**SEEDS Organizational Profile**

**Seeds** **for Legal Initiatives (SEEDS)** is a non-profit organization founded in 2016 and based in Beirut, Lebanon. We are an organization committed to empowering individuals in Lebanon and the MENA region by ensuring equal access to justice and legal protection.

**Our Vision**

Every individual in Lebanon and the MENA region enjoys equal access to justice and legal protection, possesses equal rights, and is empowered to pursue justice.

**Our Mission**

At Seeds for Legal Initiatives, we dedicate ourselves to creating and disseminating knowledge on vital legal issues, driving policy reform, and enhancing capacities through education and training. We are committed to fostering a network of partnerships that amplifies our mission and propels us toward a future where justice and equality are within everyone's reach.

**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

**Our Website and Social Media Handles**

www.seedslb.org

[www.legal-clinic.org](http://www.legal-clinic.org)

[Instagram:](https://www.instagram.com/seedsforlegalinitiatives/) SEEDS for Legal Initiatives

Facebook: SEEDS for Legal Initiatives

Twitter: seedslb

**Our Work**

1. **Capacity Building:** The primary objective here is to empower participants with necessary legal knowledge and resources by creating responsive training programs. We will achieve this by developing a needs assessment, custom training materials, and conducting training sessions while also gathering participant feedback. We will establish an annual program, selecting key topics, developing a curriculum, recruiting expert facilitators, and running the program annually. Success will be indicated by the number of training sessions, participant feedback scores, and participant skills and knowledge improvements.

**2. Policy Development:** This focus area is geared towards influencing societal changes and inspiring policymakers to drive and implement these changes. We plan to develop policy papers, engage policymakers through meetings and presentations, and track policy changes. Additionally, we aim to develop comprehensive studies, research papers, action plans, and policy papers. Indicators of success will be the number of policy papers developed, changes influenced, and engagements with policymakers.

**3. Knowledge Production:** In this focus area, our objective is to produce and disseminate accessible, engaging, and informative content. We plan to do this through various channels like Podcasts, Minute Videos, Infographics, and Legal Clinics. We also aim to produce thematic toolkits that help different sectors address legal issues. The indicators of success include the number of content pieces produced and the reach and engagement of content.

4. **Campaigning and Awareness Raising:** Our goal is to develop and launch targeted campaigns. We plan to plan and create video campaigns, distribute them, and monitor and evaluate their success. The success of this focus area will be measured by the number of campaigns launched and their reach and impact.

**5. Legal Services:** Our objectives include providing accessible legal assistance through a hotline, launching a specialized service for investigating sexual harassment cases, and offering consultancies for other CSOs. We plan to set up a hotline, train staff, advertise the service, conduct investigations, and provide legal assistance. Success will be determined by the number of calls received, the number of cases investigated, and user feedback.

