the Way Forward campaign launched by the NCD Alliance. I encourage all of you to visit our social media platform to watch that inspiring documentary and share with us your comments and feedback.

As always, you will find this issue rich with initiatives and projects that our wonderful and dedicated GHI colleagues have been working on. I encourage you to get updated on what we have been working on, and more importantly engage with us.

With our active social media platforms, GHI and its teams are a click away!

Shadi Saleh



ISMAIL AL-CHEIKHLI (1924 - 2002)
Untitled, Acrylic on canvas, Unframed 64 x 79.5 cm
(Courtesy of Ramzi & Saeda Dalloul Art Foundation)

Ismail Al-Cheikhli is a pioneer of modern Iraqi art and has dedicated his life to promoting art and culture across Iraq and the wider Arab world. He painted women in simplified form and figures, caught in a generic action associated with their daily lives.

Al-Cheikhli's colorful, vibrant and dynamic depictions of women in their natural cultural environment, utilized themes and motifs of everyday living typically used by Iraqi artists at that time, such as watermelons, clothing, and oval-shaped faces.

His works have been exhibited worldwide and have contributed to placing Iraqi art on the international stage. Both he and his wife Suzanne, also a talented artist, have exhibited as members of the Pioneers Group of artists.

Highlights

The E-Sahha Program Looks into Scaling Up Its Flagship Project 'Sijilli' in a Strategic Roundtable Discussion



CMP Director Goes on a Mission to Assess the Trauma Pathway in South Yemen



MUH Launches Its Community of Practice Component



NGOi Launches a Self-Paced Online Version of the "Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning for NGOs" in Both English & Arabic



E-SAHHA PROGRAM ESP

The E-Sahha Program Looks into Scaling Up Its Flagship Project 'Sijilli' in a Strategic Roundtable Discussion

October 2021



As part of the Sijilli project, the ESP team has created cloud-based electronic health records for more than 10,000 refugees across Lebanon in the years 2019-2020. The Sijilli project, which was launched as a response to the increasing need of refugees to securely access their health information throughout their migration journey, served as the focus of a strategic roundtable discussion held at AUB on October 28, 2021.



The event brought together ambassadors, representatives of embassies, and heads of delegations, in addition to representatives of UN organizations and funding agencies, in the presence of Dr. Fadlo Khuri, AUB president. Attendees engaged in a fruitful discussion, moderated by Dr. Shadi Saleh, GHI's founding director, on the potential for scalability of the Sijilli project, taken into consideration the context-specific design of the Sijilli model, its possibility for replication in different low-resource settings, and its applicability to different populations, be it refugees or other disadvantaged groups.

The event also featured a short film on Sijilli titled "A Story of How

Technology Can Give Promise of Better Health for Refugees" produced by BBC StoryWorks for GHI, and presented by NCD Alliance.

[READ HERE THE FULL EVENT STORY](#)

[KNOW MORE ABOUT SIJILLI](#)

[WATCH THE SHORT FILM ON SIJILLI](#)

The E-Sahha Program Generates New Evidence on The Prevalence of NCDs Among Refugees Based on the Sijilli Database

October 2021

Saleh et al. *Conf Health* (2021) 13:77
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s13031-021-00411-3>

Conflict and Health

RESEARCH

Open Access

Prevalence of non-communicable diseases and associated medication use among Syrian refugees in Lebanon: an analysis of country-wide data from the Sijilli electronic health records database

Shadi Saleh^{1,2}, Lina Abdouni¹, Hani Dimassi³, Dana Nabulsi¹, Ranime Harb³, Zeinab Jammoul¹, Noha Hachach^{1*} and Nour El Arnaout^{1*}

ESP published new evidence on the prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) among refugees in a recently released research article titled "Prevalence of non-communicable diseases and associated medication use

