

# MASAR ASSOCIATION



*We Draw the Path with Celebration*

## ANNUAL REPORT for 2019

January 2020

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*Dear readers,*

*Masar's Annual Report 2019 documents, in words and numbers, a successful year in which we dedicated our efforts to continue empowering youth to advocate their rights and be at the forefront in society.*

*A key highlight in 2019 has been the ability to sustain and expand a structured dialogue between youth from across the eight Lebanese Governorates, including Palestinian refugee camps, and political decision makers at the local and national levels in the frame of Masar's 3 Programs.*

*While we are aware that the road to achieve full and meaningful youth participation is long and challenging, we are committed to face the challenge, as we believe that young people are an added value in society. They contribute, if allowed, to the national development process with their enthusiasm, innovative mind, and ideals.*

*Kamal Shayya, President*

The image shows a handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kamal Shayya - 67". Below the signature is the Masar logo, which consists of two stylized blue swirls and the word "masar" in a blue sans-serif font.

MASAR was founded in 2005 with the aim to contribute to national development processes and the advancement of society. Masar works in Development with a focus on youth, at both, the community and policy levels.



## OUR VISION

To build a civic, inclusive, secular, democratic and non-sectarian society.

## OUR MISSION

Promoting citizens' participation towards a civic, inclusive, secular, democratic and non-sectarian society through empowerment and advocacy, and through mobilization, training, evidence generation, enabling access to information and lobbying for policy change.

## OUR GOAL

Promoting citizens' participation towards a civic, inclusive, secular, democratic and non-sectarian society.

## OUR VALUES

Masar works with a wide array of stakeholders on the values of local ownership of developmental interventions, participatory decision making, networking, gender equity and transparency.

## STRATEGIES

- Direct implementation of developmental interventions and through partner organizations;
- Supporting the replication of successful models of citizens' participation;
- Using media and social media to inform educate and build a wide support base.





التنمية الشبابية المجتمعية  
Community Youth Development

## “The Community Youth Development (CYD)” program

The program aims at mobilizing young people across the less advantaged Lebanese communities and empowering them to become active agents of change in their communities. The program offers a training pack for youth on various concepts, skills and tools that help them identify their needs, problems and aspirations critically, and help them plan for communal projects and advocacy campaigns based on their priorities.

The program also encourages youth to build sustainable collaboration mechanisms with local authorities and enhance their networking efforts with various stakeholders on issues that affect their lives.

The program is currently being implemented in more than fifteen communities across Lebanon, and it provides a space for youth to meet, interact with each other, complement and appreciate diversity in Lebanon and that it is a source of richness. The program provides also an opportunity for youth to put in practice the knowledge and skills they have learned during the trainings, be sensitized to their communities’ needs critically, and more importantly, to gain self-confidence and self-esteem.

“The CYD addresses youth as the citizens of today, and it empowers them to make their voices heard and acted upon today.”



السياسة الشبابية الوطنية  
National Youth Policy

## “The National Youth Policy (NYP)” program

The program aims at having a national youth policy that improves living conditions of young people through the provision of quality and multi-sectoral services, and ensures their access to decision-making and positions of influence in the public life. MASAR collaborates very closely on the National Youth Policy with the “Youth Forum for Youth Policy”, a network of Lebanese youth NGOs and youth wings in political parties. MASAR is a member in the Youth Forum and is in charge of its Secretariat since 2011 ([www.youthforum-lb.org](http://www.youthforum-lb.org)).

The work on the National Youth Policy in Lebanon was initiated by civil society organizations back in 2000, concurrently and in partnership with the establishment of the Ministry of Youth & Sports, and with the support of the United Nations Youth Task Force in Lebanon.

The NYP is an exceptional experience in the Arab region, particularly that young people themselves have set its recommendations and submitted them to the Ministry of Youth & Sports, demanding its ratification by the Cabinet. Those concerted efforts resulted in the endorsement of the youth policy document by the Cabinet in April 2012, as one package boasting diverse provisions. It was adopted shortly later by the Youth



& Sports Parliamentary Committee. The official launch ceremony was held under the auspices and in the presence of the President of the Republic of Lebanon during the same year. The NYP document comprises 136 recommendations divided into 5 sectors: Migration and demographic characteristics, labor and economic participation, social integration and political participation, education and culture, and health.

