



Transforming Schools Into Catalysts For Social Change
In Lebanon's Education Sector





THE BIRTH OF nafda 2022

nafda (n): “نفضة” Arabic word meaning spring cleaning, a movement towards regeneration, coined by the pioneering principals of the movement.

In the wake of Lebanon's deep-seated challenges, a shared desire for sustainable societal transformation led to the birth of nafda. We realised that if we want to see change in Lebanon, what is truly central is the issue of disconnection and disenfranchisement.

This movement emerged from the collective will to leverage education and communities as a powerful catalyst for change, by fostering connections and leveraging leaders' sense of agency. Recognizing the untapped potential within Lebanon's schools, nafda is a collective that unites and empowers educators, leaders, and community members to foster grassroots transformation.

It is a movement by the people and for the people, utilizing education to inspire change in mindsets and behaviors.

nafda's MISSION AND VISION

Our mission is to mobilize school communities by anchoring our core values of



**Good
Governance**



**Engaged
Citizenship**



**Social
Justice**

nafda **envisions** a Lebanon where determined citizens relentlessly initiate positive transformation in their local communities, creating a ripple effect that reaches the national level.

DRIVING CHANGE: 3 CROSSCUTTING APPROACHES

nafda helps foster meaningful connections by placing school communities at the heart of its work and implementing initiatives that:

Transform Learning Experiences

By bridging schools with their communities, nafda fosters collaboration to identify needs and implement impactful School Transformation Projects. These projects, ensures that students gain access to the tools and skills necessary to thrive as 21st-century learners and global citizens.



Embed Core Values That Strengthen Effective Citizenship

Through its values-driven initiatives, nafda embeds core values that foster active citizenship and strengthen social cohesion within school communities, among schools nationwide, and between each school, its surrounding community, and local actors.



Influence Educational Policies

To amplify its impact, nafda promotes peer-to-peer collaboration among schools and equips principals with leadership skills to drive reform through advocacy hubs, influencing policy and systemic change.



WHAT HAS nafda ACCOMPLISHED SO FAR?



PROGRESS TO DATE

45
PROJECTS

IMPACTING

14,76
STUDENT



GROWING NETWORK OF

41% Public
42% Private
17% Semi-private

SCHOOL

S

UPSKILLING **4745** EDUCATORS

2

REGIONAL
ADVOCACY
HUBS



building educators' capacities to recommend reforms based on grassroots insights

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INCREASED
Peer-to-peer Learning - Innovative Solutions - Agency

