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# DISCOVER FOOTBALL Conference

## Promoting Gender Equality through Women's Empowerment in Football in North Lebanon and the MENA Region

Berlin, 16 - 19 January 2020  
Participants List

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# Participants Overview

“Promoting Gender Equality through Women’s Empowerment in Football in North Lebanon and the MENA Region” is implemented by GIZ Local Development Programme for Urban Areas in North Lebanon (UDP\_NL) in partnership with Discover Football through financial support of the European Union and Germany in partnership with the Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs.

Name	Year of Birth	Residence	Position in Football
Hiba El Jaafil	1987	Saida, Lebanon	Coach
Fatima Azize	1991	Tripoli, Lebanon	GIZ Sport for Development
Carole Mansour	2001	Koura, Lebanon	Player
Tareiza Aloudat	1993	Amman, Jordan	GIZ Sport for Development
Fadwa Elbahi	1988	Tripoli, Libya	Coach, Hera Organization
Tala F. M Abueed	1991	Bethlehem, Palestine	Football Activist
Jihan Ismael Alfindi	1996	Duhok, Iraq	GIZ Sport for Development
Rajaa Chata	1988	Tripoli, Lebanon	Coach
Mira El Khouja	1994	Tripoli, Lebanon	Player
Rama Gewili	1985	Giza, Egypt	Coach, One Football Academy
Lyne Ismail	1990	Abu Dhabi, UAE	Coach, SoccHER Initiative
Baraa Nasser	1998	Tripoli, Lebanon	Coach, Right to Play
Rita J Nassif	2001	Koura, Lebanon	Player
Razan Sahmarany	1997	Tripoli, Lebanon	Coach, Player

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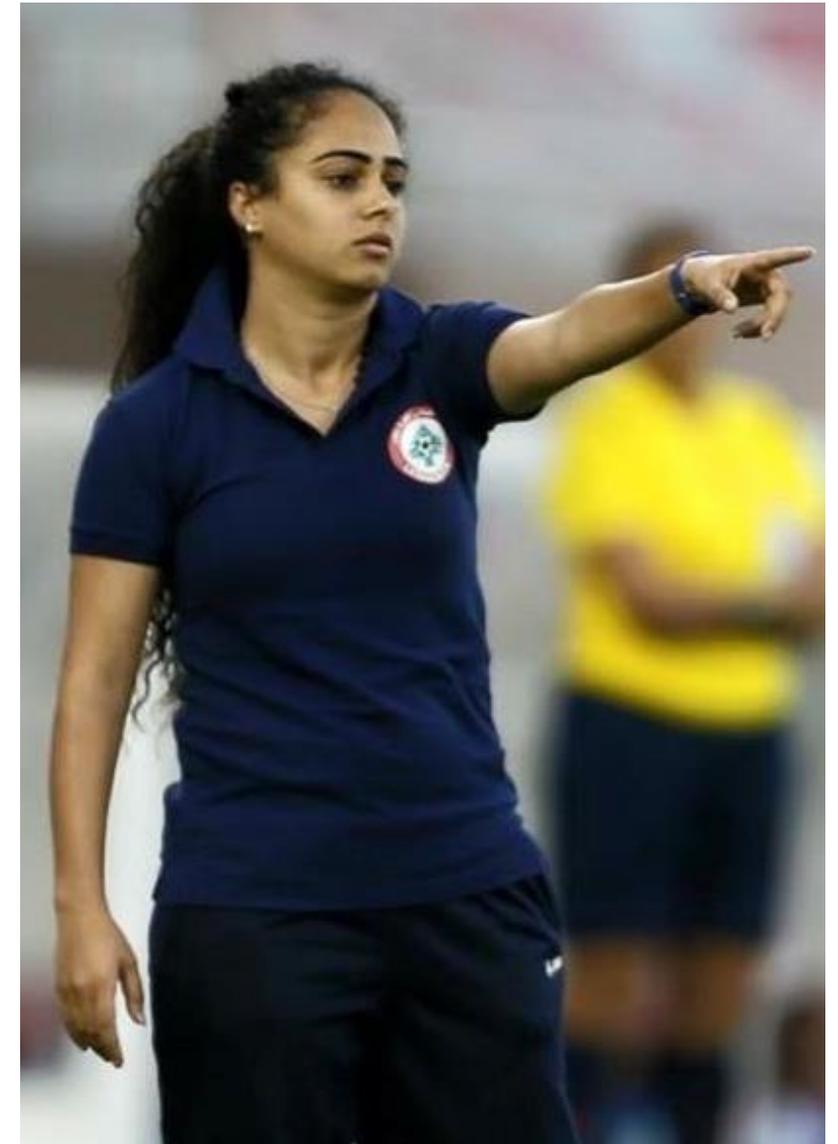
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## Hiba El Jaafil

