

SITUATION ANALYSIS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN LEBANON



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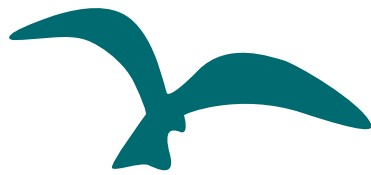
Prepared by

Centre of Arab Women for Training and Research
(CAWTAR)

United Nations Population Fund - Lebanon







FOREWORD

Despite the significant progress achieved in Lebanon with regard to women empowerment and specifically women and girls' access to education and participation in social, economic and cultural fields, and despite the endorsement of Lebanon of most human rights instruments, and despite the fact that violence against women has become a phenomenon in the spotlight and is referred to as a form of discrimination and a violation of human rights of women, Violence against women is still part our daily lives and within its different forms. In addition, available data on violence against women remains scarce and scattered and efforts for addressing and ending this violence remain modestly coordinated.

Over the years, UNFPA has worked closely with government institutions, civil society organizations, academic institutions, media, etc... for the advancement of women through promoting legal measures, raising awareness and supporting research and training. Since 2008, UNFPA has been collaborating with gender-based violence (GBV) actors in Lebanon, through the support of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Italian Cooperation to mainstream and institutionalize GBV prevention and response in national planning and development. In accordance with the key priorities for 2010 which were identified jointly as a result of a close coordination and consultation with concerned stakeholders, four national studies on GBV in Lebanon and one GBV lexicon were completed:

- Situation Analysis of Gender-Based Violence
- Assessment of Media Coverage of Gender-Based Violence
- Review of Gender-Based Violence Research
- Review of Gender-Based Violence Resource and Training Materials
- Gender-Based Violence Lexicon

New evidence generated by "Situation Analysis of Gender-Based Violence in Lebanon" a comprehensive overview of the GBV situation in Lebanon in terms of legislations, programmes, services, resources, actors, among others. As such, this study aims at achieving the following objectives:

- (a) Provide an overall context of Lebanon as regard to the system in place, as well as to gender equality and development achievements as seen through the perspective of MD/MDGs
- (b) Carry out a legal review and conformity assessment to identify gender gaps in national legislation and discrepancies between national laws and commitments against ratified international treaties
- (c) Carry out an assessment of existing programmes and services provided by governmental and non-governmental institutions
- (d) Identify, through mapping, the institutional mechanisms and related organizations which contribute, or could contribute to the reform process and/or social change
- (e) Define the challenges and way forward with a summary of the conclusions and recommendations, through the categorizing of the findings and recommendations stemming from the review using international references and important legal aspects related to the status of women and other policy/programmes domains

The development of these studies is not an end in itself and we hope that they will provide evidence and recommendations that will assist national and international actors in addressing GBV at multiple levels and in putting an end to end this human rights violation and obstacle to development.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This study was commissioned by UNFPA to the Centre of Arab Women for Training and Research and has benefited extensively from the contributions, efforts and energy of many persons. Ms. Asma Kurdahi provided overall guidance and advice throughout the undertaking of the study. Ms. Nicia El Dannawi ensured meticulous follow up to the study and contributed to the editing process. Ms. Barbara Carlson was responsible for editing this study.

UNFPA wishes to thank all partners and stakeholders - namely governmental institutions and administrations, non-governmental organizations, universities, research centers, and experts - who contributed their knowledge, experience and time towards the development, review, and validation of this study.

RESEARCH CENTER AND TEAM

The Centre of Arab Women for Training and Research

The Centre of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR) was set up in March 1993, with the aim to generate knowledge and enhance technical and institutional capacity in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region in ways which would enable Arab women to become fully empowered and to enjoy their human rights as part of the development of their communities and societies.

Unique in the Arab world and in the MENA region, CAWTAR is an international, non-governmental organization with full diplomatic status, established through an agreement between the Arab Gulf Program for Development (AGFUND) and the Tunisian Government and based in Tunis. The board of trustees interacts with such United Nations organizations as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) as founding members, and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) as observer; with such intergovernmental institutions as the League of Arab States and the World Bank; and with governmental organizations and institutions of many countries, including AGFUND and International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

The outreach, knowledge sharing and advocacy of CAWTAR, both within the region and further afield, are managed by the Arab Network for Gender and Development (ANG@ED), which has currently more than 300 members. CAWTAR interventions are undertaken to ensure consensus building and ownership by all concerned stakeholders, including right holders, duty bearers and partners. For that purpose, at each stage, from strategic thinking to the final evaluation of the work, implementation is done as a consultative and participatory process.

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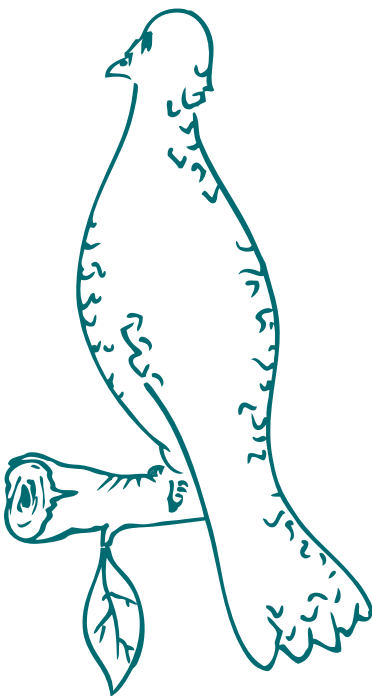
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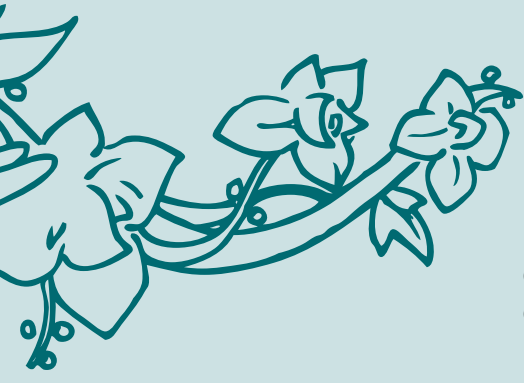
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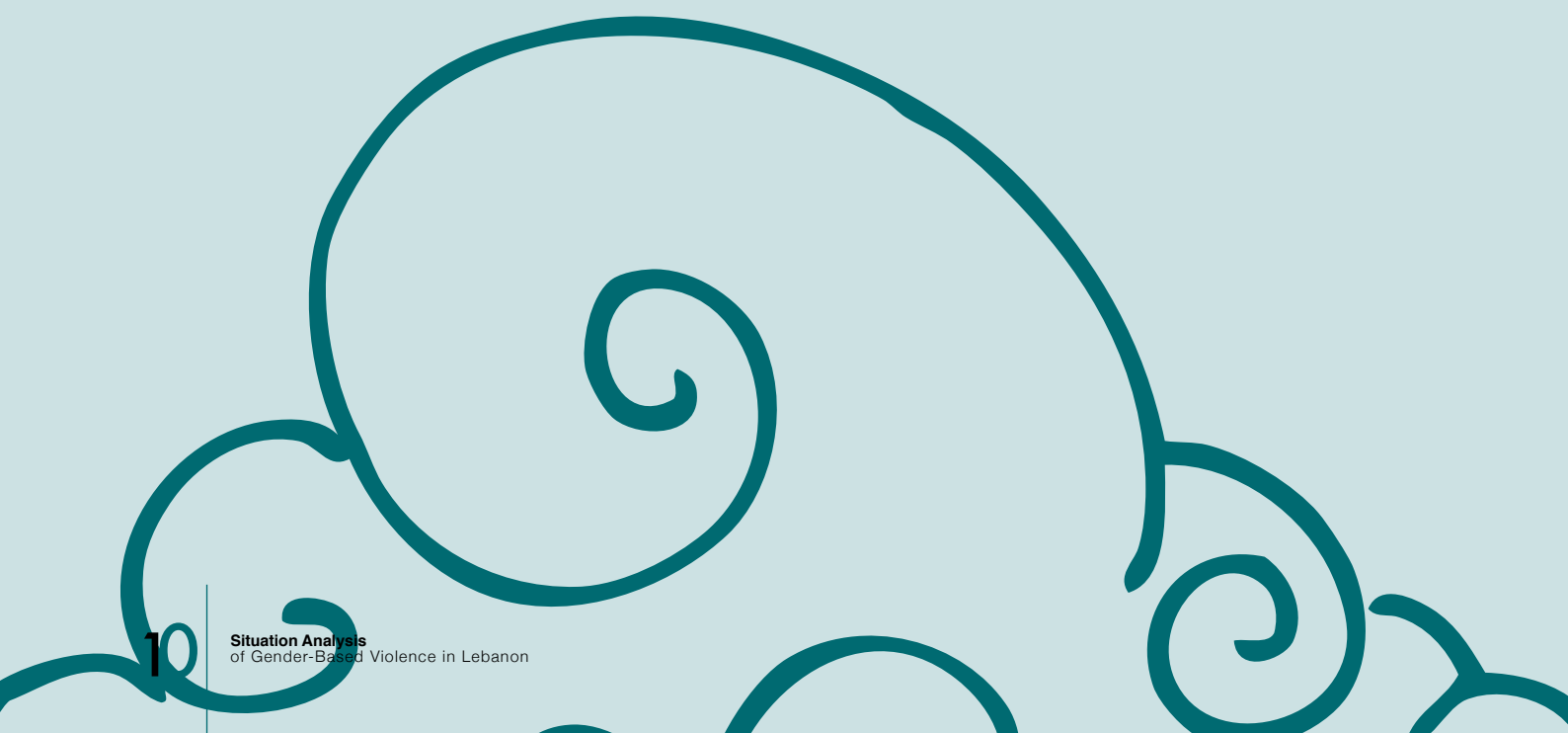
LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ARV	Antiretroviral
AWO	Arab Women Organization
BPFA	Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
CCAs	Common Country assessments
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CAWTAR	Center for Arab Women Training and Research
CERD	Center for Educational Research and Development
CFUWI	National Committee for the Follow-Up on Women Issues
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CRC	International Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRDP	Centre de Recherche et de Développement Pédagogiques
EU	European Union
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GWG	Gender Working Group
HF	Health Facility
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICER	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICMRW	International Convention on Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
KAP	knowledge, attitudes and practices
MD/MDG	Millennium Declaration/Millennium Development Goal
MDGR	MDG Review





NAP	National AIDS Control Program
NCLW	National Commission for Lebanese Women
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
OMSAR	Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform
PoA	Plan of Action
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNGASS	United Nations General Assembly Special Session
UNHCR	United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East
VAW	Violence Against Women
WEPASS	Women Empowerment: Peaceful Action for Security and Stability
WHO	World Health Organization
YWCA	Young Women's Christian Association



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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION



I. Approach

A. OBJECTIVE

The objective of this *Situation Analysis Report* is to give an overview of, and provide a baseline for the situation of gender-based violence (GBV) in Lebanon through the prisms of gender equality and human rights of women throughout life cycle. An analytical inventory of the strengths, potentials and shortages in addressing violence against women (VAW) by the key stakeholders and decision makers concerned was done through the perspectives of gender equality and human rights of women, as well as applying such international instruments and standards as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women; and the campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women, initiated by the United Nations Secretary-General.

B. PRINCIPLES

As an integral component of this approach, the Center for Arab Women Training and Research (CAWTAR) endorses the agreed main principles:

- (a) consultation, participation and inclusion;
- (b) ownership and commitment.

C. CONSENSUS

In Lebanon, as in other parts of the world, various forms of GBV occur. Thus, in order to have a comprehensive understanding of the existing systems and to design an effective plan for prevention and response, this *Situation Analysis* was based on common GBV definitions and tools, as well as on a clear methodology and distribution of tasks.



II. Methodology

A. FRAMEWORK

In order to translate the requirements of the Lebanon office of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and its national partners into concrete results, a consistent methodology and tools were selected and validated by consensus, as herewith detailed.

No major risks were foreseen, as meticulous preparations had been made. These included the sensitization of concerned stakeholders, particularly as the GBV plan of action (PoA) was prepared involving all parties from the outset and at each of the two stages in 2005 and 2009. The careful and precise selection by CAWTAR of regional and national experts, together with thorough briefing, frequent follow-up and close cooperation, ensured an effective contribution to the development and finalization of the approach and required tools, as well as efficient assessment and analysis in terms of process and results.

To conduct this *GBV Situation Analysis*, activities were sorted first by sector and/or target population, including health/psychosocial, legal, security, education/youth and multisectoral programmes; and then by type of intervention.

The qualitative approach included the following steps and actions:

- (a) a consultative meeting to build consensus around definition, methodology, tools, objectives and limitations of the *Situation Analysis*;
- (b) a comprehensive literature review on concepts, policies, programmes and legislation, in addition to an analysis of parallel research;
- (c) a mapping of main stakeholders and institutions, including State actors, civil society organizations and media, as well as donors working in Lebanon concerned about and/or interested in the topics proposed, with accurate data coordinated with other partners intervening in this exercise;
- (d) an information gathering regarding available/non-available services in the health, education, legal, security/safety and psychosocial sectors, including governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs);
- (e) an assessment of the knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) and experience of a selected sample of concerned stakeholders - right holders and duty bearers - through interviews with such key informants as representatives of government offices, public services and NGOs working/could be working with GBV survivors; and focus group discussions with men, women, boys and girls conducted through (i) focus group sessions and (ii) intensive and/or in-depth field interviews.

B. IMPLEMENTATION

During the implementation phase, a number of tasks had to be tackled, starting with the identification and contracting of three national experts to become members of the CAWTAR team.

• Meetings

In consistency with the adopted approach and methodology, a brainstorming meeting of the CAWTAR team was held in April 2010, in Beirut, Lebanon, to build consensus and ownership. This was also an opportunity

for the team members to participate in a partners' meeting organized by UNFPA to consolidate the process, ensure coordination and avoid duplication. In addition to daily communication, two missions, one in April and one in June 2010, were organized in Beirut for the purpose of conducting briefings and debriefings, and for technical meetings with the national experts and UNFPA. A validation meeting of the findings of the *Situation Analysis* was subsequently held in mid-October, 2010.

During the first period, April - May 2010, CAWTAR, as requested at the partners' meeting, provided a bibliography of international, regional and national references on GBV, and a GBV concept paper to be used by all partners as a common background document and benchmark in the spirit of harmonization.

• Focus groups

During the period May 15 - August 6, 2010, 40 focus group discussions, involving over 400 participants, were carried out in the six governorates of Lebanon; Beirut, Mount Lebanon, South, Nabatieh, North and Bekaa. Participants included the following groups:

- (a) women right holders, with special attention given to female GBV survivors, sex workers, migrant domestic workers, and Iraqi and Palestinian refugees;
- (b) men;
- (c) youth, i.e., young females and males aged 14-19 years;
- (d) service providers;
- (e) community leaders.

The overall goal of these discussions was to identify the main issues and priorities, as well as the opportunities and obstacles to be addressed with regard to GBV/VAW through life cycle. Furthermore, specific objectives included assessing the following variables as regards participants of the focus group discussions:

- (a) their knowledge and attitude toward GBV;
- (b) their knowledge and perception with regard to legislation and its adequacy in protecting the rights and needs of women.

In addition, the aims included quantifying the geographical coverage of the GBV programmes and activities, and attaining an overview of government policies, strategies and plans regarding GBV.

During the 60-90-minute-long sessions, the focus groups discussed the following four themes:

- (a) GBV: definition, forms and attitude;
- (b) programmes: geographical coverage, target group and category, including direct services, advocacy, reform and lobbying;
- (c) laws: adequacy/appropriateness and justice with regard to women;
- (d) government policies and strategies.

• Interviews

Preparation for the conducting of interviews included contacting selected institutions and individuals, securing their consent and scheduling meetings. To plan interviews according to availability of potential interviewees, among them policy- and decision makers, as well as officials from government institutions, NGOs and international organizations working in the field, required more time than had been anticipated. Despite numerous contacts having been made, only 16 interviews were actually conducted during the period July - September 2010. They included meetings with representatives of the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, represented by the Lebanese Internal Security Forces; as well as representatives from the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education; the Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform; the Center for Educational Research and Development; the Council for Development and Reconstruction; the Council/Presidency of Government, the Central Administration of Statistics; and the National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW). Furthermore, UNFPA, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). A complete listing of names of the interviewees is attached in annex 2. Furthermore, the Ministry of Finance, represented by the Basil Fuleihan Institute of Finance, contributed a written report on gender budgeting.

The framework of the interviews to a great extent was based on the same issues raised during the focus group discussions. The topics touched on the following points:

- (a) the adopted and recognised GBV/VAW definition and forms, and its position within the national framework;
- (b) the commitment of Lebanon towards international treaties, national laws and policies adopted to address gender and violence issues;
- (c) the programmes and/or activities implemented on GBV, their target groups and geographical coverage, cooperation and coordination between government organizations and NGOs;
- (d) the support provided in terms of human resources, as well as technical, administrative and financial assistance, for the implementation of GBV programmes and services;
- (e) the role of the judicial system and law-enforcement agencies, with a focus on existing legal protection mechanisms and their adequacy with regard to the needs and priorities of women;
- (f) the proposed recommendations and suggestions for addressing the issue of GBV, as well as identifying and recognising existing barriers and gaps.

In this *Situation Analysis Report*, the findings, including

charts and qualitative analyses, of all focus group discussions and interviews with selected institutions and individuals are presented as 'national findings' by topic and under the relevant chapter and section. The presentation is done through the regrouping of responses of all categories and governorates¹, with the exception of the responses noted during discussions with the women groups of GBV survivors, Iraqi and Palestinian refugees, migrant domestic workers and sex workers, and those given during interviews with decision makers.

C. MAIN CONSTRAINTS AND FACILITATING FACTORS

• Constraints

1. Contextual

The main contextual constraints include the following factors:

- (a) the municipal elections, held in May - June 2010, coincided with the scheduled start of the implementation phase of the *Situation Analysis*, affecting each governorate separately and, especially, those focus groups which included community leaders;
- (b) the final school exams and official examinations during the period of May - June hindered the implementation of the youth focus groups;
- (c) the summer holiday period had an overall effect.

2. Technical

The main technical constraints include the following factors:

- (a) the limited availability of national experts with the required background;
- (b) the restricted time frame allocated to the total process, including the analysis and validation of the findings, particularly in relation with such field constraints as identifying adequate expertise, building consensus, conducting desk reviews, forming focus groups, holding interviews and conducting analyses;
- (c) the added risk involved, in spite of time and energy investment, of working with junior experts due to their lack of experience and/or skills, and also their difficulty in recognizing their own limitations;
- (d) the unilateral midterm interruption of the contract of the national expert hired to assess GBV services and programmes and to conduct interviews, forcing the subsequent hiring of two replacements to complete these tasks;
- (e) the technical and administrative constraints in covering every geographical region of the country, particularly as regards the limited human resources of initially a single focus group facilitator, with the subsequent hiring of an assistant through UNFPA support;

- (f) the extensive time required to contact and organize focus groups and interviews as some stakeholders required official invitations, facilitated through the support of the UNFPA management and the GBV project coordinator.

• Facilitating factors

On the other hand, some factors helped in reducing the impact of the above-listed constraints. They include the following aspects:

- (a) the robust technical proposal and well-structured activities;
- (b) the strong team commitment to, and interest in completing the tasks and achieving the goals according to set timetable;
- (c) the well-placed investment in young experts, who were dedicated to the mission and its completion;
- (d) the unceasing availability, close follow-up and prompt technical support provided to the team by CAWTAR;
- (e) the construction of a mailing list of team members for open discussions and close interaction among all;
- (f) the collaboration and coordination with, and support from the UNFPA office management and staff, particularly in terms of contacting stakeholders and providing official letters to institutions, associations and individuals;
- (g) the positive participation and feedback of national stakeholders throughout the process - starting from brainstorming and partners' meetings, to the focus group discussions and interviews, and culminating with the validation meeting - were most constructive and enriching.

III. Expected output

This *Situation Analysis Report* aims at providing the following information:

- (a) an analysis on GBV in Lebanon at various levels and domains of intervention to be used as a baseline when assessing progress;
- (b) a quantitative and qualitative summary and conclusions;
- (c) a listing of priority issues and strategic interventions, selected in a participatory manner, to be addressed by the UNFPA two-year project and other assignments;
- (d) a mapping of such main stakeholders and institutions as State actors, civil society organizations, media and donors concerned and active in the field and in need of accurate data.

IV. GBV Situation Analysis Report



At the request of UNFPA Lebanon office and its partners, CAWTAR, with support of a technical team of regional and national experts and consultants, prepared an analytical report on the situation of GBV in Lebanon.

This compilation and in-depth *Report* provides an analysis of the legislation and regulations, and of the programmes and services in the country through the human-rights and gender-based assessment lens, in the light of the international commitments of the Republic of Lebanon in relation to issues of the elimination of all forms of discrimination, gender equality and human rights of women.

This *Report* aims to identify the state, strengths and opportunities for evidence-based policy dialogue and policymaking, as well as advocacy that could contribute to the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against women through life cycle; thus, ensuring their protection and empowerment, and reducing gender gaps in all related areas. Specifically, this *Report* aims at fulfilling the following:

- (a) provide an overall context of Lebanon as regards the system in place, as well as gender equality and development achievements from a Millennium Declaration/Millennium Development Goal (MD/MDG) perspective;
- (b) carry out a legal review and conformity assessment, which will identify gender gaps in national legislation and discrepancies between national laws and commitments against ratified international treaties, including (i) gaps in the legislation taking into account political, cultural and practical considerations and context, and (ii) non-compliance of laws with international conventions, treaties and international 'soft' laws;
- (c) carry out an assessment of existing programmes and services provided by government institutions and civil society according to (i) type and quality of service providers, and (ii) gaps in related specialized services;
- (d) identify the institutional mechanisms and related organizations - i.e., mapping - which contribute, or could contribute to a reform process and/or social change;
- (e) define the challenges and way forward by categorizing the findings, conclusions and recommendations based on international references and pertinent legal aspects related to the status of women and other policy/programme domains.

Attached in annex 5 is a detailed mapping of main stakeholders and institutions, including State actors, civil society organizations, media and donors concerned and/or active in the field and/or interested in accurate GBV data.



CHAPTER TWO OVERALL CONTEXT

I. Geography and population



The Republic of Lebanon is a small country, with a total surface area of 10,452km², located on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea. Geographically, Lebanon lies in both the northern and the eastern hemispheres of the world; more specifically, in the Middle East, a region of Western Asia. It is bordered by the Syrian Arab Republic to the north and east, and by the occupied Palestinian territory to the south.

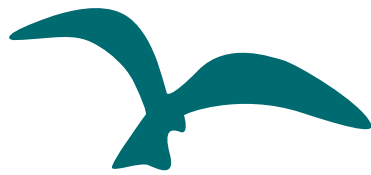
According to the *National Survey of Household Living Conditions 2007*², the population of Lebanon was 3,759,136³; with other estimates indicating around 4 million.

The findings presented in the 2007 *Survey* illustrate an imbalance in the age and gender distribution among the total population. In the age bracket 25 to 65 years, i.e., the segment of population likely to be active in the labour force, the percentage of females to males was higher. This is particularly noticeable in the age group 24-34, where women outnumbered men to an even larger degree. This disparity is due to emigration of young, mostly male Lebanese. Being a country of a great migration throughout generations, Lebanon embodies the duality of 'residents' and 'migrants', with large immigrant communities in several countries round the world; an example being Brazil, where there are several million of Lebanese origin.

The 2007 *Survey* reported a delay in the average age of marriage for both women and men; 28.9 years for women, and 32.7 years for men. A decline in fertility was also noted. Children in age categories 0-4 and 5-9 were estimated at 6.9 and 8.3 per cent, respectively; while children aged 10-14 and 15-19 recorded 9.4 and 9.7 per cent, respectively - thus indicating a drop in fertility rates.

Based on statistics for 2007, Lebanon hosted over 375,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, including an estimated 270,800 Palestinians⁴, 50,000 from Iraq and 4,500 from Sudan. On the other hand, over 300 were forcibly repatriated by the authorities that year.

In 2008, in an effort to address the population of non-Lebanese living in the country, the authorities started the procedure of issuing identification cards to the presumed 3,000 to 5,000 Palestinians lacking documents; however, fewer than 750 were reported processed due to administrative delays. In 2009, the newly-elected Government appointed the country's first minister of state for Palestinian refugee affairs.



II. Historical and political overview

First settled around 3000BC by the Phoenicians, the small mountainous country of Lebanon then fell under the Roman Empire, before being invaded and conquered over the centuries by the Assyrians, Ayyubids, Babylonians, Byzantines, Mamelukes and Ottomans. As the Ottoman Empire crumbled and Turkey was defeated in World War I, the ensuing influence of France transformed Lebanon into the modern nation of today.

Lebanon gained independence in 1943 but, just over three decades later, was to be ravaged by a 15-year-long civil war. With the end of the conflict in 1990, a more equitable political system was established and the damaged infrastructure rebuilt. Following the assassination of Prime Minister Rafik Hariri in February 2005, political and security stability in the country was again jeopardized. In July 2006, Israel waged a war on Lebanon that resulted in extensive loss of life and livelihoods, and massive damage to civilian infrastructure, population centres and the natural environment. In May 2007, a crisis at the Palestinian refugee camp at Nahr el-Bared erupted, following an attack on the Lebanese armed forces. Responsible for the attack were members of an al-Qaeda-linked group – largely non-Palestinian – who had infiltrated and installed themselves in the camp, thus posing a threat to Lebanese and Palestinian alike.

Though Lebanon is a parliamentary democratic republic, the division of power is based on a system known as ‘confessionalism’. This system is intended to ensure that sectarian conflict is kept at bay, and that members of the governing body reflect a fair representation of the demographic distribution of the eighteen recognized religious groups in the country. High-ranking government offices are reserved for members of specific religious groups; for example, the presidency for a Maronite Christian and the premiership for a Sunni Muslim, while the speaker of parliament is a Shi’a Muslim.

The 1989 Taif Agreement, which brought an end to the civil conflict and upheld the confessional arrangement, while introducing several modifications which resulted in constitutional amendments being enacted in 1990. These changes include equal distribution of seats between Christians and Muslims in Parliament and in the Cabinet, as well as the reducing of power of the president. Prior to these amendments, the Sunni prime minister had been appointed by, and responsible to the Maronite president; after 1990, the prime minister answers to the legislature, as in a traditional parliamentary system.

The national executive branch constitutes the president, or Head of State; and the prime minister, or Head of Government. Parliament, by a minimum two-third majority, elects the president for a non-extendable term of six years. The president, in turn, appoints the prime minister. Following consultations with both Parliament and the president, the prime minister then forms his Cabinet, whose members also must reflect the sectarian distribution set out by ‘confessionalism’.

The national legislative body is represented by the unicameral Parliament, whose members are voted in by general elections held every four years. The 128 seats are divided equally between Muslims and Christians, as well as proportionately among the various denominations within each religion and region. Prior to 1990, the ratio in Parliament stood at 6:5 in favour of Christians; however, the Taif Agreement granted equal representation to followers of the two religions.

III. Gender, human rights and development achievements

As stressed by CEDAW, “the full and complete development of a country, the welfare of the world and the cause of peace require the maximum participation of women on equal terms with men in all fields.”⁵

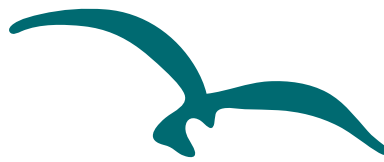
As highlighted in various assessments⁶ undertaken by national institutions and United Nations agencies, gender parity is still at a low level of achievement in Lebanon. Indeed, narrowing the gender gap between males and females in access to opportunities at the political, economic and social levels will contribute to the realizing of a basic human right and the achievement of MDG 3: “Promote gender equality and empower women”. In reality, the situation of women in Lebanon is one of great contrast. On the one hand, the broad empowerment and equality of women in such areas as education, and their active participation in various social, economic and cultural fields; and, on the other hand, the sharp discrimination in family codes, as well as a striking delay in political participation.

The 2008 *Third Report of CEDAW on Lebanon*⁷ states that women themselves have been slow in promoting their participation in the public sphere, or in the betterment of their conditions in political, social and economic life - this despite numerous attempts to advance their rights.

Over the years, embedded traditions, perceived values, social prejudices, political interests and cultural barriers have all contributed to injustice and inequity between men and women, amplified by weak State accountability systems, as well as by poor efforts towards women empowerment, particularly on their rights with a direct impact on the achievement of MD/MDGs at both quantitative and qualitative levels.

A. POVERTY

Data and statistics related to poverty in Lebanon are scarce; however, a study conducted by UNDP-Lebanon in 2007⁸ draws a profile of the country based on money-metric poverty measurements of household expenditures. The findings reveal that nearly 28 per cent of the population – i.e., 1 million individuals – could be considered ‘poor’; while close to 8 per cent – i.e., 300,000 individuals – lived under conditions of extreme



poverty, or below the 'lower poverty line'⁹; in other words, unable to meet the most basic food and non-food needs.

Furthermore, the study exposed striking regional disparities and significant inter-governorate differences in poverty levels among the population. For example, within the North Governorate, with an overall poverty rate of very nearly 25 per cent, Tripoli City and the Akkar/Minieh-Dennieh region had the highest percentages of poverty; in contrast, the Koura/Zgharta/Batroun/Bsharre region recoded significantly lower rates.

Most poverty in Lebanon is concentrated in four regions - Tripoli City, Akkar/Minieh-Dennieh, Jezzine/Saida and Hermel/Baalbeck - which are home to two thirds of all persons classified as 'extremely poor', despite the fact they make up less than one third of the total population in the country.

The study also analysed the causes of poverty among households. They were affected by a combination of such factors as location of residence, access to education, availability of employment and attainment of skills among family members. For example, close to half, or 45 per cent of all 'poor' households were headed by individuals who had not completed elementary education. Furthermore, widowed heads of households with children were more likely to be poor.

Nonetheless, the study concluded that Lebanon would be fully capable of meeting the MDG target of halving the proportion of its population living in extreme poverty by 2015. In addition, it stated that the country could make substantial progress in reducing intra- and interregional disparities, and proposed a series of policy recommendations. Regrettably, no sex-disaggregated data were provided in this study, or gender analysis made to evaluate the level of feminization of poverty – a recognized phenomenon throughout the world in conflict and non-conflict situations.

Poverty disempowers women even more deeply and enduringly than it does men, with impact on education, health and economic access, but also in increasing their vulnerability to face up to discrimination and violence and, therefore, limiting them in enjoying human rights as a whole.

B. ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION AND EMPLOYMENT

A number of assumptions as regards women's access to, and control of resources and their poverty status can be made. In 2007, 21.1 per cent of women aged 15 and above had paid employment, against 67 per cent of men, representing a slight increase in female employment from 20.4 per cent in 2004. Of note are the variations in the rate of female economic activity according to age group and region. In 2007, the highest rate of female economic participation was recorded for the age group 25-29 years, with 42.6 per cent in paid employment, compared to 37.3 per cent in 2004. The rates also varied according to geographic region, peaking in Beirut where 32 per cent

of women aged 15 and above participated in economic activity; while percentages were lower in other regions, particularly in areas away from urban centres.

Regarding unemployment rates, a recorded 10.2 per cent of women and 8.8 per cent of men aged between 15 and 64 were without work in 2007. The rates were higher for those with university education; of the total number of unemployed, 11.1 per cent were graduates. A breakdown of the data indicated a slightly higher percentage among female graduates at 11.4 per cent, compared to 10.9 per cent for male graduates. The highest unemployment rates were noted among the population in the category of "education level unknown"; as many as 23.5 per cent were unemployed, among whom 70.5 per cent were women. The public sector was estimated to be employing 15.7 per cent of the total working population; 16.1 per cent of all men and 14.7 per cent of all women in the labour force.

In 2005, the Council of Ministers issued a statement emphasizing the importance of increasing the role of women in decision-making. The Ministry of Labour has advocated the need for developing employment policies for women. In 2009, the then newly-elected Government reiterated these commitments and continued the implementation of previously ratified initiatives and policies.

C. EDUCATION AND ILLITERACY

Traditionally, Lebanon has been regarded as a country with almost universal access to education, with official figures¹⁰ from the Ministry of Education and Higher Education registering literacy rates at around 95 per cent.

The Center for Educational Research and Development (CERD)¹¹ has published sex-disaggregated data and statistics which contribute to giving a clearer and more accurate picture of the opportunities of access to education of girls at various stages. Enrolment rates in Lebanon are high for both girls and boys; 99 per cent of girls aged 5 to 9, and 95 per cent in the age group 10-14 attend class, with more girls than boys aged 14 and above staying on in school. Similarly, in higher education, female students are more numerous than their male counterparts. To put these figures in perspective, just 1.2 per cent of women over age 70 have a university education, against 23.2 per cent in age range 25-39 years. This shows the progress made by Lebanon since the 1960s in terms of expanding access of women to tertiary education. The data also indicate there are more females among the students who distinguish themselves in further education, while gender gaps continue to be significant among students in scientific and literacy disciplines.

Concerning illiteracy, rates vary according to gender, age and region. Data show illiteracy affects only 6 per cent of men, but 24 per cent of women in advanced ages, while the gender gap between males and females aged from 10 to 29 years varies between 1 and 1.9 per cent. With

regard to regional disparities, illiteracy rates differ among the population in urban centres compared to peripheral areas.

D. POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND DECISION-MAKING

Access of Lebanese women to national decision-making and their participation in political life remains weak, with scarce improvement noted since the end of the civil war in 1990¹². From 1992, at the first parliamentary election after the conflict, till the elections of 2009, the presence of women in Parliament ranged from a mere 2 to 4 per cent. In 2005, among the 128 parliamentarians, there were just 6 women; while in the 2009 elections, 4 were voted in. Though proclaimed the “most democratic”, the elections in June 2009 witnessed only 12 women standing as candidates, compared to 587 men; while in 2005, there had been 14 women contestants, and in 2000 as many as 34 female candidates – thus confirming a downward trend. In government and the civil service, women represented only 6.67 per cent of the filled first-category positions in 2004. In 2007, a woman judge was appointed president of the Military Court; and in 2010, the ministers of finance and of State were both women.

Article 95 of the Constitution of 1926 stipulates that all communities be represented equally in Government. Certain women NGOs are lobbying for the elimination of community quotas – or ‘de-confessionalization’- in political representation, as they are perceived to adversely restrict the participation of women.

E. HEALTH AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Lebanon, as a nation, has pledged to recognize and respect the ‘right to health and reproductive health’ through being party to various treaties, and by endorsing declarations detailing State obligations regarding the health of its population at such international symposiums as the 1978 Alma Ata conference, which strongly reaffirmed that health is a fundamental human right and aspired to achieve health for all by 2000, the 1995 Beijing conference and the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) agreements, and clearly reflected in the respective platform and programme of action.

Since the end of the civil war in 1990, progress has been made with regard to the practical realization of the ‘right to health’, with a commitment towards improving the health of the population, and towards combating health disparities. Infant mortality rates have dropped, and the general health of the population has improved¹³. Health indicators show also some progress as regards the health of women.

According to a 2010 estimate¹⁴, average life expectancy at birth was 72.45 years; 70.30 years for males and 74.60 years for females. Keeping in mind the biological advantage of women in terms of longer life expectancy, this gap is questionable from gender construction perspectives.

In 2010, the total fertility rate was reported at 1.84 children born per woman¹⁵. As regards the incidence of mortality among infants and young children for the period 2005-2010, the under-five mortality rate was 31 deaths per 1,000 live births among males, and 21 deaths per 1,000 live births among females¹⁶.

GBV was recognised as a ‘public health issue’ by the General Assembly of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1997. In 1999, at the ICPD+5 Review, GBV/VAW was adopted as a ‘component of sexual and reproductive health’ to be integrated in prevention policies, programmes and policies, as well as in services. “One effect of sexual abuse is traumatic gynaecologic fistula[,] an injury resulting from severe tearing of the vaginal tissues [which may] render the woman incontinent and socially undesirable.”¹⁷

F. HIV/AIDS

According to the 2008 national *MDG Review*, the number of reported HIV/AIDS cases in Lebanon was low. The first case in the country was detected in 1984. By November 2007, that number had risen to 1,056¹⁸; however, WHO estimated an additional 2,500 unreported cases. Reported cases were few, particularly among children with 2.1 per 100,000 cases for 0-14-year-olds¹⁹; while incidence was higher for older age groups, with 2.9 per 100,000 for those between 15 and 24²⁰. Most HIV/AIDS cases were among those aged 31 to 50, constituting around 52 per cent of total cases reported in 2006.

Though as many as 41 per cent of all cases had been contracted abroad during travel and tourism, the number of locally-transmitted cases has been on the increase. The main cause of infection is sexual relations; namely, 70 per cent of all cases, of which over half – or 56 per cent – were among heterosexuals. Transmission from mother to child did not exceed 2.2 per cent, while intravenous drug users accounted for 5 per cent of those diagnosed with HIV/AIDS. Infection through blood transfusion accounted for 6.4 per cent, with none reported since 1993. Only 15 per cent of all reported cases between 1989 and 2008 were among persons aged 15-30 years.

Awareness of the disease and modes of transmission is relatively high, as indicated by studies conducted by the National AIDS Control Program (NAP); however, this has not been translated into increased precautionary measures. There is evidence that condom use was still relatively low in 2004, especially among youth and those who indulged in risky behaviour²¹. Collected data on AIDS is analysed in accordance with WHO standards and published annually.

The national response to HIV/AIDS started shortly after the first diagnosed case of AIDS with the setting-up of a committee which, subsequently, expanded into the establishing of NAP in 1989. That same year, the Ministry of Public Health declared HIV a “national threat” and introduced mandatory reporting of HIV/AIDS. A standardized report form was developed, circulated

and adopted by physicians, hospitals and laboratories upon diagnosing and confirming new HIV infections²². Every person diagnosed with advanced HIV infection has access to antiretroviral (ARV) drugs, and quadri-therapy with ARV medication is available free of charge through the Ministry of Public Health. In 2008, the number of patients on ARV was around 110²³.

It is evident, particularly at grass-roots level with the active involvement of youth NGOs, that the civil society is a major player in the fight against HIV. The private sector and NGOs are the most active advocates for the rights of HIV/AIDS patients, and are providers of such services as medical care and psychosocial counselling. With the epidemic becoming more visible, religious leaders have adopted an attitude of 'non-opposition' as long as religious and cultural norms are respected in the prevention activities. NAP is a strong leader of all these efforts²⁴.

As clearly stressed in the fact sheet of the campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women²⁵, violence and HIV/AIDS are interlinked. "Women's inability to negotiate safe sex and refuse unwanted sex is closely linked to the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS. Unwanted sex results in a higher risk of abrasion and bleeding, and an easier transmission of the virus. Women who are beaten by their partners are 48 per cent more likely to be infected with HIV/AIDS. Young women are particularly vulnerable to coerced sex and are increasingly being infected with HIV/AIDS. Over half of new HIV infections worldwide are occurring among young people between the ages of 15 and 24, and more than 60 per cent of HIV-positive youth in this age bracket are female." In Lebanon, the ratio of females to males infected by HIV/AIDS in 2008 was 1:4, showing an increase in the earlier ratio of 1:9²⁶.

G. CONCLUSION

According to the Constitution of 1926, all Lebanese nationals are equal before the law; however, this is far from being reality when it comes to both duties and rights in everyday life. In an open, socio-liberal context, Lebanese women seem emancipated and able to move easily

within society and professional life; at the same time, they remain subject to a multitude of forms of discrimination and violence in various situations and contexts.

The *MDG Review* prepared by Lebanon in 2008 highlighted efforts towards achieving those Goals. On the other hand, the Report also recognized and articulated the challenges ahead, putting forth recommendations for decision makers and other concerned stakeholders to contribute to achieving MDGs.

It is universally recognised that much remains to be done with respect to the human rights of women in Lebanon, including the need to collaborate and enable steady progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women. This is the only way to unleash the full potential of women as citizens and development agents –considered as essential for the success of MD/MDGs, and for sustained growth and development in Lebanon.

In this context, it is important to remember that Lebanon attended both the 2005 World Summit and the United Nations General Assembly devoted to the five-year progress review of MD/MDGs²⁷, when all participating Heads of State resolved to "combat all forms of violence against women and to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women"²⁸. Furthermore, their commitment included ensuring protection of women and girls during and after armed conflict in accordance with the obligations of States under international humanitarian and human rights laws²⁹.

"It is time to end tolerance and complicity. We cannot make poverty history unless we make violence against women history. We cannot stop the spread of HIV unless we stop discrimination and violence against women and girls. We cannot build a world of Peace, Development and Security until we end violence against women and girls. The Millennium Development Goals to reduce poverty, improve health and promote equality will not be met unless greater attention and resources are devoted to ending violence against women."³⁰



CHAPTER THREE

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

“Violence against women and girls continues unabated in every continent, country and culture. It takes a devastating toll on women’s lives, on their families and on society as a whole. Most societies prohibit such violence – yet the reality is that too often, it is covered up or tacitly condoned.”³¹

I. Culture and gender framework

A. CULTURAL VALUES

Gender is a culture-specific construct; in other words, across cultures there are differences between the roles women assume and those that men take on within a society. Thus, GBV is founded primarily by the common practices, customs and traditions in, or of a particular society; and is, by its very nature, deeply integrated into every stage of the life of women and girls.

Most societies generally support the following presumptions:

- (a) the male initiative and prerogative for sex;
- (b) the challenges prescribed to women in this context, particularly within the legal framework, i.e., marriage;
- (c) the limits applied on women’s sexual autonomy;
- (d) the control by men of the female body and sexuality to ensure protection and/or control of reproduction, intergenerational survival and family honour.

B. SOCIETAL NORMS

Societal norms and practices that reinforce GBV, especially in traditional and/or conservative societies, are easily identifiable. Among others, they include the following views and assumptions:

- (a) the preference to male over female throughout life cycle, and even before birth;
- (b) the educational and societal prerogative of ‘activity’ for boys and ‘passivity’ for girls which, throughout the various stages of life, translates into male ‘authority’ and female ‘obedience’;

- (c) the acceptance and justification of GBV through behaviour, belief and practice;
- (d) the assigning of responsibility and guilt on women for the origin and consequence of GBV, including informal complaints to family members and legal grievances addressed to police or judiciary;
- (e) the solidarity among males.

As a consequence of the factors listed above, the legal code in some conservative countries may regard certain crimes, as in the case of female genital mutilation and so-called 'honour crime' or 'honour killing', as mitigating circumstances; thus, failing to either apply or enforce the law which is supposed to protect all citizens, male and female.

C. GENDER FRAMEWORK

"Violence against women is not confined to a specific culture, region or country, or to particular groups of women within a society. The roots of violence against women lie in historically unequal power relations between men and women, and persistent discrimination against women."³² Thus follows that females, more than males, face violence throughout their life because of their sex and gender identity as a 'woman' as defined by their society.

The term 'gender-based violence' includes the word 'gender' because most victims of this type of interpersonal violence are female, while most perpetrators of such aggression tend to be male. It is a complex social phenomenon, deeply rooted in existing gender power relations, sexuality and self-identity, as well as in the structure of social institutions. When defining GBV, and differentiating this type of violence from other forms of aggression towards women and girls, the following three criteria can be applied: sex discrimination, imbalanced gender relationships and social tolerance.

- Sex discrimination

GBV is directed against women because they are female. Women, throughout their life cycle, may face systematic discrimination due to a social and cultural system entrenched in certain discriminatory beliefs and practices.

- Imbalanced gender relationships

Relationships between men and women which may lead to GBV are characterized by an imbalanced distribution of power between the male perpetrator and the female victim; and also by the duality, where male supremacy over women and female submission to men are in accord with the accepted gender distribution of roles, status and power within the family and society.

In other words, gender-based power relationships rationalize gender-based discrimination systems, and vice versa; thus, perpetuating a universal model of obedience and subordination. This places women and girls on a very high level of vulnerability with respect to physical, sexual and psychological acts and/or threats

practiced by male members of the family and community, including husband, brother, father, boyfriend, teacher, colleague and employer. GBV serves – by intention or effect – to perpetuate male power and control.

In scores of countries around the world, as many as one woman in three has been beaten, coerced into sex or abused in some other way - most often by someone she knows, including her husband or other male family member; and one expecting mother in four has been abused during pregnancy³³. Such figures have been proven true also for several Arab countries and territory where GBV surveys have been conducted, including Algeria, Egypt and the occupied Palestinian territory.

On the other hand, it is worth noting that cross-cultural studies of marital abuse have found that violence within families is almost non-existent in nearly one fifth, or 20 per cent of agricultural communities and societies with low population. This indicates that male violence against women is not the inevitable result of male biology or sexuality, but rather a matter of how society views masculinity³⁴.

- Social tolerance

Acts of GBV are often neglected and/or ignored because they are considered as gender norms and values, and regarded as issues related to the private life of the individuals concerned. This disregard, in turn, can be interpreted as social acceptance and tolerance.

Thus, GBV is sustained by a culture of silence and denial of the seriousness of the health and survival consequences of abuse. In addition to the harm such violence inflicts on the individual level, it also imposes a social toll and places a heavy and unnecessary burden on the health services.

Moreover, though the family is supposed to represent a haven of peace for all its members, many research studies conducted in various societies and cultures throughout the world demonstrate clearly that it is within this sphere that most GBV is practiced.

II. Definitions



A. AT GLOBAL LEVEL

- In peace situations

1. Definition 1

The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women is considered as the international reference framework for the definition of GBV/VAW, and the first international human rights instrument that exclusively and explicitly addresses the issue of VAW.

In article 1, the Declaration defines the term 'violence against women' as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including

threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.”³⁵

2. Definition 2

In 1996, the UNFPA Gender Thematic Group presented a comprehensive framework on GBV, and definition of this type of violence. GBV is “the violence involving men and women, in which the female is usually the victim and which is derived from unequal power relationships between men and women [...]; [and] the violence which is targeting [a] woman because she is [a] woman[,] or it affects her excessively. GBV encompasses - but not only - the psychological, physical and sexual practices (threat, torture and rape, privation of freedom within and outside the family). It covers also practices by the State or by political groups[,] including the amnesty law in favour of GBV perpetrators.”³⁶

• In conflict and post-conflict situations

There is no difference in the structure of the concept or the practice of GBV in situations of peace or of war except the circumstance itself, as shown by the definitions and comments presented as follows:

1. Definition 1

“Any harm that is done against a person’s will based on their gender and that has a negative impact on that person’s physical and psychological health, development, and identity.”³⁷

2. Definition 2

“An umbrella term for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person’s will and that is based on socially ascribed (gender) differences between males and females.”³⁸

The characteristics of GBV in conflict situations can be summarized as follows:

- (a) random:
 - (i) by-product of the collapse in social and moral order
 - (ii) war ‘booty’;
- (b) systematic:
 - (i) destabilize populations and destroy bonds
 - (ii) humiliate and shame the survivor and her family;
- (c) fear-provoking to stop resistance:
 - (i) women’s bodies used to ‘send a message’ to opposing groups;
- (d) effective as tools for ethnic cleansing:
 - (i) public rape to encourage flight
 - (ii) forced impregnation, mutilation of genitals and reproductive organs, intentional HIV transmission, and murder of pregnant women.

B. AT NATIONAL LEVEL

• Proposed legal definition

For Lebanon, the formulation of a legal GBV definition and code has progressed as a result of efforts by civil society organizations and political leaders and parties,

as well as support of international organizations in the context of both bilateral and multilateral³⁹ cooperation.

Among the main achievements demonstrating that GBV is being addressed in earnest at Government level is the 2010 draft law on the protection of women from domestic violence⁴⁰. Though, by its definition, this law refers to domestic violence, it goes beyond this confine - as indicated in article 2(2) - to include “any act of violence against women occurring in the family because they are women, committed by a family member and which may result in harm or suffering for the female at physical, psychological, sexual or economic levels, including threats of such acts or deprivation of liberty, whether occurring within or outside the family home”.

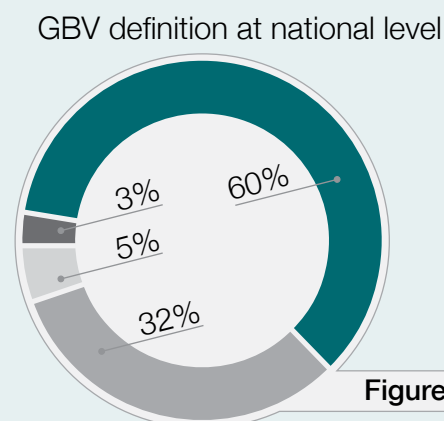
• Knowledge, perceptions and experiences of main stakeholders

1. Overall results

Figure 1 presents the responses related to the definition of GBV of both male and female participants of all focus groups⁴¹ with the exception of the category “most vulnerable women”, which includes GBV survivors, sex workers, migrant domestic workers, and Iraqi and Palestinian refugees.

As illustrated, the majority, representing 60 per cent of the participants, interpreted GBV as a ‘human rights violation’ as defined at the United Nations World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna⁴² and by broader international standards, without specifying its exact scope. On the other hand, one third was able to define GBV/VAW by listing one or more of its forms.

The remaining participants, representing a total of 8 per cent, were either unable to define the concept of GBV, or gave such reasons as violence “doesn’t exist in Islam” or “isn’t found in our society”. Others said GBV stemmed from a lack of understanding between individuals, due to opposing ideas, which could lead to conflict and violence, or referred to discrimination in the upbringing of girls and of boys - all of which concur with the GBV definition by CEDAW⁴³.



- No definition given
- Forms of violence
- Definition based on human rights
- Other

Figure 2 shows the distribution of responses among the participants in the category of “most vulnerable women”. Within the categories “GBV survivors”, “Iraqi refugees” and “sex workers”, all respondents defined GBV as a “violation of human rights”; all “migrant domestic workers” identified GBV through its various forms; while the respondents in the category “Palestinian refugees” were divided equally between the two definitions.

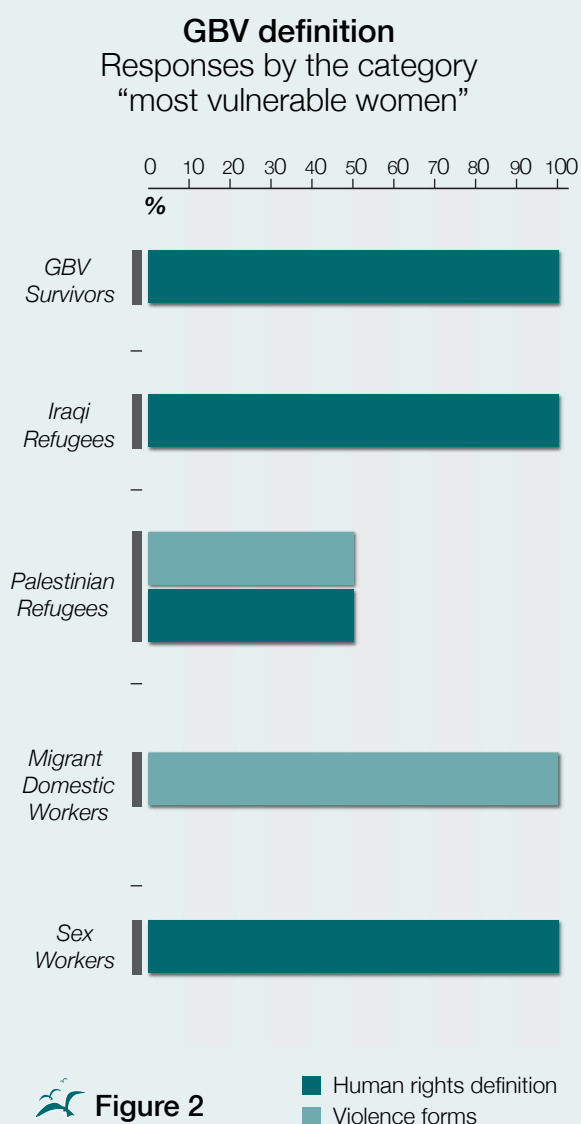


Figure 3 illustrates the GBV definitions given at the interview sessions with selected decision makers. Though just 6 per cent stated the definition of violence only through its forms, 94 per cent considered GBV as a human-rights issue and, thus as any practice that would hurt women in all fields. In other words, the vast majority of decision makers subscribed to the definitions supported by the United Nations and formulated at various international conventions, foremost CEDAW.