nafda's KEY PILLARS



1 SCHOOL TRANSFORMATION PROJECTS



2 VALUES & CITIZENSHIP EMPOWERMENT



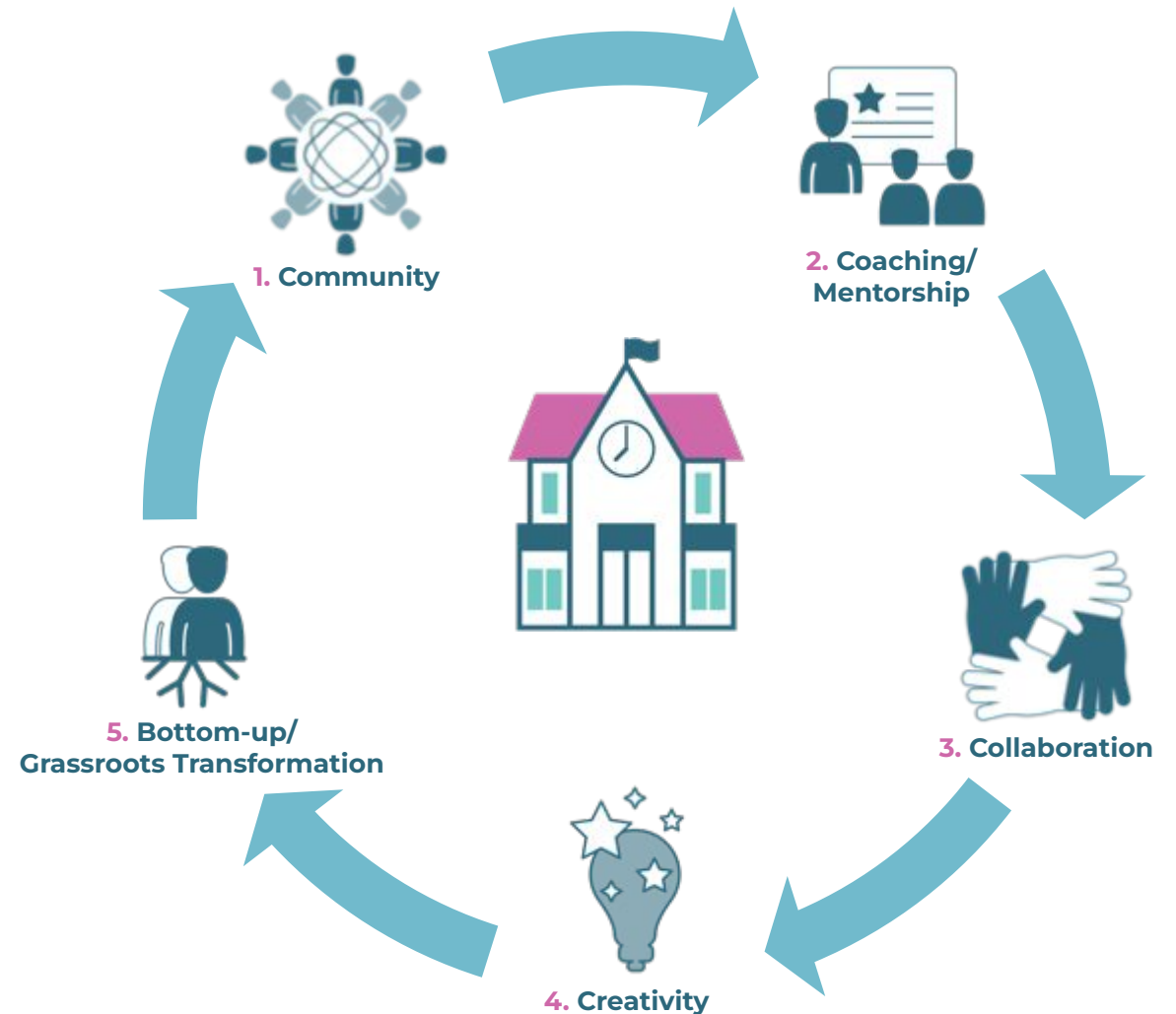
3 GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY

1 SCHOOL TRANSFORMATION PROJECTS

nafda schools embody the three core values—**Engaged Citizenship, Good Governance, and Social Justice**—through their interventions, fostering a culture of unity, advancing school development, and empowering communities to create lasting change.

1. Community Input – What does the school need?
2. Specialized Trainings and Coaching to Address Needs
3. Partnerships with Specialists, innovative educational NGOs, and Community Members to Maximize Collaboration & Effectiveness
4. School Team and Students Unite on Projects to Develop Solutions
5. School Transformation and Impact

