



Strengthening of Legal Services and Engagement of religious authorities for improved protection of sexual and gender-based violence survivors in Jordan in the context of the response to the Syria crisis

UN ACTION MPTF PROJECT ANNUAL REPORT - 2017

Country	Jordan
Project Start Date	(mm/yy)
Project Completion Date	(mm/yy)
UN Implementing Entities	UNHCR, UNFPA, UNICEF
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Title of Reporting Focal Point	Protection officer (SGBV)
Report Date	08.02.2018

1. Background

Guidance: Include a brief description of the project - explain the project's purpose and rationale, which CRSV gaps it seeks to address, who are the UN implementing partners and the value-added each one brings considering their respective mandates; describe the objectives of the project and its technical approach.

The overall goal of the inter-agency project is to strengthen the SGBV prevention and response system in Jordan at both community and national level. The project *'Strengthen Prevention and Response to CRSV conflict-related in the Syria conflict and other forms of SGBV in Jordan through improved access to justice and engagement with community leaders'* has the following two objectives

- a) Improved availability, access to and quality of SGBV, including CRSV survivors' legal assistance and legal remedies within the multi-sectoral survivor-centered response;
- b) Improved community and religious-based engagement to prevent the risks and mitigate the consequences of SGBV (in particular early and force marriage);

Since the beginning of the Syrian Refugee Emergency, UNHCR, UNICEF and UNFPA have worked closely to maximize resources and expertise and enhance cooperation with other agencies. The three agencies are jointly executing this project within the coordination mechanism of the SGBV Sub-Working Group (SGBV SWG). The three agencies are ensuring

that the project is based on best practices and that the resources are allocated in the most efficient manner without overlaps or duplication.

As the lead agency for refugee protection in Jordan, UNHCR is providing protection related services (including prevention and response to SGBV) to refugees in both camps and host communities. UNHCR also co-chairs the SGBV SWG. UNFPA being the co-chair for the SGBV SWG is providing multi-sectoral GBV services through the safe space approach in both camps and host communities in Jordan. Through this project, UNHCR has provided legal aid and assistance to survivors of SGBV. Moreover, early and forced marriage remains one of the most dominant form of SGBV among Syrian Refugees, as part of this project UNFPA and UNICEF are working closely to increase awareness and reduce the occurrence of early and forced marriage in Jordan. In order to achieve these ends: the three UN Agencies, under this project, are using the following technical approach:

- i) Development and roll-out of the guidelines and training package for provision of legal services by lawyers, paralegals and related professionals providing legal services or involved in legal assistance to SGBV survivors; provision of legal aid and legal consultation for survivors in UNFPA and UNHCR supported safe spaces and strengthening of Sharia courts in camps.
- ii) UNICEF and UNFPA will follow a Communication for Development (C4D) approach to address early/forced marriage. As part of this project, a C4D strategy along with the implementation plan with the component of social mobilization will be developed and implemented. UNFPA will take a lead in the implementation of the social mobilization, awareness-raising and media engagement components whereas UNICEF is responsible for the advocacy and mapping of results.

2. Project Implementation – Overview and Results in 2017

a) Activities conducted

Guidance: In line with the project's work plan, describe the main coordination and implementation activities undertaken as part of this project during 2017 as well as any other activities implemented in synergy to project activities, if any.

- UNHCR, UNFPA and UNICEF regularly coordinated efforts for the implementation of the project. This included coordination within the broader umbrella of the SGBV SWG.