Currently, Masar is working with the Youth Forum and all stakeholders and decision makers at various levels to implement the national youth policy, notably: The production of relevant materials, empowering young people to advocate their rights, organizing meetings with decision makers and publishing output through the media.



### **“Human Rights for Palestinians in Lebanon” program**

The program aims to advocate the endorsement of human rights for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon to ensure a dignified life until they return to their homeland, and at enhancing opportunities of communication between Lebanese and Palestinian youth for the best interest of both nations. The program includes:

- Strolls and dialogue sessions between the Lebanese and Palestinian youths in many areas across Lebanon and in the Palestinian refugee camps. Through such meetings, they learn about each other’s reality and discuss several issues, which helps to break the prevailing stereotypes;
- Making policy recommendations to decision-makers with the aim to improve the living conditions of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.



### **Development through Art**

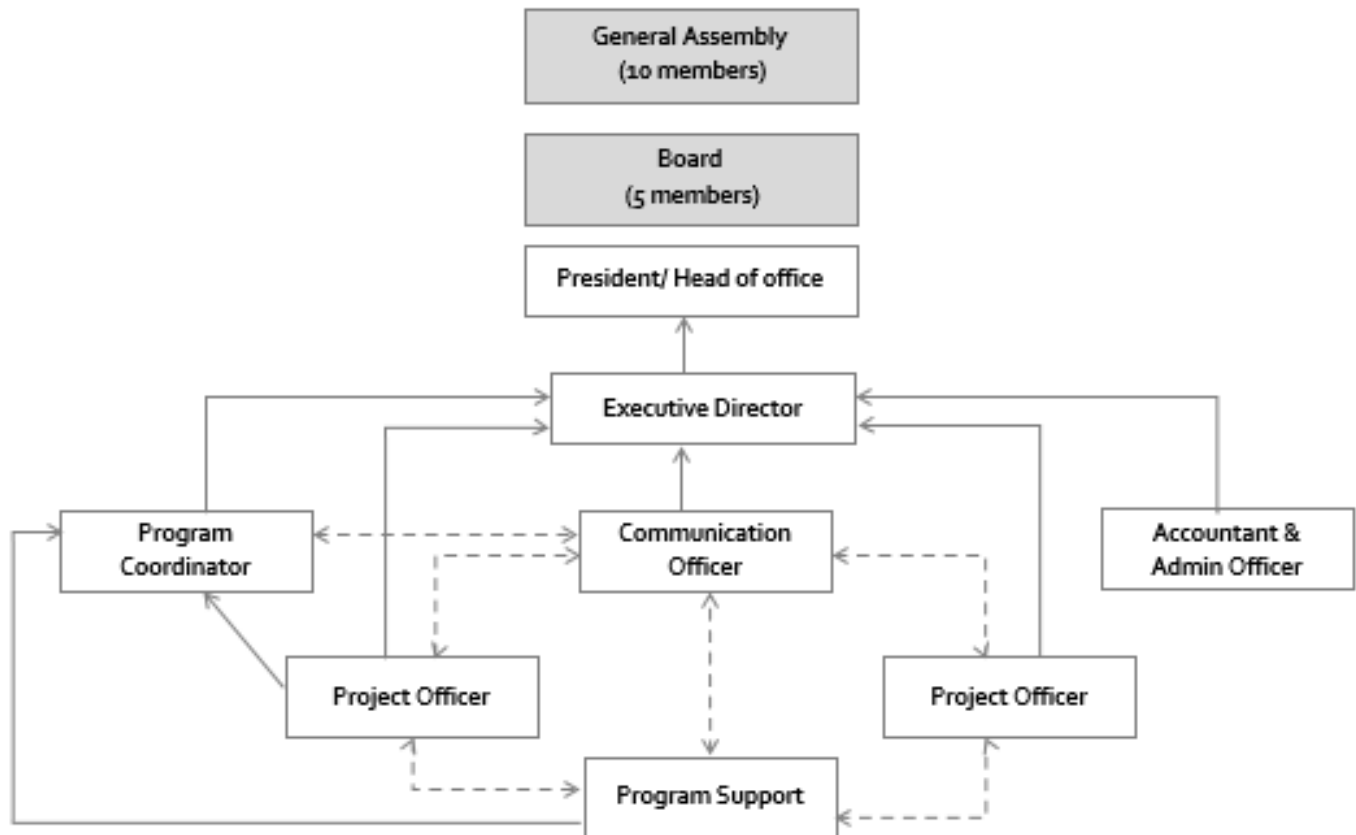
Masar believes that art is a vehicle to achieve development. Through theatre, film making, music among others, youth express themselves better, break their shyness, and feel more confident to engage in the public life.