GBV definition
Responses by decision makers

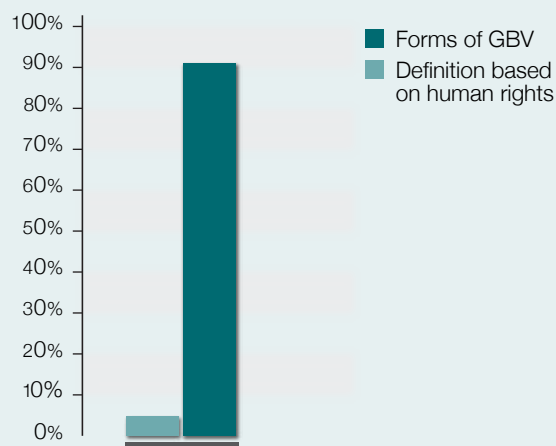


Figure 3

III. Forms

A. AT GLOBAL LEVEL

- In peace situations

The various forms of GBV are as multiple as human cultures and practices. Therefore, in order to accurately define and assess GBV, the three criteria – sex discrimination, imbalanced gender relationships and social tolerance – as set out in chapter three, part I, section C, should be applied. GBV includes institutional forms of violence and discrimination, for example privation of and/or non-access to such resources as education, work and income. Moreover, in some countries, laws and legislation relating to the family and penal codes may inadvertently ‘promote’ violence on the basis of gender construction, and where the importance of their impact on society and behaviour cannot be denied.

The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women⁴⁴ identifies a wide range of specific acts and circumstances which may occur within the family circle and in the public sphere, or be perpetrated by the State. Article 2 of the Declaration specifies those GBV acts and circumstances for each of these domains in which violence commonly takes place. They are as follows:

- (a) the physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the family unit includes battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation;

- (b) the physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general community includes such acts as rape, sexual abuse and sexual harassment, intimidation in the workplace and educational institutions, as well as trafficking in women and forced prostitution;
- (c) the physical, sexual and psychological violence being perpetrated or condoned by the State, wherever it occurs.

This systematic identification and detailed specification of each act of violence and circumstance within the domains of family, community and State demonstrate the consistency and similarity of GBV in a variety of diverse cultures and traditions.

• In conflict situations

In conflict situations, various forms of GBV may be perpetrated, some of which are closely related to the particular circumstances. Examples include the following:

- (a) such acts as rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution and forced abortion;
- (b) female child-soldiers forced to provide sexual services and other duties;
- (c) ongoing victimization;
- (d) inhuman treatment;
- (e) exclusion of treatment.

Other forms of GBV could occur also in conflict situation, even if they are not necessarily conflict-related. They include the following acts and circumstances:

- (a) rape, sexual abuse and incest;
- (b) trafficking;
- (c) escape/fleeing, or pre-escape;
- (d) 'disappearance', i.e., no data/record of female refugees/internally-displaced persons;
- (e) harmful traditional practices;
- (f) forced or early marriage;
- (g) sex-selective abortion, infanticide and neglect;
- (h) female genital mutilation;
- (i) domestic violence;
- (j) sexual exploitation.

B. AT NATIONAL LEVEL

• Legal recognition of proposed forms gender-based violence

Article 3 in the 2010 draft law on the protection of women from domestic violence stipulates the various forms of GBV which are to receive legal recognition as crimes punishable in Lebanon, as well as the penalty for family members perpetrating such acts. The GBV acts listed in

article 3 are as follows: force, facilitate or assist a female family member into prostitution or corruption;

- (a) to coerce or force a female family member into begging;
- (b) to coerce or force a female family member into prostitution or corruption and/or facilitate or help her commit such acts;
- (c) to depend, partly or wholly, on earnings from the prostitution of a female family member;
- (d) to force a female spouse to have intercourse by violence or threat;
- (e) to force a female spouse to have intercourse through exerting physical or psychological power, or by act of deception;
- (f) to kill with intent a female family member;
- (g) to kill with intent a female family member and mutilate her body, or if the victim is under fifteen years old;
- (h) to kill with intent a female family member, or conduct acts of torture, brutality or abuse before killing;
- (i) to employ psychological violence and threats in order to control, detain or force a female in the family into marriage.

• Knowledge, perceptions and experiences of main stakeholders

In the focus group discussions, nearly all participants, both as individuals and as groups, quoted a range of types and forms of GBV which might be occurring in the two spheres, societal and domestic. Annex 1 includes a detailed presentation of these responses by group and by governorate. The responses can be summarized as follows:

- (a) physical and verbal violence;
- (b) moral, psychological, intellectual and emotional violence:
 - (i) humiliation
 - (ii) symbolic assault
 - (iii) deprivation from freedom and movement;
- (c) sexual violence:
 - (i) sexual harassment - no other form of sexual violence and/or abuse was mentioned, for example rape, or marital rape;
- (d) institutional violence:
 - (i) economic and financial at the workplace and through wages
 - (ii) material
 - (iii) domestic - forced housework, prohibition to work, non-respect and mistreatment, verbal abuse
 - (iv) legal, for example honour crimes
 - (v) ideological

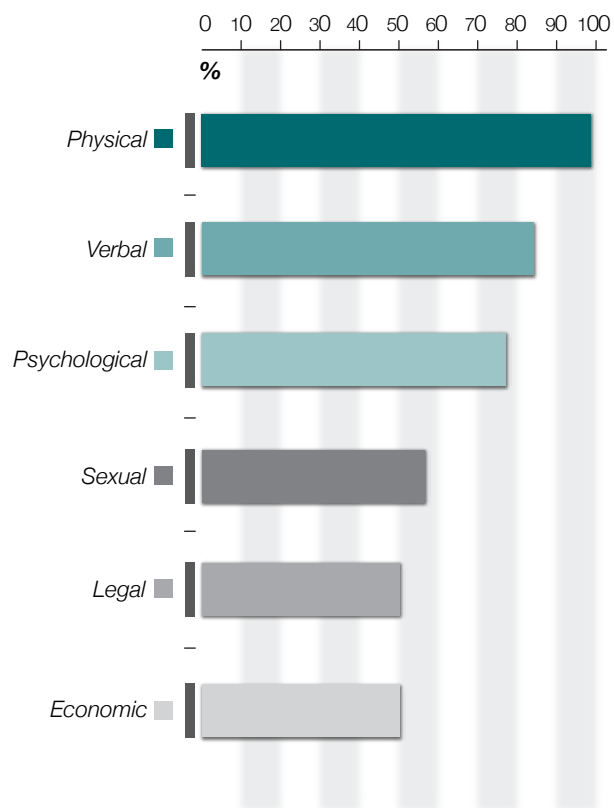
- (vi) educational and political
- (vii) deprivation of schooling
- (viii) human rights.

The participants in the focus group discussions mentioned the various forms of violence according to the following order of importance, as illustrated in Figure 4:

- (a) physical;
- (b) verbal;
- (c) psychological/moral;
- (d) sexual;
- (e) legal;
- (f) economic.

All participants rejected and condemned GBV/VAW in all its forms. They recognized the absence of a national framework to address GBV; however, they underscored the role played by each organization in this field, according to respective objectives and strategy.

Forms of GBV
Responses by decision makers



 **Figure 4**

CHAPTER FOUR

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE FROM HUMAN-RIGHTS AND GENDER-EQUALITY PERSPECTIVES

I. Human rights and gender-based violence

GBV/VAW has been considered “the most pervasive[,] yet least recognized human rights abuse in the world. It covers a range of injustices from gender abuse to systematic rape[,] and from pre-birth sex selection to female genital mutilation.”⁴⁵ Accordingly, the United Nations World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna and the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing gave priority to this issue, which jeopardizes women’s lives, bodies, psychological integrity and freedom⁴⁶.

GBV both reflects and reinforces inequities between men and women, and compromises the health, dignity, security and autonomy of its victims. It encompasses a wide range of human-rights violations, including sexual abuse of children, rape, domestic violence, sexual assault and harassment, trafficking of women and girls, and several harmful traditional practices. Any one of these abuses can leave deep psychological scars, can damage the health of women and girls in general, including their reproductive and sexual health and, in some instances, can result in death.

Several international instruments and standards have established criteria and requirements with regard to the physical integrity of women. They include, among others, such treaties as the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and CEDAW, as well as several international human rights and development commitments, as described below.

A. UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women is considered as the international framework and first international human-rights instrument to exclusively and explicitly address the issue of VAW. The Declaration affirms that the phenomenon violates, impairs or nullifies the human rights of women and their exercise of fundamental freedoms.

In article 3, the Declaration clearly stipulates that “women are entitled to the equal enjoyment and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, and civil or any other field. These rights include, inter alia:

- (a) the right to life;

- (b) the right to equality;
- (c) the right to liberty and security of person;
- (d) the right to equal protection under the law;
- (e) the right to be free from all forms of discrimination;
- (f) the right to the highest standard attainable of physical and mental health;
- (g) the right to just and favourable conditions of work;
- (h) the right not to be subjected to torture, or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.”⁴⁷

B. CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Since its inception, CEDAW has issued several modifications and recommendations concerning measures and actions to counteract GBV/VAW. In 1989, at the eighth session of the CEDAW Committee, General Recommendation No. 12 suggests that States should include in their reports information on violence and on measures introduced to deal with such aggression. At the eleventh session in 1992, the Committee issued General Recommendation No. 19, which states that GBV “is a form of discrimination that seriously inhibits women’s ability to enjoy rights and freedoms on a basis of equality with men”. The Committee suggested to States parties that, in reviewing their laws and policies, and in reporting under the Convention, they should consider a series of comments of the Committee concerning GBV. Furthermore, General Comment No. 6 regards violence as synonymous with discrimination.

Insufficient incorporation of these Recommendations may lead to violations of human rights, as per the linkages between VAW and violation of human rights and freedoms of women established by General Comment No. 7, which states that GBV, “which impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of human rights and fundamental freedoms under general international law or under human rights conventions, is discrimination within the meaning of article 1 of the Convention.” These rights and freedoms include, in addition to those covered by article 3 in the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women as detailed above, the following: “(a) the right not to be subject to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; (b) the right to equal protection according to humanitarian norms in time of international or internal armed conflict; and (c) the right to equality in the family.”

C. OTHER INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITMENTS

The International Conference on Population Development (ICPD) PoA, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPFA) and MDGs are mutually-reinforcing development platforms that affirm women’s human rights and recognize that solving the world’s most

pressing problems demands the full participation and empowerment of women in all countries.

• International Conference on Population and Development; ICPD Programme of Action, Cairo, 1994

ICPD PoA Principle 4 states: “Advancing gender equality and equity and the empowerment of women, and the elimination of all kinds of violence against women, and ensuring women’s ability to control their own fertility, are cornerstones of population and development-related programmes.”

• Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace; Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Beijing, 1995

BPFA113 states: “Violence is an obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of equality, development and peace. Violence both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms.” BPFA 119 states: “Violence is a manifestation of the historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to domination over[,] and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of women’s full advancement.”

• Millennium Summit, United Nations Millennium Declaration, New York, 2000

The eight MDGs were derived from the Millennium Declaration – an unprecedented global consensus reached in the year 2000 by 189 member States of the United Nations. In the Declaration, these nations together committed to advance a global vision for improving the condition of humanity throughout the world in the areas of development and poverty eradication, peace and security, protection of the environment, human rights and democracy.

The absolute necessity of advancing the human rights of all people in order to achieve this vision is underscored by this Declaration. In particular, the advancement of the right of women to gender equality is recognized as critically necessary for progress. The Declaration pledges explicitly “to combat all forms of violence against women and to implement [...] CEDAW”. It further recognizes the importance of promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women as an effective pathway for combating poverty, hunger and disease, and for stimulating truly sustainable development⁴⁸.

• Earth Charter Initiative, The Hague, 2000

The Earth Charter Initiative⁴⁹ Principle 11 states: “Affirm gender equality and equity⁵⁰ as prerequisites to sustainable development and ensure universal access to education, health care, and economic opportunity.”

With this Principle, the Earth Charter Initiative emphasizes, as a central element of its vision, the need to both provide well-being and equal opportunities to, and incorporate

the equal and inalienable rights of all women and men, including the following sub-principles:

- (a) “secure the human rights of women and girls and end all violence against them”;
- (b) “promote the active participation of women in all aspects of economic, political, civil, social, and cultural life as full and equal partners, decision makers, leaders, and beneficiaries”;
- (c) “strengthen families and ensure the safety and loving nurture of all family members”.

II. Human rights and gender equality

There are several international instruments and standards that provide for equality between men and women and establish the requirement of non-discrimination based on sex and gender.

A. UNITED NATIONS CHARTER

The United Nations Charter is the foundational treaty of the United Nations Organization⁵¹; as such, it is a constituent treaty and all member States are bound by its articles. Furthermore, the Charter states that obligations to the United Nations prevail over all other treaty obligations. Most countries in the world have ratified the Charter.

The Charter begins as follows: “We the peoples of the United Nations determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small [...]”

B. UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

On December 10, 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration on Human Rights⁵². The preamble of the Declaration, as well as articles 1 and 2, include the commitment to gender equality and prohibition of all forms of discrimination, including sex- and gender-based. “Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom [...]”

C. OTHER INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT INSTRUMENTS

In addition to the United Nations Charter and Universal Declaration on Human Rights, there are a further seven international human rights core treaties that apply equally to men and women, as well as to boys and girls⁵³. The three most important international instruments

concerning the aspect of gender and gender equality are the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and CEDAW.

• International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

ICCPR and ICESCR are considered the “international bills of human rights”. Both treaty texts include an article which specifically requires State signatories to “ensure the equal right of men and women” to enjoy the entitlements set out in those respective instruments.

• Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Issued in 1979, CEDAW is considered the “bill of women human rights”, and is devoted exclusively to the elimination of all forms of sex-based discrimination and to the realization of gender equality.

CEDAW is a landmark international agreement that affirms principles of fundamental human rights and equality for women around the world, and is based on a holistic view that those rights are indivisible. The Convention is considered as the international instrument dedicated to the desire of the international community to establish legal norms, rules and mechanisms aimed at protecting women, and opposing and resisting all forms of discrimination against them.

For countries signatory to the treaty, as is the case of the Republic of Lebanon, CEDAW is a practical blueprint to achieve progress for women and girls. The importance lies in the action programme which requires State parties and their Governments to ensure enforcement of those rights by undertaking all appropriate procedures, actions and measures to combat and eliminate discrimination against women. Specifically, article 2(a) stipulates the commitment of States parties “to embody the principle of the equality of men and women in their national Constitutions or other appropriate legislation if not yet incorporated therein and to ensure, through law and other appropriate means, the practical realization of this principle”.

III. International commitments - Lebanon

A. STATUS OF RATIFICATION AND RESERVATIONS⁵⁴

Lebanon has acceded to six of the seven United Nations Conventions on human rights. They are the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, ratified in 1971; ICCPR and ICESCR, ratified in 1972; the Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified in 1991; CEDAW, ratified in 1997; and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, ratified in 2000. In addition, Lebanon, in 2001, became signatory to the



two optional protocols of the Convention on the Rights of the Child pertaining to involvement of children in armed conflict and to the sale and exploitation of children into prostitution and for pornographic material⁵⁵.

The Republic of Lebanon has also acceded to seven of the eight International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions on human rights. They are Convention 98 on Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining, Conventions 29 and 105 on Elimination of Forced or Compulsory Labour, and Conventions 100 and 111 pertaining to the prevention of discrimination in employment and occupation, all ratified in 1977; and Conventions 138 and 182 concerning the prevention of employing children and minors, signed in 2003 and 2001, respectively.

B. RESERVATIONS

The Republic of Lebanon made reservations on certain provisions of the Conventions⁵⁶ listed above. Concerning CEDAW, for example, the following reservations were made: article 9/2, guaranteeing equal rights for men and women with regard to citizenship of their children; article 16/1, committing States to apply proper measures to eliminate discrimination against women in marriage and within family relations; and article 29/1, concerning ways of resolving disputes among State parties over the interpretation or implementation of the Convention.

In 2008, the 40th session of the CEDAW Committee noted the achievements of Lebanon, which were documented in the *Third Periodic Report*. First and foremost was the implementation of the project *Women Empowerment: Peaceful Action for Security and Stability* (WEPASS), reflecting a most innovative operationalization of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security⁵⁷ addressing the issue of integrating GBV services and sensitizing providers in primary health-care centres to GBV issues, among others. On the other hand, the Committee expressed its concern over the persistence of VAW in the country, including domestic violence, and the absence of a comprehensive approach among stakeholders to VAW.

Lebanon was urged by the Committee to exert efforts towards establishing and implementing comprehensive measures to address all forms of VAW and to enact appropriate legislation. In addition, special emphasis was put on the need of female victims of violence of all ages to have access to immediate means of redress and protection, and that perpetrators be prosecuted and punished. This emphasis represents a clear declaration on the need to offer services to victims of VAW⁵⁸.

C. INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

• Official sector

There are several types of human rights organizations in Lebanon; some institutions are governmental, and others are parliamentary.

1. National Commission for Lebanese Women

With an aim of “putting women [on the] national agenda”, NCLW was founded in January 1996. The Commission was established in compliance with global resolutions put forth during the Beijing Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, which called upon all Governments to establish a national mechanism for the advancement of women and gender equality.

In April of 2009, Decree 538 was issued to designating 22 new members to the NCLA General Assembly. In its first meeting in June the same year, internal Commission policies were discussed and adopted, and an eight-member Executive Committee was elected.

The Executive Committee is comprised of volunteers who have a commitment to gender equality and are active in the field for the advancement of women. Each volunteer member is also responsible for a working subcommittee in her area of interest and/or expertise.

NCLW coordinates and establishes connections and functions with the different public administrations, civil institutions and NGOs, as well as Arab and international organizations, with the aim of promoting the condition of women in Lebanon; in addition to undertaking the CEDAW reporting for the country every four years.

Situated at the highest level of Government, NCLW has a broad mandate for change; from national priority-setting, advocacy and awareness-raising, to policy formulation and analysis, legislative change and the monitoring of women’s status, in addition to research and training. Furthermore, NCLW has contributed to the implementation of some aspects of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and is revising and updating the National Strategy for Women’s Affairs in Lebanon.

2. Department of Women’s Affairs at the Ministry of Social Affairs

The Ministry of Social Affairs was set up in 1993 as per Law 212, and subsequently modified by Law 327 and Decree 5734. The Department of Women’s Affairs falls under the Department of Family Affairs at the Ministry. Its functions are, inter alia, to formulate and institute programmes aimed at (a) responding to women’s needs and empowerment from the gender perspective and (b) mainstreaming, as well as improving and strengthening capacities of institutions and women’s groups and individuals; and to propose budget earmarking the funds needed to implement such programmes in conjunction with other ministries and NGOs. The Department further supports the efforts of the women’s movement, collaborates in its activities and seeks to unite its efforts through, among others, the draft law on GBV. In addition, the Office, in coordination with NCLW, monitors the implementation and follow-up of the United Nations Conventions relating to women to which the Republic of

Lebanon is a State party, including CEDAW⁵⁹.

Some of the various projects, implemented by the Ministry in the social development centres set up throughout Lebanon, have been specifically tailored to the needs of women. They comprise, among others, projects relating to health services, including reproductive health, literacy and health awareness-raising among adolescents. In its efforts to combat VAW and counteract the resistance in Lebanese society to acknowledging the existence of such violence, the Department of Women's Affairs, in conjunction with concerned NGOs, implemented a project to fight domestic violence against children, the elderly and women under the banner "Families without Violence: a Safe and Sound Society".

Services are being expanded in these social development centres and/or those run by NGOs involved in combating VAW. The Office is also working for the legal empowerment of women. It aims to raise legal awareness on labour laws and penalties, personal status codes and legislation on business and commerce among various groups of women from the local communities in the vicinity of its development service centres.

3. Parliamentary Human Rights Committee

Parliament has established a Human Rights Committee to protect such rights, and to guarantee public and private freedoms and their exercise. This Committee also works on legal texts that affect equality among men and

women; and on creating harmony between national laws and regulations on the one side, and international human rights conventions and charters on the other.

• Civil society sector

Lebanon has a very active civil society in the field of human rights, including such organizations and groups as the Lebanese Human Rights Association, set up in 1985; the Civil Society for Pursuing Women's Affairs, founded in 1993; the Lebanese Union for Child Care, initiated as early as in 1949; and the National Association for Rights of the Disabled, established in 1988. Furthermore, the People's Rights Movement, set up in 1989, focuses on concerns related to the freedom of association and civil action; while the Lebanese Association for Democratic Elections, established in 1996, targets the monitoring of elections.

Other NGOs work with concerns and conditions relating to Palestinian refugees and camps in Lebanon. They include the Palestinian Organization for Human Rights, set up in 1997; and the Palestinian Organization for Human Rights/Witness⁶⁰. In addition, a number of NGOs invest their efforts in promoting gender equality and fighting all forms of sex- and gender-based discrimination and violence. Full details and information are available on the mapping related to the respective organizations and institutions working on GBV in Lebanon, attached in annex 5.

CHAPTER FIVE

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE: LEGISLATION AND POLICIES IN LEBANON

This chapter aims to assess and analyse the status of legislation and policies on GBV in the Republic of Lebanon. It should be noted that, despite the fact VAW is a reality in Lebanon - as in all countries and societies throughout the world - and is an area of intense interest, as demonstrated by numerous official statements, campaigns and interventions, as well as studies and reports⁶¹, there is no definition of this concept in the national legislative and legal frameworks. The one exception is the draft law⁶² on the protection of women from domestic violence which, once ratified by Parliament, will represent the sole reference and definition of GBV in the Lebanese legislation. Details on the draft law are presented in chapter three, part II, section B.

As described in chapter three, VAW is assessed in the context of discrimination against women and girls; moreover, 'violence' and 'discrimination' are considered as synonymous. Thus, a sort of 'dialectic relationship' between them exists, as discrimination is a major cause of violence. To take this argument one step further, various forms of gender-based discrimination are also to be considered as forms of violence.

Thus, if the intent is to fight GBV/VAW, there is a vital need to identify all forms of sex- and gender-based discrimination, and to work on their elimination. Though the Constitution includes provisions which establish full equality between men and women within the legal framework, certain laws convey, ignore or contradict such discrimination.

I. Legal and legislative framework



A. NATIONAL LEGISLATION

- Gender equality in the Constitution

The Constitution, promulgated in 1926, and its amendments do not include any discriminatory clause against woman. Article 7 stipulates equality between all citizens before the law, and grants a number of fundamental freedoms. "All the Lebanese are equal before the law. They equally enjoy civil and political rights and are equally bound by public obligations and duties without any distinction."

Furthermore, according to article 12, every Lebanese national "has the right to hold

public office, no preference being made except on the basis of merit and competence according to the conditions established by law”.

Thus, the Constitution upholds the principle of equal treatment of all citizens. They are equal before the law and enjoy the same rights and duties, including personal freedom and opportunity for work in public offices. On the other hand, no article or amendment mentions explicitly non sex-based discrimination.

In addition, ‘equal treatment’ is not only a matter of being a ‘concept’ in legal texts, articles and clauses, but must appear in the enforcement of such laws through the inclusion of women’s full enjoyment and exercise of their rights in legislation and in society without distinction between women and men. A starting point would be ensuring other legal framework - including family law and penal code - be in accord with the Constitution and with the international commitments of the Republic of Lebanon.

With regard to the commitment to ‘equality for all’, the text of utmost importance is paragraph (b) in the preamble added to the Constitution under Act 18 of September 21, 1990, and adopted in accordance with the National Accord, also referred to as the Taif Agreement, which proclaims that “Lebanon [...] is a founding and active member of the United Nations Organization and abides by its covenants and by the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. The [G]overnment shall embody these principles in all fields and areas without exception.”

The Constitutional Council was founded in 1993⁶³ with a mandate to review the constitutionality of laws and legislation based on the preamble of the Constitution and on general constitutional principles. Resolutions 2/95 of February 25, 1995; 3/95 of September 18, 1995; and 4/96 of August 7, 1996, together with the statement clearly confirm that this introductory text “is an integral part of the Constitution, has a constitutional value and is equivalent to the constitution[al] provisions”⁶⁴, and that the “international charters clearly annexed in the introduction constitute, with this introduction, [...] an integral part and enjoy a constitutional force” as per resolution number 2/2001 of May 10, 2001⁶⁵.

In Lebanon, ‘human rights’, among other principles, are granted constitutional value. This includes the right of a woman to enjoy equally to a man all her human rights and fundamental freedoms. Thus, any newly-enacted law which does not comply with these principles may be revoked by the Constitutional Council.

Though charged with the review of constitutionality of laws and other legally-binding texts, the Constitutional Council - established and governed by Law 250 of July 14, 1993, amended by Law 150 of October 30, 1999 -

is conferred a limited scope of actions of constitutional supervision which, hence, has consequences on its efficiency.

Among the adopted assets, the following provisions could be mentioned:

Firstly, the lead time for the Council to review the constitutionality is limited to within 15 days of the date of publication of the law in the Official Gazette or other legally recognized official publication means. In other words, a new law is “subject to review response” within 15 days, according to Law 250, article 19(3). If the appraisal of the new law is not completed within that time frame, “the reviewed text is accepted” as is, as per Law 250, article 21.

Secondly, the review process is the responsibility of the president of the Republic, the prime minister, the speaker of Parliament and ten parliamentary members. The officially recognized heads of the religious communities have the right to consult the Council only on laws relating to personal status, freedom of belief and religious practice, and freedom of religious education, as per Law 250, article 19(1) and (2).

Prior to 1993 and the setting-up of the Constitutional Council, the courts could exercise a degree of constitutional supervision by rejecting enactment of a new law based on article 2 of the Code of Civil Procedures⁶⁶. Constitutional Law 250, article 18, states that “unlike any contrasted text, no judicial reference shall do this supervising directly by rebuttal procedure or indirectly by pushing to violate the [C]onstitution or violate the principle of hierarchy of rules and text”.

Thus, Lebanese courts have no more authority to supervise indirectly the constitutionality; however, all other aspects of the principle of “hierarchy of rules” remain the same, as mentioned in article 2 of the Code of Civil Procedures; namely, if international treaty provisions contradict the provisions of a law or legal code in the national legislation, the international provisions should be applied⁶⁷.

In this context, it is worth to note that Resolution 6/2006 of February 21, 2000, issued by the general panel of the court of cassation, established an important legal principle and a clear mention that provisions contained in international conventions take precedent over those in any national legislation. Examples include (a) the interpretation of the Social Security Act and its provisions in the light of the International Labour Convention that prohibits discrimination in employment and occupation based on race, ethnicity, sex or religion; and (b) in the context of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). The



Republic of Lebanon, as signatory and State member, is committed to grant equality between men and women in enjoying all rights stated in these treaties.

As a result, act 438 of December 12, 2002, revoked article 14(e) of the Social Security Act, supplementing it with a general provision on which basis the word “insured” contained therein is now construed to mean “the insured male and the insured female alike, without discrimination”.

Conversely, this poses a problem of Decision 398/2010 of May 18, 2010, of the Mount Lebanon civil appeal court, which states that “international charters applied in Lebanon, such as the two Charters of 1966 - the first on political and civil rights, and the second on social and economic rights - and international jurisprudence and general principles of international law cannot be enforced [by the courts of justice] contrary to the internal legislation”.

The same was stated in article 2 of the Code of Civil Procedures, “where international conventions and covenants are prior to internal legislation on the field, they have the priority in enforcement”. This article, however, was repealed by article 18 of the Constitutional Council Law 250 of July 14, 1993⁶⁸, which prohibits review by the courts of constitutionality of national legislation.

This clear difference between the general panel of the cassation court and the Mount Lebanon civil appeal court in the interpretation and enforcement of article 2 of the Civil Code is related mainly to the nature of the complaint itself - the sensitiveness and reservations involved as regards the nationality code on the right of a Lebanese man, but not woman, to pass on citizenship to his spouse and children⁶⁹. To clarify, the court of first instance⁷⁰ granted nationality to minors with a Lebanese mother, whose foreign husband had deceased. The Republic of Lebanon appealed this sentence and demanded the citizenship be revoked - with the appeal court deciding in its favour.

Despite these instruments and the recognized constitutional value of ‘equality’, there is still discrimination against women in Lebanon, and amendment as of ‘constitutionalizing’ the non sex-based discrimination could be an asset to contribute to the improvement of the situation.

• Women in personal status legislation

According to the Constitution and under Lebanese law, men and women enjoy equal rights in social and economic spheres. In contrast, it is widely recognized among all concerned parties - government, civil society, and international organizations working in the country - that a wide array of laws and practices harm the rights of women. They also largely explain the gender gap deriving from the nationality law and from the personal status laws associated with each of the eighteen officially recognized religious denominations. Thus, the elimination of areas

of discrimination in all aspects, particularly with regard to personal status laws, should start from the following points, as herewith described.

If, according to the 1926 Constitution, all Lebanese are equal before the law, this is far from reality regarding both duties and rights of citizens in everyday life. In an open and socio-liberal context, Lebanese women seem to be emancipated and able to move easily in social and professional spheres; however, they remain subject to various forms of discrimination in many situations and areas.

Articles 9 and 10 of the Constitution make provision for individuals to enjoy ‘spiritual autonomy’ with regard to their personal status; thus, the provisions related to personal status and family laws are in the care of religious communities. In other words, the Lebanese are subject to legislation according to their religious affiliation; and these community codes contain discrimination against women in rights and duties as regards their status and relationship within the family. Moreover, this discrimination differs from one community to another. For those belonging to Muslim sects, it affects the rights and obligations of both spouses in marriage, divorce, guardianship and inheritance.

Lebanese women are all subject to discrimination in personal status/family laws, be it to different degrees depending on their religion, rite and sect of belonging. There is no personal status category other than one of the eighteen recognized communities. When it comes to marriage, for example, the sole exception being where a Lebanese man or woman contracts civil marriage in a foreign country which, then, is recognized by Lebanese authorities and registered in official status documents.

A draft code of optional civil marriage was drawn up in 1998 and submitted to the Council of Ministers with the support of the then-president of the Republic. Despite receiving the majority of 21 votes for, 6 against and 1 abstention⁷¹, the draft code was frozen and never passed to Parliament - the reason being the street protests which had been triggered with the blessing of some religious leaders, both Christian and Muslim.

It is important to note that these legal arrangements have a direct impact on protection and security of women through life cycle, as demonstrated by numerous studies. To quote as example a research study on murders of women in Lebanon. This study indicated that 80.3 per cent of the crimes occurred within the home of the victim, or in the proximity thereof; often in the bedroom or, when outside the home, at a place of choice of the perpetrator⁷².

According to another study⁷³ published in 2010, in 74.5 per cent of the sample cases, the perpetrator of the violent act had been the husband of the victim or, in cases which involved an unmarried woman, either the father or the brother.

• Women in penal legislation

The penal code in Lebanon is gender-based constructed, reinforcing discrimination in the concepts themselves and in the penalties. Therefore, gender inequality and VAW can be regarded as virtually institutionalized, as herewith illustrated.

With respect to adultery, the penal code states a clear distinction between men and women, both in terms of verification of the act and punishment of the perpetrator. A husband is not punished if he commits adultery outside the marital home or has a partner elsewhere, while an adulterous wife is, whether the act was committed inside or outside her home. The penalty for adultery committed by the husband within the marital home is a prison sentence of one month to one year; for a married woman, the penalty for adultery is prison for between three months and two years, according to articles 487 and 488 of the penal code.

As regards rape, it is stated in articles 503 and 504 that a married man - without risking penalty - has the right to have intercourse, even when employing threat or violence or if the wife cannot resist because of physical or psychological weakness. Furthermore, article 522 states that, in case of marriage between the victim and the perpetrator of one of the crimes related to the assaults listed in articles 503 and 521, including rape, no prosecution takes place and, if a sentence was pronounced, the penalty is suspended. Marital/wife rape is considered as violence, an assault against a woman's dignity and a violation to her right of safety, as clearly stated in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women⁷⁴. This definition very nearly corresponds to the one adopted by the draft law on GBV endorsed by the Council of Ministers in April 2010.

As for the so-called 'honour crimes', Law 7 of February 20, 1999, article 562, grants exemption of penalty to "whosoever surprises his spouse or one of his [female] ascendants or descendants or his sister in the crime of adultery (in flagrante delicto) or in a situation of unlawful sexual intercourse, and unintentionally kills or injures one of them". This exemption was replaced by a lesser penalty in view of extenuating circumstances in an amendment enacted in 1999, though other content of article 562 remains applicable.

The lesser penalty encourages, not to say legitimizes the crime of killing; and it is not enough that the Lebanese justice system is very strict with regard to the motives of the accused - which rarely can be considered 'honourable'⁷⁵. Though regarded as a 'positive step' with regard to the provisions of the legislation, the 1999 amendment did not cancel the content of article 562, its penalization and impacts. As clearly mentioned in the *Third Periodic Report of CEDAW*⁷⁶, "its spectrum (i.e. article 562) is always present in the "mind" of the accused/the murderers and in the construction of their knowledge: in their imagination of the meanings and

values of their predominant patriarchal gender positions in our societies, and all the consequences of these projections justifying their motives, and their conviction of the legitimacy of their acts, and their expectations of the justice treatment toward them [...] that's why this article is the perfect killer"⁷⁷. Article 562 is a flagrant violation of all human rights and their principles, the foremost of them being the right to life and to freedom and personal security, as well as to equality and non-discrimination.

The legal provisions as regards prostitution are stated in the law on public health, promulgated on February 6, 1931; and in the penal code, article 523 and following, on incitement to prostitution and threat to public ethics and morals. These clauses prohibit and punish clandestine prostitution and those who practice it; while brothels and 'meeting houses' fall under licensing rules and specific conditions related to premises, operation and ownership. Nonetheless, law-enforcement agencies can raid and close suspect and/or unlicensed places of prostitution.

The law punishes those who live off the prostitution of others. More severe penalties are meted out to a relative of the victim, especially if he uses his legal or actual authority as father or husband, or if he is the employer for whom she works. The law, however, does not stipulate any punishment for the client.

The General Directorate of the General Security reports the existence of prostitution cases in Lebanon. According to available data, the majority of victims enter into prostitution as a result of rape or of their suffering from such social concerns as violence and addiction⁷⁸. In addition, reports on juvenile crimes show the existence of cases of rape and prostitution among children and under-aged youth. In 1983, the provisions of the penal code concerning prostitution of minors were annulled and replaced by a juvenile delinquency law which, in 2002, became the Protection of Juvenile Offenders at Risk Act. Two years later, as enforcement to this Act, a penal institution for minors was established⁷⁹. According to data released by the Juvenile Directorate at the Ministry of Justice, 7 girls and 15 boys were apprehended for prostitution in 2004⁸⁰.

• Women and human trafficking

The legal reality of the crime of trafficking in persons is easy to simplify since there is no legislation or legal text addressing this crime and/or identifying its aspects. Nevertheless, it is worth to note a number of initiatives taken in the context of serious official concern expressed by the State, including the drawing up of a draft law on human trafficking.

The Ministry of Justice, assisted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and in cooperation with UNICEF, prepared a national study to assess the field reality concerning trafficking in persons in the country and evaluate the adherence of the Republic of Lebanon to the United Nations Convention against Transnational

and Organized Crime and the supplementing protocol. Though trafficking in persons does occur, cases are very rare and are addressed by, or subjected to diverse legal provisions due to the lack of specific legislation concerning this crime and its victims. This was clearly shown in the study, where samples included files obtained from the judicial authorities on seventeen different types of crimes linked in one way or another to human trafficking; an example being a case of kidnapping.

The study findings show that the category of foreign women working under the designation of 'artist' according to the General Directorate of General Security - covering those employed in nightclubs, non-medical massage parlours and at fashion shows - are the most exposed to the crime of trafficking in human beings in Lebanon. This group represents the majority of complaints related to sexual exploitation. Despite the precise organizational frame to which is subjected the work of these 'artists', some agents deceive the women and force them into prostitution. In the case reporting and facts are proven, the 'victim' is deported without prosecution, while often only administrative measures are taken against the agent. Such measures include warning and/or curb on further hiring of personnel/'artists', or referral to the Ministry of Justice since covert prostitution is a crime punishable by law.⁸¹

B. CONSISTENCY WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND NATIONAL COMMITMENTS

• The Constitution

Chapter four of this *Report* describes how several international instruments and standards provide for equality between men and women and establish the requirement of non-discrimination based on sex and gender. The Republic of Lebanon is committed to most of these and to all such international conventions that address the issues of gender equality and non-discrimination as, for example ICPD, BPFA and MD/MDGs.

The United Nations Charter stipulates equal rights for men and women; and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights emphasizes the non-discrimination principle stating that every human being should enjoy all rights and freedoms without discrimination, including that based on sex. Article 3 in both these international instruments on human rights include the pledge of member States to grant rights for men and women in enjoying equally all economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights.

The Constitutional Council of Lebanon regards equality between men and women one of the constitutional principles to which national legislation must adhere. Furthermore, the content of the introductory text of the Constitution and the added clauses in the preamble have the same constitutional value as the provisions within the

main body of the text⁸². The commitment of the Republic of Lebanon to embody the principles set forth in the international charters and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights in all fields and areas without exception remains in place. This is a constitutional obligation that places on the State the responsibility to meet many basic imperatives; first and foremost, promoting and protecting the human rights of women, and eliminating all forms of discrimination against them - both of which constitute important factors in preventing VAW.

As shown, the Constitution does not distinguish between citizens. At the same time - though article 7 provides for equality among the Lebanese - it does not address specifically sex- or gender-based discrimination. It is also worth mentioning that the word 'citizen/s' is used in Arabic⁸³ in the masculine singular or plural form, which could be subject to interpretation or misinterpretation.

To ensure "equality before the law", it is absolutely essential to define clearly all forms of non-discrimination. Reference to them should be specific and universal, as set out in CEDAW article 1: "any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field".

In July 2005, the Republic of Lebanon presented its first periodic report to CEDAW. The Committee recommended the State member "to incorporate the [C]onvention on the [E]limination of all forms of [D]iscrimination against [W]omen in the [C]onstitution among the international instruments on human rights mentioned in the preamble [to] the [C]onstitution."⁸⁴

In the *Third Periodic Report of CEDAW*, 2008, the Republic of Lebanon stated that, in order to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, a minimum of one constitutional amendment would be required, and that seeking approval of such modification would prove difficult⁸⁵.

• Women in national family legislation

The Republic of Lebanon is a signatory to a series of conventions in relation with equality and non-discrimination; a complete listing is attached in annex 3. In 1997, less than seven years after the enactment of the constitutional amendment⁸⁶, Lebanon ratified CEDAW. Nonetheless, the State registered reservations regarding article 9, paragraph 2; and article 16, paragraph 1 (c), (d), (f) and (g) on the right to choose a family name. In paragraph 2 of article 29, the State declares that it does not consider itself bound by the provisions of paragraph 1 of that article⁸⁷.

Quoting them in detail could clarify the existing

discrimination and gaps that obstruct equality between men and women within the family. The work to be done to establish both parity and equity in terms of rights and obligations will have to cover the following: the period of marriage and at its dissolution, as stated in paragraph (c); as parents, irrespective of their marital status, in matters relating to their children with regard to guardianship, wardship, trusteeship and adoption, or similar institutions where these concepts exist in national legislation; and equality in personal rights as husband and wife, including the right to choose a family name, a profession and an occupation, as stated in paragraph (g). Furthermore, the interests of children are mentioned in both paragraph (d) and (f), indicating the importance placed on them by the Convention.

The reservations to article 16 express clearly the legal and social reality in Lebanon, reflecting the inequality caused by the separate personal status laws based on sect and community. This leads to disparity among Lebanese when every citizen must submit to the law and courts of his/her community, often placing women at a disadvantage compared to men, but also of some women compared to women among other communities.

• Women in penal legislation

The points and reservations regarding gender-based discrimination outlined in the preceding section apply also to the penal code. In addition to the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and other international instruments⁸⁸ which establish principles of equality and justice without distinction between men and women, the Republic of Lebanon is bound under CEDAW, article 2, to cancel all provisions of the penal code that contain discrimination against women. This has not been achieved, though the advocacy of women and community organizations has resulted in a partial amendment to article 562 of the penal code concerning so-called 'honour crimes', abolishing exemption of penalty but retaining mitigation regarding circumstances.

The Republic of Lebanon became a signatory of CEDAW in 2005. Since then, the Committee has joined the list of those who demand the abolishing or amending of discriminatory penal provisions against women, especially article 562 mitigating penalty for crimes committed in the name of 'honour', article 503 condoning rape committed within marriage, and article 522 allowing the drop of charges in rape cases, among others.

Among the aforementioned, in its observations related to the *Third Periodic Report of CEDAW*, "the Committee is still concerned about the continuation of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence and rape, and crimes committed in the name of hono[u]r, and about the lack of comprehensive approach to address violence against women. It also reiterates its concern about article 562 of penal code [...] and other discriminatory provisions contained in the Lebanese penal code, especially article

503 which tolerates marital rape [and] article 522 which allows for charges to be dropped in cases of rape"⁸⁹.

Thus, the Committee urges the State party to "place high priority on establishing and implementing comprehensive measures to address all forms of violence against women and girls [..., as well as] to enact without delay, legislation on violence against women, including domestic violence [and] "to amend without delay applicable provisions in the penal code to ensure that perpetrators of honour crimes are not exonerated, that marital rape is criminalized, and that marriage to the victim does not exempt a sexual offender from punishment"⁹⁰.

CEDAW is not alone in expressing concern with regard to discriminatory provisions against women in the Lebanese penal code, especially legislation on domestic violence, marital rape and so-called 'honour crimes'⁹¹. The organization Equality Now, which monitors the commitment of States in the implementation of BPFA, in a report singles out the text of article 522 in the penal code referring to the dropping of charges in cases of rape⁹².

• Women and human trafficking

In 2001, the Republic of Lebanon signed the International Labour Convention 182 of 1999 related to the prohibition of the most severe forms of child labour, and undertook immediate actions to eliminate these as per Law 335 of August 21, 2001. Lebanon adhered to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child related to the sale and prostitution of children and to pornography by ratifying Law 414 of June 5, 2002.

As regards combating the crime of human trafficking, Lebanon ratified in 2005 a series of conventions and protocols, including the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime through Law 680 of August 24, 2005; the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air of said Convention through Law 681 of August 24, 2005; and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime under Law 682 of August 24, 2001.

On May 23, 2004, during the 16th session of the Arab Summit in Tunis, the Republic of Lebanon signed the Arab Charter on Human Rights, which prohibits, under article 10, "all forms of slavery and trafficking in human beings, [as well as] forced labo[u]r, trafficking in human beings for the purposes of prostitution or sexual exploitation, the exploitation of the prostitution of others and all other forms of exploitation or the exploitation of children in armed conflicts". This requires Law 1 of September 5, 2008, be revised.

In addition, the Republic of Lebanon, under paragraph 1 of article 53 of the Charter, reserves the right to apply

national laws and approved provisions on human rights of international charters which grant further rights, and which do not conflict with the aims of the mentioned laws and charters.

The optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment was enforced under Law 12 of September 5, 2008.

Until 2010, the legal reality of the crime of trafficking in persons in Lebanon could be summarized in the absence of legislation or legal provisions related specifically to this crime and/or identifying its elements. A draft law on human trafficking was referred to Parliament on October 8, 2010, under Decree 5173 of that date. This initiative falls within the context of official interest in the serious matter of combating and punishing the crime of trafficking in persons expressed by the Republic of Lebanon through a series of measures.

C. KNOWLEDGE, PERCEPTIONS AND EXPERIENCES OF MAIN STAKEHOLDERS

Assessment related to legislation was made during focus group discussions, including all categories of participants and in all governorates, and during interviews with decision- and policymakers, programme managers working in the field, and representatives of selected international organizations. The assessment focused on a series of guiding questions that could be summarized as follows:

- (a) level of knowledge on GBV-related legislation in force;
- (b) extent of confidence in such laws and their application;
- (c) adequacy of these laws with needs and priorities of women and realization of their human and legal rights;
- (d) gaps or shortcomings to be addressed or remedied, proposed reform of laws and legal codes.

• Focus group discussions

1. Overall findings

During discussions with the focus groups, 24 per cent of the participants recognized their ignorance as regards GBV-related legislation. An average 48 per cent considered existing laws as unjust, discriminatory and/

or insufficient, though some variations were registered among the various groups and governorates; while 20 per cent found that laws were just and/or adequate in scope.

As illustrated in Figure 5, only a small minority of 8 per cent recommended reforms and/or amendments. In comparison, 60 per cent of all participants defined GBV as a violation of the human rights of women, as outlined in detail in chapter four.

Focus group discussions
Assessment of legal reforms and amendments

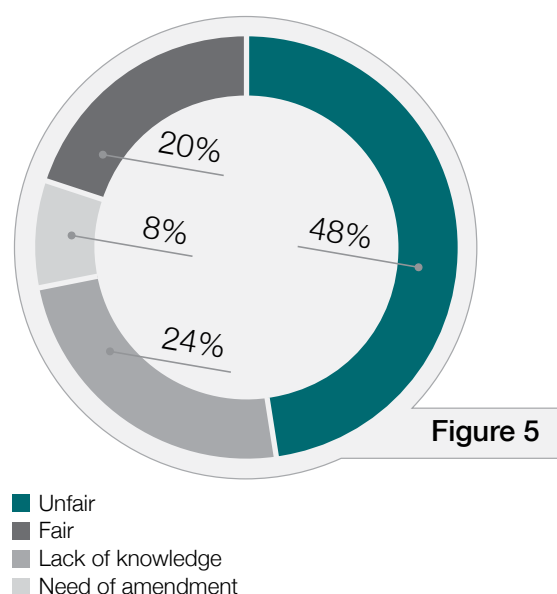


Figure 5

2. Disaggregated responses

The responses to questions posed during the focus group discussions were disaggregated by sex, age group and professional category; thus, demonstrating not only the difference in the level of knowledge and perception, but also exposing the wide disparity among the various categories of participants. Shown in Figure 6 are responses to the question relating to attitude as regards fairness/unfairness of existing GBV legislation of male and female participants of various age groups and professional or social category in all governorates. A detailed description of categories and parameters is attached in annex 4.

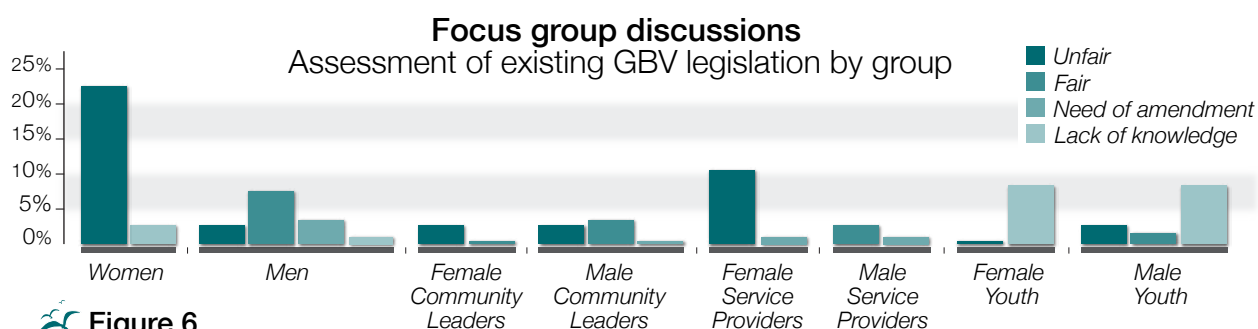


Figure 6

Many participants confessed having “no idea about laws” pertaining to GBV/VAW, particularly among youth of both sexes. In all groups, talking about GBV legislation was almost akin to discussing religion and the various sects - a sensitive topic and practically taboo for many. This was true also for women, despite their clear difficulties with laws and religious courts in Lebanon. In general, female participants tended to support existing laws, while their male counterparts defended arguments and views based on religion. Only after having reported their long suffering with courts, a few women eventually mentioned, most timidly, suggestions for amendments and change. Criticizing religious leaders was considered by all as a transgression due to education, among other factors.

Nevertheless, with examples from various governorates and groups, results show that all female participants, including community leaders, regarded existing legislation as unjust and hindering the full enjoyment of human rights of women⁹³. They considered traditions and customs to constitute the real obstacle to the progress of women. Some participants explained the causes of GBV by there being greater violence in communities other than their own; with a Christian considering Muslim society being more violent, and vice versa. Yet, only one of the eighteen community-based personal status codes was mentioned.

A very limited number of responses was recorded expressing there being, to a certain degree, appropriate and effective legislation, while amendments would be required to improve specific laws and legal codes. Others advocated for the mainstreaming of the principle of equality in legislation, and for its dissemination within the national legal framework. Detailed responses and trends illustrated in related diagrams and with quoted examples of the most frequently mentioned comments are attached in annex 4.

A comprehensive analysis of responses demonstrates that professional and/or educational level plays a great role in terms of the legal knowledge of women and how it allows them to better express their concerns and determine their priorities. Women with average education level and below referred mainly, and sometimes only to personal status laws related to the eighteen recognized religious communities, while those with high education attainment were familiar with the nationality code, the legal situation of women in general, and the necessity of equality.

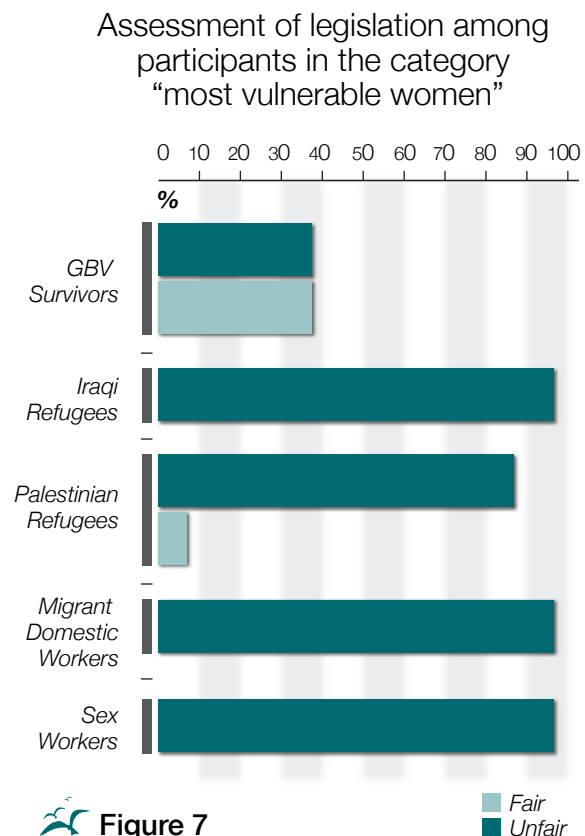
Women demonstrated limited knowledge of the legislation which concerns them directly - even those who themselves had resorted to taking legal measures or had been in direct contact with laws relating to their daily life as married women suffering from family/domestic problems. In all groups, the majority of women mentioned only such personal status laws as those relating to marriage, divorce, alimony and guardianship.

Concerning national legislation, most participants considered many laws - with the exception of clauses on education - to be unjust, favouring men over women, as is illustrated in Figure 7. In addition, the non-

enforcement of laws and legal codes was regarded as discriminatory. In their opinion, national legislation was not always compliant with the human rights of women; and if women challenged the legal system, justice would not be meted out effectively. Participants mentioned personal status laws⁹⁴ in general, without identifying specific ones; rather, highlighting issues of divorce and guardianship, nationality and criminal/penal codes, and sexual harassment in public spaces. In other words, women focused on the forms they had been exposed to more, commenting that “laws don’t respond to women’s concerns and rights”; “procedures in case of violence are insufficient and oppressing”; and “these laws are not applying Islamic law [or following] religious jurisprudence”.

In reference to the plurality and diversity of communities and, accordingly, of the personal status/family codes, discrimination was noted when comparing personal status codes for one religious community to those of another; thus, even in religion women faced inequality. Amendments and reforms are needed to only quote those related to nationality, personal status, social security, income and earnings, and so-called ‘honour crimes’.

As was the case with other groups, participants from the category “most vulnerable women” also considered legislation unfair in its treatment towards women. Their responses showed that the majority, or between 80 and 100 per cent, regarded laws as discriminatory to women; with GBV survivors giving equal appraisal as to fairness and unfairness, while only 10 per cent of female Palestinian refugees found legislation just with regard to treatment of women, as shown in Figure 7.



