

Lebanon Support's 2018 Activity Report



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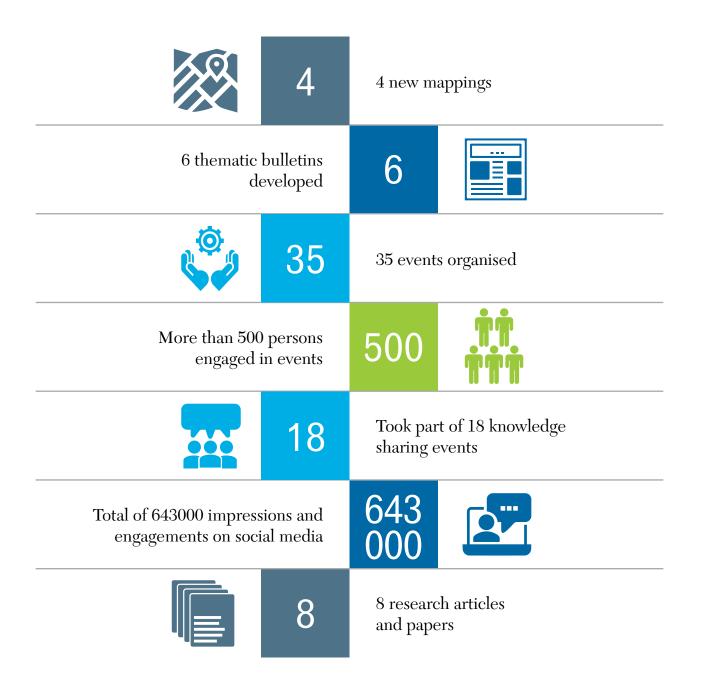
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#### 1 | Lebanon Support in 2018

In 2018, Lebanon Support, through the Civil Society Knowledge Centre, continued to publish multidisciplinary knowledge on its research thematic topics such as gender, conflict, migration, and civil society, among others, including short investigative articles, academic papers, policy reports, as well as interactive mappings, databases, and infographic visuals. Particularly, Lebanon Support focused on analysing the political participation spectrum, and the 2018 parliamentary elections. The research analysed the participation of women, as well as new actors, in the parliamentary race which took place in May 2018. By focusing on these topics, using both qualitative and quantitative approaches, Lebanon Support has delved into covering, and expanding on the main issues structuring the Lebanese landscape. With the continuation of its action-oriented research approach, the expansion of its online platform, Daleel Madani, with its new features aiming to emphasise civic engagement and collaboration, and the provision of tailored mentorships through its Civil Society Incubator, Lebanon Support has remained a vital force in the support of civil society. The Civil Society Incubator also made notable leaps, hosting a Funder's Fair as part of its 'Enabling Youth-Led Initiatives' project, and fulfilling the project's goal to foster civil society initiatives, that are led by youth in Lebanon.



#### 2 Knowledge Production

In 2018, Lebanon Support introduced 3 new mappings on Collective Actions, Public Actions, and State Responses in Lebanon within its Conflict Analysis Project, as well as a new mapping which documented initiatives addressing past conflicts, and their aftermath in Lebanon, within its History of Conflicts Project. To frame the debate around elections in Lebanon, two policy briefs were published, prior to the Lebanese Parliamentary Elections which took place in May, tackling two key issues; the Lebanese electoral law's aptitude to include new political actors and women in the Lebanese Parliament in 2018, in addition to two subsequent research articles reflecting the post-election period. On its Gender Equity Network, Lebanon Support published a case study report, a policy brief, and an infographic aiming at providing a better understanding of women's participation in the Lebanese political system, also uncovering the limited opportunities they face in order to participate in leadership roles.