### **Resources and Trainings:**

Masar produces interactive and youth friendly resources to enable youth to become active players in public life. It also organizes training workshops and dialogue sessions on the following topics:

- At the conceptual level: Human rights, citizenship, the sectarian system in Lebanon, youth development, participation, difference and discrimination, national youth policy, community service and gender.
- On the level of skills and tools: Communication skills, advocacy, conflict analysis and transformation, mediation, leadership, teamwork, needs assessment and project management

# MASAR ORGANIGRAM



1. "I Am a Citizen - Student Councils in Lebanon" project, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) and UNICEF
2. The "Youth Citizens of Today" project in partnership with UNICEF
3. The "Advocating Economic Security for Palestinians in Lebanon" project in partnership with Human Security Division (HSD) at the Swiss Embassy in Beirut
4. The "Advocating the Implementation of the National Youth Policy" project in partnership with The National Council of Swedish Youth Organizations (LSU)





## “I Am a Citizen - Student Councils in Lebanon”

### Partner:

Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE)  
and UNICEF

### Duration:

2015 - present

### Summary:

The project aims at putting into practice the principle of Democracy and enhancing students’ meaningful participation in the school community through the election of Student Councils, the planning and implementation of student- led projects that result in the betterment of the school community and its surrounding.



The Student Councils had been piloted in 20 public schools in grades 7, 8, and 10 throughout 3 scholastic years starting in 2015. In scholastic year 2019- 2020, the Student Councils are being rolled out in 100 public schools across the 8 governorates in Lebanon. A national generalization shall be issued based on a decree by MEHE. The Student Councils piloting has been documented in a user-friendly manual, which serves as a tool for rolling out the model nationally.

### Areas of the Project implementation:

100 Secondary and Intermediary public schools across the 8 governorates of Lebanon.

### Activities Implemented:

- Preparatory and follow- up meetings were held with the follow up committee at MEHE, consisting of coordinators and head of DOPS
- A Student Councils manual, that summarizes the 3 years of piloting is developed and designed by a specialized advertising agency.
- A Media Campaign for the student councils has been planned with the aim to showcase how the participation in student councils impacted the student life and the school community alike.
- 6 orientation workshops were organized, targeting educational counsellors and student councils’ coordinators with the aim to equip them with needed information to roll out the student councils in their respective schools.

## “Youth Citizens of Today”

### Partner:

UNICEF

### Duration:

Phase 2: June 2018 - May 2019

Phase 3: Oct. 2019 – Sep. 2020

### Summary:

The project has started in year 2017 in 6 communities across Lebanon and has expanded into 10 and then 20 communities in years 2018 – 2019 respectively.



The project aims at providing a space for youth from across Lebanon to get organized into youth-led initiatives, meet, interact, exchange experiences, and become familiar with diversity. The project aims also at empowering young people to become active in local development processes, as well as at encouraging them to establish sustainable communication and collaboration mechanisms with local authorities, and at strengthening their networking with relevant stakeholders over youth issues.

### Areas of the Project implementation:

Aley, Baakline, Badghan, Beddawi, Byblos, Chahime, Fakiha, Harouf, Hermel, Hibbarieh, Jeb Jennine, Katermaya, Mansoura, Mazboud, Nabatieh El Tahta, Old Saida, Qaa, Qob Elias, Rachaya, Ras Baalbeck, Tripoli and Zibkeen.

### Activities Implemented:

#### During the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase:

- 2 capacity Development trainings on Leadership skills, community service, the National Youth Policy, Advocacy and Lobbying and the Municipalities roles in planning and implementing local development policies were held targeting 65 youth.
- A National Stakeholders' Meeting was held with the participation of Ministries, governors, Municipalities, UN representatives, international and national organizations and youth from different areas across Lebanon. The meeting was planned by Masar and UNICEF

aimed at creating a platform and setting the edifice for a structured dialogue with relevant decision makers and key stakeholders where youth can shed light on the main issues identified through the Participatory Action Research (PAR) and advocate for actions at the local and national levels.