When assessing the level of knowledge of international treaties and conventions, all young female participants, as well as the majority of other participants and respondents in each of the groups, professed ignorance. The few who were knowledgeable and informed about such instruments expressed their rejection of the specific reservations of the Republic of Lebanon on CEDAW. Furthermore, they were aware that discrimination between men and women in public and personal status codes and provisions contradict the Constitution and CEDAW, whose focus of concern for Lebanon is that these clauses are governed by community codes, and that some penal laws legalize discrimination, including extenuating circumstances in cases of so-called 'honour crimes'.

As for men in all groups, variations in educational level did not represent a difference in their responses. The opinions and ideas of male participants in general underscored those of male service providers and community leaders who, on average, tended to be more highly educated. This proved particularly so concerning satisfaction with laws, defence of religion and perception of women; however, difference in professional level became clear, particularly as regards to the analysis and assessment of the reality of women and the prioritizing of measures related to gender equality.

All male participants expressed the opinion that violence affected each category in society in a different way. Some men thought women kept silent about violent acts they had faced because they, in actual fact, had enjoyed it. Furthermore, a few male participants placed the responsibility of sexual harassment on the woman or girl herself.

Male participants did not mention legislation which addressed crimes and misdemeanours related to women, but rather referred to drug and traffic offences, which many considered to be not enforced. On the other hand, most made a distinction between the different forms of violence faced by women, including domestic violence which, according to them, differed from such violence exerted on women in daily life.

Others seemed to be familiar with most of the laws related to women, though their opinions clearly differed from those of their female counterparts. Eighteen per cent among all male participants, and 30 per cent of the group of community leaders taking part in the focus group discussions, regarded as discriminatory and unjust certain family laws related to women, especially the personal status codes on divorce, guardianship and alimony. As regards law enforcement, as many as 50 per cent of all young, male participants doubted it achievable.

Close to half, or 45.5 per cent of the male participants, all male service providers and 40 per cent of male

community leaders proclaimed legislation to be "good and fair", and that women enjoyed such entitlements granted by the law as the right to stand for election and to attain high positions in government and civil service. They also noted that the situation of women was improving. Male participants mentioned as a "good example" the decrease in early marriage. Some participants said that figures showed that early marriage rates had improved by 80 per cent and that many young people waited until after university studies to get married. Despite of the above-listed positive aspects, some men agreed with a small number of women on the notion that, more dangerous than the violence identified in legislation was that based on attitudes, customs and traditions.

Dissatisfaction with the work of women's associations was clearly expressed during the focus group discussions. Some participants complained that programmes and activities implemented by such organizations did not satisfy the needs of vulnerable women, but were mere external projections to "give prestige" to these associations⁹⁵.

Concerning national legislation in general, responses of men ranged from "good" and "fair", to "unfair" and "other". Men evaluated the laws overall as "good", and the legal framework well adapted to the needs of women, without discriminating between the sexes and fully granting them all their rights. This included also religious laws; however, the opinion was that women did not know, or understand how to apply them to their benefit. In particular, the personal status law of the Druze community was evaluated as "good".

According to some responses, while existing laws were regarded as sufficiently "just" towards women, more efforts were required in the context of enforcement. Thus, discussions on the amending of existing legislation would be fraught with difficulty, not to say risk of provoking a break among communities and in society as a whole. This could lead to open conflict in the country. It is interesting to note that male Christian religious leaders considered existing laws adequate and just in their approach to women, while their Muslim counterparts found them contradicting the spirit of Islamic sharia.

As regards nationality and worker's rights, including equal pay and sponsorship, laws were deemed as discriminatory, unjust and in need of modification in order to meet the requirements of women and men.

Others were not aware of the existence of any legislation addressing women's concerns and were convinced that, had such laws been in existence, they would not be enforced.

The majority of men had little or no idea about international laws and treaties in general, nor of those

specifically related to women. Many believed that treaties signed by the State were not enforced as “Lebanon [was] not bound to enforcing international treaties” and, therefore, these male participants did not participate in actions to promote change or improvement as they were not in accordance with the clauses and ideas expressed in such instruments and conventions.

Only very few of the participants thought that the Republic of Lebanon had taken positive steps towards gender equality and fighting GBV/VAW by signing CEDAW - though without mentioning the reservations the State had made to some of the clauses in the Convention. Nonetheless, one male participant expressed his concern about these reservations and proposed their removal.

Tangible awareness and knowledge among men in all groups, and along all axes concerning laws and positions, led to the following questions to be asked and debated:

- (a) How willing are women to reach decision-making positions and improve their situation at all levels, if they are not aware of their whole environment?
- (b) Does the factor of working outside the home have an impact on an individual’s knowledge of his/her rights?
- (c) Is the situation of women the result of a conscious decision of men?
- (d) What is the role women themselves must take on in gaining self-awareness? And should women search for other explanations for their lagging behind in comparison to men?

• Interview sessions

1. Overall findings

Twelve per cent of the respondents to the interviews, including decision makers and programme managers, were not familiar with international treaties and conventions, including those ratified by the Republic of Lebanon. In addition, as many as 88 per cent considered such treaties not fully applicable to Lebanon, with a few male respondents expressing a conservative view on some of the provisions of these conventions, particularly CEDAW. Others thought these treaties had positively impacted on Lebanese society - not through government institutions, but thanks to the work of the civil society sector and the NGOs working in the field.

As regards national legislation, half of the stakeholders who participated in the interview sessions considered existing laws unjust to women. Among the policy- and decision makers asked, as many as 12 per cent were unfamiliar with laws related to the needs and concerns of women. Of those who knew of such legislation, 38 per cent said that some laws were fair and met the needs of women, while others were in need of amendment to fill gaps in the legal coverage, as illustrated in Figure 8.

Assessment of national legislation among respondents in the category “decision makers”

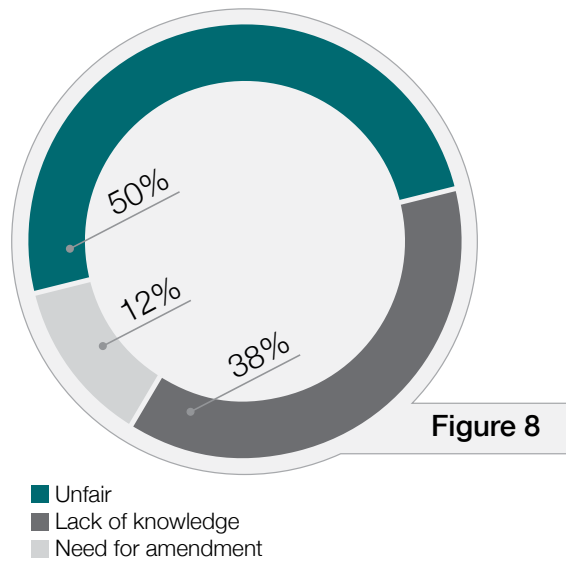


Figure 8

A staggering 88 per cent of the decision- and policymakers selected for the interview sessions recognized their lack of knowledge relating to international treaties and commitments, as illustrated in Figure 9. The remaining 12 per cent stated that these international treaties had not been implemented.

Knowledge of international treaties among respondents in the category “decision makers”

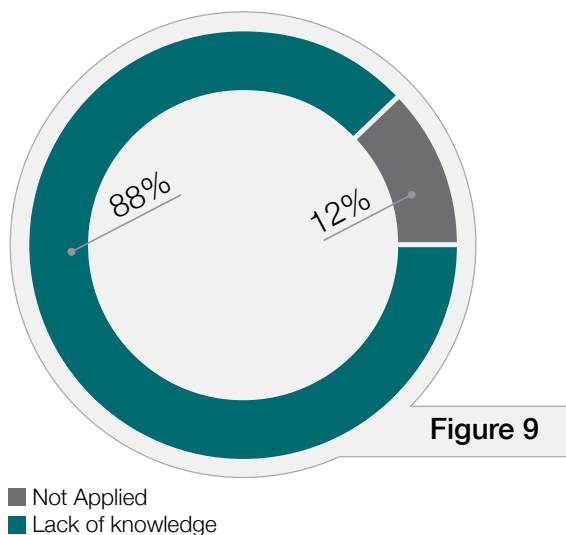


Figure 9

During the interview sessions, views on the role of the judicial system - represented by the police and other law-enforcement agencies - in addressing issues of GBV were elicited. The majority of the respondents, or 82 per

cent said there were no legal protection mechanisms in Lebanon for battered women, and they regarded the police body as not trained and/or sensitized sufficiently to deal with such a problematic issue.

As is shown in Figure 10, 12 per cent of the respondents said they lacked knowledge of and/or information about the existing mechanisms of protection, including laws specifically addressing GBV/VAW; while 6 per cent felt the legislation in force required intervention. When a female victim of violence or other person files a complaint, it is the legal obligation of the police officer handling the case to investigate and pass it to the prosecution. This is clearly stated in article 399 in the penal code, which is also unambiguous in terms of punishment in case of neglect of the law-enforcement employee in charge of the criminal investigation.

It is important to note, as demonstrated in the findings of the interview sessions, that very few duty bearers among the respondents were aware of the legal procedures and mechanisms in effect in Lebanon.

Awareness and assessment of protection mechanisms among respondents in the category “decision makers”

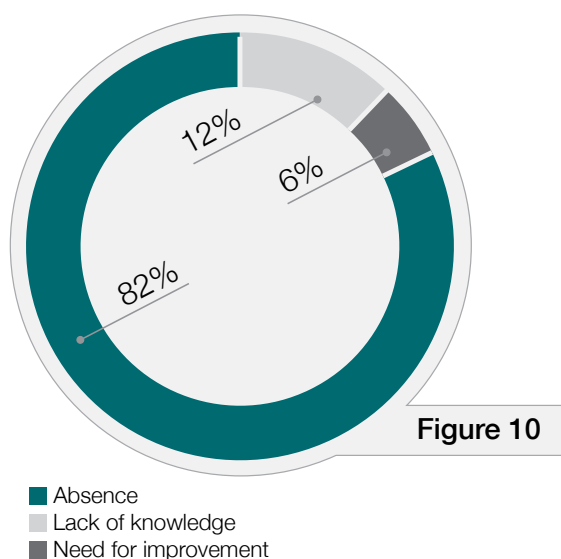


Figure 10

D. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

• Conclusions

1. The Constitution

First and foremost, the international standards and instruments, presented in detail in chapter four, parts I and III, require explicit commitment of the Republic of Lebanon to ensure equality between men and women, and non-discrimination based on sex and gender. This commitment to the principle of equality should be included in the fundamental law of the country - namely, the Constitution.

While the Constitution guarantees the equality of all citizens, as set out in article 7, there is no explicit reference to equality between men and women and/or to prohibition of sex- and gender-based discrimination, either within the Constitution and or in other national laws. To this end, compliance with the international standards remains limited. This also hampers the progress towards gender equality in the Republic of Lebanon, raising the very important issue of the inclusion of these principles and rights in the national laws and all related fields and areas.

2. Women in family legislation

A Lebanese woman suffers double discrimination as regards her personal status. First, the legislation applied when it comes to family law is tied to the sect and community to which she belongs. This remains a source of concern for CEDAW. In the concluding observations of the *Third Periodic Report* on Lebanon, the Convention reiterates its recommendation to “adopt urgently for the [S]tate member a unified personal status law in compliance with the convention enforced for all women in Lebanon regardless [of] their religion”⁹⁶.

Second, despite a draft law increasing the age limit of children remaining under the custody of the mother in the Sunni Muslim community and amendments of certain family laws for Christians to reflect the principle of partnership within marriage⁹⁷, most personal status laws in force are characterized by discrimination against women. Examples include the assigning of the responsibility of the family to a male relative, and certain legitimized practices contained in a patriarchal system which reinforces the risks and dangers of women, for instance submitting domestic violence to the principle of ‘sanctity’ and ‘intimacy’ of the family unit.

In addition, discriminatory provisions that govern relations within the family constrain to a high degree the capacity of women in practicing their fundamental rights and freedoms. Thus, if a woman wants to enjoy these rights and freedoms, her rights inside the family must be granted and respected. This is especially poignant, as studies in Lebanon and elsewhere in the world have shown, that the place a woman is the most exposed to violence is her family/marital home.

The concept ‘discrimination against women’, according to CEDAW, article 1, includes “any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field”. This article enhances - in the light of the fact that discrimination against women is more deeply rooted in the personal field - the reason why CEDAW encompasses within its provisions “all forms” of discrimination and “in any field”, including the personal or family distinction⁹⁸.

Therefore, given that the Republic of Lebanon is constitutionally committed to embody the principles of the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights in all fields and areas, as well as adhering to CEDAW - articles 1 and 2, according to which the State member agrees to “pursue in all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating discrimination against women” - the Lebanese authorities are responsible for the integration of the law on discrimination against women in all fields, including the personal field.

3. Women in penal legislation

The discriminatory provisions of the penal code are not the only legislative articles which do not reconcile with the international human rights charters and conventions acceded to by the Republic of Lebanon; however, they are main motives for many forms of GBV perpetrated in the country.

Ultimately, the unequivocal result of this *Situation Analysis* is that legislation in the field of VAW is characterized by a great divergence between what is emphasized by the Constitution in terms of commitment of the Republic of Lebanon to United Nations charters and to the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, and the embodiment of these principles in all fields and areas without exception; and discriminatory provisions included in some laws, especially personal status and penal legislation, that prevent women from enjoying their human rights and fundamental freedoms, and allow the practice of violence against them.

It is important not to ignore discriminatory provisions or numerous gaps contained in other laws. An example is sexual harassment in the workplace, for which the labour law stipulates only that the male or female employee has the right to resign without giving prior notice in the case of the employer, or his/her representative, having committed an indecent offense toward the employee or one of his/her family members.

It is thus remarkable that the draft law, drawn up by the Ministry of Labour and referred to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers in April 2010, fails to amend this provision. That means that the only action a victim of sexual harassment can take legally remains the right to resign without notice; furthermore, for the perpetrator of such behaviour, there is no legal consequence or penalty.

Therefore, it is necessary to note that it is not enough that the penal code mentions an offense with sexual nature to prevent such harassment in the workplace, or to address this issue. The same is true for the draft law on the protection of women from domestic violence, which addresses the issue of abuse and other forms of violence. Rather, these issues were addressed within a frame that does not consider the privacy dimension of some areas.

Given this reality and emphasizing compliance of national laws with constitutional provisions and the international charters and conventions of which Lebanon is State

member, the constitutional control of legislation and the priority of international provisions over national laws is questioned.

• Recommendations

The Constitution applies the right to equality, though without clearly prohibiting discrimination. Moreover, the Republic of Lebanon is committed to achieving full human rights and fundamental freedoms to all without distinction on any basis, including gender or sex even if not clearly stated in the text. This is what was pledged in the preamble of the Constitution and in the ratified CEDAW, which calls on State members to enshrine equality and non-discrimination in the constitution of State signatories, and embodying these provisions by adopting all appropriate legislative and non-legislative measures.

Reality shows, however, that there is great disparity between what is enshrined in those texts and some aspects of the legislation, especially concerning public and private rights that are the most discriminatory to, and encouraging of VAW. The obligation to protect a woman from violence inside and outside her home and family should be the responsibility of the State.

In consistency with national commitments, culture and principles of equality and human rights, and to reinforce good governance in Lebanon, the following two recommendations cover the major areas proposed for interventions and reforms:

- (a) improve governance with respect to the realization of human rights, including the integration of prohibition of sex-based discrimination in the Constitution and constitutional mechanism, and the prioritizing of international provisions over national laws;
- (i) improve governance as regards the realization of equality and human rights:

This *Situation Analysis* has revealed that (a) the Republic of Lebanon is willing to enhance and protect human rights; and (b) national laws must translate this willingness into practice by ensuring laws and provisions comply with fundamental principles based on the legitimacy of human rights.

With regard to constitutional mechanism and priority of international provisions over national laws, the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, under the title “respect of treaties, implementation and interpretation”, stipulates in its article 26 that “every treaty in force is binding upon the parties to it and must be performed by them in good faith”; and in article 27 that “a party may not invoke the provisions of its internal laws for its failure to perform a treaty [...]”.

Though the Republic of Lebanon has undertaken its obligation to embody the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights in all fields and areas

without exception, and in spite of full constitutional control over legislation, the gap remains large between international standards and the commitment contained in the preamble to the Constitution - and in the translation of this commitment into practice.

Accordingly, it is important to explicitly include in the Constitution prohibition of sex-based discrimination, and to embody the principles of gender equality in all fields and areas without exception in order for the Republic of Lebanon to fulfil the international commitments it, as a State member, is bound by, and to establish, as stipulated by article 19 and modified by Constitutional Law 150, “a constitutional council to supervise the constitutionality of laws”.

As for the penal legislation, it is governed by a fundamental principle, which is “the legality of crimes and penalties”. This principle is based on the fact that there is no crime except specified by law before being committed, and no penalty except if the law specified its nature and value before - thus, “there is no crime and no penalty without law”. The first importance of that principle is to grant persons their rights, since who is not criminalized by the law is safe from penal responsibility.

This is a principle emphasized in article 8 of the Constitution and which states the following: “Individual liberty is guaranteed and protected by law. No one may be arrested, imprisoned or kept in custody except according to the provisions of the law. No offense may be established or penalty imposed except by law”. This is one of the general principles of international criminal law emphasized in articles 22 and 23 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court of 1998⁹⁹.

In article 15 of the Arab Charter on Human Rights, it is stipulated also that “no crime and no penalty can be established without a prior provision of the law. In all circumstances, the law most favo[u]rable to the defendant shall be applied”. This imposes the necessity of legislator intervention to cancel the discriminatory provisions contained in the penal code, and to criminalize VAW and human trafficking.

The confirmation of rights and principles stipulated in the international charters means, at the very least, the mainstreaming of rights and principles within the core of laws and regulations used by the State, or its revision on that basis. Therefore, it is necessary and urgent to launch a methodological legislative workshop - something which is definitely possible, especially that the Parliament, through the Committee of the Parliamentary Commission on Human Rights, in collaboration with United Nations organizations, conducted a number of background studies preparing the drafting of a national plan of action on human rights.

It should be mentioned in this context that, in its

concluding observations of the *Third Periodic Report* on Lebanon, the CEDAW Committee, while welcoming the intention of the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights “to adopt a national [...] plan for human rights which is intended to reform Lebanese laws and policies in accordance with human rights standards”¹⁰⁰, also urged the Committee “to proceed with the elaboration, adoption and implementation of the National Plan of Action for Human Rights without delay and within a clear time frame”¹⁰¹.

It is recommended to revoke or annul provisions that constitute discrimination and to criminalize VAW as a priority to grant women dignity and protect their fundamental human rights. The State would not start from zero, whether regarding an approval of personal status civil law, amendment or repealing of discriminatory provisions against women in the penal code¹⁰²; or, toward the draft law intended to protect women from domestic violence, which is before a special parliamentary committee after the Cabinet achieved its study.

(b) reinforce protection and security of women through life cycle, including the penal and personal status codes;

(i) reinforce protection and security of women through life cycle:

Recommendations are related to providing security and to ensuring protection against domestic violence and human trafficking; noting that, for both crimes, draft laws have been prepared and are before Parliament following a review by the Council of Ministers.

The rationale for the draft law on the protection of women from domestic violence¹⁰³ consists of the following:

- a. criminalize domestic violence in all its forms;
- b. establish a dedicated unit within the General Security Forces to handle domestic violence;
- c. possibility of submitting notifications about cases of family violence by whoever is aware of the occurrence of violence;
- d. possibility of issuing a protection order which is exempted of all charges;
- e. keep the defendant away from the house if his presence threatens the life of the victim and her children.

As for the crimes to be punished, the draft law stipulates the following acts:

- a. coerce or force a female family member into begging;
- b. force, facilitate or assist a female family member into prostitution or corruption and/or facilitate or help her commit such acts;
- c. depend, partly or wholly, on earnings from the prostitution of a female family member;
- d. force a spouse to have intercourse by violence or threat;

- e. force a spouse to have intercourse through exerting physical or moral power or by deceit;
- f. kill with intent a female family member¹⁰⁴;
- g. kill with intent a female family member and mutilate her body after killing;
- h. kill with intent a female family member¹⁰⁵, or conduct acts of torture, brutality or abuse before killing;
- i. exercise moral violence by using any means of threat against a female family member to control her, sequester her, or force her into marriage.

Though not mentioned in the draft law, the penalties stated in the penal code are more severe for acts committed by family members of the victim.

As for mechanisms and measures, the draft law stated the establishment of a dedicated section on domestic violence within the General Directorate of the General Security for complaints and investigation. Domestic violence should be reported by any person who knows about the act, especially moral entities that provide assistance to victims of domestic violence. If members of the police or other law-enforcement agencies are present at the incident, they should take the necessary measures and inform the Attorney General without delay and without awaiting the filing of a complaint. Furthermore, they must inform the victim of her right to obtain the protection and assistance of a lawyer if she so wishes. The protection order includes a number of measures, among them to “require the defendant to undergo violence rehabilitation sessions in specialized cent[re]s”. The draft law also mentions the establishment of a fund to assist and provide care for victims of domestic violence. If approved, this legislation will be a step towards long-overdue reform; however, much more is required with regard to discriminatory laws and provisions, which should be subjected to meticulous and radical revision and eventual enforcement in order to extend fair and unbiased treatment for women.

The draft law on human trafficking and consequent penalties is under assessment and preparation. The recommendation is to ensure that the provisions of those conventions and protocols which Lebanon has ratified - here with summarized - will be taken into consideration for the most important aspects, particularly the definition/s.

The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime determined, in article 2 paragraph (a), that “organized criminal group shall mean a group of three or more persons, existing for a period and acting in concert with the aim of committing one or more serious crime[s] or offences established in accordance with this convention, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit”.

The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, states, in article 3, paragraph (a), that “trafficking in persons shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbo[u]ring or receipt of persons by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs”.

Article 3 adds, in subparagraphs(b), (c) and (d) of the Protocol, that “the consent of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation set forth in subparagraph (a) shall be irrelevant where any of the means set forth above have been used”. Furthermore, article 3 states that a ‘child’ shall mean any person under eighteen years of age; and that the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered ‘trafficking in persons’, even if this does not involve any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a) of said article.

It is essential not to ignore the discriminatory provisions or discrepancies in other legislation. The labour law, for example, fails to penalize sexual harassment in the workplace, merely granting the employee/victim the right to resign without notice if subjected to an immoral act by the employer or his/her representative, or if such an act has been perpetrated to a family member/s of the victim

II. Status of Lebanese policies in gender-based violence and related areas

A. CONTEXT

Until the late 1990s, the marginal interest of the Government of Lebanon for such sensitive issues as GBV and VAW was observed and recognized¹⁰⁶. After a notable absence in the international relations arena and at the international conferences held since the mid-1970s, the Government started to pay attention to issues of women. An official Lebanese delegation participated in the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 and the first national report on the status of women was drafted in Lebanon at the same period. The most concrete indicator remains Law 572 of July 24, 1996, paving the way for accession to CEDAW. With the Republic of Lebanon becoming a signatory to the Convention in 1997, it has become easier to highlight

and raise issues of women and their human rights in the Lebanese political life.

It is worth to note that such interest had been preceded decades earlier by initiatives of women and human rights activists and related civil society organizations. These initiatives went through crucial turning points, starting in 1953 with women obtaining the right to vote and stand as candidates in parliamentary and municipal elections. These actions went on, albeit at different paces, resulting in the preparation for, and the participation in the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994¹⁰⁷; and then in the Fourth World Convention of Women in Beijing in 1995, which gave new impetus to further interest in women's issues and their equality with men in all fields.

B. GOVERNMENT COMMITMENTS

The most important aspect regarding the official commitment to fight VAW lies in the progress observed in the contents of the ministerial declarations of the consecutive Governments since 2005.

The Ministerial Declaration of 2005 states that the Government “will focus on the issues of women as major and effective partners in public life by bringing in the legal climate conducive to the reinforcement of their role in various sectors, and it will incorporate gender concept in all the financial, economic and social policies in sync[hronization] with the international concepts in this respect. The Government will also implement all the commitments of Lebanon by virtue of the recommendations produced by the [Fourth W]orld [Convention of Women in] Beijing in 1995 on women's issue.”

This was the first time a ministerial declaration tackled women's concerns, especially with regard to integrating the gender concept in public policies and emphasizing compliance with BPFA. It is not by chance that the Ministerial Declaration coincided with female presence in the executive branch, as the political participation of women results in their presence in the decision-making process.

During the summer of 2008, the Government pledged to carry on “the consolidation of women's role in public life and their participation in the financial, economic, social and political areas and to implement [... the] commitments as set out in the international conventions that it signed or the recommendations that it ratified, especially [...] CEDAW[,] requiring legislation and procedures to achieve equality between men and women and combat all forms of violence against women and girls[...]”. That was the first ministerial statement with a clear and direct indication of the phenomenon of VAW that it had pledged to counter.

By the end of 2009, the then-Government, in paragraph 22 of its ministerial declaration, pledged that “it will

endeavo[u]r to adopt a plan to combat violence against women, including discussing the draft law relating to the protection [... of women from] domestic violence, and to come up with policies and legislation to combat women and children trafficking for sexual abuse and forced labo[u]r”. This is an explicit commitment that has been partly fulfilled, with the adoption by the Government of the draft law on the protection of women from domestic violence, to be ratified by Parliament.

C. OVERALL PUBLIC POLICIES

At this stage, except for the proposed draft law and the various Government declarations already presented in this *Report*, there is no direct or special mention of the issue of VAW in public policies. Nevertheless, the Government has emphasized, on many occasions and through interventions, the importance of signing conventions and agreements with the aims to improving the socio-economic environment, ensuring social protection and implementing the content thereof. The need to “allocate adequate public funds to address the urgent social issues” has also been underscored, while attaching utmost attention to the underlying causes of poverty, unemployment and immigration, and working on curbing these phenomena. Many other indicators do also exist, even if not yet concretized in policies and/or strategies.

• Institutional mechanisms

In 1996, in accordance with recommendations of BPFA and pursuant to Ministerial Decree 71/AD of June 12, 1996, a National Committee for the Follow-Up on Women's Issues was set up with membership from both government and civil society. On October 5, 1998, NCLW was created under Law 720. Starting from the same period and in the same context, gender institutionalization was initiated by nominating gender focal points in nearly every governmental body, though their prerogatives remain unspecified¹⁰⁸.

The Ministry of Social Affairs has set up a department dedicated to women's affairs in charge of the following tasks:

- (a) assessing women's issues in all their aspects in order to improve related position;
- (b) supporting the efforts and activities of the Lebanese women's movement at different levels, contributing to the organization of its activities and consolidating efforts that serve the public interest, women and society.

Other positive indicators as to change of the Lebanese position regarding women's issues include the setting-up of a parliamentary committee on women and children in 2000. In 2005, along with the increase in the actions of lobbyists working to enhance the participation of women in political life, two female ministers were appointed for the first time.

1. National Strategy for Women's Affairs in Lebanon

In 1996, together with the National Committee for the Follow-Up of Women's Issues and in partnership with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the National Strategy for Women's Affairs in Lebanon was developed. The Strategy comprises a number of objectives and procedures, including "the removal from the Lebanese legislation of all provisions that are unfair to [mankind] in general and women in particular" and "the introduction of a law protecting against violence, particularly [domestic] violence and workplace-related violence".

NCLW underscored, in its strategic orientations of 2005 - 2008 to foster the position of women the need for "attaching special interest to the issue of addressing violence against women in various areas [...] cooperat[ing] with civil society organizations concerned directly with this issue and assisting them in their activities".

In the NCLW publication *Guide on Status of Women*, the concerns related to the necessity to monitor domestic violence are identified and evaluated¹⁰⁹. NCLW, with UNFPA support and in consultation with various stakeholders, is finalizing the updating of the National Strategy for Women in Lebanon through mainstreaming gender and human-rights perspectives.

This updating focuses in particular on the actual priorities of women in Lebanon. In this context, the issue of GBV/VAW is highlighted as one of the fundamental challenges, in addition to the need to adopt a set of integrated measures to prevent and eliminate violence. Tackling this challenge will require analysis of the causes and consequences of VAW; elimination of discriminatory provisions against women in the penal code; and ratification of the draft law on the protection of women from domestic violence.

Coordination between concerned government institutions and NGOs will be essential to identify mechanisms for the monitoring of GBV survivors; in addition to designing other mechanisms to enable women to seek help and to access services, with emphasis placed on the elimination of trafficking in women and assisting victims of violence due to prostitution and trafficking.

Between 2000 and 2006, Lebanon drafted three official reports on the implementation of CEDAW. The Republic of Lebanon, as a State member and signatory, twice came before the CEDAW Committee; the first time in 2005 and the second in 2008. In both cases, the issues of fighting discrimination against women and the need for special legislation in this regard were raised and discussed by the Committee. The comments expressed by the Committee gave impetus to advocacy campaigns that accompanied the preparation of the draft law on the protection of women from domestic violence.

Furthermore, the 2009-2011 National Plan of Action for the Prevention and Protection against Gender-Based

Violence is a two-year participatory plan supported by UNFPA.

• Data collection and availability

The Central Administration of Statistics is endeavouring to establish a coherent gender-related information system in Lebanon, emphasizing the validity of what the *Third Periodic Report* indicated regarding the implementation of CEDAW with a view to achieving progress in the setting up of national gender and sex-disaggregated database¹¹⁰.

For this purpose, the Central Administration of Statistics carried out an assessment of the data and statistics collected through surveys it had conducted and the methodology it had adopted. The data collection focused on the sectors of education and health care, including reproductive health, as well as on economic and business statistics. All data are sex disaggregated¹¹¹.

On the other hand, no official figures and data on VAW are available although CEDAW requested Lebanon in 2005 to "collect exhaustive data covering all the areas of the conventions, including violence against women¹¹²". To facilitate the mission of a national census system not accustomed to studying the phenomenon of VAW, the United Nations Statistical Commission has identified several indicators aiming at assisting national authorities to assess such violence, its intensity and scope¹¹³.

• Social interventions and policies

Internally, in addition to the preparation of the aforementioned National Plan of Action to prevent and fight GBV, and as a preliminary step towards the designing of a national strategy for social development, the Ministry of Social Affairs is preparing a social pact. The aim is to formulate a comprehensive social vision and supervise the role and responsibilities of various parties interested in social development in Lebanon. Since April 2010, the Ministry has held advisory meetings to involve various institutions, public and private administrations, civil society organizations, and representatives of the professional sectors and other stakeholders in the discussion of the draft social pact.

With regard to social protection mechanisms, the draft pact points out four reform provisions; one of which stresses "the adoption of legislation and implementation procedures and program[s] for social protection and implementing them for the sake of protecting victims of violence and deviation including women, children and the elderly".

Yet, the concept of gender is almost absent in the draft pact despite the Ministry having implemented a project of "gender mainstreaming in plans and programmes" over the period 2008 - 2009.

• Policies for special categories of women: analysis and experiences

1. Palestinian women refugees¹¹⁴

- Situation

Palestinian women refugees basically suffer from the



difficulties and restrictions imposed on all Palestinian refugees living in the Lebanese territories¹¹⁵, in addition to the discrimination affecting Lebanese women in general. Nonetheless, of the indicators designed to gauge VAW¹¹⁶, one recorded positive; namely, the one related to the non-widespread phenomenon of early marriage benefiting to Palestinian girls/women in Lebanon.

With regard to the educational situation of the Palestinian youth in Lebanon, the data of a 2009 survey on the demographic, social and economic situation of young Palestinians in refugee camps and other areas of the country indicated that 99.4 per cent in the sample age group of 15 to 29 were attending school or university, with out-of-school youth not exceeding 1 per cent among both male and female individuals¹¹⁷.

The survey also indicated that 78.4 per cent of the schooled youth experienced no significant distinction between male and female students in terms of teacher treatment and, where there was a difference, it came to the benefit of girls¹¹⁸. On the other hand, female contribution in the workforce was far lower than that of male participation; the rate of male workers aged 15 and above was around 65 per cent, against about 10 per cent for their female counterparts¹¹⁹. The main obstacles to young women finding jobs lay in family objection, representing 24.8 per cent; helping with household chores, 22.3 per cent; and reluctance to work, 17.3 per cent¹²⁰.

Beyond these figures, the issue of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon is surrounded by major political and economic constraints, one of which is the sharp controversy that arose in Parliament in connection with the civil rights of the Palestinians.

- Knowledge, perceptions and experiences

During the focus group discussion conducted with Palestinian women refugees in the Bourj el-Barajne camp, the participants expressed clearly their concerns with regard to Lebanese laws and their application also to Palestinian women.

In fact, 91 per cent of the participants in the focus group discussions considered the laws within the personal status and penal codes and the labour law and sponsorship social security regulations unfair to women, compared to 9 per cent who had regarded these laws as “good” in previous years.

In this context, the findings of the focus group discussions showed also that the main obstacle behind the critical situation of Palestinian women is the “discrimination” between them and the Lebanese in general. The participants linked their situation to the general state of Palestinian people and to the “Palestinian Issue”. They reiterated that “no Palestinian has the right [to take up] a government job, [nor claim] social security”; “if we work in the same job with a Lebanese, the Palestinian is paid much less”; and “sometimes I [accept a job] I don’t want,

because I [can’t] find [another] due to my nationality”.

In conclusion, it is worth to note, however, that the Government undertakes, as set out in the Ministerial Statement of 8 December, 2009, paragraph 11, to continue “ensuring the human and social rights to the Palestinians living on the Lebanese territories and urging countries and international organizations to assume their obligations, likely to alleviate the burden shouldered by Lebanon [...]”.

This has recently been translated through the law passed by Parliament which grants Palestinians certain social rights, including the right to work and the right to end-of-service indemnity through the Social Security.

2. Migrant domestic workers

- Situation

In 2003, the category of exploited migrant domestic workers and their situation received first official attention with the Ministry of Labour issuing a series of regulatory decisions specifically addressing the operating terms of agencies contracting foreign domestic workers in order to prevent physical abuse, assault or violence meted out against them by agencies or employers. All such cases should be reported to the Ministry.

In 2005, the Ministry issued a set of standards and a mandatory insurance scheme for migrant domestic workers and wage earners. A standard employment contract was adopted in 2009 for male and female domestic workers, covering such specific rights and obligations as working hours and daily or weekly breaks; and the right to be paid, and to have annual leave and sick leave. The right to health insurance was also reiterated in compliance with the terms set out by the Ministry.

Should a migrant domestic worker be subjected to ill-treatment, sexual abuse or harassment by the employer or member of his/her family, the worker is entitled to terminate the contract. The employer is then obliged to provide repatriation at his/her own expense.

In addition to the aforementioned regulations, the Government of Lebanon signed a memorandum of understanding with the Sri Lanka Ministry of Labour to set up educational centres for migrant domestic workers coming to Lebanon.

The National Steering Committee for Women Migrant Workers has presented the initial version of the act on employed women workers in domestic service; while progress is awaited on the final draft version.

In the spring of 2010, ILO Regional Arab Office, in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour, published a handbook, including a series of useful and relevant information¹²¹, for migrant domestic workers in Lebanon. It is due for translation into the relevant languages of the countries of origin of these migrant domestic workers.

The General Directorate of the General Security and the Ministry of Labour have set up joint complaints offices where male and female migrant domestic workers can report cases of exploitation and abuse. As for partnership with civil society, the General Directorate of the General Security has signed a memorandum of understanding with Caritas Lebanon to implement a project comprising the setting-up of a shelter, Beital-Aman, for foreign female workers formerly engaged in prostitution. The Caritas Migrants Center also seeks to ensure steady presence in detention centres and to provide health care and social assistance¹²².

Two main points can be inferred from the described measures. First, it is clear that domestic workers, Lebanese and non-Lebanese, have not been benefiting from the main legal protection provided by the existing legislation. This is confirmed by the draft law referred by the Minister of Labour to the Council of Ministers in April 2010 which, not only exclude from its provisions domestic workers - commonly referred to as 'maids' - but also extends its scope to exclude "maids and any household personnel doing the household chores and living in the [homes of the] employers", as stated in provision 5, project 9.

Second, the Government has sought to improve the working conditions of migrant domestic workers; nevertheless, any measure remains insufficient as long as the State does not set measures to monitor and protect the rights of such workers, and prosecute and punish all offenders.

Finally, it should be pointed out that the Republic of Lebanon is required by CEDAW to incorporate in its forthcoming report "information on the steps and measures taken and their impact, as well as data on the spread of violence against female household workers"¹²³.

- Knowledge, perceptions and experiences

Migrant domestic workers participating in focus group discussions expressed such concerns as "employers don't abide by the contract, and treat us very badly"; "they don't give us the opportunity to live as human beings [...] treat us like animals, exploit us like slaves"; and "they think they own us once we work for them and they have money".

As many as one quarter of the women migrant domestic workers who participated in the focus group discussions said they had been physically abused. They gave the reason as their being women, and not because they were migrant workers, since their male counterparts were not treated in this way.

All agreed that they had not benefited from any provision, measure or legislation except from the services of Caritas. These include shelter, legal follow-up on status vis-à-vis the General Directorate of the General Security,

counselling and social support, lectures and a hotline service.

Based on the overall outcome of responses and comments of the participants in the focus group discussions, the main obstacles impeding the improvement of the situation of domestic workers are "the absence of Government rule, such as control inside homes, and lack of follow-up with the concerned embassies".

3. Women prisoners

With the establishment of a women's general prison in Beirut, the Barbar Khazen prison, in 1942, the initial regulatory texts relating to the prison services stipulated that the director in charge of the management of female detention centres should be 'educated' and nominated from among public-school teachers. These provisions were subsequently reactivated so that the General Directorate of the General Security ensures the contracting of applicants with university degrees as prison directors and that women inspectors hold the General Certificate of Secondary Education. They also stipulated tenure Secondary School Certificate or its equivalent to contract with the prison guards of the fourth category.

When evaluating the prison system in Lebanon, including female detention centres, the most significant issue was the disregard of international requirements and standards to ensure provision of a minimum of proper living conditions. This situation led the Council of Ministers in 2002 to authorize the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities to sell specified government-owned property and land in coordination with the Ministry of Finance, with the stipulation that the proceeds would be earmarked for the creation, equipment, restoration and rehabilitation of prisons in various regions.

In 2004, the Correctional Centre for Girls in Conflict with the Law was established in the government-run hospital Dahr el-Bachek. In 2007, authorities responded to the demand of NGOs for permission to follow up programmes and measures regarding the situation of the prison service in general, and the transfer of women prisoners from Barbar Khazen prison to a new building in accordance with the principles of human rights. The building was completed and equipped, and the prisoner transfer took place in 2008.

In a 2009 ministerial statement, the Minister of Interior and Municipalities proclaimed "to continue the prison [...] reform and to upgrade buildings and follow up on the transfer of their management to the Ministry of Justice".

On the legislative level, representatives of the various women's associations are granted legal right to visit the women's prison during hours designated by the prison administration. These visits are devoted mainly to counselling and training of female inmates under the supervision of the management of the prison. Furthermore, the task of rehabilitation and training of

prisoners to allow them to reintegrate in society after their release is handled mainly by NGOs. An example is Mouvement Social, an association which has been undertaking a programme for the rehabilitation and integration of prisoners since 1993.

The General Directorate of the General Security of the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities is in charge of combating all forms of violence as set forth in the laws. There is no female police force as such in Lebanon; however, the number of women recruits and officers are increasing in the General Security Forces and their presence will become of significance, though rates remain low.

• National budget

The State budget does not feature any provisions for institutional mechanisms or tools dedicated to women's affairs¹²⁴, or for programmes and projects exclusively dedicated to women.

A study¹²⁵ on women's empowerment in the field of health indicated that, out of 32 projects and activities observed in Lebanon over the 2000 - 2004 period, 71 per cent covered maternal care, 26 per cent addressed health patterns relating to chronic diseases, and 3 per cent tackled environmental safety, with no research on VAW or on psychological health. Local funding of these projects and activities accounted for 78 per cent, international funding covered 16 per cent, while multi-funding represented the remaining 6 per cent in the total absence of regional and governmental funding¹²⁶.

Another study surveying projects for women empowerment in the field of law indicated that, out of 58 projects and activities over the 1985 - 2006 period, 23 per cent addressed the issue of VAW. National funding, both governmental and non-governmental, accounted for a mere 18 per cent of their total budget. This is a small proportion of the total, considering that often more than one party participates in the funding of a specific project¹²⁷. This low rate of government funding applies similarly to education-related projects, ranking far behind that of non-governmental and international financial support¹²⁸.

D. CONSISTENCY WITH INTERNATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS AND NATIONAL COMMITMENTS

• Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action

In addition to the analysis made as regards the compliance with international conventions and treaties on human rights, particularly CEDAW, it could be considered that, to a certain extent, Lebanon is in compliance with BPFA when it comes to institutional mechanisms and strategy. Yet, more efforts are needed in terms of policymaking and operationalization of the two gender mainstreaming and institutionalization processes. With regard to GBV, several positive signals have been noted; however, a more systematic approach should be adopted, which

could be inspired by the programmes related to VAW set out by BPFA.

Three strategic goals to counter this phenomenon were formulated as follows:

- (a) taking complementary procedures to prevent and eradicate VAW;
- (b) studying the causes and effects of VAW and the efficiency of the preventive measures in this regard;
- (c) eliminating women trafficking and assisting victims of violence due to prostitution and trafficking operations.

• Other related international standards

The Republic of Lebanon has not adhered to the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees adopted in Geneva in July 1951, or to the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees of January 31, 1967. The status of asylum-seekers in Lebanon is governed by a single document - a memorandum of understanding signed in 2003 between the Directorate General of the General Security and the UNHCR Regional Office¹²⁹, which states: "Lebanon is not an asylum country and [...] the appropriate solution would be to resettle the refugees recognized by UNHCR in another country." The term 'asylum-seeker' refers to "any person seeking asylum in any country other than Lebanon".

The situation for asylum-seekers therefore cannot be known without UNHCR offices, which are authorized to issue 'provisional movement permit' to refugees recognized by UNHCR pending their resettlement in a third country. Such permit does not preclude legal prosecution in case of infringement of Lebanese laws, just as it does not protect refugees against expulsion in the event of serious crime, including threat to national security through membership of a terrorist group or involvement in organized crime. UNHCR provides the necessary assistance to provisional permit holders according to available resources and needs of concerned parties.

According to a United Nations report of 2008, there was an absence of comprehensive protection for the refugees and asylum-seekers in Lebanon because "the refugees and asylum[-]seekers often suffer from an unstable situation as they are generally arrested or charged with illegal entry. They therefore avoid contacting the authorities even in cases of bad treatment not to be apprehended for illegal entry and forcefully expelled"¹³⁰. This was particularly true for female asylum-seekers, who were subject to abuse, exploitation and violence. Moreover, women refugees in an illegal situation tended to shun the necessary legal procedures in this respect, rather referring to an NGO for assistance and support¹³¹.

It is worth to note, however, that, though not a signatory to the 1951 Convention, Lebanon is State member of - and thus bound by commitments of other international

declarations and conventions on human rights - first and foremost, the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, and also the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. In addition, the 2003 memorandum between the Lebanese authorities and UNHCR is under review in order to ensure greater protection for refugees.

E. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

• Conclusions

As regards GBV policies in Lebanon, the responses collected among all stakeholders - both in focus group discussions and during interview sessions - indicated almost conclusively that the topic occupied a peripheral position within the sphere of interest of government institutions; thus, confirming its low level of priority and concern.

The majority, representing 63 per cent of the stakeholders, referred to Government initiatives implemented in partnership with various governmental departments as already assessed by the desk review and analysis. In this context, they quoted mainly the pre- and post-Beijing Gender Institutional Process, including:

- (a) the participation of the Council for Development and Reconstruction in the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, 1995;
- (b) the appointment of a representative to the Preparatory Committee of the Conference, whose mandate was to develop a national report on the situation of Lebanese women;
- (c) the appointment of gender focal points in the ministries and their training on CEDAW;
- (d) the State support to, and collaboration with United Nations agencies and NGOs towards the updating of laws to address gender issues, especially in the field of employment, work and security, programme development and population strategies, as well as in reference to violence.

A sizeable minority of 12 per cent, however, declared having no idea about the existing policies, while 25 per cent recognized the lack of clear national policies which address the issue of gender, including GBV. All respondents agreed that efforts and achievements were insufficient in the absence of a national explicit reference on GBV. That means there are many remaining challenges, since combating VAW requires coordinated and ongoing actions at many levels according to a clear approach or methodology with defined objectives and phases.

• Recommendations

The Republic of Lebanon has an advantage in that the available studies and experiences¹³², at national, regional and international levels, represent strong evidence to build upon. Provided the will and resources are available, the GBV/VAW situation in the country can be improved. In this regard, two proposals that could represent a

solid background for change and reform at regional and international levels are presented. They are completely in consistency with the will and commitments of the Republic of Lebanon.

1. Lebanon and the regional strategy for the protection of Arab women against violence

In 2002, the Arab Women Organization (AWO) was set up, of which Lebanon is an effective and active founding member. The second AWO conference, held in November 2008 on the topic "Women in the Concept and Issues of Human Security: Arab and International Perspectives", urged member countries to take legislative and judiciary measures to combat all forms of violence and discrimination against women, and to put in place adequate mechanisms to make this reality.

The conference also recommended further awareness-raising on international humanitarian law and the dissemination of its culture and its relationship with women, and the setting-up of appropriate tools to be concretely translated in the field.

A regional strategy for the protection of Arab women against violence was launched by AWO at its third conference in Tunis in October 2010.

2. United Nations Secretary-General initiatives: study and campaign

The report by the United Nations Secretary-General comprising an in-depth study relating to all forms of VAW¹³³ is considered as a rich source of information, indicators and sample plans which could inspire the Republic of Lebanon in this context. By way of example, the study identifies the efforts to counter violence in three categories:

- (a) preventing violence before it occurs;
- (b) medium-term reaction after violence has occurred in order to curb its extent and effects;
- (c) longer-term care and support for women victims of violence¹³⁴.

Accordingly, "preventing violence before it occurs" requires a number of best practices, including¹³⁵:

- (a) setting priorities in all policies and programmes;
- (b) allocating adequate resources in all sectors;
- (c) designing strategies to address the roots of VAW, particularly the persistence of gender-based stereotypes;
- (d) laying down clear objectives, and setting up a process of monitoring and assessment;
- (e) making sure that the views and voices of women, especially victims, are heard and taken into account in the design of strategies;
- (f) involving men and children in a pre-emptive way in the development and implementation of strategies

to counter male VAW;

- (g) ensuring that efforts are comprehensive, taking into account the multifaceted discrimination and connecting whenever possible with such other major issues of women as AIDS.

The in-depth study on all forms of VAW provides countries with a number of recommendations that constitute a road map conducive to the elimination of VAW. They come under the following three headings that represent major areas for action¹³⁶:

- (a) guaranteeing equality between the two sexes and protecting the human rights of women;
- (b) practicing leadership to eliminate VAW;
- (c) filling the gaps in the international standards and the national laws, policies and practices; (i) consolidating the knowledge base about all forms of VAW, (ii) building and reinforcing various strong and multisector strategies coordinated nationally and locally, and (iii) allocating adequate resources and funding.

In 2008, the United Nations Secretary-General launched the campaign UNiTE to End Violence Against Women.

Together with the findings presented in this *GBV Situation Analysis Report*, the campaign could also constitute an appropriate referral framework for Lebanon based on the consistency of its five objectives to be achieved by the year 2015. The objectives are as follows:

- (a) issuing and enforcing national laws to combat all the forms of violence against women and girls and punishing all these forms of violence;
- (b) adopting and implementing national multisector action plans;
- (c) consolidating all data on the spread of VAW;
- (d) raising awareness of the general public and social mobilization;
- (e) combating sexual violence during conflicts.

The campaign has linked the issue of generating concrete change in the process of combating the phenomenon of VAW to the political will of the States members and their commitment to developing national plans to contain this phenomenon and allocating adequate resources for this matter.



CHAPTER SIX

PROGRAMMES AND SERVICES ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

I. Context



As discussed in preceding chapters and sections, Lebanon has made incremental progress addressing GBV at different levels. The work and advocacy carried out by the civil society to highlight and dissect GBV issues, as well as lobbying for policy, procedural changes and services, are remarkable in that progress¹³⁷. In this respect, and in response to global recognition of the seriousness of GBV, as well as taking into account the context of Lebanon, the interest and need for GBV programmes and services continue to grow. Nevertheless, such efforts and actions are far from meeting all assessed needs.

This chapter aims to map out existing programmes and services carried out by governmental institutions, NGOs and international agencies; and to analyse the content and scope of the provided services and their funding, as well as formulating recommendations on best practice of such services in Lebanon.

As regards the approach and methodology, an extensive internet search was performed to identify all available organizations offering services on GBV in Lebanon. In addition to the knowledge and field experience of the CAWTAR team, personal contacts were made¹³⁸ with key informants and professionals familiar with GBV work and activities.

Attempt was made to identify some programmatic interventions in both sectors, governmental and non-governmental; however, the main focus was placed on organizations providing services to GBV survivors through their actual presence in the field.

The main categorization of the organizations included detailed information on the type of work carried out; and on the services offered and their nature - i.e., medical, counselling, preventive or referral, and whether integrated or stand-alone. In addition, sources of funding and geographical scope, as well as age group of females receiving such services, were listed. Based on these characteristics, an analysis was made to evaluate their impact, and to assess the unmet needs for integrating them in other potential organizations, particularly governmental departments, to ensure comprehensive and multisectoral services.

II. Programmes and projects



A. GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS

In the context of an official policy and/or strategy of the Government, there are no specific, structured programmes related to GBV implemented by the sectors directly concerned.

Nevertheless, some ministries have initiated a limited number of interventions. As example, the Ministry of Labour has focused on gender equality in the workplace; however, there is no documented work or institutional structure for GBV, including as regards sexual harassment.

There is no actual work on service provision or on legal orientation and/or assistance in relation to GBV implemented by the Ministry of Justice. Notwithstanding, the Ministry collaborated with a coalition of an estimated 40 diverse organizations and entities, led by KAFA “Enough Violence and Exploitation” and with the participation of the Lebanese Internal Security Forces in the preparation of the draft law on the protection of women from domestic violence, and on advocating for its adoption. The Ministry has also prioritized among its concerns the issue of trafficking in persons, as discussed in detail in chapter five, section B.

Some initiatives can facilitate the setting-up of strategic plans and programmes in a more systematic and comprehensive manner which, in turn, could help in mainstreaming GBV in related specialized and non-specialized services.

• Ministry of Social Affairs

Being a main actor of social protection, including the protection of women from all forms of violence, the Ministry of Social Affairs has implemented several programmes and activities. Foremost among these are projects on capacity-building for the following target groups:

- (a) personnel operating in fighting domestic violence (2004-2010), including campaign to curb sexual harassment against girls and teenagers;
- (b) personnel working in the area of fighting VAW, in collaboration with the Lebanese Women Democratic Gathering (2005-2008);
- (c) personnel working in social development centres and civil society organizations in listening skills and providing adequate legal counselling to women victims of domestic violence (2008).

The Ministry is also involved in training gender focal points and ‘social assistants’ who work on counselling within the Ministry services.

Moreover, the Ministry has developed a pattern of services for survivors of domestic violence integrated in its multiservice social development centres. There are 25 centres for psychological counselling reporting to the

Ministry. Women survivors of violence are exempted from medical fees when seeking treatment at these centres. There is also a sensitization programme dedicated to the VAW issue.

The Ministry is a major partner with United Nations agencies and several NGOs in numerous projects, including those tackling the issue of GBV. It is implementing a joint programme with selected NGOs in order to broadcast a culture against VAW and provide GBV survivors with psychological counselling and legal advice. The Ministry subsidizes specialized NGOs to implement awareness-raising programmes and necessary training, rehabilitation and guidance; as well as securing shelters for battered girls, women and others who require rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

• National Commission for Lebanese Women

In the context of gender mainstreaming in planning and activities, a 2009 circular issued by the Office of the Prime Minister identified the tasks assigned to gender focal points, and also defined its relationship to NCLW as ‘advisory’. The particular tasks assigned to gender focal points are the following:

- (a) revise planning strategies in ministries;
- (b) analyse policies and programmes of ministries to identify gender gaps and tools needed to address such gaps;
- (c) identify institutional obstacles against gender mainstreaming;
- (d) communicate with other gender focal points to exchange experiences, enhance the gender mainstreaming process and respond to advisory requests from NCLW.