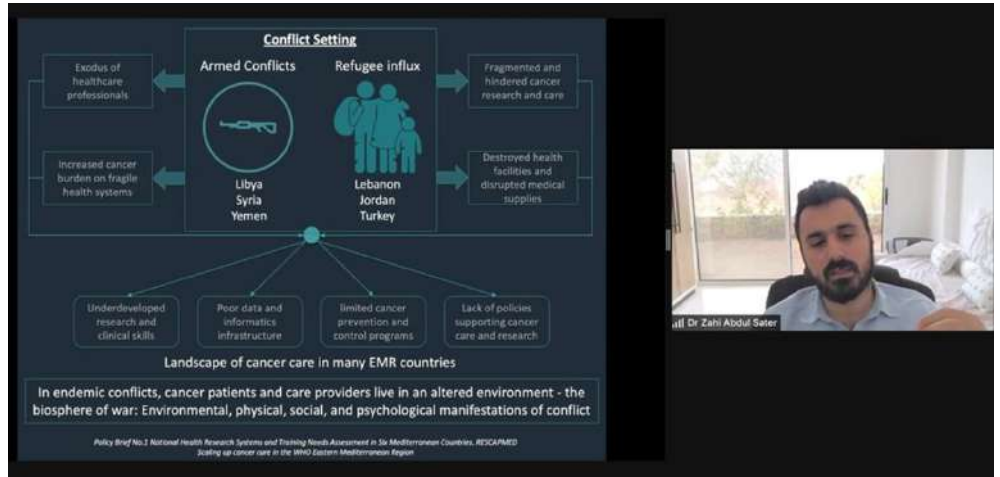
among Syrian refugees in Lebanon: an analysis of country-wide data from the Sijilli electronic health records database".

The article which was published in the Journal of Conflict and Health draws on data from the Sijilli database that includes health information on more than 10,000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon, gathered through primary data collection by the ESP team between July 2018 and January 2020. The paper focuses primarily on the prevalence of hypertension, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and cancer among Syrian refugees in Lebanon, and explores factors related to the prevalence of these conditions.

The research study also addresses medication use associated with these morbidities among refugees, and interestingly highlights a gender gap observed at this level based on the migration journey.

[READ THE FULL RESEARCH ARTICLE HERE](#)

CMP Participates in the London Global Cancer Week
November 2021



As part of the London Global Cancer week 14-19 November 2021, the GHI Programs Division Manager and Coordinator of the Conflict Medicine Program, Dr. Zahi Abdul-Sater, gave a presentation on “Cancer Care in Humanitarian Setting”.

The presentation, which was part of a panel on “Cancer control in the context of COVID 19 in the Eastern Mediterranean Region”, highlighted how conflicts dismantle the health infrastructure that is essential for cancer care provision. The panel comprised cancer expert from the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR), including Dr. Deborah Mukherji, a Co-principal investigator (coPI) on the Research for Health in Conflict (R4HC) project.

CMP Director Goes on a Mission to Assess the Trauma Pathway in South Yemen

October 2021



The director of the Conflict Medicine Program, Dr. Ghassan Abu-Sittah, went on a mission as part of the World Health Organization (WHO) Trauma Operational and Advisory Team (TOpAT) to assess the trauma pathway in South Yemen. The WHO TOpAT is the nucleus of the WHO effort to look at trauma as a disease load in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR).

Hence, the mission was tasked with looking at the whole of the trauma pathway from the pre-hospital care through to emergency care, emergency surgery, reconstructive surgery and then finally rehabilitation and mental health, which constitutes around 50% of total hospital admissions in Yemen.

CONFLICT MEDICINE PROGRAM CMP

The aims of these missions are to strengthen trauma management systems and contribute to the resilience of disrupted health systems in the region to improve health outcomes.



