

## Curriculum Vitae - 2008

**Name:** Elias Al Aaraj

**Date and place of birth:** 28/09/1960, Sin El Fil - Lebanon

**Marital Status:** Married

**Number of Children:** 2

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### Academic Qualifications

1. Masters in Community Health, St Joseph University
2. BS. Nursing, Lebanese University - 1982
3. First-Aid Trainer Diploma, Lebanese Red Cross
4. First-Aid Diploma, Lebanese Red Cross

### Languages

- |            |               |
|------------|---------------|
| - Arabic:  | Mother tongue |
| - English: | Excellent     |
| - French:  | Fluent        |

### Previous Occupations

1985 - 1987: Director of the Nurse-Aid Technical School at Hayek Hospital, Beirut - Lebanon.

1985: (3 months) Registered Nurse in the operating room at St. Georges Hospital, Beirut - Lebanon

1982 - 1985: Registered Nurse at the Lebanese College for the Handicapped Hospital, Beit Shabab- Lebanon

1987 - 2011: Founder and Director of the SIDC Association (Soins Infirmiers et Développement Communautaire)

### **Current Occupation**

2009: Director of the Middle East & North Africa Harm Reduction Association (MENAHR)

### **Community Occupation**

May 2004: Re-elected member of the Municipal Board of Sin El Fil

May 1998: Elected member of The Municipal Board of Sin el Fil

### **Main areas of Expertise:**

- Wide experience in nursing and home-based health care since 1982
- Wide experience in HIV/AIDS intervention (public awareness, education, prevention, counseling and support group for PLWH/A, outreach, Training for Peer Educators among youth and vulnerable groups, training for health and social workers, nursing care, etc.)
- Technical capacity in conceptualizing and realizing several IEC material on HIV/AIDS and drug abuse prevention

### **Membership in national and regional entities:**

- Board Member of the Lebanese NGO for Hospice care, SANAD since 2010
- Member of the scientific committee of Mentor Arabia
- Member of the UN Reference Group on HIV and Drug Use
- President of the Regional Arab Network Against AIDS (RANAA) 2008
- Consultant and Trainer of the Agriculture Cooperatives and Municipalities of Nabatieh and Neighborhood on Local Development Programs – YMCA/IMTI in Collaboration with UNDP 2008
- President & Foudrer of the Order of Nurses in Lebanon from 2003 to 2006
- Scientific Advisory Network member - Mentor Foundation 2003 to date
- Member of the Regional Panel on Nursing – WHO EMRO
- Member of the International Harm Reduction Association (IHRA)

- Former President of the Federation of Nursing Associations in Lebanon 2000 - 2003
- Former vice president of the Association of the Lebanese Red Cross Nurses
- Coordinator of the Regional Network (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria) on Drug Demand Reduction and Harm Reduction from 1996 to 1999
- Consultant and trainer on "Child-to-Child" and "Training for Transformation" concepts in health education at the Arab Resource Collective Organization
- Former first-aid provider and first-aid instructor at the Lebanese Red Cross
- Organizer and moderator of a seminar on "Health Education for disabled people" for a group of social workers from Lebanese and Palestinian NGOs, Mohammad Khaled Foundation, Beirut - Lebanon
- Member of the preparation committee for the workshops of the conferences entitled "The entrance of AIDS to Lebanon" and "AIDS and the City" organized by the Faculty of Medicine - St. Joseph University. Beirut, May 1997
- Educator and trainer for youth groups
- Member of an Emergency Relief Team during the Lebanese civil war

#### **Consultations and UN Experience:**

- Member of the Lebanese delegation to the HLM UNAIDS General Assembly, New York 2011
- Facilitator of the regional Training workshop on National Strategic Planning and cost Operational Planning, World Bank, ASAP & UNAIDS 24 January to 6 February 2009
- Overall workshop facilitator, Sharing Experiences on the Three Ones Principle, UNAIDS MENA Regional Support Team, Muscat, Oman, 19 – 21 January 2009
- Manager of the SIDC Sub-Regional Knowledge Hub on Harm Reduction
- UNAIDS Consultant to train and launch a support group for PLHIV in Jordan 2007
- WHO consultant to conduct a situation analysis for MSM in Syria, July 2006

