

## Beirut Blast: Lebanon National Gender Observatory Roundtable puts forward Gender-Sensitive Emergency Response

Following the Beirut blast on 4 August, the Lebanon National Gender Observatory developed gender sensitive recommendations to respond to the emergency in Lebanon. The recommendations were presented at a round table bringing together representatives from the Delegation of the European Union to Lebanon, representatives from key ministries, including Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (Internal Security Forces and the Directorate General of General Security), Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Economy and Trade, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Defence represented by the Lebanese Army, and Ministry of Culture, as well as representatives from the Center for Educational Research and Development (CERD).

The discussions brought forward the work of the ministries in the context of their emergency response from a gender perspective, shedding light on the needs of women and girls, who are the most vulnerable to marginalization during and after emergencies.

The importance of a gender sensitive emergency response lies in the fact that it is the basis of a more inclusive, equitable, efficient, and impactful long-term response. If engendered, the immediate response can be the foundation of this long-term response.

The recommendations provide a roadmap to the different stakeholders. They ensure complementarity with ongoing long-term interventions and update the existing national action plans while considering the contextual changes and emergency set up.

The Lebanon National Gender Observatory [recommendations](#) are summed up as follows:

- Developing publications and position papers highlighting the immediate needs of women and girls (access and participation) and assessing current responses from various actors.
- Conducting gender analysis and integrating gender findings into recovery planning (medium and long-term planning).

Speaking during the event, Ms Gulnar Wakim, gender expert and co-leading the researches at the Lebanese National Gender Observatory, along with Jessica Moujabber, Sophie Rickard and Hala Tarabay, evoked that the gender units can focus on providing an open version of research material prepared by each ministry, thus consolidating the exchange between the ministries and highlighting the good practices; and emphasising that gender is a cross-cutting issue to all departments, and the need to raise the inclusion of gender as a cross-cutting issue between the different units inside each ministry.





### **About the Lebanon National Gender Observatory:**

*The Lebanon National Gender Observatory is at the forefront of engendering policies and practice by undertaking gender transformative research, providing gender analyses and gendered and evidence-based recommendations to national policy makers, and bringing together scholars, researchers, state actors and gender experts. Funded by the European Union, through the EU's Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis, the EU 'MADAD' Fund, and supported by EuroMed Feminist Initiative, the Observatory works on the engendering of Lebanon crisis response, ensuring the protection of Syrian refugee women and Lebanese women in the local communities. On a national level, it works on promoting international women's rights mechanisms in Lebanon.*

### **About the EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis, the EU Madad Fund:**

*Since its establishment in December 2014, a significant share of the EU's non-humanitarian aid for Syria's neighbouring countries is provided through the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis, the EU 'Madad' Fund. The Trust Fund brings a more coherent and integrated EU aid response to the crisis and primarily addresses economic, educational, protection, social, and health needs of refugees from Syria in neighbouring countries such as Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq, and supports overstretched local communities and their administrations.*

For more information about the EU Trust Fund, please visit [https://ec.europa.eu/trustfund-syria-region/content/home\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/trustfund-syria-region/content/home_en)



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