

OUSSAMA K. SAFA

SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

Vast expertise in mediation, facilitation and peacebuilding processes with a demonstrated record in designing and leading capacity building programs, evaluations, strategic planning and mediated interventions worldwide. Global experience in a variety of conflict settings and themes including journalism & peacebuilding, development & natural resource, civil wars & cease-fires, postwar reconciliation & governance, labor disputes, court-annexed alternative dispute resolution, refugee repatriation and disarmament and reintegration of child soldiers. Over 20 years of international university teaching experience at graduate levels.

Travel and work experience in 57 countries on four continents. Fluent in Arabic, English and French; beginner Italian.

KEY STRENGTHS

Peacebuilding process design, intervention and training – conflict mediation and analysis, negotiation and facilitation – public policy advocacy and governance reforms – extensive global experience notably in Sub-Saharan Africa and the MENA region.

GLOBAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION EXPERIENCE

05/'11-Present Independent Consultant Beirut, Lebanon

- Design and lead peacebuilding interventions with libyan, Syrian, Yemeni and Tunisian stakeholders. Provide strategic advice and consultancy on national dialogue and transitional justice processes (ongoing);
- Lead peacebuilding training interventions with local, regional and international clients;
- Provide consultancy to various institutions on peacebuilding and Syrian refugees (Gaziantep and Ankara); on decentralization processes (Erbil); on religious peacebuilding (The Hague); and on community peacebuilding and material development (Danish Refugee Council – Danish Demining Group);
- Co-wrote the first manual on peacebuilding and psychosocial support for children, funded by USIP and utilized by War Child Holland (WCH);
- Led numerous conflict assessment studies and wrote reports for GIZ, USIP and other clients;
- Elected Secretary General of the Lebanese Association for Democratic Elections (LADE) 2013-2015; provided electoral reforms support for transition processes in Yemen, Tunisia and Libya;
- Founding member, senior facilitator/task group expert with the Common Space Initiative, a dialogue process-based organization working on conflict issues in the Arab region;
- Provided strategic consultancy, capacity building and training interventions for SIWI (Stockholm), UNITAR (Geneva); Syria Trust for Development (Damascus) and Search for Common Ground (Beirut, Geneva, Iraq and Gaziantap) in conflict resolution, analysis and mediation; early warning; facilitation; consensus building and proposal development among others;
- Designed and wrote a public policy manual for Tunisian political parties with the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE);
- Designed and led strategic planning retreats for several public, private and non-profit institutions in the MENA region;
- Led a research project for Revenue Watch International (now National Resource

Governance Institute) in Morocco; conducted interviews, desk research, and field inquiry; took part in two expert meetings and wrote a final report;

11/04 – 12/11 Lebanese Center for Policy Studies Beirut, Lebanon

General Director/Senior Facilitator & Mediator

Select Field Experiences:

- Consulted for the United States Institute of Peace (USIP)'s Libya, Tunisia and Iraq programs: contributed to the design of the USIP Libya program, conducted training workshops in conflict resolution and advanced mediation in Benghazi and Tripoli (September & October 2011); contributed to forming a group of Libyan mediators to intervene in community conflicts;. Founding member of USIP's Regional Facilitators Forum; co-wrote a training manual on psychosocial support and peacebuilding;
- Designed and led civil society program evaluations for the National Endowment of Democracy in Jordan and Iraq (2008, 2010); in Yemen for UN ESCWA (2009); and in Egypt for the Solidarity Center (2011);
- Led a two-day retreat for the Algerian private sector on strategic planning for public-private partnerships, Algiers with CIPE (March 2010).
- Trained a group of 20 Saudi diplomats in International Mediation with UNITAR, Geneva (February 2010 & 2011).
- Conducted a multi-country evaluation for the UN ESCWA programs on Social Cohesion in Yemen, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia (November 09-January 10).
- Led a series of training workshops for Iraqi NGOs in Northern Iraq on strategic planning, good governance and advocacy, with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) in Erbil (October –December 2009).
- Lead a two-year training program for UNIFIL military and civilian personnel, Lebanese Army officers and mayors of southern Lebanese villages in mediation, conflict transformation, consensus building, and conflict-sensitive project planning in south Lebanon (2008-2009).
- Lead and co-lead training workshops in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) strategies and techniques with the American Bar Association (ABA) and DPK Consulting in Jordan for the Jordanian Ministry of Justice, the Judicial Institute (JI) and the Jordan Bar Association. Trained the first three judge mediators and case managers in the history of Jordan. Revised and developed the JI's mediation training curriculum; designed and delivered advanced mediation training; designed and delivered a Mediation Training of Trainers for Jordanian judges (2005-2010).
- Led ADR workshops and strategy sessions for the Moroccan Ministry of Justice and provided advice on how to institutionalize an ADR program in Morocco. Trained over one hundred Moroccan judges and lawyers and advised them on how to develop mediation practice there (2005-2009).
- Led a project to co-write with a team of experts Lebanon's first Arabic manual on peacebuilding and journalism; published by *Maharat*, a leading Lebanese media NGO (2008).
- Led a series of peace building training workshops and an evaluation of proposals for Lebanese NGOs with the UNDP Peace Building Fund (May-September 2008).