CMP Coordinator Speaks to Arirang TV News About COVID-19 Situation in Lebanon

October 2021

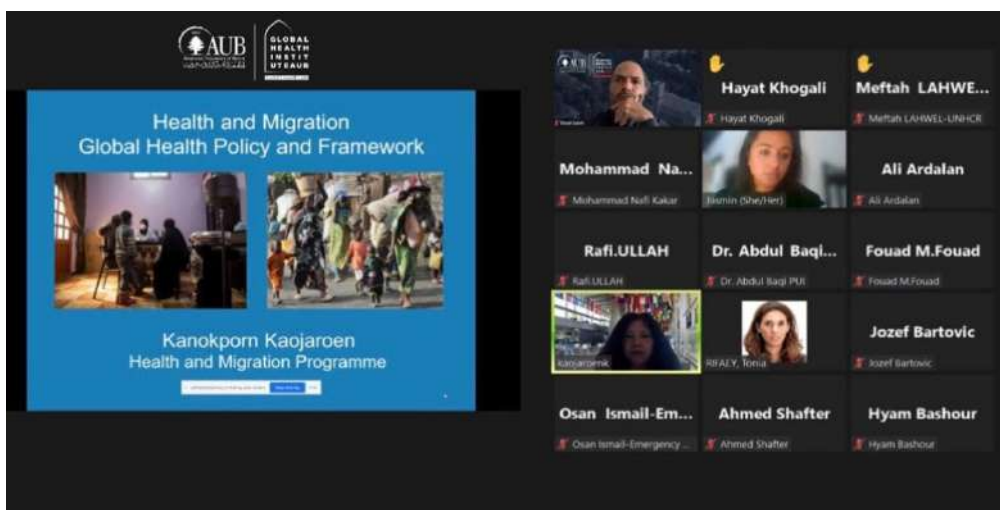


The coordinator of the Conflict Medicine Program, Dr. Zahi Abdul-Sater, spoke to Arirang tv news about the COVID-19 situation in Lebanon, which was exacerbated by the economic and political instability. During his interview, Dr. Abdul-Sater highlighted how GHI responded to the COVID-19 pandemic through creating the COVAM dashboard, an epidemiological dashboard providing important updates on the trajectory of the pandemic in the Arab World.

REFUGEE HEALTH PROGRAM RHP

RHP Completes the Second and Third Training on Refugees and Migrants' Health in Partnership with WHO Eastern Mediterranean Office

August 2021



In partnership with the World Health Organization Eastern Mediterranean Office (WHO EMRO), the Refugee Health Program (RHP) has delivered the 'Training on Refugees and Migrants' Health' three times throughout 2021. The training aimed to share knowledge and promote evidence-informed

and best practice interventions that are required for advancement of Universal Health Coverage, inclusion, and social cohesion, as well as preparing for and responding to emergencies in the context of refugees and migrants in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR). The renewal of this partnership comes following the success of the first training, where 40 health experts, academics, government officials, and UN staff members completed the five-day training synchronously through GHI's Platform. Accordingly, two additional training courses were completed in 2021, the second training held in September and third training held in November, receiving over 200 and 100 applicants, respectively.

A total of 68 and 86 health experts, academics, government officials, and United Nations (UN) staff members, completed the second and third training course, respectively.

RHP Publishes 'When Refugees Care for Refugees in Lebanon' in the Journal of Medical Anthropology Theory

September 2021

The RHP co-director, Dr. Fouad M. Fouad, has recently published a research paper entitled 'When Refugees Care for Refugees in Lebanon' in the Journal of Medical Anthropology Theory.

This paper explores how clinical encounters characterized by shared histories of displacement can inform humanitarian medicine.

The study reveals how displaced healthcare workers cope with uncertainty, documents how displaced healthcare workers expand the category of 'appropriate care' to take into account the economic and safety challenges faced by patients and locates the category of 'informality' within a complex landscape of myriad actors in Lebanon.



RHP Participates in 'The Global Forum on Humanitarian Health Research'

November 2021

GLOBAL FORUM ON HUMANITARIAN HEALTH RESEARCH (GFH2R)

INTERSECTIONAL VULNERABILITY IN HUMANITARIAN CRISES

9 NOVEMBER 2021



GFH2R is supported by IDRC, UK MRC, Wellcome Trust, and NIH

The RHP co-director, Dr. Fouad M. Fouad, has participated in the 'The Global Forum on Humanitarian Health Research (GFH2R)' from November 15 till 18, as a member of steering committee, a co-chair in a session on 'Intersectional vulnerability in humanitarian crises', and 'Meet the expert' session. The forum seeks to bring researchers and humanitarian organizations together to share experiences and promote collaboration around health research in humanitarian settings.