Saida, Lebanon | National Evangelical Institute for Girls and Boys

Hiba El Jaafil, born in 1987, is a sports coordinator at the National Evangelical Institute for Girls and Boys in Saida, Lebanon. After having led the Lebanese Women's Football National Team as a captain for 10 years, she started her coaching career in the same team and from 2014 to 2016 she coached the under 17, 19 and seniors. Under her leadership the team won the U-17 Arab Cup in Doha 2015. She received her A License from the AFC (Asian Football Confederation) and the B License from the DFB (German Football Association).

In addition to coaching, she has managed several football-related social projects. One of them is the "Football for Adolescents" project encouraging the football education in public schools, sponsored by the Lebanese Ministry of Education, UNICEF, German Embassy of Beirut, the US and French Embassies. Also, she is actively working as a consultant for an NGO in Lebanon, Jordan and India.



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## Fatima Azize

Tripoli, Lebanon | GIZ Sport for Development Project

Fatima was born in 1990, studied Social Science at the Lebanese University and has been working as a social worker for 4 years. She has developed her great passion in sports since childhood especially in football, which led her to get a coaching license and to play actively in women's football teams such as Montada North Lebanon, United Club and Riyadiyon.

Her hope is to start a football academy for girls in her hometown Tripoli and open the chances for them to enjoy football like she did in her childhood.



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## Carole Mansour

Koura, Lebanon | Lebanese American University

Carole is 18 years old and just started her first semester in mechatronic engineering at the Lebanese American university. Since childhood she has played football and currently she belongs to Salam Zgharta, a football team of her hometown and the futsal team at her university. She has a dream to become a football coach someday to inspire girls and women in her community to take more part in the sports.

Nevertheless, she is aware that her dream would have lots of obstacles since football is mainly seen as male sports and women barely get support to participate. She says that even if girls try to play football, they tend to stop at some point because there is no encouragement for them to continue. Carole wants to represent the dreams and hopes of the young generation, especially in the field of women's football in North Lebanon. And she wants to support female football players who can't develop their great talents because of the limitations in the community.



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## Fadwa Elbahi

Tripoli, Libya | Co-founder of „Hera Organization“

Fadwa el-Bahi lives in Tripoli and captained the Libyan women's national team. She left the team in 2016 and founded the Hera Organization together with eight of her teammates. Their aim is to strengthen young girls in Libya and overcome cultural barriers through sport. With their workshops they visit schools and refugee camps. For the film "Freedom Fields" El-Bahi and her teammates were accompanied by a camera for more than five years as director Naziha Arebi tells the story of the women's national team in post-revolutionary Libya. The film premiered in 2018 at the Toronto International Film Festival. *(Cited from Katharina Maria Kersten, "Football helped us to survive" in Zenith Magazine, 26.08.2019)*



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## Tareiza Aloudat

Amman, Jordan | GIZ Sport for Development

27-year-old from Jordan and a former national football player, Tareiza Aloudat studied software engineer but after 7 years of studying she found herself working in the sports field. She is not the person who can be sitting behind a desk the whole day writing codes and creating websites, but a person who likes to stand in the field making kids smile, answering the coaches' questions and support them while applying social goals in their training sessions.

Tareiza started playing football on the street. She was the boy playing football with his father and the girl playing Barbie doll with her sister, at the same time.

She founded the first football school team in the region and now all the schools in her area have girls' football team.