# 2.1 Highlights from the Conflict Analysis Project

- New Mappings
  - Map of Collective Actions, which tracks mobilisations across Lebanon.
     [https://bit.ly/2m43]la]
  - Mapping of Public Actions, which tracks the policy decisions taken by the state, or its administration.
     [https://bit.ly/2nRuB8M]
  - Map of State Response, which tracks state apparatuses actions relevant to security issues.
     [https://bit.ly/2oxi0YC]
- Interactive graphs to visualise data trends from our "Geo-located mapping of conflicts" [https://bit.ly/2ozyYWp]
- Policy Briefs
  - "Lebanon's 2018 Elections: An Opportunity for "New" Political Actors", Zeina el-Helou. [https://bit.ly/2nOiMA9] This policy brief seeks to critically investigate the extent to which the electoral law facilitates, in practice, the emergence, and participation, of new political actors, as well as the extent to which these actors can be regarded as "new".
  - "Politics, Progress, and Parliament in 2018: Can Lebanese Women Make Headway?", Catherine Batruni & Marcus Hallinan. [https://bit.ly/2nTBE01]

This policy brief looks into women's opportunities, and challenges to enter Lebanese politics, in light of 2018 Parliamentary elections.

- Articles
  - "Government (non-)formation in contemporary Lebanon: sectarianism, power-sharing, and economic immobilism", Catherine Batruni & Marcus Hallinan.
     [https://bit.ly/2n2TBJR]

This article explores how the political structure, and the sectarian arrangement of the Lebanese government, facilitate obstructions to the flourishing of government formation, thus jeopardizing the country's economy.

 "The Robustness of Sectarian Politics in Lebanon: Reflections on the 2018 Elections", Maguy Arnous. [https://bit.ly/2nRVYQ4]

This article intends to analyse the results of the elections, with regard to traditional parties, as well as the new so-called "civil society" candidates, all the while drawing inferences on the behaviour of the Lebanese voter.

- Conflict Analysis bulletins
  - Conflict Analysis bulletin, Issue 12, October 2018, Focus on crackdown on social media by Lebanese authorities [https://bit.ly/2nOTWQv]
  - Conflict Analysis bulletin, Issue 11, May 2018, Focus on incidents relevant to gender-based violence, [https://bit.ly/20yrtij]
  - Conflict Analysis bulletin, Issue 10, February 2018, An overview of the year 2017, focusing on shooting incidents, [https://bit.ly/2mdDCs4]
  - Conflict Analysis bulletin, Issue 9, January 2018, Focus on illicit trade arrests/operations, [https://bit.ly/2ozondX]

# 2.2 Highlights from the History of Conflicts Project

- Updated Mapping
  - The "Mapping of initiatives addressing the past in Lebanon," documents initiatives between 1990 and 2017 that aimed at addressing past conflicts, and their aftermath in Lebanon. [https://bit.ly/20yso2f]
- Article
  - "Contested history, conflicting narratives, and a multitude of initiatives: An analysis of the Mapping of Initiatives addressing Past Conflicts in Lebanon," focuses on the main findings and trends from the "Mapping of initiatives addressing the past in Lebanon", the main actors behind these initiatives, their objectives, as well as the initiatives' activities. [https://bit.ly/2mRpYLP]

# 2.3 Highlights from the Gender Equity Network

- Case Study Report
  - "Women's Political Participation: Exclusion and Reproduction of Social Roles Case Studies from Lebanon" Manar Zaiter, Sarah El-Masry.

The study seeks to expand the understanding of women's participation in the Lebanese political system – a system founded on confessionalism, political familism, clientelism, and other factors, which ultimately reinforce kinship-based patriarchy. [https://bit.ly/2oztWcl]

- Policy Brief
  - "Breaking the political glass ceiling: Enhancing women's political participation in Lebanon", Manar Zaiter, Sarah El-Masry. This policy brief was developed based on an in-depth report titled "Women's Political Participation: Exclusion and Reproduction of Social Roles. Case Studies from Lebanon." It provides a synthesis of the study's key findings, and proposes action-oriented, and practical recommendations, to actors at the macro-level (Lebanese government, political elite), the meso-level (the broader local and international civil society in Lebanon; civil society organisations; movements; syndicates), and the micro-level (women's individual experiences), in order to help address the barriers faced by women. [https://bit.ly/2D2pJ5y]

