



UNION FOR HUMAN DIGNITY
Who we are



Qarama is a non-profit, non-governmental organization founded on the belief that every child, young individual and human being in the making is inherently entitled to receive the support and empowerment needed to both thrive to reach their well being and potential, and grow into change makers of the future.

We believe that human dignity is paramount, and everyone, regardless of their identity, should be regarded and cherished for who they are and what they believe, as well as empowered. As a result, Qarama works towards leaving an optimistic mark on the largest number of marginalized people.

Qarama is on a mission to campaign for justice and dignity, and implement new methods and programs during these unprecedented times using innovation and technology as a tool to optimize the activities' efficiency and impact.

We envision a world in which every person regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, gender, age, class, lineage, sexual orientation or geographical nationality enjoys equal human rights and equal opportunities to thrive and develop to the greatest extent of their individual talents and ambitions.

VALUES and PRINCIPLES in practice

Qarama's work is based on the values of respect, commitment, transparency, and non-discrimination holding ourselves accountable to the people we serve and ensuring at all times, the proper inclusiveness of the targeted population into our programming.

At Qarama, we apply a person and community centered approach, ensuring do-no harm principles throughout our interventions that are principled, responsive, confidential, and evidence based. We have a zero tolerance policy towards Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of beneficiaries; Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse is everyone's responsibility and all Qarama staff are required to adhere to the Code of Conduct, that always enshrines the principles of PSEA. We act as part of this community, and to reach our purpose we guarantee the highest standards of coordination and collaboration with other local and international organisations, as well as governing and civil society actors.

At Qarama, we recognize that transparency and accountability are the building blocks of trust and strength in our relationships with our partners, donors, and the individuals we serve. Therefore, we promise to publicly and continuously share our results and financial reports to the best of our abilities, and to keep you informed on how we are fulfilling our promise to fight for and protect the dignity of all individuals, specifically our vulnerable women, children and youth.

Key statement

Qarama's purpose in Lebanon is to promote a dignified and protective environment for the most vulnerable women, children and youth – regardless of their identities and through an intersectional and all inclusive approach; taking into consideration persons with disabilities – with a specific focus on beneficiaries in contact/conflict with the law.

The success of this work depends on a full-spectrum approach encompassing innovative and impactful preventative and responsive measures in collaboration and coordination with local and national organizations, including governing stakeholders.

As our work focuses on women, children and youth, different actors have to be involved and included in our interventions to ensure the resiliency and the sustainability of our actions. Hence, we make sure that the family/caregivers, peers and others, as well as key local and national stakeholders are involved at different levels and stages.

Our strategy

Theme One
WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Women in Lebanon – regardless of identity and through an intersectional and all inclusive approach are empowered and supported to become community leaders, while enjoying the freedom of opinion and speech within their homes and their larger community – with an emphasis on their economic empowerment.

Theme Two
CHILD PROTECTION

Children in Lebanon – regardless of identity and through an intersectional and all inclusive approach and specifically those in contact/conflict with the law, are supported through quality case management follow-up and empowered to access improved prevention, protection, and livelihoods.

Theme Three
YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Youth in Lebanon – regardless of identity and through an intersectional and all inclusive approach – are empowered and supported as agents of change able to actively engage in the development of their society.

Theory of Change

If women, children and youth – regardless of their identities and through an intersectional and all inclusive approach – are adequately supported and empowered, and they are provided with adequate and innovative programs, then they will grow to become active citizens of the society able to both, reach their own well being and developmental potential, as well as actively contribute to their community's progress.

A glance at the past

Following the unprecedented economic and financial collapse, the Beirut Port Explosion of August 2020, and the global pandemic, Lebanon is experiencing compounded crises that have exacerbated the country's structural challenges, ineptitude and corruption of the political class, and sectarian divisions.

Government has come to a halt, at a time when effective governance is most needed, leaving the people residing in Lebanon to fend for themselves and their basic needs, without effective public support systems, or realistic plans to remediate the alarming socio-economic collapse.

Qarama was founded in 2019, in the midst of the chaos engulfing Lebanon, to act as a support system and an enabler for women, children and youth residing in Lebanon, working through an intersectional lens, inclusive of persons with disabilities, aiming to protect and empower the future leaders and constituents of the Lebanon we envision.