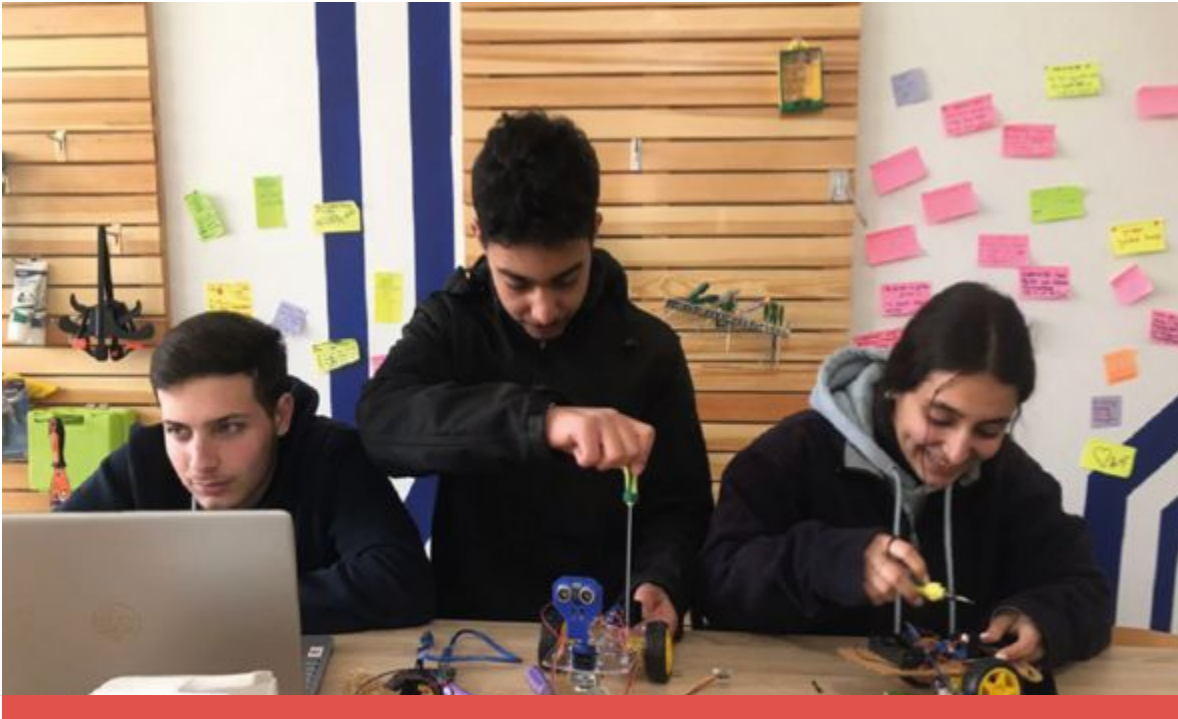
This collaborative process builds trust and ensures all voices are heard. Drawing from the Brookings Institution and the 100-Day Challenge by Re!nstitute, this approach focuses on ambitious goal-setting and creative problem-solving.



So far, 4 Common themes Have emerged after schools consulted their communities.
Read some case studies about each thematic area!

1. STEM/STEAM

Maroun Abboud Secondary School tackled the challenge of limited resources by establishing a STEAM Lab. The lab equipped students with skills in **coding, robotics, 3D printing, and design thinking**, fostering creativity, problem-solving, and leadership. The project engaged **125 students**, who built robotic models, designed websites for local businesses, and documented their work for sustainability.



2. Students Skills Development

At Rashaya Public High School, students tackled environmental challenges through a community-driven project combining land restoration, bee preservation, and social enterprise. Partnering with experts, **75 students** planted vegetation, restored **8000 square meters of land**, and placed **12 beehives**, producing **50 kilos of honey**. Proceeds supported families in need, showcasing the students' entrepreneurial and social skills. **90.5%** of participants reported improved motivation and skills.



