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الصندوق الاستئماني الأوروبي 'مدد'



EuroMed Feminist Initiative
المبادرة النسوية الأوروبية متوسطة
Initiative Féministe EuroMed



LEGAL & SOCIAL PROTECTION, EMPLOYMENT & INDEPENDENCY
AGENCY & RIGHTS
AWARENESS & ADVOCACY, ENGENDERING POLICIES



**Strengthening Access to Protection,
Participation and Services for Women Refugees,
Internally Displaced People (IDPs)
and Women in Host Communities in
Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq**

Funded by the European Union Regional Trust Fund in Response
to the Syrian Crisis, the EU "MADAD" Fund



I N T R O D U C T I O N

The achievement of gender equality with elimination of gender-based violence is one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is also recognised as a key priority in the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP 2017-2018) and is accounted for within the regional framework in response to the Syria crisis.

Since the start of the war in Syria in 2011, millions of Syrians have become displaced creating the largest refugee crisis worldwide. The conflict has left many Syrian refugees across the Middle East and North Africa Region (MENA) living in extremely challenging situations, and lacking resources required to cover their basic needs. Moreover, the large influx of Syrian refugees as well as the overall political, economic and social developments in the MENA region are factors that have further challenged conditions for already vulnerable populations in host countries (3RP, 2018).

Countries most severely impacted by the influx of refugees are those directly bordering Syria, including Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt.

According to figures from 2017, nearly 3.3 million of Lebanon's population are in need, of which more than 1.5 million are Syrian refugees. In Lebanon, SGBV is still a significant problem for both Syrian and Lebanese women and girls. In fact, it is recognised by actors across the spectrum of legal, medical, humanitarian and development sectors that:

- The demand for services to address SGBV far outweighs the supply.
- The refugee and asylum seeker populations are both the most vulnerable to SGBV and the least likely to receive support.
- The most obvious gap in service provision concerns legal assistance and access to justice.

The vast majority of survivors from the host community receive no legal services after experiencing SGBV, and access to the formal legal sector within the Syrian refugee and asylum seeker community is almost non-existent. There are many constraints to providing avenues for legal redress to SGBV survivors, which include:

- Resistance within host communities to programmes focusing on increasing the access of refugees and asylum seekers to the formal legal sector.
- Inadequate legal framework.
- Limited capacity within Lebanon to investigate, prosecute or hear SGBV cases to a standard that secures the rights of the survivors.

Jordan is a country that has experienced several protracted refugee situations over time, and has been a safe haven for many large influxes of forced migrants. In fact, it is ranked first worldwide when looking at refugee total population ratio. The most recent large influx of forced migrants in Jordan has taken place following the start of the Syrian conflict in March 2011, which continued to escalate over the past 6 years. Jordan, hosts almost 1.266 million Syrians (according to the 2016 population census) (Department of Statistics - Jordan, 2016). This influx has affected Jordan's already stressed economy and infrastructure, and increased government expenditures on: subsidies, public services, and security costing around 16% of its budget. From a macroeconomic perspective, Jordan's GDP growth went down from 15.2% to 6% from the onset of the Syrian crisis till now (2011-2016). This pressure on natural resources, labour market and service delivery, has been affecting northern governorates of Jordan especially, which have the largest number of refugees (Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation - Jordan, 2017)¹.

Iraq is a country that is experiencing a crisis of several displacements. This includes 227,971 Syrian refugees who fled the war in Syria, of whom 96% sought refuge in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I), and over 3 million internally displaced Iraqis, who have fled areas controlled by the Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL)². More specifically, it is estimated that there are 3.2 million IDPs and 458,358 returnees in Iraq. Moreover, figures indicate that up to 8.2 million Iraqis require immediate protection assistance due to violence and war³.

¹ Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation - Jordan. (2017). The Jordan Response Plan 2017-2019 (JRP).

² 3 RP 2017-2018 Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan 2017- 2018 In response to the Syria Crisis, Iraq.

³ Global Protection Cluster, (2016) Iraq GBV Sub-Cluster Strategy for 2016. [Online] Available at:

https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/gbv_sub-cluster_strategy_iraq_2016_full_endorsed.pdf [24 September 2017].

O V E R A L L O B J E C T I V E

Improved livelihood, agency and legal and social protection for Syrian women refugees, IDPs and host communities in the region, with focus on Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq/Kurdish Region of Iraq (KR-I).

