

Annual Report 2020

The year 2020 was an exceptionally challenging year for the world and for Lebanon. In addition to the global Covid-19 pandemic, Lebanon experienced its most significant economic crisis. On August 4th 2020, an explosion deemed the biggest non-nuclear one in the history of humankind shook our Lebanon's capital Beirut destroying large parts of it while claiming lives and injuring hundreds of innocents' lives.

All of the mentioned 2020 struggles did not stop LebEval as an association in working towards achieving its vision and that is 'To promote and improve the theory, practice, understanding and utilisation of evaluation and its contribution to public knowledge, informed and inclusive policy making, planning and quality interventions for the best of Lebanon and its citizens'

In summary, LebEval reached 33 registered professional members by end of 2020. This document represent the 2020 Annual Report of LebEval capturing its main activities and achievements.

Lebanese Evaluation Day:

On Friday the 31st of January 2020, LEBEVAL held its 3rd Lebanese Evaluation Day as a webinar with renowned international evaluation specialist Michael Quinn Patton as guest key note speaker. The subject that was discussed was 'Evaluating Transformation'. The call was initiated from Berytech with more than **50 participants from over 15 countries**. The webinar lasted 2 hours with a presentation by Mr. Quinn Patton followed by questions & answers.

The webinar is available online through this link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uQHF9YnPZ_o

Save the Date!

January 31st, 2020, 14h45 – 16h45pm Lb. time (12:45GMT; 7:00CET)

The Lebanese Evaluation Day Webinar

Speaker: Michael Quinn Patton

Subject: Evaluating transformation

Transforming Lebanon Through Evaluation

JOIN via this link: <https://zoom.us/j/5669948005>



The Speaker

Michael Quinn Patton is an independent organizational development and program evaluation consultant, and former president of the American Evaluation Association. He is the founder and director of Utilization-Focused Evaluation. Patton has received both the Alva and Gunnar Myrdal Award for "outstanding contributions to evaluation use and practice" and the Paul F. Lazarsfeld Award for lifetime contributions to evaluation theory awarded by the American Evaluation Association

EVALMENA Conference 2020:

The Lebanese Evaluation Association participated in the preparation for and the event of the EvalMENA 8th Annual Evaluation Conference and General Assembly held in the Dead Sea in Jordan; hosted by the Palestinian Evaluation Association. Eight (8) members from LebEval participated in this conference.

The participation of LebEval members took the form of presenting papers in focused technical sessions and participation as panelists in round tables. The LebEval participation included the presentation of the following papers:

- Evaluative thinking in the theory of change era: Hands-on tips for evaluators by Ziad Moussa
- Making the case for country-led evaluations of the SDGS: Building on MENA Country experiences (A multi-stakeholder perspective) by Kassem El Saddik (Chair of the panel) and Felix Herzog
- Optimizing resources for the promotion of Evaluation: An example from the Lebanese Evaluation Association by Rami Assaf
- WASH in Schools programs in Lebanon: Effectiveness of Hygiene promotion activities by Dr. Sarah Osmane
- Country-Led evaluations and national M&E systems facilitated by Ziad Moussa

