



Preventing and Responding to SGBV with a special focus on Syrian Conflict related sexual violence, through Capacity Building, Advocacy, and Knowledge Products

UN ACTION MPTF PROJECT ANNUAL REPORT - 2018

Country	Lebanon
Project Start Date	01/01/2017
Project Completion Date	31/12/2018
UN Implementing Entities	UNFPA-UNDP
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Total Project budget	500,000\$
Report Date	06/02/2019

I. Background

Lebanon is hosting an estimated 1.5 million Syrian refugees, of which 948,849 are registered¹, adding up to more than 30% of the country’s population. Therefore, Lebanon is the country with the highest per capita host of refugees in the world. This large influx of displaced from Syria deepens the already precarious conditions of the Lebanese, placing additional pressures on limited resources, infrastructure, and services. An unprecedented increase of violent incidents in the most deprived areas of the country has been witnessed and reported. In addition, negative sentiments against displaced persons, coupled with with a perceived competition for jobs and services, and restrictive measures in some municipalities, have undermined the protection of the displaced and increased social tensions. This has triggered serious protection concerns, more specifically Gender-Based Violence (GBV). Women and children represent an estimated 79% of the refugee population in Lebanon. The context of crisis and displacement heightened the protection risks exponentially. Throughout 2018, ninety five percent of reported incidents on GBVims occurred in Lebanon.¹ Married girls, including child mothers, adolescent girls, unaccompanied and separated boys and girls, women and girls with disabilities, older women, female heads of household and socially marginalized groups continue to be the most at risk. The most commonly reported types of violence, involve physical violence (37% of the reported cases), mainly linked to violence within the family or home, sexual violence (15% rape and sexual assault), emotional violence (31%), as well as forced and child marriage. Although assistance is often life-saving for survivors, SGBV remains highly under-reported due to fear of retaliation and social stigma and is still being considered a family matter to a large extent. Under-reporting is also a result of limited availability of, and access to, quality services, including from the security, legal and judicial actors. After almost eight years of humanitarian response in Lebanon, the ownership of local stakeholders towards the issue can be further enhanced. The need of proxy actors, including law enforcement stakeholders at local level to be better tooled to prevent and respond to the risks of sexual violence faced by women, girls, men and boys in the specific context of the Syrian crisis.

¹ <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria/location/71>



This project aimed at increasing protection of both refugee and host community women, girls, men and boys affected by the Syrian crisis through:

1. Enhancing the capacity of law enforcement actors (i.e. judges and police) to respond to the needs of SGBV survivors in a safe and ethical way;
2. Generating evidence and knowledge products to better target specific SGBV prevention and response intervention;
3. Raising awareness and advocacy efforts through involving media in improving SGBV perceptions.

These interventions built on former achievements from both UNDP and UNFPA, and filled gaps identified as critical in the context of the Syrian crisis at inter-agency level. The two agencies leading the project have been maintaining a long lasting strategic partnership valuing their complementary mandate. For this particular project, UNFPA brought technical expertise and operational support through national execution, while UNDP supported with resources and networking, including institutional support.

UNFPA and UNDP have adopted a sustainable and catalytic approach through engaging with local actors. The agencies involved relevant Ministries and national/local authorities, aiming at endorsement/institutionalisation of the initiatives by/within the national structures and systems, using Training of Trainers, and peer to peer methods to ensure cascading capacity building etc. The project contributed meaningfully to the Special Representative of the Secretary General Strategy Paper on Addressing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in the Middle-East and North Africa under pillars 3, 4, 5 and 6.

II. Overview and Results in 2018

1) Results Achieved

Output 1. Capacity of law enforcement sector enhanced to respond to the needs of SGBV survivors in a safe and ethical way	
Progress in implementing activity 1.1.	Two roundtables with 20 general prosecutors and Judges in Chambers have been conducted to document their needs for capacity development on SGBV and the related legal framework.
Progress in implementing activity 1.2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final SGBV curriculum for municipal police has been developed and approved by the Internal Security Forces (ISF) academy. The curriculum addresses the findings of the municipal police perception study, conducted and finalized during the second quarter. It includes definitions of GBV, the local legal framework, the role of municipal police, and scripts /case studies to support municipal police in understanding and performing their roles when encountering GBV. Annex 1. • The Lebanon gender justice report has been finalized and validated that mapped out all discriminatory laws against women and suggested clear recommendations to address these. Annex 2.



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UN ACTION AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT

Progress in achieving output:	# initiatives (e.g. roundtables, survey) taken with serving judges/student Perception Study implemented with the municipal police: Curriculum for Municipal Police developed and endorsed
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Output 2. Generation of evidence and knowledge products supported in order to better target specific SGBV prevention and response interventions

Progress in implementing activity 2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The GBV risks assessment with youth at technical and vocational educational facilities has been conducted which is the first in Lebanon, and it allows to identify recommendations (including physical space, infrastructure, educational system, transportation and gender and social perspectives) and ways forward to address risks that youth are facing in the schools. Annex 3.
Progress in implementing activity 2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two guidance notes on engaging with men at community level to address GBV risks that women and girls face were developed: one includes definitions of the different modalities of engagement with men and the second provides a step by step guidance on how to engage with men at the community level. Annex 4. Guidance on Emotional Support Groups (ESGs) with women and girls at risk and survivors of GBV have been developed to support service providers on the best practices when facilitating ESGs. Annex 5. An update of Global Standards and Essential Services for Women and Girls subject to Violence has been conducted in order to ensure a greater access to a coordinated set of essential quality multi-sectorial services for all women/girls survivors or at risk of Gender Based Violence (GBV) in order to inform/strengthen the GBV programming in Lebanon and in the region. Annex 6.
Progress in achieving output	# tools developed/piloted in collaboration with SGBV partners Mapping of Youth Protection needs finalized