The Qarama team spent the past couple of years reacting and adjusting to the ramifications of the national context, all adding to the list of risk factors. Despite the dissonant contextual factors, Qarama implemented various innovative and sustainable projects which facilitated both, the empowerment of several communities and individuals, as well as the recruitment of diverse and cultivated individuals with immense added values.



Qarama's Course of Efforts

QARAMA AND THE LEBANESE INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES SIGN AN MOU ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NECESSARY SUPPORT PROGRAMS INSIDE LEBANESE DETENTION CENTERS / 2020 - ONGOING

On November 23, 2020, Qarama and the Lebanese Internal Security Forces signed a Memorandum of Understanding to put into action a new program of legal, moral, and psychological support for juveniles in Lebanese detention centers including Roumich.



The understanding created a close working partnership between the ISF and Qarama in cooperation with teams of professionals with the purpose of providing an efficient humanitarian, legal, and psychological environment for children and youth in detention centers. Ultimately to support and empower them for successful rehabilitation back into society.

This memorandum enables Qarama to provide psychosocial and legal support to highly discriminated and young individuals that are heavily neglected, unprotected, and abused to ensure the enjoyment of their equal human rights. This is an ongoing joint effort which involves a number of psychologists, social workers, as well as trainees from the Lebanese University providing support to the team of social workers.

Qarama signs agreement with the ministry of justice

QARAMA AND THE LEBANESE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE SIGN AN AGREEMENT - "JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN" IS ALWAYS OUR TOP PRIORITY / 2021

On April 26, 2021, Qarama's president Joe Maalouf and the Minister of Justice Mrs. Marie Claude Najem signed an agreement regarding the judicial cases of juveniles in Mount Lebanon.



The agreement is based on Law No. 422 regarding the protection of juveniles in contact / conflict with the law, or exposed to danger.

The signed agreement guarantees that the largest number of social delegates will follow up on the juvenile cases before Lebanese authorities including but not limited to judicial police, judges, and ISF officers.

Qarama works to prevent the detention of juveniles and implement alternative programs for detainees to strengthen juvenile justice and enhance a protective environment for children in line with international standards, to ensure that their basic rights are respected and fulfilled as they enjoy access to justice.

The agreement stipulates Qarama's assessment and recommendations, provided by our team of experts, on how to improve the juvenile justice system, through an annual report based on our findings submitted to the ministry, which is crucial to the future of the legal system.

Qarama and the Lebanese Ministry of Justice

QARAMA AND THE LEBANESE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE - RENEWAL OF AGREEMENT / 2022

In February 2022, Qarama renewed the agreement with the Lebanese Ministry of Justice which guarantees the continuation of social workers and case managers' efforts to support children and youth in contact/conflict with the law throughout their judicial process.

Qarama continues to ensure the safety and prevent the detention or degrading treatment of children and youth, in line with the international human and child rights standards.

QARAMA PARTNERS WITH THE BRITISH COUNCIL ON THE JOINT EXECUTION OF THE CIRCLE OF TRUST PROJECT FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION / 2020



During the month of December in 2020, Qarama developed a concept and partnered with the British Council on the inception and joint execution of The Circle of Trust project, an innovative communication campaign funded by the European Union aimed at creating an environment where people can be in control of their lives, free from manipulation by violence, propaganda and hate speech through restoring trust and building a support circle between young men and women on one hand, and their communities on the other.

The project also aimed at strengthening the relationship between the citizen and state actors including the security forces in order to devise an ambience of empowerment between all the major stakeholders in rejecting, condemning and preventing violent extremism and exploitation by violence and fighting.

The project mainly covered the three intertwined focus areas of youth empowerment, resilience building and fighting violent extremism, based on a proactive approach which combines effective means of dialogue and communication with the crucial exercise of conflict management and prevention.

UNICEF & Himaya

QARAMA IMPLEMENTS 'MAKING CHILD PROTECTION A RIGHT EVERYWHERE' SUPPORTED BY UNICEF AND IN COLLABORATION WITH HIMAYA, 2021 - ONGOING

In July 2021, the implementation of the project "Making Child Protection a Right, Everywhere" was initiated by Qarama with the support of UNICEF and in collaboration with Himaya.