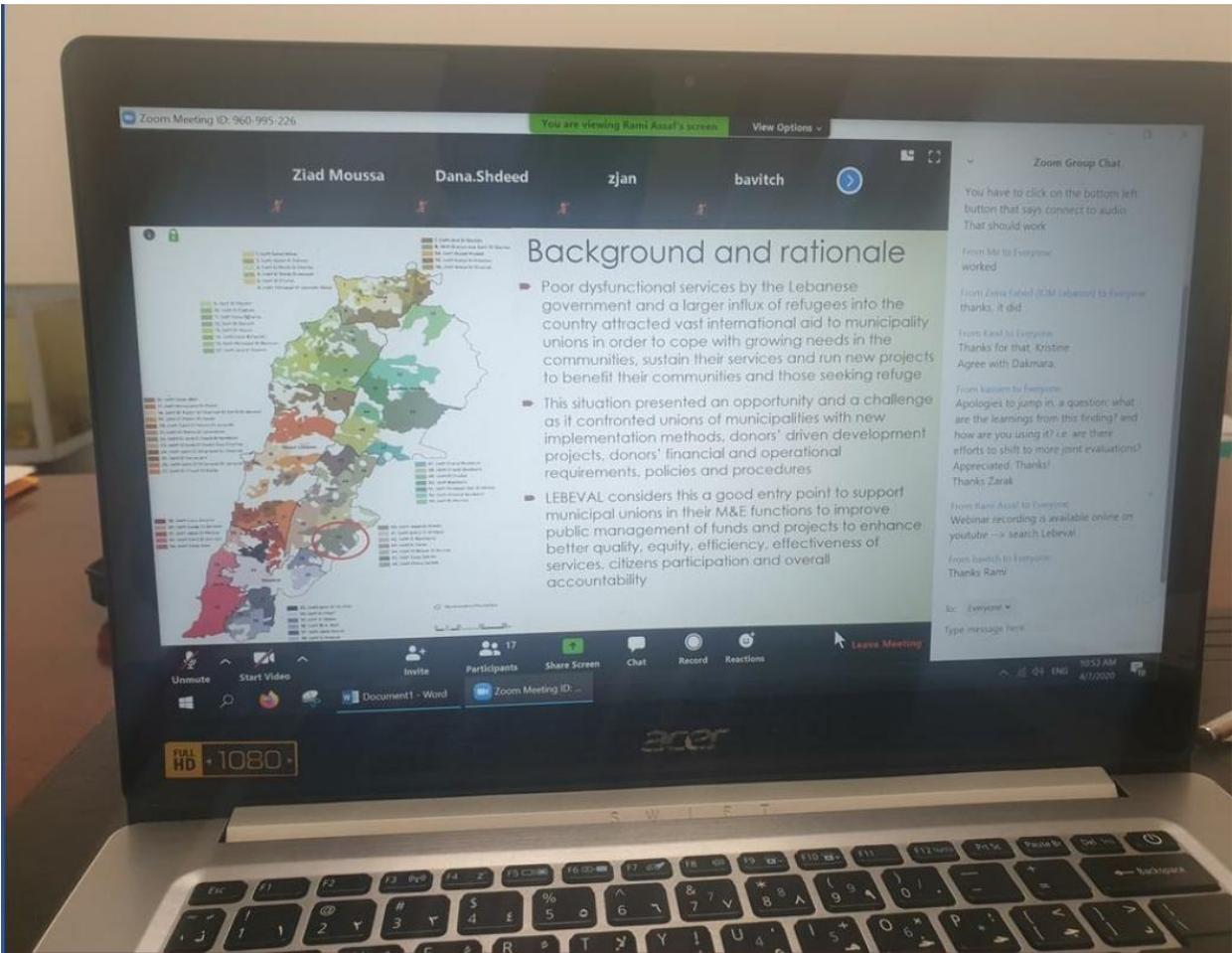


The LEBEVAL representatives at EVALMENA

In this conference, LebEval was provided with the Evaluation Flame, which is the symbolic reference, that EvalMENA is entrusting LebEval to host the next EVALMENA conference in Beirut. Due to the covid-19 pandemic, the hosting of the EvalMENA 2021 is under discussion.

National Evaluation Capacity:

Following-up from EVALMENA, LEBEVAL attended an online working group held by all United Nations evaluation groups in Lebanon entitled ‘National Evaluation Capacity’. The goal of the meeting was to discuss ways on how to improve National Evaluation Systems. LEBEVAL presented different proposals to strengthen evaluation in Lebanon including the flagship program described in the section below.



The online working groups.

Flagship Program:

The Lebanese Evaluation Association was one of a few selected VOPEs – Voluntary Organizations for the Professionalization of Evaluation winners of EVALPARTNERS flagship program funding for the year 2020.

The goal of this program is to strengthen national evaluation systems. As such, LEBEVAL decided to work through a pilot project in the union of municipalities of Dannieh. By strengthening the evaluation capacities and system of a subnational government, LEBEVAL would use this pilot project as an example of the importance of evaluation in the public sector and lobby at a national level. The project also intends to raise awareness of union members around citizens' rights to access to information.