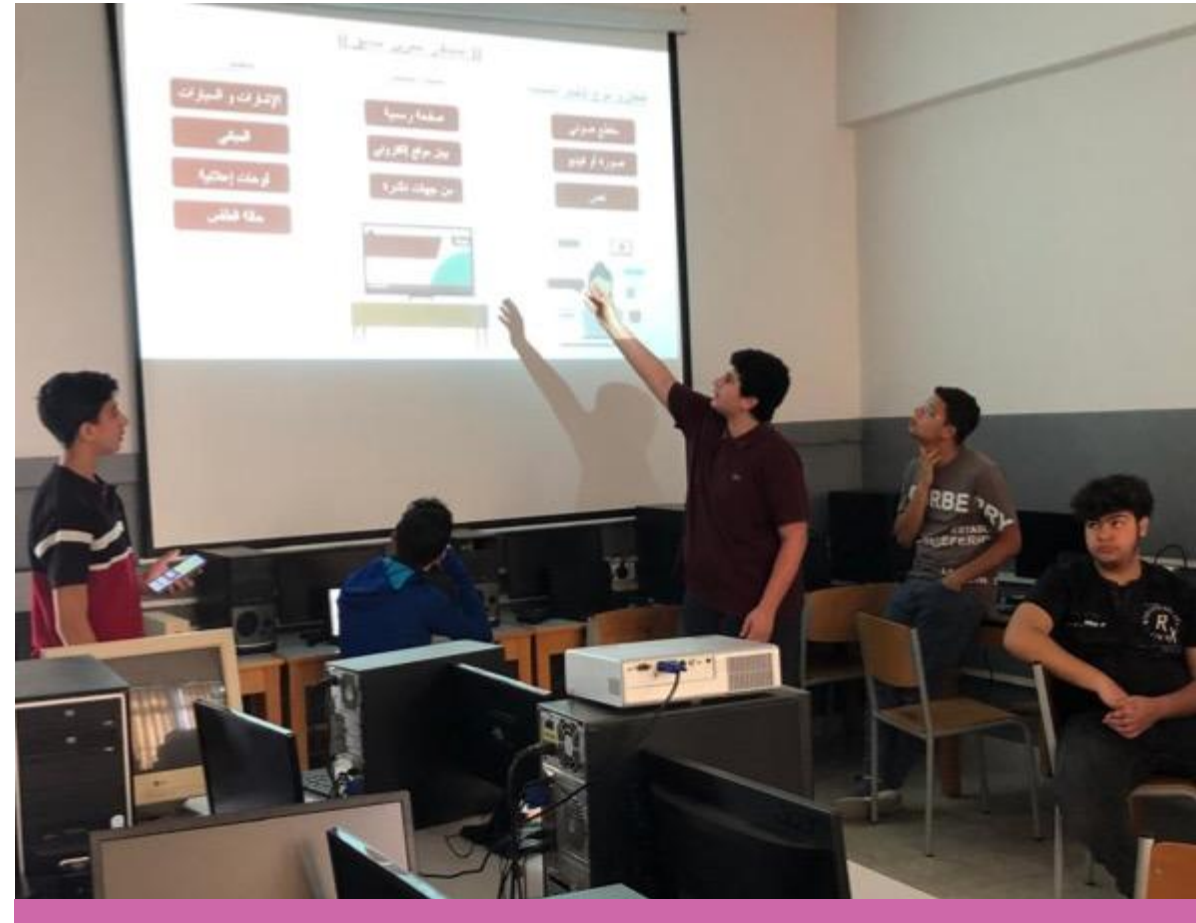
3. Equitable & Inclusive Education

Makassed El Marj School in West Bekaa has taken a step towards inclusive education by establishing the Makassed Learning Abilities Center, the first facility in the area to welcome children from outside the school. The center offers specialized services like **speech therapy, psychomotor therapy, and individualized education plans**. Through tailored interventions and capacity-building workshops for teachers, the school achieved milestones: a **60% improvement** in academic performance, a **75% reduction in behavioral referrals**, and enhanced inclusion and support for students with learning difficulties.



4. Media & Information Literacy

Saba Zreik High School in Tripoli has launched a project to combat misinformation, bullying, and cyberbullying. Focused on digital literacy and critical thinking, the students evaluated information credibility and raised awareness by publishing informative videos on social media. The project has yielded strong results: **55 students** and **10 teachers** trained, with a **77% knowledge gain in media** literacy and fake news identification.



SCHOOL TRANSFORMATION IMPACT

nafda strengthens connections between schools across the country, fostering collaboration and dialogue to address shared challenges. Through the exchange of ideas and community-tailored solutions, schools build practical skills, implement impactful initiatives, and promote education that bridges divides, and strengthens social cohesion.

