

خطوات عملية لتعزيز المساواة الجندرية في جهود التعافي
في ظل غياب الدولة.



ANNUAL REPORT

2022



6

PUBLICATIONS



7

CAMPAIGNS



21

TRAININGS



427

TRAINEES

250 000⁺

REACH

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SEEDS MISSION AND VISION

Seeds for Legal Initiatives (SEEDS) is a non-profit organization founded in 2016 and based in Beirut, Lebanon.

OUR VISION

All people in Lebanon and the region, including all marginalized groups, are aware of their legal rights, of legal mechanisms and are empowered to seek justice that is based on human rights, equity and non- discrimination.

OUR MISSION

To raise awareness on legal rights and advocate for legal reform through workshops, campaigns and law and policy drafts; and to provide legal advice and representation through the legal clinic.

OUR OBJECTIVES

- Raise awareness on legal rights through campaigns and workshops
- Ensure the law is accessible to all using a simpler everyday language
- Provide legal advice and representation through the legal clinic
- Advocate for legal reform through campaigns and law and policy drafts





LAYAL SAKR
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - SEEDS

We believe in building a country where citizens, both men and women, enjoy their full rights and freedoms, and with the hope of establishing a state that safeguards these rights and freedoms. Therefore, we have pursued our efforts, throughout this year, determined and eager to defend human rights in Lebanon, especially for the vulnerable and marginalized groups. We aim to empower individuals by providing legal information, capacity building and shaping policies that promote reform and respect for human rights and dignity at both the public and private levels.

During this year, we shed light on civil and political rights, emphasizing the importance of exercising the right to vote freely, without any pressure which is a fundamental right in democratic countries. True democracy cannot exist without protecting pluralism and safeguarding public freedoms. Hence, we also emphasized the importance of preserving freedom of opinion, expression, and the right to criticize. Through our advocacy efforts, we conducted a study and proposed keeping matters of opinion and expression outside the scope of criminalization so that individuals can enjoy the right to criticize without fear of legal prosecutions.

Women and their rights have not been absent from our programs, especially after the Beirut Port explosion. So, we conducted a study on humanitarian aid which did not consider women's needs, and we emphasized the importance of donors' policies taking into account the gender perspective and the diverse needs. We also addressed sexual orientation and the right of individuals to exist without harassment and discrimination based on sexual and gender identity. We organized several workshops to affirm that homosexuality is not a disease, is not a crime, and it does not require any treatment.

Finally, it is essential to remind everyone that life becomes difficult without freedom, and we will do our utmost to preserve it in a country where the space for criticism does not shrink, so that "the mouth does not become a mere den for the tongue."



HOW DID WE KEEP AN EYE ON FREEDOMS IN LEBANON?

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In line with what **SEEDS'** Legal Clinic Program enfold and represents, we have strategized to put focus on the protection of freedoms, civil society organizations and civic spaces throughout the projects we have implemented this year based on the posing threats that are on the rise in the Lebanese context.

The Legal Clinic

Reach

48K+ visitors



HOW DID WE KEEP AN EYE ON FREEDOMS IN LEBANON?

Addressing legal restrictions on FOE in Lebanon and pathways to decriminalize it

In collaboration with the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL), **SEEDS** launched a research study titled “**How can we limit legal restrictions on Freedom of Expression and protect it.**” The study was followed by a roundtable gathering of the FOE coalition, activists, journalists, emerging political groups and other engaged entities in order to consolidate the proposed legal alternatives to protect freedom of expression.

“**Less restrictions, More freedoms**” campaign was launched to contribute to the promotion of the study key points and help disseminate the information to a larger audience giving a chance for the general public to engage and debate on **SEEDS** social media platforms.

Reach

4,800+



HOW DID WE KEEP AN EYE ON FREEDOMS IN LEBANON?