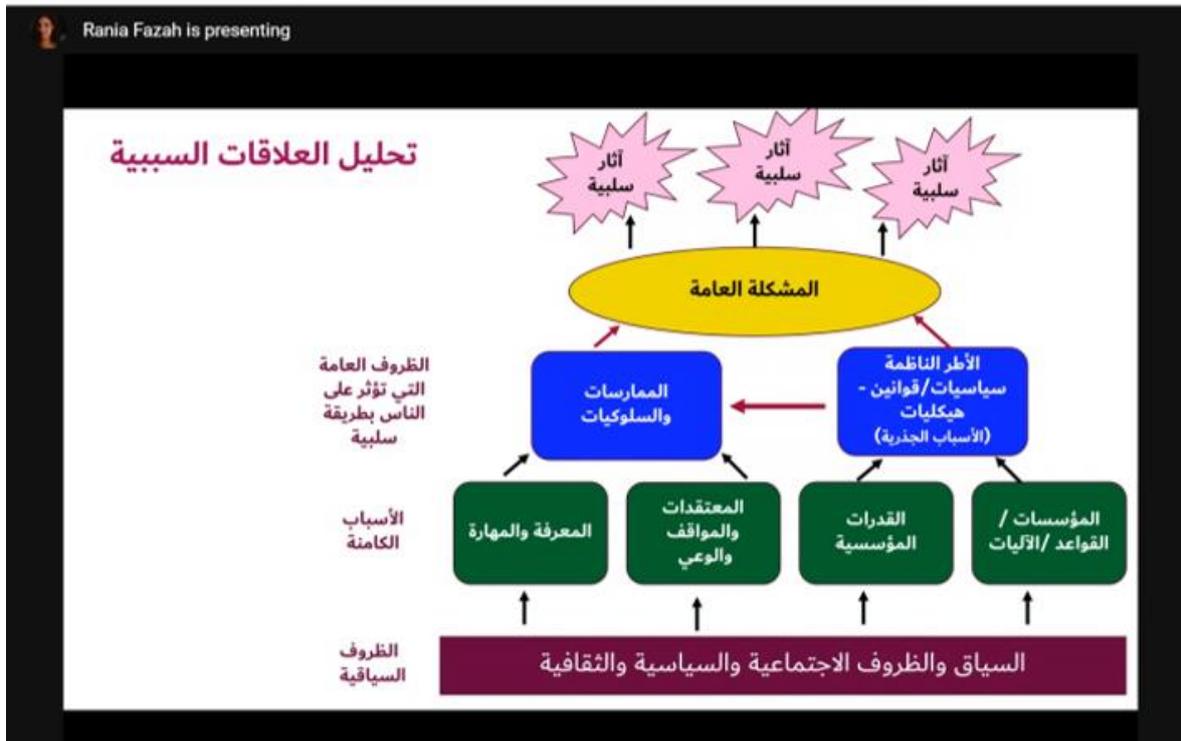
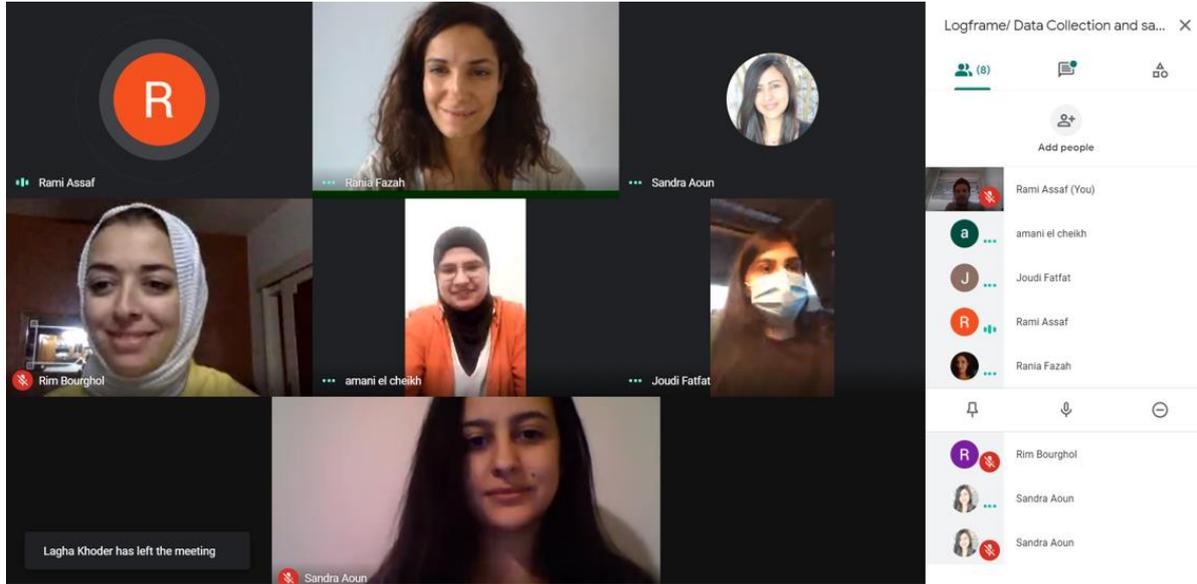
The project provided capacity building, tools, and technical support over the course of 1 year (extended to April 2021 due to Covid-19 pandemic) to the Dannieh Union of 20 Municipalities. The selection of this Union was based on several criteria including its willingness to engage in strengthening its local governance practices with support from other key partners such as VNGI and DRI; where they have incorporated some innovative decentralization, municipal rights, empowering youth in municipalities actions.

