

2025

Annual Report



cifal
Lebanon



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United Nations Institute for Training and Research

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Director's Report



James M. Donovan

Executive Director
CIFAL Lebanon

In 2025, GCEOA-CIFAL Lebanon continued to consolidate its role as a platform for capacity building, dialogue, and multi-stakeholder collaboration in support of sustainable development. Building on its first year of operations, the center focused on strengthening the quality, coherence, and reach of its activities while responding to evolving institutional and professional needs.

Throughout the year, CIFAL Lebanon delivered a total of 16 learning and outreach events, reaching 1,587 beneficiaries across 37 countries. These activities combined structured learning programmes with public engagement and dialogue, reinforcing the center's dual role as both a training provider and a convening platform.

Programming in 2025 addressed a set of recurring thematic priorities, including governance and accountability, emergency preparedness and resilience, ESG integration, sustainable development and urban challenges, and professional and digital skills development. Activities were delivered in collaboration with academic institutions, professional networks, civil society organisations, and international platforms, supporting cross-sector exchange and applied learning.

Thematic Areas and SDGs Addressed



Thematic Areas and SDGs Addressed: Sustainability Learning, ESG & Health, Disaster Risk Reduction, Circular Economy, Digital Innovation, Governance & Accountability

Geographical Coverage



Collaborations & Joint Initiatives



hfma
region 2

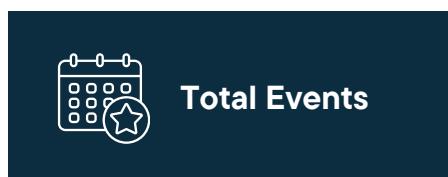


ASCENTIFY

2025 at a Glance

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16
Learning and outreach activities

1,587
Participants across engagements

367
Completion and Participation

37
In-person and virtual programs

Gender Demographics



50.4%



47.5%

About Us

UNITAR | CIFAL Global Network

GCEOA-CIFAL Lebanon operates as part of the CIFAL Global Network under the auspices of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). Hosted by the Global CEO Alliance (GCEOA), the Center serves as a multi-stakeholder platform for capacity-building, dialogue, and collaboration in support of sustainable development in Lebanon and the broader region.



Through its hosting arrangement, CIFAL Lebanon benefits from the strategic and technical support of ADEC Innovations, a global provider of ESG, sustainability, and professional services. ADEC Innovations contributes subject-matter expertise, technical resources, and practitioner perspectives that support the design and delivery of CIFAL Lebanon's capacity-building programs, enabling the Center to bridge public-sector priorities with private-sector expertise and applied sustainability practice.

Advancing Learning and Capacity Development

In 2025, CIFAL Lebanon expanded its learning delivery model, moving beyond webinar-based engagement toward more applied, interactive, and partner-supported learning formats. This included the delivery of the Center's first in-person workshop and the introduction of academically anchored courses delivered in collaboration with higher education partners.



Introduction of Workshop-Based Learning

In 2025, CIFAL Lebanon delivered its first interactive workshop, complementing its existing webinar-based programming by introducing a more applied and participatory learning format focused on practical skills and peer exchange.



Partner-Delivered Academic Course (AUST)

In collaboration with the American University of Science and Technology, CIFAL Lebanon supported the delivery of Mastering Dialogue and Decision-Making in the AI Era, focusing on critical thinking, ethical dialogue, and decision-making in AI-informed contexts.



Academic Partnership: CIS College

CIFAL Lebanon partnered with CIS College to deliver AI and Professional Skills, addressing digital literacy, the applied use of AI tools, and professional competencies relevant to today's workplace.

Key Areas of Capacity-Building

In 2025, CIFAL Lebanon structured its capacity-building activities around a set of interconnected thematic areas reflecting both global sustainability priorities and practical institutional needs. These themes guided the design of learning programs, partner-delivered courses, and public engagement activities, ensuring coherence across the Center's portfolio.

Emergency Preparedness and Resilience



Emergency preparedness remained a key focus area in 2025 and was addressed through a two-part Emergency Response Planning (ERP) series. The sessions provided participants with a structured introduction to emergency response frameworks, coordination mechanisms, and preparedness planning. Collectively, the ERP programs engaged over 400 participants and emphasized the importance of institutional readiness and coordinated action in crisis situations.

Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL)



Emergency preparedness remained a key focus area in 2025 and was addressed through a two-part Emergency Response Planning (ERP) series. The sessions provided participants with a structured introduction to emergency response frameworks, coordination mechanisms, and preparedness planning. Collectively, the ERP programs engaged over 400 participants and underscored the importance of institutional readiness and coordinated action in crisis situations.

Healthcare Sustainability and ESG Integration



Through the continued delivery of the ESG in Healthcare webinar series, CIFAL Lebanon supported dialogue on the integration of environmental, social, and governance considerations within healthcare organizations. These sessions contributed to a sector-specific understanding of ESG principles and their relevance to governance, operations, and long-term resilience.

Professional Development and Digital Skills



Professional skills development emerged as one of the most highly attended thematic areas in 2025. The proposal writing workshop responded to strong demand from civil society organizations and practitioners seeking to strengthen resource mobilization and project design capabilities. Complementing this, sessions on artificial intelligence and professional skills introduced participants to emerging digital competencies relevant to the evolving workplace.

Dialogue, Exchange, and Public Engagement



Alongside its structured learning programs, CIFAL Lebanon continued to strengthen its role as a platform for dialogue, exchange, and public engagement in 2025. These activities complemented formal capacity-building efforts by creating spaces for discussion, knowledge sharing, and reflection on emerging sustainability and development challenges.

EVENTS

8

Learning & Non-Learning

BENEFICIARIES

520

Across Engagements

During the year, CIFAL Lebanon delivered eight non-learning and outreach events, reaching 520 beneficiaries. These engagements included public discussions, thematic roundtables, and international exchanges designed to foster dialogue among practitioners, institutions, and stakeholders from diverse sectors and geographic contexts. The activities addressed cross-cutting issues such as sustainable development pathways, governance and ethics, resilience and recovery, public health, and the social dimensions of crisis response.

Rather than focusing on training outcomes, these events emphasized shared learning and the exchange of experiences across disciplines and regions. Through participation in international and network-based engagements, CIFAL Lebanon also contributed to broader conversations within the CIFAL Global Network and the wider UNITAR ecosystem, reinforcing its role as a convening platform and supporting cross-regional dialogue on sustainability, capacity building, and institutional development.

Working Through Partnerships

001



002



003



004



Academic Engagement

CIFAL Lebanon strengthened its engagement with academic institutions in 2025, including CIS, AUB, and AUST, with a focus on integrating applied learning, sustainability-related topics, and professional skills into academic and training programs. These engagements supported dialogue on aligning curricula with practical sustainability and capacity-building needs.

Civil Society and NGOs

Engagement with civil society organizations remained a priority, with CIFAL Lebanon supporting institutional capacity building in areas such as monitoring and evaluation, proposal development, and organizational learning. These interactions informed the design of responsive and needs-based learning activities. CIFAL Lebanon also joined the network of NGOs through membership in the AUB NGOi to promote knowledge sharing and the exchange of best practices.

Public-Sector Engagement

CIFAL Lebanon continued dialogue with public-sector stakeholders on sustainability, governance, and digital capacity. These engagements provided a platform for discussion on emerging priorities and potential collaboration aligned with national development objectives.

Network-Based Engagement

Through active participation in the CIFAL Global Network and the UNITAR ecosystem, CIFAL Lebanon engaged in international and cross-regional exchanges, contributing to shared learning and collaboration across regions. Activities included participation in UNITAR and UNDRR's Words into Action initiative, as well as the UNITAR-CCAS workshop on Future-Proofing Airport Development held in Singapore.

Our 2025

In 2025, CIFAL Lebanon focused not only on expanding its activities, but on strengthening the foundations of how it delivers capacity-building and dialogue. Several areas of progress emerged over the course of the year, reflecting increased institutional maturity and operational coherence.



Strengthening Structured Capacity-Building

In 2025, CIFAL Lebanon advanced more structured and progressive learning approaches by sequencing introductory and advanced offerings, particularly in monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning (MEAL) and professional skills development. This shift supported deeper learning and laid the foundation for more formalized training pathways.