Addressing Nonprofit organizations Restrictions related to AML/CFT Regulations

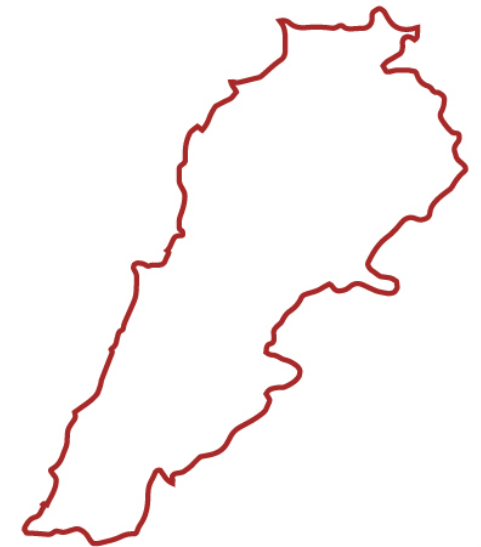
Also in collaboration with ICNL, **SEEDS** contributed to building civil society capacity in Lebanon around legal restrictions enacted to counter terrorism financing (CFT) and money laundering (AML) that unduly constrained freedom of association.

SEEDS developed a report on “**AML/CFT and NPO regulations in Lebanon, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendation No.8 and best practices for countries and NPOs to implement to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism**” while maintaining the associations rights. A training on FATF and the recommendation 8 was then delivered to **16 CSO representatives**.

We have also worked on developing a research guide on **the assessment of the Regulatory Frameworks for Digital Fundraising in Lebanon**.

For the third consecutive year, **SEEDS** contributed to ICNL’s **Civic Freedom Monitor** project, and provided quarterly monitoring reports on the state of civic freedoms in Lebanon. Through these reports, **SEEDS** observed and documented the violations as well as the advancement of freedom of expression, assembly and association rights.

TO KEEP UP with the latest on freedom of press and the best practices worldwide **SEEDS** completed a fellowship on media self regulation in Tunisia, Sweden and Denmark. The fellowship was organized by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA).





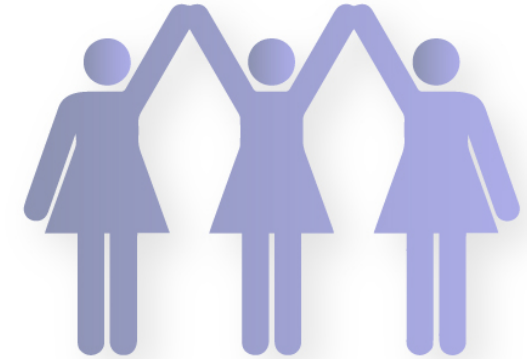
**HOW DID WE TAKE A STAND
FOR WOMEN THIS YEAR?**

HOW DID WE TAKE A STAND FOR WOMEN THIS YEAR?

Enhancing gender responsiveness and inclusion

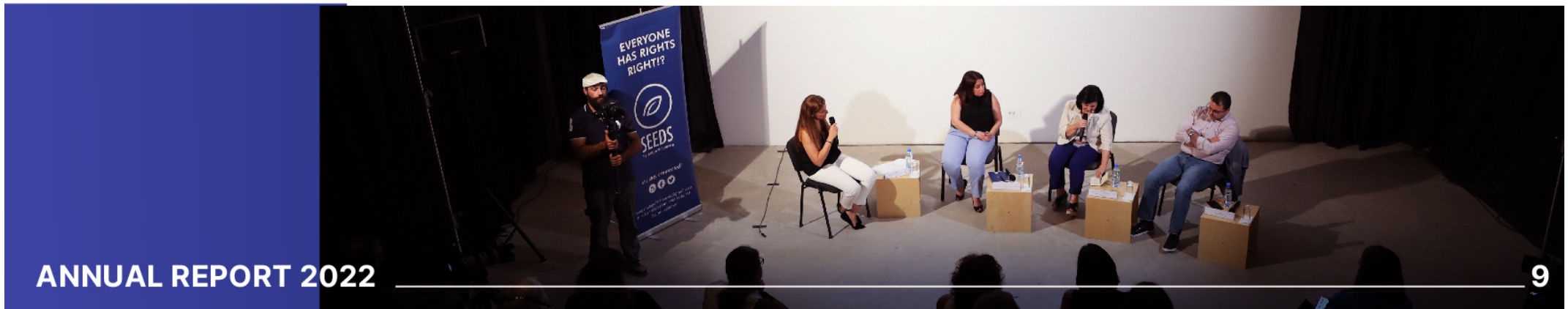
SEEDS, with the support of UN Women, the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) and the Government of Germany, launched on June 27, 2022 the study "**In the Shadow of a State: Towards more Gender Responsive Aid**" to examine to what extent the recovery programs that received funding following the Beirut Port explosion on August 4, 2020 were gender responsive and women inclusive. We mobilized 50 stakeholders to begin to advocate for gender-inclusive recovery from disaster. The study of 80 pages was validated with women activists, leaders of NGOs, business representatives, and newly elected female parliamentarians. This study details the ways in which donors and NGOs can work better together to combat violence through the sustainable inclusion of women, especially those women whose suffering is exacerbated in the crisis.