🚩 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1

Security and resilience for Syrian women refugees, and women from host communities in Lebanon and Iraq/KR-I are enhanced through supporting and coordinating comprehensive and structured services and referral mechanisms.

🚩 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2

National institutions, policy frameworks and legislation are more gender sensitive, while gender equality and empowerment are sustainably enhanced.

🚩 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3

The livelihood of Syrian women refugees and host communities in Jordan is improved, and momentum is given to eliminating practical, social, cultural and legal barriers to their employment.

PROGRAM ADDED VALUE

Bringing to policy level the immediate needs of the most vulnerable women.

Combining emergency response with development of long term capacities.

Engendering the crisis response in both service provision and policy frameworks.

A TWO-PRONGED GLOBAL APPROACH

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Addressing immediate needs through the provision of comprehensive and accessible services.

LONG TERM DEVELOPMENT

Building capacities, sustaining achievements in gender equality, and engendering policies and strategies on the crisis response.

Lebanon: Establishing the National Gender Observatory.

Iraq: Supporting the implementation of National Action Plan for United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

Jordan: Promoting women's access to the labor market.

B A S E L I N E A S S E S S M E N T

During October 2018 – March 2019 EuroMed Feminist Initiative conducted a baseline assessment, against which the impact of the action can be measured. The objectives of the baseline assessment are:

- Provide benchmark information to measure project achievements and outcomes.
- Assess the extent to which gender is integrated into existing governmental policies and mechanisms.
- Verify the adequacy of the project's log-frame with realities observed on the ground and with the rights holders.
- Identify tools, channels, best practices that can be used in the framework of the project regarding service provision, awareness raising and advocacy.

METHODOLOGY

A mixed methods approach was used for the purpose of the baseline assessment. Data collection tools comprised of qualitative, structured individual interviews and focus group interviews, as well as two quantitative survey questionnaires. In total:

- 37 interviews were conducted: 12 in Jordan, 9 in Lebanon and 16 in Iraq.
- 20 focus groups were carried out involving a total of 183 women and 40 men: 4 in Jordan (40 women, 9 men), 8 in Lebanon (51 women, 13 men), and 8 in Iraq (92 women, 18 men).
- 2 surveys were administered in each country: one targeting women from the host communities and Syrian refugees aged 18 and above, and another targeting men from the host communities and Syrian refugees aged 18 and above. There were 244 responses in Jordan, 195 in Lebanon and 165 in Iraq. 30 men in Lebanon and 44 in Iraq responded to the community members survey.

MAIN GAPS IN LEGISLATION IDENTIFIED DURING THE BASELINE ASSESSMENT

At the onset of the project, legislation related to women's rights and protection in Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq was assessed. The assessment allowed to highlight the main gaps and to confirm the priorities identified by the project.

LEBANON

Constitution

- Exclusion of non-Lebanese women from constitutional protection against discrimination.
- Women's rights and freedom are bound to Personal Status Laws linked to different religious belongings according to articles 7, 9 and 10.

Personal Status Laws

- Women and girls are subject to different discriminatory provisions by virtue of the different Personal Status Laws and in the absence of a Civil Law that regulates personal status matters. These discriminations are mainly related to **inheritance, marriage age, divorce and children custody**.

Penal Code

- Marital rape not viewed as a criminal offence (Law 293 on Protection from Domestic Violence).
- Laws related to rape and indecent acts fail to comprehensively protect victims (Articles 503, 504, 506, 507, 519, 509, 520, 522, 524).
- Perpetrators of so-called "honor" crimes benefit from mitigating circumstances (Articles 252 to 548).
- Adultery and sexual relations outside of marriage are viewed as a criminal offence (Articles 488, 487 and 489).
- Abortion is criminalized (Articles 539-546).
- Poor implementation of Law 164 on Punishment for the Crime of Trafficking in Persons.

Labour Law

- Absence of a specific law addressing sexual harassment in the workplace.

Nationality Law

- Lebanese mothers cannot grant Lebanese nationality to their children unless they are illegitimate (Article 2).

JORDAN

Constitution

- Does not specifically prohibit discrimination based on gender (Article 6).

Personal Status Law

- Allows underage marriage.
- Allows unequal inheritance.
- Allows polygamy (Article 40).
- States that the father is the legal guardian of the children (Article 154) and that the wife owes obedience to her husband (Article 37).

