

DanChurchAid (DCA) and Lebanese American University (LAU) LAU - Institute of Media Research and Training (IMRT): 2023 Students Competition Impact Through Their Eyes

Competition

We are thrilled to invite you to participate in the "Impact Through Their Eyes" competition, a unique initiative jointly launched by Danish Church Aid (DCA) and Lebanese American University (LAU). This exciting competition is specifically designed to cast a brighter spotlight on the work undertaken by DCA in Lebanon.

🌟 Competition Objective 🌟

The primary goal of this competition is to showcase the impact of DCA's efforts in Lebanon, as they continue to make a positive difference in the lives of countless individuals and communities. By harnessing the power of storytelling, we aim to bring to life the human stories behind DCA's work, illustrating the transformative change it brings about.

📷 Capture the Heart of DCA's Work in Lebanon 📷

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to use your creative talents to capture and convey the essence of DCA's projects in Lebanon. This can be a video, or a written narrative/ article that you feel best represents the work being done on the ground.

Eligibility

The competition is open to anyone who is aged between 18 and 30 years and is an LAU full or part-time student.

Categories and Prizes

There are two categories in the competition:

1. Article or Written Narrative
2. Video

Article/ Written Narrative:

- First prize: USD 400; Second prize: USD 200
- An individual category.
- Entry must be between 500 words and 1,800 words. The number of words stated at the end of the article.
- Includes interview(s) with relevant key project, stakeholders, staff, and beneficiaries to be coordinated with DCA.
- The article must be in Microsoft Word and written in the format of a news report or news feature.
- Q&A formats will not be accepted. No accompanying images, tables or graphics will be accepted.
- The article should be named in this format, date of submission (yymmdd)_article title e.g.: 230824_YouthEmpowered.docx
- No identifying information of competition participants (including name, student number, etc.) should be included anywhere in the article.

Video:

- First prize: USD 400; Second prize: USD 200
- A team of not more than three persons.
- Entry must be between 3 and 10 minutes.

- Includes interview(s) with relevant key project, key stakeholders: staff, and beneficiaries to be coordinated with DCA.
- Video (MP4 format) in the format of a news reporting or news feature. Q&A formats will not be accepted.
- Video file should be named in this format, date of submission (yymmdd)_VideoName title e.g: 231028_DCAHazardtoHarvest.mp4
- No identifying information of competition participants (including name, student number, etc.) should be included anywhere in the video.

Key Dates

Competition Launch: 5 October 2023
Submission Deadline: 16 November 2023
Winners Announcement: 23 November 2023

DCA will also organize several on-site and online talks on the aforementioned themes to help participants learn about the different goals and projects. These dates will be shared with those who will enter the competition.

Submission steps

1. Fill up the online form at
2. Email the article/link to download the video to DCA at mias@dca.dk with the email subject: LAU Competition 2023.

A submission is considered complete only after the above two steps are done by 16 November 2023

Selection criteria

A judging panel from both LAU and DCA will select winners based on the following criteria:

1. Composition and content, i.e. form, structure, and quality
2. Fair, balanced, and objective reporting.
3. Originality, style, storytelling technique and creativity
4. Language
5. Factual, informative and well-researched
6. Onsite/ Online attendance*

*Participants will be asked to provide a screenshot of their attendance (with full name) and a summary of what they learned from each of the webinars as proof of attendance, which must be emailed together with the competition entry to earn the additional marks (maximum for attendance at two). For the on-site, DCA will be taking attendance.

Other terms and conditions

- Participation in the competition means that an entrant has accepted the terms of the competition.
- There is no entry fee.
- Each person may submit one entry.
- The entry must be the entrant's original work. Plagiarism or writing/video that contains libel or slander against any person/organization or contains profanity will invalidate an entry. No copyrighted materials (music, images, video clips, etc.) may be used for this competition unless you own the copyright or have a license to use the material for this contest. Written permission must be obtained and provided upon request for all copyrighted materials.
- Entrants may be required to provide identity documentation as proof of their age.
- By entering the competition, it is deemed that the entrant allows the organizer to use the winning work for publicity of the competition or communication issues, credited to the winners. All entries may also be used by the organizer in their whole or edited form.