The scope of this project included the following activities:

1. **Identify main MEAL capacity needs:** via rapid interviews with the municipal council members, a 1 pager survey around their knowledge of M&E and access to information, consultations with active INGOs¹, the ministry of interior and relevant stakeholders. This intervention will assist LebEval in identifying gaps in evaluation knowledge, skills and tools in the union.
2. **Develop a capacity-building plan** in coordination with the Dannieh Union of Municipalities, partner INGOs and the Ministry of Interior to address the identified needs. The plan will include at least one training workshop on M&E and public access to information, M&E guidance and tools, & technical backstopping to help the Union report on its various development programs.
3. **Assist the Union in designing outreach, & feedback channels** to enhance public access to municipal information, which includes decisions, budgets, plans, official notices, and municipal activities. This ensures transparency and inclusiveness.
4. Capitalize on this **pilot exemplary to promote M&E and access to public info at the subnational level**, to influence the municipal agenda nationally in collaboration with Democracy Reporting International (DRI), Veriniging van Nederlandse Gemeeten International (VNGI) and the Ministry of Interior. LebEval will use dissemination, documentation and outreach tools to promote the intervention results through multi stakeholder meetings and workshops.

¹ VNGI and DRI are working in these municipalities and are well informed of the capacity needs, and have already done some capacity assessments for them.

The intervention is closely working in collaboration with key stakeholders. In addition to the Union of Municipalities of Dannieh, it is working with INGOs such as VNGI and DRI and with local governmental authorities such as the Ministry of Interior. It mainly aims at enhancing the union's ability to incorporate M&E in their work and provide public access to municipal information. So far, LebEval implemented three capacity-building sessions through this program. These sessions covered "Introduction to Monitoring and Evaluation" and "Logframe & Data Collection and Sampling". Twelve (12) municipality employees (public servants) completed these sessions.



Online Capacity Building training on Logframe/Data collection and sampling given to union of Dannieh employees.

Support to Beirut - Aug 4th 2020 Beirut Blast:

The Lebanese Evaluation Association is assisting an initiative entitled ‘Help families in Beirut – Fundraiser’ by providing evidence based systematic evaluation for their intervention. LebEval is providing this work at no cost as a contribution to the supporting Beirut blast reconstructions and recovery efforts. .

Context: On August 4th, 2020, at 6:07 pm, a massive explosion of 2,700 tons of ammonium nitrate happened at the port of Beirut, Lebanon, destroying a large part of the city, killing more than 200 people, injuring more than 3000 and leaving thousands homeless. Moreover, Lebanon has been under an economic crisis since the end of 2019, with its national currency losing 78% of its value to date. The crisis is accentuated by a worldwide pandemic of COVID-19.

This e initiative came from 2 persons that could not stand still and needed to provide support for their families and fellow citizens: Mrs. Neyla Bend and Mr. Charbel Ghostine. Neyla launched a fundraiser on Facebook, the social media platform raising an amount of approximately 35,000 USD meant to support the families affected by the blast. In order to ensure proper capturing of results and evidence base reporting to the contributors to this initiative, Neyla and Charbel reached out to LebEval. LebEval mission in this was to establish professional, systemic and transparent evidence base results tracking and reporting this initiative to be able to ensure efficient and effective expenditures of funds and documentation of results achieved.

This project is ongoing, and a mid-term evaluation report done by LEBEVAL is available online and downloadable through this link: <http://www.lebeval.org/news/support-to-beirut.html>



Intervention evaluated by LEBEVAL

IPDET 2020:

LebEval supported the sponsorship participation of two of its members in the IPDET program:

- Mohammad Abou Baker
- Sarah Osman, PhD



The International Program of Development Evaluation Training is one of the most prominent evaluation training programs. LebEval succeeded in getting financial support to certify two of its members in IPDET in 2020.

EvalYouth

EvalYOUTH Webinar series 2020

Lessons from YEEs in VOPE Leadership

14 // OCTOBER // 2020
10am - 11am EST (New York Time)

MODERATOR
Mark Mubeli
Secretary, EvalYouth Task Force 1

Speakers:
Rami Assaf
Board member of LESRYAL - The Lebanese Evaluation Association

Daniel Essel
President, YEE Ghana & Board member, Ghana Monitoring and Evaluation Forum (GMEF)

Wangxiu Kariuki
EIE Board Rep, Evaluation Society of Kenya (ESK) EYEF Secretary Co-Chair EvalYouth Kenya EvalYipasa

Ana Erika Lorenz
YEE focal, Philippine Evaluators for Development (PHLEDEV) Secretariat, Asia Pacific Evaluation Association (APEA) Co-leader, EvalYouth Asia

Registration form: <https://forms.gle/wAsAYbJNIO79BkgZ>

The webinar will be in English with French translation available

presented by PIKTOCHART

EvalYouth is a global, multi-stakeholder partnership/network that supports and promotes young emerging evaluators (YEEs) and youth-led accountability around the world.

On October 14 2020, LebEval Board Member Rami Assaf supported the EvalYouth Webinar on Lessons from Young and Emerging Evaluators (YEEs) in VOPE Leadership where he shared the LebEval experience, projects, challenges and vision forward.

LebEval will continue to collaborate with EvalYouth to ensure proper engagement and mobilization of the youth to further promote the Evaluation spectrum and the use of evaluation for strengthening evidence base result oriented development and programming.