MUH Conducts Another Cohort in Beirut

September 2021



The capacity-building component of the Mobile University for Health (MUH) is the educational arm by which MUH provides health related certificates that focus on priority health topics, aiming to build the knowledge and skills of female refugees and host community. Therefore, graduating women become equipped to overtake an active role in the delivery of accurate health related information and activities within their communities.

MUH has delivered three certificates, the Women's Health Certificate, the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Certificate and the Non-Communicable Diseases Certificate, to more than 40 women from the Syrian and Lebanese communities in different areas in Lebanon.

Lastly, GHI MUH delivered the Non-Communicable Diseases Certificate to 14 women in Beirut, Lebanon, in collaboration with Besme Co. International Group for Humanitarian Assistance.

MUH Launches Its Community of Practice Component

September 2021



A community-based intervention component of the Mobile University for Health, was launched in August 2021, through which MUH fosters a community of practice among its graduates in vulnerable settings. As such, the MUH graduates would shift from being learners to being community health workers, providing community-based solutions within the areas in which they reside.

To date, 20 graduates of the Women's Health Certificate from Ouzai, Miniara, Bar Elias and Bourj Hammoud were employed for a period of 4 months to lead events that were prepared, supported and supervised by the GHI team.

These 20 community health workers covered over 21 topics, with key community-based interventions including but not limited to diabetes, breast cancer, mental health and gender-based violence, osteoporosis and obesity, and reached over 350 beneficiaries that attended the events.

HLD Adopts a Completely Asynchronous Learning Modality

August 2021



The Humanitarian Leadership Diploma (HLD) empowers the humanitarian workforce by providing relevant knowledge and skills to address humanitarian disasters based on the identification of the key competencies needed in humanitarian settings.

The diploma adopts a completely asynchronous learning modality and consists of eight online courses that are available on the Global Health

Learning and Development (GHLAD) platform, GHI's online learning platform. The learner may choose to complete one course or the entire diploma.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE DIPLOMA](#)

Evaluation of Capacity Building Initiatives (eCAP) Publishes 2 Papers and a Case Study

As part of the GHI Academy, the eCAP initiative aims to assess the effectiveness and impact of innovative learning modalities in global health capacity building at the individual, organizational, and community levels.

Due to the urgency for improving the performance of health workers in the MENA region, there is a need to develop a framework for best practices to support the design and implementation of future capacity building initiatives, given the scarcity of this information in fragile settings.

As such, systematic reviews that aimed to assess and evaluate global health capacity building initiatives present in the region have been conducted, and accordingly two papers have been published. A case study that evaluated the impact of the Mobile University for Health for community workers was published as well.

Most recently, a scoping review of the challenges, strengths, and recommendations of health research capacity building of health workers was published.

GHI's Academy Launches the CREEW 2023 Fellowship Program

November 2021

The Global Health Institute (GHI), in partnership with the Naef K. Bassile Cancer Institute (NKBCI), announced a call for applications for the 2023 fellowship program on November 15, 2021, with a thematic topic focused on "Cancer in Conflict".

CREEW is the center of global knowledge in frontline research capacity building in the ecology of war. One of the core activities of CREEW is a fellowship program, which aims to equip frontline health practitioners working in conflict settings with the necessary skills that would enable them to conduct research into the relationship between health and war.

The fellowship program, which spans one year, will adopt a variety of innovative learning approaches including face-to-face and distance learning. Upon completion of the program, the CREEW fellow will be awarded two certificates: a CREEW 2023 certificate of completion and an online Certificate in Conflict Medicine.

Ten fellows will be selected to go through a one-year program that includes training in research methods and best practices for conducting research in conflict setting. Fellows will then be paired with mentors, chosen for their expertise in the field, who will guide them through the entire research process—from data collection to publication.