- Prizes are non-exchangeable.
- Winners shall be notified by the organizer via email on 24 November 2023. If there is no response from the chosen winner within five working days, another winner will be selected.
- The organizer is not responsible for and shall not be liable for late, lost or misdirected entries, or unsuccessful efforts to notify winners.
- Entries not conforming to contest guidelines/rules will be disqualified. The judges reserve the right to reject entries found to contain false information at their discretion.
- The decision of the judges is final. No correspondence will be entertained.
- While not anticipated, these rules and regulations are subject to changes at the discretion of the organizers at any time. The organizers shall have the right to interpret these rules according to their judgment.

This competition is a remarkable chance for LAU students to contribute to a greater cause, showcase their creativity, and raise awareness about the humanitarian and development work being done by DCA in Lebanon.

We encourage you to spread the word, engage your creative spirits, and get ready to make an impact through your lens and storytelling.

Let's shine a light on the work of DCA together! We look forward to your participation.

About DCA Lebanon

DanChurchAid (DCA) has been working in Lebanon since 2007. We work under a set of goals, which are firmly rooted in our vision and a direct response to the imperative for sustainable development and humanitarian action. All of DCA's endeavors align with and support one or more of these fundamental goals:

1. **Save Lives:** Our foremost priority is to swiftly respond to crises and emergencies, with a sharp focus on safeguarding and preserving human lives. We consider every life sacred, and when lives and human dignity are imperiled, it becomes our moral obligation to provide assistance and protection.
2. **Build Resilient Communities:** To realize a world free from hunger, poverty, and oppression, we are dedicated to nurturing resilient communities. These communities serve as the bedrock for sustainable development and inclusive growth, forming the foundation upon which we can build a brighter future.
3. **Fight Extreme Inequality:** Acknowledging that growth and progress often exclude marginalized populations, we are committed to addressing and transforming political, social, environmental, and economic disparities both within and among nations. This commitment is integral to achieving our overarching vision.

DCA possesses substantial technical expertise and a wealth of experience to support our partners in the pursuit of these three pivotal goals. We understand that DCA's actions alone cannot fully realize our vision, but by collaborating with others, including local NGOs, international NGOs, and local authorities, we can take tangible steps toward a better Lebanon.

Main projects in Lebanon

Clear the Hazard

DCA has been working on mine action projects since 2007, clearing lands from landmines, cluster munitions, and other explosive remnants of war, which pose a threat to life and limb and affect residential areas, agriculture, and grazing lands.

DCA has cleared over eight square kilometers of residential and agricultural land contaminated. This is equivalent to more than 1,200 football pitches. DCA also undertakes non-technical survey activities

in Mount Lebanon to gather data on the remaining contamination and its socio-economic impact, freeing up land faster and more efficiently.

Mine and cluster munition clearance not only reduces the risk of harm from the explosion but also releases previously contaminated land back to communities for socio-economic development. In the context of rising demands from the local and refugee population, this is key to supporting the poorest people in Lebanon to make a living to support their families.

The objective of the mine action teams is to support socio-economic development in high-priority mine-affected communities and to reduce the risk of death and injury from unexploded ordnance. The teams are currently working in the Mount Lebanon area, which is considered an important area for clearance by the Lebanese authorities. The area that surrounds Beirut has many urban areas and active agricultural production, as well as conservation areas. Besides DCA, there are currently no other mine action NGOs operating in these districts.

Give Youth and Women Access

In the face of the protracted crises in Lebanon, especially the decrease in the rate of education and increase in the rate of employment, topped by the increase of social tensions inter and intra communities. Also, in line with the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan and the Emergency Response Plan, DCA and its partners provide informal education and empowerment activities to women and young people to enable them to improve their livelihood and income generation possibilities.