Expansion of MEAL Programming

MEAL emerged as a core thematic area, with offerings expanding from introductory sessions to a more advanced, application-focused course. This evolution responded to growing demand for accountability, learning, and impact measurement across sectors.

Professional and Digital Skills Development

Strong participation in proposal writing and AI-related training highlighted sustained demand for practical, workforce-relevant skills. These activities underscored the value of complementing sustainability-focused learning with professional and digital competencies.

Cross-Sector Engagement

CIFAL Lebanon deepened engagement across academia, civil society, and the public sector through partnerships with CIS, AUB, AUST, AUB NGOi, and Ascentify, as well as participation in UNITAR- and CIFAL center-led events.

Foundations for Scalable Learning

CIFAL Lebanon strengthened its Virtual School by expanding online, on-demand course offerings and partnering with Ascentify, a learning management system and media platform. This enhanced digital learning infrastructure enables the center to broaden access and support scalable programming in the future.

Looking Ahead to 2026

Building on the progress achieved in 2025, CIFAL Lebanon will focus on strengthening the quality, coherence, and reach of its capacity-building and convening activities in response to evolving institutional and stakeholder needs.

In 2026, the Center will prioritize the development of structured, multi-level certification pathways, particularly in monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning (MEAL), professional and digital skills, and proposal development. These pathways will support progression from introductory to advanced levels of learning. Collaboration with academic institutions will continue to strengthen the integration of UNITAR- and CIFAL-aligned content into academic and professional training programs, enhancing alignment between formal education and applied sustainability practice.

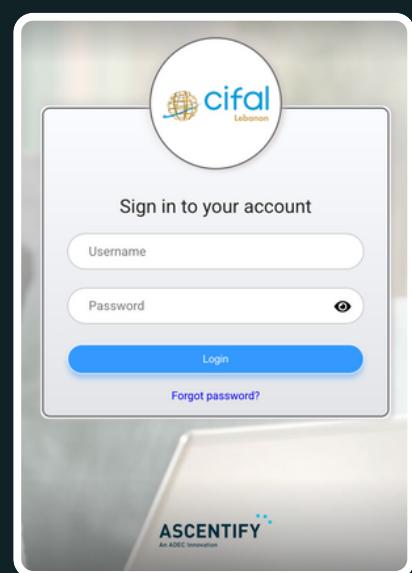
CIFAL Lebanon will also expand tailored capacity-building support for civil society organizations, with a focus on project design, monitoring and evaluation, and organizational learning. At the same time, the Center will deepen engagement with public-sector institutions on sustainability, governance, and digital transformation initiatives aligned with national priorities.

To support broader access and scalability, CIFAL Lebanon will further strengthen its digital and blended learning infrastructure, including expanded virtual and asynchronous delivery options. Continued engagement within the CIFAL Global Network and with regional and international partners will remain central, supporting cross-regional collaboration and shared learning in support of sustainable development.

What Next?

In 2026, CIFAL Lebanon plans to further develop its Virtual School by integrating it directly into the CIFAL Lebanon website and introducing an enhanced access model that enables self-managed participant registration.

Compared to the previous externally operated system, which relied on manual credential distribution, this approach will reduce administrative barriers, improve access, and strengthen learning continuity. By consolidating learning within a single institutional platform, the Virtual School is expected to support more inclusive participation and deliver more effective capacity-building outcomes.



Acknowledgements

CIFAL Lebanon extends its appreciation to the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the CIFAL Global Network for their continued guidance and support. The Center also acknowledges the role of its host organization, the Global CEO Alliance (GCEO), in enabling its operations and engagement.

The Center further extends its thanks to its academic, civil society, professional, and institutional partners for their collaboration throughout 2025. Their contributions—reflected in the partnerships and joint initiatives highlighted below—played an important role in supporting the design, delivery, and relevance of CIFAL Lebanon's learning and engagement activities.

CIFAL Lebanon is particularly grateful to the speakers and facilitators who shared their expertise, as well as to the participants who engaged in its learning programs, workshops, and public dialogues. Their active participation and shared perspectives remain central to the Center's mission of advancing capacity building and dialogue in support of sustainable development.



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