Output 3 : Awareness raised and sustainable advocacy efforts supported aiming at improving SGBV perception

Progress in implementing activity 3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fifty Media professionals and journalists have been trained and sensitized on GBV safe and ethical media coverage and reporting. Six Tips sheets have been developed as well to support all media professionals on ethical and safe reporting; tackling the core concepts of GBV, survivor centered approach; rights based approach, ethical and safe coverage as well as consent. Annex 7. Media awards conducted for media professionals who demonstrated excellence in GBV reporting. Advocacy campaign on child marriage has been conducted to advocate for ending child marriage and for passing a law that prohibits early marriage below the age of 18 years old. Child marriage constitutes one of the major trends of Conflict Related violence and Sexual Violence
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	that are related to the Syrian Refugee crises. Annex 8.
Progress in achieving output	# media professionals who have been sensitized on safe and ethical referral of SGBV/CRSV issues # tips sheets on key SGBV/CRSV reporting issues (such as do not harm principle, how to refer safely etc.) developed and piloted

2) Changes at the National Level

- The main impact is the institutionalization of the GBV curriculum at the ISF academy for municipal police, which will contribute to a greater and better quality response to GBV survivors from the law enforcement sector.
- GBV risks with youth at technical and vocational educational facilities has been conducted which is the first in Lebanon, and which will inform all the next steps to be taken to address the GBV risks that are faced by youth in educational facilities taking into consideration specific risks that girls are subjected to.
- The Lebanon gender justice report has been finalized and validated by all relevant actors representing government and CSO entities including professional associations i.e. Bar Association. This national ownership is expected to have a great influence for the establishment of substantial amendments to the laws affecting women, as it has mapped out all discriminatory laws against women, women access to justice, personal status law and suggested clear recommendations to address these. This report is also a great source of information and national reference on the subject matter.
- The generation of multiple guidance notes and tools to better target prevention and response activities with GBV survivors and at risk populations, which will have a direct impact on the quality and timely services provided.

3) Challenges in Implementation

- The inclusive approach adopted towards the development of the municipal police curriculum, involving the ISF, necessary to ensure ownership and sustainability, has slowed down implementation.
- Training 30 ISF trainers was challenging due to their engagement in other activities and due to the lengthy process in order to train the trainers.
- Non-cooperation of the IJS (Institute of Judicial Studies), for developing a curriculum on Gender Based Violence to be institutionalized in the ISJ academy.



4) Lessons Learned

- Close collaboration with line Ministries and/or national institutions is essential in order to ensure full ownership and to take on future actions, especially when it comes to gender justice and youth protection needs.
- The active engagement of the ISF with the consultant in developing and piloting the training material for the Municipal Police that made the process of the development review and endorsement of the GBV curriculum easier.
- The alignment of the UNA framework with the existing strategic frameworks (i.e. UNSF, LCRP), reporting of the project achievements under the LCRP Activity Info platform, presentation at the National SGBV TF and the Municipal Police Working Group by KAFA and UNFPA and close coordination with other stakeholders, such as UNICEF or UNHCR granted the success of the project.

5) Gender Results

This project contributed directly to gender equality through the focus on generation of evidence related to women's protection and empowerment interventions that will equip service providers with the knowledge and skills to provide quality and timely services to GBV survivors, as well as through the gender justice mapping that was developed and allowed to capture all gender related discriminatory laws as well as the roadmap that has concrete recommendations on how to advance gender equality and what is needed for it. In addition, the GBV and protection risks mapping that has been conducted with youth in technical and vocational schools included specific risks that are related to girls and specific recommendations to address the risks that girls are facing.

6) Youth Engagement

This project supported and engaged youth in the GBV and protection risks mapping that has been conducted in the technical and vocational schools, through keeping them informed about the study, its purpose, the assessed areas, confidentiality, ethics as well as the envisioned next steps.

7) National Capacities

This project supported directly the capacity strengthening of national institutions- namely the ISF- where the GBV curriculum has been institutionalized and where municipal police officers will benefit from the GBV focused trainings which will enhance their capacities to respond to the needs of GBV survivors in their capacity as law enforcement sector at local levels.



8) Durability of Results

All components of the project are sustainable and will trigger catalytic effects per nature.

- All interventions are carried out by local partner(s) to benefit national/local stakeholders (such as the law enforcement sector, the media sector, the education sector, the CBOs etc), with close collaboration with relevant line Ministries and national institutions.
- The GBV curriculum for the Municipal Police has been institutionalized within the ISF Academy. The capacity development will be led following a cascading model of training of trainers whereby the ISF will be able to continue delivering the curriculum independently.
- The findings and recommendations of the male engagement guidance notes have been endorsed by the National SGBV Task Force and included in the 2019 workplan. Organizations will take the lead on one or more interventions under the umbrella of the Task Force, independently of the UNA project. The tools that were developed under the UNA project in close collaboration with the field organizations will be owned by them and used beyond the UNA project.

9) Publications

There are no publications (research publications per say) developed under this project, however, there were many tools and guidance notes developed under this project: 1) GBV curriculum for municipal police, 2) Gender justice report, 3) GBV risks assessment with youth at vocational educational facilities, 4) guidance notes on engaging with men at to community level to address GBV risks that women and girls face, 5) Guidance on Emotional Support Groups and 6) Six Tips for media professionals.

¹ GBVIMS covers all populations including Lebanese, displaced Syrians, Palestine Refugees from Syria, Palestine Refugees in Lebanon, and other nationalities.