Commented [EP1]: UNICEF/UNFPA comments to be inserted

- The 3 agencies supported each other during the implementation of the project. UNHCR in particular extended its support in terms of facilitating access to the camps for consultants as well as liaising with Sharia Court to facilitate the work of consultants.
- The 3 agencies coordinated a 3 days visit by UN action (5-7th of December). During the visit, UN Action had the opportunity to meet with counterparts from the government and NGOs as well as with refugee communities both in urban and camp settings.
- UNHCR supported ARDD-Legal Aid to provide legal services to Syrian and other refugees in Jordan, including to survivors of SGBV. UNHCR has continued to support Sharia Courts in Zaatari and Azraq camps and has provided a number of capacity building activities for Judges and relevant staff. UNHCR will finalize legal toolkit on SGBV in the first quarter of 2018 (recent legal developments have contributed to delay the development of the tool kit).

b. Progress in achieving outcome/outputs :

Guidance: To show progress on achieving the output or outcome, please refer to the respective indicators you listed in the log frame and report against them for the period January – December 2017.

Progress in achieving targets have been entered directly in the log frame.

c) Results & Impact

Guidance: Describe the main results and impacts achieved through the project during 2017, and elaborate on the points mentioned as output indicators. Please include any additional information you'd like to highlight here.

NOTE: If possible, include quotes and statements that may help you illustrate your project's story

Output 1.1. Guidelines and training materials for quality legal assistance to SGBV-CRSV survivors are developed for use by local organizations providing legal services or involved in legal assistance.	
Progress in implementing activities	UNHCR is working on customizing a legal toolkit (guidelines) for legal practitioners to strengthen legal skills and survivor centred approach. The toolkit will provide an overview on Jordanian legal framework pertaining to SGBV to support legal practitioners working with SGBV survivors. The tool kit will also include a section on survivors centred approach thus ensuring legal practitioners are equipped with relevant skills when interacting with SGBV survivors. Once the toolkit will be finalized, training materials will be developed and training conducted with legal practitioners (ToT will be replaced by a regular training).
Progress in achieving output (please use	UNHCR has initiated the development of the draft legal toolkit but adoption of new legal instruments (in particular new family protection law and other legal amendments) has contributed to delay the implementation. As a result training sessions have not taken place yet, but will take place by mid-2018.

indicator):	
Results (narrative)	There were new developments in certain GBV related legal acts which require certain amendments to the legal draft part. In addition, the process of identifying consultant is still on going. On the other hand, the section on survivor centred approach is well advanced and training materials have been developed.

Output 1.2 Specialized quality legal services are available and accessible to SGBV-CRSV survivors for Sharia and criminal courts	
Progress in implementing activities:	Legal aid services were provided to refugees throughout the reporting period through UNHCR partner. Through continuous support during the reporting period by UNHCR, Sharia courts in Azraq and Zaatari were able to function and provide support to refugees.
Progress in achieving output (please use indicator):	A total of 5414 refugees benefited from services provided by the Sharia Courts in Zaatari and Azraq as per report provided by Sharia court and regular monitoring from UNHCR during the reporting period. This included 187 cases of divorce and 235 cases of custody determination. Many of these cases involved intimate partner violence thus the importance of ensuring access to divorce procedures. UNHCR through its partners provided a total of 36'260 legal consultations during the reporting period, this was confirmed through partner's report and UNHCR monitoring. Legal consultations were provided in both Zaatari and Azraq camps and urban locations throughout all governorates in Jordan. This included 3800 legal counselling and representation to SGBV survivors during the reporting period (target of 3000 was thus exceeded). When compared to 2016 data (3200 legal counselling and representation for SGBV survivors), this indicates an 18.75% increase in number of survivors assisted through legal services. Target (10%) was thus exceeded.
Results (narrative)	Refugee SGBV survivors were able to seek legal remedies throughout Jordan thus contributing to reduce impunity for perpetrators. Receiving legal information on their rights also contributed to empower women at risk of SGBV and ultimately prevent SGBV. As indicated above, an 18.75% increase in number of survivors of SGBV receiving legal support. This indicates an increase awareness among survivors on availability of legal services as well as improved quality of services which contributed to increase trust between SGBV survivors and service providers.

Output 1.3. The capacity of Sharia Courts and Family Reconciliation Offices in preventing and responding to SGBV-CRSV, including early marriage is increased.