The project aims to support the most vulnerable children and young people within the Mount Lebanon region, in order to ensure the upholding of their judicial rights.

Through these efforts, Qarama's social workers and case managers have been able to establish programmatic CP complaints mechanisms, provide proper and positive case management assistance, and streamline communication and referral mechanisms with international and local organizations as well as government entities through daily reporting and collaboration with juvenile judges.

"Justice for Children" is always our top priority

PRESIDENT OF QARAMA, JOE MAALOUF, HOSTS AND MODERATES PANELS FOR THE 8TH EDITION OF WOMEN ON THE FRONT LINES E-CONFERENCE ORGANIZED UN WOMEN IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MAY CHIDIAC FOUNDATION / 2020

On November 17th, 2020 the 8th edition of Women on the Front Lines e-conference was hosted by UN Women and the May Chidiac Foundation.

Qarama's president Joe Maalouf was invited as a moderator, given his experience as a human rights advocate supporting vulnerable communities, where he emphasized that it is essential to continue to rightfully empower women and make sure children are protected.

The panels were centered around the role of both women and media in fighting extremism and gender-based violence.

Press freedom conference

PRESIDENT OF QARAMA MODERATES PANELS AT THE WORLD PRESS FREEDOM CONFERENCE / 2020

The World Press Freedom Conference 2020 held in The Hague, Netherlands in December was a unique meeting to coordinate with press freedom defenders from all around the globe.

The conference was centered around major problems confronting the media in these exceptional times.

The conference also focused on discussing the immense power of journalism and its role in the future of societies.

Joe Maalouf was invited to host and moderate the panels which he ended by shedding light on the importance of freedom of expression in all democratic countries, whether advanced or developing.

Women on the front lines E-Conference

PRESIDENT OF QARAMA INVITED AS MODERATOR AT THE MEDIA FREEDOM E-PANEL HELD BY THE MAY CHIDIAC FOUNDATION AND THE FRIEDRICH NAUMANN FOUNDATION / 2021

On the 17th of November 2021, the May Chidiac Foundation in partnership with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation held an E-panel titled "Assault on Global Media Freedom" moderated by Qarama's president Joe Maalouf.

This E-Panel was held under the "Free Connected Minds" Conference and tackled the violations, attacks and discrimination against journalists and media personnel.

This conference was an opportunity to give media workers the visibility they deserve, and to commit to concrete actions on the ground to push back against harassment or attacks.

Together we made this happen

392 Direct Beneficiaries

At Qarama, we value our partners and supporters for enabling us to continue with our mission, to fight for the rights of all vulnerable people through an intersectional and all inclusive approach – taking into consideration all genders, identities, regions, and backgrounds.

Our Partners and Supporters

We are just getting started

Going forward, we will anticipate, evaluate, and accordingly adjust to the Lebanese setting to ensure positive and sustainable impact in supporting and protecting women, children and youth, and all disempowered humans in an inclusive manner.

In the near future, some of Qarama's primary objectives will be to maintain the juvenile detention centers activities, and continue the extended legal case management support to children and youth who have come into contact or conflict with the law in Lebanon, where a need is imminent.

Our team is dedicated, capable, and working on implementing further innovative and sustainable projects.

As we are continuing on, it is important to maintain and reinforce all partnerships and collaborative efforts between donors, international and local organizations, as well as local government entities to streamline human rights services and provisions across all regions and services.

Today we are continuing to face a mixture of substantial crises all around – not limited to the economic and financial downfall, political and social instability, and global pandemic – and that makes every act all the more important.

Our work must evolve to meet and encounter the grandness of the crisis, to advocate for all injustice we witness, and to innovate and collaborate so that we may be contemporary humanitarians with actions and ideas that ensure social change.

Let us join forces against injustice and the infringements on human dignity.

Stay up to Date!

Contact Us

Get in touch with us. We would love to hear from you!
Please note: Human Dignity Union does not accept unsolicited requests for funding.
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Audit Report - 2020

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Audit Report - 2021