United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Lebanon

Severine Rey was appointed as OCHA Head of Office in Lebanon in May 2019. She joined OCHA in New York in 2006. After several years as Desk Officer covering Haiti, Pakistan and Central Asia, she moved to Geneva where she led the Humanitarian Leadership Strengthening Section between 2017 and 2019. Prior to joining OCHA, Severine worked with UNHCR in Chad, Western Sahara and Kosovo. She is an Engineer from the Ecole Centrale de Lyon and has a Master Degree from the College of Europe.

Mrs. Helena MAZARRO GARCIA
Deputy Head of Office

Helena joined OCHA Lebanon in June 2020 as the Deputy Head of Office. She started her career in 1993 with a first deployment with Médecins du Monde in Angola. After several years in ORC, Kenya and Bosnia-Herzegovina, she joined OCHA in 1996 and was posted in Angola during the demobilization process and the following upsurge of the conflict. Since 2000, she has been working with OCHA in Burundi, Colombia and Myanmar where she was most recently heading the coordination team. Helena has a BA in Information Sciences/Journalism (Spain) and a master’s in management of Rural Development (UK). She is native Spanish speaker and proficient in English, French and Portuguese.

Mr. David WHITE
Humanitarian Affairs Officer - Strategic Planning

David Joined OCHA Lebanon in February 2021 as Humanitarian Affairs Officer for Strategic Planning. David has worked with OCHA since 2014, firstly as HAO on the Syria response and then as Humanitarian Fund Manager in Turkey from 2015 to 2017. David has been the Fund Manager in Iraq since June 2017. Before that, he served as Country Director for several NGOs including with CARE in occupied Palestine, Oxfam in Sri Lanka and Afghanistan and the Norwegian Refugee Council in the Philippines. David holds a Master’s degree in international development from Sussex University, Institute of Development Studies and a Bachelor’s degree in History.

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Ms. Nayla HAJJAR
Special assistant to the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator

Nayla joined OCHA as Special Assistant to the Deputy Special Coordinator, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator. She was recently based in Berlin to manage a mediation project on “Supporting National Dialogue and Reconciliation in Sudan” at Berghof foundation, in high coordination with the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Prior to this, she was actively engaged in the Lebanese civil society and managed different projects, particularly at Aynan foundation on the role of interreligious and intercultural dialogue in the public sphere, covering Lebanon and several countries in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Nayla holds a Master of advanced European and international studies from the “Institut Européen” in Nice in France and a bachelor’s degree in business administration and economics from Notre Dame University in Lebanon.

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Ms. Khouloud MAHDI
Humanitarian Affairs Officer

Khouroud joined OCHA Lebanon in February 2021 as Humanitarian Affairs Officer. Prior to joining OCHA, she has worked for five years with international NGOs. She was co-leading the Water Sector in Lebanon, working in the three existing humanitarian responses in Lebanon (LCRP, COVID19 and Beirut blast response), developing WASH strategies, coordinating the response and ensuring the inclusion of local and international partners. Prior to that, she was WASH program manager for water and sanitation programs implemented in Lebanon. She is a good advocate for the multi-sectorial response, emergency-stabilization nexus and environmental initiatives. Khouloud holds a BS in Biochemistry from USJ, BE in Environmental Engineering from Lebanese University and DEA- Master 2 in water science from USJ.

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Mr. Eyram DZITRIE
Humanitarian Affairs Officer

Eyram Dzitrie, a Ghanaian national, has worked for international humanitarian, development and peace sector organizations in Africa and Asia. Between 2017-2021, he worked for the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Country Office in Yangon, Myanmar as an Associate Expert. Before this, he served as a Project Officer at UNICEF’s Field Office in Ghana, and has also worked for peace organizations such as the UN Regional Center for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (the Africa regional bureau of UNODA, based in Lomé, Togo). He holds masters degrees in international development from the University of East Anglia, UK and the University of Antwerp, Belgium.

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Ms. Ai ODORIBA
Associate Humanitarian Affairs Officer

Ai Joined OCHA Lebanon in January 2020 as the Associate Humanitarian Affairs Officer. Prior to joining OCHA, she worked for the Embassies of Japan in Jordan and Lebanon for more than 4 years, where she monitored political, economic and social developments in the countries, managing Japan-funded projects, and attending international donor/coordination meetings. She holds a bachelor’s degree in International Communication from Aoyama Gakuin University in Tokyo and a Master’s Degree in Conflict Resolution with the Certificate of Asia Studies from Georgetown University in Washington D.C. She speaks Japanese, English and Arabic.