Progress in implementing activities:	<p>Induction trainings for Sharia court staff were held during the reporting period. Additionally, a training for newly appointed Sharia judges on international protection including SGBV prevention was held.</p> <p>Due to gaps in terms of legal service provision for refugees (both through Sharia court and through UNHCR legal partner), it was decided to re-allocate resources originally planned for workshop with parliamentarians to ensure increase support to refugees through legal services.</p>
Progress in achieving output (please use indicator):	<p>15 sharia court staff in Azraq and Zaatari received 2 induction trainings during the reporting period. Training included sensitization on SGBV issues in the camps and in particular early marriage. 2 legal roundtables were organized (February and December 2017) bringing together 63 staff from local and international NGO's as well as government to sensitive them on legal challenges when assisting refugees in Jordan including in the context of support for SGBV survivors as well as children lacking documentation.</p> <p>A training was held in December 2017 for 16 newly appointed Sharia judges on international protection, refugee law and legal challenges.</p>
Results (narrative)	<p>More safeguards have been put in place for the consideration of the best interest of the child when judges are assessing request for marriage with a minor spouse. In Zaatari for example, Sharia Court refers child spouse to UNHCR for counselling which has allowed UNHCR to prevent child marriage in a number of occasions.</p>

<p>Outcome 1 Improved availability, access to and quality of SGBV, including CRSV survivors' legal assistance and legal remedies within the multi-sectoral survivor-centered response.</p>	
Progress in achieving outcome (please use indicator):	<p>3 legal service providers (UNHCR, ARDD and Sharia court) were capacitated to provide specialized, quality SGBV services tailored to survivor-centered response</p>
Results and Impact (narrative)	<p>SGBV survivors were provided with quality legal services by UNHCR and its partners. A number of barrier remain hampering access to legal support; in particular, survivors fear social stigma and retaliation from perpetrators thus many are afraid to seek legal remedies while others are unaware about their rights or services available. Additionally, refugee women and girls who were subjected to intimate partner violence and wished initiating divorce proceedings were supported by UNHCR' partner in obtaining divorce. This ensured the right of refugee women and girls to live in safety and dignity. UNHCR also strengthened its internal coordination between its various SGBV units throughout the country and the legal unit. The SGBV unit in particular ensured that survivor centred approach was followed (with a particular focus on informed consent process) and also issued guidance to improve data protection standards during internal communication about SGBV survivors. This resulted in a more efficient access to legal services for survivors wishing to pursue legal remedies.</p>

Output 2.1 Context-appropriate good practices on engaging religious leaders and communities to prevent SGBV-CRSV, in particular sexual violence and early marriage, are identified and applied for advocacy purposes and to community-level outreach programmes;

Progress in implementing activities:	
Progress in achieving output (please use indicator):	
Results (narrative)	

Output 2.2 A group of religious and community leaders are advocates against SGBV-CRSV and in support of attitude and behavior change.

Progress in implementing activities:	
Progress in achieving output (please use indicator):	
Results (narrative)	

Outcome 2 Improved community and religious-based engagement to prevent the risks

and mitigate the consequences of SGBV;	
Progress in achieving outcome (please use indicator):	
Results and Impact (narrative)	

3. Sustainability

Guidance: Focus on the project's catalytic effect – describe follow-up activities that are being implemented or will be undertaken as a result of the project (if any), including replication in other settings if applicable

The legal component of the project focusing on supporting national structures (Sharia courts) as well as one local NGO. Capacity building activities also aim at having a lasting impact on the quality of legal services provided to SGBV survivors. This ensures the long term impact and sustainability of the project.

4. Lessons-Learned & Best practices

Guidance: Describe main challenges encountered during project implementation in 2017; outline any lessons-learned and good practices that emerged throughout the implementation of the project and how they will be used to inform future programming and/or project replication

Regarding the legal component of the project, it has to be noted that new legal developments in 2017 delayed the completion of the legal toolkit. Additionally due to limited resources within Sharia courts in terms of staffing compared to increasing caseload, ensuring participation of Judges and other staff during trainings has been a challenge.

