

# Local Researcher Opportunity in Mar Mikhael



**Do you live or work in Mar Mikhael? Are you interested in learning more about your community and facilitating work that looks into livelihoods, housing and mental wellbeing in the neighborhood? Join our team as a Local Researcher in the Mar Mikhael Prosperity Team.**



The RELIEF centre and CatalyticAction are looking for people who are interested in how Mar Mikhael is coping with the Beirut Explosion 6 months after the devastating event, and would like you to become part of our project team as a Local Researcher. We are seeking people who represent the diversity of Mar Mikhael to work on a collaborative community project about livelihoods, housing and mental wellbeing in the neighborhood. This will involve research about transformations in the city to address the most pressing issues and vulnerabilities of the inhabitants of Mar Mikhael.



This project “Mar Mikhael vulnerabilities reassessed” is part of the GCRF funded project “Assessing vulnerabilities for urban recovery solutions in Beirut post-explosion” lead by Dr. Elisabetta Pietrostefani from the Institute for Global Prosperity (IGP) and involving Professor Camillo Boano from the Development Planning Unit (DPU) at the University College London, in partnership with CatalyticAction and the Beirut Urban Lab. It builds on the work of the RELIEF Centre that aims to understand urban changes – particularly from the point of view of its residents – and to work together to identify ways of improving the city, focusing on services, education, and economic sectors.



This project comes as a medium-term assessment, six months after the blast which will enable an understanding of the changing landscape of local vulnerabilities following the efforts mobilised on the ground. With this timeframe, the following questions will be addressed: How have local vulnerabilities changed from pre-crisis to post-explosion? What has the impact been on employment and housing? How have people dealt with losses and how has this affected their mental health and wellbeing?



This project contributes to research about possibilities for prosperity in contexts of mass displacement, citizen science and its role in sustainable development goals, as well as debates about recovery not being mere reconstruction, but a process that restores social and economic networks and one that recovers spaces of social significance to reconstitute both the built environment and the socio-cultural fabric.



The RELIEF centre is a transdisciplinary research collaboration that focuses on one of the world’s pressing challenges of the moment: how to build a prosperous and inclusive future for communities affected by mass displacement. To do so, the RELIEF centre co-designs a Prosperity Index with the community, which becomes a tool to help “The Prosperity Team” measure

prosperity through a Household Survey. The data we collect aims to inspire local interventions based on real needs. [www.relief-centre.org](http://www.relief-centre.org)

CatalyticAction is a charity and design studio registered in England and Wales. CatalyticAction's mission is to empower communities through sustainable and innovative co-designed interventions. They seek to challenge the passive provision of aid by moving towards a more inclusive approach where individuals become active agents in charge of shaping their built environment. To date, they have implemented 29 community-led interventions in Lebanon including 20 built projects that are benefiting vulnerable groups. CatalyticAction are research partners to the RELIEF centre. [www.catalyticaction.org](http://www.catalyticaction.org)

*Priority will be given to people with prior experience in data collection. Nevertheless, motivated and interested candidates willing to learn are encouraged to apply. The RELIEF Centre and CatalyticAction will provide training in research methods and you will have the support of an academic team when carrying out research in your town.*

Successful candidates will be paid for completed training and research activity tasks. You will be part of a diverse team, working with other local researchers, the RELIEF Centre and CatalyticAction.

### THE MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES ARE:

- Share your insights about life in Mar Mikhael
- Engage with different community members to implement the project activities
- Conduct household surveys with Mar Mikhael residents.
- Interview community members and facilitate workshops with other residents or people who work in the town
- Work with the team and other community researchers to analyze the research findings
- Share Mar Mikhael's history and people's stories
- Report back regularly on the progress of the work
- Abide by ethical principles of working as a Community Researcher

### IN GENERAL:

- Attend and actively participate in training sessions about research methods and ethics
- Attend and actively participate in team and community meetings
- Share data and research findings with the team
- Be present mainly in Mar Mikhael, with potential meetings elsewhere in Beirut (if feasible)
- Be part of a team with other community researchers

### THE REQUIRED PERSON SPECIFICATION IS THE FOLLOWING:

- At least 18 years old
- Knowledgeable about Mar Mikhael, its different areas and communities / your community
- Motivated to learn more about academic research
- A confident communicator who is sensitive to different environments and the expectations of different groups involved in the research
- Able to work independently, to take initiative
- Able to work as a member of a diverse team, and willing to be flexible
- Reliable and punctual



- Priority will be given to candidates with prior data collection experience.

We seek to recruit a diverse team. Therefore, we are particularly interested in hearing from applicants who reflect the diversity of Mar Mikhael. We welcome applications from people from all sections of the community, irrespective of nationality, gender, age, disability, religion or belief.

### THE APPLICATION PROCESS TIMELINE:

- The deadline for applications is 20:00 G.M.T. on Friday 5 February 2021.
- Interviews will take place between 15 and 19 February 2021. Local researchers will receive their induction and training on the week of Monday 22nd of February 2021.

### YOU MUST BE AVAILABLE:

- Between Feb 27<sup>th</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup> 2021: up to 6 days of trainings/consultations in person or partially online ; allocated time to conduct up to 50 surveys during the month of March 2021 (specific dates are subject to change depending on lockdown restrictions but the time commitment remain the same)
- Opportunities to get further involved with the research will arise, so there is potential for larger involvement

### HOW TO APPLY:

- Please send a completed application form by email to Sara Maassarani at [sara.maassarani@catalyticaction.org](mailto:sara.maassarani@catalyticaction.org) and Mayssa Jallad [mayssajallad@gmail.com](mailto:mayssajallad@gmail.com)
- or by WhatsApp at +961 81 81 37 28 (Please note that this number will only be used for Whatsapp).
- Please include the subject title: Local Researcher Application\_your full name.
- The application form can be found here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KYJxZJVYplaWRXPxEMZburpV9eP14crQ/view?usp=sharing>

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE ACCORDING TO LEBANON'S CORONAVIRUS LOCKDOWN.

**Places are limited, apply soon!**