Labour Law

- Regulation of Flexible Employment (Regulation No. 22 of 2017) does not address structural discrimination against women and does not facilitate women's access to the public sphere.
- Limits women from advancing in their careers (Article 69).
- Does not criminalize all types of sexual harassment (Article 29/A/6).
- Parental leave only provided to women (Law No (8)/ Article 68).
- Variances in retirement age give men the opportunity to save more pension funds than women and prevent women from saving an additional five years' worth of contributions to their retirement plan.

IRAQ

Personal Status Law

- Allows polygamy (Articles 3.4 and 4).
- Allows underage marriage (Articles 3, 4, 7 and 8).
- Allows unequal inheritance (Articles 90 and 91).
- Does not entitle the mother custody to her children (Article 102).

Penal Code

- Contributes to normalization of domestic violence (Article 40).
- Adultery and sexual relations outside of marriage are viewed as criminal (Article 377).
- Drops charges of rape or sexual assault if the assailant marries the victim (Article 398).
- Encourages GBV practices (Article 427).



SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Security and resilience for Syrian women refugees and women from host communities are enhanced through supporting and coordinating comprehensive, structured services and referral mechanisms.

National institutions, policy frameworks and legislation are more gender sensitive, and gender equality and empowerment are sustainably enhanced.



EXPECTED RESULTS

Women have greater and safer access to comprehensive multi-sectoral services: Legal, Psychosocial, (PSS), Sexual & Reproductive Rights (SRR), and Gender Based Violence (GBV).

Syrian women refugees and women in host communities are empowered with better knowledge of their rights and access to protection.

Institutional capacity, awareness and cooperation are enhanced to mainstream gender in national policies, and address discriminatory legislation.

Public awareness and support are strengthened for women's rights, for zero tolerance for GBV, and for change of discriminative legislation.



MAIN ACTIVITY CLUSTERS

Improving availability of comprehensive multi-sectorial services in Centers of Ministry of Social Affairs (SDCs) and CSOs centers.

Advocating and raising awareness on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV).

Establishing National Gender Observatory, hosted by the Office of the Ministry of State for Economic Empowerment of Women And Youth (EEWAY).

Outreaching & seeds grants to Community-Based Organizations (CBOs).

MAIN ACTIVITIES

01

Improve availability of comprehensive multi-sectorial services in 12 SDCs and 4 centers of Rassemblement Démocratique des Femmes pour le Liban (RDFL)

- Specialized services on PSS, SRR, and 4 RDFL centers.
- Legal information, consultations and advice.
- Referral pathways.
- Database for legal cases.
- Life skill sessions.
- Capacity building of service providers.
- Youth safe corners.
- Facility renovation.
- Community campaigns.

02

Establishing the National Gender Observatory

- Enhancing the institutional capacities and cross-sector coordination mechanisms to ensure that Government of Lebanon's Syrian crisis response is gender-sensitive.
- Assuring that the immediate needs of the most vulnerable women are brought to policy level and go beyond the emergency response.
- Supporting a set of informed policy actions and raising public awareness.
- Building on the achievements in the field of gender equality on both local and national levels.
- Building on existing coordination mechanisms and developing a working plan to serve policy level decision-making, benefiting both Syrian women and host communities.

03

National Gender Observatory Activities Focus and Key Themes

- Research studies & projects.
- Capacity building.
- Policy dialogues.
- Monitoring & evaluation.

04

Advocacy and Awareness Raising on SGBV

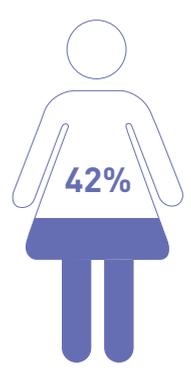
- A national campaign targets GBV prevention and increased awareness on SRR.
- Inter-gender dialogue sessions increase understanding of risks of gender violence, and create a space to share information, generate positive behavior change and reduce SGBV incidences.



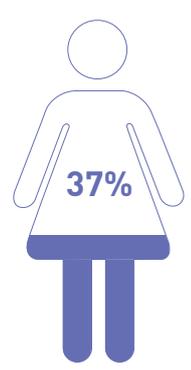
SURVEY FINDINGS



53% of women were aware of the psychosocial support services offered (PSS).