**SEEDS’ Achievements**

* Developing a report mapping and identifying legal and societal obstacles hindering the advancement of SRHR in the Lebanese civic space under the Masarouna project, in collaboration with Oxfam Lebanon (August 2023 – December 2023)
* Develop a user-friendly whistle blower self-paced course for Transparency International to raise awareness on corruption in Lebanon (September 2023)
* Develop a user-friendly introductory course about the Participation in budget monitoring with Transparency International to raise awareness on the importance of transparency and participation in the budget process. (October 2023)
* Organizing a panel event titled “The International Humanitarian law and the gendered impact of conflict”. The panel provided the framework and sketched out the international instruments, and their importance during the current times to achieve peace and justice with a focus on women and girls through the Women's Voice and Leadership–Middle East project and in collaboration with Oxfam Lebanon and the Arab Institute for Women. (December 2023)
* Organizing a full day conference on “She in the Rule of Law and Sustainability”. The conference consisted of three consecutive panels and focused on the role of women in the rule of law and sustainable developments in the Middle East & North Africa (MENA) with a main emphasis on Gender Equality (SDG 5), Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8) and on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (SDG 16) in collaboration with in collaboration with the "Rule of Law Programme for the Middle East & North Africa (MENA) of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung – KAS (September 2023)
* Conducting training sessions in Zgharta, Hasbaya and Jezzine aout municipality work and provide the participants with all the legal information about the formation, mandate, finances, funding, and electoral process of municipalities as well as highlighting the importance of accountability mechanisms and the vital role youth can play in public life and how they can become key drivers of the desired change.The sessions adopted a participatory approach to inspire young leaders to develop plans in order to overcome challenges at the level of their community. In collaboration with Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung – FES
* Developing a research paper *“Promoting citizens’ participation in Municipal elections”* on laws related to municipalities as public institutions and their role in providing full services for citizens, in collaboration with UNDP under the Lebanese Electoral Assistance Project-LEAP. Producing a media campaign consisting of 4 animated videos and 2 podcasts to simplify concepts and laws related to municipal elections and promoting women and youth inclusion. (February 2023 – April 2023)
* Shifting Mind Set and Fighting Structural Discrimination against Women in Lebanon under Women’s Voice and Leadership Project in partnership with OXFAM (February 2023 – April 2024)
* Organizing a panel discussion in the Lebanese American University in Beirut and the Arab Institute for Women (AIW) to discuss the problematic of sexual orientations changing efforts (SOCE) in collaboration with Internews (January – February 2023)
* Conducting a training sessions on the Role of Municipalities and Training Young Electoral Representatives. Developing an interactive toolkit that also outlined the legal requirements, provisions and necessary documentation, ensuring representatives operate within the legal framework in collaboration with Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung - FES (January 2023 – May 2023)
* Institutional funding to support SEEDS’ efforts to strengthen its organizational and financial capacity and develop its strategic plan for the coming 2 years with the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund - UN Women (October 2022 – March 2023)
* Training for Farah Foundation to build the capacities of entrepreneurs on legal aspects and requirements related to the establishment and good management of SMEs (August 2022)
* Legal Consultancy to review Media Ownership Monitor and develop guidelines for a code of conduct with Samir Kassir Foundation (August to October 2022)
* Legal consultancy to conduct an assessment of the regulatory frameworks for digital fundraising in Lebanon and submit a research report in collaboration with ICNL (August to November 2022).
* Production of a series of 14 video within a self-paced course on conducting VAW prevalence studies in the Arab States in collaboration with the Arab Institute for Women (July – August 2022).
* Development of a training toolkit on fighting sexual harassment both at the workplace and at the national level as well as the delivery of TOT sessions with the Lebanese League for Women in Business (LLWB) (April and May 2022).
* Organizing a roundtable event Freedoms and Elections” with the support of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) (December 2021)
* Introduction to SOGIESC training delivered to political activists and representatives of emerging political parties in collaboration with Helem and FES (November 2021 – June 2022)
* Training for Goethe Institute Fantasmeem Incubator Programme to support design entrepreneurs from the Cultural and Creative Industries (CCI) in Lebanon, with a sustainability / environmental focus and build the capacity of trainees on legal aspects and requirements related to the establishment and good management of SMEs (October 2021)
* Developing 10 policy papers to support women candidates in preparation for the 2022 Parliamentary Elections in collaboration with Fifty-Fifty (November 2021 – January 2022)