- Infographic
  - "Barriers hindering women's full political participation in Lebanon". This infographic summarises the main research findings of the case studies report, and visualises the 4 types of barriers hindering women's political participation in Lebanon, notably related to the practice, discourse, structural, and socio-economic barriers. [https://bit.ly/2mhtU8f]
- Interactive graphs
  - The interactive graphs which visualise data trends based on the "Mapping of violence against women map". [https://bit.ly/2oqPAPM]
  - Data from local centres Najdeh which visualises cases of gender based violence collected by Association Najdeh's local centres. [https://bit.ly/2nLKuNY]
- Gender Equity bulletins
  - Gender Equity bulletin, Issue 13, November 2018, Focus on Daleel Madani's gender groups [https://bit.ly/2mRAiU4]
  - Gender Equity bulletin, Issue 12, June 2018, Focus on Women in Lebanese elections. [https://bit.ly/2nUB1Uj]

# 2.4 Highlights from the Migration, Mobility, Circulation

- Report
  - "Legal and Policy Framework of Migration Governance". This report aims to provide a contextual understanding of migration governance in the Lebanese context, and its implications for refugees and migrants. [https://bit.ly/2IrbZE8]

# 3 Civil Society Review, Social Science for Change

The Civil Society Review is the first peer reviewed journal dedicated to civil society issues in the region. It emphasises on cutting-edge, and critical transdisciplinary analysis, on a wide range of topics relevant to social sciences. The Civil Society Review has consistently gathered the highest number of reads on the Civil Society Knowledge Centre, especially after the launch of the first pilot issue in 2015.

In 2018, Lebanon Support introduced the Civil Society Review's editorial board and its review board. It also dedicated a web page for the journal on its website, which showcases published issues, announcements to upcoming calls for proposals, and information about the journal's submission process. This step came as part of a greater institutionalisation process of the review that started in 2017, after the success of the first two issues.

In the last quarter of 2018, the Lebanon Support team launched the third issue of the Civil Society Review: "Unraveling "Civil Society": Policy, Dependency Networks, and Tamed Discontent. Reflections from Lebanon and Palestine." The articles gathered in the third issue offer insights – based on case studies – into the transformation of the "associative sector" in Lebanon, a sector generally seen to be at the core of an increasingly active civil society. [https://bit.ly/2RZ[8wv]

10>

# Civil Society Review issue 3, features:

"Gulf States' Humanitarian Assistance for Syrian Refugees in Lebanon", written by Susanne Schmelter [https://bit.ly/2ngFgdc]

# 01

This paper explores the structures, and characteristics, of humanitarian assistance for Syrians displaced in Lebanon, running primarily on Gulf funding. It is based on an ethnographic study of two largely Gulf-funded umbrella organisations: URDA and I'tilaf; They coordinate the work of numerous faith-based humanitarian organisations in Lebanon

Understanding State Incorporation of the Workers' Movement in Early Post-War Lebanon and its Backlash on Civil Society, written by Leah Bou Khater [https://bit.ly/2nsRhvU]

Advocating for Change in the Arab World: Successes and Failures of Lebanon's Civil Society, written by Elie Al Hindy, Tania Haddad, and Maria Njaim [https://bit.ly/2nq2P3c]

Les projets collectifs de développement en Palestine : Diffusion de la vulgate néolibérale et normalisation de la domination, written by Sbeih Sbeih [https://bit.ly/2oWhq6W]

03

05

This paper looks at the manner in which three civil society organisations advocate for change, with each addressing one thematic: electoral reform, torture prevention, and the case of migrant domestic workers. It also attempts to analyse the tools, and skills, they utilise, in addition to the factors at play in the success of their campaigns.

This paper analyses the role played by the organised workers' movement

in the political, and economic, struggle for change in Lebanon during the

first decade of the post-civil war period. It seeks to explain the trajectory

of the workers' movement, represented by the General Confederation of

Workers in Lebanon (GCWL), as well as their successes and failures.

04

02

By looking into development and aid projects, as well as actors, in Palestine, this paper addresses the theme of instrumentalisation of "civil society" by international organisations, whose purpose is to establish a market economy in countries dependent upon development aid.