"Towards Gender Responsiveness and Inclusion" campaign was launched to promote the findings and the recommendations of the study in a more simplified approach to make it accessible to the larger audience.



Reach

15,000+



HOW DID WE TAKE A STAND FOR WOMEN THIS YEAR?



“Towards a more Equal Society” campaign was launched during the month of March to highlight the impact of gender inequalities on women’s lives in Lebanon. The campaign shed light on the gender gap, on women’s political and economic participation, on education, health issues, social status and stressed on zero discrimination attitudes and the necessity of increasing the efforts to close the gap.

Reach

41,000+



HOW DID WE TAKE A STAND FOR WOMEN THIS YEAR?

Enhancing safe spaces free of sexual harassment and violence

SEEDS in collaboration with The Lebanese League for Women in Business (LLWB) developed a “**Training manual on combatting sexual harassment at the workplace**”. It focuses on legislations, practices and internal policies tackling sexual harassment at the workplace.

The manual was developed under the Productive Sector Development Program (PSDP) for the purpose of equipping the trainers of the PSDP with the tools of knowledge to integrate these principles into their different training modules. It can be delivered as part of other programs as well.

4 TOT sessions were then delivered to the **71 trainers** of the PSDP on how to use the manual.

12 explanatory videos for LAU’s online course on “Strengthening Arab Regional Capacity to Collect Data on Violence Against Women and Girls”.

Unite! To end Violence against Women & Girls campaign was launched during the 16 days of activism campaign on GBV forms and crimes and legal tools to combat it.



Reach

50,000+



**WHAT DID WE DO FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF LGBTQ RIGHTS
AND FOR THE EMPOWERMENT
OF THE COMMUNITY?**

WHAT DID WE DO FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF LGBTQ RIGHTS AND FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF THE COMMUNITY?

Shifting Opinion and attitudes towards sexual orientations and gender identities

SEEDS conducted **12 training sessions** on LGBTQ rights in partnership with OXFAM, LAU and FES. These sessions targeted **200 participants**, university students, secular clubs and emerging political groups as well as organizations from the private sector. The training modules focused on shifting opinions and attitudes towards LGBTQ individuals and on showcasing the legal avenues to protect and defend their rights.

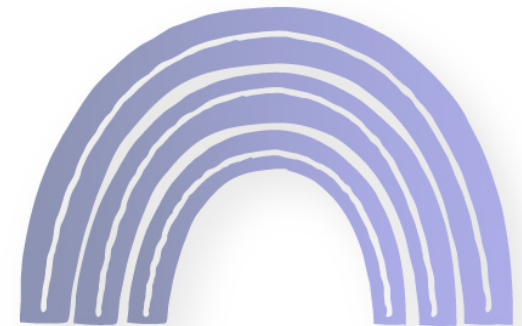
Knowledge as a tool to fight against misinformation

In July, **SEEDS** launched an awareness campaign on how to counter argue legal provisions that criminalize sexual orientations.

It consists of **6 short videos**. Each provides a simplified legal answer based on the Lebanese constitution and laws.