Seventeen ministries and 14 directorates and public administrations have assigned gender focal points to work with NCLW, and the Commission is briefing the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) Gender Working Group (GWG) on the needs assessment pertaining to these focal points and to NCLW itself.

During a period when recovery from war effects was the main concern for both national and international stakeholders, and as a result of the successful cooperation between NCLW and UNFPA, the project *Women Empowerment: Peaceful Action for Security and Stability* (WEPASS) came to light.

The idea started as a pilot project that aimed to promote the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security relative to its context in Lebanon. Financially supported by the Government of Norway in its first phase and technically guided by UNFPA, the Project was initiated after the July 2006 war and targeted communities that suffered from that conflict. It was launched in cooperation with

municipal councils and social development centres of the selected communities. Many interventions and activities were organized, some of which were the following:

- (a) training workshops on communication skills and confidence-building, and awareness-raising sessions on gender as an identity and cause, citizenship, leadership and decision-making;
- (b) training workshops on the setting-up of sustainable entities/NGOs that would advocate for women's issues and contribute to change in society;
- (c) literacy programmes, including computer literacy;
- (d) awareness-raising sessions on reproductive health services, namely on breast cancer, menopause, lifestyle modification, sexual education for youth and first aid;
- (e) programmes on sensitizing the community at large on GBV through awareness-raising sessions, development of educational and advocacy material and creation of support groups¹³⁹.

As concrete results of WEPASS, women in the targeted villages and communities learned how and when to speak out; express their concerns, including as regards their own basic rights; and address such sensitive issues as GBV both within the family circle and with the community at large. They were able to organize themselves in 'women's committees' in their villages to defend their own interests and those of their family and community. This encouraged some to stand as candidates in municipal elections - and win; and others to set up women's associations and support groups.

B. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Many United Nations agencies and international organizations¹⁴⁰, as well as bilateral cooperation through mainly Italian and Norwegian assistance, have realized numerous initiatives and pioneering projects related to research, capacity-building, awareness-raising and supporting services provisions in collaboration with such governmental institutions as NCLW and the Ministry of Social Affairs, as well as with national and regional NGOs. Some of these organizations and contributions¹⁴¹ are detailed in the following subsections, taking into account that most GBV interventions in Lebanon - including programmes, projects and services - are supported mainly by multilateral and bilateral cooperation and assistance.

• United Nations Country Team

Within the process of UNDAF 2010 – 2014¹⁴², UNDAF-GWG was assigned to serve as the key mechanism within the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Lebanon for joint United Nations actions and coordination, both in terms of timely reporting and delivery of programme results. Issues being addressed include gender equality, empowerment of women, and the mainstreaming of human rights of women and girls. The main UNDAF

outcome relating to gender states that, by 2014, "women are increasingly empowered to equally access the social, political, economic and legal spheres towards realization of their rights"¹⁴³.

In this context, and to better realize UNDAF Output 3.1.1 on "[t]echnical and institutional capacities of women machineries - i.e. [...] NCLW and gender focal points - as well as civil society are enhanced", UNDAF-GWG has launched an initiative to conduct a comprehensive assessment on the status, capacity and training needs of NCLW and the gender focal points to be undertaken prior to any detailed and structured planning for capacity-building activities targeting these focal points in line ministries, directorates and other public administrations.

• United Nations Population Fund

Many agencies, foremost among them UNFPA, have been seeking to link GBV to reproductive health services and to integrate it within those of public healthcare. In 1998, UNFPA published a programme advisory note, *Reproductive Health Effects of GBV*, which describes the serious long-term effects of GBV; followed by a leaflet, *A Practical Approach to Gender-Based Violence*, which provides step-by-step guidance on how to address GBV within the health sector with emphasis on reproductive health services¹⁴⁴. In 2001, a multi-country pilot project which included Lebanon, *Strengthening the Capacity of the Health Sector to Address GBV*, was launched, and four health centres were selected for implementation of the programme guide.

As part of the implementation, health-care providers were trained in identifying and referring GBV survivors, as well as in screening of all women visiting the four selected centres for GBV during a two-month period. The data revealed the extent to which women coming to these centres had been exposed to GBV. Around 35 per cent reported having encountered at least one form of violence, excluding sexual violence, while 21 per cent knew of a family member who had. Moreover, these women were found to have significantly more health-related complaints than non-victims. These results paralleled and confirmed other international data by underscoring the importance of integrating GBV into reproductive health services.

In this regard, it is worth to highlight a series of studies conducted with UNFPA support to assess the GBV/VAW situation starting from 2002. They include the following projects:

- (a) a pilot project initiated in 2002 and aimed at sensitizing health-care workers to GBV, and assessing the magnitude of this issue in primary health-care settings. Results showed that 35 per cent of women visiting selected health-care centres had been exposed to at least one type of violence;



- (b) the 2006 project *Rapid Appraisal of Reproductive Health Services in Lebanon* revealed a significant deficiency in GBV services and lack of awareness among health-care service providers as regards the resources available to GBV survivors. Conflicting attitudes towards integrating a service dealing with survivors of GBV in primary health-care centres were expressed by the providers surveyed. Close to 50 per cent rejected or refused to offer this service, claiming it was beyond the scope of primary health care and their own skills and job description;
- (c) a *Rapid Assessment of Women and Girls' Needs for Protection in Selected War-Affected Areas* was conducted in the Beirut southern suburb in 2006/2007, following the July 2006 Israeli war on Lebanon. The results generated sufficient evidence on the need to address protection from, and prevention of all kinds of VAW; and the importance of empowering women and strengthening their role in civil society. This and many other studies have been conceptualized within the framework of integrating GBV services within holistic reproductive health services¹⁴⁵.

One of the achievements of UNFPA is related to the mainstreaming of GBV services in reproductive health normative tools through service-developed guidelines.

• United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The main objectives of UNHCR in Lebanon are to create, maintain and expand a favourable protection environment through legal and pragmatic interventions so that refugees and asylum-seekers are free from harassment, arbitrary arrest, detention and deportation.

The services provided include assistance to refugees to enable them to live in relative safety. In addition, UNHCR strives to propose a durable solution for refugees and promote resettlement.

Though Lebanon hosts a considerable number of refugees, the legal framework imposes rigid restrictions and scant protection. Refugees who are forced to work illegally are often exploited and, though on the decrease,¹⁴⁶ detention and deportation remain major concerns.

As stated earlier, UNHCR and the Government of Lebanon in 2003 signed a memorandum of understanding which states that refugees and asylum-seekers shall be tolerated - but only for a limited period pending resettlement or voluntary repatriation.

UNHCR carries out a refugee-status determination of individuals not considered as prima facie refugees. The 2003 memorandum is strictly applied in the case of non-Iraqi refugees, which means that they need to be resettled without delay.

Some 70 per cent of registered Iraqi refugees in Lebanon are men who run higher risks of detention, deportation or exploitation as illegal labourers. Many refugees,

including women and children, are reluctant to engage with the community because of fear of detention and/or discrimination. Life in Lebanon is expensive, as basic services are not provided at minimum or no charge. As a result, refugees need physical protection, assistance for survival, and help to exercise their rights.

Most of the registered Iraqi refugees in Lebanon do not wish to return home, but may be compelled to do so if the authorities apply stricter policies towards them. At the same time, the unstable situation in some parts of Iraq may increase the number of asylum-seekers arriving from the country.

Within this context, UNHCR registers some 350 refugees per month and provides legal assistance to ensure all have access to due process and protection from arbitrary detention, in addition to providing health and educational assistance. Specific attention is paid to the most vulnerable, including women, children, older people, the disabled and those who are in detention. Some training and information-dissemination efforts are made and awareness-raising activities implemented; including on GBV, with mechanisms to help identifying this type of violence and assistance provided to those who are affected by it.

All the female Iraqi refugees who participated in the focus group discussions had attended seminars and lectures, as well as vocational training courses. It was evident they had clearly understood - thanks to UNHCR interventions - that GBV must be defined from a human-rights perspective as persecution and abuse. Nonetheless, with reference to their status as illegal immigrants/refugees and their arduous life conditions, 50 per cent of them justified the violence that men practiced as a result of pressure, particularly that "the refugee status of [all] Iraqi people, including men and women, is illegal in Lebanon". They all were of the opinion that violence and related legal discrimination affected men and women in Lebanon, and that even those laws directly relating to Iraqi women were not being applied. Thus, they regarded lack of enforcement of legislation the main barrier for their situation, in addition to the "more important" deteriorating economic and social context.

• Other international contributors

The following is a selection and examples of international contributors and initiatives.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and Oxfam Québec funded a programme for the elimination of VAW initiated by the Lebanese Women Democratic Gathering. Set up in 1993, the programme aimed at eliminating VAW by establishing listening centres to receive victimized women, and by providing social, psychological and legal consultancy with specialists.

In addition to counselling, legal and psychosocial services, other activities of the programme related to awareness-raising on GBV, targeting pupils and students in schools

and universities; and to capacity-building training and sensitization meetings, targeting both men and women through the use of such interactive techniques as psychodrama. The programme was grounded in values of respecting professional confidentiality and the free choice and decision of the beneficiaries, and of providing a service at no charge.

The initiative on *Engaging Men and Boys in the Fight against Violence* implemented by KAFA “Enough Violence and Exploitation” was also financially supported by Oxfam.

European donor governments and organizations - including France, Italy and the Netherlands, together with the European Union (EU), as well as partners in the United States of America and Canada, are financially and technically supporting a series of programmes and initiatives.

A programme targeting domestic violence has, since 1996, been run by the Najdeh Association. Najdeh has established communication with local NGOs to develop cooperation in the context of its domestic violence project, including for services, training and awareness-raising. The programme targets Palestinian refugees and NGOs working among these communities, and aims to eliminate VAW in the camps and their surrounding environment. Coverage includes all Palestinian camps in Lebanon with the exception of Dbayeh. Initially targeting reproductive health, the programme subsequently was developed and strengthened to include the domain of domestic violence with the following objectives:

- a) increasing knowledge about the effects of violence on the community;
- b) decreasing tolerance of violence as an acceptable way of solving problems;
- c) increasing utilization of social and psychological counselling services and appropriate referrals for legal aid and medical treatment;
- d) reinforcing capacities and skills of Palestinian female refugees, as well as of relevant national and international organizations, to address domestic violence.

EU funds are supporting such NGOs as the Community of Maryam and Martha and KAFA “Enough Violence and Exploitation”. EU financed also a situation analysis related to gender equality and GBV conducted in 2008 by NCLW in the context of the *Euro-Med Gender Equality Programme*. This assessment was implemented as part of the follow-up of the recommendations of the Istanbul Ministerial Conference in 2006.

III. Services



Most of the work on GBV is concentrated within the

sectors of civil society and NGOs. In addition to the comprehensive mapping prepared in the context of this *Situation Analysis*, which included assessing 13 organizations¹⁴⁷, direct contact with responsible personnel was carried out in order to collect accurate information. The mapping, presented in detail in annex 5, section 5.2, confirms such organizations are represented throughout most governorates, deliver a package of many different services, and have multiple sources of local and international funding.

The findings of the assessment related to the services provided by the surveyed organizations have been categorized under the following headings: framework, approach and intervention.

A. FRAMEWORK

• Objectives

Among the 13 NGOs surveyed, a great diversity was registered in terms of their goals and objectives, including the following:

- (a) ensuring care, protection and security of women GBV survivors and their families;
- (b) improving mental, physical and social well-being of women GBV survivors, with an aim to also eliminate VAW;
- (c) contributing to the achievement of gender equality and non-discrimination, and to the advancement of human rights of women and children;
- (d) eradicating all forms of GBV and exploitation of women and children through awareness-raising and advocating for legal reform and change of policies and practices, influencing public opinion, and empowering women and children;
- (e) improving life conditions of female survivors of domestic violence, and increasing their independence through socio-economic empowerment to provide beneficiaries with income generation and job opportunities.

• Forms of violence addressed

Direct aid was provided to women survivors of every form of GBV, including physical, psychological, economical, social, legal or sexual, and assistance provided to their families. Interventions also covered child sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking in women.

• Beneficiaries

Services provided targeted the following groups:

- (a) women and girls subject to violence and abuse;
- (b) women and girls in vulnerable situations, including women prisoners, women and girls in prostitution and exploitation, female sex workers, and delinquent girls aged 12-18;
- (c) specific groups of women, including Palestinian and Iraqi refugees, and migrant workers;

- (d) lone or abandoned women, neglected elderly, and delinquent youth;
- (e) disadvantaged persons without social security or medical coverage;
- (f) men and boys engaged in the fight against GBV¹⁴⁸.

• Geographical coverage

Programmes and interventions covered, among others, the governorates of Beirut, North and Bekaa; the cities and towns of Tyre, Saida, Tripoli, Zahle and Baalbek; the urban districts of Dahyeh, Zouk, Bourj Hammoud, Al Nabaa and Baabda; as well as the Horshtabet prison in Sin el-Fil, Governorate of Mount Lebanon.

• Service providers

Service providers included, among others, the following professionals:

- (a) physicians from various disciplines, including forensic, to document and report evidence of exposure to domestic violence;
- (b) psychologists, psychotherapists and psychiatrists;
- (c) lawyers, on a voluntary basis, specialized in cases of family violence and able to represent women victims in court when needed;
- (d) social workers.

• Structures

Services were provided in various settings, including clinics and dispensaries, health and social centres and specialized counselling clinics. In addition, some NGOs provided shelters to ensure protection of GBV survivors and victims of other forms of violence and their relatives in case of true or potential danger. Even though limited in number, some offered refuge to persons of both sexes, all religions, all ages, races and nationalities. Some institutions catered for youth in juvenile protection units.

B. APPROACH

• Types of services

The work of a civil society organization engaged in fighting GBV/VAW can be summarized in provision of access to an array of services and supportive networks. The organization can represent a safe haven, where women receive counselling, medical attention, legal help and career orientation; while also providing a protective environment for a clear reflection of the self and the opportunity and support to reclaim self-respect. With regard to the services offered by the associations and organizations surveyed, it was noted that many of the components of GBV fell in a wide variety of areas, ranging from medical, psychological and social, to legal, vocational and financial, some of which are briefly described as follows¹⁴⁹:

1. Medical care

The medical care provided by the NGOs surveyed

consisted in curative, preventative and community medicine, including psychiatric services. Free forensic services were offered, while other medical care was provided at a minimum fee, with referral of beneficiaries to collaborating partners.

2. Socio-psychological support

The socio-psychological support extended by the surveyed organizations included psychological counselling and follow-up, and psychotherapy. In addition, counselling services comprised group therapy, individual counselling with psychologists, and support groups for survivors of domestic violence. Such support groups, facilitated by specialized psychotherapists in a confidential location, were open to women who were, or had been in an abusive relationship, and designed to help survivors to look more clearly at, and make decisions about their relationship and situation.

Some counselling was provided through interactive websites containing information on available services, as well as advice on how women can protect themselves, what to do in cases of abandoning the family home, and how to react in emergency situations.

Follow-up services included psychosocial services through interventions with family members, and follow-up on social, individual and family levels through domestic visits; or, as the case may be, with schools through a specialized social worker coordinating with teachers and principal. Supportive interventions also aimed at strengthening solidarity among family members and working with individuals to promote autonomy.

3. Hotline support

A number of NGOs maintained a continuous supportive and follow-up relationship by telephone through 24/7 hotlines in cases of emergency, and also for providing information, consultation and referral.

4. Legal services

A small number of the surveyed organizations offered legal assistance and consultations for individuals and families, with referral of severe cases.

5. Shelters

Some of the NGOs provided referrals and secure shelters for women in need. Other organizations benefited from this network for their target beneficiaries.

6. Socio-economic support

Many NGOs employed social workers to ensure support and individual follow-up for their target population. Some of the organizations which offered legal support provided monetary assistance to a limited number of beneficiaries with dire financial circumstances; thus, covering all, or part of the legal and court fees. Others offered direct support in the form of daily food provision.

C. INTERVENTION

• Self-empowerment

With the aim to strengthening the role of women in society and family and providing comprehensive care, the surveyed organizations strived to enhance the abilities of survivors in decision-making and communication, and to contribute to their empowerment and general self-esteem through, among others, drama therapy. Women were empowered to regain their dignity, develop their potential and discover better alternatives to life.

Young women and girls at risk were enabled to develop their potential and consolidate their identity to act for change in their environment and their personality through psychological support for better balance and more suitable choices. Young people were also helped to overcome 'crisis of adolescence' and move into healthy adulthood by taking on responsibility.

• Capacity-building

The capacity-building activities implemented by the surveyed civil society organizations targeted the women survivors of GBV themselves, as well as the various service providers. These activities could be summarized as follows:

- education and technical training tailored for those unable to continue their schooling due to challenging family background;
- training of women in languages, awareness on their rights, and recreational activities;
- educational services, including night learning sessions for girls;
- vocational training and classes, including courses leading to certificate/diploma after successful completion;
- social monitoring through education of parents/family members on their role to facilitate reintegration into the family unit after absence/detention;
- lectures and seminars at universities and other academic institutions for frontline personnel, including medical doctors, nurses, police and security officers, lawyers, social workers, activists and staff of human rights and women's rights organizations.

• Advocacy, awareness-raising and sensitization

Objectives of the surveyed NGOs included promulgating a culture of acceptance, equality and understanding in order to reduce VAW and provide peace and harmony to the lives of abused women.

Interventions included sessions for women on GBV/VAW awareness and protection, as well as other related topics with an aim to increase knowledge of human rights and the rights of women and children, gender issues and reproductive health. Some NGOs held sensitization and awareness-raising sessions focusing on grassroots' education on domestic violence in private high schools.

Therapeutic, ergonomic and recreational activities implemented by a selected few NGOs comprised yoga, self-defence, tae kwon do, theatre, dance, music, piano, painting, pottery, nutrition, computer, religious involvement, sports competitions and cultural activities.

It is worth to note as best practice that a number of advocacy campaigns have been launched and implemented by a pro-active coalition of NGOs for the draft law on the protection of women from domestic violence.

IV. Knowledge, perceptions and experiences

A. FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS: OVERALL FINDINGS

When asked to describe GBV-related services, many participants in the focus group discussions were unable to identify clearly such services, or to distinguish them from programmes or other activities.

As is illustrated in Figure 11, 34 per cent highlighted mainly awareness-raising activities, sessions and seminars on VAW and other related issues in which they themselves had participated, with somewhat higher percentages recorded for participants in the governorates of Beirut and Mount Lebanon. Media programmes were identified by 27 per cent, whereas 20 per cent of the participants noted services.

While 11 per cent of the participants at national level reported they themselves had benefited from training sessions, the remaining 8 per cent were unaware of such programmes or other related activities.

GBV-related services identified by participants in focus group discussions

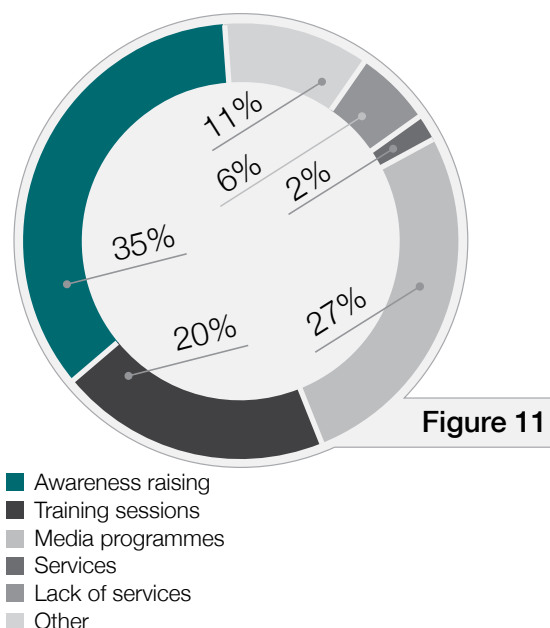


Figure 11

B. FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS: CATEGORIES AND TRENDS

Figure 12 illustrates the knowledge, perceptions and experiences as regards GBV/VAW and related issues recorded among participants of the focus group discussions; thus indicating the trends for each category of participants. A detailed presentation of responses for each governorate is attached in annex 5, section 5.4.

• Women

Among female community leaders, service providers and youth participating in the focus group discussions, the majority had benefited from attending psychological support groups and seminars on awareness-raising on VAW; and had obtained information from magazines, television programmes and other media channels on the rights of women - including election participation, and on other such issues as gender mainstreaming, health, disability and early marriage.

Other participants had attended professional, language or economic empowerment training. Literacy programmes had been well attended by participants in villages and rural areas, especially after the July 2006 war. Most participants were somewhat familiar with NGOs working on GBV/VAW and the programmes and services they provided. Some groups, as example Palestinian refugees in Al Badawi camp, were well aware of the work, activities and services provided by certain NGOs; however, many of these women themselves had not been able to benefit due to the geographical distance. They expressed their needs for programmes, particularly highlighting obvious shortages of relevant services in their geographical area. At the same time, they made reference to other difficulties preventing their involvement; as example, the husbands restricting their attendance.

It is worth to note that female focus groups in the South Governorate regarded women in villages and rural areas as having benefited to a greater degree from services and programmes than those living in larger town or cities, including Tyre. They also mentioned activities of the WEPASS project as having had significant impact on themselves and their lives.

The responses of participants among the category “most vulnerable women” are consistent with their reality, as illustrated in Figure 13. Migrant domestic workers and sex workers indicated having full knowledge of and/or benefited from these services. On the other hand, GBV survivors mentioned only awareness-raising activities and disregarded all other services and programmes.

GBV-related services identified by participants in focus group discussions

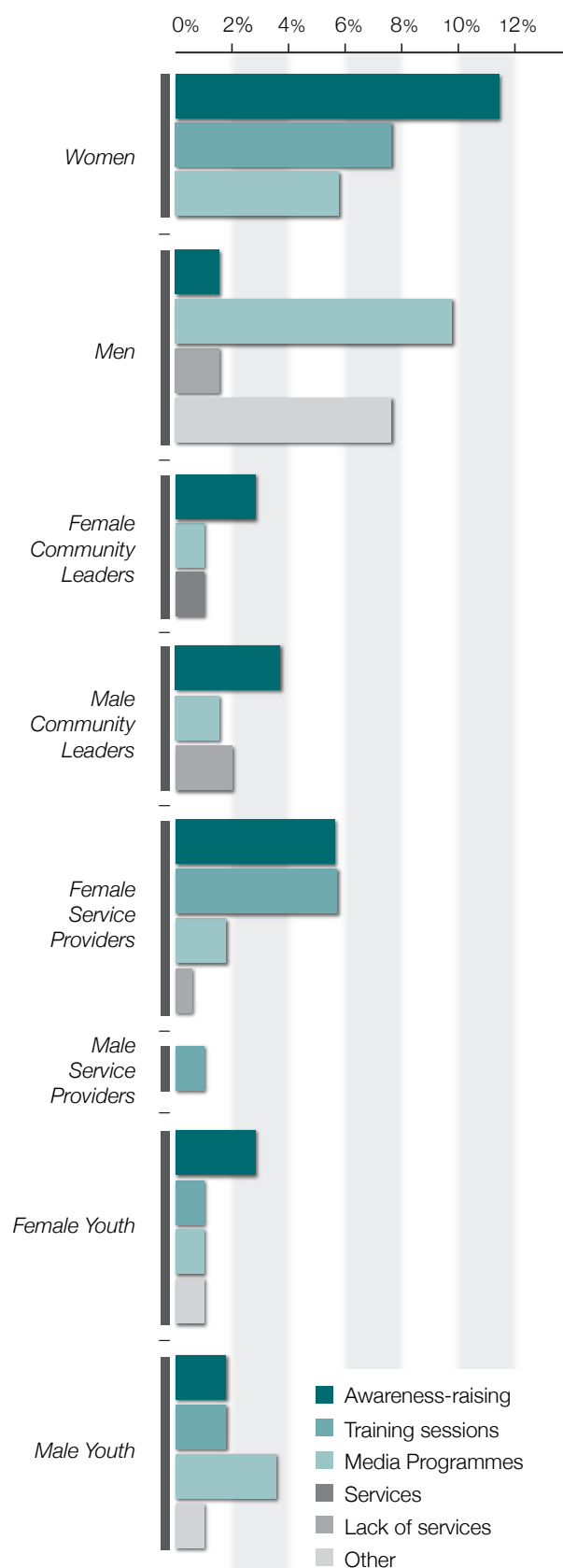
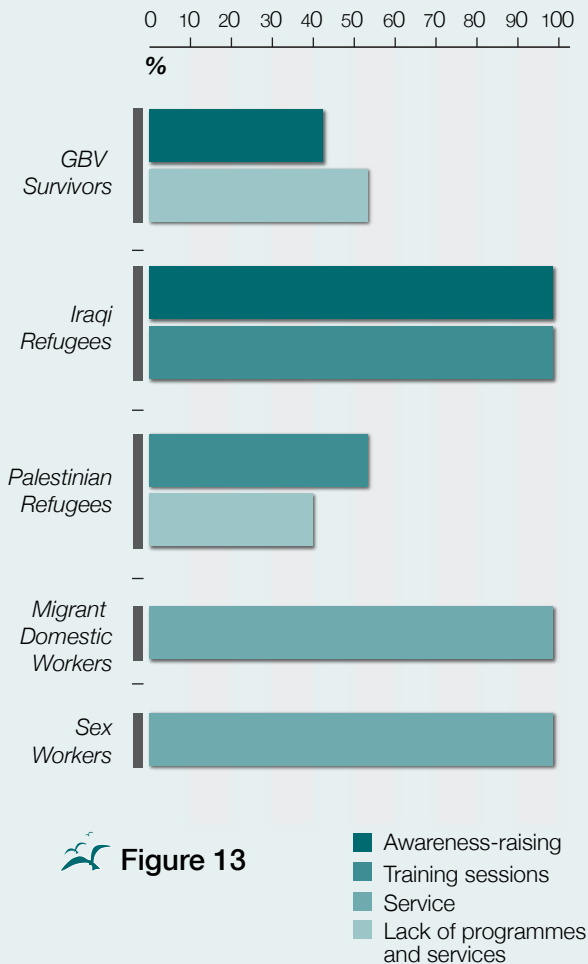


Figure 12

Awareness about GBV programmes and services among female participants



• Men

The majority of men in the various focus groups and in all geographic regions had heard about issues concerning GBV/VAW mainly through various media channels, including television commercials, advertising posters, and newspaper articles and advertisements. Some had attended religious gatherings, health seminars, political conferences or sport activities; however, many remarked that nothing had been presented on women's rights or VAW during such events. A significant number of male participants were familiar with the work of certain NGOs and with such programmes as direct services to female victims of violence and to children, as well as with some laws on such violence. On the other hand, men throughout almost all governorates declared that they, as males, were not being targeted. In their view, programmes were aimed at only women and children. Many male participants criticized this discrepancy and gap, at times identifying specific NGOs: "they don't invite us to any type of programme or activity on that topic; we hear about them in the media"; "no programmes related

to women issues or dedicated to VAW are targeting men"; and "programmes and associations target only women and children". Detailed responses for each governorate is attached in annex 5, section 5.4.

• Community leaders

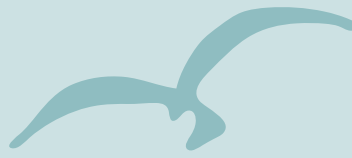
When sex-disaggregating the data on community leaders, certain general trends were observed, though male and female participants in this group held similar viewpoints concerning many issues. Certain parallels were also noted among the different governorates.

Female community leaders reported having attended awareness-raising seminars and programmes for youth and children of both sexes around health and various other issues, including human rights and violence. Training sessions held at schools on how to discipline pupils without violence, and on the integration of gender concepts in the national curricula were also mentioned. Particularly, activities to implement important changes to the curricula were reported in several governorates.

Both male and female community leaders declared having benefited from, or heard about professional training for women and for workers in front-line positions, including social workers, lawyers, judges and policemen. They also indicated familiarity with (a) programmatic interventions and psychological support, including listening therapy and counselling, to assist women and children affected by violence; (b) exploitation and trafficking, including migrant domestic workers; and (c) proposed amendment and development of relevant legislation, for example the draft law on the protection of women from domestic violence.

Social and religious programmes had been implemented for different social categories, including some minorities. They included the preparation of a project concerning awareness-raising with regard to rights issues and providing direct services to women survivors of domestic violence. Reference was also made to a study administered through the local municipalities regarding the needs of this community.

Some male community leaders were well informed on GBV issues, and a few also had been involved in the implementation of GBV programmes through support provided by local municipalities to concerned NGOs in the field. In the Governorate of Bekaa, "the municipality covers the rental for an association operating on VAW"; and in Aley, Governorate of Mount Lebanon, "we pay tribute to women's associations [and their] activities, they [are ...] very active in this area". An example of greater integration and participation of women in local administration was given by the mayor of Saida: "I employ 65 per cent women in [...] decision-making positions. First, it was problematic;[but] fortunately, people got more and more familiar with the idea of dealing with women, and conflicts between men and women [have] decreased."



Many participants quoted awareness-raising aimed at women, including on VAW; marriage contract and pre-marital guidance or orientation programmes among Christian communities; and seminars on CEDAW and human rights. Some mentioned also various programmes carried out among prisoners in detention centres. On the other hand, among male community leaders in the governorates of North, Nabatieh and South, not one mentioned a GBV/VAW programme or activity he himself had implemented or participated in, or specified a targeted activity related to women. They referred only to print media and television programmes, which they considered to be insufficient.

• Service providers

Though not true for every governorate, a great number of female service providers overall reported on direct services for female survivors of all ages of domestic violence. They included, in particular, psychological counselling and group therapy, legal assistance and social support, economic empowerment and professional training; awareness-raising and creation of associations and agricultural cooperatives in villages and rural areas; GBV/VAW training at schools and universities, and for front-line workers; and lobbying and advocacy through alliances to amend legislation and develop strategies in cooperation with concerned ministries. The social, sensitization and legal sessions targeted all women, with greater effort directed towards such marginalized categories as divorced or widowed, and to illiterate women who often ignore their rights. Detailed responses for each governorate are attached in annex 5, section 5.4.

Reservations were expressed by women service providers, in particular in the South Governorate: “programmes differ from one society to another according to the conditions of that society. There’s a fear from the way women projects are presented; thus, working on women’s issues has sometimes become [provocative]. As regards current programmes, they [either fail to] express women’s needs in the Lebanese society and don’t cope with our culture, or are projections of donors that sometimes lead to [eruption] in the society [...]”.

Some male services providers mentioned health services in general, and such interventions specifically targeting women as confidence-building and empowerment to face violence, workshops for female victims of violence, and awareness-raising for women and children. Others reported that services and programmes in their regions focused mainly on projects and activities implemented by institutions working with youth: “at the youth centre, we work with them on activities that have nothing to do with women”; and on improving overall living conditions, including economic empowerment, literacy, health awareness for men and hygiene. A few respondents denied any existing programme or service - this despite all participants having attended training on human rights of women as part of their participation in respective focus group.

Professional and economic empowerment training was considered by many service providers more important than programmes addressing VAW directly. They thought it was better to be “working on improving the conditions that cause violence and that force women, in most cases, to accept violence within the marital home”.

If the goal is to contribute to the advancement of women in general, including their economic empowerment, it is essential to eliminate GBV. Reducing its causes to mere ‘economic autonomy’ reflects avoidance in the response, particularly from service providers who do have a role to play within their own profession and as social actors.

• Youth

Young people, girls and boys aged between 14 and 19 years, participated in the focus group discussions. Some young female participants had attended awareness-raising sessions on such social issues as participation of women in elections and political decision-making and their right to pass on nationality to their spouse and children, as well as seminars on VAW. A few young females referred to other sources and channels of information, especially the media, including advertising and poster campaigns and television programmes, in addition to textbooks used in social studies and civics education which tackle these issues.

Some young participants declared they had not been faced with issues related to GBV/VAW. Among the comments recorded during focus group discussions in Aley, Governorate of Mount Lebanon, are the following: “in civics [classes at school] we raise social issues, but not related to women”; “we participated in seminars on sexual harassment of girls”; and “we aren’t exposed to violence; maybe it exists, but we are not exposed to it”. In comparison, none of the female participants in Beirut reported having participated in any activity on VAW or on the rights of women.

It is worth to note that the gender gap in terms of knowledge related to programmes and services is not very wide, at least qualitatively. Male youth in most governorates had participated in seminars and awareness-raising sessions on various social issues, including VAW and first aid; while others - a greater ratio than that of their female counterparts - had received information from the media. A large number of girls in the governorates of Beirut and Mount Lebanon reported never having attended events or activities on VAW or women’s rights; however, they followed up on the issue through advertising and poster campaigns and television programmes. Those in the Governorate of Beirut reported having been much affected by popular songs.

Some of the young females in Aley, Governorate of Mount Lebanon, reported their participation in a research group on the VAW issue. In the South Governorate, young participants, both male and female, expressed their lack of knowledge and awareness of these issues, except for one participant who had done research on GBV/VAW.

Among the participants, there were some young female volunteers working for a children's rights organization. They reported that, prior to these focus group discussions, they had never participated in any activity or programme dedicated to GBV/VAW, which raised a number of questions about the effectiveness of the programmes offered by that particular NGO. On the other hand, they said they were familiar with women's associations dedicated to training and awareness-raising programmes in their areas, but maintained that their age group was not targeted—this despite the fact they themselves were members of an association aimed at protecting the rights of children. When asked how knowledgeable a young female who had never participated in any associative work would be, they said that women “should know their rights”, though “I, myself, know nothing about my rights”. Of note is that one young male participant mentioned that KAFA worked on human rights issues of women and VAW. He had learned about this through participating in a Y-peer activity with UNFPA, but he himself had taken part in activities on environmental issues, not issues concerning GBV/VAW.

In preparation for the discussions held with youth focus groups in the South Governorate - due to difficulty of understanding, or possibly a degree of resistance when facing sensitive issues - the questions were reformulated to elicit a minimum of answers. Examples include: “Did you hear of anyone in your environment, or do you know through the media about women suffering from violence?” If a positive answer was given, follow-up questions would be asked: “What did she do? Did she go to the police [...]?” Then, more general questions on programmes and services would be asked: “Have you heard about a programme or a training session where women participate? Where? What sort of training?”

These focus group discussions held in the South Governorate and elsewhere were often the first time young people were to learn about VAW and human rights issues of women.

C. INTERVIEWS: OVERALL RESULTS

Interview sessions were held with a number of stakeholders and professionals working in the field. According to their representatives, 87.5 per cent¹⁵⁰ of the organizations surveyed - including government institutions, NGOs and international agencies - were implementing GBV/VAW-related programmes and projects as per respective objective and scope of work. Exceptions among government institutions included the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Information, neither of which has any related programmes - the reason being the topic was “not among the priorities” of the respective sector. Figure 14 shows the proportion of institutions conducting programmes and activities on GBV/VAW.

Proportion of institutions conducting GBV programmes

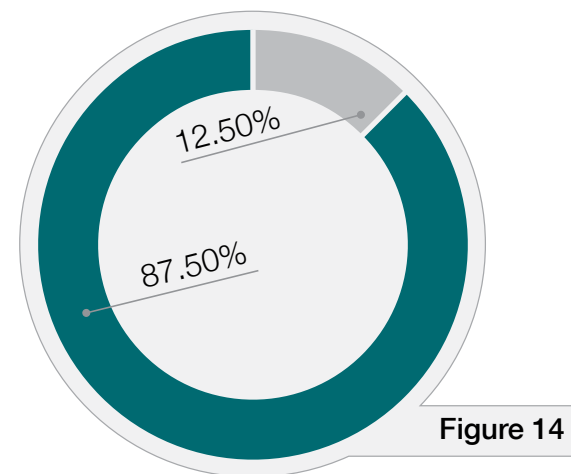


Figure 14

- Programme being conducted at time of survey
- No programme being conducted at time of survey

The interventions proposed during the interview sessions by the selected stakeholders and professionals are summarized as follows:

- (a) amendment and/or drafting of legislation relating to women's rights, including the draft law on the protection of women from domestic violence, the nationality code on equal rights of men and women to pass on their citizenship to their spouse and children, and the labour law to contain provisions for migrant women - suggested by 32 per cent of the interviewees;
- (b) research and studies relating to issues of VAW/GBV - proposed by 44 per cent;
- (c) training of local organizations, gender focal points, social workers and health staff, police and judiciary, and teachers and educational counsellors on issues related to VAW/GBV and its various forms, including sexual violence and harassment, and trafficking in women - advocated by 62.5 per cent.

Additional proposals and suggestions focused on legal information and assistance regarding the rights of women and children; gender mainstreaming; CEDAW reporting, including ‘shadow reporting’; reproductive health and the incorporation of GBV in such health services; measurement and analysis on gender and gender gaps; and gender-responsive budgeting.

Figure 15 shows the distribution of proposals within the broader areas of legislation, research and training. Of note is that some interviewees contributed more than one intervention or suggestion.

GBV strategic interventions proposed by key stakeholders

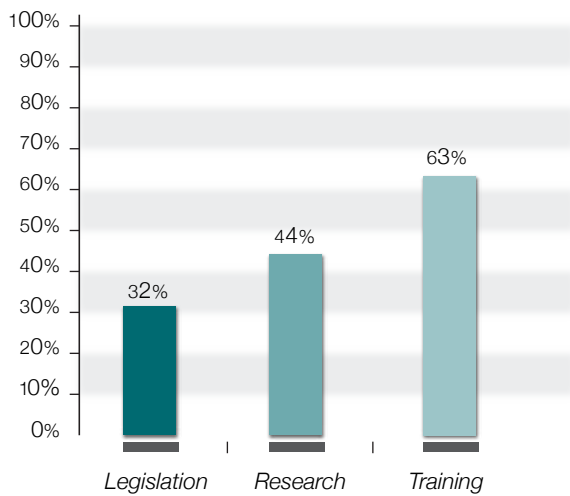


Figure 15

D. INTERVIEWS: CATEGORIES, TRENDS AND SPECIFIC INTERVENTIONS

Many of the interviewees reported and corroborated additional information and confirmed other statements previously assessed in this Report as regards activities, support and/or various sources of funding of their respective organization.

Figure 16 covers specific interventions proposed by the key stakeholders, and illustrates the proportional balance between services, on the one hand, and advocacy and networking, on the other.

GBV-specific interventions proposed by key stakeholders

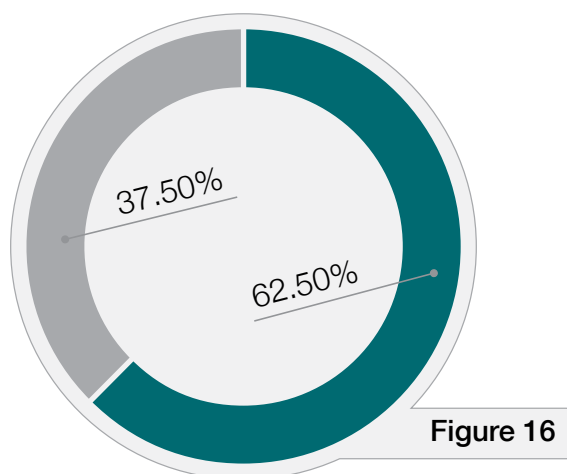


Figure 16

■ Services
■ Advocacy and networking

• Presidency of the Council of Ministers

The draft law on the protection of women from domestic violence under Decree 4116 of May 28, 2010 was referred by the Government to Parliament for amendment.

• Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform

EU, through the management of OMSAR, financed the following three associations within the framework of the AFKAR programme:

- (a) the Lebanese Council to Resist Violence against Women (LECORVAW), which provides direct services to women survivors of violence in Beirut and collaborates on the draft law on VAW, targeting women and service providers;
- (b) KAFA “Enough Violence and Exploitation”, which, together with 19 partners among other civil society organizations, collaborates on the draft law on the protection of women from domestic violence, targeting all social groups;
- (c) the National Committee for the Follow-Up on Women Issues (CFUWI), which, in partnership with ECRD, promotes awareness-raising on GBV through education and the image of women in school curricula; implements training sessions for individuals and professionals in both private and public sectors; and conducts studies and research related to GBV in school curricula targeting educators and students.

• Educational Center for Research and Development

ECRD works in partnership with United Nations agencies, civil society organizations and community associations on programmes related to VAW, especially to reform school curricula, targeting pupils and students, children and youth.

• Directorate General of the Internal Security Forces

The Directorate General of the Internal Security Forces targets all social groups, in particular women migrant workers. Various stakeholders are working towards a unified labour contract, and to amend legislation relating to migrant workers in cooperation with the Internal Security Forces, the Ministry of Labour and Caritas Migrant Center, as well as representatives of concerned embassies and ILO. A project and accompanying booklet is being prepared on defining the rights and obligations of female migrant workers.

In addition, a project on domestic violence focusing on law enforcement through prosecution is being implemented in partnership with KAFA “Enough Violence and Exploitation”. The main services are advocacy and support for GBV/VAW survivors. In partnership with and

sponsored by World Vision, a project on training and awareness-raising on human-trafficking issues has been set up to target Internal Security Forces personnel.

• Ministry of Justice

The Ministry of Justice collaborated on the development of the *Arab Strategy to Fight Violence against Women* with the Arab Women Organization in Cairo. During the planning workshop organized in 2010, such issues as partnership, prevention, safety and protection, and legislation and legal procedures, as well as studies and research, were discussed, in addition to regional networking for advocacy. The Ministry presented suggestions and interventions for Lebanon.

The Ministry also participated in the consultation process related to the elaboration and adoption of the draft law on the protection of women from domestic violence, subsequently presented to the Council of Ministers and Parliament for ratification. This project was supported by EU and OMSAR.

• National Commission for Lebanese Women

The WEPASS project, described in part II, was developed by NCLW and initially funded by the Government of Norway, and subsequently supported by the Italian Government and the Lebanon Recovery Fund through UNFPA. The project targets women, community associations and civil society organizations in the South, North, Bekaa and Mount Lebanon governorates. The project adopted an original approach to operationalize the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, focusing on women empowerment at the personal, social, political and economic levels through decision making, reproductive health, GBV and participation in peacemaking.

Moreover, NCLW is working under the United Nations standards of gender equality to provide related training and collaborate with the Ministry of Finance for the preparation of a gender national budget. Resources need to be mobilized to provide training to concerned ministries on gender mainstreaming and budgeting to respond to the needs of both women and men.

• United Nations Population Fund

In 2003, UNFPA supported development and testing of training manuals targeting service providers in the health sector. The aim was to reinforce their skills and capacities in dealing with GBV in the development primary health care centres affiliated to the Ministry of Public Health. In 2008 - 2009, UNFPA developed a partnership with the Ministry for the development of reproductive health service delivery guidelines that address, among others, the need to mainstream GBV aspects in reproductive health issues.

In 2006, and as part of the immediate post-war response initiatives, UNFPA supported a study/rapid-needs

assessment on the requirements of women and girls in terms of protection in the areas affected by the July 2006 war, mainly in six southern regions and the Beirut southern suburbs.

In 2007, and through funding by the Government of Italy, UNFPA initiated a nationwide project on VAW that aimed at developing an evidence-based operational framework for preventing and responding to GBV/VAW. Selected activities are mentioned are listed as follows:

- (a) undertaking of a review of GBV/VAW publications, including around 100 published documents and academic research papers;
- (b) undertaking of a media study, focusing on VAW coverage and content, and on related gender issues;
- (c) undertaking of a review of all reference and training resources on GBV/VAW;
- (d) undertaking of a situation analysis on VAW.

Since November 2008, UNFPA has been supporting the implementation of a project which aims at improving institutional/sectoral and legal frameworks and systems that guarantee prevention of, protection from and response to GBV at the national level. The project was launched through a series of consultative and technical meetings with various relevant stakeholders in 2009, which resulted in developing a GBV PoA, including key priorities, to be supported by UNFPA and implemented by various pertinent entities. The undertaking of this Situation Analysis Report, commissioned in 2010, is one of several interventions within this project.

A nationwide project on reproductive health targeting youth in local communities will mainstream GBV issues through training and awareness-raising sessions.

V. Analysis of available programmes and services



Although limited as regards the number of contacted NGOs compared to existing ones, as is detailed in the mapping and attached in annex 5, and the total number of participants participating in the focus groups¹⁵¹, the summary of their responses and comments presented in part IV shows that the components of the GVB services delivered in the various centres throughout Lebanon are universal. They reflect the GBV understanding as conceptualized globally in the international standards, including MDGs; and in relation to human rights, including health and reproductive rights.

GBV is seen as a violation of human rights that needs advocacy, legal procedures and sensitization of communities. It supports marginalized and victimized population - specifically women and girls, focusing

on their capacity needs and providing them access to services available in all the geographical areas of Lebanon.

The literature on reproductive health considers GBV as a major disruption to physical, reproductive and mental health of women and girls. Available services are trying to address GBV through a comprehensive approach, looking at the bio-psychosocial aspects in order to provide survivors with the essential care. The fact that these services are coupled with legal and advocacy activities within the human-rights perspective will undoubtedly strengthen the services and the stand of GBV organizations vis-à-vis global expectations and those of MDGs.

An analysis of the components of GBV-related existing services is presented under the following headings: scope, target, content, funding and impact.

A. SCOPE

The existing GBV services cover nearly every geographical area of Lebanon - including Beirut, Mount Lebanon, North, South and Bekaa - and are located in central cities and towns, as well as in other accessible locations. It is important to note that this kind of distribution represents a national network to reach all survivors of VAW.

At the same time, such services provide appropriate assistance and support for women and girls. By being geographically diverse, service providers and organizations can also collaborate and exchange information on various regional issues even if, at this stage, they are not sufficient to cover all unmet needs. This gap may, in part, stem from a culture of silence and fear to speak out about GBV/VAW of women through life cycle; and a failure to reach all concerned target groups, including men and youth.

During the validation meeting of this *Situation Analysis*, held in October 2010, the CAWTAR team members and other GBV-relevant stakeholders confirmed the presence of NGOs throughout the country; however, they also stressed the lack of coordination and the uneven coverage and distribution of services. The impact of this imbalance is unmet needs in some areas, districts and governorates, due to the presence of multiple contributors in one location and their total absence in others.

B. TARGET

Services and other kinds of interventions provided by the organizations surveyed targeted two types of population:

- (a) the primary target was female victims and survivors of violence and abuse, including girls under 18 and women in various conditions of life and status - sex workers being one example;

- (b) the secondary target covered schools and the community through sensitization and awareness-raising on such topics as human rights, core values and GBV problems.

C. CONTENT

Related to the vibrant ongoing debate around GBV locally and internationally is the variety and wide range in the content of services provided by many of the mapped NGOs. This diversity reflects a deep understanding of the issue of GBV and the need for applying a comprehensive approach towards service delivery and implementation. The content of services provided by these NGOs includes the following:

• Legal assistance and related services

Legal assistance is provided by specialized lawyers in order to help survivors obtain legal protection and legal immunity. It is usually offered free of charge by the organization or, at times, in a voluntary manner by the lawyer him/herself.

• Health services

Health services cover medical consultation, assessment and evaluation of general and reproductive-health outcomes due to violence. Assistance also includes necessary treatment and referral to assigned centres. At times, this may be handled under the supervision of a forensic doctor, particularly if the GBV survivor requires medical evidence in order to file a complaint or take legal action.

• Psychosocial counselling and listening therapy

Psychologists and counsellors provide GBV survivors with effective support through different techniques, including listening therapy. Moreover, female GBV survivors are offered education and awareness-raising on their rights; and capacity-building and skills training on how to cope with, and avoid situations leading to violence, as well as on how to deal with marital and family conflicts. In addition, drama therapy, recreational activities and social events are used to provide psychosocial support for GBV survivors. The most important, and also most frequently offered, service among the mapped NGOs is psychosocial counselling.

• Outreach and capacity-building

Outreach activities address communities to educate and raise awareness on the definition, prevalence and scope of the GBV problem, aiming to sensitize people and mobilize them against GBV as a basic violation of human rights. Other services include vocational training to strengthen self-esteem and the economic status of women, as well as building their capacities to make them less vulnerable to GBV - an approach that captures the MDG targets.

Capacity-building interventions target also organizations

to allow them to screen, prevent and detect early on any possible situations amenable to GBV. At the same time, they will be able to monitor post-management/counselling cases in the community.

• Helpline

Some organizations, including KAFA “Enough Violence and Exploitation”, Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA) and LECORVAW, operate 24/7 hotline services to offer support, assistance and reassurance to women and girls. This type of service can be a crucial component in establishing a sustainable and reliable professional relation between the organization/centre and the victim/survivor, mainly in relation to security, safety and privacy. Survivors can contact the centres for urgent complaints, reporting and consultation, or in the case of them being in acute danger¹⁵².

• Shelter

In an effort to ensure comprehensive care, organizations like LECORVAW and KAFA “Enough Violence and Exploitation” operate shelters to guarantee temporary safe housing for victims, and protect them from violence during the management of the conflict. It is a multidisciplinary service requiring housing, counselling, treatment and means of capacity-building, vocational training and social ‘reintegration’. Based on demand and resources, this service can be supported and strengthened with locations added to accommodate survivors in need.

D. FUNDING

In general, organizations depend on two main sources of financial support; international donors and local funders. International donors include – among others - United Nations agencies, EU, CIDA, Oxfam and sister organizations or partners in North American and European countries. Usually, these funds are limited by the time frame of the programme, project or activity. Local funding is often administered through the Ministry of Social Affairs, which also funds most shelters, or through local philanthropic foundations and/or private donations. Other means include agreements or memorandums of understanding with health centres, laboratories, professionals, food suppliers and others to provide services or expertise free of charge or at low cost.

The issue of sustainability of funding remains crucial and is determined by several political, technical and service factors. In this regard, institutionalizing GBV services in concerned health and social centres and units will undoubtedly ensure better sustainability and funding through government resources.

E. IMPACT

Measuring impact when it comes to such a complex issue as GBV/VAW is not an easy task; however, there are a few ‘soft’ indicators that can provide some

feedback on the effect of the work on GBV. For instance, national debates, forums and discussions on issues of GBV in various media and policy channels are more frequent. These activities have played an important role in advocating for GBV prevention and eradication, and in disseminating it widely in the community. They increase sensitivity of various people and sectors to GBV; and the reach is even greater, since the GBV survivors themselves are also informed on the available services and encouraged to speak out and ask for help.

It is worth to note that, despite the scarcity of specific programmes or activities targeting men or youth, they are enough informed as a result of active media GBV treatment, even though they are claiming more involvement.

GBV issues are increasingly prevalent in various forms of awareness-raising or discussion in public spheres and institutions, and at domestic level - the climax of which is the draft law on the protection of women from domestic violence presented to Parliament. The best indicator is that, in nearly all of the governorates, many participants had heard about this draft law or had themselves participated in the lobbying and/or advocacy for interventions for its adoption.

VI. Conclusions and recommendations



A. CONCLUSIONS

There are close to ten organizations in the civil society sector and three or four institutions in the public sector that are working to provide comprehensive services for GBV survivors, as well as addressing the Lebanese community at large. Although the early efforts on women’s rights started by the work of female activists and women’s rights groups in the 1970s and 80s, the momentum was decelerated by civil unrest in 1975 - 1990.

During the 1990s - with the beginning of the collaboration between the Government of Lebanon and United Nations agencies, namely UNFPA through a project on reproductive health - the issue of GBV received further attention and more local organizations became engaged in the fight against GBV/VAW. Indeed, as the international debate increased the visibility and importance of GBV, the local civil society was able to echo similar discussions. This momentum contributed to deconstructing the issue of VAW, and facilitated activities addressing such issues as women’s rights, their legal and policy status, services and research.

The early efforts to include GBV services in primary health care were not very encouraging, with over 50 per cent of health-care providers rejecting this idea. In fact, most



of them believed that GBV was not their direct concern as a 'public health issue'. This was confirmed in 2010, during the research of this *Situation Analysis*, by some service providers in the focus groups who considered that 'economic activities' were of greater importance to women than addressing GBV. This 'understandable' response can be related to the silent culture around GBV and VAW, which is totally lacking in the curricula and training of health-care providers, as well as in the society as a whole - without forgetting the fact that both male and female service providers are engaged in the gender dynamic also as individuals and social actors.