Book Review Carmen Geha, Civil Society and Political Reform in Lebanon and Libya: Transition and Constraint, London and New York, Routledge, 2016, written by Laura El-Chemali

# 4 The Bassem Chit Fellowship for the Study of Activism

Lebanon Support partnered with the Arab Council for the Social Sciences, the Orient-Institut Beirut, and the Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung Beirut Office, in the course of 2018, to open the first round of applications for its new Bassem Chit fellowship for the study of activism.

Bassem Chit was a founding member of Lebanon Support and was its Executive Director between 2008 and 2014. The fellowship seeks to encourage research that explores the genealogy of mobilising actors, their action repertoires, framing processes, modes of actions, and demands. While the fellowship is situated within the realm of social sciences, it encourages interdisciplinary approaches and methodologies, all the while exploring linkages between academic and action-oriented research.

During the last quarter of 2018, Lebanon Support welcomed its first Bassem Chit Fellow, Cynthia Azzam, whose research examines the processes, and limits of collective action pertaining to school projects, in a context that was historically characterised by a topdown education system. Cynthia Azzam is an architect who holds an MA (professional) in Architecture, as well asan MA (research) in Sciences of Architecture and Landscape, from the Lebanese University, in addition to a PhD in Architecture in a co-tutorship between Paris-Saclay University, and the Lebanese University. Her thesis investigated school infrastructures in Lebanon, focusing on mismanagement and project distribution along the territory.

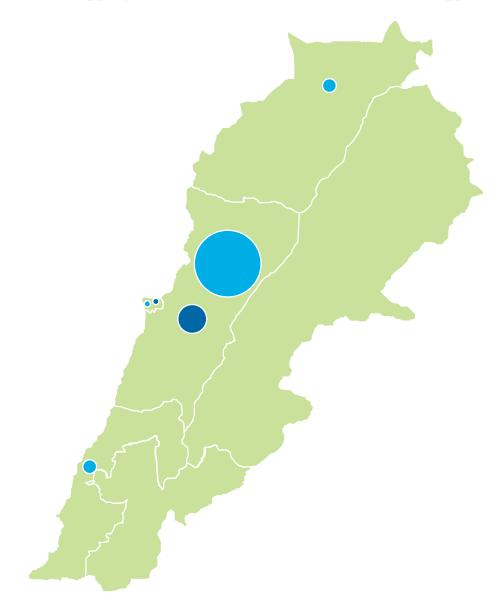
### 5 Knowledge and Information Sharing

Since its establishment in 2006, Lebanon Support has committed to an open access policy that is intended to make all of the centre's publications available to a wider public. This stems from Lebanon Support's mission to foster social change, and push for action, through innovative uses of social science, digital technologies, publication, and exchange of knowledge.

This approach is adopted across all of Lebanon Support's programmes, particularly the Civil Society Knowledge Centre, which constitutes a seminal, and innovative multidisciplinary knowledge and publishing platform for original research, and accompanying analysis on civil society, and public action issues. Launched in 2013, the Civil Society Knowledge Centre has proved its usefulness to researchers, local and international NGO practitioners, experts, and activists, as shown by the continuous feedback we receive from the centre's stakeholders through online surveys [https://bit.ly/2nt70eq] and during events organised by Lebanon Support.

In 2018, Lebanon Support organised and participated in over 50 of events, trainings, and workshops.

Over 500 attendees participated in the events organised by our centre including researchers, experts, civil society actors, activists, and representatives from local and international organisations. 5.1 Mapping of events and outreach of the Lebanon Support



- Civil Society Knowledge Center
- Civil Society Incubator/Daleel Madani

In 2018, Lebanon Support pursued a consultative process to gather feedback and recommendations on the new design and features of Daleel Madani. This process stems from the belief that a network like Daleel Madani belongs to its users, and that adopting a participatory, user-centered approach will help facilitate the coordination with civil society actors in Lebanon. This consultative process has emphasised the role Daleel Madani plays in enhancing collaborations, capacity, knowledge exchange, and partnerships between civil society actors in the sector.

