



Madanyat for Equality Annual Report 2025

A year of commitment and purpose

2025 was a challenging year. War, instability, and constant uncertainty shaped daily life and affected how people engaged, stayed connected, and imagined their role in public life. Many of the women and young people we work with navigated fear, exhaustion, and shrinking civic space. Participation in civic processes, community initiatives, and spaces for public engagement was often fragile and required care, flexibility, and patience.

Still, this was not a year of retreat.

In the midst of these constraints, Madanyat for Equality remained present and committed. Over the year, 11 projects were carried out across research, training, advocacy, and local governance. These initiatives reached hundreds of women and young people during the year, adding to a growing community built steadily over time and now numbering in the several thousands. This continuity was the result of deliberate choices to adapt, remain present, and protect spaces for participation when they were most at risk.

Director's message



Our society is changing, and our lives have been profoundly shaped by the many upheavals our country has endured. It would have been surprising if the civil society sector had remained untouched by these transformations, and it has not. Change has been inevitable.

This period has reshaped our understanding of working for the public good. Certainly, it has required all of us to rethink, adapt, and evolve. At Madanyat, like so many women and men across Lebanon, we have drawn on determination and agility to navigate uncertainty and make the most of difficult circumstances.

This challenging chapter has also opened space for growth. With the support of our partners, we have strengthened our personal and professional capacities, refined our approaches, and reimagined strategies that respond more closely to the needs of our communities. In this spirit, we move forward with a renewed commitment to collective action, shared responsibility, and the pursuit of inclusive, accountable governance. Guided by the lessons of this period, we remain focused on building pathways toward dignity, participation, and lasting peace for our communities.

About us

Madanyat for Equality is a Lebanese non-governmental organization registered in March 2019 (Registration No. 2389). Founded in response to profound shifts in Lebanon's social and political landscape, the organization works to advance women's empowerment, youth civic engagement, and women's political participation.

Madanyat operates through committed board members and a dedicated team, ensuring strong governance and effective program delivery. Its work is supported by a wide national network of partners and focal points across Lebanon, allowing the organization to remain closely connected to local realities and community priorities.

Our values

Madanyat works to ensure that women and young people can participate fully and safely in public life. Inclusion is central to how we design our work and engage with communities, so that diverse voices are reflected in decision-making.

Our approach is grounded in human dignity, gender equality, and fundamental rights. Guided by international human rights principles and the Sustainable Development Goals, we translate these commitments into locally rooted action, guided by integrity, transparency, and continuous learning.

What we do



Madanyat works with communities and partners to turn locally identified priorities and lived challenges into collective action, grounding its projects in dialogue, trust, and everyday realities. Research and evidence inform our advocacy on women's political participation and inclusive governance, while community-based action and national engagement reinforce one another to challenge exclusion. Across all programs, we invest in women and young people by building confidence, strengthening leadership, and supporting them to move from participation to decision-making roles.

Our Network

Madanyat is an active member of national, regional, and international coalitions working on gender equality, democratic governance, and civic participation. These include Lebanon's Feminist Platform, the Women in Parliament Committee, the Anna Lindh Network, the Euro-Mediterranean Women's Foundation, the UNDP Electoral Working Group, the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, the Coalition Against Child Marriage, and the Lebanon Unity Coalition. Through these platforms, Madanyat contributes to collective advocacy and policy dialogue while remaining grounded in local realities.

With the support of its donors, Madanyat has collaborated closely with Lebanese civil society organizations, including ONDES, Maharat Foundation, Borderless, SEEDS for Legal Initiatives, and the Lebanese Association for Democratic Elections (LADE). These partnerships are built on shared values and complementary expertise, enabling joint work across research, advocacy, capacity building, and public engagement.

Expanding our reach

During 2025, Madanyat for Equality connected with **992 new individuals** through its programs, research initiatives, trainings, and advocacy efforts. This engagement builds on a strong foundation of 4,021 people reached over previous years, reflecting steady growth and sustained trust in the organization's work.

The addition of new participants throughout the year demonstrates Madanyat's ability to remain accessible and relevant despite challenging conditions. Women and youth continued to seek out spaces for learning, dialogue, and civic engagement, confirming the importance of maintaining inclusive initiatives even during periods of instability.