This could be one of the reasons that led several NGOs to house GBV services and their delivery within a package of social/health/medical and other related services. Although the role of these service-based NGOs is vital in dealing with the consequences of GBV, it remains unclear to what extent such services are able to screen and prevent GBV incidence. This is a burden that could have been curbed by health-care providers, who are expected to screen for and investigate GBV among women who visit clinics and primary health-care centres for regular medical consultation and/or follow-up.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS

As described in part II of this chapter, there are several ongoing programmes and services addressing various aspects of the GBV burden, but many of the right holders do not know how and where to seek help and treatment¹⁵³. Besides the constitutional, legislative and social aspects of GBV, the aspect of service provision to VAW survivors, their follow-up and referral should receive ample attention. Recommendations on this issue could be regrouped in two main areas; under GBV mainstreaming and improvement, and as part of introducing behavioural change.

• Mainstreaming and improving gender-based services

Delivery of GBV services is basically a political and cultural issue, and it remains clouded by the controversies of the existing political system in Lebanon, in addition to the prevailing attitudes of the health system and health-care providers. A laborious transformation is needed at the level of public services, including ministries and other institutions that adopt a gender-based approach within a human-rights framework.

Assigning and strengthening specialized centres on specific GBV issues among different NGOs and in various regions of Lebanon is a worthy consideration. This will compile resources and offer dedicated services which, thus, will be linked to a network of hospitals, counselling centres and schools. These services will include training in such fields as obstetrics/gynaecology, psychiatry, psychology, trauma, forensic care and nursing. In coordination with such key decision makers as the ministries of justice, interior and social affairs, this endeavour will ensure a comprehensive approach in addressing and realizing the needs, protection and security of GBV survivors, as well as their social reintegration within the community. These links are illustrated in the multisectoral model presented in Figure 17¹⁵⁴.

Service delivery in the area of GBV entails a number of main tasks, steps and orientations to be taken. They can be accomplished through the following actions:

- (a) protect: adopt a multisectoral approach;
- (b) respond: provide and/or refer survivors to basic and lifesaving services to meet the needs of survivors and realize their rights;
- (c) prevent: implement effective strategies, protect the vulnerable and end impunity for perpetrators;

Figure 7: Multisectoral model: Links between key decision makers, service providers and GBV survivor



(d) coordinate: bring together various levels and actions.

In conflict, post-conflict and peace situations coordination is the key denominator and involves the following interventions:

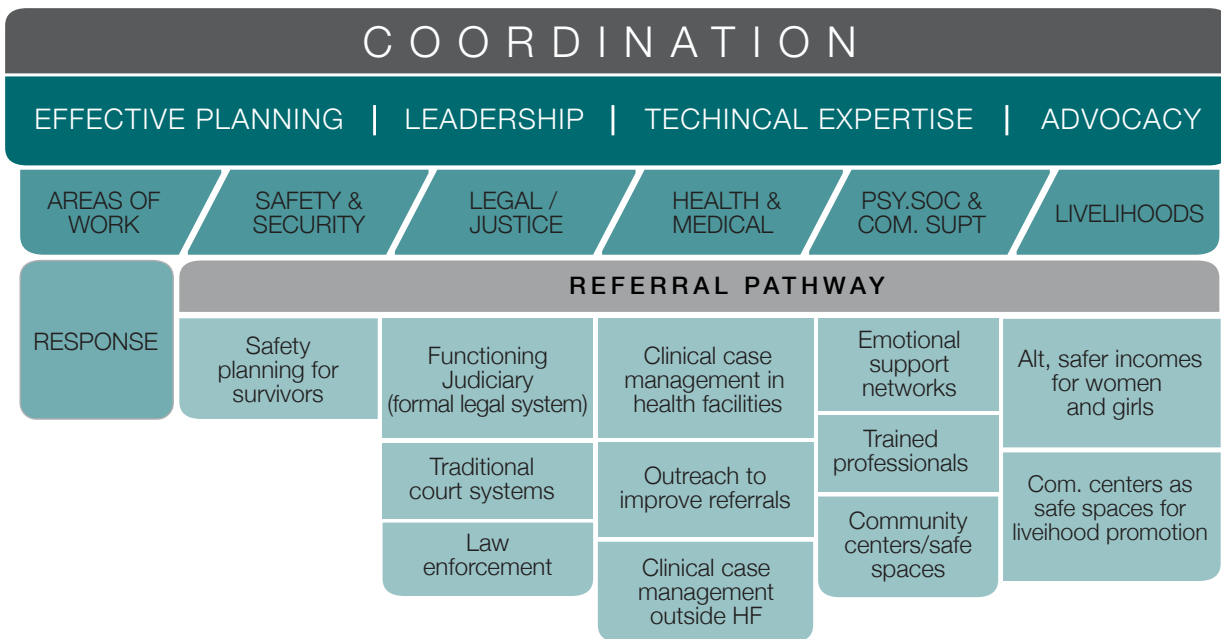
- (a) multisectoral coordinated action among government institutions, NGOs and the private sector;
- (b) community involvement;
- (c) mutual accountability.

Some specific actions could be quoted, among them the following:

- (a) identify needs and raise funds;
- (b) ensure sphere standards are disseminated and monitor adherence;
- (c) inform stakeholders on the nature and extent of GBV;
- (d) advocate on behalf of communities for protection from GBV.

An alternative model could be proposed to build coordination¹⁵⁵, as presented in Figure 18.

Figure 8: Coordination



• Initiating behavioural change for equality and human rights

Despite invested time and efforts by the Government of Lebanon on integrating or introducing the gender concept in national planning, frameworks, strategies and programmes, the impact and outcome remain feeble. A few focal points on gender are present in some ministries and public administrations; however, though the exact impact of their role has not been assessed, it is limited due to the absence of clear terms of reference and prerogatives. The expectation of the assessment of these gender focal points, to be carried out by UNDAF-GWG, is high as regards the evaluation of their current status and the future reinforcement of their role.

In addition to gender institutionalization, a culture around the gender concept and human rights needs to be cultivated at home, in schools and at places of work

in order to truly impact and galvanize efforts towards reducing sex- and gender-based discrimination and VAW, and in dealing with the GBV burden. A ray of hope lies in the forthcoming school-based curriculum on gender-sensitive life skills reproductive health education supported by UNFPA. The curriculum includes teaching material on reproductive health from a gender and human rights perspective.

More efforts should be invested also on media roles and interventions, based on their significant impact as demonstrated in the focus group discussions through the majority of responses recorded in nearly every governorate and among all groups of stakeholders, particularly male participants.



CHAPTER SEVEN CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD



I. Conclusions

“Across the world - in rich and poor countries alike - women are being beaten, trafficked, raped and killed. These human rights abuses not only inflict great harm and suffering on individuals - they tear at the fabric of entire societies. The world is responding. We see a growing global momentum to stop violence against women.”¹⁵⁶

The weak and slow achievements are recognized by all concerned stakeholders and their partners, including international organizations. All emphasize the need to collaborate for, and enable steady progress towards gender equality and empowerment of women, particularly the United Nations Organization and affiliated agencies. Indeed, narrowing the gender gap between males and females in access to opportunities at the political, economic and social levels will contribute to better realizing a basic human right and the achievement of MDG 3: “Promote gender equality and empower women”. As for Lebanon, the situation of women in the country is one of great contrast. On the one hand, there is broad empowerment of women in education and active participation in various social, economic and cultural areas; while, on the other hand, women experience sharp discrimination in family codes, as well as a striking delay in political participation.

In Lebanon, serious gaps continue to exist in the legal framework and related practices for the physical protection of women. In particular, women rarely obtain adequate legal or other kind of protection against sexual, domestic and other forms of violence, including so-called ‘honour crimes’. Among the common forms of VAW in the country are those faced by migrant domestic workers, corresponding to the category “migrant women” in this *Situation Analysis*. In 2010, over 150,000 were estimated to fall into this group, most of Asian and sub-Saharan origin. Multiple acts of violence against them have been reported by various United Nations agencies, including ILO.

In this area, public awareness has been noticed for several years, and great efforts have been made to ensure the protection of these women de jure and de facto necessary in the light of the human rights and international commitments of the Republic of Lebanon. Of note is the increasing attention being given to preventing violence against both women and girls, including domestic violence; and to the protection of victims, with particular emphasis on migrant domestic workers and women refugees through safeguarding their rights.

National efforts have been first and foremost those of NGOs. Increasingly, awareness has been developed in government circles, with NCLW coordinating joint projects and actions. The various efforts have been based on CEDAW, and have amplified since its ratification in 1996. From then on, actions have been undertaken to identify violent practices, particularly in the following four sectors; in educational institutions, at workplaces, in places of detention and within the family. NGOs and such governmental institutions as the Ministry of Social Affairs and NCLW have targeted GBV and implemented programmes to fight against this form of violence in particular.

The Ministry of Social Affairs, through awareness-raising and capacity-building of the staff of the social development centres throughout the country, has contributed to their ability to address cases of domestic violence, including the provision of legal assistance to GBV survivors.

NCLW integrated the issue of GBV in its 2004 Strategic Orientations. This was followed by an exercise of updating the National Strategy for Women in Lebanon during 2009 through a participatory process, involving civil society and various governmental institutions and international organizations, as well as with the support of UNFPA.

The Ministerial Statement of July 2008 emphasized the vital role of women in development, and called for the enforcing of legislation and the implementing of mechanisms to realize equality between men and women and to combat all forms of violence. "Promoting a culture that is sensitive to equality between men and women, and between boys and girls, and free of all forms of violence requires national commitment, an enabling environment, and coordinated efforts with the proactive involvement of civil society, among others."

Initiatives to combat GBV through life cycle, particularly in conflict and post-conflict situations, have been supported; and the multisectoral and multidimensional *GBV Plan of Action* upgraded, with advocating efforts for endorsement and operationalization with support of Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Italian Cooperation to UNFPA to coordinate this process in partnership with governmental institutions and NGOs.

There exists a notable scarcity of GBV-related studies at national and subnational levels, in addition to various strategic interventions. On the other hand, situation assessments and analyses to clarify sociocultural dimensions and human rights issues related to gender inequality and GBV have been conducted, including this *Situation Analysis*, in addition to a number of UNFPA studies on GBV in Lebanon.

As assessed in the 2008 *MDG Report* and developed in this *Situation Analysis Report*, efforts have been made

by civil society groups and the Ministry of Social Affairs, with the support of United Nations agencies, to break the silence in fighting VAW. These efforts consisted mainly of raising public awareness and launching media campaigns; conducting research of causes and prevalence of violence, as well as carrying out a legal review of related laws; and developing capacities of social workers and counsellors in providing some support and assistance.

The *MDG Report* also referred to the single most important achievement; namely, the implementation by NCLW of various aspects of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security in selected war-affected regions. Starting from 2006, these endeavours have led to an increasing change as regard to tackling challenges and sensitive issues, but also significant empowerment of women at local level. With strong support of local municipalities, these national efforts to promote participation of women in peacebuilding and recovery are a step towards promoting a 'peace culture'. The achievements made for mainstreaming the role of women in the peacebuilding, decision-making, development and rehabilitation processes were highly commended by CEDAW.

In 2008, the 40th session of CEDAW noted the achievements of Lebanon documented in the *Third Periodic Report*; namely, the implementation of the project *Women Empowerment: Peaceful Action for Security and Stability* under Security Council Resolution 1325, addressing the issue of integrating GBV services and sensitizing providers to GBV issues in PHCs.

Despite the fact that a number of victims of violence do seek some kind of support, women do not always request adequate legal assistance or protection against all violence, be it sexual, domestic and other forms, including so-called 'honour crimes'. Moreover, the services provided by selected NGOs are not available in all regions.

In its 2008 report on Lebanon, the CEDAW Committee expressed its concern regarding the persistence of VAW, including domestic violence, and the absence of a comprehensive approach to this type of aggression. Lebanon was urged by the Committee to exert efforts towards establishing and implementing comprehensive measures to address all forms of VAW, and to enact legislation on it. In addition, special emphasis was put on the need of the victims of violence, both women and girls, to have access to immediate means of redress and protection, and that perpetrators be prosecuted and punished. This emphasis represents a clear declaration on the need to offer services to victims of VAW.

The diverse and accumulated work around this issue has led to the realization that the approach to GBV should be comprehensive and holistic, so that a culture around the rights and equality of women is being reared and

nurtured in all aspects of governance, civil society and health services - a concept that is clearly understood by the CEDAW Committee. Besides the constitutional, legislative and social aspects of GBV, the aspect of service provision to victims of VAW, their follow-up and referral should receive ample attention.

An important initiative was put forward in 2010; the draft law on the protection of women from domestic violence, described in chapter five, section A. Its content is comprehensive, defining domestic violence in full consistency with international standards and principles.

The national *GBV Plan of Action* is expected to address this phenomenon through a holistic and comprehensive approach; however, in order to respond in an appropriate and effective manner to this matter, the need to understand the situation through a participatory approach will be helpful in identifying gaps and obstacles, build consensus on how best to respond to them, and identify challenges to be tackled.

II. Gaps and obstacles

A. OVERALL RESULTS OF FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

In addition to assessing their knowledge and perceptions related to the definition of GBV, its different forms, the legislation in general and the laws in force that protect the GBV survivors or those at risk, as well as to the available programmes and services, the participants were asked to identify gaps or shortcomings that should be remedied. They were also invited to indicate to which degree these laws and their applications, and these programmes and services were meeting the needs and priorities of women and realizing their rights.

An analysis of the diversified and different responses made by all groups of participants in the focus group discussions in every governorate could help in classifying identified gaps and obstacles at the following levels: (a) individual, i.e., women and men; (b) social; (c) community; and (d) institutional, including legislative and political spheres and involving governmental and non-governmental entities. For that reason, this summary of responses has been reorganized into two groups; women and men. Responses were gathered from all groups and all governorates, thus presenting a most interesting diversity, as well as similarity, when comparing one group to another and one governorate to another - in other words, an indicator of common real-life issues and concerns.

• Women

1. Individual level

As is illustrated in Figure 19, when expressing their attitude as regards GBV, some female participants among the two

most exposed and vulnerable groups - Iraqi refugees and migrant domestic workers - indicated that, to a certain extent, women themselves caused VAW or did little or nothing to stop it, thus providing some justification for such violence. While many expressed their rejection of violence, others were neutral - something which is highly significant when referring to these respective groups.

Attitude towards GBV expressed by female participants in focus group discussions

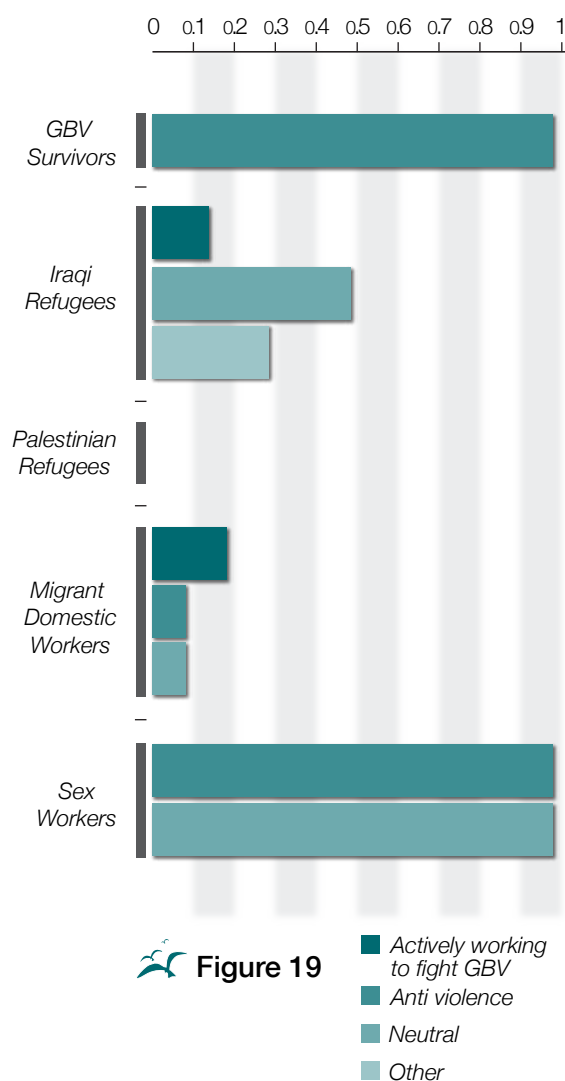


Figure 19
 ■ Actively working to fight GBV
 ■ Anti violence
 ■ Neutral
 ■ Other

Some of the most common responses given by individual female participants as to why GBV is prevalent in society are listed as follows:

- women accept or hide violence for such reasons as they consider it 'natural' or 'normal' behaviour, i.e., 'conservative' attitude;
- women do not stand up for their rights, but accept their situation and reality, lacking knowledge and awareness;
- men lack awareness about GBV and VAW in general;

(d) police and law-enforcement agencies lack sensitization on GBV, in addition to their own attitudes or practices, which, consequently, leads to non-enforcement of laws: “the police don’t apply existing laws, in addition to [demanding] bribes and favours.”

2. Society and community levels

The following responses can be analysed on the levels of society at large and community:

- (a) violence becoming a ‘natural’ phenomenon because of mentality and habits, reinforcing the difficulties in tackling GBV;
- (b) discrimination in education, with preference given to male over female and, accordingly, women shouldering responsibility for their family and related issues;
- (c) deterioration in economic and social conditions that, as a consequence, could lead to violence;
- (d) communities may provide a conducive environment for VAW;
- (e) lack of sensitization among workers in the front line, including those employed in health care, law enforcement and education;
- (f) lack of political ‘sensitivity’ with regard to GBV media coverage, nor adequate media exposure in relation to issues of GBV.

3. Institutional level

Listed as follows are responses which relate to the legislative and political spheres:

- (a) political overlap with regard to laws and legislation on GBV, as well arbitrary work on the amending of such laws;
- (b) non-enforcement of laws and, at times, corruption among officers in charge of law enforcement;
- (c) lengthy legal procedures and lack of legal and social awareness;
- (d) absence of State role and infrastructure, for example a comprehensive protection system aiming at helping women victims of violence;
- (e) inconsistency and mismatch with regard to priorities and reality, expressed as follows: “changing priorities by changing officials”;
- (f) limited scope of work of some women’s associations with focus on direct service to female survivors of violence and on treatment; on the other hand, though competitive, these associations and their active role will be recognized, including through the media, in disseminating the culture of women’s rights;
- (g) lack of specialization and coordination among institutions and stakeholders; for example, duplicating targeted campaigns while other issues and needs of same or greater importance are ignored;

(h) poorly designed and implemented programmes as a result of not being based on needs assessment and analysis, but developed taking into account the will of and/or relationship with donors.

To summarize, with quantitative variations - as clearly outlined in the preceding paragraphs, the responses, comments and observations on obstacles and gaps in the prevention of and response to GBV and related issues recorded by the specific groups of women - can be classified into three categories, namely: social, political and legal, as illustrated in Figure 20.

Obstacles and gaps for prevention of and response to GBV identified by the category “most vulnerable women”

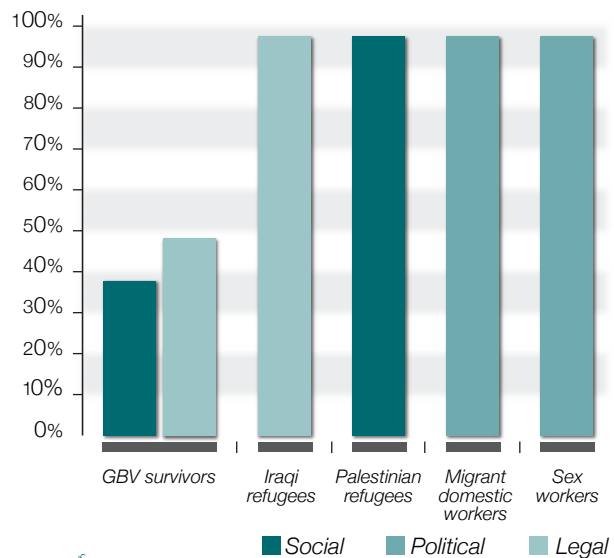


Figure 20

• Men

Some responses given by female respondents were also found among the men in the various focus groups.

1. Individual level

A strikingly high number of men, in their responses, linked GBV and related problems to the women themselves. This is clearly indicated by the following observations:

- (a) women keep silent about this form of violence;
- (b) women are poorly informed and lack the culture to fight GBV, as well as information and knowledge of laws and their rights which remain an obscure and vague concept;
- (c) women harbour feelings and perceptions of inferiority and acceptance of violence which, as a consequence, lead to a denial of their rights, even when such rights are known and understood, for example stipulating conditions when contracting marriage;

- (d) men lack sensitization on this delicate subject, thus frequently resort to religion in order to impose their authority by selecting what suits their purpose and ignoring what is related to women;
- (e) police and other law-enforcement agencies lack awareness and/or sensitization on VAW and, therefore, fail to apply existing laws.

2. Society and community levels

The following responses recorded by male participants can be analysed on the level of society at large and community:

- (a) VAW occurring as a 'natural' event in the society, community and family because mentality and habits reinforce the difficulties in addressing this issue;
- (b) absence of education within the family and home on citizenship in terms of rights and duties, making this a considerable obstacle;
- (c) misinterpretation of religion, with religious seminars reluctant to broach certain concerns due to the social shame and stigma linked to women's issues, particularly violence;
- (d) the power dynamic composed by a male-dominated society, and the powers given to them in and out the political scene and sphere of influence;
- (e) misunderstanding between NGOs and other claim holders of human rights of women and the communities, including men, as illustrated by the campaign supporting the right of a Lebanese female citizen to pass on her nationality to her husband and children.

3. Institutional level

Responses recorded among male participants relating to the legislative or political sphere include the following:

- (a) failure of the State in terms of taking initiatives that aim to develop and/or improve society at large, and the situation of women in particular;
- (b) inadequacy in legal coverage or non-existent laws, as well as lack of enforcement of those that exist;
- (c) lack of knowledge that promotes talking about and tackling GBV, as well as deteriorating economic situation;
- (d) multiplicity and diversity of family codes and legal referral systems based on community and sect which, in turn, impact on accountability for human rights;
- (e) absence of civil law for personal status;
- (f) absence of specialized governmental organization/s for GBV/VAW;
- (g) predominance of social and economic conditions which compel women to accept their situation;
- (h) high turnover of specialized law-enforcement personnel through frequent transfer of trained

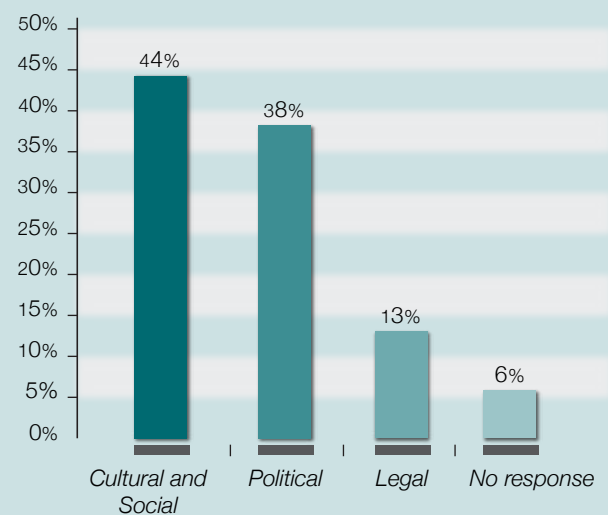
members of the security forces and replacement by inexperienced staff or officers lacking in relevant training;

- (i) domination of political parties, influencing social change and related reform;
- (j) interventions by related associations focusing on cities and urban areas, with villages and rural districts overlooked or neglected;
- (k) disregard and exclusion of men by women's associations due to their focus on empowerment of women and related activities, and to fear of provoking misunderstanding or conflict between spouses;
- (l) lack of alternatives and solutions for women other than those services proposed by women's associations, making it hard for women to participate in activities or attend events due to reluctance by husband or other family member, as well as pressure from society and community.

B. OVERALL RESULTS OF INTERVIEWS

During the interviews, the representatives of the selected institutions classified gaps and obstacles at three levels¹⁵⁷, as is illustrated in Figure 21, but without providing actual in-depth analysis on the causes and consequences, nor always ranking them in an order of importance.

Obstacles and gaps for prevention of and response to GBV identified by stakeholders



 **Figure 21**

• Cultural and social obstacles

The following cultural and social obstacles were identified:

- (a) the deep-rooted approach and attitude to education,

religion, customs and traditions in society, making change or elimination difficult to achieve;

- (b) the lack of awareness about GBV, particularly the absence of interest by schools in addressing the subject of VAW;
- (c) the dominance of systems of masculinity and the silence surrounding the issue of gender, both in society at large and on the official arena.

• Political obstacles

The following political obstacles were identified:

- (a) the low prioritization of the issue of VAW among officials and decision makers, in addition to confessional and religious traditions and teachings impeding gender equality and hindering legislative or policy initiatives;
- (b) the lack of a national plan set out by the formal sector/s and ministries to unify the approach and provide continuity of GBV/VAW projects and campaigns to ensure their acceptance and institutionalization, rather than tailoring priorities and programmes according to the mission and goals of donors;
- (c) the lack of investment on the existing potential, and the absence of a single referral framework in all sectors reinforced by the political will to support the development;
- (d) the absence of a coordinating mechanism among the various agencies of the United Nations, with the official entities, and among NGOs and universities and other institutions of research and higher learning.

• Legal obstacles

The following legal obstacles were identified:

- (a) national legislation and certain laws regarded as discriminatory, with no law in force criminalizing VAW; this includes also commitments of the State to international standards or failure to sign up to certain treaties - for example, the Republic of Lebanon did not sign or ratify the Convention on Refugees;
- (b) the reactionary measures taken by religious and sectarian decision makers to hinder or thwart any initiative involving GBV/VAW policy, as with the draft law on domestic violence;
- (c) the dominance and long tenure of some persons and/or associations not only impact on their efficiency, but also creating risks during succession;
- (d) the absence of rational management and good governance; thus weakening any attempt of institutionalization, including among civil society organizations.

III. Stakeholders propose solutions and strategies: challenges



Many among the stakeholders interviewed, both male and female in every group and governorate, revealed scant knowledge of government strategies on GBV/VAW or plans being developed or implemented. Numerous respondents among all groups and regions declared their reservations about the capacity of the State - “no trust in State, and no hope for improvement” - with a higher number recorded among men who doubted the work of the State in improving the situation of women.

On the other hand, more women than men were familiar with projects presented to Parliament by NGOs. This shows they followed up on draft legislation concerning the rights of women, and also that they had confidence in the work of these organizations and their ability to instigate change. The importance of synergy between such NGOs to lobby the State and achieve result was also highlighted.

All regarded civil society and NGOs as being stronger or more influential than State-run institutions and, consequently, better adapted to implement effectively programmes and draft laws on the rights of women. Examples mentioned include the draft laws and personal status codes on nationality, civil marriage, domestic violence and quota system on females in public office, as well as penalty on male violence and aggression.

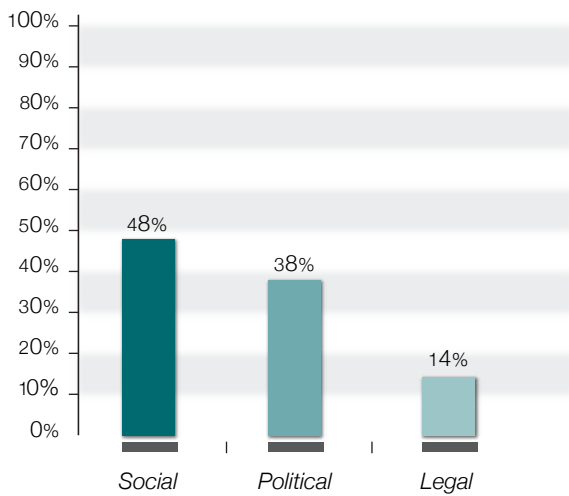
Both women and men in all groups and governorates mentioned the importance of awareness-raising and dissemination in all age categories, especially to men and boys. They listed the necessary efforts to be made to improve the situation of women. In particular, they emphasized the importance of educational empowerment to open new horizons and representing the first step towards the enjoyment of full human rights of women. On the other hand, female respondents failed to suggest any role they themselves could take on in order to improve their situation, but rather referred to ready-made solutions.

Responses of decision makers are herewith presented to illustrate their proposals relating to GBV strategic interventions and covering the following areas:

- (a) legislation and the amendment of laws;
- (b) studies and research;
- (c) training;
- (d) services;
- (e) advocacy, awareness-raising and networking.

Their responses are shown in Figure 22.

GBV strategic interventions identified by decision makers



 **Figure 22**

As a result of the similarities of the respondents in their recommendations and suggestions to address the issue of GBV, the same approach has been adopted in analysis and reporting of the feedback of all groups in each of the six governorates, covering such main areas of intervention as legislation, policies, programmes and services, and awareness-raising.

A. LEGISLATION

Almost every woman participating in the focus group discussions had heard of the draft law on GBV presented by the National Coalition for legislating protection of women from domestic violence for adoption and the campaigns staged on various related issues, one such example being the advocating for equal rights to men and women to pass on nationality to spouse and children. The respondents considered that reforms fall under the responsibility of the State; however, many declared having little or no confidence in the Government, saying, for example that “State activity is not sufficient concerning laws” and “the State is trying, but we doubt it can change anything”.

Taking into consideration what they appreciated as ‘good practices’, the stakeholders interviewed made a number of recommendations, examples of which are listed as follows:

- (a) conduct a process of legal reform to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, ensuring gender equality at all steps of life cycle and the empowerment of women, while taking into account their multiple gender roles and related burden;
- (b) develop and endorse a civil law and criminalize violence by imposing appropriate penalty, including fine;

- (c) set up a comprehensive system of measures to protect women, with appropriate measures for operationalization;
- (d) establish an accountability and rule-of-law system to ensure enforcement of legislation and realization of human rights, including those related to education and to the right to free choice for family planning and control of their own body and reproductive life;
- (e) build alliances and rely on NGOs and other civil society organizations to reach any change through advocacy campaigns, policy dialogues, and pressure and national sensitization campaigns.

B. Policies, programmes and services

Nearly all¹⁵⁸ respondents declared being unfamiliar with policies or strategies on GBV; for example, having “no idea about State policies [but] women should not accept violence”; or stating “we didn’t hear about [the] strategy of [r] action plan set up by the State; we heard that the State adopts draft laws and programmes presented by community-based organizations, and the Ministry of Social Affairs set up a few limited initiatives, such as creating a women’s directorate [but we] have no hope they will be enforced”.

It is worth to note, however, that the reason of this lack of familiarity or ‘ignorance’ could be due simply to the absence of any policy or strategy covering totally or partly this issue, as described in chapter six. The initiatives proposed by the majority of women and men in all governorates and among all selected stakeholders to be taken by the various institutions are summarized as follows:

The State should:

- (a) assume the responsibility for setting up policies to be applied by the civil society, and for establishing the framework for public strategies to allow the civil society to act accordingly;
- (b) take control of initiatives to work on development and build lobbying and coalition to face the domination of political parties;
- (c) set up programmes based on the actual and real needs of women, rather than repeating earlier efforts in order to satisfy donors or selecting those which are more ‘attractive’ and ‘lucrative’ on the financial and/or media level;
- (d) ensure economic empowerment and financial independence of women as a strategic approach to fight violence, including by women themselves;
- (e) reform the education curricula to include human rights approaches;
- (f) invest in civil society organizations and local authorities.

NGOs should:

- (a) lobby the State through ministers familiar with these

issues, and sensitizing those communities which constitute the front line;

- (b) invest more effort in approaching community and religious leaders and/or influential personalities;
- (c) contribute to the strengthening of the State role, particularly as regards sensitive social and human rights issues.

C. ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS-RAISING

• Objectives

The objectives of promoting advocacy and awareness-raising in the fight on GBV and related issues are laid out as follows:

- (a) promoting a culture for breaking the silence surrounding the issue of violence based on gender, and as regards the principles of non-discrimination and equality;
- (b) empowering women on their rights at every step of their lives, including at the time of contracting marriage, but also in terms of reporting violence; and encouraging women to join forces as they are the only ones capable of change;
- (c) preventing and fighting domestic violence and all other forms of GBV;
- (d) ensuring realization of human and legal rights of women, including advocacy for the endorsement of the draft law on the protection of women from domestic violence;
- (e) building dialogue within society and community, including between parents and children.

• Target groups

The target groups are the following:

- (a) women, men and young people, including children;
- (b) religious and community leaders, particularly men;
- (c) political parties.

• Channels and approaches

The proposed channels and approaches include the following:

- (a) education at various levels;
- (b) media;
- (c) cooperation, lobbying and networking;
- (d) investment in community-based interventions, from needs assessment to implementation and evaluation.

• Technical and institutional capacity-building

The following measures for technical and institutional capacity-building were suggested:

- (a) develop civil laws that criminalize VAW;
- (b) review/update the National Strategy for Women in Lebanon under the leadership of NCLW to be

adopted by the Government with a view of building ownership and commitment;

- (c) strengthen the role of gender focal points in the ministries and other public administrations;
- (d) set up transparency and accountability of the disbursement of funds and coordination among the donor countries;
- (e) establish follow-up mechanisms and systems to assess and monitor programmes and measure the quality of life at the level of education, health, participation in political life, economic empowerment and participatory decision-making;
- (f) train teachers, police officers, judges, prosecutors and members of ministerial committees.

IV. Recommendations



A. ANALYSIS

• Starting point

The diverse and accumulated work around GBV has led to the realization that the approach to this form of violence should be comprehensive and holistic, so that a culture around human rights and the equality of women is being reared and nurtured in all aspects of governance, civil society and health services.

This fact was strongly stressed by the CEDAW Committee. It was also confirmed by both the desk review/analysis and the assessment of all stakeholders through focus group discussions and interview sessions.

Besides the constitutional, legislative and social aspects of GBV, the aspect of service provision to victims of VAW, their follow-up, and referral should receive ample attention by the State as one of its main duties. This is in addition to the enjoyment of the legal and human rights of GBV survivors, starting from the right to life, for example crimes committed in the name of 'honour'. Any initiative and/or intervention should be in close partnership with civil society organizations and the international community.

• Actions to be taken

According to article 4 of the United Nation Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, "States should condemn [VAW] and should not invoke any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations with respect to its elimination. States should pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating [VAW ...]."

Article 4, paragraphs (a) to (c), cover all legal obligations at national and international levels and provides a most comprehensive and multisectoral approach to addressing GBV in terms of elimination, prevention, overall security, legal protection and specialized services, with recommendations related to processes, mechanisms

and main actors/right holders and duty bearers.

Among numerous other measures, many of which have been referred to in chapter four, sections A and C and chapter five, section D, the United Nations Secretary-General launched a multi-year campaign in 2008; UNiTE to End Violence against Women. He appealed to all partners to join forces to eliminate this blight. The Campaign recognizes the power of laws and legislation, and one of its five key goals is for all countries to adopt and enforce, by 2015, national laws that address and punish all forms of such violence in line with international human rights standards.

BPFA defines specific measures to be undertaken by various development actors, including governments, NGOs and international organizations. Measures include, among others “enactment and/or reinforcement of penal, civil, labour and administrative sanctions in domestic legislation to punish and redress the wrongs done to women and girls who are subjected to any form of violence, whether in the home, the workplace, the community or society”¹⁵⁹.

B. PRIORITY ACTIONS/STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS

This *Situation Analysis Report* is very rich in terms of solutions and strategies to be selected to contribute to the process of prevention and service provisions, on the one side; and the elimination of this multifaceted phenomenon to realize the human rights of women, on the other. Integrating GBV in the national agenda is the only way to reduce this human rights violation and obstacle to development and democracy.

• Strategies to address gender-based violence

The strategies to be adopted by all national policy and programmes with support of international partners, in conjunction with State actors, other partners and NGOs, including faith-based organizations, should include the following:

- (a) knowing better the reality and facts, including conducting further research on GBV and especially on prevalence;
- (b) providing appropriate services to ensure health/survival, security and protection through life cycle;
- (c) ensuring that emergency contraception be available for victims of sexual violence;

- (d) advocating for the elimination of GBV and for human rights and gender equality of women with parliamentarians, religious leaders and women's national networks, including the media;

- (e) integrating messages on the prevention of GBV into information, education and communication projects.

• Ending gender-based violence

Measures to end GBV should include the following:

- (a) preventing GBV at each age, everywhere and every time;

- (b) changing cultural concepts of masculinity/femininity, a process which must actively engage all concerned men, be they policymakers, colleagues, parents, spouses or male adolescents¹⁶⁰;

- (c) employing every effort into breaking the silence and ensuring that the voices of women be heard - in other words, women empowerment;

- (d) realizing human rights and gender equality of women.

• Gender-based violence and human rights obligations

Under international human rights laws, States parties have specific obligations vis-à-vis the rights recognized in such treaties and the measures to be undertaken in order to ensure these as set forth in the human rights agreements in peace, conflict and post-conflict situations. These translate into the following responsibilities:

- (a) respect the human rights of all people within its jurisdiction which, essentially, means abstaining from any conduct or activity that violates human rights;

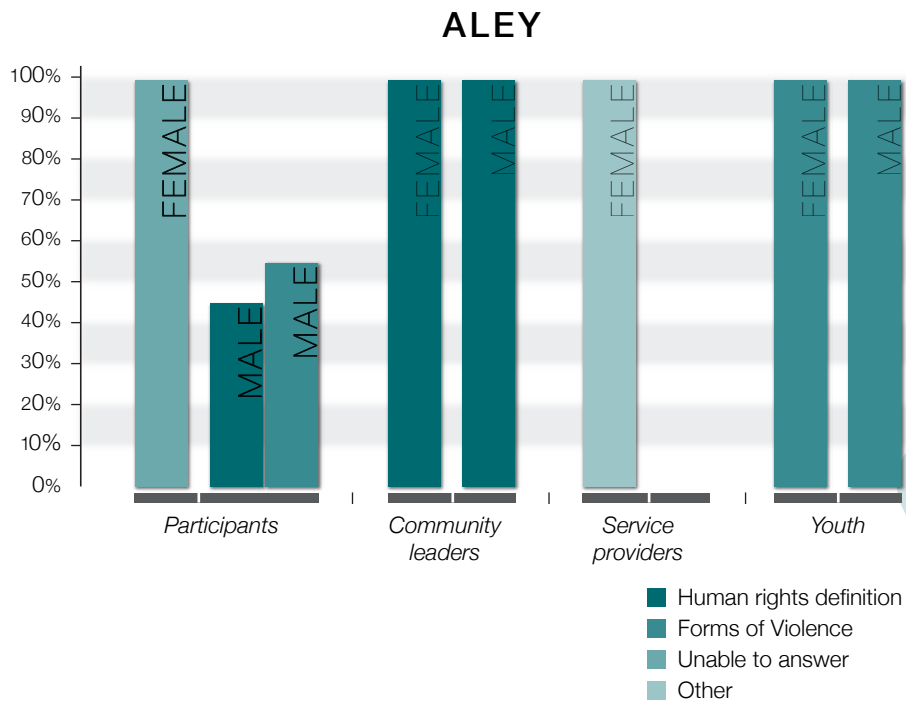
- (b) protect the human rights of all people without discrimination from violations by State and non-State actors, including individuals, groups, institutions and corporations;

- (c) promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms through, for example, human rights education and other measures necessary to prevent violations of these rights;

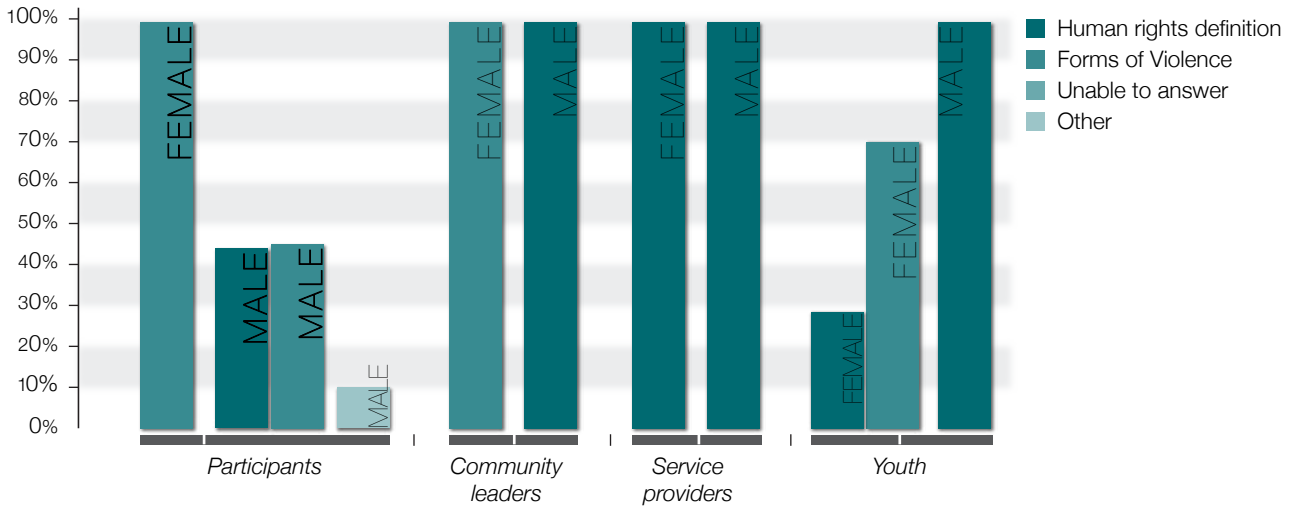
- (d) fulfil human rights by creating an enabling environment through all appropriate means, particularly through resource allocation.

ANNEX 1 GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE DEFINITION AND FORMS

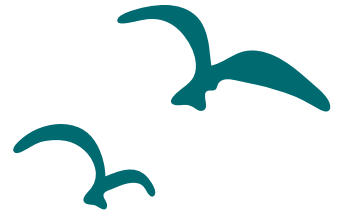
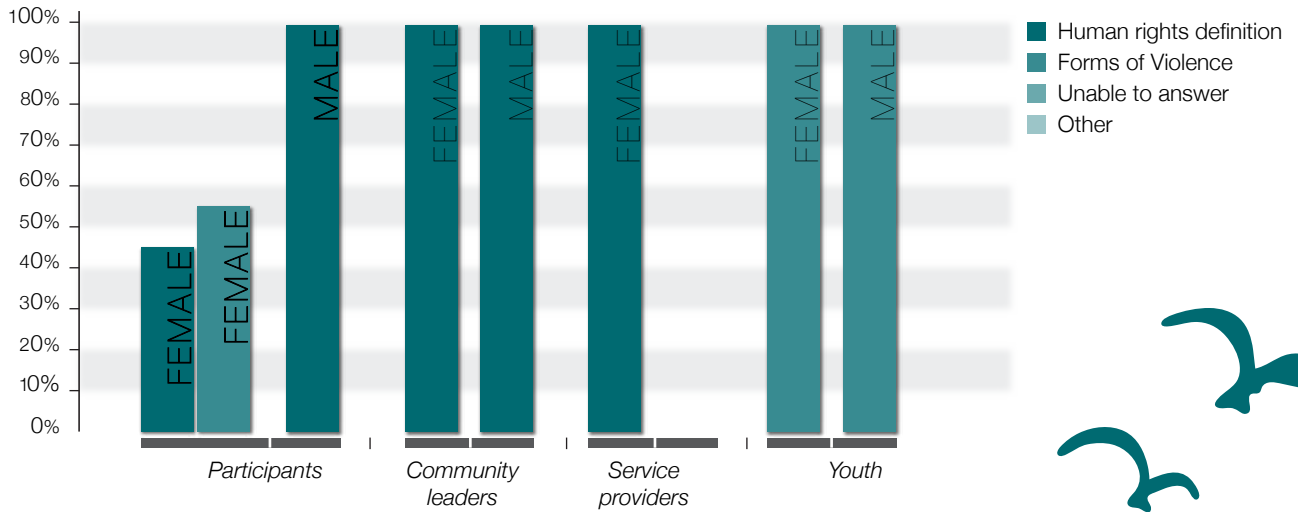
1.1. Focus group discussions: Findings by governorate (+ Aley) and group



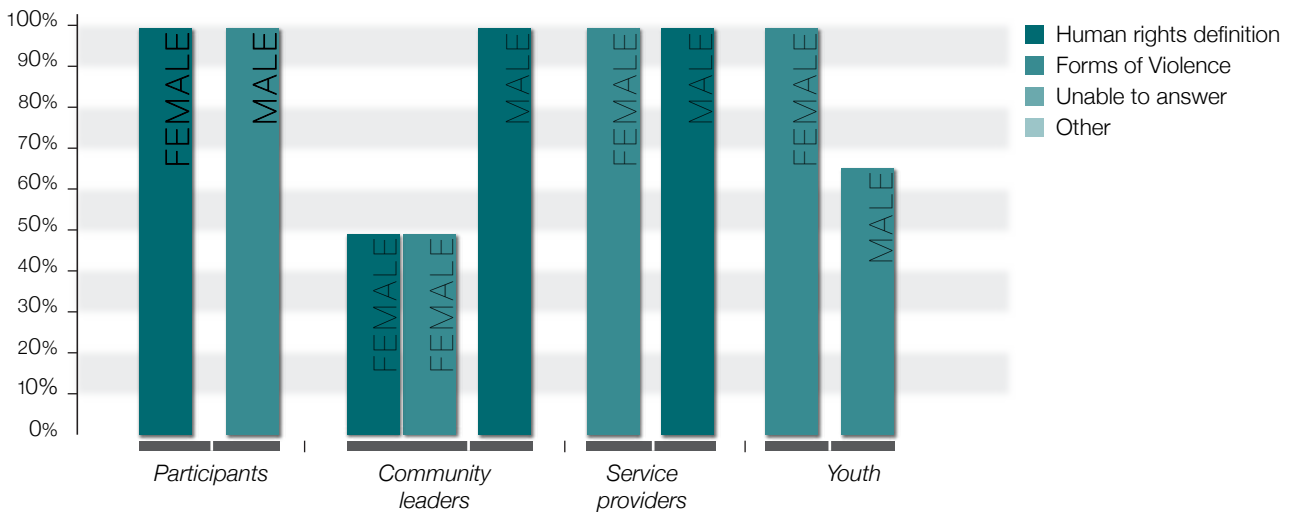
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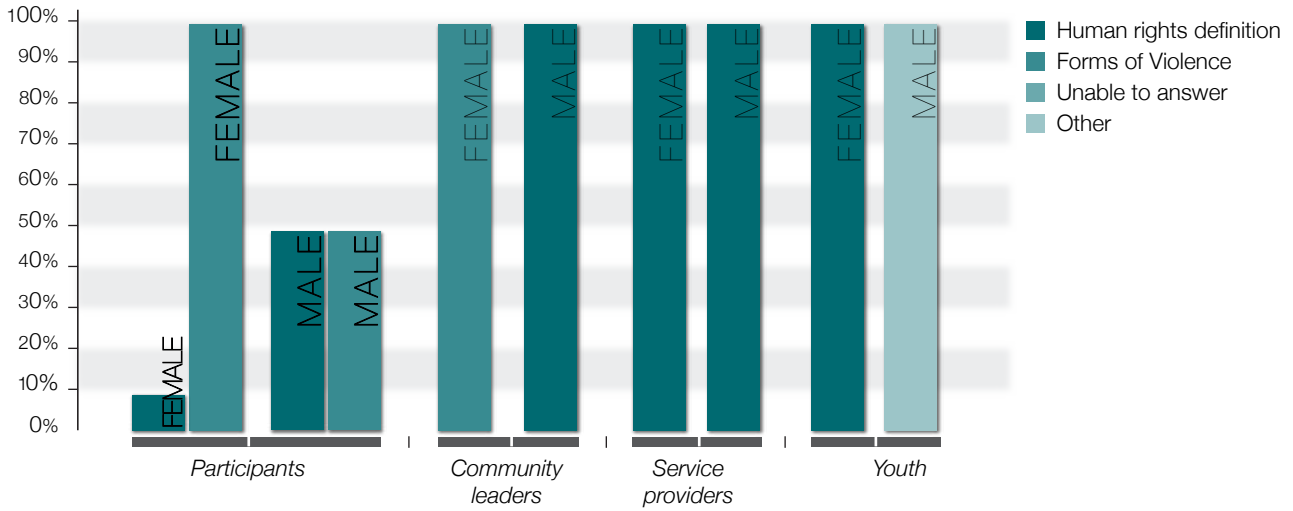


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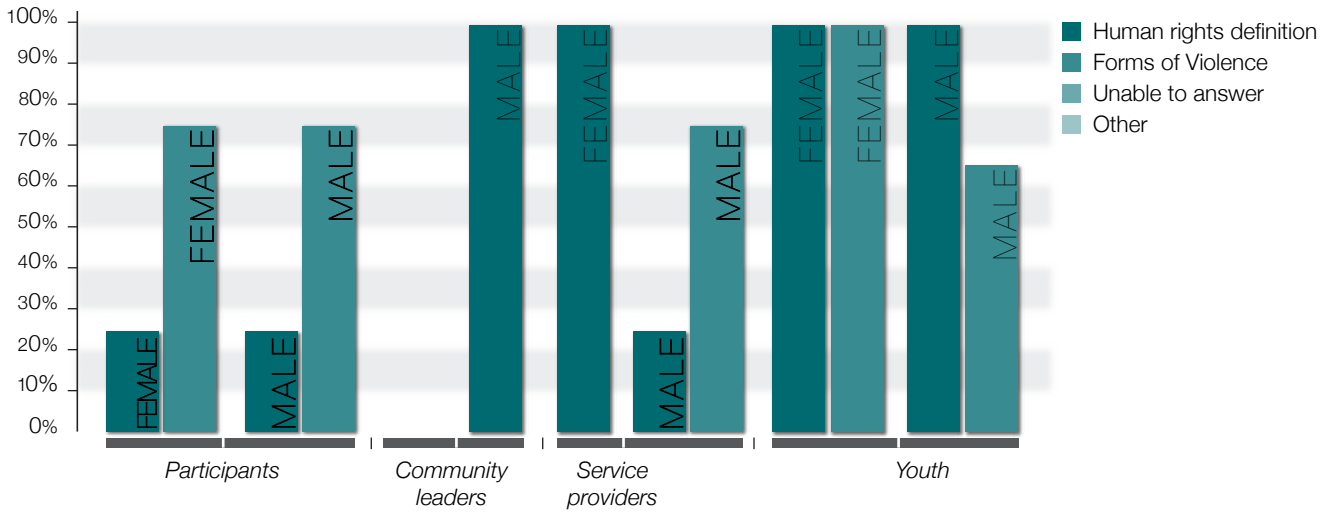




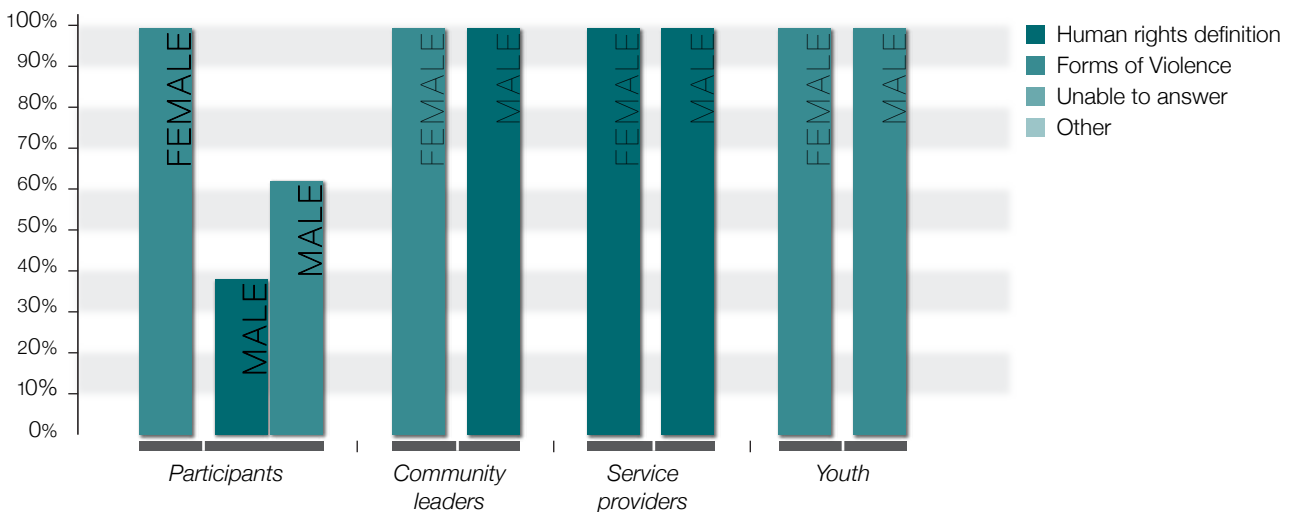
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1.2. Focus group discussions: Detailed responses by governorate (+Aley) and stakeholder group