#### 5.2| Some of the new features and updates implemented in 2018 on Daleel Madani

Daleel Madani Groups, featuring its first group around Gender: The Daleel Madani Groups provide an online collaborative space for discussion, concerted action, planning of campaigns and collaborations, and aims to bring together civil society actors around specific thematic issues. The Daleel Madani Gender Group, features updates and news relevant to gender issues in Lebanon, in addition to providing space for discussion and collaboration with 111 members subscribed to it

A new system of communication implemented through notification alerts, automatising Daleel Madani registration, account renewal, and general transactional processes.

4

Introducing Daleel Madani in Arabic in order to ensure usability and accessibility by all, the Daleel Madani team launched an Arabic version of the platform.

2

Pre-selection questions integrated in the jobs form enables the recruiting CSOs to filter and pre-select candidates based on open and closed ended questions. This feature aims to render shortlisting candidates more efficient.

5

A civil society calendar to follow all the events from actors registered on the portal and to keep track of all civil society events. The new calendar feature allows users to directly add events to their personal calendars and to stay up to date with the civil society agenda.

Multi-usability of the same account from different team members in the same organisation. This feature enables the users to invest more in all the pages on Daleel Madani including events, projects, and press releases.

6

3

# 6 Civil Society Incubator

# Tailored support and mentoring

In line with Lebanon Support's holistic mission, the Civil Society Incubator supports both long-term and short-term skill-building, as well as collaborative mentorship over competitive approaches. In many ways, this cooperative and persistent developmental approach is what sets apart the Incubator from other similar initiatives. Additionally, the open and public workshops that are organised within the Incubator ensures that all individuals have access to the key resources and tools that are in service of the continuous development different stakeholders aim to receive.

In 2018, Lebanon Support was part of two projects that offered a series of trainings and workshops, with the key mission of strengthening the role of CSOs in the local development process, a missing factor in Lebanon. Through these projects, the Civil Society Incubator worked to ensure that local Lebanese initiatives have a meaningful seat at the table when it comes to leading change.

# TA'CIR: 'Towards an Active Participation of Civil Society in the Reform Process'

Since its launch in 2017, this project sought to foster a more enabling environment for civil society in Lebanon, through the engagement of civil society organisations, both at a policy and local development level. This initiative continued in 2018 through the implementation and organisation of trainings and workshops delivered to the civil society organisations participating in the project. The project targeted 50 CSOs in Akkar, Tripoli, Sour, Saida, Nabatiyeh, Matn, Baabda, and Beirut. In addition to providing the necessary trainings, Lebanon Support was responsible for developing guidebooks and useful tools on a range of topics such as financial management, organisational management, research methodologies, communications, and information and communication technologies.

# "Enabling Youth Initiatives"

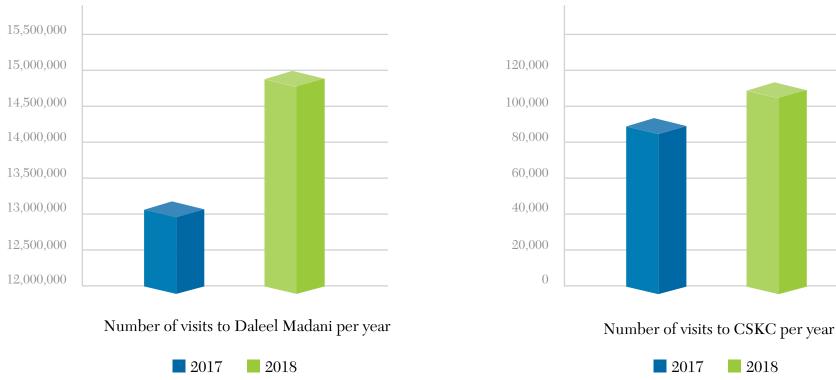
In 2018, this project entered its second year of implementation after 9 youth-led initiatives were selected at the end of 2017. These 9 initiatives took part in workshops hosted by Lebanon Support, followed by on-the-job mentoring, and then finally participated in a large networking activity- the Funder's Fair, which aimed to grant visibility to the youth organisations participating in this project and more importantly to give them the space to communicate with other civil society actors, namely donors. Overall, "Enabling Youth initiatives" project provided a space for youth initiatives to connect, develop ideas for collaboration, and helped the participating organisations to get access to funding opportunities. This project worked to better target youth interventions, increase their advocacy reach and to support them in influencing policy