* Reviewing the Lebanese Penal Code and advocating for priority amendments in addition to launching SEEDS' legal helpline on freedom of expression, association and assembly in collaboration with ICNL (September 2021 - July 2022*)*
* Developing a training module on anti-corruption and FATF for CSOs in collaboration with ICNL Jordan (September 2021 - August 2022)
* Developinga Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) on missing persons in collaboration with the Human Rights Legal Clinic at Université La Sagesse (September 2021 - February 2022)
* Conducting a study to assess gender inclusivity in recovery efforts following the Beirut Port Explosion. The study is followed by networking efforts with women led organizations in Lebanon, capacity building of organizations involved in these efforts on gender inclusive policies and a media campaign. This project is in collaboration with the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund - UN Women (July 2021 - July 2022)
* Developing a module on the new anti-sexual harassment law number 205/2021 and relevant considerations for Lebanese employers in addition to moderating a 2-day technical consultation in collaboration with the Centre for Inclusive Business and Leadership for Women (CIBL) at the American University of Beirut (March - May 2021)
* Fostering legal knowledge and raising awareness with regard to Democracy and Political Participation by establishing a Legal Clinic website outlining the relevant laws along with social media infographics, 8 animated Videos and 4 Podcast Episodes in collaboration with Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung. (March - June 2021)
* Fostering legal knowledge and raising awareness with regard to Women’s Rights by producing 4 Legal Minute Videos, 2 Podcast Episodes and a Live Webinar in collaboration with Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung. (March 2021)
* Challenging Stereotypes, Providing Services, Convening, and Advocating: A multi-layer approach to promote LGBT rights in Lebanon in collaboration with Oxfam. (January 2021 – March 2022)
* Monitoring and facilitating the monitoring of trials where there are high risks of human rights violations in collaboration with the Clooney Foundation for Justice. (January - December 2021)
* Providing support to researchers within a legal framework, assisting with the interpretation of available laws and translating suggestions and solutions in legal terms for research papers focusing on Modernizing cultural policy-making in Lebanon – improving theatre, crafts and arts teaching in Lebanon in collaboration with Friedrich Naumann for Freedom and Samir Kassir Foundation. (December 2020 - April 2021)
* Fostering legal knowledge and raising awareness with regard to democratic rights and principles by producing 2 videos in the Legal minute series on Democracy and the Constitution in collaboration with Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung. (December 2020)
* Establishing a legal clinic on Freedom of expression, assembly and association and to create awareness through a communication campaign based on visuals (info graphics, animated videos, promotional video, Interviews, VOX POP…) that simplify legal terms and texts in collaboration with the International Centre for Not- for- Profit Law (ICNL) and SIDA. (March 2019 - ongoing)
* Monitoring NGO Legal developments and recommending revisions to the country report quarterly in collaboration with the International Centre for Not- for- Profit Law (ICNL). (Starting 2019 - *ongoing*)
* Production of 8 animation videos on Anti-Corruption laws in Lebanon with UNDP (December 2019)
* Production of 8 animation videos that help in explaining reform proposal content to a broader public in collaboration with International IDEA. (September 2019 - December 2019)
* Review of the Lebanese commercial law and the Lebanese labour law in addition to raising awareness on the incentives to register enterprises in Lebanon in collaboration with Oxfam (May 2018)
* Providing capacity building trainings on human rights and facilitation skills for NGO members, law students and Junior lawyers to create a group of community facilitators to raise awareness among the community on legal topics in collaboration with CLDH. (2019-2020)
* Hosting, organizing and moderating a 3-day seminar on the draft General Comment No. 37 on the right to peaceful assembly convening activists, defenders, and civil society representatives from the MENA region with ICNL. (October 2019)
* Conducting 2 training modules on Freedom of speech, assembly and association in collaboration with ICNL. (May 2018)
* Initiative aiming at shifting opinions and attitudes toward LGBT persons with Hivos. (2018 till 2019)
* Review of the existing literature related to the role of local governments in the management of the oil and gas sector with Beyond Reform and Development (2017).
* Trainings for Right to Play on Entrepreneurship in Social Business to build the capacity of advisors and business coaches on legal aspects and requirements related to the establishment and good management of SMEs. Follow up with advisors and coaches on legal issues and questions on a case-by-case basis (2017)
* Build capacities of actors on anti-sexual Harassment policies in Lebanese SMEs at AUB to develop comparative study and design intervention paths and to integrate sexual harassment protection policies in organizations - the KIP Project (2017)
* Women in Public Life: A Gender Analysis of Lebanon’s Sectarian Power-sharing System (April 2017)