Stakeholder group	Aley (Mount Lebanon)	Bekaa	Beirut	Nabatieh
WOMEN	physical, verbal and sexual violence; deprivation of freedom	physical, verbal, financial and moral violence	physical, verbal, moral, psychological and sexual violence	verbal and moral violence; forced housework
MEN	physical, verbal, moral and sexual violence	physical, verbal and moral violence; humiliation; economic/ deprivation of employment	physical, verbal, moral, psychological and economic violence	physical and verbal violence
FEMALE COMMUNITY LEADERS	physical, psychological, verbal, legal and ideological violence	physical, sexual, psychological, moral and legal violence	legal, verbal, physical and sexual violence; media	societal and domestic violence (forced housework); educational (at school); institutional and political discrimination
MALE COMMUNITY LEADERS	financial or economic violence at work, through salaries; sexual harassment;	physical, sexual, psychological, moral and legal violence	physical, psychological, legal, verbal, economic, intellectual and sexual violence	
FEMALE SERVICE PROVIDERS	material, psychological and physical violence	economic, sexual, psychological, verbal, moral and symbolic violence	physical, sexual, economic, verbal, psychological and legal violence	physical and moral violence; human rights violation
MALE SERVICE PROVIDERS		economic, sexual, psychological, verbal, moral and symbolic violence		physical and verbal violence
FEMALE YOUTH	physical, verbal, sexual and economic violence	physical, verbal, economic, moral, sexual designated by harassment	physical, sexual, verbal and moral violence	sexual harassment
MALE YOUTH	physical, verbal, sexual, and economic violence	physical, verbal, economical and moral violence	physical, sexual, verbal and moral violence	

Stakeholder group	North	South	Mount Lebanon
WOMEN	verbal and moral violence; verbal humiliation; economic/ deprivation of employment; disrespect; mistreatment	physical, verbal and moral violence	physical, verbal, moral, financial, sexual and emotional violence
MEN	physical, sexual, financial and legal violence	physical, sexual, economic, psychological and moral violence	physical, verbal and moral violence
FEMALE COMMUNITY LEADERS	physical, moral, verbal and economic violence	legal violence (introduce women's quota= 50%); weak political representation	all forms of violence
MALE COMMUNITY LEADERS	physical, moral, verbal and economic violence	social and legal violence; literature	all forms of violence
FEMALE SERVICE PROVIDERS	physical, psychological, moral, verbal, economic and legal ('honour crimes') violence	psychological, physical, verbal, moral and intellectual violence; ignoring legal, sexual and economic violence	legal, moral and verbal violence; human rights violation
MALE SERVICE PROVIDERS	physical, psychological, moral, verbal, economic and legal ('honour crimes') violence		legal, moral and verbal violence; human rights violation
FEMALE YOUTH	confinement in the home; deprivation of education; domination of men over women	physical, verbal, moral and economic violence	physical, verbal and moral violence
MALE YOUTH	psychological, verbal, physical and economic violence	physical, verbal, moral and economic violence	sexual, verbal and moral violence

ANNEX 2

LIST OF INTERVIEWEES



List of interviewees



Institution	Name of responsible	Name of representative (Interviewee)	Department / Position	Telephone	Email
1. Ministry of Social Affairs	- Mr. Selim Sayegh	- Ms. Abir Abdel Samad	Department of Women's Affairs Head of the department	+ 961 3 895025	asamad@socialaffairs.gov.lb
2. Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	- Mr. Achraf Rifi	- Mr. Elie Asmar	Lebanese Internal Security Forces Lieutenant Colonel, Head of Moral Protection Bureau	+ 961 3 764118 + 961 70 242369	Elie.asmar@isf.gov.lbeliebrownc@hotmail.com
3. Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform	- Mr. Muhammad Fneich	- Ms. Youmna Chacar Ghourayeb	Afkar Programme (financed by the European Union and managed by the Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform) Coordinator	+961 1 371510 ext. 600	ychacar@omsar.gov.lb
4. Council for Development and Reconstruction	- Mr. Ibrahim Chahrour	- Ms. Amal Karaki - Ms. Samira Sweidan	Planning and programming department Head of social and economic planning unit Gender and population sector specialist	+961 3 298799	amalk@cdr.gov.lb
5. Ministry of Information	- Mr. Tarek Mitri	- Ms. Hind Atwi	Reporter	+961 70 616839	Hma65@hotmail.com
6. Ministry of Public Health	- Mr. Muhammad Jawad Khalife	- Ms. Amal Mansour	Department of Mother & Child Care Head of department	+961 1 615754 +961 3 302212	amalmans@inco.com.lb

Institution	Name of responsible	Name of representative (Interviewee)	Department / Position	Telephone	Email
13. Educational Center for Research and Development	- Ms. Leila Fayyad	- Ms. Yolla Abi Salloum Sharaf	Office of public affairs	+ 961 3 769860	
14. Presidency of the Council of Ministers	- Mr. Souheil Bouji	- Ms. Naziha el-Amine	Follow up department Head of office	+ 961 1 982090 + 961 3 913514	
15. Central Administration of Statistics	- Ms. Maral Tutelian	- Ms. Ibtissam Jouni - Ms. Najwa Yaacoub	Social scientist Senior statistician	+ 961 1 373764 + 961 3 050639 Fax: +961 1 373160	ibtissam.jouni@gmail.com najwa.yaacoub@yahoo.com
16. National Commission of Lebanese Women	- Mr. Fadi Karam	- Ms. Hind Al-Soufi	Member	+ 961 3 671600	info@nclw.org.lb hindsoufi@hotmail.com
17. Basil Fuleihan Institute of Finance	- Ms. Lamia Moubayed	- Ms. Suzanne Abou Chakra	Assistant Director	+ 961 1 425149 + 961 1 425146 Fax: +961 1 426860	l.moubayed@if.org.lb

ANNEX 3

INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS - LEBANON

3.1. Conventions and protocols



Convention	Status	Date signed	Date ratified/joined	Date in force
International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	adoption		March 11, 1972	March 1, 1976
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	adoption		March 11, 1972	March 23, 1976
First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights				
Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights				
International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	adoption		December 11, 1971	December 12, 1971
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	accession		April 21, 1997	April 16, 1997
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women				
Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	accession		May 10, 2000	November 4, 2000
Convention on the Rights of the Child	signature and ratification	January 26, 1990	May 14, 1991	June 13, 1991
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child: Armed Conflicts	signature	February 11, 2002		
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child: Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography	signature and ratification	October 10, 2001	November 8, 2004	December 8, 2004
International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families				

Source: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/ratification/index.htm>

3.2. Ratified Conventions



Convention	Date of deposit of instrument	Type of instrument
Universal Copyright Convention, with Appendix Declaration relating to Article XVII and Resolution concerning Article XI. Geneva, September 6, 1952.	17/07/1959	Accession
Protocol 1 annexed to the Universal Copyright Convention concerning the application of that Convention to the works of stateless persons and refugees. Geneva, 6 September 6, 1952.	17/07/1959	Accession
Protocol 2 annexed to the Universal Copyright Convention concerning the application of that Convention to the works of certain international organizations. Geneva, September 6, 1952.	17/07/1959	Accession
Protocol 3 annexed to the Universal Copyright Convention concerning the effective date of instruments of ratification or acceptance of or accession to that Convention. Geneva, September 6, 1952.	17/07/1959	Accession
Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict with Regulations for the Execution of the Convention. The Hague, May 14, 1954.	01/06/1960	Ratification
Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. The Hague, May 14, 1954	01/06/1960	Ratification
Convention against Discrimination in Education. Paris, December 14, 1960.	27/10/1964	Ratification
Agreement for Facilitating the International Circulation of Visual and Auditory Materials of an Educational, Scientific and Cultural character with Protocol of Signature and model form of certificate provided for in Article IV of the above-mentioned Agreement. Beirut, December 10, 1948.	12/05/1971	Acceptance
Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. Paris, November 16, 1972.	03/02/1983	Ratification
Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. Paris, November 14, 1970.	25/08/1992	Ratification
International Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations. Rome, October 12, 1961	12/05/1997	Ratification
Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat. Ramsar, February 2, 1971.	16/04/1999	Accession
Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage. Paris, November 2, 2001.	08/01/2007	Acceptance
Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. Paris, October 17, 2003.	08/01/2007	Acceptance

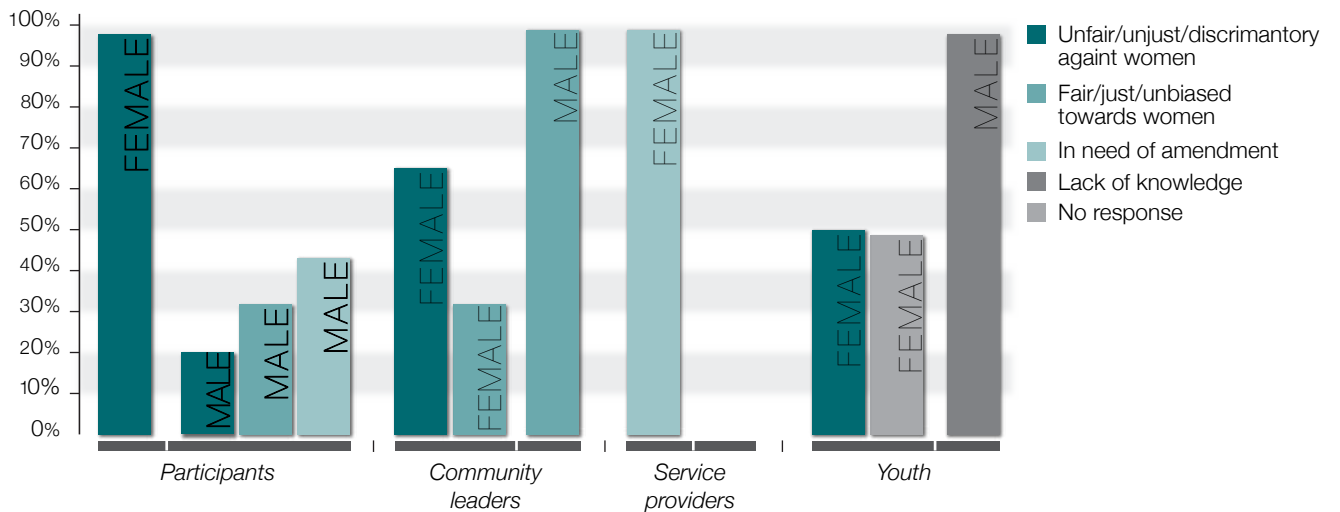
Source: <http://Portal.unesco.org/la/conventionsbycountry.asp?contr=LBSlanguage=Estyteconv=1>

ANNEX 4

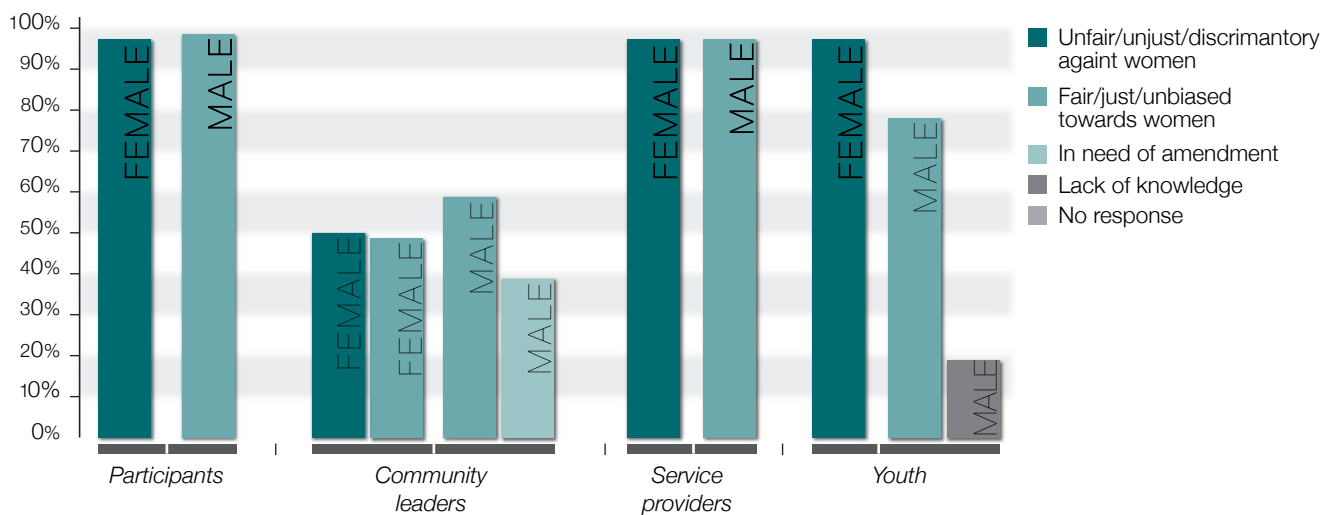
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE LEGISLATION AND POLICIES - KNOWLEDGE AND POSITIONS

4.1. Focus group discussions: Findings by governorate (+ Aley) and group

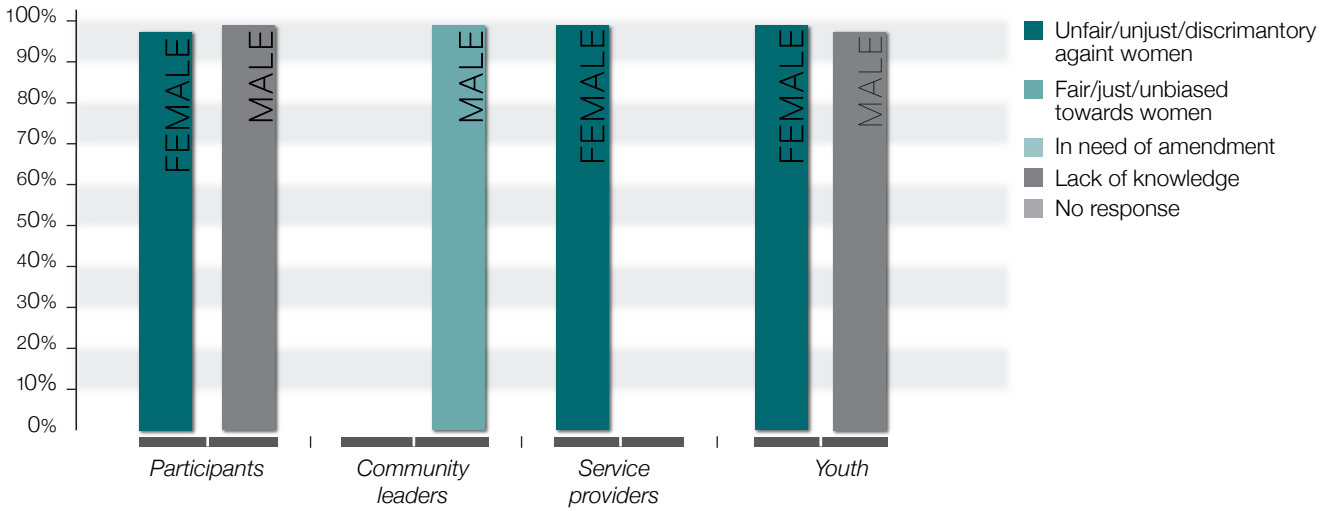
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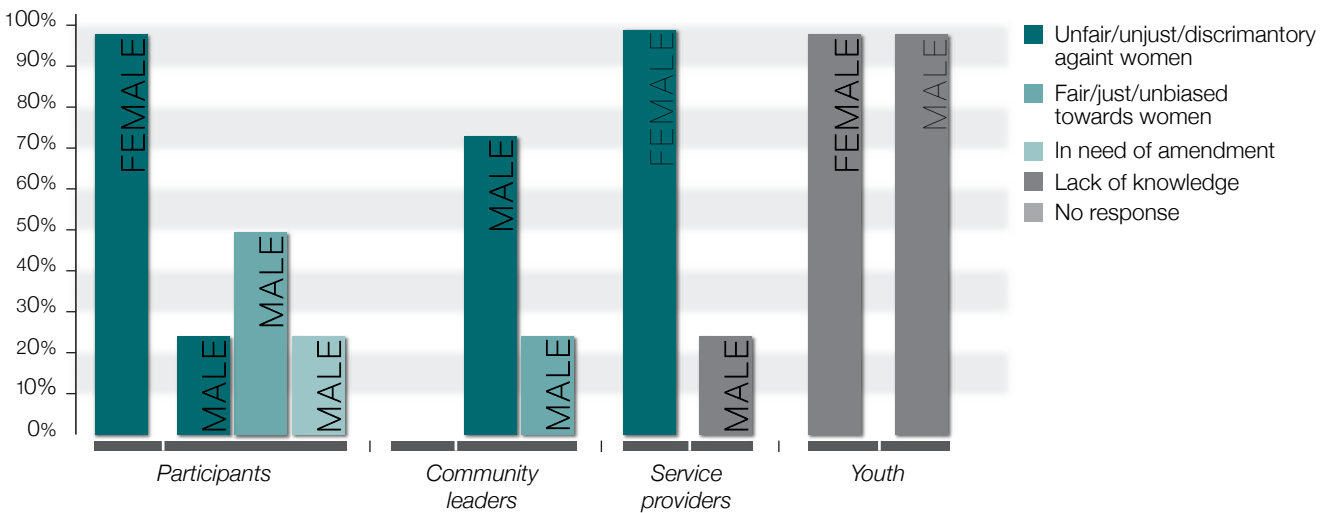
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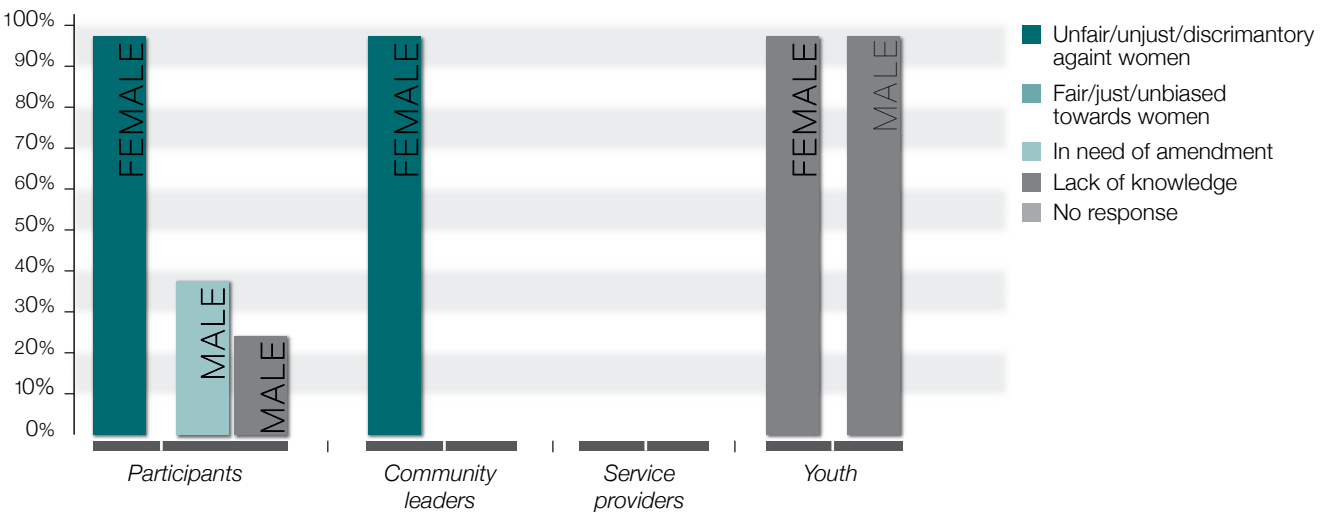
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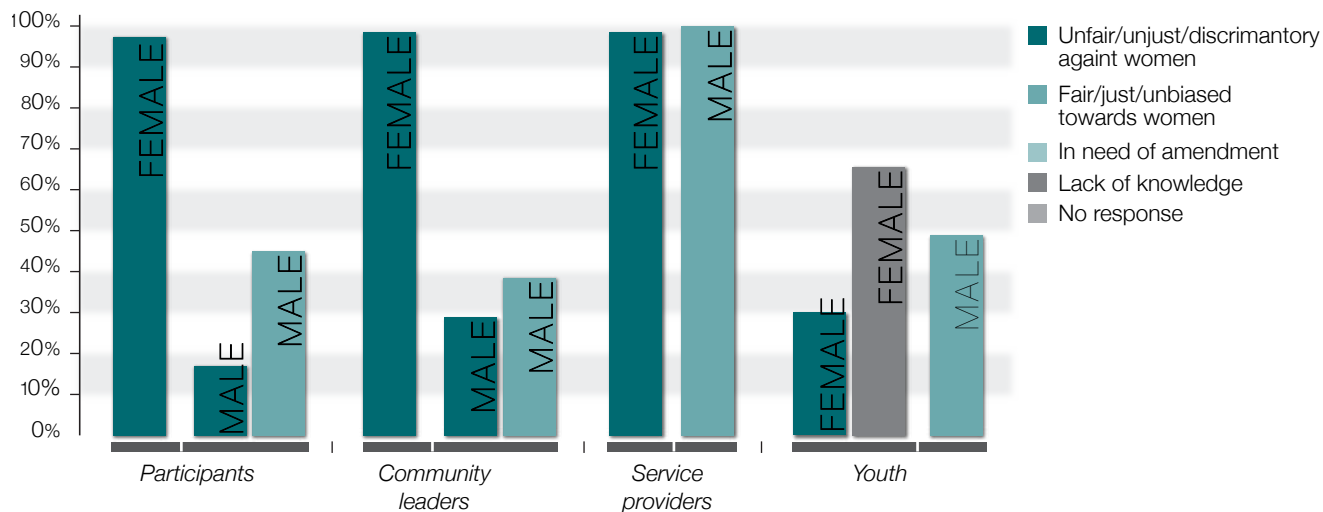
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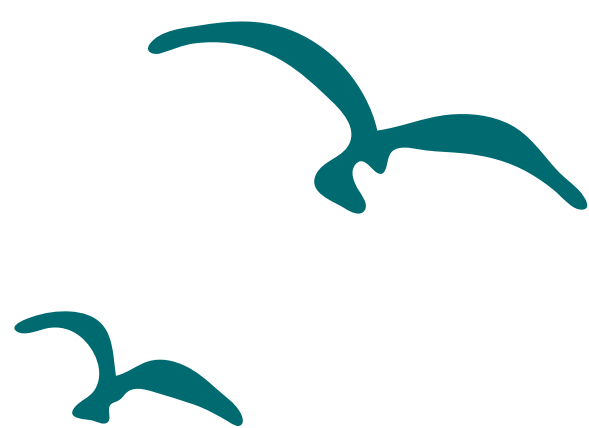
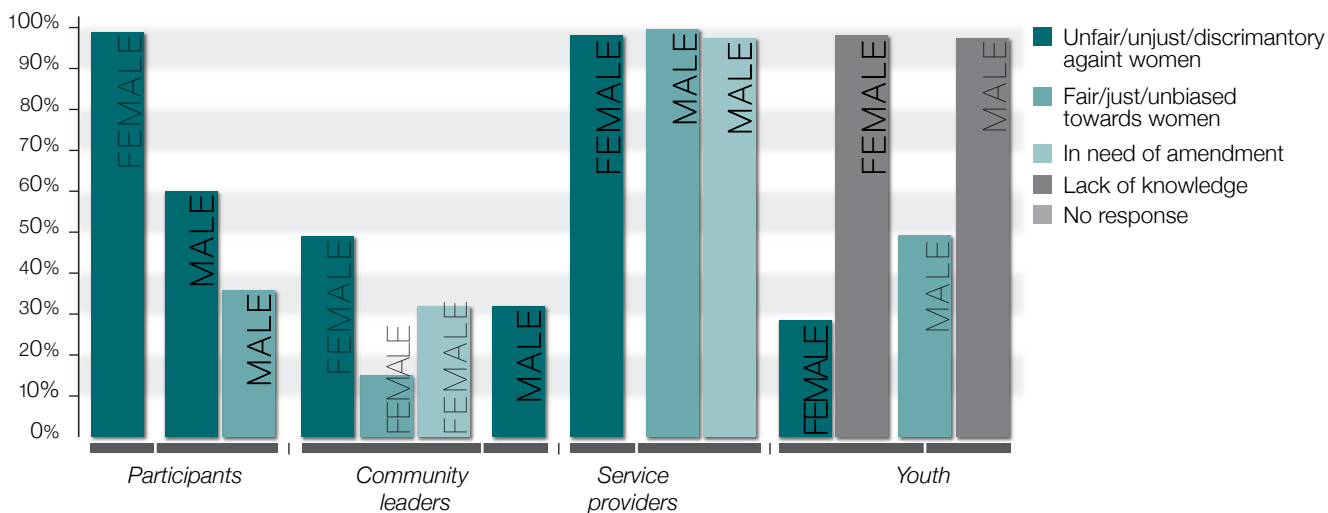
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ANNEX 5 PROGRAMMES AND SERVICES

5.1. List of government institutions and NGOs providing GBV programmes and services



Name of institution / organization

- Congrégation de Notre Dame de Charité du Bon Pasteur (Province Liban/Syrie)
- Community of Maryam & Martha
- Dar Al Amal
- KAFA (Enough) Violence and Exploitation
- Lebanese Family Planning Association (LFPA)
- Najdeh Association
- Lebanese Council to Resist Violence against Women (LECORVAW)
- Lebanese Women Democratic Gathering (LWDG)
- Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA)
- Mission de Vie
- Ministry of Social Affairs
- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Labour

5.2. Description of GBV programmes and centres according to population, services and location

NGO	Programme centre	Target population	Services provided	Geographical location
Notre Dame de Charité du Bon Pasteur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - dispensary - colleges - social centres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - single mothers - abused women - women victims of trafficking - former sexworkers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - shelter - spiritual healing - psychological/psychiatric counselling - medical - legal - recreational activities - follow-up - counselling (social worker) - vocational training - social and psychological monitoring (with parents) - ergonomics and craftwork - interactive and artistic activities - awareness-raising - referral 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hammana - Ain Aar - Shayle - Ain Saade - Roueisset - Btedii
Community of Maryam & Martha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lodging and rehabilitation communities 	girls and women aged 15-80 subject to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - domestic violence - social violence - occasional prostitution - homelessness - unemployment - social rejection - single mothers - vulnerable young women - delinquent girls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - psychological/physical - medical/forensic - legal - confidence-building - therapeutic follow-up - personal rehabilitation - professional training/education - reconciliation - follow-up - social/spiritual support - educational/leisure activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chiah - Ain Remaneh - Naccache - Antelias - Keserwan
Dar Al Amal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - rehabilitation - social reintegration day centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - women escaping violent situations (rape, domestic violence) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - vocational training - psychological follow-up - legal - social follow-up - daily meals - medical - economic empowerment - awareness-raising 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sin el-Fil
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Al Safa Day Center: specialized prevention centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - young women and girls at risk - girls (12-18 years) with potential delinquent tendencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - recreational activities - medical/referral - psychological counselling - awareness-raising - legal - group therapy (individuals, parents) - counselling - remedial courses - psychosocial - follow-up (schools and families) - art therapy - vocational training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Al Nabaa - BourjHammoud

NGO	Programme centre	Target population	Services provided	Geographical location
KAFA	- listening and counselling centre	- women victims of violence	- social counselling - legal - medical/forensic - psychotherapeutic counselling (women and children) - temporary safe housing - 24/7 hotline - drama therapy - support groups - online support	- Greater Beirut
LFPA	- cross-cutting throughout other projects	- women in rural areas	- awareness-raising - capacity-building training	- Beirut - Tyre - Saida - Bekaa
Najdeh Association	- domestic violence programme	- staff and beneficiaries; - women and families	- training - awareness-raising	- Tyre - North - Bekaa - Beirut - Saida
		- women victims of violence	- listening and counselling centres: - legal - psychological counselling - counselling/guidance - support groups - referrals - follow-up	
LECORVAW	- listening and counselling centres	- women victims of violence	- counselling - 24/7 helpline - legal counselling - group intervention - medical/forensic - psychotherapeutic treatment - shelter - online support	- Beirut - Tripoli
	- sensitization awareness-raising	- university and high-school students	- grassroots education: awareness-raising sessions workshops	
		- medical doctors - nurses - police and security officers - lawyers - social workers - activists and workers in human rights and women's organizations	- frontline personnel education: - capacity-building training	
	- economic empowerment	- women victims of violence	- income-generating and job opportunities	

NGO	Programme centre	Target population	Services provided	Geographical location
LWDG	- programme for the elimination of VAW	- abused women	- listening and counselling centres: - legal services - psychosocial services - social follow-up - referral	- Beirut - Baalbeck - Bourj al Barajneh - Tripoli - Saida
		- Lebanese population at large	- awareness-raising - sensitization - capacity-building training	
YWCA	- Centre for Women in Crisis (CWIC)	- women victims of violence	- shelter referral - medical/forensic - 24/7 helpline - psychological counselling - social counselling - legal - therapeutic activities - vocational training	- Ain Mraisse (Beirut)
Mission de Vie	- Centre Vie Nouvelle	- victims of violence	- shelter - referral to specialized NGOs - psychological care/counselling - medical - educational	- Antelias

5.3. Services provided by each NGO



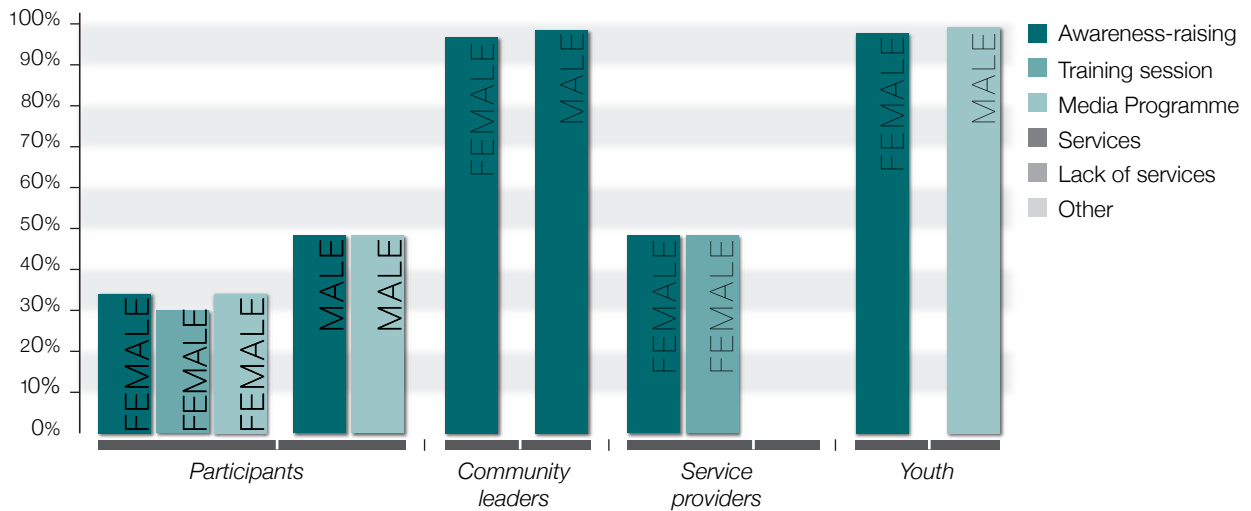
Services	Bon Pasteur	Maryam & Martha	Dar Al Amal	KAFA	LFPA	Najdeh	LECOR-VAW	LWDG	YWCA	Mission de Vie
Shelter	✓			✓			✓			✓
Spiritual healing	✓	✓								
Psychological and psychiatric counselling	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Medical services	✓		✓				✓			✓
Forensic doctor	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	
Legal aid	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Recreational activities	✓	✓	✓							
Follow-up	✓					✓				

Services	Bon Pasteur	Maryam & Martha	Dar Al Amal	KAFA	LFPA	Najdeh	LECOR-VAW	LWDG	YWCA	Mission de Vie
Social worker counselling	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	
Vocational training	✓		✓						✓	
Social and psychological monitoring (parents)	✓									
Ergonomics and craftwork	✓	✓								
Art therapy	✓		✓	✓						
Awareness-raising	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Referral	✓					✓		✓	✓	✓
Daily meals			✓							
Group therapy			✓	✓		✓	✓			
Counselling			✓			✓	✓			
Remedial classes			✓			✓	✓			
Follow-up (schools and families)			✓							
hotline 24/7			✓						✓	
Online support				✓			✓			
Capacity building					✓	✓	✓	✓		
Economic empowerment			✓				✓			
Therapeutic activities									✓	
Professional training and education		✓								✓
Reconciliation services		✓								

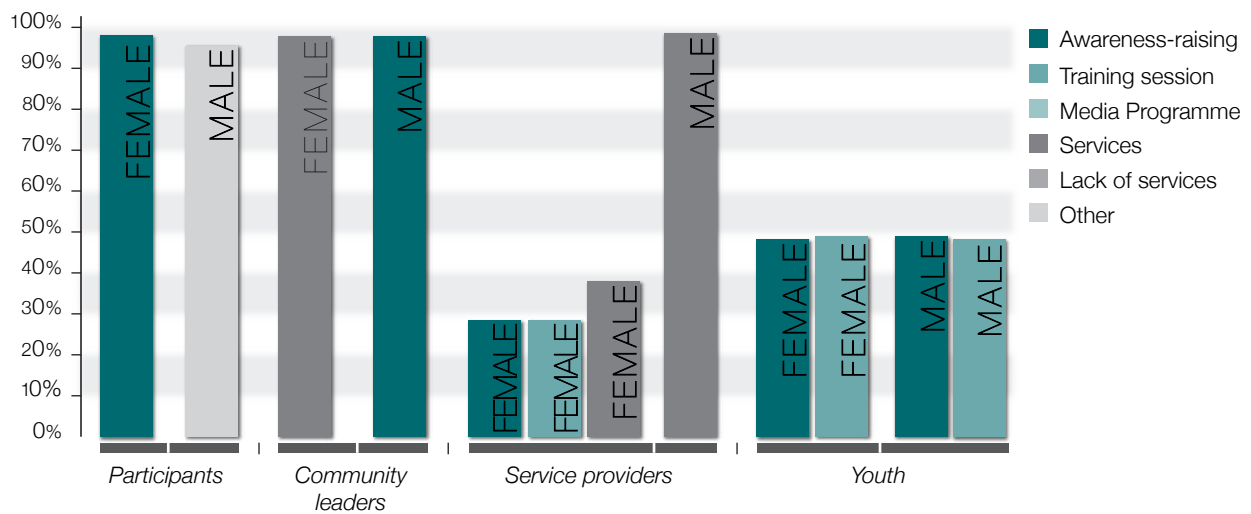
5.4. Gender-based violence programmes and services provision in Lebanon: Knowledge and perceptions by governorate and by focus group



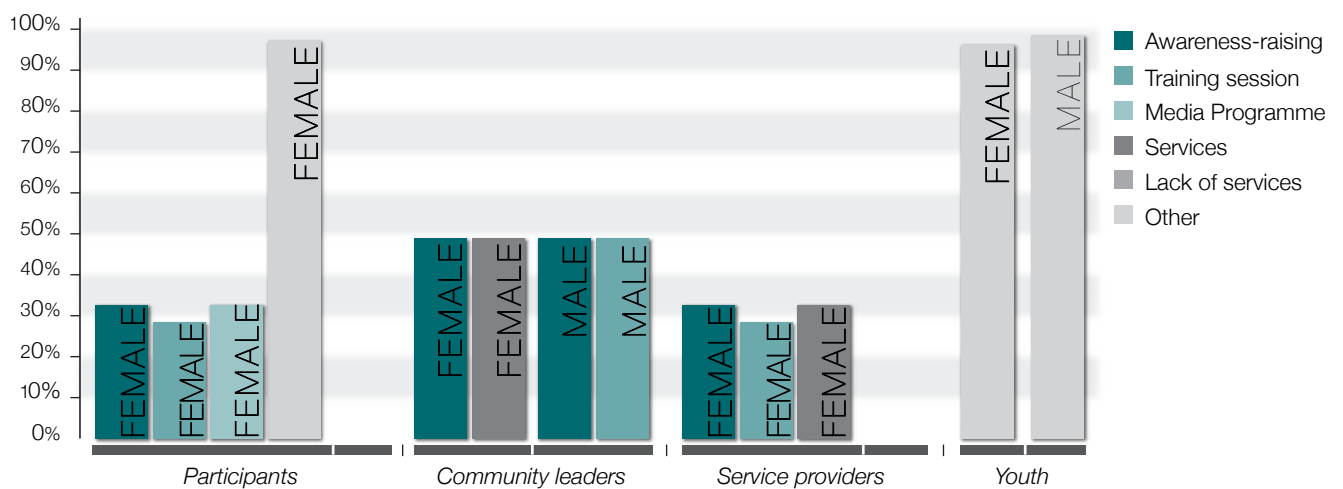
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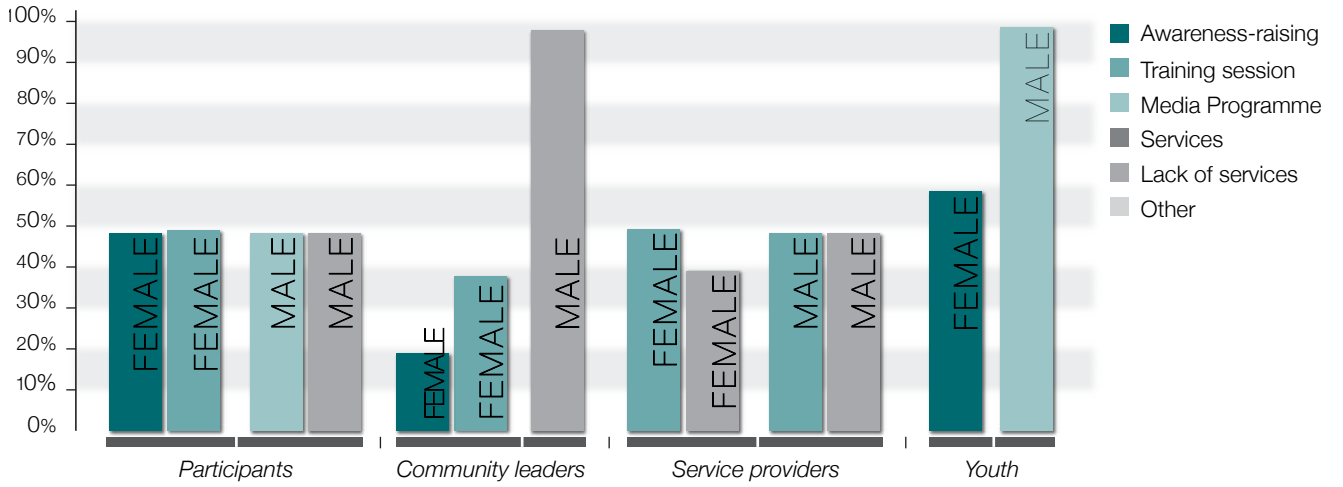
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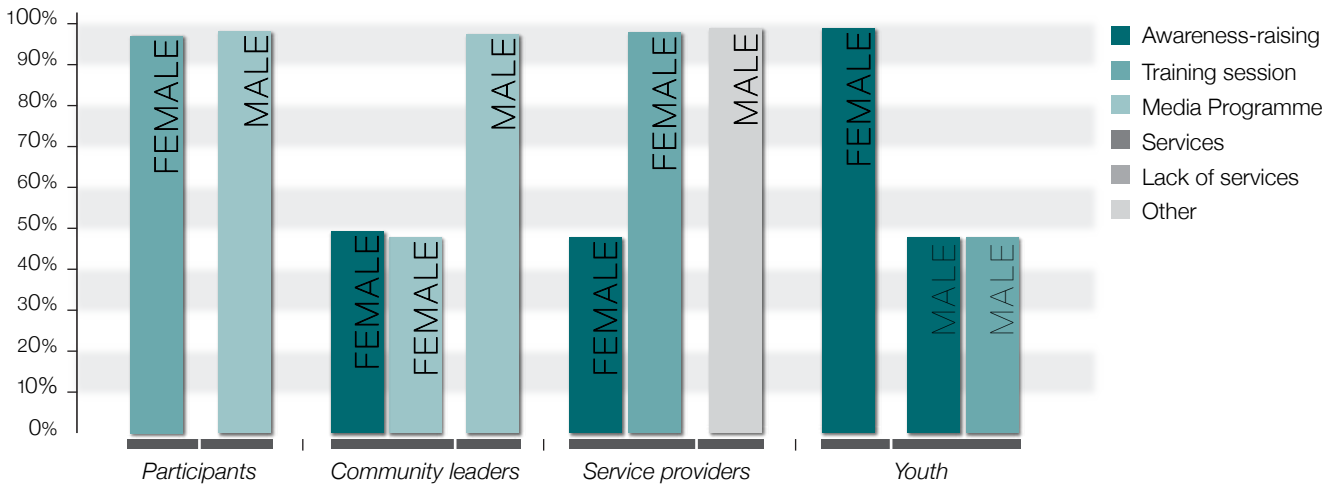
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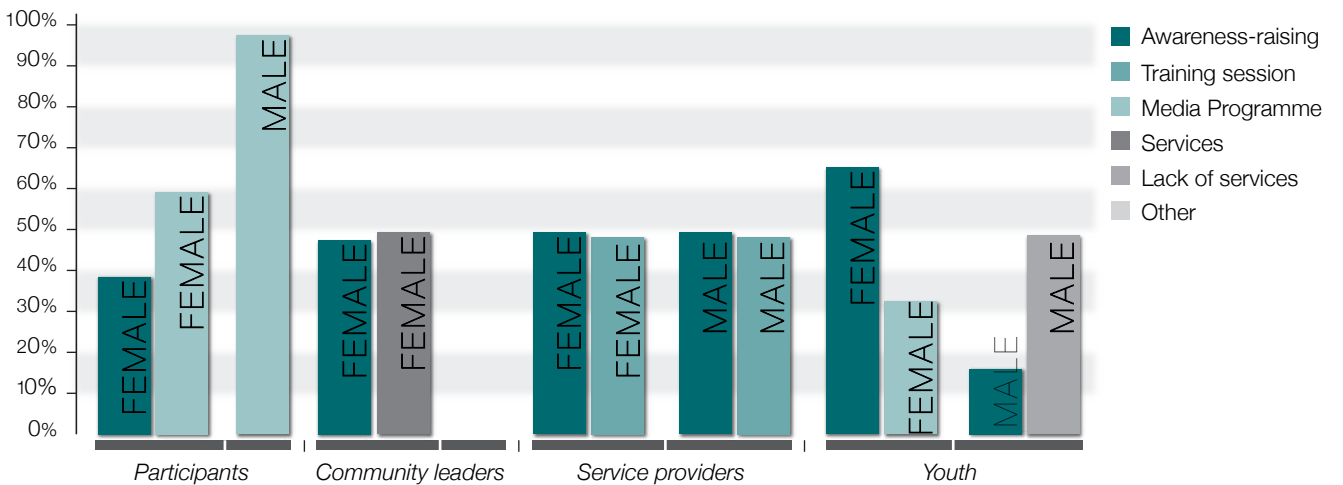
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Annex 6

MAPPING OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE KEY ACTORS

Preamble

In the frame work of the Situation Analysis of Gender Based Violence (GBV) in Lebanon a mapping of the Stakeholders having a true or potential impact and/or working on GBV is elaborated to provide information on the main actors in the political, legislative and programmatic context and areas of interventions including services.

The mapping attempted to identify main State and non-State actors such as policy and decision makers, providers of services to women/girls victims of violence, advocates to address GBV, researches on the issue, international and regional organizations concerned and/or interested by GBV including donors supporting financially the GBV interventions in Lebanon.

The methodology of compilation of the mapping was mainly concerned by ensuring accurate and qualitative data. It consisted in the following:

- A field assessment with support of national consultants and the UNFPA office in Lebanon.
- A desk research conducted by the Documentation unit in CAWTAR.
- An electronic assessment sent to all representatives of CAWTAR's networks in Lebanon, namely the Arab Network for Gender & Development and @NGED and the GBV regional network.
- The data base of CAWTAR.

A detailed listing of the governmental institutions, non-governmental and international organizations working at different GBV levels in addressing the following GBV issues was made available:

- Reforms and amendment of legislations
- Design of policies and programmes
- Provisions of multidisciplinary and multisectoral services including set up of referral system
- Evidence based advocacy and policy dialogue for change, development and human rights of women through life cycle
- Building networks and coalitions

The GBV data base¹ in Lebanon related to stakeholders is divided in three blocs:

- State institutions/governmental institutions
- Civil society organizations and associations
- International and regional organizations and agencies

For each actor, the following information was provided:

- Contacts details
- Objectives, activities and fields/work of interest (services, research, advocacy, etc)
- Forms of violence (if available)
- Projects (if available)

It is to be noted that the comprehensive assessment and in-depth analysis of the information provided in this mapping have been reflected in the GBV Situation Analysis in Lebanon.

State Institutions with a Political and Legislative Reform Role

The overall framework

Lebanon is a parliamentary republic built on the political system that is based on the apportionment of parliamentary seats, high political offices, and senior administrative positions among the country's 17 recognized confessional groups.

The first Lebanese Constitution, on which the present one is based, was adopted on May 23, 1926, when the country was still subject to French administration under a League of Nations mandate. The constitution was amended as the result of an unwritten agreement, the National Pact, when the country became independent on November 22, 1943. The constitution was further amended in 1990 as a result of the Ta'if Accord (see below).

The 1943 National Pact allocated political power along confessional lines on the basis of the 1932 census; stipulated that the President must be a Maronite Christian, the Prime Minister a Sunni Muslim, and the Speaker of Parliament a Shi'i Muslim and divided seats in parliament according to a 6-to-5 ratio of Christians to Muslims.

The 1989 Ta'if Accord which ended the country's 15-year civil war, reaffirmed the confessional arrangement, but introduced several changes. These changes resulted in constitutional amendments enacted in 1990. The Ta'if Accord distributed parliamentary seats equally between Christians and Muslims; established a cabinet divided equally between Christians and Muslims and reduced the power of the Maronite president.

Prior to the Ta'if Accord, the Prime Minister was appointed by and responsible to the President. The Accord made the Prime Minister accountable to the legislative body, as in a traditional parliamentary system.

Executive branch



Official Name	: Presidency of the Republic of Lebanon
City	: Baabda
Tel	: + 961-4-424961 / 4-423271
Fax	: + 961-5-622400
Web site	: www.presidency.gov.lb
Type of Institution	: Higher level of the State
Geographical Coverage	: National

¹ The data base is also available on CAWTAR website within an online regional data base on GBV and regularly updated.



The **President**² is the head of state. He is elected by a two-thirds majority of parliament, for a six-year term. If no presidential candidates are able to meet the two-thirds majority requirement in the first round of voting, a second round of voting is scheduled in which absolute majority suffices. He appoints the prime minister in consultation with the parliament; promulgates laws passed by the parliament and can only issue decrees with the approval of the prime minister or the relevant minister. The only exceptions are the decree appointing the prime minister and the decree accepting the resignation of the government.

Official Name : Council of Ministers
City : Beirut
Fax : +961-1-983065
E-mail : conseilm@pcm.gov.lb
Web site : www.pcm.gov.lb
Type of Institution : GOV
Geographical Coverage : National

The **Prime Minister**³ is the head of government, appointed by the president in consultation with parliament. He heads the Council of Ministers and sets its agenda; conducts the parliamentary consultations requisite to forming a cabinet; and must countersign all decrees along with the president of the republic, with the exception of the decree accepting the resignation of the government. He is required to sign international treaties.

The **Council of Ministers** is appointed by the prime minister, in consultation with the president and members of the parliament. Cabinet seats are allotted to sects in proportion to their numbers. The Council of Ministers requires a vote of confidence from the parliament in order to remain in power; controls the armed forces; proposes legislation; submits the annual budget plan to parliament; can dissolve the parliament upon request of the president if parliament, for no compelling reasons, fails to meet during one of its regular periods and fails to meet throughout two successive extraordinary periods, each longer than one month, or if it rejects an annual budget plan with the aim or paralyzing the government (Article 65). This right cannot be exercised a second time if it is for the same reasons which led to the dissolution of parliament the first time. Usually the Council of Ministers makes its decisions by consensus but if consensus is impossible, it makes decisions by majority vote of members present at the meeting. Certain "national issues", however, require the approval of two thirds of all the members of the council. These include: amending the constitution, declaring and ending a state of emergency, declaring war, signing peace agreements, signing international treaties, reviewing annual government budget and long-term development projects, appointing high-level government employees, dissolving parliament, dismissing ministers, among others.

Official Name : National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW)
Date of Creation : 1996
Address : Hazmieh, Chahine Center, BLOM Bank Building, 2nd floor
City : Beirut, Baabda
Tel : +961-5-955101/2
Fax : +961-5-955103
E-mail : info@nclw.org.lb
Web site : www.nclw.org.lb/NCLW-AR/puttingwomen.htm
Type of Institution : SEMI-GOV under the umbrella of the Council of Ministers
Geographical Coverage : National
Fields of Interest/Work : Combat GBV, human rights, women rights, women empowerment, and gender equality

Objectives:

Gender equality and fighting against all forms of discrimination, violence and violation of

² Always a Maronite Christian, based on the unwritten National Pact of 1943.

³ Prime minister is always a Sunni Muslim.

human rights of women, in society and family, during peace, conflict and post conflict situations.

Strategies/interventions:

Policy dialogue, and strategic planning, research, advocacy and raising awareness, coordination and networking, CEDAW reporting and monitoring, educational activities, training and implementation of legislation and its application.

The **National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW)** was founded in January 1996. The NCLW was established in compliance with global resolutions put forth during the Beijing Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 that called upon all governments to establish a national mechanism for women's advancement and gender equality. In April of 2009, decree 538 was issued, designating the 22 member General Assembly of the National Commission. In its first meeting in June, the internal policies were discussed and adopted, and the eight-member Executive Committee of the National Commission was elected. The NCLW is chaired by the First Lady of Lebanon. Its vice-chairs are the spouses of the Prime Minister and the Speaker of the Parliament.

The **Executive Committee** is comprised of volunteers who have a commitment to gender equality and are active in the field of women's advancement. Each volunteer member is also responsible for a working sub-committee in her area of interest and/or expertise.

Furthermore, the NCLW coordinates and establishes connections and functions with the different public administrations, civil and non-governmental institutions, and Arab and international organizations, with the aim of promoting the condition of Lebanese women. Situated at the highest level of government, the NCLW has a broad mandate for change, from national priority-setting, advocacy, and awareness-raising to policy formulation and analysis, legislative change, monitoring of women's status, and research and training.

It is worth to note that the NCLW is in charge of the CEDAW reporting and is currently updating the National Women Strategy working hard to concretize its credo "Putting women in national agenda".

Legislative Branch




Official Name	: National Assembly / Parliament
Address	: Nejmeh Square
City	: Beirut
Tel	: +961-1-982044 / 1-982100 / 1-982058
Fax	: +961-1-982059
Web site	: www.lp.gov.lb
Type of Institution	: Elected body/Constituency

The **National Assembly** is a unicameral legislative body composed of the Chamber of Deputies. The 128-member Chamber of Deputies (Majlis al-Nuwwab) is elected by popular vote for five-year terms on the basis of proportional representation for the various confessional groups. It proposes legislation; levies taxes and approves the budget; can impeach the prime minister and ministers for high treason or for serious neglect of their duties. The decision to impeach can only be taken by a two-thirds majority of the total membership and can question ministers on policy issues and withdraw confidence from certain ministers.

The Speaker of Parliament⁴ is elected by the parliament. He has considerable power, because he can delay the presentation to parliament of the draft laws prepared by the executive branch. This creates a situation in which the prime minister and the Council of Ministers are forced to bargain with the speaker to ensure that draft laws are placed, within a reasonable amount of time, on the agenda of the relevant parliamentary commissions.

⁴ The speaker of parliament is always a Shi'i Muslim.