# 7 Knowledge for action

# 2018 in Numbers

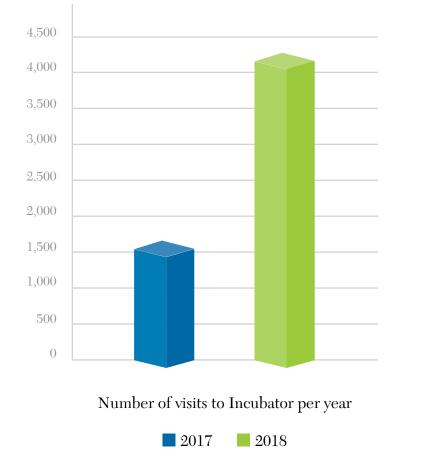
In comparison to 2017, Daleel Madani witnessed a drastic improvement in terms of website visits with an 87% overall increase (15,023,236 visits in 2018). This valuable growth was recorded after the launch of the new Daleel Madani at the end of 2017, and thanks to the continuous effort the Daleel Madani team did in introducing new features and updates of which increased the website's efficiency and usability.

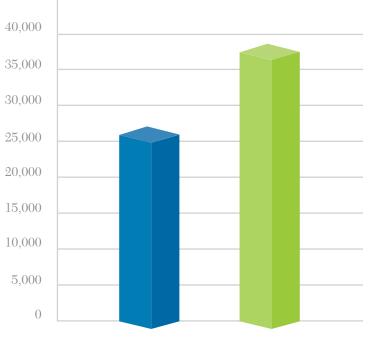
For Lebanon Support's online research platform, the Civil Society Knowledge Centre scored a total of 107,856 visits exceeding that of the previous year by 78%. This has been achieved mainly due to the effort the communication team dedicated to highlighting the different content available on the platform.

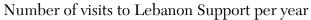


Introduced at the end of 2017, the Civil Society Incubator saw an exponential improvement in terms of visits scoring a total of 4254 visits with 34% increase from 2017.

Overall, the Lebanon Support website attracted new visitors in 2018 which increased its reach by 71% in comparison to 2017.







2017 2018

Bulletin Dissemination: 9500 subscribers	<ul> <li>4 Conflict Analysis bulletins</li> <li>2 Gender Equity bulletins</li> <li>3 Events bulletins</li> <li>3 Announcements for Calls bulletins</li> </ul>
Engagement	• More than 500 persons engaged in Lebanon Support's events: round tables, workshops and trainings, launching events, lectures, and others.
Media Outreach	• 1 TV feature and 4 press mentions in local and international newspapers such as The Daily Star, Al Araby News, among others.
Social Media Engagement and Outreach	• More than <b>27033 engagements on Facebook</b> including likes, shares and comments, in addition to <b>616000 impressions on Twitter</b> including likes, retweets and comments.
Citations by academics, writers or researchers	<ul> <li>Google Scholar <u>https://scholar.google.com</u></li> <li>Lebanon Support's website and programmes has been cited over 88 times in total during 2018.</li> </ul>

# 8| Highlights of popular campaigns

#CounteringAmnesia, a hashtag used in Lebanon Support's launching event of the "Mapping of initiatives addressing the past in Lebanon" - a mapping that documents initiatives between 1990 and 2017.

Scoring a total of:



100,000+ impressions



63,542 reach

(#NotThirdClassCitizens), a hashtag that was used during Lebanon Support's fourth Gender Afterworks around the citizenship rights for women in Lebanon.