- Each of the 10 youth- led initiatives has planned one communal advocacy project that addressed their priorities, and implemented it in collaboration with the local authorities in their respective areas. All communal projects/ advocacy campaigns included 3 main components:
  - Structured dialogues with local decision makers;
  - Awareness sessions;
  - Community and outreach activities.

#### During the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase:

- 20 youth- led initiatives from various areas across Lebanon have been recruited in this phase of the project.
- The first capacity development training on citizenship and other related concepts was held focusing on youth roles amid the current Lebanese uprising.
- A manual on “Participatory Action Research (PAR)” has been revised and updated to have child rights and human rights integrated throughout all its various sections.



### Various activities with the UNICEF Regional Office

- 3 youth from the youth- led initiatives have participated in a regional workshop titled “Donor Briefing on Participatory Action Research: A Dialogue with Young Researchers from the MENA Region” organized by the EU delegation and UNICEF regional office in Amman, Jordan.
- 4 youth from the youth-led initiatives have participated in the “No Lost Generation (NLG) Tech Summit” that was co-led by UNICEF and NetHope in Amman, Jordan.



## “Advocating Economic Security for Palestinians in Lebanon”

### Partner:

Human Security Division (HSD) at the Swiss Embassy in Beirut

### Duration:

May 2018 – April 2019 / September 19 – August 2020

### Summary:

Masar’s work on the Palestinian program has been supported by HSD since 2015. Since then, the work has been ongoing, cumulative, and multi-level. Having strong connections in both the Lebanese and Palestinian communities, Masar sees it can have an added value in building bridges and synergies between Lebanese and Palestinians i.e. strengthening inter-communication between Lebanese and Palestinians rather than intra- communication among Palestinians only.

During 2019, the program focused on forming a Palestinian youth core team whose role is to collectively raise a right based agenda, and on advocating economic security for Palestinian refugees, namely Palestinian nurses working in Lebanon.



### Areas of the Project implementation:

Nationally across the 12 refugee camps in Lebanon.

### Activities Implemented:

- 2 strolls/study visits were organized with the participation of 98 Lebanese and Palestinian youth to Chatila and Bourj Brajneh Camps. The strolls allowed youth to perceive living realities of people in the Camp and the Lebanese areas away from stereotypes they hold against each other.
- 3 round tables were organized around policy papers developed in the previous phase of this project, as per the follow:
  - o 1 round table on “The right to proper housing for Palestinians in camps and gatherings” was hosted Ain el Helweh camp;
  - o 1 round table on “The right of Palestinian workers registered at the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) to benefit from all its services” was hosted at Mar Elias Camp;
  - o 1 central round table on “Legalizing the work of Palestinian nurses in Lebanon” was held with the participation of the legal advisor of the Order of Nurses in Lebanon.



- 2 capacity building workshops on “Stereotypes and discrimination” and “Defining oneself, communication skills, leadership, teamwork, and community service” were conducted for 46 Palestinian youth core team members.
- A bill of right was drafted on the right to work, addressing the Lebanese government to:
  - o Adopt a unified definition for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon
  - o Endorse the right work for Palestinian refugees without a work permit
  - o Endorse the right for Palestinians who are registered in the “National Social Security Fund” and pay full fees to benefit from the full services of the Fund.
- A desk review research was conducted on the work of Palestinian nurses in Lebanon and examine possible legal means to ensure them protection at work.
- The project activities have been promoted through the dissemination of press releases and photos on Masar social media platforms.



## **“Advocating the implementation of the National Youth Policy”**

### **Partner:**

The National Council of Swedish Youth Organizations (LSU)

### **Duration:**

January – December 2019

### **Summary:**

With the support of the LSU since year 2005, Masar has been able to strengthen, on the long term, the democratic structures of the youth networks working on youth policy in Lebanon, namely YAP and the Youth Forum.



Masar has been working on advocating the National Youth Policy (NYP) in close collaboration with the “Youth Forum for Youth Policy”. Masar has been elected as Secretariat of the Youth Forum since 2011.