The Ta'if Accord stipulates that a higher chamber or a senate (Majlis al Shuyukh) must be established after the first parliament is elected on a national, non-confessional basis. This higher chamber is supposed to represent the various sects, while the Chamber of Deputies must be non-sectarian. This stipulation was incorporated into the constitution in the 1990 amendments (Article 22) but the chamber was never set up.

Judiciary



JUDICIARY COUNCILS

Official Name	: Constitutional Council
City	: Beirut
Tel	: +961-5-466184
Fax	: +961-5-466191
E-mail	: conscont@cyberia.net.lb
Web site	: conseil-constitutionnel.gov.lb
Type of Institution	: GOV
Geographical Coverage	: National

The **Constitutional Council**, created by the 1990 constitutional amendments, judges the constitutionality of laws and arbitrates conflicts that arise from presidential and parliamentary elections. It is composed of ten members, half of them selected by the Chamber of Deputies and the other half by the Council of Ministers. The President, the speaker of parliament, the prime minister, and ten members of parliament have the right to consult this council on matters that relate to the constitutionality of laws. The officially recognized heads of religious communities have the right to consult the Council concerning laws relating to personal status, the freedom of belief and religious practice, and the freedom of religious education.

Official Name	: State Council
Address	: Justice Palace, Sami Solh Street, 3rd floor
City	: Beirut
Tel	: +961-1-427844
Fax	: +961-1-427958
E-mail	: statecouncil@statecouncil.org
Web site	: www.statecouncil.gov.lb
Type of Institution	: GOV

The **Council of State**, established in 1924, is empowered to try disputes between individuals and the state.

The **Supreme Judicial Council**, headed by the Chief Justice of the Court of Cassation, is in charge of judicial appointments, transfers, and training. However, in practice, the Ministry of Justice performs these functions in order to guarantee adequate representation for all confessional groups. The Ministry of Justice appoints all judges based on their religious affiliation. Its decisions are submitted to the Supreme Judicial Council for approval.

COURTS

In addition to several quasi-judicial or arbitration bodies for labor, real estate, and customs disputes the herewith quoted courts are under the umbrella of the Ministry of Justice⁵:

Regular Courts

A three-tiered hierarchy exists:

- Courts of First Instance (mahakim bida'iyya): are organized into chambers of three judges, but a single judge may adjudicate minor civil and criminal cases.

⁵ www.justice.gov.lb.

- Courts of Appeal (mahakim isti'naf): hear appeals from the courts of First Instance as well as felony cases. There are six courts of appeal, one located in each governorate.
- The Court of Cassation in Beirut serves as the final court of appeal for all lower court cases in the regular court system. It also adjudicates in the event of judicial disputes between special and regular courts, or between two types of special courts.

Special Courts

- The Military Court tries cases involving military personnel and civilians in security-related issues (such as espionage, treason, weapons possession, and draft evasion cases). The Military Court has two tribunals—the permanent tribunal and the cassation tribunal. The cassation tribunal, headed by a civilian judge, hears appeals from the permanent tribunal. Defendants on trial in the military tribunal have the same procedural rights as defendants in ordinary courts. The Military Court, which consists predominantly of military officers with no legal training, does not observe international standards of criminal procedure. This court is under the Ministry of Defense.
- The Court of Audit, which is attached to the Prime Minister's office, oversees cases related to public funds.
- The Judicial Council is a permanent tribunal of five senior judges that adjudicates threats to national security. Upon the recommendation of the Minister of Justice, the cabinet decides whether to try a case before this tribunal. Verdicts from this tribunal are irrevocable and may not be appealed.

Ministries



Official Name	: Ministry of Justice
Address	: Justice Palace Sami, Sami Solh Street, 5th floor
P.O Box	: 5549
City	: Beirut
Tel	: +961-1-422956 / 1-422944
Fax	: +961-1-611142
E-mail	: minister@justice.gov.lb
Web site	: www.justice.gov.lb
Type of Institution	: GOV
Geographical Coverage	: National
Fields of Interest/Work	: Human rights including of women, combat GBV, legislative reform, rule of law, coalition and lobbying, etc.

The overall background

In addition to the above description of the Judiciary system which indicates the mission and main tasks of the Ministry of Justice, it is worth to note that Lebanon's constitution was written before extensive provisions for judicial bodies became common. While it has been amended, there has been no attempt to detail provisions for the judiciary. As amended in 1990, Lebanon's constitution has only two articles on the judiciary. Article 19 calls for the establishment of a Constitutional Council and Article 20 states that "judicial power is to be exercised by the tribunals of various levels and jurisdictions". An additional article, Article 80, deals with trying ministers and presidents.

Lebanon's regular court system is based on the Napoleonic code. There is also a separate system of specialized confessional courts with jurisdiction over personal status matters (rules on marriage, divorce, and inheritance) in their respective communities. The sharia courts are divided into Sunni and Shi'a units. There are also courts for the various Christian sects, Druze, and Jews.

Article 20 of the constitution provides for an independent judiciary. In practice, the judiciary is subject to political pressure, particularly in the appointments of key prosecutors and investigating magistrates.

The Ministry has appointed a gender focal point in 2009 and worked with the Ministry of Social Affairs and a number of non-governmental organizations to draft the project

law on domestic violence presented to the parliament.

Official Name : **Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE)**
Address : Habib Abi-chahla Square – Beside UNESCO Palace
P.O Box : 9500-9710
City : Beirut
Tel : +961-1-789604 / 1-789634 / 1-789611
Fax : +961-1-789606
E-mail : info@higher-edu.gov.lb
Web site : www.higher-edu.gov.lb
Type of Institution : GOV
Geographical Coverage : National
Fields of Interest/Work : Education, sensitization including GBV, gender equality, human rights in general and of women, human rights of children and young people, reproductive health and rights through life cycle

Official Name : **Ministry of Interior and Municipalities**
Date of Creation : 1943
Address : Sanayeh
City : Beirut
Tel : +961-1-751602 / 1-754200 / 1-751601
Fax : +961-1-750084 / 1-751622
E-mail : info@moim.gov.lb, admin@moim.gov.lb
Web site : www.moim.gov.lb
Type of Institution : GOV
Geographical Coverage : National
Fields of Interest/Work : Human rights, combat GBV, HIV/AIDS, collaboration with concerned institutions including NGOs, coalitions and networking in the quoted areas of interests

The **Ministry** was established in 1943. There have been several amendments to the organization of this ministry, the last on 14/10/2000 under Decree No. 4082 based on Law No. 247 Date 07/08/2000 which became known as: “The Ministry of Interior and Municipalities”. The latter deals with Lebanon’s domestic affairs and politics and ensures the maintenance of order and security and oversees the affairs of the provinces and districts, municipalities and federations of municipalities, municipal and political parties and associations. The Ministry is in charge of the personal status, refugee affairs and civil defense. One of the main missions of the Ministry is to implement laws.

The Ministry has appointed gender focal points in 2009 and a main actor through the police body to protect women victims of violence.

Internal Security Forces

- General Directorate: (961) (1) 868264, 425250, 392750, 309350, 643949, 338700
- General Director’s office: (961) (1) 426750, 866176, 868910, 868940
- Command of Gendarmerie: (961) (1) 425250 , Chief: (961) (1) 868632, 424760
- Command of Security Forces Institute: (961) (1) 868630, 425141, Chief: (961) (1) 425140

EMERGENCIES: New nationwide emergency number 112 can be used from any location in Lebanon and from cellular phones. The nearest emergency center will answer when 112 is dialed. Email address: ISF@Lebanon.com

The Internal Security Forces are submitted to the authority of the minister of the Interior, and they comply with the provisions of the military laws and regulations with the exceptions determined by virtue of other laws and regulations.

The Internal Security Forces are general armed forces whose prerogatives cover all

the Lebanese territory and its regional waters and airspace. As for their missions, in addition to the other related security fields, they are specified as follows:

1. In the field of the administrative police:

- Policing and establishing security
- Insuring the general convenience
- Protecting people and properties
- Protecting the freedoms within the framework of the law
- Insuring the enforcement of the laws and regulations they are in charge of

2. In the field of the judicial police:

- Accomplishing the missions of the judicial police
- Executing the assignments and the letters rogatory
- Executing the judgments and the judicial warrants

The ministry and ISF are involved in all events and missions that concern security and protection of Lebanese citizens including women and has been involved through the ISF in many strategic events such as the development of the GBV Plan of Action, the national advocacy campaigns to only quote the NCLW-UNFPA WEPASS project (Women Empowerment: Peaceful Action for Security and Safety), the planning and implementation of the GBV project to only quote these few examples.

Official Name	: Ministry of Labor
Address	: Mashrafia - Shiah
City	: Beirut
Tel	: +961-1-556817 / 1-556831
Fax	: +961-1-556817
E-mail	: MOL@LABOR.GOV.LB
Web site	: www.labor.gov.lb
Type of Institution	: GOV
Geographical Coverage	: National
Fields of Interest/Work	: Labor rights, combat GBV in work place, domestic workers including foreigners

The Ministry has appointed a gender focal point in 2009 and focuses on gender equality in the workplace without special focus on sexual harassment (see the SitAn).

In February 2010, the creation of a complaints office for foreign workers by the Ministry of Labor was announced following meetings between the Lebanese Minister of Labor on the one hand and ambassadors, consuls and chargés d'affaires of several countries on the other. This committee will address the problems of foreign workers in Lebanon, and of migrant domestic workers. As such, the ministry of Labor will create a complaints office for foreign workers, and will intervene and investigate these complaints.

Official Name	: Ministry of Public Health (MOPH)
Address	: Museum Area
City	: Beirut
Tel	: +961-1-615774/5/6
Fax	: +961-1-615771
E-mail	: ministry@public-health.gov.lb
Web site	: www.public-health.gov.lb
Type of Institution	: GOV
Geographical Coverage	: National
Fields of Interest/Work	: Health including reproductive health and rights with no specific programmes and services for GBV or interventions to combat GBV despite few experiences (see GBV SitAn report)

The Ministry was founded since 1958 it has no specific program to women victims of

violence although it provides all women with health and reproductive health services and that GBV survivors could also access to specialized health services to only quote emergency or forensic medicine. The Ministry has appointed a gender focal point in 2009.

Official Name	: Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA)
Address	: Badaro Street - Facing Buick
City	: Beirut
Tel	: +961-1-611260/1/2/3 / 1- 612850
Fax	: +961-1-611245 / 1-611242
E-mail	: info@socialaffairs.gov.lb
Web site	: www.socialaffairs.gov.lb
Type of Institution	: GOV
Geographical Coverage	: National
Fields of Interest/Work	: Social issues from a development perspective, women and children rights, elder person, GBV including physical, sexual and psychological violence.

Interventions/activities : Research, training and counseling/listening in addition to other social services in the context of its own centers or the implementation with the Lebanese Council to Resist Violence against Women of “the project to develop the capacity of social workers in developmental services centers on the theme of anti-domestic violence”

The MOSA was founded in 1993. The ministry has established a Women Affairs Department in the same year of its creation. Starting 2008 the Ministry has appointed a gender focal point. The MOSA is implementing several programs to promote women conditions and offer services to women victims of violence. MOSA works in collaboration with UN agencies and civil society.

The MOSA has come a long way in its development and social process. It has taken into charge to implement all the conceived aims depending on a new strategy of social work, which is in harmony with the contemporary concept of human development.

MOSA focuses on the social responsibility and on rendering the human being the axis of all the development activities. Pertaining to this concept, MOSA considers its functions and missions in an integral way with multiple dimensions, which is not restricted to offer help only to groups in need, but rather to reach an integrally developmental role.

MOSA's strategy in social work is based on the principles of sustained human development of which these are the essential supports: The satisfaction of the essential needs of destitute groups according to a practical study of their characteristics and by applying the most convenient programs to deal with their problems (see also GBV SitAn).

Civil Society

The civil society is very active in Lebanon. A very important number of the NGOs are working on social development others are working to promote Women Human Rights and a growing number are either providing services to women/girls surviving to gender based violence or advocating fighting against GBV (see also GBV SitAn in Lebanon).

Official Name	: Association “Mariam and Martha” (CMM)
Date of Creation	: 1999
Address	: Maronite Patriarchate, Daraya Road
Zip Code	: 1065
City	: Ajaltoun

Tel : +961-9-236961 / 03-845412
E-mail : cmm@maryamandmartha.org; pabdoak@hotmail.com
Web site : maryamandmartha.org
Type of Institution : NGO
Geographical Coverage : National
Fields of Interest/Work: Human rights, women rights, combat gender based violence including physical, psychological and sexual violence, counseling, shelters, training, and raising awareness

Objectives:

1. Create specialized centers that take care of lodging, rehabilitation and supporting each woman and girl (18-50) when she has difficult family and social situations and she is completely left (morally and financially) and needs help.
2. Work on applying the Charter of Human Rights and all the international agreements that concern the woman.
3. Cooperating with all the social organizations, societies, communities, family's associations and the dioceses to perceive about the importance of education.
4. Support the woman by making her sure of herself morally, educationally and professionally so she can have back her dignity and rejoin the society and be a good citizen.

Activities:

Rehabilitation of internal affects the following categories: personal hygiene, housekeeping, healthy dialogue, emotional maturity, psychological perception, family intervention, Social escorts psychological specialist, find job opportunities, recreational activities, cultural, social.

Title of the project: Awareness and guidance to residents and pupils of schools.

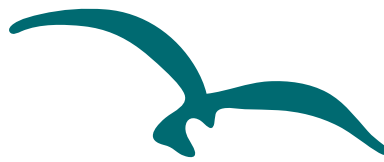
Abstract on the project: Awareness-raising seminars and guidance on:

- Women's rights and duties
- Democracy and positive dialogue
- Combating the causes of sexual exploitation

Official Name : Association Dar Al Amal
Date of Creation : 1969
P.O Box : 55329
City : Beirut
Tel : +961-1-241164
Fax : +961-1-183508
E-mail : hoda_kara@hotmail
Type of Institution : NGO
Geographical Coverage : National
Fields of Interest/Work : Women's rights, combat GBV including physical, psychological and sexual violence, counseling, and shelters

Objectives:

1. Operate on three major projects to achieve the social rehabilitation of women victims of prostitution to help girls who are at risk of delinquency and follow-up of prisoners. It is a national non-profit organization operating in Bourj Hammoud, Sin El Fil and Baabda Prison. Through its two active centers the organization has been running 3 projects with the following priority population groups: Women in Baabda, Zahle, prisons in Tripoli, and girls under 18 subject to violence and abuse and sex workers. The *Rehabilitation and Social Re-Integration Day Center* is operating since 1970 in Horesh Tabet, Sin El-fil (Mount Lebanon) with the following main objectives: a) welcome girls and women in situation of prostitution and exploitation, and ensure their social rehabilitation through reinsertion programmes and b) Empower them to regain their dignity, develop their potential and discover better alternatives to life. Provided services are: psychological follow up, financial support, legal services, and individual follow up with social workers as well as daily meals at the center. The *Al Safa Day Center* is a *Specialized Prevention Center* that started its activities in



1987 in Al Nabaa and Bourj Hammoud, and aims at enabling young women and girls at risk to develop their potential, consolidate their identity, and realize a life project and act for change in their environment. It addresses the needs of potential (i.e. population at risk) but not actual delinquent girls aged 12-18, adaptive difficulties, undermined by their families and social conditions.

2. The center provides safe constructive educational and recreational activities as well as medical and psychological counseling taking into account that most services are offered for free such as a) *Legal services* and consultations for individuals and families with referring severe cases to the juvenile protection unit; b) *Counseling services* consisting in group therapy with a specialized psychologist for individuals and parents as well as individual counseling with psychologists for affected girls and family members; c) *Medical services* with a minimum of health fees coverage and referring beneficiaries to collaborating partners; d) *Educational services* including night learning sessions for girls; e) *Follow-up services/psycho-social services* through psycho-social interventions with parents and follow up on the social, individual, and family levels by conducting regular domestic visits as well as with schools through a specialized social worker coordinating with teachers and principals; and f) *Awareness raising services* that include sessions for mothers, girls, and children on gender based violence/ violence against women, protection, and other related topics (this is the same services of the “**Center of prevention**” of the Dar al Amal association and in the same area).

Official Name	: Association for the Protection of the Child from War (APEG)
Date of Creation	: 1996
Address	: Mar Mikhael, Nicolas Turk Street, Boustany Building
City	: Beirut
Tel	: +961-1-561098
Fax	: +961-1-561098
E-mail	: gmirna@inco.com.lb, apeg@cyberia.net.lb
Type of Institution	: NGO
Geographical Coverage	: National
Fields of Interest/Work	: Human rights, combat GBV including physical, psychological and sexual violence, counseling, listening, and training

Objectives:

1. Care for children victims of the Cana massacre and their families through a multi-disciplinary team (psychiatrists, psychologists and social workers).
2. Treatment of patients (children and adults) for all types of disorders by means of outpatient consultations, psychotherapies and or medications.
3. Care for children victims of sexual abuse everywhere in Lebanon.

Activities:

- Design of tools adapted to the Lebanese population.
- Assessment of children victims of sexual abuse (interview etc).
- Training of school staff (teachers, physicians, nurses, etc) to detect psychological disorders in some schools in Beirut and South Lebanon.
- Therapeutic school activities in South Lebanon (cf. the activity report on the centers).
- Follow-up at home by the social worker.

Title of the project:

Program for Children Victims of Sexual Abuse

Partners/ Donors: European Community, Ministry of Foreign Affairs - France

Abstract and outcomes of the project:

The project aims to improve the follow-up of the children victims of sexual abuse everywhere in Lebanon. A quality tool tested in Lebanon was provided to the Ministry of Justice. It is an interview guide entitled “How to interview the abused child”. Moreover, during the evaluations that take place in the Ministry of Justice in the presence of the Internal Security Forces, the association is always represented by one of the psychologists.

Almost 256 children benefited from therapeutic treatment through 3104 consultations.

Official Name	: Association Mission de Vie (MDV)
Date of Creation	: 2001
Address	: Koubaizi, Fouar Street, Aoun Building
City	: Antelias
Tel	: +961-4-408088 / 4-412842 / 4-375006
Fax	: +961-4-408088
E-mail	: mdv@missiondevie.org, missiondevie@yahoo.com
Web site	: www.missiondevie.org
Type of Institution	: NGO
Geographical Coverage	: National
Fields of Interest/Work	: Children Rights, GBV through Counseling/Listening

Objectives:

1. It is a community of men and women who dedicate their lives to welcome the most deprived persons who show up at our doorstep.
2. Their goal is to act before people in distress, without discrimination of sex, age, religion or nationality; to shelter them on short, medium or long term depending on their needs, to help them to recover dignity and confidence, to assist and guide them for reintegration into society thanks to professional and social trainings, as well as through family mediation.

Activities:

- MDV sat up a welcome structure which provides shelter, a framework of life and ensures a social environment which allows rehabilitation and reintegration for the welcomed persons. This action has proven to be necessary as the Lebanese society was healing from a long period of war that had dismembered it and left very weak.

Official Name	: Association Najdeh
Date of Creation	: 1978
Address	: Abu Shaker, Afif Tibi Street, Al Amin Building, 3rd Floor
P.O Box	: 113/6099
City	: Beirut
Tel	: +961-1-703357 / 1-302079
Fax	: +961-1-703358
E-mail	: association@najdeh.org.lb
Web site	: association-najdeh.org
Type of Institution	: NGO
Geographical Coverage	: National
Fields of Interest/Work	: Women's rights, children's rights, protecting refugees, combat GBV, physical, psychological and sexual violence, counseling, listening, research and raising awareness

Objectives:

Association Najdeh's core aim is to empower women, a severely disadvantaged component of the Palestinian women refugees, with the necessary tools to have a more prominent role in their community. Women, by becoming more productive and self-reliant, contribute concretely to the development of the overall Palestinian refugees' community in Lebanon.

Activities:

- To the rescue of 26 centers in and around refugee camps and programs target women directly, including: training courses and vocational training, Mother and Child Program, the Social Action Program, which includes social assistance and family violence project, production or embroidery project (Badia) and the draft small loans.
- Rescue also works in favor of and the promotion of human and national rights of Palestinians in Lebanon, through the activities and awareness campaigns related to other programs: reproductive health activities, women's rights, children's rights; vocational rehabilitation; support for artisanal production [embroidery]; loans provision

for productive projects; raising awareness about the rights [rights - women - Child] and reproductive health and domestic violence; research and studies as well as advocacy and mobilization on the rights of the Palestinian people, especially refugees and their right of return to Palestine.

Title of the project: Combat Domestic Violence

Abstract and objectives of the project: The objective of the project to improve the psychological, social, physical and mental of the Palestinian refugees living in Lebanon and the specific objective of the program is to reduce domestic violence among Palestinian refugees, through:

1. Increase community knowledge on the effects of violence and its negative impact on society.
2. Reduce the social acceptability of violence and its adoption as a mean to solve problems.
3. Increase use of advisory services, social and psychological provided by the rescue at the hands of specialists.
4. Reinforce the legal assistance through documenting cases of battered survivors (amid Palestinian refugees).
5. Increase the capacity and skills of Palestinian women and their institutions in dealing with domestic violence and conduct research and development of policies and programs.

Official Name : Association of Justice without Frontiers
Date Of Creation : November 2005
Address : Jdeideth el Metn, Bouchrieh highway (Assayli), St. George Building, 1st floor
P.O Box : 90 - 343
City : Beirut
Tel : +961-1-890877 / 1-3702113
Fax : +961-1-880877
E-mail : jwficc@yahoo.com
Web site : www.jwf.org.lb
Type of Institution : NGO
Geographical Coverage : National, Regional
Fields of Interest/Work : Human rights, women and children's rights, combat GBV including physical, psychological and sexual violence, counseling, listening, raising awareness, and training

Objectives:

1. Raising awareness regarding women's rights.
2. Supporting women victims of violence through giving free legal and social consultations and following their cases in tribunal.

Activities:

- Training workshops for women and NGOs on women's rights, child rights and the importance of protecting them from violence, the International Criminal Court and the gender crimes.
- Preparing booklets, brochures and media materials regarding women's and children's rights and the role of the International Criminal Court.
- Promoting the role of the international justice through providing the culture of "End Impunity Now" and working on gender crimes issues.
- Working on the coalition with the International Criminal Court to punish crimes of international concern through ratifying the Rome Statute.
- Making media interviews regarding children's and women's rights and the importance of the international justice.
- Providing a hotline for emergency cases.
- Listening to women victims of violence and guiding them.

Title of the project: Justice for Children

Partners/ Donors: Save the Children, Sweden.

Abstract and outcomes of the project: Raising awareness regarding the importance of child rights and giving free legal and social consultations for children victims of violence and who are in conflict with the law, and following cases in tribunals.

Objectives of the project:

Following up around 60 cases by legal consultations including some child cases in tribunal.

Raising awareness regarding child rights in schools and universities.

Increasing the percent of child well treatment from parents and families.

Title of the project 2: Justice for Women

Partners/ Donors: NED

Abstract and outcomes of the project: Raising awareness regarding the women's rights and giving free legal consultations and following up some cases in tribunals (around 20 cases in tribunals); conducting trainings regarding women's rights and increasing the percent of knowledge regarding women's rights.

Title of the project 3: End Impunity Now

Partners/ Donors: No peace Without Justice/NPWJ; European Union & CICC

Abstract and outcomes of the project: Raising awareness regarding the International Criminal Court through providing the culture of End Impunity Now and urging the Lebanese Government to ratify the Rome Statute; Conducting regional trainings about the International Criminal Court, for lawyers and NGOs regarding and university students as regard the importance of the international criminal Court and the necessity of ratifying the Rome Statute.

Official Name : CARITAS - Migrants Centre- LEBANON

Date of Creation : 10/02/1977

Address : Sin el Fil, Dr. Youssef Hajjar Street

P.O Box : 165274

Zip Code : 1100-2030

City : Beirut

Tel : +961-1-499767/8 / 1- 483305

Fax : +961-1-494713

E-mail : carimigr@inco.com.lb

Web site : www.caritas.org.lb

Type of Institution : NGO

Geographical Coverage : Sin el Fil (Grand Beirut)

Fields of Interest/Work : Human rights, combat GBV including physical, psychological and sexual violence, counseling, legal aid, listening, and training

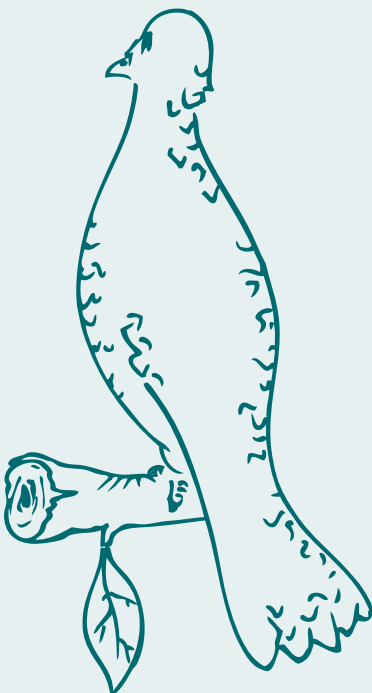
Vision, Mission and Objectives:

"All the Rights of Refugees, asylum seekers and those of Migrants are recognized, protected and respected" in Lebanon through:

1. Improving their living and working conditions.
2. Reducing their exploitation, marginalization and exclusion.
3. Defending their cause at local, national and regional levels.
4. Sensitizing the Lebanese population but also migrants and refugees to the cause of the foreigners.

Activities:

- Humanitarian assistance to meet basic needs; medical assistance including health insurance coverage
- Organisation of manual activities, singing and recreational activities, games of





relaxation, speak out groups

- Organization of orientation seminars for social workers to help the foreign detainees information on their rights protection to also avoid new arrests; regular visits of social workers to the prisons all over Lebanon (North, South, Bekaa and Roumieh), to assess needs of foreign prisoners
- Organization of orientation sessions to raise awareness of the Lebanese public on the need for a behavioural change and help migrants protect themselves, find support, and also to plead for more suited policies and practices
- Organization of summer camps for the children of migrants and refugees to build better understanding between nations, increase tolerance and respect for others, and introduce children to other religions and cultures than theirs as well as to give them a chance to amuse themselves far from the difficulties of their day-to-day life
- Assistance to Palestinians in different refugees camps in Lebanon (Baddawi, Nahr El Bared, Dbayeh, Bourh El Barajneh, Mar Elias, Chatila and Wavel). This aid includes Social Health Education covering various health issues. Palestinian refugees also receive vocational training to improve their chances of finding work
- Promotion of the cause of peace to prepare a solid foundation for justice and reconciliation, and repair injustice by restoring broken relationships. This aim is sought through activities such as reunions of various groups, summer camps, a forum on Human Rights, health education, schooling awareness and cultural sessions. The groups target Palestinian and Lebanese communities of various religions
- Opening of a school adapted to the needs of foreign children, aged between 4 and 12, and not attending school. Through this project, children have a chance to learn the three main languages spoken in Lebanon: Arabic, French and English, acquire some basic notions in mathematics and enrich their general knowledge. This trilingual instruction will later allow them to fit into the classic Lebanese or any other educational system, should their families move to Europe or America. At the same time, pupils take part in artistic and other cultural activities to stimulate their creativity, self-confidence and open-mindedness

Official Name	: Centre for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture (RESTART)
Date of Creation	: 1996
Address	: El-Saraya Street, Fattal Building, 7th floor
P.O Box	: 3014
City	: Tripoli
Tel	: +961-6-410577
Fax	: +961-6-410577
E-mail	: restartc@idm.net.lb
Web site	: www.restartcenter.com
Type of Institution	: NGO
Geographical Coverage	: National
Fields of Interest/Work	: Combat GBV mainly psychological violence, counselling, and psycho-social support

Objectives:

The center aims at contributing to upgrading the mental and psycho-social wellbeing of refugees through:

1. Physical, psychological and social rehabilitation to any individual victim of torture and violence and their family members and to refugees.
2. Awareness program about torture.
3. Enabling the torture survivors to become productive members in their societies through facilitating the social functioning with adaptive coping mechanisms and access to social opportunities.
4. Cooperation with local and international NGO's governmental bodies and networking among concerned professionals.
5. A central source of information and statistics on psychosocial problems facing refugees.
6. A network and collaboration systems among non-governmental and governmental

organizations in Lebanon.

7. Encouraging the social integration among children residing in Lebanon and the public debate on children rights.

Activities:

- Medical treatment, treatment of psychological disorders, orientation for other specialists and follow-up.
- Psychotherapeutic methods: individual psychotherapy, cognitive-behavioral therapy, family and systemic therapy, supportive psychotherapy and debriefing group psychotherapy.
- Various kinds of intervention: social, individual, family, community, school, and activities such as vocational training.
- Physiotherapy treatment: respiration, relaxation, body awareness and body reactions, self-training, balance training and help for self-help.
- The training programme is one of the principal annual programmes of Restart for different target groups, including lawyers; professionals working with and for refugees and uprooted people; social workers and professionals working in the field of trauma recognition in victims of torture and violence.

Title of the project: - Mental Health services to refugees in Lebanon

Partners/ Donors: - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees


Abstract and outcomes of the project: Restart Center, Badaro branch, Beirut Lebanon targeting a) Adults: Registered refugees of all nationalities (except Palestinian ones) suffering from psychological problems and b) Refugees' children of all nationalities (except Palestinian ones) suffering from one of the following: - Learning Disorders
- Behavioral troubles.

Official Name	: Hariri Foundation for Sustainable Human Development
Date of Creation	: 1990
Address	: Verdun, Soubra Building, 2nd floor
P.O Box	: 13-5742 Chouran, Beirut - Lebanon
City	: Beirut
Tel	: +961-1-803320 / 1-792300
Fax	: +961-1-793300
E-mail	: info@hariri-foundation.org
Web site	: www.hariri-foundation.org
Type of Institution	: NGO
Geographical Coverage	: National
Fields of Interest/work	: Women status and empowerment, education, women's rights, research, training and advocacy

Objectives:

In 1990, the mandate of the newly named Hariri Foundation for Sustainable Human Development was vowed to raising the Lebanese citizen's economic, social and cultural situation, through reinforcing the citizens' role in achieving sustainable human development. The Foundation slogan becomes "Investing in people, investing in Lebanon's future".

Official Name	: Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World – Lebanese American University (IWSAW)
Date Of Creation	: 1973
Address	: Shouran
P.O Box	: 13-5053
Zip Code	: 1102-2801
City	: Beirut
Tel	: +961-1-867618/9
Fax	: +961-1-791645



E-mail : iwsaw@lau.edu.lb
Web site : www.lau.edu.lb/centers-institutes/iwsaw
Type of Institution : NGO
Geographical Coverage : National
Fields of Interest/Work : Women empowerment, political participation, women's rights, combat GBV, physical, psychological and sexual violence, and research

Objectives:

1. Academic research to serve as a catalyst for policy changes regarding the rights of women in the Arab world.
2. Development programs and education.
3. Development and integration of women's studies in the Lebanese American University curriculum.
4. Networking and communication among individuals, groups and institutions concerned with women in the Arab world.
5. Relationships with international organizations and universities working on gender issues.

Activities:

- Development Programs: IWSAW designs and implements development programs aiming at the promotion literacy and enhancing social and political awareness.
- Basic Living Skills: it is a non-formal integrated educational kit in Arabic, geared towards illiterate and semi-literate women in the Arab world, available in both hard and digitized form. Its users are social workers and educators affiliated to non-governmental organizations, governmental institutions and international organizations involved in community development programs.
- Empowering Arab Women through Literacy, 2005, is a series of 12 second level literacy booklets based on IWSAW's Basic Living Skills Program. Through short stories, it addresses issues such as civic education and conflict control, women's empowerment, violence against women, health, and the environment. IWSAW initiated rehabilitation and intensive vocational training programs in the Lebanese women's prisons In view of the precarious living conditions of incarcerated women in Lebanon and the overwhelming needs observed and expressed by these women. Lebanese and non-Lebanese incarcerated women benefited from the program, namely in Tripoli.

Official Name : **KAFA (Enough Violence and Exploitation)**
Address : 43 Badaro Street, Beydoun Building, 1st floor
P.O Box : 116-5042
City : Beirut
Tel : +961-1-392220/1 /1-3663052 / 1-3229550
Fax : +961-1-392220/1
E-mail : kafa@kafa.org.lb
Web site : www.kafa.org.lb
Type of Institution : NGO
Geographical Coverage : National
Fields of Interest/Work : Women's rights, combat GBV among others, physical, psychological and sexual violence, trafficking in women and children, child molestation, advocacy, training, counseling, listening, legal aid, and research

Objectives:

1. To contribute into the eradication of all forms of gender based violence and exploitation of women and children and the realization of all their rights.
2. To support victims to bring forth justice and proper representation to vulnerable individuals and groups whose rights are violated and abused.
3. To raise awareness and stimulate a social transformation process that would lead to change in the civil society, laws political space and culture and the individual.
4. To introduce, modify and implement fair laws and policies that would secure the rights of women and children.

Established in 2005 by a group of multi-disciplinary professionals and human rights activists, KAFA (meaning enough) Violence & Exploitation is a Lebanese non-profit, non-political, non-confessional civil society organization committed to the achievement of gender-equality and non-discrimination, and the advancement of the human rights of women and children. KAFA works for an equal society devoid of violence and harm, where equal opportunities arise for all. Its mission is to work towards eradicating all forms of gender-based violence and exploitation of women and children through advocating for legal reform and change of policies and practices, influencing public opinion, and empowering women and children. KAFA's focus topics are: 1) Violence against Women, 2) Child Sexual Abuse, 3) Exploitation and Trafficking in Women, and 4) Socio-Legal Counseling.

KAFA's main principles are to respect women's privacy, guarantee to them confidentiality, and support their autonomy and decisions with regard to the provided services. The *Listening & Counseling Center* is composed of social workers, lawyers and psychotherapists who a) carefully and caringly listen to anyone in need; b) avail a consultation from lawyers who specialize in cases of Family Violence, and can represent the women in court when needed; c) avail forensic doctor who can document and report evidences of women's (and their children's) exposure to domestic violence; and d) provide psychotherapeutic services from a team of trained and experienced psychotherapists and a temporary safe housing as well as continuous "follow up" services. In addition, the *support helpline* is open 24 hours a day-7 days a week in case of an emergency, or to get further information and consultation.

The Drama Therapy workshop is not a continuous service but it will be launched again. The sessions enhance the victims' abilities in decision making and communication, and contribute to their empowerment and self-esteem as a whole. Groups are usually formed of 12 participants among the GBV survivors who visit the center for support and consultancy. The Support Groups are facilitated by a specialized psychotherapist in a confidential location, and are open to all abused women in the community. Support groups are offered on a semester basis for women who have been or are currently involved in a battering relationship. It is a gathering of women who share a common problem, condition, or history. When in a group members share support and ideas on how to cope and live more productive and fulfilling lives. This program is designed to help women to look more clearly at, and make decisions about, their abusive relationship.

The purpose of Battered Women groups is a) to reduce isolation and meet other women who share a common experience; exchange information, practical help and emotional support; b) to explore alternatives for action and discover coping strategies; c) to understand the concepts of "power" and "control" that are at the root of violence; and d) to learn what actions women can take to change the situation and explore individual self-image as well as gain confidence. With the encouragement, support and help of group members to identify their own needs and values, women can learn to appreciate their own strengths and accomplishments.

Activities:

Through a dedicated team of social workers, lawyers, doctors, psychologists, doctors, the Center provides hearing, guidance and forensic range of services to women and children victims of violence and exploitation, with respect for professional secrecy and work according to the principles of empowerment and support for autonomy. The Center provides support and guidance and the accompanying free social and free legal advice and counseling; representation before the different courts, and according to need; and psychiatric treatment as needed in addition to recourse to shelters and protection. Other services are offered in accordance with the specificity of each case.

Official Name	: Lebanese Association of Women Researchers - Bahithat
Date of Creation	: 1992
Address	: Zarif, Toufic Tabbara Center, Toufic Tabbara Street, 2nd Floor
City	: Beirut
Tel	: +961-1-739726
Fax	: +961-1-739726

E-mail : info@bahithat.org
Web site : www.bahithat.org
Type of Institution : NGO
Geographical Coverage : National, regional
Fields of Interest /work : Human development, women's rights, leadership, GBV, physical, psychological and sexual violence, and research

Activities:

The Lebanese Association of Women Researchers *tajammu' albahithat al lubnaniyyat*, (or "Bahithat" as they are informally known locally, both as individuals and as a group), is an independent, non-profit association whose members have been engaged in scholarly activities in Lebanon and the Arab world. The idea for "Bahithat" arose during the long civil war in Lebanon when women scholars on both sides of the divide, refusing the forced divisions along confessional lines and insisting on the unity of the people, and wishing to carry on intellectual exchange despite the raging violence, began to meet regularly to discuss matters of intellectual interest. By the time the war ended, the meetings had become so important a part of our lives that we resolved to carry them on. As they sought a more formal organizational existence, they indeed received formal recognition in 1992.

Official Name : **Lebanese Association University of Women**
Address : Achrafieh
P.O Box : 16-5039
City : Beirut
Tel : +961-1-332935
Fax : +961-1-398336
Type of Institution : NGO
Geographical Coverage : National
Fields of Interest/Work : Human rights, women's rights, combat GBV i.e. physical, psychological, legal, economic and sexual violence, listening, counseling, and legal aid

Official Name : **Lebanese Council to Resist Violence Against Woman (LECORVAW)**
Date of Creation : 1997
Address : Sodeco, Damascus Road, Bassoul Building, 2nd Floor
P.O Box : 14-5745
City : Beirut
Tel : +961-6- 612846 / 6-612899
Fax : +961-6-612899 / 6-612846
E-mail : l_corvaw@idm.net.lb; lecorvaw@inco.com.lb
Web site : www.lebanesewomen.org
Type of Institution : NGO
Geographical Coverage : National
Fields of Interest/Work : Women's rights, human rights, gender, combat GBV i.e. physical, psychological and sexual violence, listening, counseling, legal aid, advocacy, and training

Objectives:

LECORVAW's strategy is based on two parallel but intertwined pillars:

1. Responding and addressing directly to all on-going cases of VAW.
2. Reducing and eventually eliminating future cases of VAW by raising awareness and lobbying for legal reform.

The council has been operating in Beirut since 1997 and in Tripoli since 1999. LECORVAW preserves and respects the beneficiaries' right of confidentiality and provides set of holistic services concentrated around GBV/VAW. The council has an active website containing information on the provided services and useful advices on how woman can protect herself, what she can do in case she decides to leave the family house and how to react in case of emergency.

Activities:

- Direct assistance to women victims of violence through listening center and guidance [Support and counseling and psycho-social, legal aid, collective intervention].
- Community development projects to improve and raise the awareness of the Lebanese civil society.
- Training of personnel in the front lines.
- Social and economic support for women and girls who are victims of domestic violence
- World March of Women to call for the five values, justice, equality, freedom, peace and solidarity.
- Participate in women's campaign on the human rights of women for reform and adjustment of the unfair Lebanese laws [e.g. seminars and lectures] and calls for amendment of some articles of the Penal Code, the personal status laws, the nationality law [a woman's right to give citizenship to her husband and children].

Title of the project 1: Socio-economic empowerment of women and girls victims of domestic violence.

Partners/ Donors: Oxfam Quebec, Canadian International Development agency.

Abstract on the project:

The project aims to offer to women and girls job opportunity, income generation and career creation in order to ameliorate their life conditions and help them to become more independents strategically contributing in combating and resisting VAW through awareness and empowerment of abused women and local community with a new service starting from 2005.

LECORVAW is training social workers from the Ministry of Social Affairs for the first time in Lebanon's history in domestic violence enabling the Ministry's social workers (57 social workers, the majority of them working at the ministry's centers). To perform trainings in regions across Lebanon, refer victims to the proper institutions, and provide crisis intervention and counselling. LECORVAW has also created an accompanying informational package (compact disc and booklet) for the training sessions that can be distributed across the country.

Title of the project2: Economic support for women and girls victims of domestic violence

Partners/ Donors: Council for Development and Reconstruction

Abstract on the project: The project aims at social development and economic support for women and girls through confectionery and pastry income generating activities with appropriate vocational and project management trainings. In parallel of that sensitization and awareness-raising sessions related to social, legal and violence against women issues are organized.

Official Name	: Lebanese Women Democratic Gathering (RDFL)
Date of Creation	: 1976
Address	: Zokak El Blat, Batrakieh Street, Chaftary Building, Ground Floor
P.O Box	: 145620
City	: Beirut
Tel	: +961-1-370189 / 1-370120
Fax	: +961-1-370189
E-mail	: rdfi@inco.com.lb
Web site	: www.rdfl-women.org
Type of Institution	: NGO
Geographical Coverage	: National
Fields of Interest/Work	: Women's rights, combat GBV including physical, psychological and sexual violence, political participation, women empowerment, research, advocacy, training, counseling, listening, and legal aid

Objectives:

To achieve gender equality and eliminate violence against women through:

1. Removal of CEDAW reservations, applying all international agreements to ensure gender equality, reform/amend national unfair clauses in penal code, labor, social security and nationality laws.
2. Involve women in decision-making within the family, at work and in politics.
3. Protect and promote the culture of women's rights within human rights.

In addition to a comprehensive programme (see paragraph 2 of this chapter) services are provided through the implementation of the program for the elimination of violence against women and cover counseling centers (Beirut, Baalbek, Dahyeh, Zouk, Tripoli, and Saida) and legal and psycho-social services through specialized committees in all regions delivered by well-trained psychologists, lawyers and social workers.

Direct aid is provided to women survivors to all kinds of violence such as physical, psychological, economical, social, legal or sexual and their families in terms of counseling services ensured by qualified social workers at the center or through a 24/7 hotline. This includes formulating a plan of action with the beneficiaries to prevent further abuse; following-up each individual case according to client's need; referring beneficiaries to other services and organizations as needed; answering emergency calls received at the center's 24/7 hotline and providing the necessary support, consultation and referral; maintaining a continuous supportive and follow up relationship with clients by phone and therapy/support group for women and girls survivors to domestic violence and beneficiaries of LECORVAW.

Legal services are also offered thanks to a committee of lawyers, working on a voluntary basis, providing free legal consultation and follow up to beneficiaries' victims of domestic violence and their respective families. In many cases, the center provides financial assistance to a limited number of clients with dire financial circumstances thus covering for all or part of the legal and court fees.

Medical services and psychotherapy treatments including free forensic services when needed are made available.

Shelter services are provided to ensure protection of the GBV survivors and relatives in case of true or potential danger.

Other programmatic interventions are related to sensitization and awareness raising focusing on *grassroots' education* about domestic violence in private high schools, and organizing lectures and seminars in academic institutions and universities and *Frontline personnel education through* trainings targeting medical doctors, nurses, police and security officers, lawyers, social workers, activists, and workers in the human and women's rights organizations. In addition socio-economic empowerment of women and girls victims of domestic violence activities were launched for the first time in 2005 with aim of providing beneficiaries with income generating and job opportunities ameliorating their life conditions and help them to become more independent.

Activities:

- Studies and researches on the status of women in Lebanon.
- Implementation of awareness meetings on women's human rights and pressure. campaigns to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and to protect them from violence.
- Education on Human Rights and specialized training sessions in the field of woman's human rights.
- Establishment of listening centers to receive victimized women and social psychological, and legal consultancy through specialists.

Title of the project: Combat violence against women

Partners/ Donors: Foundation Novib, Oxfam, Global Fund for Women

Abstract and Outcomes of the project: listening centers for the reception of women subjected to Violence and provide social and psychological counseling and legal specialists. This includes preparation of studies on violence against women, a campaign the Penal Code and criminalization of domestic violence and training on

listening intervention, on the rights of women, the concepts of violence against women.

Official Name	: Lebanon Family Planning Association (LFPA)
Date of Creation	: 1969
Address	: Corniche Al Mazraa, Al Maskan Building, 3rd Floor
P.O Box	: 11-8240
City	: Beirut
Tel	: +961-1-311978
Fax	: +961-1-318575
E-mail	: Cchami@lfpa.org.lb; fpaleb@inco.com.lb
Web site	: www.lfpa.org.lb
Type of Institution	: NGO
Geographical Coverage	: National
Fields of Interest/Work	: Reproductive health, women's rights, human rights, GBV including physical, psychological and sexual violence, counseling, advocacy, and training.

Objectives:

1. To advocate and promote Human rights including the Reproductive sexual health of the youth, women and men in order to build positive attitudes and commitment for the issues that the LFPA is working on.
2. To socially and financially empower women through education and enable her to practice her familial and social roles and to prevent all forms of discrimination and violence against women.
3. To develop and strengthen the knowledge of youth as related to their rights and to promote their attitudes towards human rights in general and reproductive and sexual health in particular and to enable them to resist risky behaviors and practices and to provide youth friendly services for them.
4. To highlight the issue of reproductive and sexual health and family planning at the family and national level and to provide high quality clinical and community based services, reaching the populations whose needs are still unmet.
5. To highlight the HIV/AIDS issue at the national level and to promote knowledge and awareness about this epidemic among various groups and ages and to encourage aware and responsible behaviors and practices.
6. To carry on to advocate for the reproductive and sexual health rights and family planning and to provide community based services especially in rural communities and areas not reached by services.

Activities:

Reproductive health services provision, awareness sessions of women on HIV/AIDS, human rights, participation in several coalitions that aim to implement the CEDAW agreement and empower women politically, socially, and legally and become leaders in their communities to also support other women, training to empower women to enable them to resist GBV and provide counseling for abused women, launching of "No for Violence" Campaign, training to increase the capacity of the volunteers and field workers to increase their knowledge for a more active role and become agents of change in their communities and villages.

Title of the project: Law to protect women from family violence

Partners/ Donors: KAFA (Enough Violence and Exploitation)

Abstract and Outcomes of the project: The project aims to establish a law to protect women from family violence and advocacy in regions all over Lebanon on the issue through theatrical performances to raise awareness on the issue, visits and meetings to Lebanese leaders and policy makers.

Title of the project: Foster the acknowledgement of women's role in economic, social and institutional contexts in the provinces of Zahle and Baalbek.

Partners/ Donors: Ricerca e Cooperazione, an Italian NGO is the implementing body in

partnership with LFPA and funded by ROSS III L09 B0700 AID 9129.

Abstract and Outcomes of the project:

Supporting the reduction of violence against women inside and outside the family, enhancing women emancipation and support of women at economic level:

- Running the Women's Centre for Support and Orientation in the locality of Kab Elias (Bekaa) which includes upgrading the staff on GBV, counseling, communication and networking skills; training the operators (police and hospital) on GBV and welcoming technique; establish a "mobile service" to reach remote area and to provide services to women with the same methodology used in the centre and implement awareness campaign in secondary school on gender stereotypes.
- Establish a networking system with other organizations/association of the area as referral system to support women to reach economic independence (job placement service).

Official Name : Association Amis de la Famille (LIBAMI)
Date of Creation : 1994
Address : Rue Akar (parallèle à la route principale de Nabaa), près de l'école évangélique, Immeuble Haddad
City : Beirut
Tel : +961-1-498462 / 1-511810
Fax : +961-1-498462 / 1-511810
E-mail : libami@hotmail.com
Web site : <http://libami.pagesperso-orange.fr/actu.html>
Type of Institution : NGO
Geographical Coverage : Beirut
Fields of Interest/Work : Poverty reduction, children's rights, combat GBV focusing on physical, psychological and sexual violence, counseling, and listening.

Objectives:

1. Encourage the promotion of poor families to achieve their autonomy and development.
2. Prevent juvenile delinquency, the early work of minors and school dropout.
3. Ensure fundamental Children Rights especially those of education and health.

Activities:

- Provide support to women financially and morally.
- Help women facing psychological problems with listening and psychological support in addition to orientation to the competent centre.
- Implement educational, social and raising awareness activities.

Official Name : Ligue des Droits de la Femme Libanaise
Date of Creation : 1947
Address : Wata Moussaitbé, Samir Zouhairi Building, 4th Floor
P.O Box : 14/5140
City : Beirut
Tel : +961-1-817820 / 1-612486
Fax : +961-1-817820
E-mail : llwr@terra.net.lb, llwr@t-net.com.lb
Type of Institution : NGO
Geographical Coverage : National
Fields of Interest/Work : Women's rights, combat GBV including physical, psychological and sexual violence, research, and advocacy.

Objectives:

Contribute to the realization of de facto equality between women and men through:

1. Implementation of the CEDAW and the removal of its reservation and development of the articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child into practice.
2. Development of women's position in the economic production process and access to political decision-making.



3. Development of an optional civil law on personal status.
4. Build a not sectarian and non-secular society as well as a unified women's movement and effective.
5. Maintain the independence and sovereignty of Lebanon and the liberation of prisoners from Israeli jails.
6. Maintaining a healthy and sound environment and activating the role of youth and work to reduce immigration in their ranks.

Activities:

Among a series of activities, are quoted:

- Establishment of a vocational school for the rehabilitation of women in Beirut in cooperation with the United Nations Fund for Women to help some young women to complete university studies.
- Launching of the Charter of the Lebanese Women's Rights and document women's movement.
- Completion of field studies on the mother and child on the occasion of the International Year of the child) and a comparison in light of the "International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women"
- Establishment of a Women's Rights Center for studies and research.
- Convert the Commission's conference platforms to dialogue on issues related to women's and National Assembly.

Official Name	: The Lebanese Council of Women (LCW)
Date of Creation	: 1952
Address	: Sanayeh, 1 Medhat Pacha Street, Labban Building
P.O Box	: 113-7320
City	: Beirut
Tel	: +961-1-736632 /1-752435 /1-742939
Fax	: +961-1-736632 /1-752435 /1-742939
E-mail	: femlib@inco.com.lb; info@lcw-cfl.org
Web site	: www.lcw-cfl.org
Type of Institution	: NGO
Geographical Coverage	: National
Fields of Interest/Work	: Human and women's rights, women empowerment, combat GBV including physical, psychological and sexual violence, research, and raising awareness.

Objectives:

1. Good governance and optimization of resources.
2. Gender equality and equity through the rule of law.
3. Women's participation in the political making process.
4. The active participation of women in economic life and development.

Activities:

A series of activities such as:

- Educational seminars and workshops related to women's rights and family, to activate the role and participation of women in political life through education and support including social services nurseries and kindergartens, vocational rehabilitation.
- Campaigns to improve demands for social and economic conditions of the citizens in general and women in particular.
- Support parents and families with disabilities, training and rehabilitation institutions for the disabled, the role of older persons, restaurants love, care, shelter and education for orphans.
- Development of educational, public libraries, literacy, vocational education, scholarships for students, preparatory courses for the public examinations, housing for students.

Official Name : **Mission de Vie**
Date of Creation : 1993
Address : Koubaizi, Fouar Street, Aoun Building
City : Antelias
Country : Lebanon
Tel : +961-4-412842 / 4-408088
E-mail : mdv@missiondevie.org
Web site : <http://www.missiondevie.org/>
Type of Institution : NGO
Fields of Interest/Work : The idea of creating a centre was born in order to respond to an increasing demand of persons in emergency situations. It provides social and educational services, psychological service and social animation.

Objectives:

1. Provide immediate social assistance and guidance for a new life.
2. Strengthen their self-confidence and restore human dignity.
3. Rehabilitate and ease for social reinsertion.

Beneficiaries:

Any person in distress or emergency situation, in need of urgent intervention without discrimination, such as: homeless, beaten women, minors from prison or in moral danger and in risk of delinquency, former prisoners and abandoned aged people, etc.

The association Mission de Vie was founded in 1993 by Mr. Wissam Maalouf with the spiritual guidance of father Ambroise El Hajj in the town of Zahl. In 1997, the community was situated in Jbeil and provided shelter to those in total distress. In 1999, the community moved to Antelias and remained there after having erected in 2001 a new center called "Centre Vie Nouvelle". The community is financed by an irregular subsidy of the Ministry of Social Affairs, private donations, sponsorships, organized receptions and fundraisers whose benefits go to the association.

The centre program's goal is based on the 5 following axis:

- Training axis that stimulates their personal development, their social and ecological behavior and their citizenship.
- Study axis that helps them to progress in languages, and develops their intellectual capacities and skills.
- Work axis that awakens them to the importance of work.
- Leisure axis allowing an eased and relaxed group life by creating an atmosphere of joy and share.
- Social life axis allowing a successful social integration.