Through the project, it was noticed that a considerable number of survivors are approaching legal service providers directly for support (while GBV IMS data gathered by SGBV case management organizations indicates that legal services is often declined by survivors). As a result, the SGBV SWG will ensure that legal services providers are sensitized on SGBV case management services available and capacitated to conduct safe referrals of survivors.



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- LOGFRAME -

	Project Summary	Indicators**	Verification Method	Risks & Assumptions
GOAL	Project Objective: To strengthen prevention and response to CRSV in the Syria conflict and other forms of SGBV in Jordan through improved access to justice and engagement with community leaders	% increase in SGBV survivors pursuing legal remedies Baseline: 0% Target: 10% Progress: 18.75% # innovative community-based interventions in support of SGBV prevention and response Baseline: Target:	GBV Information Management System GBVIMS Annual Report NGO reports	
OUTCOME(s)	Outcome 1: Improved availability, access to and quality of SGBV, including CRSV survivors' legal assistance and legal remedies within the multi-sectoral survivor-	# legal service providers capacitated to provide specialized, quality SGBV services tailored to survivor-	End-year assessment of training ActivityInfo	

	centered response.	centered response Baseline: 0 Target:60 Progress: 94		
OUTPUTS	Output 1.1: Guidelines and training materials for quality legal assistance to SGBV-CRSV survivors are developed for use by local organizations providing legal services or involved in legal assistance.	# of ToT sessions conducted NGO, government, legal practitioners trained Baseline: 0 Target:1 Progress: 0	ActivityInfo Training attendance record	
ACTIVITIES (INPUTS)	Development of SGBV guidelines for legal practitioners by international consultant	# guidelines completed Baseline: 0 Target:1 Progress: 0	Consultant progress reports	Consultant with necessary international and Jordanian expertise identified and supported
	TOT training (2 seven day workshop) provided for 50 legal service providers.	# of male government and non-government actors trained on SGBV Baseline: 0 Target:15 Progress: 0 # of female government and non-government actors trained on SGBV Baseline: 0 Target:15	ActivityInfo Training attendance record	Legal service providers motivated to improve skills and attend workshop

		Progress: 0		
OUTPUTS	Output 1.2: Specialized quality legal services are available and accessible to SGBV-CRSV survivors for Sharia and criminal courts	% increase in SGBV-CRSV survivors referred to specialized, quality legal service providers Baseline: 0% Target: 10% Progress: 18.75%	GBV Information Management System	
ACTIVITIES (INPUTS)	Provision of specialized legal services	# of WGBM receiving legal information, counselling and/or representation Baseline: 2500 Target: 3000 Progress: 3800	ActivityInfo	
	Support provided to ensure functioning of Sharia Courts in Za'atari and Azraq refugee camps	# of WGBM benefitting from services of the Sharia Courts in camps Baseline: 2690 (for last 6 months of 2016) Target:5000 Progress: 5414	Sharia Court reports	Government policy continues to support presence of Sharia Courts in refugee camps.
OUTPUTS	Output 1.3: The capacity of Sharia Courts and Family Reconciliation Offices in preventing and responding to SGBV-CRSV, including early marriage is increased.	# of judges and related staff trained on refugee law and international protection Baseline: 0 Target:30 Progress: 31	ActivityInfo Training attendance sheets	