**STEM/
STEAM**

13 Projects

**Students Skills
Development**

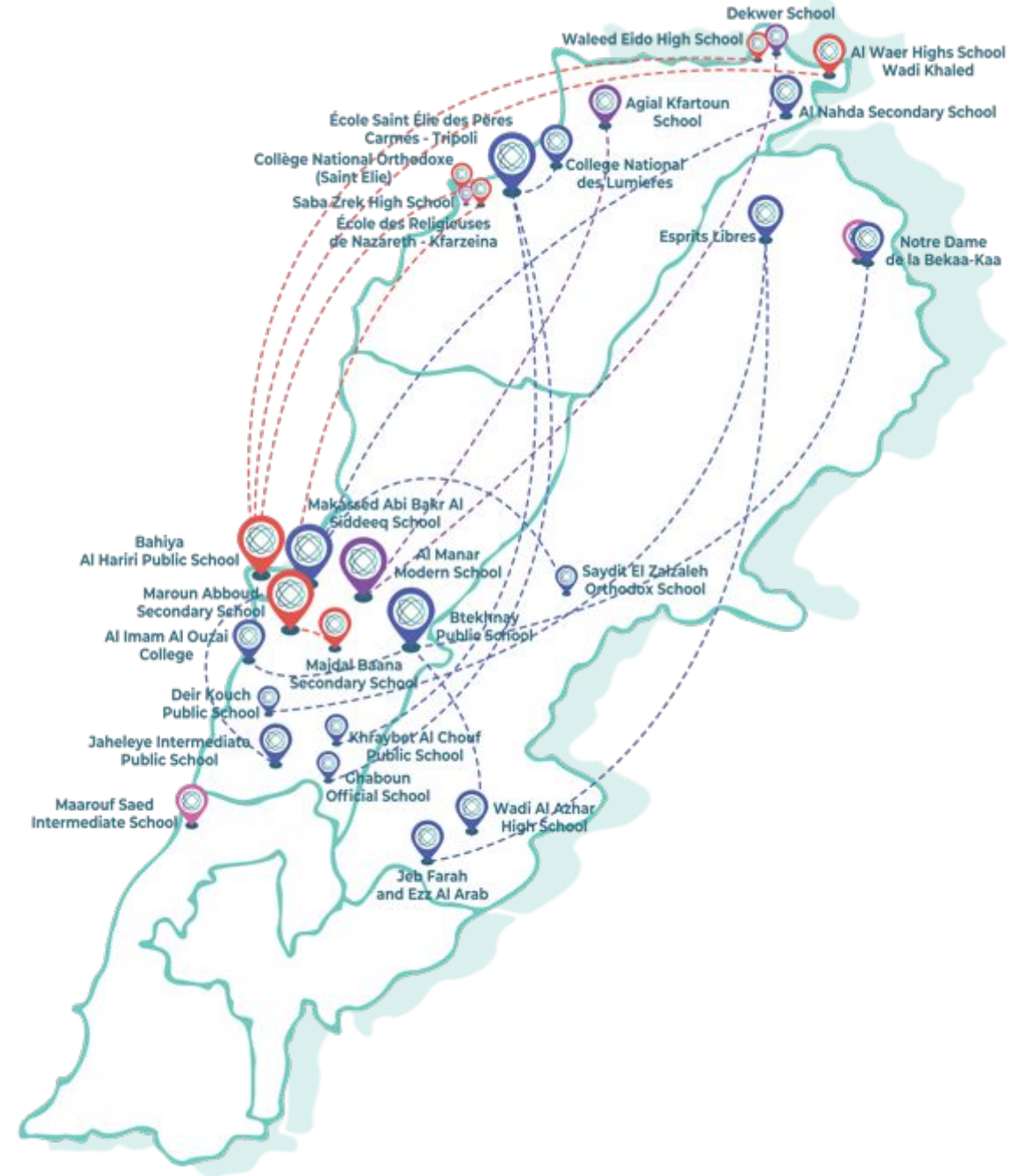
21 Projects

**Equitable &
Inclusive Education**

8 Projects

**Media &
Information
Literacy**

3 Projects



Discover more about the projects and read case studies [here](#).