The shelter takes in people of either of the two sexes, all religions, all ages, races and nationalities. Mission de Vie provides shelter to many who face violence and it is not specialized in caring for women who face gender based violence and refer them to specialized NGOs such as Maryam and Martha community and KAFA. The capacity of the shelter is 120 people but to provide equally to all Mission De Vie only takes in 60 people. Mission de Vie does offer psychological, medical, and educational services to those at the shelter however does not tailor care to women who suffer from GBV (no forensic doctors or legal support).

Official Name : **The National Committee for the Follow-up of Women's Issues (CFUWI)**
Date of Creation : 1993
Address : Ein El Mreiseh, Saad Building, 4th Floor
P.O Box : 13/6576
City : Beirut
Country : Lebanon
Tel : +961-1-361035
Fax : +961-1-361035 / 1-366238
E-mail : info@cfuwi.org
Web site : www.cfuwi.org
Type of Institution : NGO

Geographical Coverage : National

Fields of Interest/Work : Human and women's rights, gender, combat GBV including physical, psychological and sexual violence, research, advocacy, and training.

Objectives:

To strengthen the role and participation of women at all levels of social, economic and political life and to eliminate all types of discrimination against women through:

1. Upgrading gender awareness and mainstreaming in the national policies.
2. Enabling women to participate in the decision making process, exercise their rights and take up their responsibilities in the planning and design of the national life policies.
3. Consolidating norms and values that respect human rights including of women.
4. Encouraging communication among women at local, regional and international levels.

Activities:

Complete a study on violence against women that includes 5 provinces and develop a handbook/ guide awareness about honor crimes.

Official Name : Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd
Tel : +961-3-684351 / 04-870024
E-mail : sgtannoury@yahoo.com
Website : www.bonpastorient.org

The Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd (also known as Good Shepherd Sisters) "Congrégation de Notre Dame de Charité du Bon Pasteur Province Liban Syrie" is an international congregation of religious women in the Roman Catholic Church, numbering almost 4,000, present in 70 countries in five continents. The Middle East branch is referred to as the "Lebanese Syrian Province". The congregation's mission is to protect women and children from harm, help them realize their full potential, socially reintegrate these individuals, and help them heal psychologically, physically, socially, and spiritually.

There are 6 centers in Lebanon and 2 in Syria. The 6 different locations in Lebanon are in Hammana, Ain Aar, Shaylé, Ain Saadé, Roueisset center (Roueisset dispensaire) and Btedii. Programmes are especially directed towards girls and women to help them experience a sense of belonging and to develop their potential. The congregation works with youth in crisis, single mothers, the homeless, abused women and children, women victims of trafficking, families in need of counseling, prisoners, and women recovering from sex working.

The Charity of the Good Shepherd offers its services to women, girls and children (males and females- males till the age of 7 years) of all religions and all nationalities. The funding of the organization is from the international organization, ministry of social affairs, and the communities' donations (which is the biggest source of financial support).

In terms of shelter, each center of the 6 centers of the Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd can accommodate for 25 – 30 individuals and has its own strengths in terms of activities and services providing an array of diversified services (direct and indirect relation with GBV) that the sisters provide to the women such as spiritual healing, psychological counseling, medical health services, legal aid, recreational activities, etc according to Sister Annie, a member of the congregation in Lebanon, women usually stay within the shelter between 6 months and 1 year. Most of the centers have a list of volunteering lawyers and forensic physicians who are consulted when needed. Follow up calls after the women leave are very common, but only if they had previously permitted the Sisters to do so. Services provided by some of the centers are herewith described just for instance.

Official Name : Sisters of the Good Shepherd Center, Ain Saade
Address : El Meten
City : Ain Saade

Country : Lebanon
Tel : +961-4-870024
Fax : +961-4-872427
E-mail : bpainsaade@idm-net.lb
Type of Institution : NGO
Geographical Coverage : Ain Saade
Fields of Interest/Work : Human rights including women and children's, combat GBV including physical, psychological and sexual violence, shelters, counseling, listening, advocacy, and training.

Objectives:

1. Raising awareness on women's and child's rights and protection from all forms of discrimination and violence, to be able to defend and claim their rights.
2. Rehabilitating women and developing their skills to be re-integrated into society.

Activities:

- A listening center for battered women's shelters with psychological and social counseling provided by specialists, as well as legal advice.
- Specialized training courses in the area of women's rights and other related issues.
- Vocational training (Handicraft) to help women to improve their social and economic life.

Official Name : **Sisters of the Good Shepherd Center, Ain Saad (Head office for Lebanon and Syria)**
Address : Cornet Chehwan, El Meten
City : Ain Aar
Tel : +961- 4- 912417
Fax : +961-4- 921343
E-mail : bp_prov@dm.net.lb
Type of Institution : NGO
Geographical Coverage : Ain Aar
Fields of Interest/Work : Human rights including of women and children, combat GBV including physical, psychological and sexual Violence, shelters, counseling, listening, advocacy, and training.

Objectives:

1. Raising awareness on women's and child's rights and protection from all forms of discrimination and violence, to be able to defend and claim their rights.
2. Rehabilitating women and developing their skills to be re-integrated into society.

Activities:

- A listening center for battered women's shelters with psychological and social counseling provided by specialists, as well as legal advice.
- Specialized training courses in the area of women's rights and other related issues.
- Vocational training (Handicraft) to help women to improve their social and economic life.

Official Name : **Sisters of the Good Shepherd Centre – Ain Aar (Training Centre)**
Address : Cornet Chehwan, El Meten
City : Ain Aar
Tel : +961-4-925052 /4-916062
Fax : +961-4-925052
E-mail : bpainaar@idm.net.lb, bpnoviciat@idm.net.lb
Type of Institution : NGO
Geographical Coverage : Ain Aar
Fields of Interest /Work : Human rights including of women and children, combat GBV including physical, psychological and sexual violence, and training.

Objectives:

1. Raising awareness on women's and child's rights and protection from all forms of discrimination and violence, to be able to defend and claim their rights.
2. Rehabilitating women and developing their skills to be re-integrated into society.

Activities:

- Provide specialized training courses in the area of women's rights.
- Vocational training (Handicraft) helps women to improve their social and economic.

Official Name : Sisters of the Good Shepherd Centre – Hammana
Address : Hammana
City : Hammana
Tel : +961-5-530029
Type of Institution : NGO
Geographical Coverage : Hammana
Fields of Interest /work : Human rights including of women and children, combat GBV including physical, psychological and sexual violence, shelters, counseling, listening, advocacy, and training.

Objectives:

1. Raising awareness on women's and child's rights and protection from all forms of discrimination and violence, to be able to defend and claim their rights.
2. Rehabilitating women and developing their skills to be re-integrated into society.

The College Good Shepherd based in Hammana is primarily founded on the spirituality of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd who have deep respect for each person, without distinction of religion, nationality, social or economic level. The college operates as a network to create new relationships within society so that everyone can experience the sense of belonging, dignity and hope. Social worker, psychologist and qualified staff provide support advice and monitoring to help women to achieve their full capabilities. The College organizes special events, activities and programmes that are open to the public as well as students (e.g. Taekwondo, dance, computer, music, piano, religious involvement, theater, and sports competitions).

Activities:

- A listening center for battered women's shelters with psychological and social counseling provided by specialists, as well as legal advice.
- Specialized training courses in the area of women's rights and other related issues.
- Vocational training (Handicraft) to help women to improve their social and economic life.

Official Name : Sisters of the Good Shepherd Centre- Shayle
Address : Keserwan
City : Shayle
Tel : +961-9-234164 / 9-234165
Type of Institution : NGO
Geographical Coverage : Shayle
Fields of Interest /Work : Human rights including of women and children, combat GBV including physical, psychological and sexual violence, shelters, counseling, listening, advocacy, and training.

Objectives:

1. Raising awareness on women's and child's rights and protection from all forms of discrimination and violence, to be able to defend and claim their rights.
2. Rehabilitating women and developing their skills to be re-integration into society.

In Shaylé, underage girls acquire technical and social skills as well as psychological enabling to improve their education and help them to become more independent. Among many other activities there are also the following: a) education and technical



training tailored for those who cannot go through with their education due to the weight of their family history; b) social monitoring through education of parents about their role and facilitate reintegration into the family after the requisite period spent at the Centre; and c) psychological support to enhance the personality of the girl, for better balance and more suitable choice and for the majority, followed by a family, transmission of human and universal values such as respect for personal dignity and that of others, love of family, openness and acceptance of difference, love of work to construct and build a better society.

Activities:

- A listening center for battered women’s shelters with psychological and social counseling provided by specialists, as well as legal advice.
- Specialized training courses in the area of women’s rights and other related issues.
- Vocational training (Handicraft) to help women to improve their social and economic life.

Official Name : **Sisters of the Good Shepherd Centre – Roueisset-Jdeidet (Social Centre)**
Address : North West Beirut
City :Roueisset-Jdeidet
Tel : +961-1-878805
Type of Institution : NGO
Geographical Coverage : Roueisset-Jdeidet
Fields of Interest/Work : Human rights including of women and children, combat GBV including physical, psychological and sexual violence, shelters, counseling, listening, advocacy, and training.

Objectives:

1. Raising awareness on women’s and child’s rights and protection from all forms of discrimination and violence, to be able to defend and claim their rights.
2. Rehabilitating women and developing their skills to be re-integrated into society.

The “Social Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd” located in Roueisset-Jdeidet, of North West Beirut was opened in 1998 with the main objectives to strengthening solidarity among family members and working with individuals to promote autonomy. This center also helps young people to overcome a “crisis of adolescence” and move into healthy adulthood by taking on responsibility. Other interventions aim also to strengthen the role of women in society and family from both Christian and Muslim perspectives, as well as offer services. *The Promotion of Women’s* goal is to consolidate women’s capacity by providing them training in various languages, recreational activities, and awareness on their rights. The second activity is monitoring social and psychological standpoints of the beneficiaries.

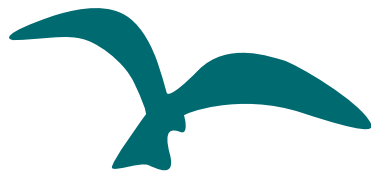
The dispensary St Anthony is currently the only place in the health service in the region Roueisset-Jdeidet that supports the disadvantaged. Founded in 1987, the clinic still receives plenty of clients who have no social security coverage or medical coverage, are lone or abandoned women, neglected elderly, and delinquent youth. The clinic practices curative medicine, preventative medicine, and community medicine. In addition to the medical service offered, there are social, psychological and psychiatric services.

Activities:

- A listening center for battered women’s shelters with psychological and social counseling provided by specialists, as well as legal advice.
- Specialized training courses in the area of women’s rights and other related issues.
- Vocational training (Handicraft) to help women to improve their social and economic life.

Official Name : **Sisters of the Good Shepherd Centre – Roueisset-Jdeidet (Dispensary)**





Address : North West Beirut
City : Roueisset-Jdeidet
Country : Lebanon
Tel : +961-1-900996
Type of Institution : NGO
Geographical Coverage : Roueisset-Jdeidet
Fields of Interest/Work : Human rights including of women and children, combat GBV including physical, psychological and sexual violence, counseling, listening, and health care.

Objectives:

1. Raising awareness on women's and child's rights and protection from all forms of discrimination and violence, to be able to defend and claim their rights.
2. Rehabilitating women and developing their skills to be re-integration into society.

Activities:

- A listening center for battered women's shelters with psychological and social counseling provided by specialists, as well as legal advice.
- Specialized training courses in the area of women's rights and other related issues.
- Vocational training (Handicraft) to help women to improve their social and economic life.

Official Name : **Sisters of the Good Shepherd Centre – Btedii**
Address : Baalbek, Beqaa
City : Btedii
Tel : +961-8-320525
Type of Institution : NGO
Geographical Coverage : Btedii
Fields of Interest/Work : Human rights including of women and children, combat GBV including physical, psychological and sexual violence, counseling, listening, and health care.

Objectives:

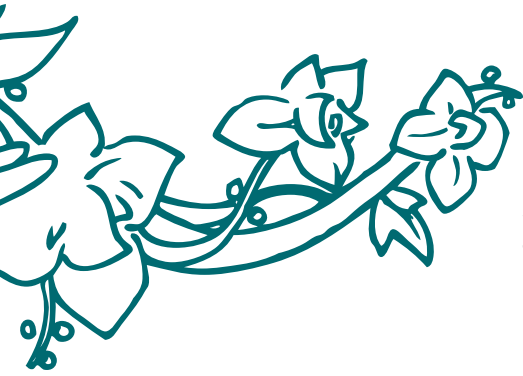
1. Raising awareness on women's and child's rights and protection from all forms of discrimination and violence, to be able to defend and claim their rights.
2. Rehabilitating women and developing their skills to be re-integration into society.

The main activities carried out by the center in Btedii include: Recreational and educational games, Technical Ergonomics (e.g. Drawing on the glass/ cloth, etc); different ergonomics hand tools (e.g. working with beads and drawing on pottery, etc); craftwork (e.g. Ceramic), dynamic group activities, expressive theater, musical expressions, screening movies with a significant message, Expressive dance and other diversified activities (e.g. Exhibitions, taking trips, parties, camping in the summer...). The center also offers Individual follow-up for persons who need it.

Activities:

- A listening center for battered women's shelters with psychological and social counseling provided by specialists, as well as legal advice.
- Specialized training courses in the area of women's rights and other related issues.
- Vocational training (Handicraft) to help women to improve their social and economic life.

Official Name : **Young Man's Christian Association (YMCA)**
Date of Creation : 1890
Address : Sin El Fil, Horch Tabet, Delta Center, 3rd Floor
P.O Box : 11-55570
Zip Code : 2706-5101
City : Beirut
Tel : +961-1-460640



Fax : +961-1-490685
E-mail : joeawad@ymca-leb.org.lb
Web site : www.ymca-leb.org.lb
Type of Institution : NGO
Geographical Coverage : National and regional (Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Palestine)
Fields of Interest/Work : Human rights including of women and children, combat GBV including physical, psychological and sexual violence, counseling, listening, research, advocacy, and training including vocational.

Objectives:

Based on a number of principles such as respect of diversity, transparency, integrity, financial transparency and accountability.

1. Use responsibility and responsiveness in dealing with the communities.
2. Operate and outreach on a non-partisan basis and a full participatory approach “communities for the communities”.
3. Respond to needs in creative manners.
4. Empower local communities to ensure sustainability.

Activities:

Areas of intervention are:

- Human trafficking.
- Rural development and agriculture achievements,
- Environment.
- Good governance and democracy.
- Medical assistance.
- MSEs enterprises.
- Youth programs.
- Information technology.

Title of the project: Stimulating Markets and Rural Transformation (SMART), Women Empowerment Rights and non-Violence

Partners/ Donors: USAID, Women Groups and Cooperatives

Abstract and outcomes of the project: Formation of agricultural Cooperatives, Food processing units in addition to trainings for women on different subjects related to their rights and empowering them to be effective in the communities. About 1,600 Women Trainees (food processing, coop management, small business basics), 36 Food Processing Centers, 5 Production Farms, Initiation of 36 Coops, One Umbrella Cooperative “Atayeb Al Rif” with 80 Products and in addition to national Sales and Exports to MENA, North America and Europe.

Official Name : Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA)
Date of Creation : 1990
Address : Aon el Mreisseh, Rostom Basha Street
Zip Code : 2030-7610
City : Beirut
Tel : +961-1-369635 / 1-374198
Fax : +961-1-369635
E-mail : info@lebanonywca.org
Web site : www.lebanonywca.org
Type of Institution : NGO
Geographical Coverage : National
Fields of Interest/Work : Women’s rights, combat GBV including physical, psychological and sexual violence, training, shelters, and counseling.

Objectives:

The vision of the YWCA is of a world where justice, peace health, human dignity freedom and care for the environment promoted and sustained. The YWCA implements different activities with different groups to become agents of positive change in their communities. This is done through:

1. Building up the leadership within the association at all local centers extending from North to South Lebanon.
2. Educating young women for the world of business and giving them, in the process, self-confidence and a sense of their own worth.
3. Training of members in lobbying procedures regarding local and global issues, to enable their effective participation at all levels of policy and decision-making.
4. Supporting change in legislation to enhance the rights of women.
5. Recognizing and honoring women who have rightfully reached positions of responsibility in government.

The YWCA is a non-profit international/national organization that established a Center “the Center of Women in Crisis (CWIC)” to create a space place for women facing violence within the society. The CWIC’s mission is to promulgate a culture of acceptance, equality and understanding, reduce violence against women and provides peace and harmony to the lives of abused women. The CWIC’s objectives are focusing on the, a) promotion of and advocacy for a legal environment that supports women’s empowerment; b) empowerment of women through their physical, spiritual, psychological and economic development; c) promotion of personal growth and the building of marketable job skills for women; d) provision of a safe haven, where women receive counseling, medical attention, legal help and career orientation; (while also having the space for a clear perception of the self and the opportunity and support to reclaim self-respect); e) provision of access to an array of services and supportive networks; and f) awareness-raising campaigns and legal advocacy.

The CWIC is present in Beirut (Ain Mreisseh) and even if not having its own shelter, the CWIC does provide referrals and secure shelter for women who need it. Many of the therapeutic activities have been stopped one of which is social support groups although still advertised on their CWIC’s website. CWIC does not collaborate with security forces in Lebanon but does however cover all the costs of the services they offer.

Helpline is available ensuring confidentiality however while CWIC has a location only in Beirut, it cannot accommodate for women living in far away areas and usually refers these women to other organizations/shelters thanks to its networking. It offers psychological counseling which is ensured by a psychiatrist and only upon woman’s request. At first however all counseling is done by a social worker from the organization. Medical (including forensic medicine) and legal services are provided when requested, and CWIC covers the fees. Other therapeutic, ergonomic and relaxing activities (yoga, self-defense, painting, pottery, nutrition, cultural activities and others) are available but currently stopped because they are very costly to keep running, but there are centers that are referral sites (e.g. such as Centre Carantina) from CWIC offering the women subsidized costs for therapeutic activities. Vocational training classes are taught within the center and degrees offered after successful completion of requirements.

The funding of CWIC is mostly from the YWCA (on national and international level) and from fundraising.

Activities:

- Provision of necessary skills for personality development and motivation as well as the leadership process for the advancement of Lebanese women.
- Advocacy for training and appointment of women police officers and physicians to handle cases of violence and abuse against children and female victims.

Official Name : Working Women League in Lebanon
Tel : +961-1-646410 / 1-237303
Fax : +961-1-646413 / 1-866806
E-mail : wwlo@hotmail.com
Type of Institution : NGO
Fields of Interest/Work : Women’s rights, combat GBV including physical, psychological, sexual violence and harassment in the workplace, research, raising awareness, and advocacy.

International Organizations

In the frame work of the international movement to fight gender based violence UN agencies and a number of international organizations allocate funds and draw programs to fight against GBV. UN agencies are represented in Lebanon and most of them have programs addressing women issues and GBV such as UNFPA, UNDP, UNRWA, ILO, ESCWA and UNESCO.

Official Name	: International Labor Organization - Regional Office for Arab States (ILO – ROAS)
Address	: Kantari, Justinian Street, Aresco Center
P.O Box	: 11-4088
Zip Code	: 1107-2150
City	: Beirut
Tel	: +961-1-752400
Fax	: +961-1-752406 / 1-752405
E-mail	: beirut@ilo.org
Web site	: www.ilo.org/beirut
Type of Institution	: International organization
Geographical Coverage	: Regional including Lebanon
Fields of Interest/Work	: Labor rights, combat GBV including physical, psychological and sexual violence and harassment, advocacy, and research

Objectives:

1. Promote and realize standards and fundamental principles and rights at work.
2. Create greater opportunities for women and men to secure decent employment and income.
3. Enhance the coverage and effectiveness of social protection for all.
4. Strengthen tripartism and social dialogue.

Official Name	: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Address	: UN House, Riad el Solh Square
City	: Beirut
Tel	: +961-1-981107 / 1-985932
Fax	: +961-1-985932
E-mail	: registry@undp.org.lb
Web site	: www.undp.org.lb
Type of Institution	: International organization
Geographical Coverage	: National
Fields of Interest/Work	: Human development, MDG's, governance, environment, Women's rights and gender equality, combat GBV, advocacy, and research.

Objectives:

Capacity building and advocacy for change and connecting countries to share knowledge, experience and resources for a better life for people.

Activities:

UNDP will furthermore promote gender equality and women's empowerment, supporting programme country in strengthening its own capacities to design and implement development strategies consistent with national objectives, within the overall framework of the internationally agreed development goals.

Official Name	: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Address	: Bir Hassan
P.O. Box	: 11-5244

City : Beirut
Tel : +961-1-853009 / 1-850013 / 1-853014 / 1-824039
Fax : +961-1-824 854
E-mail : f.al-khateeb@unesco.org; am.osman@unesco.org
Web site : www.unesco.org
Type of Institution : International organization
Geographical Coverage : Regional including Lebanon
Fields of Interest/Work : Human rights, education, combat GBV and its different forms including in the school place (e.g. ongoing national survey), research, raise awareness, and advocacy

Objectives:

The mission of UNESCO Beirut is to contribute to sustainable human development in a culture of peace underpinned by tolerance, democracy and human rights through programs and projects in UNESCO's fields of competence: education, natural and social sciences, culture, communication and information.

Official Name : **UN Economic and Social Commission for Western (ESCWA)**
Address : UN House, Riad el Solh Square
Tel : +961-1-981301 / 1-981311 / 1-981401
Fax : +961-1-981510 / 1-981511
Web site : www.escwa.un.org
Type of Institution : International organizational
Geographical Coverage : Regional including Lebanon
Fields of Interest/Work : All areas of socioeconomic development, monitoring and reporting related to the international conferences in addition to the mission of the ESCWA Women Center devoted to women societal, economic & political empowerment, gender, human rights, GBV, technical assistance and capacity building including research, training and development of programmes with state members.

Objectives:

The objectives of ESCWA are:

1. To support economic and social development in the countries of the region.
2. To promote cooperation and interaction between the countries of the region including sharing experience, best practice and lessons learnt.
3. To ensure interaction between Western Asia and other regions of the world. familiarizing the outside world with the circumstances and needs of the countries in the region.

Official Name : **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**
Address : UN House, Riad el Solh Square
P.O Box : 11-3216
City : Beirut
Tel : +961-1-964633
Fax : +961-1-964631
E-mail : info-lebanon@unfpa.org
Web site : www.unfpa.org.lb
Type of Institution : International organizational
Geographical Coverage : National
Fields of Interest/Work : Sexual and reproductive health including of young people and adolescents, gender equality and equity and empowerment of women (GEEEW), human rights of all and of women and children and vulnerable, combat all forms of GBV through life cycle, research, raising awareness, advocacy, and training.

Objectives:

The United Nations Population Fund is an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal

opportunity. UNFPA supports countries in using population data for policies and programmes to reduce poverty and to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV/AIDS, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect.

UNFPA seeks to improve the lives and expand the choices of individuals and couples. Over time, the reproductive choices they make, multiplied across communities and countries, alter population structures and trends.

And it encourages governments to take into account the needs of future generations, as well as those alive today in the following areas a) improving reproductive health, b) making motherhood safer, c) supporting Adolescents and youth, d) preventing HIV/AIDS, and e) promoting gender equality.

Activities:

UNFPA helps governments, at their request, to formulate policies and strategies to reduce poverty and support sustainable development. The Fund also assists countries, including Lebanon, to collect and analyse population data that can help them understand population trends.

UNFPA supports government to invest on women can and must play a powerful role in sustainable development and poverty eradication. When women are educated and healthy, their families, communities and countries benefit. Yet gender-based discrimination and violence pervade almost every aspect of life, undermining the opportunities of women and denying them the ability to fully exercise their basic human rights.

Gender equality is a principle of human right and one of the eight Millennium Development Goals. Investments in gender equality can improve the lives of both men and women, with lasting benefits for the next generations. For more than 30 years, UNFPA has been in the forefront of bringing gender issues to wider attention, promoting legal and policy reforms and gender-sensitive data collection, and supporting projects that empower women economically.

Official Name	: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
Date of Creation	: 2003
Address	: Bir Hassan
City	: Beirut
Tel	: +961-1-849201
Web site	: www.unhcr.org
Type of Institution	: International organization
Geographical Coverage	: National
Fields of Interest/Work	: Human rights including of women and children, all forms of GBV focusing mainly on refugees, legal assistance, health care, raise awareness and advocacy

Objectives:

1. Maintain and expand a favorable protection environment through legal and pragmatic interventions so that refugees and peace-seekers are free from harassment, arbitrary arrest, detention and deportation.
2. Boost UNHCR's role in preventing statelessness.
3. Provide assistance to refugees so that they can continue to live in relative safety.
4. Promote resettlement as a durable solution for most refugees.

Activities:

- Legal assistance, health and education to refugees.
- School grants.
- Raise awareness of refugee issues through local and international media.
- Training and information-dissemination efforts to raise awareness on gender-based violence and help identify and assist those who are affected by it.
- Monitoring, legal aid and activities to address gender-based violence contributing to ensure protection and security from violence and exploitation.

Official Name	: The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
Address	: Hamra, British Council
City	: Beirut
Tel	: +961-1-981301 / 1-981311
Fax	: +961-1-983053/5
E-mail	: beirut@unicef.org
Web site	: www.unicef.org
Type of Institution	: International organization
Geographical Coverage	: National
Fields of Interest/Work	: Children's rights, their survival, development and protection, guided by the Convention on the Rights 'Child/CRC, women rights and gender equality, GBV

Objectives:

1. Is the driving force that helps build a world where the rights of every child are realized.
2. UNICEF has the global authority to influence decision-makers, and the variety of partners at grassroots level to turn the most innovative ideas into reality.
3. Believes that nurturing and caring for children are the cornerstones of human progress. UNICEF was created with this purpose in mind – to work with others to overcome the obstacles that poverty, violence, disease and discrimination place in a child's path.
4. Involve everyone in creating protective environments for children. We are present to relieve suffering during emergencies, and wherever children are threatened, because no child should be exposed to violence, abuse or exploitation.
5. Promote girls' education – ensuring that they complete primary education as a minimum – because it benefits all children, both girls and boys.
6. Advocate for measures to give children the best start in life, because proper care at the youngest age forms the strongest foundation for a person's future.
7. Act so that all children are immunized against common childhood diseases, and are well nourished, because it is wrong for a child to suffer or die from a preventable illness.
8. Work to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS among young people because it is right to keep them from harm and enable them to protect others. We help children and families affected by HIV/AIDS to live their lives with dignity.

Activities:

UNICEF's child protection programmes aim to prevent and respond to violence, exploitation and abuse against children. The programmes also target children who are uniquely vulnerable to these abuses; such as when living without parental care, in conflict with the law and in armed conflict. UNICEF's child protection programmes seek to address:

- Birth registration.
- Child labour, child marriage.
- Child trafficking, children in conflicts and emergencies.
- Children and justice.
- Children without parental care.
- Female genital mutilation/cutting.
- Sexual exploitation of children.
- Violence against children.

Official Name	: Amnesty International - Regional Office for the Middle East
Address	: Chouran 1102-2060
P.O Box	: 13-5696
City	: Beirut
Tel	: +961-1-805664 / 1-805663

Fax : +961-1-805665
E-mail : mena@amnesty.org
Web site : www.amnesty-arabic.org
Type of Institution : International NGO
Geographical Coverage : Regional including Lebanon
Fields of Interest/Work : Human rights, combat GBV i.e. physical violence and sexual violence, advocacy, and raising awareness

Objectives:

Amnesty International is a worldwide movement of people who campaign for internationally recognized human rights to be respected and protected for everyone. Outraged by human rights abuses but inspired by hope for a better world, Amnesty International works, including in Lebanon, to improve people's lives through campaigning and international solidarity and:

1. Pushes for the implementation of existing laws that guarantee access to justice and services for women subjected to violence including rape and other forms of sexual violence.
2. Calls for new laws to be enacted that will protect women's human rights.
3. Demands an end to laws that discriminate against women.
4. Works to empower women.

Official Name : **Women's Humanitarian Organization (PWHO)**
Address : Bourj EL Brajneh, Abed Nasser Street,
Super Market Al Hadi Entrance, Al Ghadar Building
P.O Box : 113-543
City : Beirut
Tel : +961-1-557858 / 1-3963227
Fax : +961-1-857563 / 1-840293
E-mail : pwho00@hotmail.com
Web site : www.palwho93.org
Type of Institution : International NGO
Geographical Coverage : National
Fields of Interest/Work : Poverty reduction, women's rights, combat all forms of GBV, counseling, and raising awareness.

Objectives & Activities: To empower women through awareness raising sessions and create job opportunities by providing vocational training and a child day care center.

Title of the project: - Women and Family Support Group

Partners/ Donors: - Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation

Abstract on the project: Many women in the camp suffer from depression or psychological problems. Whilst there are many causal factors leading to this high level of depression, the organization is frequently unable to quickly influence national and international circumstances such as the "Right to Return Home". Therefore efforts are made in enhancing women's coping mechanisms, and provide a safe, neutral space where they can discuss their problems with their peers or with a professional counselor.

This project aims to support women experiencing depression and to alleviate some of the causes of their depression. Key strategies to achieve this are the establishment of a Women's Centre (space and time away from their homes) where they can and share their concerns with other women and receive informal counseling and support.

The overall objective is to promote the quality of family life, the wellbeing of women and children and contribute to the development of a happier and more secure camp environment.



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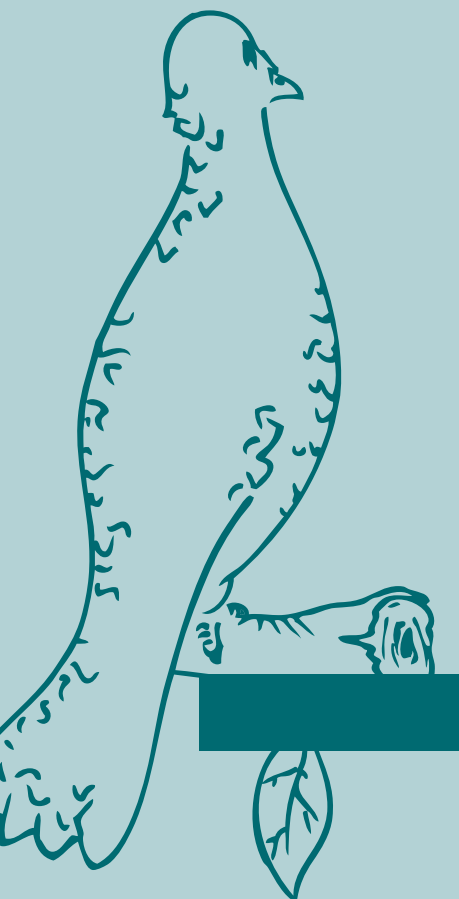
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 - قرار الجمعية العامة للأمم المتحدة ١٦٦/٥٩ (كانون الأول/ديسمبر ٢٠٠٤) حول الاتجار بالنساء والفتيات: ١٦٦/٥٩/A/RES؛
 - قرار الجمعية العامة للأمم المتحدة ٥١٦/٥٩ (كانون الأول/ديسمبر ٢٠٠٤) حول العمل من أجل القضاء على الجرائم المرتكبة ضد النساء والفتيات باسم الشرف: ١٦٥/٥٩/A/RES؛
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Annex 8 FOOTNOTES



1. Detailed responses as per topic, group and governorate are attached in annexes 1, 2, 5 and 6.
2. Ministry of Social Affairs, Central Administration of Statistics, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and International Labour Organization (ILO), *National Survey of Household Living Conditions 2007* (Beirut, 2008; Arabic).
3. Excluding population in Palestinian refugee camps.
4. According to *Freedom in the World: Freedom House Report 2010*.
5. United Nations, *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (New York, 1979).
6. National, regional and international reports, including the 1995 Beijing Conference, CEDAW, Arab Women Organization (AWO), *MDG Reports*, *National Survey of Household Living Conditions* and common country assessments (CCAs).
7. NCLW, *Third Report of CEDAW* (Beirut, 2008).
8. Heba El-Laithy, Khalid Abu-Ismaïl and Kamal Hamdan, *Poverty, Growth and Income Distribution in Lebanon, Country Study No 13* (International Poverty Center and UNDP, 2007-2008).
9. Using World Bank definition of 'upper' poverty line, the overall headcount poverty ratio was 28.5%, accounting for almost 1 million Lebanese.
10. In the absence of accurate demographic statistics that could provide a proper denominator - the latest population census in Lebanon was conducted in 1932 - net school enrolment data remain the object of speculation.
11. *Centre de recherche sur le développement pédagogique* (CRDP).
12. *MDG Review (MDGR) 2008*: "Parliamentary seats held by women did not exceed 3 out of 128 (1995/2004), i.e. 2.3[%] of total seats. In 2005, [six] women were elected to the parliament, i.e. 3.9% [... and] two held, for the first time, ministerial posts. Female participation in local political representation is also weak: out of the 18,606 [...] candidates in the 2004 elections, only 552 (i.e. 3%) were women. Eventually, women won 215 (or 2.4%) of the 9,032 seats. This means that 38.9% of women who stood for [m]unicipal elections were elected (compared to 48.8% of men). At least one woman was elected in every [governorate] and every [district] in 2004. The highest number of women was elected in Mount Lebanon."



13. Brigit Toebes, *The right to health - a multi-country study* (University of Aberdeen School of Law). Available at: <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/law/hhr.shtml>. Accessed on 25/10/2011.
14. UNDP, *The State of World Population 2010 - From conflict and crisis to renewal: Generations of change* (New York, UNFPA, 2010).
15. Ibid.
16. Ibid.
17. Fact sheet of the campaign “UNiTE to End Violence against Women”, initiated by the United Nations Secretary-General.
18. According to 2007 estimates, the adult prevalence rate is 0.1 % with 3,000 persons living with HIV and fewer than 200 deaths registered.
19. WHO estimates.
20. Ibid.
21. Abdo Jurjis and Joseph Kahaleh, *Knowledge, Attitude, Beliefs, and Practices of the Lebanese Population Concerning Aids Survey* (Beirut: NAP and WHO, 2004).
22. United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS), *Country Progress Report: Lebanon* (Beirut: NAP and Ministry of Public Health, 2010).
23. *MDG Report: Lebanon* (2008) and UNDP 2009.
24. Alissar Radi, “Advocacy Needs Assessment for Youth and HIV in Lebanon”, UNFPA - Global Youth partners preventing HIV (Beirut: UNFPA, 2004).
25. Fact sheet of the campaign “UNiTE to End Violence against Women”, initiated by the United Nations Secretary-General.
26. *MDG Report: Lebanon* (2008).
27. United Nations Resolution 55/2, United Nations Millennium Declaration (MD/MDGs+5), “Human rights, democracy and good governance”, (New York, September 2005) V (4).
28. United Nations Resolution 34/180, annex.
29. Outcome document of the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly of September 2005.
30. Statement of Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, Executive Director, UNFPA to End Violence Against Women; delivered by Safiye Cagar, Director, Information, Executive Board and Resource Mobilization Division on 10/10/2006.
31. Message by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on International Women’s Day, 2007 (08/03/2007).
32. Fact sheet of the campaign “UNiTE to End Violence against Women”, initiated by the United Nations Secretary-General.
33. UNFPA, “Ending Widespread Violence against Women”. Available at: <http://www.unfpa.org/gender/violence.htm>. Accessed on 25/10/2011.
34. Ibid.
35. United Nations General Assembly, Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women. Proceedings of the 85th Plenary Meeting, Geneva, 20/12/1993.
36. UNFPA, *Violence Against Girls and Women: A Public Health Priority* (New York: UNFPA Gender Thematic Group, Interactive Population Centre, 1998).
37. UNHCR (2003).
38. Inter-Agency Steering Committee (2005).
39. Mainly United Nations agencies, primarily UNFPA.
40. Drafted with the support of the Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform (OMSAR), approved by the Council of Ministers 6/4/2010 and referred to Parliament for ratification.

41. Detailed responses by category and governorate are attached in annexes 1, 4 and 5.
42. Held in Vienna, Austria, from 14/06 to 25/06/1993.
43. CEDAW Committee, Recommendation Number 19.
44. United Nations General Assembly, Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (A/RES/48/104). Proceedings of the 85th Plenary Meeting, Geneva, 20/12/1993.
45. United Nations World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna, Austria, 14/6 to 25/6/1993.
46. UNFPA, "Ending Widespread Violence against Women". Available at: <http://www.unfpa.org/gender/violence.htm>. Accessed on 25/10/2011.
47. United Nations General Assembly, Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women. Proceedings of the 85th Plenary Meeting, Geneva, 20/12/1993.
48. United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), *CEDAW, Beijing and the MDGs: A Pathway to Action for Gender Equality* (GTZ and UNIFEM, 2004).
49. A broad-based, voluntary, civil society effort which aims to promote the transition to sustainable ways of living and a global society founded on a shared ethical framework, including universal human rights and respect for diversity. Available at: <http://www.earthcharterinaction.org/content>. Accessed on 25/10/2011.
50. Gender equality is equal visibility, empowerment and participation of men and women in all spheres of public and private life; often guided by a vision of human rights, which incorporates acceptance of equal and inalienable rights of all women and men. Gender equity is a set of actions, attitudes and assumptions that provide opportunities for both women and men; recognizes differences and accommodates them in order to prevent the continuation of an inequitable status quo; and emphasizes fairness in process and outcome.
51. Signed in San Francisco, United States, 26/06/1945.
52. General Assembly Resolution 217 A(III) of 10/12/1948.
53. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), 1965; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), 1966; International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), 1966; CEDAW, 1979; Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), 1984; Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), 1989; International Convention on Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICMRW), 1990.
54. Available at: <http://www.pogar.org/countries/theme.aspx?t=10&cid=9>. Accessed on 25/10/2011.
55. See annex 3: Lebanon - international commitments.
56. For example, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, article 22 pertaining to ways of resolving disputes over the interpreting or implementing of the Convention. The Republic of Lebanon maintains that in any dispute it may become a party to the approval of all involved parties is required for taking the case to the International Court of Justice.
57. Refer to chapter six: Programmes and services.
58. Women's Rights Monitor (2000).
59. CEDAW, *Second Periodic Report: Lebanon* (2004).
60. Available at: <http://www.pogar.org/countries/theme.aspx?t=10&cid=9>. Accessed on 25/10/2011.
61. For listing of literature and published research on VAW in Lebanon, see annex 6.
62. Approved by the Council of Ministers on 06/04/2010.
63. Constitutional Council Law 250 of 13/07/1993; amended by Law 150 of 30/10/1999.

64. Resolutions 2/1999 (24/11/1999); and 2/2001 (10/05/2001).
65. Resolution 2/2001 (10/05/2001); NCLW, *Third Periodic Report of CEDAW* (Beirut, 2004), pp. 15 and 16.
66. Article 2 of the Code of Civil Procedures states that courts respect the principle of “hierarchy of rules”. When provisions of international covenants contradict national laws, the former takes precedence; however courts shall not invalidate decisions made by legislative authorities for non-compliance with the Constitution or international covenants.
67. Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights, UNDP and National Plan on Human Rights, “Background Studies: Penal Code” (2008), p. 21.
68. Amended by Law 150 of 30/10/1999.
69. Fahmiyé Charafeddine, “Situation of Lebanese Women Married to Non-Lebanese: Field Analysis Study” (December, 2009).
70. Sentence 200/2009, released in the 5th Chamber of the Court of First Instance, Mount Lebanon, 16/06/2009.
71. NCLW, *Second Periodic Report of CEDAW* (Beirut, 2004), from p. 27.
72. Azza Sharara Baydoun, *Crimes of Femicide before the Lebanese Judiciary* (KAFA, 2008), p. 17. Study sample composed of records documented for 66 trials held in courts in six governorates 1999-2007 of defendants accused of killing female family members.
73. Azza Sharara Baydoun, *Women Facing Violence* (Beirut: KAFA, Oxfam, 2010), p. 105.
74. According to article 2, VAW shall mean, for instance, but not limited to “physical, sexual or psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering and sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape [...]”.
75. Azza Sharara Baydoun, *Crimes of Femicide before the Lebanese Judiciary* (KAFA, 2008). Of 66 court trails in the six governorates between 1999 and 2007 of defendants accused of killing female family members, files for 9 cases mentioning the concept of “honour” in the records. The justice conferred to the motives of the defendant including the qualifier of “honour” in less than 6% of the cases, while qualifying over 23 % “without honour” or “dishonourable”. Article 562 of the penal code was mentioned very few times in the minutes of these trials; in only one case did the judiciary respond to the defence attorney, referring to this article for mitigation.
76. NCLW, *Third Periodic Report of CEDAW* (Beirut: 2008), p. 20(72).
77. Azza Sharara Baydoun, *Crimes of Femicide before the Lebanese Judiciary* (KAFA, 2008), p. 127.
78. NCLW, *Third Periodic Report of CEDAW* (2008), from p. 42.
79. NCLW, *Third Periodic Report of CEDAW* (2008), pp. 44-45.
80. Ministry of Justice, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and UNICEF, *Trafficking in Lebanon: Measures to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Human Beings – Lebanon Country Assessment* (May 2008), p. 43.
81. *Idib.*, pp. 40-41.
82. NCLW, *Second Periodic Report of CEDAW* (2004), pp. 15-16.
83. The feminine singular *muwatina* and feminine plural *muwatinunnet* forms of ‘citizen/s’ do exist in the Arabic language.
84. CEDAW, *Initial Report and Second Periodic Report of CEDAW* (CEDAW/C/LBN/CO/2), “Concluding Observations”, paragraph 20.
85. NCLW, *Third Periodic Report of CEDAW* (2008), p. 3(7).
86. Act 18 of 21/09/1990, adopted in accordance with the National Accord.

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87. CEDAW, article 29(2): “Any dispute between two or more States Parties concerning the interpretation or application of the present Convention which is not settled by negotiation shall, at the request of one of them, be submitted to arbitration. If within six months from the date of the request for arbitration the parties are unable to agree on the organization of the arbitration, any one of those parties may refer the dispute to the International Court of Justice by request in conformity with the Statute of the Court. 2. Each State Party may at the time of signature or ratification of the present Convention or accession thereto declare that it does not consider itself bound by paragraph 1 of this Article. The other States Parties shall not be bound by that paragraph with respect to any State Party which has made such a reservation.” Article 29(3): “Any State Party which has made a reservation in accordance with paragraph 2 of this Article may at any time withdraw that reservation by notification to the Secretary General of the United Nations.”
88. Including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Right and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
89. Paragraph 26 of the concluding observations, CEDAW/C/LBN/CO/3.
90. Paragraph 27 of the concluding observations, CEDAW/C/LBN/CO/3.
91. Paragraph 26 of the concluding observations of CEDAW, CEDAW/C/LBN/CO/3.
92. See the report: http://equalitynow.org/english/campaigns/beijing15/report_en.pdf. Accessed 25/10/2011.
93. Referring to Lebanese, as well as to foreign women resident in the country
94. According to responses recorded in Aley, Governorate of Mount Lebanon, personal status laws for the Druze community were viewed in general as fair and just with regard to women, and considered to be closer to civil laws in other countries.
95. Expressed by one of the physicians during the focus group discussion.
96. Paragraph 19 of the concluding observations of CEDAW, CEDAW/C/LBN/CO/3.
97. NCLW, *Second Periodic Report of CEDAW* (Beirut, 2004), p. 40; and *Third Periodic Report of CEDAW* (Beirut, 2006), para.331 and 332. See also: Zalzal, Ibrahim and Khalife, *Legal Violence Against Women* (Dar Al-Farabi, 2008), pp. 29 and 300-303.
98. United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), *Women Situation Assessing: Special Guide for the Elaboration of Reports on CEDAW* (UNIFEM, 2003), p. 15.
99. International Committee of the Red Cross, *Encyclopaedia of International Conventions on Human Rights* (Cairo, 2002), p. 638.
100. Paragraph 16 of the concluding observations of CEDAW.
101. *Ibid.*, paragraph 17.
102. In 2003, the Justice and Administration Parliamentary Commission formed a subcommittee to study and redraft a law proposition intended to amend the penal code - a task which is long achieved.
103. Already quoted in chapter three, part II, section B
104. The “intention” in Criminal Law is the orientation of the will of the perpetrator to commit a crime to the conditions required by the Law; which is the highest degree of fault in the appreciation of the penal responsibility because the criminal’s fault is not the reason in the result, but the intention of this result itself.(See: Ibrahim Najjar, Ahmad Zaki Badawi and Youssed Shalala, *Law Dictionary, French-Arabic* (Librairie du Liban, 1983); “Intention Délictuelle”.
105. “Intentionally” or “premeditation” is to premeditate the intention to commit the crime, and is considered as aggravating circumstances. (See: Ibrahim Najjar, Ahmad Zaki Badawi and Youssed Shalala, *Law Dictionary, French-Arabic* (Librairie du Liban, 1983); “Préméditation”.
106. NCLW, *Third Periodic Report of CEDAW* (2008), paragraph 79.
107. Not attended by an official delegation, but in presence of civil society organisations;
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however, soon after, the Government developed, endorsed and implemented population policies and reproductive health programmes with successful outcomes and best practices.

108. The United Nations system launched an initiative in 2010 to assess their needs and develop a capacity-building plan.
109. NCLW and UNIFEM, *Guide on Status of Women* (Beirut: NCLW, 2010), pp. 68 and 70 (first ed.).
110. Refer to paragraph 93 of the *Report*.
111. Sources: Workshop “Gender Statistics in Lebanon: The Current Situation and Future Needs”, with the Central Administration of Statistics and the World Bank (17/07/ 2010).
112. CEDAW, *Initial and Second Periodic Report of CEDAW* (CEDAW/C/LBN/CO/2), “Concluding Observations”, paragraph 40.
113. Statistics are available on the website: www.cas.gov.lb; *Report of the Friends of the Chairman of United Nations Statistical Commission on Indicators on Violence against Women* (3/2009/13.E/CN). Available at: <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N08/642/95/PDF/N0864295.pdf?OpenElement>. Accessed 25/10/2011.
114. In Lebanon there are 12 United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) refugee camps where 53% of registered Palestinian refugees, while the remaining population live in surrounding areas of the camps or elsewhere. (Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and Natural Resources; with the cooperation of the League of Arab States Pan-Arab Project for Family Health, supported by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and UNIFEM, *Demographic, Social and Economic Situation of Palestinian Youth and Elderly in Refugee Camps and Gatherings in Lebanon*, Final Report (September, 2009), p. 14. For additional information, see also: United Nations, *Common Country Assessment-Lebanon* (December, 2007), p. 17; and UNDP, *National Human Development Report: Toward a Citizen’s State- Lebanon* (2008-2009), p. 143.
115. See: NCLW, *Third Periodic Report of CEDAW* (2006), paragraph 118 on examples of activities and services provided by NGOs to eliminate discrimination against women and shelter those marginalized and battered.
116. Concerning these indicators, see footnote 113.
117. Survey “Demographic, Social and Economic Situation of Palestinian Youth and Elderly in Palestinian Refugee Camps and Gatherings in Lebanon”, in Final Report (footnote 113), shows that 95.5% of females aged between 15 and 19 never marry, and that the average age for first marriage reached 24 years for girls, and 30 years old for men. See p. 16.
118. *Ibid.*, p. 33.
119. *Ibid.*, p. 34.
120. *Ibid.*, p. 19.
121. By the 2007 National Committee and sponsored by the Ministry of Labour, the handbook is intended to improve work and life conditions of women migrant workers. It includes detailed information on travel to work in Lebanon and adaptation to the culture, on rights and obligations, and on best procedures in case of problem or emergency. In addition, annexes listing support organizations, labour unions and foreign associations are attached, as well as training sessions given before travel and an example of a labour contract for migrant domestic workers.
122. See mapping attached in annex 5.
123. United Nations General Assembly, Report of the Secretary-General: In-depth Study on All Forms of Violence against Women (New York, 06/07/2006) A/61/122/Add.1.
124. There is no specific allocation of funds dedicated to the Department of Women’s



Affairs at the Ministry of Social Affairs

125. Naguiba Abdel Ghany, *Regional Report on the Mapping of Projects on Arab Women Health* (Cairo: Arab Women's Organization, 2007), pp. 29-33.
126. Ibid.
127. Laila Azouri Jamhoury, *Regional Report on the Mapping of Programmes Projects and Interventions aiming at Studies Projects for Women Empowering Arab Women in the Legal Field* (Cairo: Arab Women's Organization, 2010).
128. Ali Laila, *Regional Report on the Mapping of Projects on Arab Women Education* (Cairo: Arab Women Organization, 2008), p. 38, table 10.
129. The Lebanese Law Compendium, part V, chapter IV; p. 2015.
130. United Nations, *Common Country Assessment – Lebanon* (December, 2008), p. 17.
131. Sources: Ministry of Justice and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and UNICEF, *Trafficking in Lebanon: Measures to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Human Beings – Lebanon Country Assessment* (May 2008), pp. 52-53; NLCW, *Third Periodic Report of CEDAW* (2006), paragraphs 207-219.
132. As example, accumulated experience of the Ministry of Social Affairs through implemented projects, including "Development Services Centers"; and qualitative studies conducted by NCLW and NGOs.
133. United Nations General Assembly, Report of the Secretary-General: In-depth Study on All Forms of Violence against Women (New York, 6/7/2006) A/61/122/Add.1.
134. Ibid., paragraph 336.
135. Ibid., paragraph 338.
136. Ibid., paragraphs 376-390.
137. Examples include projects and programmes developed by such NGOs as Abu Ghazzale, Izzat and KAFA "Enough Violence and Exploitation".
138. By the consultant, together with two research assistants, both of whom held post-graduate degrees in public health (MPH) and were experienced in field work and desk reviews; and reinforced by the overall mapping prepared as one of the outputs, the focus groups discussions and the interviews sessions, as well as the final consolidation (see chapter seven).
139. For further information, refer to: <http://nclw-wepass.org>.
140. Examples include: the ART GOLD Program, UNDP; and the ROSS Program Office, a recovery emergency programme of the Embassy of Italy and realized by Jinan Usta for the Italian Cooperation Office in October 2007 (see annex 5: Mapping of social services - Southern Suburbs of Beirut); in addition to the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Oxfam, the Norway Cooperation and the Italian Cooperation Office.
141. This *GBV Situation Analysis* was conducted by UNFPA with the Italian Cooperation Office support.
142. UNDAF had presented two main outcomes and five outputs.
143. Adopted in May 2009, and containing five main areas of focus: democratic governance and institutional development, human rights, gender, social and economic development and regional disparities, and environmental sustainability.
144. Additional information is found at: <http://www.unfpa.org/public/cache/offonce/publications>.
145. Mapping of social services related to GBV in the southern suburbs of Beirut; realized by Jinan Usta for the Italian Cooperation Office of the Embassy of Italy in Lebanon, October 2007.
146. Additional information is found at: <http://www.unhcr.org>.
147. Detailed listing of these associations is attached in annex 5, section 5.1.

148. KAFA initiative *Engaging Men and Boys in the Fight against Violence*, supported by Oxfam.
149. Attached in annex 5, section 5.3 presents a detailed outline of the organizations and their services.
150. This is not a surprising result based on the selection criteria of the interviewees.
151. The number of focus groups was increased in order to cover all governorates and concerned key stakeholders (over 400 participants in total); however, it was at times difficult to group particularly male participants, who - though considering themselves not enough targeted - were not always available or would respond positively to the invitation.
152. This type of service is provided in some Arab countries by women machineries, through national commissions - as example, in Algeria, Djibouti, Morocco and Yemen - or by government ministries, as is the case also in Algeria.
153. For information and data, refer to: <http://www.thefreelibrary.com/Project+looks+to+curb+gender-based+violence.-a0181058690>. Accessed on 30/07/2010.
154. Source: Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), *IASC Guidelines for GBV Interventions in Humanitarian Settings: Focusing on prevention of and response to sexual violence in emergencies* (Geneva: IASC, 2005).
155. Ibid.
156. Asha-Rose Migiro, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, Division for the Advancement of Women/Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DAW/DESA), *Handbook for Legislation on Violence against Women* (New York: United Nations, 2010).
157. The fourth level is related to the 6% of respondents did not answer. Though their work includes VAW as one component among a group of issues, they are not subject specialists.
158. Few participants declared themselves being knowledgeable about ongoing State strategies, referring mainly to the National Strategy to fight violence against children being developed by the Ministry of Social Affairs.
159. DAW/DESA, *Handbook for Legislation on Violence against Women* (New York: United Nations, 2010).
160. Through evidence-based advocacy and behavioural change communication.