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Ms. Joelle HARFOUCHE
Associate Humanitarian Affairs Officer

Prior to joining OCHA, she worked as an assistant researcher where she was responsible for writing weekly reports on national and regional political updates, assisting in researches and organizing workshops, conferences and coordination meetings. Previously she was an intern at the European Parliament in Brussels and has also formed experience with refugees and the humanitarian field. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science - European Mediterranean Studies and currently finishing her MA in Political Science. Joelle is born and raised in Lebanon and is fluent in Arabic, English and French.

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United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Lebanon

Mr. Craig ANDERSON
Head, Humanitarian Financing Unit
Craig joins us in Lebanon having previously worked for OCHA Country-Based Pooled Funds in both Iraq and Nigeria, as well as having worked for operational NGOs and the mixed national/international NGO forum in Iraq. Prior to joining the humanitarian sector, worked as an analyst/reporter for the British Foreign Office focusing on the Middle East. Craig has an active interest in the Middle East region.

Mrs. Yendi GHOSSEIN
Deputy Fund Manager, Humanitarian Financing Unit
Yendi joined OCHA Lebanon in March 2016 to support the Lebanon Humanitarian Fund as a Programme Analyst. Prior to joining OCHA, she has worked for UNDP in resource mobilization, CSR and the E&E Programme. Prior to that, she worked for the FAO and UNIDO on the implementation of various projects in the aftermath of 2006 July conflict. Yendi holds a MA in Industrial Technology from Saint Joseph University, a MA in Management from L’Ecole Supérieure de Commerce de Paris (ESCP-Europe) and a MBA from L’École Supérieure des Affaires (ESA) in Lebanon. Yendi was born and raised in Lebanon and is fluent in English, French and Arabic.

Mrs. Dana KHAWAJA
Finance Officer, Humanitarian Financing Unit
Dana joined OCHA Lebanon in August 2017 as finance officer for the Lebanon humanitarian fund coming from Save the Children international’s head office where she worked in financial analysis, donor’s compliance and capacity development of national NGOs over five years. Dana holds a MA in finance and MBA in business from Saint Joseph University. Dana was born and raised in Lebanon and is fluent in English, French and Arabic.

Mrs. Sandra RIZK
Programme Assistant, Humanitarian Financing Unit
Sandra has joined the United Nations in 2015 where she has worked for over four years with UNDP Lebanon supporting in the implementation, monitoring and the evaluation of various projects at the Ministry of Energy and Water. She has also worked with UN-HABITAT for over two years supporting the programme in various basics.
Prior to her UN experience, she has worked for over six years in the head offices of Société Générale de Banque du Liban. She joined UN OCHA Lebanon’s team in July 2021 as Programme Assistant, Humanitarian Financing Unit. She is holding a bachelor’s degree in International Business Management, in addition to a MA in Management from L’Ecole Supérieure de Commerce de Paris (ESCP Business School), and an MBA from Ecole Supérieure des Affaires (ESA) in Lebanon.

Mr. Joseph RIZKALLAH
Finance Assistant, Humanitarian Financing Unit
Joseph joined the UNOCHA in August 2021. This marks Joseph’s first experience with a UN agency.
His previous work experience lays in audit, and non-profit financial management. Joseph holds a master’s degree in accounting and financial management from the University of Glasgow, and a bachelor’s degree in banking and finance from the Lebanese American University (LAU).

Mr. Bechara CHEMALY
Programme Assistant, Humanitarian Financing Unit
Bechara joined OCHA Lebanon in March 2020 as a Programme Assistant for the Lebanon Humanitarian Fund.
Previously he was working as a Program Assistant in the Private Sector Development Program at Expertise France. Prior to that, he worked at UN World Youth Alliance, British embassy – Syria office, the Lebanese Transparency association and other NGOs for the past ten years. In parallel he participated in tens of training and conferences in Lebanon and abroad about development, politics, youth. He holds a double BA from the Lebanese University in Political sciences and Documentation, and a MA from Saint Joseph University in International relations. Bechara was born and raised in Lebanon and is fluent in Arabic, English, French, and intermediates in Spanish.