By the end of the year, our work had reached more than **5,000 people**, strengthening a diverse and growing community committed to civic engagement, equality, and democratic public life.

Masarouna

Budget: €5,779

A gender equality advocacy initiative engaging 121 stakeholders through two targeted panel discussions, a youth panel and an institutional panel. The initiative advanced gender mainstreaming, inclusive politics, and equal access to decision-making by bringing together young activists, public officials, civil society organizations, academic actors, and media professionals to foster cross-sector dialogue on participation, representation, and equality in public life.

Funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in partnership with Oxfam in Lebanon.



Where our work took shape



Next Gen Votes

Budget: \$10,100

A political training programme delivered five targeted sessions for 36 prospective municipal election candidates in preparation for Lebanon's upcoming municipal elections. At a time when local governance remains one of the few accessible entry points for women and emerging leaders into public decision-making, the programme strengthened participants' capacities in campaigning, and the roles and responsibilities of municipal councils. A closing event that brought candidates, civil society actors, and community members into direct dialogue created a space for reflection on the gap between citizen needs and municipal agendas.

Funded through a partnership with Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS).





Strengthening Inclusive and Accountable Local Governance

Budget: \$14,500

Implemented in partnership with the municipalities of Dbayeh–Zouk, Kharab–Awkar and Jdeideh–Bauchrieh–Sed El Bauchrieh, the project delivered four training sessions for 20 municipal council members and eight capacity-building sessions for 21 municipal staff (48% women) on transparency, accountability, and participatory local governance. The programme strengthened institutional understanding of inclusive decision-making processes, clarified roles and responsibilities within municipal administration, and introduced practical tools to support citizen engagement. Complementary awareness materials reached more than 5,000 citizens, enhancing public understanding of civic rights, access to information, and pathways for participation in municipal processes.

Funded through a partnership with Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS).

Not Even in the Picture II

Budget: GBP 15,234.47

A research initiative examining women's exclusion from Lebanon's political sphere through both historical and media analysis. In its first phase, the study traced women's absence from major political milestones between the Taif Agreement and 2025, highlighting long-standing patterns of symbolic inclusion alongside continued exclusion from formal decision-making structures. The second phase shifts the lens to women's representation in the media, analysing how television programmes and public discourse reflect—and reinforce—barriers to political participation. By examining visibility, voice, and narrative framing, the research positions media representation as a critical entry point for advancing women's political legitimacy and influence in Lebanon.

Funded through the Women's Rights Fund (WRF) in the Middle East, supported by Oxfam



Changing from Within II

Budget: \$15,345

Building on our ongoing collaboration with four Lebanese political parties to develop evidence-based strategies aimed at increasing women's participation in internal decision-making structures, we implemented a targeted political party reform initiative with the Free Patriotic Movement (FPM). The project combined mixed-methods research to assess barriers to women's leadership and identify practical entry points for institutional change within party structures. It included the development of tailored research tools, consultations with women members and key stakeholders, and a series of capacity-building workshops.

Funded by UN Women, with support from the United Kingdom in Lebanon, in collaboration with Seeds for legal initiatives.



Génération Egalité

Budget: \$17,785.70

A forward-looking initiative supporting women's political participation ahead of the 2026 parliamentary elections by strengthening the preparedness, visibility, and resilience of emerging women candidates and youth civic actors. The project works with 35 potential women candidates and 45 youth actors through targeted capacity-building on digital campaigning, alliance-building, and counter-disinformation strategies, while promoting safer and more inclusive forms of online political engagement. As part of this effort, the initiative produced a practical good practice manual on safe online navigation and strategies to respond to misinformation, violence against women in politics (VAWP), and hate speech.

Funded by L' Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF).



Women's Participation in Leadership

Budget: \$21,573

A nationwide capacity-building project implemented across 9 governorates, engaging 157 participants in needs assessment, data collection, and participatory gender analysis. Participants applied practical tools (KIs, surveys, questionnaires), achieving an 8.4% increase in theoretical knowledge and an 89% improvement in technical skills, and conducted local advocacy with municipal authorities.

Funded by the Government of Canada through UNDP and UN Women in collaboration with Lade.