The Youth Forum is a non- governmental network formed of Lebanese youth NGOs and youth wings in political parties that are registered at the Lebanese government. The Youth Forum is recognized by the Lebanese government by virtue of Council of Ministers decree # 80/ 2007. It is a space that gathers youth NGOs and youth wings in political parties from diverse ideological and political backgrounds over Lebanese youth rights in Lebanon. It aims at having a multi- sectorial youth policy that provides quality services for young people in all sectors and ensures their right to have influence in the public life.

### **Areas of the Project implementation:**

Nationally

### **Activities Implemented:**

- Youth Forum General Assembly meetings were held to discuss the priorities of the Youth Forum, lobbying tactics and ensure maintaining transparency within the network;
- Youth Forum follow – up committee meetings were held with the aim of discussing media issues pertaining to the Youth Forum, and taking decisions at the admin level;
- Advocacy meetings with relevant Ministers and MPs were held with the participation of youth representatives of the Youth Forum member organizations to advocate the implementation of the NYP priorities and promote a model of accountability between state and non- state youth actors;

- Discussion sessions with young people across Lebanon were organized on the root causes of the uprising in the various sectors: economic, fiscal, social services, pollution, unemployment, corruption, State bankruptcy, lack of public transport/ traffic.
- 2 exchange visits took place in Lebanon and in Belarus between Masar and RADA, one of LSU's partner organizations, with the aim to share the Lebanese experience in developing a National Youth Policy with Belarus, discuss the challenges facing youth worldwide, and promote the youth cross- cultural exchange as it helps youth widen their exposure, perspectives, and tolerance.



### The National Youth Policy (NYP) priorities that have been identified by the Youth Forum beginning of 2019



- ⊙ A model of meaningful youth civic engagement is developed and implemented in 20 areas across Lebanon, reaching out 2800 young males and females, and being consolidated for national replication.
- ⊙ 4 youth-led initiatives have been established by 4 active youth who participated in civic engagement projects with Masar since 2016. These youth took the initiative to mobilize their peers and lead the positive change in their communities.
- ⊙ Young people have applied the knowledge, skills, and tools they have acquired and experienced with Masar during their participation in the Lebanese uprising. They have been active in mobilizing their peers, rallying against corruption, advocating their rights as citizens, and voicing out their demands for a better Lebanon.
- ⊙ The Student Councils are being rolled out during scholastic year 2019- 2020 in 100 public schools after being piloted in 20 public schools for 3 years in partnership with MEHE and UNICEF. The generalization decree is awaited to be out, and a 5- year roll out plan to be developed by MEHE.
- ⊙ A Palestinian youth core team has been formed from young representatives of Palestinian NGOs and political factions with the aim to have a unified right- based lobbying agenda over Palestinian refugees' rights in Lebanon.
- ⊙ Masar's efforts have been focused on facilitating the work of Palestinian nurses in Lebanon through ensuring their full protection at the order of nurses in Lebanon.
- ⊙ The Youth Forum continues to set a model for a national inclusive platform that adopts a unified advocacy agenda over youth rights. And the National Youth Policy work in Lebanon, which is based on a solid bottom-up methodology, is viewed as a good model that has inspired other youth groups in other countries.





## SUMMARY ON MASAR'S FUNDING

Masar Association would like to express its gratitude to the Partners and Donors who have supported it in advocating youth rights in Lebanon.

List of Partners/ Donors for 2019:

#	Donor Name	Total Project Amount	Project title
1.	UNICEF Lebanon	USD 285,335	"Student Councils- Civic Participation"
2.	The National Council of Swedish Youth Organizations (LSU)	SEK 450,000 (USD 46,642.65)	"National Youth Policy"
3.	The Human Security Division at the Swiss Embassy in Lebanon	USD 76,478.6	"Advocating Human Rights for Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon"
4.	International Organization for Migration (IOM)	USD 6,258.29	"Development for Stabilization in Beddawi area"



**[www.masarlb.org](http://www.masarlb.org)**



**@MASARLBORG**

Telephone: +961 1 348 411

E-mail: [info@masarlb.org](mailto:info@masarlb.org)

**Address:** Shartouni Bldg. | 7th Flr. Apt. # 36 & 37 | Sourati Str. | Hamra, Ras Beirut  
| Beirut – Lebanon

P.O.Box: 113-5979.