- UNICEF consultant for establishing a National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS in the United Arab Emirates, April – June 2006
- UNAIDS consultant for the training and monitoring of the piloting period of the RSA among IDUs in Syria, April 2006
- UNICEF consultant for the elaboration and the implementation of the “Unite for Children Unite against AIDS campaign” in Dubai December 2005 and January – February 2006
- UNAIDS consultant for the elaboration of a regional project for PLHIV, 2005 and 2006
- UNICEF consultant for the evaluation of the hotline service in Sultanate of Oman, 2005
- UNAIDS co-facilitator of the regional workshop on sex work, September 2005
- UNAIDS Short Term Consultant for the initiation, monitoring and evaluation of the peer education program on AIDS among youths in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, 2003 and 2004
- UNODC short term consultant for a workshop on the elaboration of a strategic plan on HIV/AIDS prevention among drug users for the MENARO - 2003
- UNODC consultant and co-facilitator of a regional workshop for the elaboration of a strategic plan on HIV/AIDS and Drug Abuse, 2003
- WHO Consultant for Primary Health Care - Home Care Program, 2002
- Coordinator of the street study within the framework of a rapid assessment of drug use in Lebanon conducted by IDRAC Association on behalf of UNODC, 2001 - 2002.
- Master Trainer to conduct the IEC District Focal Points Workshop, organized by The Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs in collaboration with UNFPA/ ref. Project Leb/98/PO1. Lebanon, July 2000
- Researcher and technical advisor on an outreach project, involving HIV/AIDS prevention among vulnerable groups in Lebanon, funded by UNAIDS and WHO and later by UNFPA, in collaboration with the National AIDS Control Program.
- Field Coordinator for the street work among vulnerable groups.
- Temporary Advisor for the Inter-Country Consultative Meeting on Home Health Care, Cairo 1995
- Observer at the Inter-Country Workshop on HIV counseling, Beirut 1995

## Professional Training

- Training of groups of students on HIV/AIDS prevention and peer education in Muscat Sultanate of Oman 2002
- Training of different groups of Female Sex Workers, Men having Sex with Men and IV Drug Users on outreach work and peer education for HIV/AIDS prevention, STIs and risk reduction
- Training on Youths and Healthy Life, organized by Arab Resource Collective. Cyprus, 2002
- Regional Training of Trainers on the Child-to-Child Pack: An Approach in Working with children and Youth, organized by Arab Resource Collective Organization. Cyprus, 2001
- Training social and health workers and educators on HIV/AIDS counseling and hot-line operation, organized by SIDC. Beirut and South Lebanon, 2000
- Training on street work for Drug abuse prevention and harm reduction, organized by SIDC, Beirut 1999
- Training workers of primary health centers on diabetes care and awareness raising, organized by The Ministry of Public Health. Beirut, 1998
- Training of social and health workers of the Palestinian camps in Lebanon on drug abuse prevention and counseling, organized by SIDC. Beirut, 1996
- Two-Month training on community center management addressing vulnerable groups and PLHIV in Brussels, 1999
- Two-week seminar on health promotion and health education given by trainers from the University of Montreal, under the Community Health Program of St. Joseph University. Beirut - June 1997
- Two-week seminar on community health theories and concepts under the above mentioned program. Beirut - January 1997
- Two-month field training at all the structures belonging to the French organization SOS-Drogue International, dealing with the follow-up of drug users at all stages. France, 1995
- Two-month training on street work for AIDS prevention among drug users and on ethnographic research, at structures belonging to Charonne Association and L'Institut de Recherche en Epidemiologie de la Pharmacodépendance (IREP). France, 1994
- On-site training on health-care services management at the St. Joseph University. Beirut - 1992

- Training on "French Civilization and Popular Education" focusing on the impact of home-nursing care on the public health in France, Centre de Coopération Culturelle et Sociale. Côte D'Azur, 1985