# Scoring a total of:



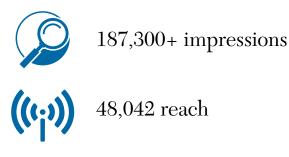
51,100+ impressions



22,300 reach

(#LetsTalkElections), a hashtag that was used during Lebanon Support's public event, analysing the participation and chances of new actors and women in the Lebanese Parliamentary Elections that occurred in Lebanon in 2018.

Scoring a total of:



#DataforChange, a hashtag that was used during Lebanon Support's open doors event, introducing the Conflict Analysis Project's new mappings.

Scoring a total of:



100,000+ impressions



33,700 reach

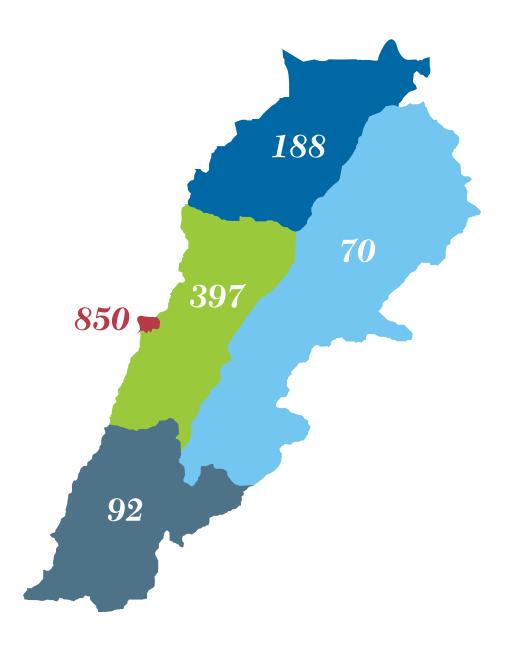
# 9 The State of Civil Society in Lebanon

Lebanon has always had a big number of civil society actors that are dedicated to working on various issues, such as development, human rights, education, gender, among others. An overview on the data of Daleel Madani's registered members allows us to get a general understanding of the dynamism of the Lebanese civil society<sup>1</sup>. There are approximately 1600 civil society actors registered on Daleel Madani's Civil Society Directory ranging between local organisations, collectives and campaigns, international actors and stakeholders, private, educational and donor agencies, among others.

### Mapping of civil society actors in Lebanon

The civil society actors can be categorised based on a range of criteria including: scope of work, geographical location, type of membership, nature of activities and types of demands.

The map shows the geographical distribution of civil society actors among the Lebanese territory, with a concentration of initiatives in the capital (850 civil society actors in Beirut, in comparison to 70 civil society actors in Beqaa, for example).



1/ Note: Daleel Madani does not feature an exhaustive list of civil society actors, and relies on the subscription of actors themselves. Yet, data can provide a reflection of the reality and trends in the sector.

# Highlights from 2018

The majority of the members that joined Daleel Madani in 2018 were established between 2013 and 2018. 75% of the new registered actors on Daleel Madani in 2018 were local civil society actors, 15% were international civil society actors, 3% were donor agencies and 4% organisations from the private sector, while the remaining 3% of Daleel Madani's new members were research centres and institutions. In 2018, most CSOs focused on same target groups: youth, children, and refugees. This can be attributed to the fact that these groups are indeed perceived as the most vulnerable in Lebanon. It can also be attributed to the availability of donor funding that appears skewed in favour of programming for youth, women, and refugees.

Main sectors of intervention of civil society actors registered on Daleel Madani

**Development** 



Refugees



Human Rights



Education



Advocacy む Awareness



#### Overview of civil society job opportunities in 2018

5252 job postings were published on Daleel Madani in 2018, with the highest rate in August and 520 job postings.

