

Sara A.MAKKA | Research, Training, and MEAL Consultant
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Member of Network of Empirical, Gustatory and Olfactory Aesthetics (NEGOA)
Youth Advisory Board Member (UNDP)
Youth Advisory Committee Member (Embassy of Netherlands in Beirut)

Introduction

Goal oriented, knowledge ignited, and humanitarily motivated individual. From clinical psychology to neuro-psychology all the way to data analytics, from field, volunteer ships, all the way to coordination and management, from mental health advocacy, to social leadership, all the way to youth leadership and policy analysis.

Education

Bachelors in clinical psychology (Lebanese University Faculty of Literature and Humanitarian Sciences)

Research Master's Degree of Science in Neuropsychology (Lebanese University Faculty of Medical Sciences – Neuroscience Research Center)

Professional master's degree Courses in Clinical Psychology (Lebanese University Faculty of Humanitarian Sciences)

Currently achieving a technical diploma in Data Analytics from Google

Career

Research Coordinator – CAMEALEON Consortium at Norwegian Refugee Council

October 2023- October 2024

- Led and coordinated research studies on social cohesion and tension in Lebanon, collaborating with key partners such as WFP, MOSA, and external consultants.
- Managed day-to-day research operations, ensuring timely and high-quality delivery of findings for projects on cash assistance and its impact on Syrian refugees.
- Supervised and provided technical support to external consultants, ensuring alignment with research objectives, methodology, and data collection standards.
- Facilitated communication between CAMEALEON and high-level agencies, including the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA), ensuring effective partnerships and advocacy for research findings.
- Conducted data analysis on shelter and multisectorial needs assessment data, in addition to performing correlational studies.
- Participated in the development of social listening and web scraping research methodologies in collaboration with other consultants.

2023 Research and Program Manager – Intisar Foundation

February 2023 – August 2023

- Contributed to the development and implementation of research-driven programs utilizing drama therapy to address psychological trauma among Arab women affected by war and violence.
- Contributed to research publications and reports demonstrating the effectiveness of drama therapy in reducing symptoms of anxiety and depression among war-affected women, supporting the foundation's advocacy and funding efforts.
- Collaborated with local and international stakeholders to enhance program delivery, ensuring cultural sensitivity and alignment with the foundation's mission to empower women and foster peace in the Arab world.
- Coordinated day-to-day operations of drama therapy programs, ensuring smooth execution of activities, including scheduling, participant engagement, and facilitation of therapy sessions.
- Managed program budgets, ensuring efficient allocation of resources, tracking expenditures, and preparing financial reports to maintain transparency and align with funding requirements.

2022 MEAL Officer – Care International

October 2022- February 2023

- Designed and implemented monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems to track program performance and outcomes, ensuring alignment with organizational goals and donor requirements.
- Developed and maintained data collection tools, including surveys, focus group discussions, and interviews, to measure program impact and assess beneficiaries' needs.
- Led data analysis and reporting processes, providing insights on program progress, outcomes, and challenges to inform decision-making and future program design.
- Coordinated with field staff and partners to ensure accurate and timely data collection, providing training and technical support on M&E tools and processes.
- Managed beneficiary feedback and complaints mechanisms, ensuring that stakeholders had access to transparent communication channels and that issues were addressed in a timely manner.
- Contributed to the preparation of donor reports, ensuring the presentation of high-quality data and evidence of program impact

Case Protection Officer | International Humanitarian Relief (IHR) |

April 2021 – December 2021

- Developed and implemented a comprehensive psychiatric healthcare referral system for victims of the Beirut port explosion, ensuring timely access to necessary mental health services for affected individuals.
- Designed and conducted multi-level psychological and psychiatric assessments, using structured tools to identify and prioritize cases requiring immediate intervention and ongoing support.
- Managed and coordinated both psychiatric and psychological clinics, overseeing the daily operations, ensuring the quality of services provided, and ensuring compliance with ethical standards and guidelines.
- Collaborated with mental health professionals, including psychiatrists, psychologists, and social workers, to ensure a multidisciplinary approach to care and to create personalized treatment plans for each patient.

Life Skills Extension Trainer | Glow Center |

October 2019 – April 2021

- **Curriculum Development:** Design and develop life skills training programs tailored to the needs of various target groups, including youth, women, and displaced individuals.
- **Training Delivery:** Facilitate life skills workshops on subjects such as communication, problem-solving, emotional intelligence, time management, financial literacy, and career readiness.
- **Individual and Group Support:** Provide personalized coaching and guidance to participants, helping them overcome challenges, set personal goals, and achieve positive outcomes.
- **Resource Development:** Create educational materials, including handouts, presentations, and visual aids, to support training sessions.
- **Cultural Sensitivity:** Ensure that all training programs are culturally relevant and sensitive to the diverse backgrounds and experiences of participants.