We Lead for Peace

Budget: \$25,471

A peacebuilding and conflict-resolution initiative designed to reach 58 community establishments, including political parties, municipalities, syndicates, and universities. The project successfully implemented its initial activities before being discontinued mid-cycle due to contextual funding constraints, while maintaining its core objectives of dialogue, mediation, and gender-inclusive leadership.

Funded by the U.S. Embassy Beirut.



Mehnnati

Budget: €42,647.92

A initiative supporting 56 young women from technical education tracks through tailored, needs-based accompaniment designed to strengthen their transition into the labour market. The project combined listening sessions, individualized coaching cycles, and quarterly skills assessments to address barriers specific to early-career technical graduates and expand their access to employment opportunities. A trilingual employment manual was developed as a practical job-readiness toolkit covering CV preparation, interview skills, workplace rights, and professional positioning. A dedicated outreach campaign promoting the guide *Décroche ce job / Get That Job* further extended its reach and visibility, reinforcing pathways toward decent work and economic participation.

Funded by L'Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) in the frame of the project La Francophonie avec Elles.





IGNITE

Budget: €46,552.28

A research initiative examining how geographic, socio-economic, and cultural factors shape gender stereotypes and girls' access to education across Metn, Tripoli, and Akkar. The study assesses current disparities affecting girls' educational experiences through quantitative surveys and qualitative focus groups, generating evidence on how local context influences opportunity, expectations, and participation. The research will culminate in a set of actionable recommendations and a policy brief designed to support national dialogue and inform gender-responsive education reform.

Funded by AFD France through the IGNITE Program, in partnership with RMF and the International Rescue Committee (IRC).

Her Civic Quest

Budget: \$105,264

A university-based civic leadership programme implemented in partnership with Beirut Arab University and Saint Joseph University, engaging 117 young women across project phases. The initiative strengthened participants' capacities in negotiation, advocacy, leadership, gender justice, and conflict resolution, supporting their meaningful participation in public and civic life. Building on this training, participants translated learning into action by launching student-led initiatives and reinforcing their civic engagement through university clubs, creating peer spaces for dialogue, awareness-raising, and collective action on gender equality and community issues. These activities helped position young women not only as participants in civic processes, but as emerging actors shaping conversations and initiatives within their academic environments and beyond.

Funded by the Government of Canada through UNDP and UN Women.



Our funders

In 2025, Madanyat for Equality's work was made possible through the support of institutional donors and partners who continued to invest in women's rights, youth participation, and inclusive governance, even in a challenging national context.

Government of Canada (via UNDP & UN Women)

\$126,837.00

Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)

€ 42,647.92 & \$17,785.70

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS)

\$24,600.00

Oxfam – Women's Rights Fund (Middle East)

GBP 15,234.47

Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

€5,779.00

U.S. Embassy Beirut

\$25,471.00

Agence Française de Développement (AFD)

(Via IGNITE, RMF & IRC)

€46,552.28

United Kingdom (via UN Women Lebanon)

\$15,345.00

Key Achievements

In 2025, Madanyat contributed to opening spaces for civic and political participation in institutions where dialogue had previously been limited or avoided. Through carefully facilitated discussions and leadership spaces, issues related to participation, representation, and decision-making were brought into the open.



During a public panel at Beirut Arab University, a discussion on student participation prompted university leadership to acknowledge the absence of a student voting system for electing student representatives and to commit to taking concrete steps toward its introduction. This moment marked a shift from avoidance to recognition, demonstrating how dialogue can influence institutional practice.

Key Achievements

Across trainings and leadership programs, women participants engaged in critical discussions on rights, power-sharing, and political barriers. Beyond technical skills, many reported increased confidence and clarity around their political aspirations and ability to influence decision-making spaces.



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“The trainings strengthened my self-confidence and encouraged me to consider running in future municipal elections. For the first time, I felt that my voice could translate into action.”

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FINAL NOTE

This year tested what participation means when conditions are difficult. And yet, women and young people continued to show up, ask questions, and imagine something better. As this report comes to an end, Madanyat for Equality remains deeply committed to standing with them. We believe that change is built through grassroots work, persistence, and collective effort. Even when space is limited, the work of opening doors, amplifying voices, and shaping a more inclusive political future continues.

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