1

SCHOOL TRANSFORMATION PROJECTS



2

VALUES & CITIZENSHIP EMPOWERMENT



3

GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY

2 VALUES & CITIZENSHIP EMPOWERMENT

nafta provides innovative tools and practices to promote core values empowering schools to integrate these principles into their culture and operations effectively.

1. Values Dashboard

This tool helps principals **understand and apply our core values**—engaged citizenship, social justice, and good governance—by providing a clear framework to integrate them into teaching, activities, policies, and community engagement.

2. Values Compass

Building on the Dashboard, the Values Compass acts **as a strategic guide** that helps schools weave these values into every aspect of their environment— from infrastructure and policies to everyday school culture.



3. nafda's citizenship tool: "Aal Seha" "عأساحة"

Aal Seha is a unique, game-based educational tool that encourages participants to explore Lebanon's history, culture, and socio-political challenges through thought-provoking questions and scenarios.

Real-World Scenarios

Brain Training

Teamwork & Problem Solving

Students foster critical thinking skills, collaborative problem-solving, and create space for meaningful conversations.

Through shared goals and teamwork, they lead local projects to contribute to the positive community development.



IMPACT OF CITIZENSHIP ACTIVITIES

Aal Seha was rolled out in **39 schools**, trained **52 facilitators** and reached **3700 students**.

Aal Seha has inspired initiatives such as **anti-bullying campaigns** to foster inclusive school environments, **environmental projects** like permaculture and recycling partnerships to promote sustainability, and the formation of a **cross-regional Student Council** collaborating with local municipalities on sustainabilty development projects.

92.3%
of students now actively sort waste
in their schools or homes.

91.4%
of students reported a heightened sense
of responsibility towards their school and
community, recognizing that freedom
of expression is a sacred right.

OVER 95%
of teachers have started incorporating
more play-based learning strategies
into their teaching.

100%
of students developed an understanding
of people with special needs.



1

SCHOOL TRANSFORMATION PROJECTS



2

VALUES & CITIZENSHIP EMPOWERMENT



3

GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY

3 GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY

1. Forums

Our forums provide a platform for engaging discussions on pressing topics related to our programs, as well educational issues like purpose and policy, AI in schools and how to cope with war trauma.

Open to the public, these forums invite diverse perspectives to foster collaboration and idea-sharing around key educational challenges and solutions.



With **over 500 participants** -
Public dialogue on key educational topics.

Diverse insights from specialists
Promoting community involvement.

Strengthening connections between educators and the
public.

Sharing nafda's vision and initiatives widely.

2. **Sawa** (n) derived from the Arabic word for 'together,' symbolizes unity and collective action.

School leaders gather online for cross-regional knowledge exchange, mentorship and support based on shared experiences. Even more, they cultivate a sense of belonging, shared purpose and a commitment to mutual growth.



Over 70 participants

Built trust between schools and communities.

Strategic planning for values integration.

Student leadership and involvement in change.

Parent engagement school and values activities.

Inspired student leadership and involvement in change.

3. Advocacy Hubs

Advocacy hubs are established to empower principals to advocate for change on a national level by building on their involvement in nafda's activities and processes.

These hubs inspire principals to see themselves as changemakers, leveraging their on-the-ground expertise. Their skills are enhanced through capacity building in proven advocacy frameworks, supported by external expertise.

Principals engage in the advocacy process, which involves defining the scope, reviewing relevant literature, identifying key stakeholders, determining modes of engagement, developing and implementing an action plan, and reflecting on the outcomes.

Currently, there are two hubs: **one serving the North** and another covering **Beirut, the South, Mount Lebanon, and the Beqaa region**.



30 nafda principals

Empowerment of principals as changemakers.

Reinforced their ability to lead reforms.

Fostered collaboration for unified advocacy goals.

Training on policy and legal frameworks.

Strategizing action plans and alliances.

JOIN US IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Financially Contributing (next slide)

- join as a partner by contributing to transformational projects in 1 school or a network of schools.