Select Public Policy Experience at the LCPS:

- Lead and supervised research projects on political parties; media; electoral reforms; decentralization; security sector reforms; postwar reconciliation and peacebuilding. Provided policy makers in Lebanon and the region with policy options on judicial reforms, anti-corruption strategies, electoral laws and observation, and post-conflict reconciliation;

- Founding co-director of the Civil Campaign for Electoral Reforms (CCER), Lebanon's largest civil society advocacy for electoral reforms;
- Led the planning and organization of the Center's Annual Summer Institute for Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation in Lebanon in partnership with *Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna*, Pisa, Italy.
- Provided consultations to major international and regional institutions on strategic planning, alternative dispute resolution, outreach campaigns, media outreach and voter education.
- Led the organization of the Mediterranean Development Forum (MDF), a 700-people, biannual meeting of Arab think tanks, governments and international donors and organizations. Organized a successful bid to the World Bank to organize the MDF in Lebanon; raised matching funds; secured government hosting and developed the Forum's program and work plan; organized three workshops during the conference (April 2006).
- Visiting faculty at the *Scuola Superiore di Sant'Anna*; teach conflict management to graduate students at the Master Program on Human Rights & Conflict Management in Pisa, Italy (since July 2004-present).
- Visiting faculty on Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation at the Master's Programs of the Université Saint-Joseph's Ecole Sociale (since fall 2007), *Centre Professionnel de Mediation* (2007-2015) and the Lebanese University's Psychosocial Master (2008, 2015, 2016, 2017 & 2020).
- Faculty at the Austrian Peace Studies Program in Schlaining, Austria (2005-2009).
- Wrote country reports, studies and editorials, spoke at conferences and made media appearances on BBC, CNN, Fox News, France 24, Al-Jazeera, LBCI and others. Some of the writings can be accessed at www.berghof-handbook.net; www.dailystar.com.lb; www.bertelsmann-stiftung.de/en and www.freedomhouse.org.

04/'04-10/05 Search for Common Ground Amman & Beirut

Adviser, WEF C-100 Secretariat/Co-Director, Partners in Humanity

- Advised the World Economic Forum's Council of 100 leaders (C-100) on project design and implementation; designed and led funding initiatives for advancing dialogue projects around the world. Initiated and facilitated C-100 working groups during the World Economic Forum meetings in Davos and Amman and in the preparation period; prepared presentations and updates for members of the C-100.
- Co-managed the Partners in Humanity (PiH) program designed to advance global dialogue and improve Christian-Muslim understanding; established contact and developed initiatives with dialogue NGOs around the world.
- Co-editor of the Common Ground News Service (PiH), a weekly electronic service of constructive articles on global understanding and dialogue.
- Designed and delivered training workshops for audiovisual and print journalists. Developed the first Arabic training course in the field of Media & Peace Building and trained journalists at *Al-Jazeera* in Qatar and *Arabiya* in London;
- Taught Media and Peace Building at the Summer Institute of the School of International Training (SIT) at the University of Vermont (*June 2004*);
- Visiting faculty member of the International Institute on Mediation & Conflict Resolution (IIMCR); taught a summer institute once a year in The Hague (*July 2003 & July 2004*).

01/'01-03/'04 Search for Common Ground Rabat, Morocco

Chief of Party/Country Director

- Created the Morocco Country Program; hired, trained and supervised two full-time staff and a team of local and international consultants; raised and managed grants in excess of \$600,000 over two years; established and launched an office infrastructure; networked with Moroccan and international NGOs and public-sector institutions.

- Designed, launched and managed a multi-dimensional program in Morocco, working with labor unions, public and private sectors, the media, local NGOs, and disadvantaged communities on institutionalizing conflict transformation and collaborative approaches to human development; developed a partnership and launched a two-year program with the Ministry of Justice on Judicial Reforms in Morocco including setting up a pilot ADR program; developed a partnership with the Ministry of Housing and launched a Community Development project working with PVOs and local authorities; partnered with the Ministry of Human Rights and launched a Labor Dispute Resolution project and created a group of Moroccan labor mediators which lead to a breakthrough in the negotiation of the new labor law in Morocco;
- Trained and advised MONUC Peacekeeping mission personnel in DR Congo on mediation, conflict management and peace process sustainability;
- Created new and innovative projects such as consensus-based development, secured funding and supervised implementation. Worked with Moroccan civil society and international NGOs on building their skills in conflict prevention and resolution and improving local governance through consensus-based processes;
- Developed training material, exercises and simulations and conducted training workshops and facilitated interventions for SFCG's worldwide programs in Africa, Europe, Southeast Asia, the Middle East and Washington DC.

1996-Present Lebanon Conflict Resolution Network, Beirut, Lebanon

Co-founder, Senior Trainer, facilitator

- Initiated, led and co-led reconciliation and training projects between various sectarian groups in postwar Mount Lebanon; secured funding for these interventions; lead training and mediation interventions in environmental, social, humanitarian, ethnic and religious conflicts;
- Co-designed and co-led with the LCRN Executive Director the creation of the Jordan Conflict Resolution Network and delivered a series of capacity building workshops in Amman over two years;
- Played a leading role in designing and implementing a project on conflict resolution education and curriculum development for Save the Children's school clusters all over Lebanon. Conducted pilot workshops and played a leading role in developing a final manual;
- Co-edited the first ever Arabic conflict resolution training manual published by the LCRN in 1998; developed and wrote conflict resolution training material in Arabic and English; co-designed the LCRN training methodology;
- Lead and co-lead numerous training workshops and interventions in mediation, negotiation, collaborative planning, leadership, facilitation, decision-making, presentation skills and team building for a variety of audiences in the MENA region;

EDUCATION

1994 - 1995 The American University Washington, DC

Master of Arts

- International Development: Conflict & Development (Awarded one-year research fellowship)

1992 - 1994 The American University Washington, DC

Master of Arts

- International Affairs: Peace & Conflict Resolution

1988 – 1991 The American University of Beirut Beirut, Lebanon

Bachelor of Arts

- Political Studies