# 58%

# 28%

of the opportunities were announced by International CSOs of the opportunities were announced by Local CSOs

# 4.8%

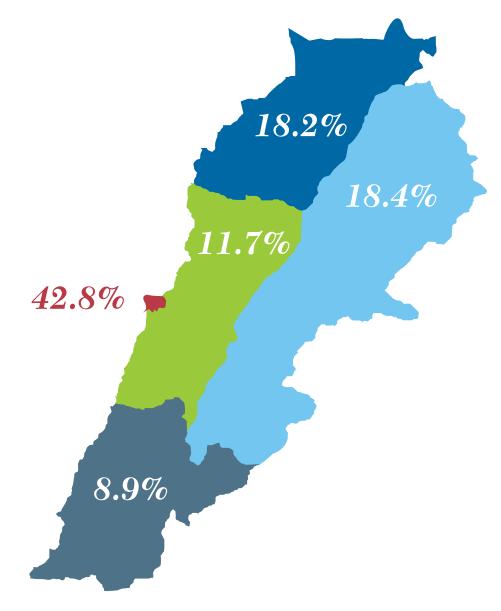
of the opportunities were announced by UN Agencies of the opportunities were announced by Private Sector

4.5%

Most published opportunities selected salary ranges between \$ 800 - \$1200 (19.3%), followed by \$ 1200 - \$ 1500 (18.9%).

73% of the announced job posts were full time contracts, while 13% were consultancies, and 8% were part time.

Distribution of job offers among the Lebanese territory



### 10 Partners and Collaborators





Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft Confédération suisse Confederazione Svizzera Confederaziun svizra

> Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC



































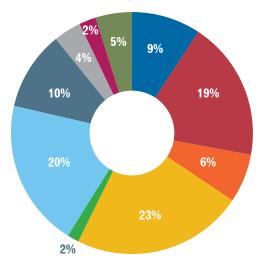


ICTJ Justice Truth Dignity

**<**25

#### 11| Budget and Sources of Funding

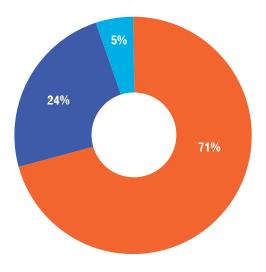
#### Funding



ACTED/ European Union European Commission, Research Executive Agency Ford Foundation ForumZFD HIVOS LS income generating activities including Daleel Madani United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Embassy of Switzerland Swiss Cooperation Office United Nations Development Programme

**Diakonia Lebanon Office** 

Expenses



Civil Society Knowledge Centre Civil Society Incubator LS general administrative costs & activities, including Daleel Madani

#### 12 Meet the Team

Dr. Marie-Noëlle AbiYaghi Director

*Léa Yammine* Director Of Publications

**Risha Jagarnathsingh** Migration Researcher & Managing Editor of the Civil Society Review

*Mia BouKhaled* Programme Officer

Sana Tarabay Content & Communication Officer

Sarah ElMasry Gender Researcher

*Tala Fadlallah* Administrative and Finance Assistant

*Jad Khadij* Administration & Finance Officer

*Hovig Atamian* Project Officer

Walid Abou Saifan Innovation & Technology Advisor

*Ali Najjar* ICT Officer

# 13 | Research Associates in 2018

#### Joey Ayoub

Editor and blogger currently pursuing his Ph.D in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland

# Dr. Lea Bou Khater

Post-doctoral fellow at the American University of Beirut and parttime faculty at the Lebanese American University

# Nay el-Rahi

Feminist writer, activist, and gender auditor with an MA in Global Media and Gender from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London

# Dr. Estella Carpi

Research associate at Lebanon Support, holding a PhD in Social Anthropology from the University of Sydney

# Dalya Mitri

Consultant and researcher with an MA in Political Science from Science-Po Paris, France

#### Dr. Maissam Nimer

A Mercator-IPC fellow at Sabanci University, holding a PhD in Sociology from Paris Saclay University

# Christiana Parreira

Ph.D candidate in political science at Stanford University

# Dr. Bashir Saade

Lecturer in Religion & Politics at the University of Stirling in Scotland, United Kingdom

#### Dr. Sbeih Sbeih

Post-doctoral fellow at the Institut de Recherches et d'Études sur les Mondes Arabes et Musulmans (IREMAM), LabexMed, Aix Marseille University

#### Daniel L. Tavana

Researcher and a Ph.D candidate in the Department of Politics at Princeton University

#### Mariam Younes

Researcher and a Ph.D candidate at the University of Roskilde, Denmark