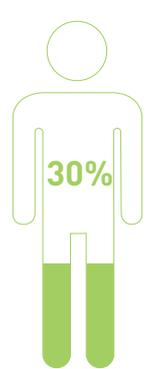
42% of women were aware of sexual and reproductive health and rights services (SRR).



37% of women were aware of Gender based violence services (GBV).



17% of women were aware of the Legal Services.



30% of men had heard of centres offering support to women who have experienced violence in their communities.



50% of men weren't aware of any centres offering support to women who have experienced violence in their communities.

OBSTACLES ON REPORTING GBV:

Culture of shame, fear of repercussions from perpetrators and family members were among the obstacles to report cases of GBV.

Women believed the service was not available Syrian women believed they are less supported by authorities.

FOCUS GROUPS

WOMEN: participants were not aware of existing laws that protected women, nor were they aware of any legal services being offered near them to protect women. Also, participants were not able to mention any amendments in the law to protect women better.

MEN: most were unaware of centers offering services to protect women in their community, or of laws that needed changing to better protect females. Moreover, only 37% of male respondents mentioned seeing advertisements about preventing violence against women and 3% said that they had participated in an activity about violence against women (VAW) prevention.

The majority of survey respondents accessing services used:

- Psychosocial support: 42%.
- Awareness raising activities: 45%.
- SRR: 26%.
- GBV services: 23%.
- Legal services: 9%.

Access to community center services:

- 81% reported using services provided by a community center.
- 19% reported that they did not use services provided by a community center.
- The need to improve referral mechanisms and conduct systematic follow up on referrals was highlighted during interviews with several key informants.

Women's experience of violence:

- Denied access to resources, services, etc.: 40%,
- Psychosocial/emotional abuse: 28%,
- Early marriage: 23%,
- Sought support: 70% (relatives 31%, NGOs/CBOs 27%),
- Didn't seek support because they believed that the service was not available: 40%,
- Other reasons mentioned during Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) included the culture of shame and fear of repercussions from perpetrators and family members,
- Syrian women were particularly resistant to seek help because they believed that they were less likely to be supported by authorities.

METHODOLOGY

- 9 conducted in-depth interviews
- 8 FGDs (involving a total of 51 females and 13 males)
- 2 surveys were administered, one targeting women and the other community members
(There were 195 responses to the women's survey, and 30 responses to the men's survey)

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE BASE-LINE REPORT LEBANON

- Enhance availability, accessibility and quality of legal support services offered to women and girls.
 - Provide Syrian women refugees and women from host communities with multi-sectoral, safe and holistic support that includes legal, PSS, SRR and GBV related services.
 - Strengthen referral systems in order to further enhance existing support.
 - Develop outreach activities to increase awareness of refugee women and women from host communities on their rights and knowledge of protection services. Include men in GBV prevention programs.
 - Address the gaps in the provision of holistic support under the National Strategy: geographical gaps and service gaps (such as mental health, shelters, SRR, GBV and legal support), which prevent survivors of violence from access to needed services.
 - Reinforce coordination across sectors to ensure de-duplication of investment and the provision of a comprehensive service package against GBV with full coverage.
 - Advocate for the development of gender-responsive laws associated with protection, gender-based violence, as well as address gaps in existing laws.
 - Advocate for the ratification of the 1951 International Convention on the Status of Refugees.
- 



SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The livelihood of Syrian women refugees and host communities in Jordan is improved, and contribution is made to eliminating practical, social, cultural and legal barriers to their employment.



EXPECTED RESULTS

Syrian women refugees and women in host communities are empowered with better skills and knowledge to meet the needs of the labor market.

Syrian and Jordanian women have greater access to work opportunities within the labor market.

Women are more able and willing to obtain work permits, and get the support from their families and communities.

Supportive services to women in labor market are improved.



MAIN ACTIVITY CLUSTERS

Capacity building on skills required to enter the labor market and embark on self employment.

Facilitating work opportunities and employment for Syrian refugees and Jordanian women.

Legal counselling on labor rights and facilitating issuance of work permits for Syrian women refugees.