*"Without football I will not be in this position and I never feel proud for helping people.*

*FOOTBALL IS MY SUCCSES!"*



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## Tala F. M. Abueed

Bethlehem, Palestine | Diyar First Women Soccer Team

As a feminist Palestinian woman, Tala Abueed has always challenged the social norms and the status quo, and in many cases, she had to fight the patriarchal society in order to prove that she is capable, and women are capable. Football was one of her ways to say I CAN for the society.

Tala started playing football at a very young age in her neighborhood. In 2004, she recruited a few girls at Bethlehem University and formed a team, which became the very first women's football team in Palestine! She has represented Palestine in various international events, while trying hard to change misconceptions and stereotypes about Palestinian and Arab women.

Currently, she works as a Programme Officer for a Swedish NGO in Palestine "IM Swedish Development Partner" that aims to enhance social and economic inclusion of young women and men.



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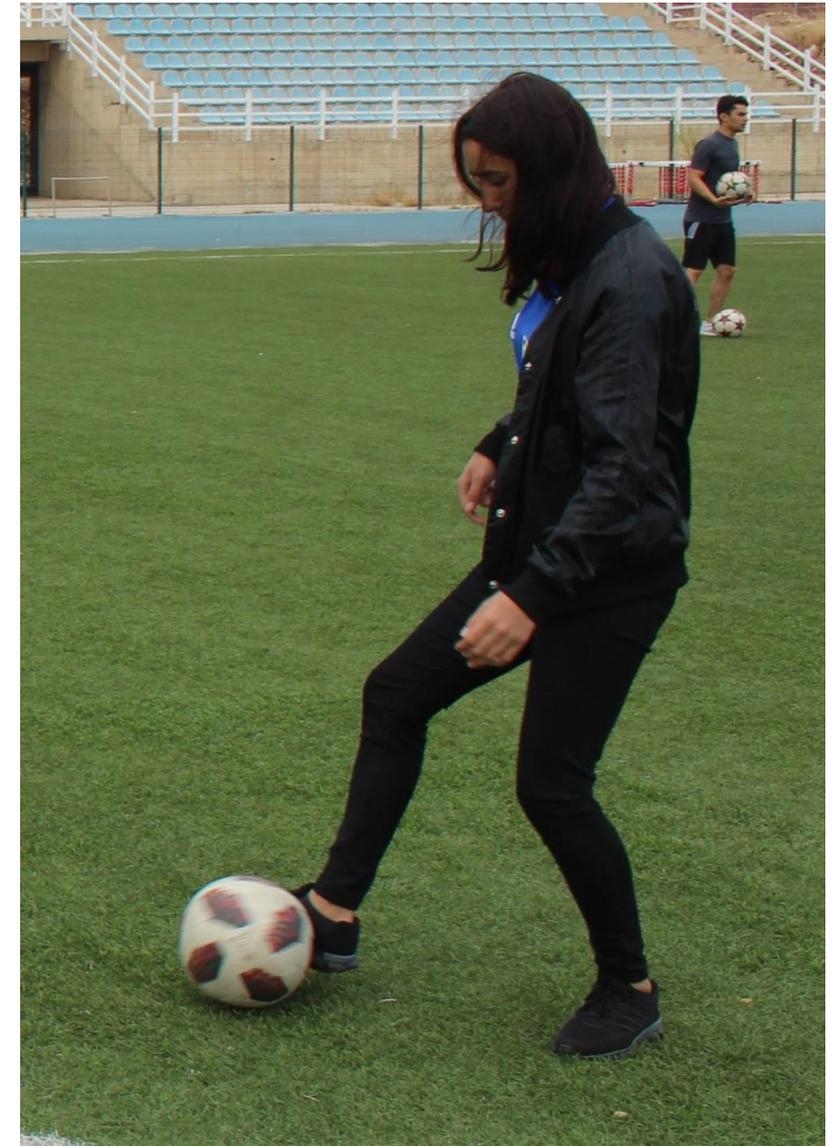
## Jihan Ismael Alfindi

Duhok, Iraq | GIZ Sport for Development

Jihan Ismail Alfindi is 23 years old and was born and raised in the District Sinjar in north of Iraq. She studied Translation in University of Duhok in Kurdistan region.

