

Araz Basmajian

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Nationality: Lebanese Armenian | **LinkedIn Profile:** [Araz Basmajian](#)

Summary

Human rights and community development professional with a background in project coordination, capacity building, and inclusive programming. Experienced in leading advocacy initiatives with NGOs like the Lebanese Center for Human Rights, HIVOS, UNHCR, NRC, Canadian Embassy and HELEM. Passionate about social justice, empowerment, and creating safe, inclusive spaces for all communities.

Work Experience

Project Coordinator NRC GFFO SDC- November 2025 to February 2026

- Managed all implementation related to legal info sessions, legal consultations and representations.
- Wrote and followed up of all narrative and financial reports.
- Managed all components of the 2 programs including research and strategic planning.

Project Coordinator CFLI- July 2025 to February 2026

Lebanese Center for Human Rights (Canadian Funds for Local Initiatives-Canadian Embassy)

- Oversaw the implementation of a legal aid and advocacy project supporting marginalized communities of blackmail and extortion.
- Outreached and supervised advocacy group discussions and research production, ensuring timely progress and quality compliance with donor requirements.
- Facilitated collaboration among civil society partners and maintained communication with stakeholders and donors throughout all project phases.

Project Coordinator – June 2024 to February 2026

Lebanese Center for Human Rights (in partnership with Hivos-Dutch MoFA)

- Coordinated the implementation of the *Free to be Me* project, promoting the rights and inclusion of grassroots initiatives and individuals in Lebanon.
- Oversaw project planning, execution, and reporting, ensuring alignment with donor requirements and organizational goals.
- Managed stakeholder relationships, including civil society partners, community groups, and international donors.
- Facilitated awareness-raising activities, advocacy efforts, and capacity-building workshops to foster social change.

Community of Action Facilitator – November 2022 to May 2024

Lebanese Center for Human Rights (in partnership with Hivos)

- Facilitated the development and coordination of a Community of Action focused on promoting human rights, inclusion, and collaboration among diverse stakeholders (members, global partners, funders, donors, CSOs).
- Engaged community members, activists, and organizations through regular meetings, dialogues, and joint initiatives to strengthen collective activism, capacity building and advocacy.
- Provided technical and strategic support to community members, enabling them to design and implement action plans aligned with shared goals.

Community Development Officer – December 2021 to November 2022

HELEM Organization

- Designed and implemented community-based initiatives to support and empower diverse individuals across Lebanon.
- Conducted outreach and mobilization activities to engage community members and strengthen advocacy and activism participation in HELEM's programs.

- Facilitated needs assessments and focus group discussions to inform responsive and inclusive project planning.
- Coordinated MHPSS, Livelihood and Legal support services in addition to referrals in collaboration with internal teams and external partners. (Local and global CSOs, SMEs, religious entities, parents, media, other organizations)

Community Center Officer – December 2020 to December 2021

HELEM Organization

- Managed day-to-day operations of the community center, ensuring it remained a safe, welcoming, and inclusive space for diverse individuals.
- Planned and coordinated educational, psychosocial, and recreational activities tailored to community needs.
- Supported walk-in clients by providing information, referrals, and assistance with accessing services and support.
- Collaborated with partner organizations and service providers to enhance program delivery and resource availability.

Humanitarian Response Officer – May 2020 to August 2020

HELEM Organization

- Coordinated emergency response activities to support diverse individuals affected by crises, including economic hardship and displacement.
- Assessed beneficiaries' needs and facilitated access to humanitarian aid, including shelter, food, and medical support.
- Liaised with local and international partners to ensure inclusive and timely service delivery. (OSF, UNHCR)
- Monitored and documented case progress and response effectiveness to ensure accountability and continuous improvement.

Instructor (Employment Sessions) – February 2020 to May 2020

HELEM Organization

- Developed and delivered tailored employment sessions focused on CV writing, interview preparation, and job search strategies for diverse individuals.
- Empowered participants with practical skills and confidence to access inclusive employment opportunities.
- Collaborated with community members and partners to identify job market trends and address barriers to employment.

Art Instructor – June 2019 to July 2020

HELEM Organization

- Designed and facilitated inclusive art workshops to promote self-expression, creativity, motor skills use and healing among LGBTIQ+ participants.
- Created a supportive learning environment that encouraged dialogue, identity exploration, and community building through artistic activities.
- Showcased participants' artwork in community events to amplify voices and celebrate diversity and talent.

Translator and Teacher – July 2016 to August 2020

Al Kafaat Institute and University/City & Guilds

- Translated educational materials and curricula between Arabic and English to support accessibility for diverse learners.
- Taught language and communication skills to students in vocational training programs, focusing on workplace readiness.
- Adapted lesson plans to meet the individual needs and learning styles of students with disabilities.
- Facilitated cultural and language understanding to enhance students' engagement and professional integration.

Head Chef and Teacher – June 2014 to August 2020

Al Kafaat Institute and University

- Led the culinary training program, delivering hands-on instruction in cooking techniques, kitchen safety, and food hygiene all accredited for official exams.
- Designed and updated curriculum to align with industry standards and meet the needs of students with diverse abilities.
- Supervised kitchen operations and student practice to ensure high-quality food preparation and professional discipline.
- Mentored students to build their confidence, creativity, and employability in the hospitality and catering sector.
- Organized and managed school catering events, providing real-world experience and showcasing student talent.

Education

Master's degree in Hospitality and Tourism / Lebanese University / *Dissertation Pending*

Bachelor's degree in Hospitality management / Al Kafaat University / 2017

Training

SOGIESC Training / HELEM / July 2019

Training of Trainers (ToT) Facilitation / Bridge Center CLDH/December 2023

Training of Trainers (ToT) on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights / Pleasure Fellowship/April 2024

Disability Inclusion / Lebanese Union for People with Disabilities (LUPD) / June 2025

Core Skills

Program & Project Management: Project implementation | Coordination | Strategic Planning | Monitoring & Evaluation | Budget Management | Budget Monitoring | Humanitarian Response.

Community Engagement & Capacity Building: Community Engagement & mobilization | Advocacy | Human Rights | Inclusion | Training Delivery | Capacity Building | Stakeholder Engagement.

Communication & Organizational Skills: Report writing | Documentation | Team Collaboration | Leadership | Problem Solving | Decision Making | Conflict Resolution.

Computer skills: Microsoft office suite, Google workplace, KOBO, Zoom, Teams, and Google Meet.

Languages: Fluent in Arabic, English, and Armenian | Intermediate in French.

References

Margot Khoury | Community Center Manager (Helem) – Supervisor

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Alissar Zaghout | Previous Project Coordinator (Free to Be Me-CLDH), Current Programs Manager, SMEX- Supervisor

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Nicole Bou Khalil | Current Programs Manager-(CLDH)

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