Mr. Bernard CHEDID
Information Management Officer
Bernard joined OCHA Lebanon in May 2014, coming from the Regional Office in Amman where he supported OCHA’s Syria team. During the response to Lebanon crisis in 2006, Bernard joined IMMAP team as a Geographic Information System (GIS) Officer. He has seven years of experience in information management and mapping in humanitarian contexts, in natural disasters as well as complex emergencies. He has worked in South Sudan, Afghanistan, Chad, Pakistan, Somalia and Syria. Bernard has substantive UN/IMMAP partnership experience since he was seconded to OCHA, UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP. Bernard holds an advanced degree in Architecture and is fluent in Arabic, French and English.

Mr. Wael ISKANDAR
Information Management Officer
Wael first joined OCHA ROMENA in 2016 as Information Management Officer. Before OCHA, he worked for WHO – EMRO for 11 years. He was the Regional Health Information Management focal point. He worked with multiple member states on establishing/upgrading health information systems. Since he joined OCHA, he provided IM support to multiple complex sudden onset and prolonged emergencies. In 2016, he joined IMMAP Afghanistan for a year. He worked with Lebanon in 2020 during the response to Beirut Port Explosions.

Mrs. Rana KARAM
Administrative and Finance Officer
Rana joined OCHA in January 2014 coming from UNDP Lebanon where she worked as an Admin and Finance Assistant for three years. She holds a Master of Management with a specialization in Finance from L’École Supérieure de Commerce de Paris (ESCP-Europe), and a second master’s Degree from L’École Supérieure des Affaires in Beirut. Rana was born and raised in Lebanon and is fluent in Arabic, English and French.
Ms. Désirée ABI HACHEM
Administrative, Coordination, and Logistics Assistant

Désirée joined OCHA in June 2014. It is her first UN experience since she has previously worked in the private sector as Assistant Project Manager for several years. Désirée holds a Master of Project Management from Cardiff Metropolitan University in London and BA in Business Administration from the Modern University for Business and Science in Beirut. She was born and raised in Lebanon and is fluent in Arabic, English and French, and has basic knowledge in Spanish.

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Mr. Elie EL HAGE
Driver

Elie joined OCHA in February 2016 coming from the International Medical Corps organization, where he worked as driver. Before that, he worked at the UN International Independent Investigation Commission for three years as mechanic and driver. Prior to joining the UN, Elie was supervising a group of heavy duty vehicle mechanics in charge of maintaining, repairing and operating diesel generators, towing machines, forklifts, cranes and trucks at the Winbidira Airlines Company at the Airport of Kinshasa in Congo. Elie is a certified vehicle mechanic with extensive experience in maintenance and operation of light and heavy vehicles. Elie speaks Arabic, French and English.

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Mr. Zouheir BADER
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Zouheir joined OCHA in April 2014 coming from UNDP’s Live Lebanon Project where he also worked as driver. Before that, he worked at the UN International Independent Investigation Commission for three years. Prior to joining the UN, Zouheir was a mail dispatcher at Liban Post. Zouheir speaks Arabic and English.

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Mr. Houssam EL HELOU
Driver

Houssam joined the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in February 2021 as a driver, after working for nearly ten years at Bekdash Company in the transportation field.

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Mr. Hassan DORRAH
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Hassan joined OCHA in July 2015 coming from WFP Lebanon. He has bachelor’s degree in business administration from the Arab Open University. Hassan is fluent in Arabic, English and French.

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Ms. Désirée ABI HACHEM
Administrative, Coordination, and Logistics Assistant

Désirée joined OCHA in June 2014. It is her first UN experience since she has previously worked in the private sector as Assistant Project Manager for several years. Désirée holds a Master of Project Management from Cardiff Metropolitan University in London and BA in Business Administration from the Modern University for Business and Science in Beirut. She was born and raised in Lebanon and is fluent in Arabic, English and French, and has basic knowledge in Spanish.

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Mr. Elie EL HAGE
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Houssam joined the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in February 2021 as a driver, after working for nearly ten years at Bekdash Company in the transportation field.

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Hassan joined OCHA in July 2015 coming from WFP Lebanon. He has bachelor’s degree in business administration from the Arab Open University. Hassan is fluent in Arabic, English and French.

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