LEARN MORE AND APPLY



Center for Research and Education in the Ecology of War (CREEW) Fellowship Class of 2023

Application Deadline January 31, 2022
Fellowship start date: May 1, 2022

Didactic Phase



Online certificate in
conflict medicine (8 weeks)
On-campus training (2 weeks)

**Field-Based Mentored
Research Phase**



Up to 32 weeks

**Research Dissemination
Phase**



Up to 8 weeks

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS INITIATIVE NGOi

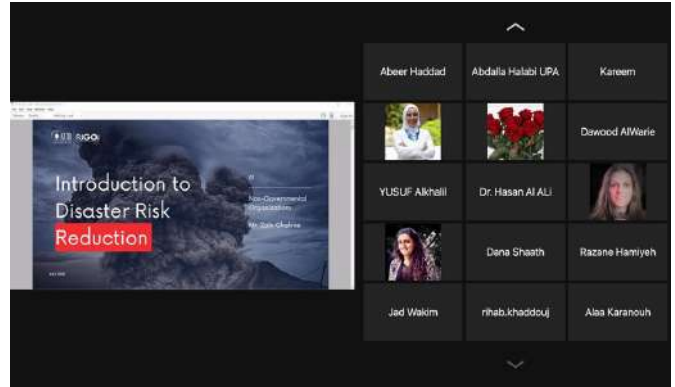
NGOi Builds Capacity of NGOs Operating in MENA Region on Disaster Risk

July 2021

As part of its capacity building activities, the Non-Governmental Organizations Initiative (NGOi) offered last July an online synchronous course on “Disaster Risk Reduction for NGOs”.

The course which spanned across the period of 4 days attracted attendees from various NGOs operating in the Middle East and North Africa Region including Palestine and Yemen. The course focused on concepts, mechanisms, processes, and best practices in disaster risk reduction, and the role of NGOs in the latter.

Despite its online format, the course was characterized by its dynamic approach of delivery that enhanced the learning experience of the attendees which were highly engaged in group work and scenario-based case studies.

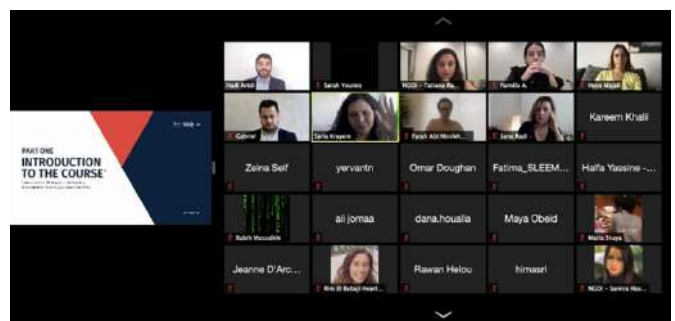


[LEARN MORE ABOUT NGOi COURSES](#)

NGOi Introduces NGOs to Communication Strategies and Essentials of Reporting to Donors Through a 4-Day Online Training

September 2021

Many NGOs in Lebanon and the MENA region achieve exceptional work and implement successful projects; yet find it challenging to effectively disseminate information about their work to their key stakeholders including beneficiaries and donors.



To address the latter, NGOi offered a 4-day online synchronous course on “Communication Strategies in the New Era & Essentials of Reporting to Donors for NGOs”. The course equipped the participants with skills needed to plan, implement, and evaluate communication activities including communication campaigns.

The course also focused on effective reporting strategies and best practices of reporting to donors. Participants were able to apply the knowledge gained through hands-on exercises and activities.

LEARN MORE ABOUT NGOi COURSES

Al-Shifaa for Medical and Humanitarian Services Receives NGOi's Organizational Certification

August 2021



After successful fulfillment of NGOi's organizational certification requirements, "Al-Shifaa for Medical and Humanitarian Services" received NGOi's Silver certification.

The certification ceremony took place at AUB in the presence of the management team of the certified NGO, who engaged with the NGOi team in a fruitful discussion on opportunities for performance improvement and institutional strengthening.

"Al-Shifaa for Medical and Humanitarian Services" is a Lebanese non-governmental organization supporting the community through the provision of healthcare, medical, and humanitarian services.