Reach

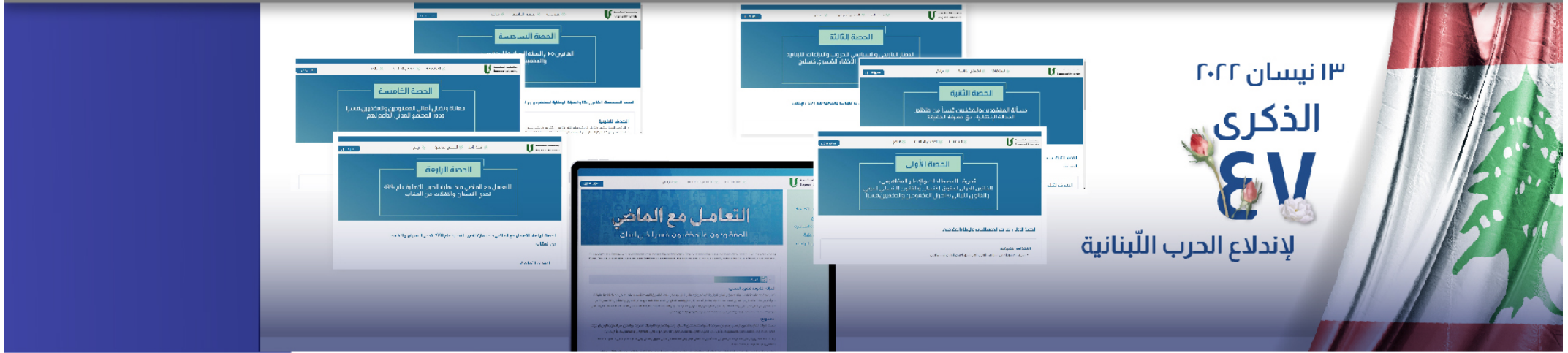
200,000+





HOW DID WE PROMOTE PEACE AND SOCIAL RECONCILIATION?

HOW DID WE PROMOTE PEACE AND SOCIAL RECONCILIATION?



In collaboration with the Human rights Legal Clinic at La Sagesse University and Dr. Carmen Hassoun Abou Jaoude, **SEEDS** launched a free online course on the "The Missing and Forcibly Disappeared in Lebanon".

The course is open for students and the general public. It is self-paced and consists of 6 modules and provides reading materials, videos, quizzes and other learning activities. At the completion of the course, participants receive a certificate from La Sagesse University.

Following the launch event **SEEDS** produced a social media campaign to raise awareness on the importance of collective memory and social reconciliation.

Reach **2,500+**





**ARE WE PROVIDING THE TOOLS FOR
BETTER ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT?**

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SEEDS contributed to the development of “INVESTMED - Intellectual Property Rights Guidebook” (IPR) in Collaboration with BEYOND Group. The guidebook is a tool to support young people and women as well as public bodies through knowledge and capacity development by raising awareness and addressing misconceptions around IPR.

In that regard, **SEEDS** participated in the capacity building sessions, conducted by BEYOND Group and targeting **30 social entrepreneurs**, providing legal expertise on IPR.

SEEDS, in collaboration with Farah Social Foundation (FSF), provided a training module tackling startups and social enterprises legal framework and companies legal registration registry. This training targeted a group of **10 participants** to build their capacity in establishing their own businesses, thus giving them better opportunities to empower themselves financially.



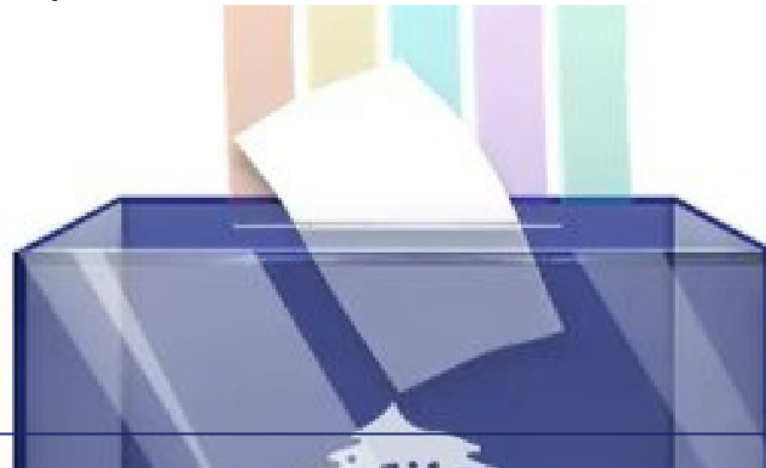
HAVE WE BEEN ADVOCATES OF POLITICAL CHANGE?

التصويت بداية التغيير

We launched the “**Vote for Change**” campaign prior to the parliamentary elections in May 2022. It consisted of videos, infographics and podcasts to pass the knowledge in order to influence a good voting practice.

Reach

47,000+



PARTNERS



THE SAMIR KASSIR FOUNDATION





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