

Office of the UN Resident Coordinator in Lebanon



**Mr Imran
Riza**

UN Resident & Humanitarian
Coordinator in Lebanon

Imran Riza is the current UN Deputy Special Coordinator for Lebanon, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Lebanon. Mr. Riza brings over 35 years of international experience across the United Nations System, mainly in field settings. For the past three years, he was the UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Syria. Priorly, he served in Lebanon as Deputy Head of Mission and Director of the Division of Political Affairs, Civil Affairs, and Strategic Communications of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Before UNIFIL, he served as the Regional Representative to the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries for the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the UNHCR Representative for Jordan. Mr. Riza holds a master's degree in Social-Cultural Anthropology from Johns Hopkins University and a bachelor's degree in History and Political Science from McGill University. Mr. Riza is a national of Pakistan and is fluent in English, French, and Urdu.

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**Ms Natalie
Sarafian**

Head of RCO

Natalie joined the RCO as the Team Leader in March 2020. Natalie's experience includes working in the United Nations Department of Policy, Evaluation, and Training in New York on Protection of Civilians policy matters; as Civil Affairs Officer in the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, as well as in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic. She also worked with UNICEF in the Central African Republic; in addition to working with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Canada. Natalie is a Canadian national and holds an MSc in Global Politics from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

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**Mr Rony
Gedeon**
Development
Coordination Officer
*(Partnerships & Development
Finance)*

Rony has more than 12 years of experience working on development cooperation in Lebanon allowing him to acquire extensive experience in resource mobilisation, monitoring and evaluation and strategic planning and programming. Rony is an expert in partnership building, joint financing, multi-stakeholder planning and joint programming with his decade of experience at the RCO. Rony is a native Arabic speaker and is fluent in English with intermediary knowledge of French. He holds an MBA in Project & Operations Management from Notre Dame University in Lebanon.

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Economist

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**Mrs Nadine
Abi Zeid Daou**
National Information
Officer

Nadine provides communications support to the Resident Coordinator as well as UNIC Beirut on global and national development priorities. Nadine has served at the UN Secretariat for more than 15 year, with experience in communications and advocacy, project management, programme planning, research, and partnerships and resource mobilisation. Nadine holds a Master's of Science in 'Poverty Reduction: Policy and Practice' from the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies, and a Master's of Arts in Translation & Languages from USEK-Lebanon.

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**Ms Kristine
Najjar**
Development
Coordination Officer
*(Data Management & Results
Monitoring/Reporting)*

Kristine has served at the RCO for more than four years, with experience in data, coordination, strategic planning, research and communications. She has previously worked at the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in Beirut on economic affairs. Kristine holds an MSc in Local Economic Development and a BA in International Economics.

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**Ms Farah
Ballout**
Administrative assistant

Farah ensures the effective and efficient functioning of the UN Resident Coordinator Office and ensures provision of effective communications. Farah leads the execution of operational services of the UN Resident Coordinator Office through managing data and facilitating the implementation and administration of the UN Activities. She is a member of the UN Operations Management Team, Business Operations Strategy Working Groups, Local Salary Survey Committee, and contributes to the various Working Groups on behalf of the Resident Coordinator Office.

Farah holds a Bachelor degree in Computer Science from the American University of Beirut.

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**Ms. Christelle
Freije**
Executive Associate to the
Resident & Humanitarian
Coordinator

Christelle joined the RCO as the Executive Associate to the Resident Coordinator in August 2022. She has over 13 years of experience in Executive Assistance roles with international organizations both in Australia and Lebanon, including at the New South Wales Department of Education, the largest provider of public education in Australia. Christelle's experience also includes working in the private sector in Banking, Financial and Risk Administration as well as Business Analysis. Christelle has dual citizenship in Lebanon and Australia, and holds a bachelor's degree in Business Management and Finance.

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Mr Shadi Hamadi
Driver

Shadi is the Driver of the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office, working with the RC/HC as well as the Office as a whole. His work comprises of logistical support, minor paperwork for the RCO, and VIP missions inclusive of the Airport. Shadi’s first experience with the United Nations was in 2007 when he worked at UNICEF. He then moved to ILO, then OCHA, and in March 2020 he moved to the RCO. As such, his experience spans 13 years and four United Nations’ agencies.

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