Jihan used to be the only girl who plays football among a group of boys in the neighborhood. Although she was an excellent player, because of her restricted society she had to stop playing football when she was 12. Here she already saw how girls are treated unfairly by the society and distanced from their dreams just because they were born as girls.

Currently she is working with GIZ for the “Sport for Development” project, which is the great opportunity for her to express herself in the field she has really liked since her childhood. “Sport For Development gives me the chance to be part of giving a hope to people who love sport,” she says.



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## Rajaa Chata

Tripoli, Lebanon | Futsal Instructor of Asian Football Confederation  
Head Coach for Women's Futsal Varsity Team

Rajaa Chata is a teacher in Physical Education and a futsal coach for the school's varsity teams (boys and girls). From 2017 to 2019 she was head coach for Abnaa Shekka Futsal Club, which is a men's team and won the Lebanese Championship for the third division in 2017 and Second Division in 2019. She was the only female coach leading a men's team in Lebanon and winning a title.

Rajaa is also a futsal instructor at Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Futsal Instructor and head coach for the women's futsal varsity team of the University of Balamand.



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## Mira El Khouja

Tripoli, Lebanon | United Club Tripoli

Mira El Khouja is 25 years old. Her brother and his friends introduced her to the world of football at a very early age, where she was the only girl to play with in the neighborhood. As she grew older, it became difficult for her to play with the boys in the streets knowing that they were living in a masculine society and had to follow a conservative culture. To better realize her passion in football, young Mira and her parents started looking for a football academy for girls. That's how she joined her football club, which was "the best thing that ever happened to her."

Since then, Mira has become more interested and passionate in everything related to football and she tried her best to build new relationships with senior football players and to learn from them.

*"I owe a lot to this wonderful game as it helped me learn a lot about life."*



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## Rama Gewili

Giza, Egypt | Head coach of Egyptian Women's Football Team;  
Co-Founder of „One Football Academy for Girls“

Rama Gewili, 34 years old, was a professional Football player and has been a professional football coach for 10 years. She is head coach of the Egyptian women's football team, the Olympic champion, and a co-founder for "One Football Academy for girls." She is the first head coach in the Middle East of the first women's football team whose coaching staffs are all women.

*"Football is truly more than just a game – it brings communities and families together. It has taught me some of the most important values in my life such as perseverance, teamwork and leadership."*



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## Lyne Ismail

Abu Dhabi, UAE | Head Coach of Women's Football Team  
Co-founder of SoccHER Initiative

Lyne Ismail is an FA Level 2 certified football coach and currently serves as the Head Coach of the NYU Abu Dhabi women's football team. In her past 2.5 years as Head Coach, the popularity of football amongst young women has grown tremendously at NYU Abu Dhabi as well as in the greater Abu Dhabi area.

Lyne had the chance to play for the first ever UAE women's national team, the Abu Dhabi Country Club, from 2005-2008. This was her first experience into the world of professional women's football, which at that time was very young in its development.

While in the past 10 years there has been massive progress in developing the UAE women's national team, there hasn't been consistent development in encouraging more grassroots football for women 18 and over. Recognizing this gap, Lyne and her colleagues at the Department of Athletics sought to create the first of its HERsports initiatives: SoccHER - an community initiative which gives the opportunity for women 18 and over, of all experience levels, a chance to play football for fun every week at NYU Abu Dhabi, whilst having professional coaching supervision.



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## Baraa Nasser

Tripoli, Lebanon | Right to Play

After graduating from the Lebanese University, Baraa Nasser has been working as a sports teacher at school. She loves all kinds of sports, especially football, and currently she is playing in the first-class women's team in Tripoli.

Baraa worked voluntarily with the Right to Play Association, which aims to integrate football with life skills. She has C-level coaching license of the Asian Coaching Program and is specialized in coaching for children.



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## Rita J Nassif

Koura, Lebanon | Salam Zgharta Football Club

Rita Nassif, 18 years old, was born in the USA and moved to her hometown located in North Lebanon when she was 6. As a kid she was always jumping around with a ball in the neighborhood streets, on the school playgrounds, any football fields or basketball courts.

