

# An Alternative Approach to Development

September 27, 28  
2023

**Alternative Beirut and Jibal offer a two-day workshop directed at donor organisations, development aid workers, and diplomatic staff.**

The workshop seeks to provide a space to critically reflect on development and aid work, while giving an alternative and holistic approach to politics in Lebanon, avoiding the dangers of single story narrative. The workshop is multidisciplinary and takes into consideration history, society, development, socio-culture, geography, and economy.

**A workshop for rethinking approaches to development work in Lebanon**

# Program

## Day 1

The first day will focus on providing a **comprehensive overview of Lebanon's political landscape and its complex historical context.**

Participants will learn about the various political, as well as societal dynamics that shape the country's political system. During the tour, participants will be presented with a contextualization of Lebanon's current political affairs, which will be connected to regional history, geography, and society. The tour will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to engage in discussions along the way.

After some time walking, participants will sit together and witness a **stakeholder mapping in a small Beirut street.** During the rest of the walk, participants are asked to detect around them the various stakeholders present (public, private, and third sector), and what are the power relations between them, as well as their present situation.

9:30	Walk through Beirut from Meeting Point
11:30	<b>Break</b>
12:30	Snack break and the Start of the stakeholder mapping exercise with continuation of the walk
14:00	End of the Walk- Moving to a Coffee Place (transportation provided)
14:30	Lunch
15:30	Debrief Discussion
16:30	End

# Program

## Day 2

The second day will focus on **reflecting on one's own approach in aid or development work**, by digging into the **dynamics of power through a reflection of each one's own history and background**. Through interactive exercises, personal work, and small group discussions, the participants will be able to build common knowledge on these topics, and think further about actions. While the structural level imposes on us many boundaries and challenges, the objective is to think of what change can be achieved at each one's own level.

Overall, the 2-day-workshop aims to provide participants with **a comprehensive understanding of the political and social context in which they operate, their own position within this context, and their power.**

9:30	Welcome
9:45	My Own Story of Working in Development
11:15	<b>Break</b>
11:30	Questions Interview Development Aid
12:30	The Danger of the Single Story
13:15	<b>Lunch</b>
14:15	Reflection around Specific Situations
15:30	<b>Break</b>
15:45	How can I act? What can I change?
16:30	Closing and Evaluation

## Details

# Why?

**The objective of this workshop is to have a change in perspective to the understanding of the context and politics of Lebanon**, through a multidisciplinary approach considering: history, geopolitics, class struggles, sectarianism, and economy. The aim is to bring more critical thinking to the understanding of local social dynamics;

- Exploring topics of stereotypes, prejudices, and privileges;
- Acquire tools for thinking about our roles and interventions in a more equitable manner.
- Acquire tools for mapping society's actors and placing oneself

# Who?

- **Individuals:** \$200 USD/Participant (Groups of 10-15, price includes lunch and other breaks)

# When?

- September 27th & 28th, 2023
- 9:30 am to 4:50 pm

# Where?

- Meeting Point Day 1: Across the street from the Syriac Catholic Patriarchate.
- Meeting Point Day 2 will be communicated on Day 1.



ALTERNATIVE BEIRUT

# Trainers and Co-Creators

**Alternative Beirut and JIBAL** are committed to advocating for and practically implementing sustainability and environmental and social justice, in all their aspects, including the built and natural environments, human societies, and economic and social policies.

## Trainers and Co-Creators



### Angela Saade

Angela Saade grew up in Lebanon and studied in France and Spain, where she also worked for 10 years.

She earned a Master of Engineering from the National Polytechnic Institute of Grenoble (INPG) and a few years later a Master of Applied Anthropology from the University Lumière Lyon 2.

She worked for Hespul , in Lyon, France, as a photovoltaic (PV) project manager, as manager of the PV section, and as an energy and urban planning expert. In parallel to her engineering work, Angela co-founded the French NGO Tabadol which aims to build a more equitable society reflecting its diversity and centering on social justice. Angela moved back to Lebanon in 2016. She has been the technical advisor for the youth program of the Lebanese NGO Mouvement Social, mainly working with underprivileged young people from different areas of Lebanon. In 2017, she co-founded the NGO Jibal working on environmental justice, and is heading its 'Food Sovereignty Program'.

## Trainers and Co-Creators

### Ounsi El Daif

Ounsi is originally a physicist who studied in France and Switzerland, he got his Ph.D. in 2007 from the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL, Switzerland).

Until 2015 he was a researcher in the field of solar photovoltaic energy in world-class scientific labs (EPFL, Lyon Nanotechnology Institute in France, IMEC in Belgium, QEERI in Qatar) and he then continued in the academic world as a university lecturer.

Since 2015, he is a serial social entrepreneur, having founded Eedama Advisors, and cofounded Jibal NGO for environmental justice, Alternative Beirut Social enterprise, as well as agroecology-related projects and startups. He has been doing startup mentoring and coaching for the past 5 years in the frame of Eedama for varied institutions such as: The Science and Innovation Park in Al Ain (UAE University), Berytech (Beirut), Beyond group (Beirut), StartAD (NY University in Abu Dhabi), the Lebanese League for Women in Business and others. He develops educational and training content for the various organisations he works with.



# Trainers and Co-Creators

## Moustafa Fahs

Moustafa is the founder and general manager of Alternative Beirut. Passionate about the social and economic fabric of Beirut, Moustafa conducted the research and developed the content that is provided during the Alternative Beirut tours.

Moustafa specializes in organizational culture and creativity management within the public and private sectors. He obtained his MSc in Service Management with a focus on culture and creativity from Lund University in Sweden.

He is also currently working at the One Planet Sovereign Wealth Funds Initiative. Moustafa is also an expert in all different aspects of project management (PMP certified), and entrepreneurship. He has been working with Eedama and Jibal on responsible tourism in Lebanon, as well as delivering inspirational workshops about ideation and idea validation to startups.





Alternative Approach to Development

# Group Discounts 20%

for organizations with  
more than 2 registrations

[Register now](#)