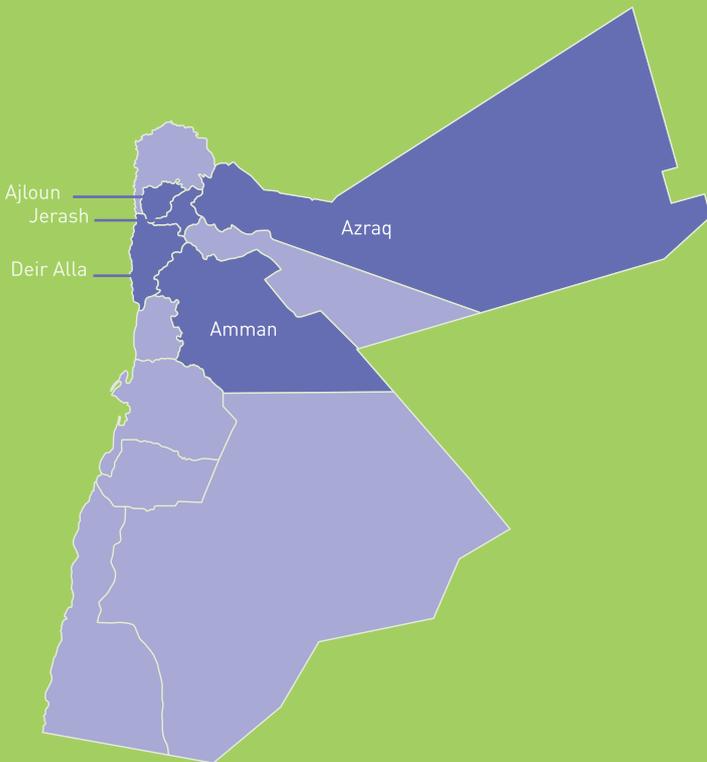
Awareness-raising of local communities on women's right to work and to secure financial independence.

Supporting enabling environment for improving women's employment and career development.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

01 Capacity building on skills required to enter the labor market and self-employment

- ◆ Employability support packages and training workshops.
- ◆ Vocational trainings on technical sales and marketing, photography and event management, logistics, entrepreneurship, home maintenance, beauty and hospitality.
- ◆ Mentorship and internships.



02 Facilitating work opportunities and employment for Syrian refugees and Jordanian women in host communities

- ◆ Mapping of job opportunities and job fairs.
- ◆ Career training guidance.
- ◆ Distribution of seed funding to entrepreneurs and joint ventures.
- ◆ Matching with employment and self-employment opportunities.
- ◆ Showcasing of the women and success stories of entrepreneurs and joint ventures.

03 Legal counselling on labor rights and facilitating issuance of work permits for Syrian women refugees

- ◆ Training on human trafficking for governmental staff.
- ◆ Trained community facilitators outreaching to the most vulnerable women (awareness and referral).
- ◆ Legal aid services, consultations and mediation for women on labor rights including the issue of work permits.

04 Awareness-raising of local communities on women's right to work and to secure financial independence

- ◆ Awareness raising for women on the right to work and other legal rights.
- ◆ Awareness raising in schools on gender equality.
- ◆ Workshops for teachers and families on women's labor rights and access to the public sphere.

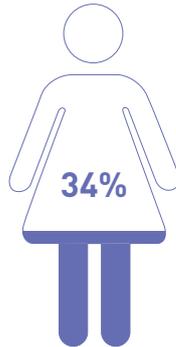
05 Supporting enabling environment for improving women's employment and career development

- ◆ Consultation and mentorship with private sector employers.
- ◆ Public showcasing campaign for employers.
- ◆ Promotion, networking and job matching with employers.
- ◆ Dialogue between Syrian women and employers.
- ◆ Roundtables with members of Parliament and governmental representatives.
- ◆ Outreach and seed grants to Community-Based Organizations.

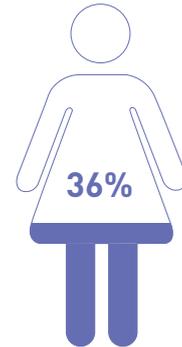
SURVEY FINDINGS



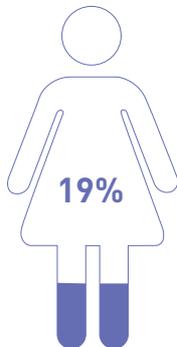
56% of women participated to some extent in household decision-making activities.



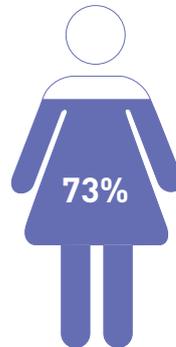
34% of women definitely participated in household decision-making activities.



36% of women believed that their household income was sufficient to some extent.



19% of women believed that their household income was definitely sufficient.