Protection and psychosocial support are mainstreamed within these activities to improve the well-being of vulnerable people, enhancing their ability to cope with psychosocial stress. DCA and its partners provide sustainable solutions while promoting well-being, resilience and social cohesion among Lebanese host communities and Palestinian and Syrian refugee populations, especially young people and women.

This project is in partnership with Amel Association, Fraternity Association, and Borderless NGO, which have been offering services to the most vulnerable communities in Beirut and the South area. Through this project, vocational and skills training is offered to youth, and educational support services to children. For a more holistic approach, the participants are also offered psychosocial support sessions to teach them effective ways to deal with the crises. At this stage, the partners are at the end stages which focuses on youths-led initiatives aimed at increasing social cohesion in the communities. Different groups of youth are responsible for finding drivers of conflict in their community and then coming up with an initiative that will help decrease this conflict. Each partner has two groups of youth, each working on an initiative in their community.

From Hazard to Harvest

DCA is designing a new approach to link the clearance of land contaminated by landmines and cluster munitions to ensure better sustainable management and use of natural resources to increase productivity in agriculture while supporting efforts to tackle the effects of climate change and its local impacts.

This includes increasing the farming communities' access to both existing and new markets inside and outside of their region, maximizing the value chain approach, and empowering women, and young people as key participants. This will deliver a sustainable development approach for the long-term benefit of the agriculture sector and the people who rely upon it in Lebanon.

Many farmers, particularly the smaller ones, used to carry out farming as a secondary activity, especially in Bumhray. As incomes from other economic sectors, including the public one, dwindled,

reliance on agriculture has grown. After the training and needs assessment are done, the team on the field will identify the most important needs of the communities, which they will then address through local initiatives.

Survivor Community-Led Response - SCLR

In partnership with DPNA, a local NGO in Saida, DCA is implementing the SCLR approach which focuses on giving the power of decision-making and action to local communities. This approach through this intervention will start by identifying the vulnerable communities and introducing the project methodology to them. These two communities will be established from two areas Old Saida and Dalaa in Saida groups that represent all aspects of the community including women and youth (15 to 24 years old). DCA and DPNA will support these communities in making their own Participatory Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (PVCA) and subsequent action plans to revive ownership, trust, social activism, and hope. The groups will be trained to identify the risks, vulnerabilities, existing assets, and resources and will prioritize and develop community action plans accordingly. The established committees will later use the community cash grant to implement the action plan as per the survivor and community-led response (SCLR). The project will empower the community members to act towards addressing the challenges and risks they face and be more willing to intervene on behalf of the society as well as in the work implemented by the community itself to improve the conditions of living of the community.

Let's Go Local

We are deeply committed to promoting local leadership and localization within the humanitarian and development field in Lebanon. This commitment stems from the belief that empowering people and communities, along with the civil society organizations that represent them, is essential for fostering dignity, independence, capacity, and agency.

This commitment goes beyond financial support; it also addresses power dynamics, trust-building, and fostering meaningful and equitable partnerships, with a focus on inclusivity, especially for youth and women's organizations. We want to bring decision-making power, resources, and responsibility closer to the local level while reinforcing accountability, local leadership, and equitable partnerships.

Refugee voices heard loud:

The overall objective of the project is to elicit changes in attitudes and perceptions of the Lebanese host communities towards refugees and vice versa as a result of increased accurate, balanced, and timely information. Concurrently, the project aims at strengthening citizen journalism in Lebanon, ensuring that the voices of the unheard have a reach. Thus, the project will work to build the capacity of citizen journalists and help them integrate the concepts of human rights and ethical journalism into their reports by training them on technical topics such as combating fake news, research, and media information literacy as well as interpersonal topics such as communication skills and conflict transformation.... Concurrently, it will empower refugee communities who have limited access to strong media platforms to access their right to freedom of opinion and expression, thereby empowering them to improve their prospects and seek closer engagement with the outside world.

For more information visit our [website](#)