Research and Evaluation Advisor at ETI (Empowerment through Integration)

October 2018 – October 2019

- **Program Evaluation:** Design and implement comprehensive monitoring and evaluation (M&E) frameworks for ETI's programs, ensuring data-driven insights to assess program performance, impact, and outcomes.
- **Data Collection & Analysis:** Lead the collection, analysis, and interpretation of quantitative and qualitative data, using appropriate tools and methodologies, to evaluate program effectiveness.
- **Report Writing:** Prepare detailed reports, research papers, and presentations for internal stakeholders, donors, and other relevant partners, summarizing research findings and providing actionable recommendations.

- Stakeholder Engagement: Work closely with program managers, staff, and external partners to ensure that research and evaluation efforts align with program goals and inform strategy development.

Consultancies and External Projects

2025 Evaluation of FORSA II – Mercy Corp

2023 Political Researcher / The Nexus Project – Helem

2022 Trainer in Autism Rehabilitation, Disability Management, and International Classifications (ICF) at European Academy – London

2022 Data Collection Supervisor – COSV

2021 Project External MEAL Evaluator (Sports for Peace for Children) at Right to Play International

2021 Research Consultant (Qualitative and Quantitative Research on Musical Approaches for Psychosocial Outcomes) at Right to Play

2015 Data Collection at Relief international

2014 Data Collection at Harass Tracker

Internships and Training

2024 Green Digital Skills – INCO Academy

2024 Evaluation & Reform: Youth, Trust, Governance, and Transformational Change in Lebanon Workshop – UNICEF & USJ

2023 Social Behavioural Educational Researcher – LAU at CITI Program

2022 Climate Change – Recycler

2022 Youth Leadership Program – United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

2022 Terms and Measures of SOGIESC terminology

2022 Measures of Inclusion in Project Implementation (HAND GROUP)

2022 Legal Procedures and Legislations of Beirut Port Explosion Response Plan - Legal Action Worldwide

2021 Introduction to the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability (CHS)

2021 Building Better Response - Humanitarian Academy at Harvard

2020 Cognitive Rehabilitation specialist (Traumatic Brain Injury) at HRIR (Health Rehabilitation Integration Center)

2019 Summer Academy “The Republican and Governmental System in Lebanon” at The Consultative Center for Research and Studies

2019 CPR and AED training (MEDBOX)

2017 Psychologist at Roumieh Official Lebanese Prison (Children below 18)

Volunteer ships

2020 Lebanese Red Cross Audit (Novel Corona Virus Protection Measures) Volunteer

Awards and Certifications

Lebanon Research Network Junior Ambassador (USERN)

MOCA Test Administration Certified

Certified Trainer (the Lebanese Ministry of Education)

BBC reporter Award - Connecting Classrooms Project

Adam Coleman Shakespearean Theatre Training by Adam Coleman

Reinforcing Civil Peace Award hosted by Lebanese Women Rights Committee

The Islamic-Christian Co-existence Project Award

Digital Skills

Proficient in Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint, Excel)

Data analysis using SPSS & Nvivo. Beginner in Python and R-studio

Data collection and Survey Construction Kobo, Survey CTO, etc..

Language Skills

Fluent in written, read, and spoken English & Arabic

Publications Published

- The Role of Misinformation on Cash and Voucher Assistance for Social Cohesion in Lebanon – the CAPL Network
- The Human Intelligence Versus Artificial Intelligence: A Controversial Race in Problem-Solving – Springer

- A Global Perspective of Cancer Prevalence: The Causative Agent, the Environment, or the Genes? – Springer
- Art Therapy: An Innovative Approach to the Treatment of Cancer – Elsevier
- COVID-19 vaccinations: The unknowns, challenges, and hopes – Cambridge University Press
- A Borderless Solution Is Needed for A Borderless Complexity, Like COVID-19, the Universal Invader
- Metacognitive skills training effect on cognitive function in traumatic brain injury patients: A systematic review
- International Efforts to Save Healthcare Personnel during COVID-19

References

- Alain Waked (YAC Committee Embassy of Netherlands) - alain.waked@minbuza.nl
- Hany Anan (UNDP Youth Delegation) - hany.anan@undp.org +96176441773
- Islam Kahil (Head of Programs ICFRC) - mohamad.kahil@qrcs.org.qa +1 (343) 580-0225