73% of women reported that they were not in paid employment.



Women that reported having paid work: government employees 41%, teachers 27%, private sector employees 17%.

The majority of women who participated in the survey felt that they had sufficient skills to gain employment but were still interested in participating in skills training or development opportunities. Life skills, beauty and employability skills were the most interesting options for respondents, with photography, hospitality and basic livelihoods garnering the least interest. Importantly, this demonstrates that women in the program's target areas are interested in accessing higher quality and level skills, rather than basic level support to attain their basic needs.

FOCUS GROUPS

During FGDs with Syrian and Jordanian women, the roles of females and males were described in a manner that showed they were clearly defined by patriarchal constructions of gender, where the male was perceived as the decision-maker and head of household. However, in general, Jordanian women expressed more agency to negotiate with, and at sometimes, challenge patriarchal structures compared to Syrian women.

- 96% of women who considered themselves to be financially independent felt more confident as a result of their financial independence. FGD findings were also in alignment with survey findings.
- 70% of female respondents reported that they were not the main providers of their family. FGDs with female participants highlighted cases where Syrian women were forced to take the role of breadwinners of their families out of necessity. However, essentially, the main role of the woman was believed to be in the house. For Jordanian women too, their productive role was described as secondary to the male breadwinner. Moreover, both Syrian and Jordanian women believed that, despite situations where women are breadwinners of their families, males are still perceived to be heads of households.

The majority of female and male FGD participants believed that their household income was not enough to cover their basic needs. As for coping strategies adopted at a household level, the most frequently reported were:

- 64% having to rely on cash aid from other family members.
- 60% having to reduce food expenditure.
- 6% mentioned that they had married off a household member under the age of 18 as a coping strategy.

Comparing the coping strategies of Syrian to Jordanian women, most of the Syrian focus group participants agreed that, if put in difficult circumstances, they were more able to adapt in order to cope with challenges.

The majority of FGD participants believed that the overall economic situation in their area of residence did not allow men and more so women (due to patriarchal constraints) to secure decent livelihoods. Other challenges reported included:

- Lack of 'suitable' job opportunities for women to allow them to balance between their reproductive and productive roles.
- Lack of availability of day care facilities.
- Patriarchal constraints imposed on women by society.
- Discriminatory practices of employers on women.

Moreover, others mentioned that they often would work more than their male counterparts but were paid the same. In the case of Syrian women, the challenges reported during FGDs had to do with issues such as legal barriers prohibiting both Syrian women and men to work in all occupations and to start their own businesses without having a Jordanian partner; as well as the inability for Syrian men to obtain a driving license for purposes of generating income. Although there is little evidence base to help improve understandings of the magnitude of sexual harassment, it is another key issue that concerns women in the workplace in Jordan and particularly Syrian refugee women.

In general, the working environment was not considered as supportive to women's needs.

There is a general low interest among Syrians to register for work permits because of preference to work in the informal sector where they may be able to earn more income. Other challenges that women face in accessing job opportunities include:

- Patriarchal norms.
- Lack of child care facilities.
- Household responsibilities.
- Discrimination and sexual harassment at work (in the private and informal sectors).

Moreover, despite micro and small businesses being the primary jobs growth engine in Jordan outside of the public sector, many face strong disincentives around the registration process. A large percentage of Jordanian and Syrian businesses remain in the informal realm, which is preventing them from growing, accessing financial services and expanding to achieve broad-based economic growth for the country⁴.

³ Jordanian Department of Statistics, 2016.

⁴ Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, The Jordanian Response Plan for the Syria Crisis 2017-2019

METHODOLOGY

- 12 conducted in-depth interviews
- 4 FGDs (involving a total of 40 females and 9 males)
- 1 survey was administered which was completed by 244 female respondents.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE BASE-LINE REPORT JORDAN