The road to organizational certification includes a self-assessment and an audit process that assesses the organization's procedures and systems in place across 10 different standards considered as core for NGOs management. The certification process promotes the organizational systems-thinking mindset and fosters a culture of continuous improvement within the organization.

LEARN MORE ON HOW TO BECOME A CERTIFIED NGO

NGOi Launches a Self-Paced Online Version of the “Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning for NGOs” in Both English & Arabic

October 2021

With an attempt to make contextualized knowledge accessible to all NGOs operating in the MENA region, NGOi has recently launched an online asynchronous version of its “Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and



Learning (MEAL) for NGOs” course. The course is accessible to all learners via GHI’s online learning platform and is available in both English and Arabic.

The course is designed to help professionals working or interested in the NGO sector develop the skills needed to effectively design, plan, and manage MEAL programs for NGOs.

MEAL is intended to help program managers to plan for monitoring the progress of activity implementation against planned targets, evaluating progress toward expected results, and utilizing this information to continuously learn, adapt, and report to stakeholders.

[CHECK THE ENGLISH VERSION OF THE COURSE](#)

[CHECK THE ARABIC VERSION OF THE COURSE](#)

“South of Global Health” Blog

GHI's blog, 'South of Global Health' encompasses more than 30 published articles on a variety of intersectional health-related issues. Since its inception, the blog has published articles on refugee health needs, health in conflict, mental and telemental health, gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual reproductive health, communicable and non-communicable diseases and health systems. Submitting scholars hail from the American University of Beirut, War Child Holland, Medical Aid for Palestinians, University of Chester, German University of Cairo, Syria Public Health Network, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, Lancet Migration, University of Cambridge, University College London and the Research for Health in Conflict Group.



The real impact of disastrous medicine shortages in Lebanon

 Nadine Jawad  December 3, 2021

"I take twelve medicines. Medicine for my heart, medicine for..."



COVID-19 Vaccination: Time for Boosting

 Malak Kaddoura and Lubna Jaber  November 17, 2021

Background The spread of viral diseases causing respiratory illnesses continues...

[READ MORE](#)

**SOUTH OF
GLOBAL
HEALTH**

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 APA as its referencing style.

Kindly submit all entries at ghi@aub.edu.lb or tf18@aub.edu.lb with the subject “South of Global Health Blog Entry”.

Expert in the LENS

CORE EXPERT PROFILE

FAYSAL H. EL KAK

Immediate Past Vice President-
International Federation
Gynecology Obstetrics (FIGO)

Senior Lecturer- HPCH- FHS- AUB

Clinical Associate and Director of
Women Integrated Sexual Health
(WISH)

Program-Dept OBGYN- AUBMC



Dr. Faysal El Kak is a clinical Associate of Obstetrics and Gynecology Sexual health and Director of Women Integrated Sexual Health (WISH) Program, Department of OBGYN, at the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC). He is also a senior Lecturer of Health Behavior and Sexuality, at the Faculty of Health Sciences, at AUB, and an immediate Past Vice President of the Federation International Gynecology Obstetrics (FIGO).

He is involved in providing integrated OBGYN clinical services, teaching and training of residents and medical students, as well as providing academic work and research related to women's health, sexual health, and public health practice.

Dr. El Kak is the Director of Women Integrated Sexual Health (WISH) Program, Department of OBGYN, at the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC), providing specific services to reproductive and sexual health of youth and women across their life, postmenopausal, in cancer survivorship, post- surgery, and postpartum.

As a researcher, he is involved and co- lead research on maternal health, sexual and reproductive health, violence against women, refugee health, and COVID-19 in pregnancy, currently involved in internationally- funded research projects on violence among refugees, maternal health, and sexual health.

He has over 50 publications, book chapters, couple of books related to sexual, reproductive, and maternal health.

Dr. El Kak is featured regularly in local and regional newspapers and media on international and local women's health issues.