<p>ACTIVITIES (INPUTS)</p>	<p>Training sessions for Sharia' court judges and Family Reconciliation Offices</p>	<p># of training sessions conducted Baseline: 0 Target: 2 Progress: 2</p> <p># staff trained Baseline: 0 Target:30 Progress: 31</p>	<p>Training attendance sheets</p>	<p>Targeted audience participates in training activities</p> <p>Sharia courts support the activities</p>
<p>OUTCOME(s)</p>	<p>Outcome 2: Improved community and religious-based engagement to prevent the risks and mitigate the consequences of SGBV;</p>	<p># community and religious-based organizations supporting SGBV prevention and response</p> <p>Baseline: Target:</p>	<p>Mapping document</p>	
<p>OUTPUTS</p>	<p>Output 2.1: Context-appropriate good practices on engaging religious leaders and communities to prevent SGBV-CRSV, in particular sexual violence and early marriage, are identified and applied for advocacy purposes and to community-level outreach programmes;</p>	<p># advocates and NGOs receiving best practice information</p> <p>Baseline: Target:</p>		
<p>ACTIVITIES (INPUTS)</p>	<p>Compilation of best practices to tackle early marriage in the region developed and available nationally and regionally</p>	<p>1 document finalized and printed</p>	<p>ToR for the consultant elaborated</p> <p>Workplan with activities, timeline and deliverables</p>	<p>Consultant is identified in time.</p> <p>Key stakeholders support the consultant to identify key materials for the mapping.</p>

			agreed upon the key partners. Documents compiled Mapping document	
OUTPUTS	Output 2.2: A group of religious and community leaders are advocates against SGBV-CRSV and in support of attitude and behavior change.	Activity Info OUTPUT 1.3 Community members engaged: Community members are engaged in SGBV prevention: # SYRIAN WGBM and other affected populations sensitized on SGBV core principles and referral pathways Baseline: Target:	Attendance sheets Minutes of meetings	Targeted audience participates in activities Key stakeholders support the activities
ACTIVITIES (INPUTS)	C4D specialist (strategy development)	# of strategies to tackle Early Marriage developed including best practices by communities in camps and urban areas Baseline: Target:	ToR for the position elaborated Workplan with activities, timeline and deliverables agreed upon the key partners.	Specialist is hired in time.
	Implementation of the C4D Strategy and plan of action for development of community advocacy materials	# interventions Implemented on EM. Baseline: Target: # of advocacy materials	ToR for the consultancy elaborated Workplan with activities, timeline and deliverables agreed upon the key	Consultant is identified in time. Key stakeholders support the consultant.

		developed and disseminated Baseline: Target:	partners.	
	Consultation meetings and focus groups discussions for the development of the advocacy materials	# meetings held Baseline: Target:	Attendance sheets Minutes of meetings Document summarizing the strategies and messages	Targeted audience participates in activities Key stakeholders support the activities
	Participatory research and capacity building (including pre and post KAP) with girls, parents, community leaders (men and women) and religious leaders on EM	# of strategies to tackle Early Marriage developed by communities in camps and urban areas Baseline: Target:	Attendance sheets Minutes of meetings KAP pre and post results Document summarizing the strategies, interventions and action plan	Targeted audience participates in activities Key stakeholders support the activities
PROBLEM STATEMENT	<p>Legal services for SGBV, including CRSV survivors, exist for refugees in Jordan, but the limited availability of legal services and expertise on SGBV issues and principles among legal practitioners limits the effectiveness of services and contributes to a high proportion of survivors declining to pursue legal remedies. The limited capacity of the Sharia Courts in refugee camps make it difficult for survivors to access legal remedies in a timely and meaningful manner. Legal services provided by the Sharia Court and their Family Reconciliation offices are essential for all matters related to the documentation of marriages and births, ensuring the rights of women and girls and preventing early marriages.</p> <p>Another major concern linked to SGBV-CRSV inside Syria and as a direct consequence of the Syrian conflict in Jordan is the increasing proportion of early marriages. In 2013 and 2014, the prevalence of early marriage among Syrian girls showed a</p>			

	<p>sharp increase, with marriage by females under the age of 18 as a proportion of all registered marriages by Syrians increasing from 25% in 2013 to 32.3% in 2014, with no present indication of a decline in recent numbers.</p> <p>There is currently relatively low engagement of civil society organizations, religious leaders and national institutions in inter-agency coordination which hinders the efficiency of community-based prevention strategies, including awareness raising on the negative consequences of forced and early marriage.</p>
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** Indicate the project's contribution to UNA's global results, when applicable, by referencing the corresponding indicator code as stated in UNA's Results Framework