Providing Essential Tools and Resources

- join link schools to services they may need; provide in-kind materials such as educational technology and other relevant resources;

Building Connections and Networks

- establish meaningful connections with key stakeholders, potential partners, donors, and influential decision-makers.

Staying Connected and Advocating Together towards Effective Change

-  [LinkedIn](#)  [Facebook](#)  [Instagram](#)
- involve us in your work (where relevant) as thought partners and implementers

Contact us at info@nafdalebannon.org





HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Can you help grow the movement to more school communities?



*For donations
in Lebanon*

Bank: Banque BEMO Sal
Bank Address: Elias Sarkis Avenue, Bemo building
Beneficiary: NAFDA
Account number: 3506161
SWIFT: EUMOLBBE
IBAN USD: LB43 0093 0000 0035 0616 1366 1USD
IBAN EURO: LB93 0093 0000 0035 0616 1366 1EUR

For their Respective routing information, please click [here](#)



*For donations
in the United States*

Bank name and address:
PNC Bank, NA
Dupont Circle Branch
1913 Massachusetts Ave,
NW Washington, DC 20036

Account name: NAFDA US
Account #: 5307342606
Routing Number: 054000030



*For donations
in France*

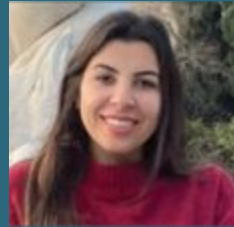
We are in proud partnership with
**Fonds de Dotation
France-Liban**

Please click [here](#) for more information

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FARAH SABSABI
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Head of School
Transformation &
M&E



NAJI TALHOUK
Program Director



NAYLA ABI-ANTOUN
Senior Coach



NOUR FEHALI
Strategic Partnerships
Manager



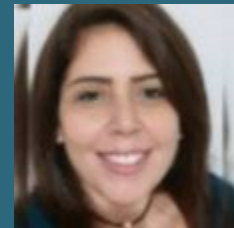
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Knowledge
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Coach



SARA GHANDOUR
Operations Manager



YOUNNA HELOU
Chief Financial
Officer



CAROLINE WAKIL
Senior Coach



TIA EL CHAMI
Marketing &
Communications
Associate

BEHIND THE SCENES

LEBANON BOARD

nafda's board of enablers are seasoned experts and professionals who came together to jump-start this effort, and who share a passion for education, a bias for action, and a desire to see change in the education system and the country!



BASSAM YAMMINE
Founder & CEO Excelsa



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KYRIAKOS-SAAD**
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Trust



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Co.

BEHIND THE SCENES

U.S. BOARD

NAFDA-US is a U.S. registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization registered in Washington, D.C. Their independent board works closely with the nafda Lebanon board of enablers and team to help advance the purpose of our cause.



NADIM MATTA
Founder & President
Emeritus, REINSTITUTE



**NADIM
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Assistant General
Counsel, IMF



RONNIE HAMMAD
International
Development
Practitioner



ZEINA SFEIR
Vice President of
Marketing AI-enabled
Biotech

APPENDIX



PARTNERS



We have a diverse group of 40+ partners from social change consultants, to local NGOs, advocacy advisors, education technology experts, think tanks and more...

nafda IN THE NEWS

nafda's transformative work has been featured in several reputable publications. Read more [here](#) or click on the logos for their respective articles.



Middle
East
Institute

L'Orient
Le Jour



LE FIGARO


BROOKINGS



Kofi Annan
FOUNDATION



AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY
OF BEIRUT



"For the very first time, our capacities as principals and school leaders is being acknowledged. nafda saw our potential at a time that we were all abandoned.

Together, we are freeing their minds from indoctrination!"

*- Sanaa Shehayeb, Principal
Maroun Abboud Public Secondary School, Aley*



"Only because of individual efforts, we've been able to stay on our feet and keep students enrolled and learning."

We are grateful to all those who are working with us to help drive change in our classrooms and later beyond our school walls.

We're ready to take matters into our own hands."

*- Rita Salameh, Principal
Pères Carmes School, Tripoli*