She is becoming a college student in a few months and nothing has really changed regarding her love for a ball. The first time she decided to officially practice football with a team was about 5 years ago. She enrolled into one of the only available teams in her region which was an all-boys team because there weren't any girls who were into "The So-Called Boys Game". A year later she transferred to Salam Zgharta Girls Team, the team she still plays with today.

*"Many regard football as just a game, that's easy to say; however, it's more like a lifestyle, more precisely a lifestyle that became a part of who I am."*



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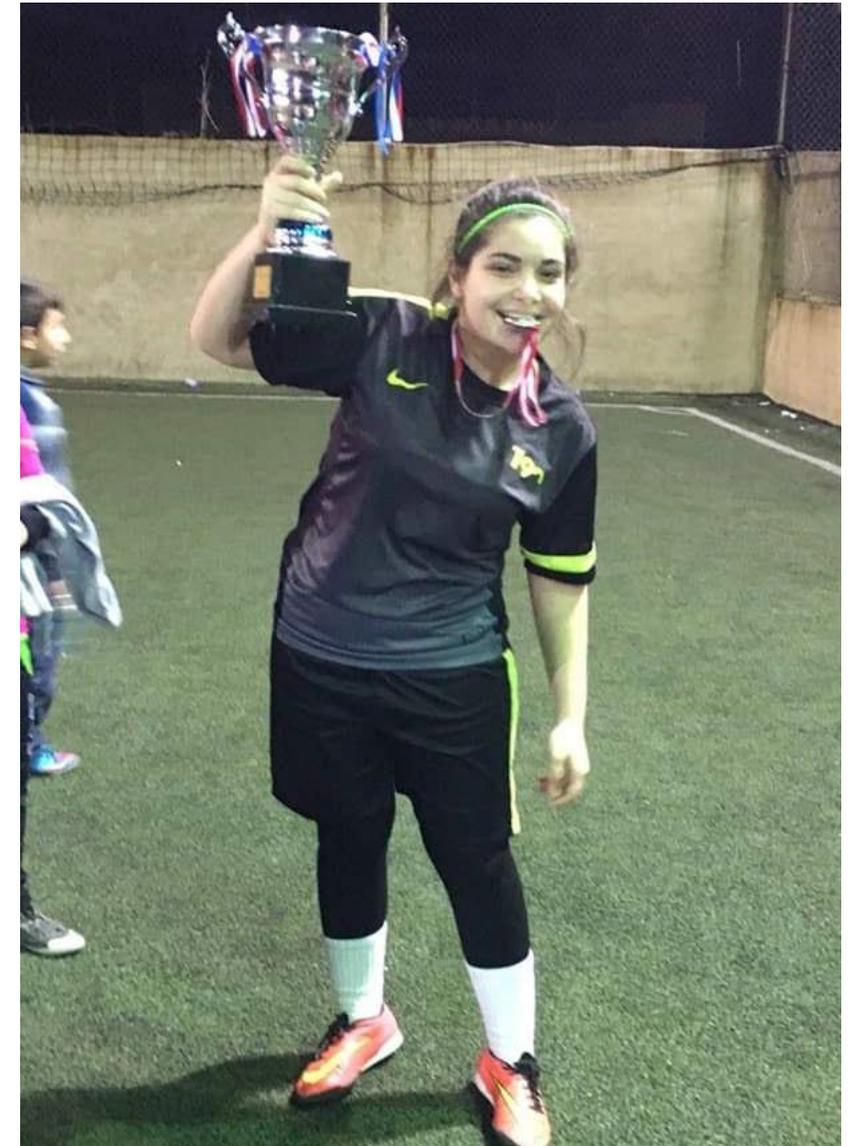
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## Razan Sahmarany

Tripoli, Lebanon | United Club Tripoli

Razan Sahmarany was born and raised in Northern Lebanon. Having started playing football at young age, now she is also coaching younger girls. She sees that there are a very wide range of challenges in her hometown, some of which could be overcome by football and other sports as they help people communicate, speak about problems and find solutions together.

Razan has always been supporting young women in her town to empower them to achieve their dream to become football players with the full rights.



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