

Mohamad F. Dagher

Economist / Local Economic Development Professional

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Lebanese - American

Profile

I am an Economist with 10 years of progressive experience in humanitarian and development assistance gained through working with several international organizations and UN agencies in Lebanon with a great focus on local economic development, livelihoods and social stability sectors. I worked with UNDP Lebanon for 5 years between July 2019 and December 2024. First, I served as a field coordinator between July 2019 and Mid 2021, and then as a senior socioeconomic officer until December 2024. During those years of experience, I was working on responding to the multi-layered crisis affecting Lebanon and communities at local level. The types of interventions and support were focusing on reducing tension at local level by establishing sustainable solutions to critical basic services and livelihoods sectors.

Prior to my UNDP experience, I was employed by two INGOs namely the American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA) and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). During those years of experience (5 years), I was working at the field level to implement projects related to social protection and safeguards as well as livelihoods opportunities to youth affected by the Syrian crisis.

The years of experience along with my educational background have created a vast understanding and analytical skills to assess local context dynamics that lead to tension between communities and as well being able to design, implement and monitor responses related to social stability and livelihoods sectors.

Experience

National Consultant - Foundational Phase for Planning Social and Economic Interventions in Selected Conflict-Affected Areas

UN-ESCWA

October 2025 – December 2025

South Lebanon

- Led an evidence-based socio-economic assessment in conflict-affected areas of South Lebanon (with special focus on border areas), combining desk review and field research to analyze livelihood dynamics, social and basic services conditions, informal labor patterns, recovery efforts and vulnerability drivers among marginalized populations.
- Designed and implemented participatory, gender-sensitive field methodologies, conducting key informant interviews and focus group discussions with vulnerable households, youth, women, municipalities, union of municipalities, disaster risk reduction units, cooperatives, and local institutions, in close coordination with MOSA and ESCWA.
- Produced policy-oriented analytical outputs, including a final policy brief, translating field insights into actionable recommendations to inform scalable post-conflict recovery, employment, economic, social stability and social protection programming.

Senior Socioeconomic Officer

UNDP

April 2021 – December 2024

South Lebanon Office - Tyre,

- Working on the strengthening and expansion of the ability of local stakeholders to address the needs of residents through the implementation of the MSLD (Mechanisms for Stability and Local Development) process.
- Supporting the main stakeholders (municipalities, union of municipalities, governorates) in addressing social stability needs through the implementation of basic services and community-based projects.
- Supporting economic actors (farmers, MSMEs, firms, businesses, cooperatives and others) in establishing sustainable actions to create local economic opportunities, job opportunities and sustain their production levels.

Field Coordinator

UNDP/UN Habitat (Joint Project)

July 2019 – March 2021

South Lebanon Office - Tyre,

- Support the establishment of social stability and livelihood mechanisms at field level for all project activities by implementing a strategy in close collaboration with all involved parties (municipalities, cooperatives, MSMEs, partners, businesses and others).
- Support the establishment of a mediation unit at union of municipalities level by working closely with the service provider on assessing the existing capacities of union staff members, recruiting the team to be enrolled in training on mediation and conflict prevention and resolution, and then by facilitating the delivery of needed training.
- Develop a situational analysis (to understand political, socio-economic, and institutional contexts) at field level and continuously update and validate it based on the various assessments conducted by the Project (e.g. Local Economic Development, Basic Service, Municipal Finance, Regional Technical Office assessments, etc.).

Livelihoods Field Coordinator

American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA)

January 2017 – December 2018

South Lebanon Office - Tyre,

- Supporting youth and livelihoods related activities (Skill Based Training Courses; Apprenticeships; Youth Led Activities) across south Lebanon (including Palestinian camps and gatherings).
- Supporting cooperatives, MSMEs, startups and businesses in improving their production levels and enhancing their technical skills by building their capacities and capabilities.
- Conducting market assessments and studies of the areas of intervention and to determine program intervention priorities based on needs and existing resources.
- Preparing regular context analysis covering economic, social, and political dimensions of the geographical areas targeted with ongoing programs in addition to advising on new areas with potential capacities.

ICLA Technical Officer Officer

Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

December 2015 – July 2016

Lebanon Country Office - Beirut, Lebanon

- Developed solid understanding of the protection and legal situation for refugees and internally displaced persons in Lebanon – and assisted in developing proper responses accordingly.
- Worked on strengthening methodologies for NRC/ICLA teams to implement ICLA activities in line with NRC/ICLA standards through training and capacity building of staff.
- Developed reports and summaries setting out and analyzing protection gaps faced by refugees in Lebanon, including suggested steps for NRC and other organizations to address these gaps

Information Field Assistant

Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

October 2013 – November 2015

Tyre Field Office - South of Lebanon

- Developed and organized activity plans for the provision of information sessions in South Lebanon, through outreach.
- Provided information and counseling to beneficiaries on how to access basic services and counseling to beneficiaries on legal issues (on legal status, civil documentation, including birth registration, Non-IDs and Housing, Land and Property rights) through individual and group information sessions.
- Conducted regular coordination meetings and trainings within the area of intervention with the main stakeholders such as municipalities, Makhatir, Hospitals and other key governmental actors.

Education

June 2016

MA in Applied Economics • Lebanese American University (LAU) • Beirut, Lebanon

June 2013

BS in Economics (Minor Math) • Lebanese American University (LAU) • Beirut, Lebanon

Languages

Arabic (Native), English (Full Proficiency), French (Working level Proficiency)

Selected Contributions & Projects

- **UNESCWA (2025):** Generated an evidence-based diagnostic of the local context in targeted communities across South Lebanon (including border areas), with a specific focus on the status, functionality, and accessibility of key public infrastructures and basic services, including water, electricity, solid waste management, health, and education, in addition to the main livelihood patterns and economic opportunities of affected population.
- **UNDP (2023):** Supported the establishment of sustainable solution to the apple value chain in Jezzine. by working closely with the union of Jezzine municipalities and the agriculture services cooperative in Jezzine.
- **UNDP (2022):** Supported the establishment of sustainable solution to the fish value chain in Saida. by working closely with involved parties namely: the municipality of Saida, the fishermen syndicate and ministry of public work.
- **UNDP (2019-2024):** Supported the creation of local livelihoods opportunities to most vulnerable MSMEs, farmers and cooperatives.
- **UNDP (2021-2024):** Supported the establishment of local solutions to address key basic services issue at local level related to solid waste management sector in Naqoura, Ain Ebel, Qana, Jezzine, Tyre and others.
- **UNDP (2021-2024):** Supported the establishment of local economic development and productive projects to support local stakeholders in creating economic opportunities in key agriculture sectors (Abbasiye and Abra Greenhouses intervention, Souk Korea market in Abbasiye, Sarrafand vegetables market and others).
- **UNDP/UN Habitat (2019-2024):** Supported the improvement of capacity and knowledge of stakeholders by working closely with them on key local governance topics related to transparency, mediation, municipal finance and others.