



AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY
OF BEIRUT

FORCED
DISPLACED
PROGRAM



AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT
FACULTY OF MEDICINE

CLINICAL
RESEARCH
INSTITUTE



International Society for the Study
of Behavioural Development
Uniting Developmentalists in a Science that Cares

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

ISSBD REGIONAL WORKSHOP

Life Course Research on Mental Health and Trauma among
Displaced Populations in the Arab Region

FEBRUARY 23-27, 2026

ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

The Arab region hosts one of the largest and most protracted displaced populations worldwide, due to colonial legacies and ongoing wars and occupations. The World Health Organization estimates that almost all people affected by conflict and displacement will suffer from mental distress. Against this backdrop, there is pressing need for building research evidence and designing interventions on the theme of mental health and trauma among Arab populations in displacement and/or conflict settings.

We invite applications from early career scholars to participate in a five-day International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development Regional Workshop on the theme of "Life Course Research on Mental Health and Trauma among Displaced Populations in the Arab Region."

The workshop will provide advanced training and mentorship to junior scholars on the following themes: theoretical frameworks in behavioral development, mental distress, and trauma; rigorous qualitative and quantitative life course research methodologies; and decolonial and critical approaches to research in forced displacement and conflict settings. During the workshop, participants will be given ample time to work in groups on a research proposal or an ongoing project along the training themes and will be required to give a presentation during the last day. There will also be dedicated time to discussions of critical issues such as ethics, working in community settings, and publishing, as well as focused mentorship.

■ The workshop is hosted by the American University of Beirut during the week of February 23–27, 2026

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES



Enhance the training of participating early career scholars in rigorous quantitative and qualitative methodologies utilized in research on mental health and trauma among displaced populations, including but not limited to life course research



Survey and critically evaluate measurement tools used in mental health and trauma research



Introduce participants to new theoretical frameworks from psychology, behavioral development, mental health and trauma, and how to integrate them in research in forced displacement and conflict settings



Mentor participants as they apply theoretical and methodological knowledge gained to their own research on mental health and trauma among populations facing forced displacement and conflict

The workshop ultimately aims to build a cohort of early career scholars from the Arab region equipped to conduct rigorous, critical, and localized research and to generate authentic knowledge on mental health and trauma in displacement and conflict settings. In doing so, the workshop seeks to strengthen local research capacity and collaborations while contributing to global knowledge and responses to emerging displacement challenges across various contexts – such as those driven by climate change and economic crises.

ORGANIZERS

The Regional Workshop is co-organized by Sawsan Abdulrahim (IDRC Research Chair in Forced Displacement, FDP) and Martine Elbejjani (Director of the Research Education Unit, REU, at the Clinical Research Institute, CRI) at the American University of Beirut. It is made possible by a generous grant from the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development. In addition to organizers, the workshop will be delivered by professors Toni Antonucci and Kristine Ajrouch (senior advisors from the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research) and a group of multidisciplinary scholars and experts from the region.

ELIGIBILITY

The Regional Workshop is designed for early career scholars from or in the Arab region, whose research focuses on mental health/trauma and displacement and conflict experiences among Arab populations. Applicants are expected to be working towards a PhD or have completed one within the last five years. Those engaged in professional practice related to mental health/trauma in displacement and conflict settings who demonstrate a keen interest in conducting research and enhancing their research skills will be considered.

COST

For accepted participants from outside Lebanon, airline travel, transportation to and from the airport, hotel accommodation within walking distance of the workshop location, and breakfast and lunch during the five-day training will be covered. For accepted participants who reside in Lebanon, a transportation allowance and lunch for the duration of the training will be covered.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

To apply, please submit an up-to-date CV, and a brief motivation statement (250 words), and research abstract (350 words) using the following link:

<https://redcap.aub.edu.lb/surveys/?s=WDKXXEKPL99RKC7F>

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2025

Selected participants will be notified by **November 15, 2025**