During his career, he held several positions and had professional affiliations, most notably a member of the Global Advisory Board on Sexual Health and Wellness (GABSHAW), past president of the Federation of Arab Gynecology Obstetrics Society (FAGOS), member of the advisory board of the World Association of Sexual health (WAS)/Chair of Middle East Sexual Health Committee, chair of the technical committee on COVID-19 and pregnancy at the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH), coordinator of the National Committee on Safe Motherhood at the MOPH, member of the editorial board of Sexual Reproductive Health Matters (SRHM) at the Journal of Sexual Medicine and Journal of Saudi Society of OBGYN, and a consultant to WHO and UNFPA (Technical SRHR Advisor).

“ Societies and communities will not progress and prosper unless they consider women and women's health as a fundamental and essential element of their wellbeing ”

Dr Faysal El Kak

GHI Welcomes New Staff



Malak Kaddoura, RPh, MSc

Research Associate, Conflict Medicine Program
CREEW Coordinator, GHI Academy

"I am a pharmacist and a researcher, dedicating my skills to coordinate health-related research projects in conflict settings".

Malak is a research associate for the Conflict Medicine Program and CREEW coordinator at GHI Academy. She is a registered pharmacist with a Master's degree in pharmacology and toxicology. After completing her Bachelor's studies at the Lebanese International University (LIU), she was enrolled in a Master's program at the Lebanese University (LU). Her Master's project was done in collaboration with the American University of Beirut (AUB). Prior to joining GHI, she worked as a research assistant in a virology laboratory at AUB and has published five papers till now.



Rasha Kaloti, MSc

Research Associate, Conflict Medicine Program

"I am passionate about exploring the social and political determinants of health, particularly in conflict settings".

Rasha holds a Master's degree in global health and development from University College London (UCL). She has worked on developing public health programs with multiple non-governmental organizations in the United Kingdom and her home country of Palestine. She has also worked as a researcher with various academic institutions in the Arab region. Rasha has a particular interest in the intersection between conflict, migration and health.



Deeb Al Turk, BS

Junior Web Developer

"A web developer driven by curiosity toward software development."

Deeb holds a Bachelor's degree in computer science from the Global University in Lebanon. He joined GHI as a junior web developer. During his previous work experience he gained skills in web developing, and improved his knowledge in software implementation and development.



Tracy Daou, MSc

Research Assistant, eCAP program

"Empowering disadvantaged communities is the pillar for advancing the provision of sustainable healthcare services".

Tracy is the research assistant for the eCAP program at GHI Academy. Her work in research focuses on evaluating the effectiveness of global health capacity building initiatives in conflict settings, and in low- and middle-income countries. She contributed to several scientific papers related to the fields of nutrition and psychology. Tracy graduated from the Lebanese American University with a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition & Dietetics Coordinated Program, and a minor in Psychology. She also holds a Master of Science in Nutrition from the same university, and is a licensed dietitian in Lebanon.

GHI Welcomes New Interns



Samya El Sayed

American University of Beirut, Lebanon

Samya is a medical student at the American University of Beirut. During her studies, she appreciated the exposure to different concepts in global health, especially ones that are relevant to the MENA region. She joined the GHI internship program to learn about conflict medicine. Samya had the chance to collaborate on the certificate that CREEW is working on to shed light on how healthcare workers need or are forced to adapt to certain conditions in conflict settings. She also got the chance to work on a review on the situation of AMR in Iraq.



Mariam Hassoun

American University of Beirut, Lebanon

Mariam holds a Bachelor's degree in Public Health from Phoenicia University, and is pursuing her Master's in food safety at the American University of Beirut. This internship helped her understand how global health research, public health policies, and community accessories can be applied in actual settings. During her internship at GHI, she learned about the major health challenges that are continuously emerging in the MENA region.

APPLY TO THE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



The internship program at the Global Health Institute (GHI) aims to enhance global health knowledge and exposure and nurture skills of young individuals interested in embarking on a study, research, or career path in global health.

Words in the LENS



“ Communities and countries and ultimately the world are only as strong as the health of their women. ”

- Michelle Obama
American attorney and author



ghiaub

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