### **Meetings and Seminars**

- Co- organizer of the International Harm Reduction Conference, Beirut 2011
- Co-Organizer of the Menahra First regional Conference on Harm Reduction, November 2009
- IHRA Conference, Bangkok – Thailand, 2009
- IHRA Conference, Warsaw – Poland, 2007
- International Harm Reduction Conference, Vancouver – Canada, 2006
- Latin Conference on Drug-Related Harm Reduction, Barcelona, Spain, 2005
- International Harm Reduction Conference, Chang Mai, Thailand, 2004.
- Fifth Meeting of the Regional Advisory Panel on Nursing and Consultation on Advanced Nursing Practice and Nurse Prescribing, Islamabad, Pakistan. June 2001
- AIDS: The Greatest Leadership Challenge. AFD2000, (African Forum for Development), United Nations Economic and Social Council for Africa, Ethiopia, Dec. 2000
- Regional Consultation Towards HIV/AIDS and STD Surveillance in the EMR. WHO, Beirut – Lebanon, November 2000
- Sexuality in the Middle East, The Middle East Center, St. Anthony College, Oxford 2000
- World Health Organization, Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office, "Regional Consultation on Reducing Risk and Vulnerability to HIV/AIDS in countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region" Tunisia, May 29 – June 1 2000.
- World Health Organization, Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office, "Intercountry Consultation for Development of Guidelines for Demand Reduction in Substance Abuse with Special Emphasis on Injecting Drug Use" Beirut, Nov. 25 – 27, 2000
- Islamic International Medical Conference: "Drug abuse: problems and solutions" organized by the Islamic Medical Association, Beirut, 1999

- Conference on Human Rights and the Challenges of AIDS and Drugs, NDU, Loueizeh - Lebanon, December 1998
- XII International AIDS Conference, Geneva - Switzerland, July 1998
- Consultative Working Seminar on Networking Between North and South Mediterranean, CelS, Rome - Italy, May 1998
- ENCOD General Meeting in Turin - Italy, Nov. 28 - Dec. 1 1997
- 3rd Intersessional Meeting of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, UNDCP - Vienna, Dec. 1 - 3, 1997
- Child-to-Child and Training for Transformation seminar, organized by Arab Resource Collective Organization. Cyprus, November 1997
- VIII IHRA Conference on Drug-Related Harm Reduction, Paris – France March 23 - 27, 1997
- International Conference on Drug Demand Reduction, organized by UNDCP. Abu Dhabi, March 2 - 4, 1997
- 1st International Egyptian Conference on Drugs and Narcotics Prevention. Cairo, March 1996
- 1st and 2nd Franco-Lebanese Conference on Addiction, organized by the St. Charles Hospital in collaboration with the General Delegation Against Drugs and Addiction (DGLDT) of France. Beirut, 1992 and 1994

### **Publications and Research Experience:**

- Co-Writer of a Manual on Youth and Healthy Living, Arab resource collective (ARC), 2009
- Aaraj, E. Abou Chrouh, M. Mokhbat, J. Nakib, M. Research Study on factors affecting adherence of PLHIV to ART in Lebanon, WHO - EMRO/TDR small grants scheme for operational research in tropical and other communicable diseases 2007
- Aaraj, E. (June 1999) La réinsertion socioprofessionnelle des toxicomanes au Liban [Thesis] St. Joseph University, School of Nursing.
- Kahi, H., Saad, M. Mehanna, Z., Najjar, P., Nassif, H., Azar, S. and Aaraj, E. (1997-1998) Research-action-participation on drug abuse, Lebanese School for Social Training - St. Joseph University

- Coordinator of an ethnographic street study titled "Rapid Assessment of Drug Use in Greater Beirut" carried out by Dr. F.R. Ingold in 1994, funded by UNDCP
- Co-author of a Manual on Community Development for IEC District Focal Points, to be published by The Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs.
- Co-author of a book titled "Thoughts for working with people: a guide for learning and training" published by Arab Resource Collective (2000)
- Co-author of a book titled "Trainer's pack on Child to Child Methodology" published by Arab Resource Collective (2000)
- Aaraj, E. (1999) Networking on drugs, the SIDC approach *Nord Africa Sud Europa: un seminario*. Centro Italiano di solidarietà di Roma (CeIS)
- Aaraj, E., Hermez, J. (1998) The drug problem in the Middle East: Strategies and results *Anàlisis*, FIUC
- Aaraj, E. (1996) Rapid assessment of illicit drug use in Lebanon [Abstract] *Proceedings of the 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Drug related harm reduction*. IHRA

**National & International Awards:**

- National Rolleston Award, HRI, 2011
- Marcelle Hochar Award, Lebanese Cross Nursing Association, 2005