- Provide Syrian women refugees and women from the host community with decent and sustainable livelihood opportunities. Possible sectors of employment include agribusiness, garment, beauty, plumbing, and sales and marketing.
- Raise awareness of women refugees and Jordanian women on their labour rights.
- Provide Syrian women refugees with legal counselling services on labour rights in order to raise their awareness on their legal rights as per Jordan's labour law.
- Conduct outreach activities targeting communities and families of women refugees to raise community awareness of women's working rights and their rights to participate in the public sphere.
- Conduct needs assessments on vocational training workshops based on the wishes of both women and targeted communities.
- Enhance coordination between the different stakeholders providing economic opportunities to women in order to avoid duplication of programmes.
- Enhance existing support services to women in the labour market, such as access to day-care services, clean sanitary facilities and places to worship.
- Ensure training in line with the needs of the labour market as well as the interests of women from Syrian refugee and host population.
- Encourage women to be active in their job-search including through activities such as mentorship and internship programmes, career training guidance, matching to employment and self-employment opportunities.
- Provide financial opportunities to Syrian refugees and Jordanian women who are interested in starting their own, or joint businesses, and provide them with on-going technical and marketing support.
- Reinforce implementation of Labour Law Article 72, with its latest amendment. Support Syrian women refugee in obtaining work permits through the provision of needed information and guidance in the process.
- Raise awareness on the right of women to work focusing on access to labour market and on fair and safe working conditions.
- Raise awareness of employers on the rights of Syrian and Jordanian women, and advocate for institutionalising gender-sensitive policies within companies.
- Develop long-term livelihoods and social programmes to support women with more than just basic livelihoods.



SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Security and resilience for Syrian women refugees and women from host communities are enhanced through supporting and coordinating comprehensive, structured services and referral mechanisms.

National institutions, policy frameworks and legislation are more gender sensitive, and gender equality and empowerment are sustainably enhanced.



EXPECTED RESULTS

Women have greater and safer access to comprehensive multi-sectoral services - legal: PSS, SRR and GBV services.

Syrian women refugees and women in host communities are empowered with better knowledge of their rights and access to protection.

Institutional capacity, awareness and cooperation are enhanced to mainstream gender in national policies and address discriminatory legislation.

Public awareness and support are strengthened for women's rights, for zero tolerance on Gender Based Violence, and for change of discriminative legislation.



MAIN ACTIVITY CLUSTERS

Improving availability of comprehensive multi-sectoral services in centers.

Building the capacity of service centers – thematic knowledge and management.

Enhancing institutional capacities and cross-sector coordination.

Advocating, lobbying/ campaigning and social dialogue, advocacy and lobbying/campaigning.

Community outreaching and seeds grants to CBOs.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

01

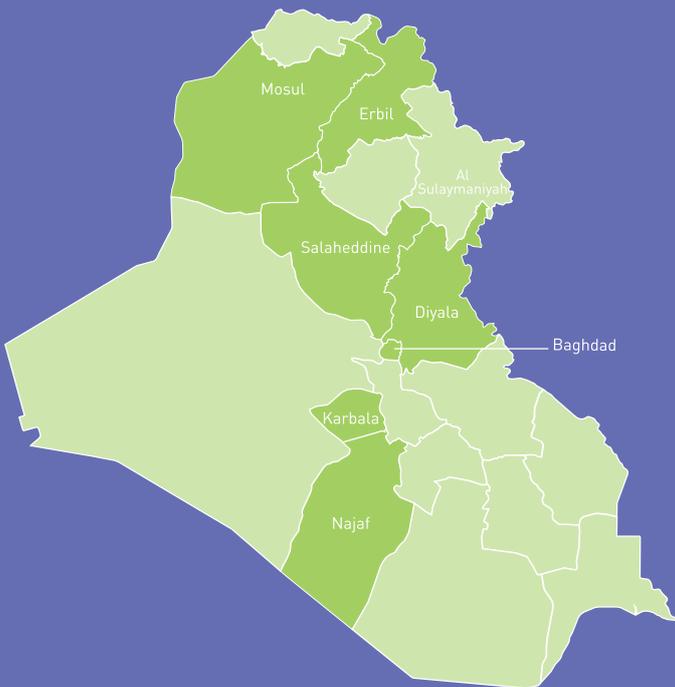
Improve availability of comprehensive multi-sectorial services in Centers of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Baghdad Women Association and Women Empowerment Organization

- ◆ Family planning.
- ◆ PSS, SRR and GBV
- ◆ Legal information, consultations and advice.
- ◆ Capacity building on referral pathways.

03

Enhance institutional capacities and cross-sector coordination

- ◆ Establish a managerial unit of Cross Sector Task Force 1325.
- ◆ Building capacities of stakeholders, governmental agencies and first respondents.
- ◆ Enhance knowledge of governmental staff on UNSCR 1325 and CEDAW.
- ◆ Development of the Second NAP1325.
- ◆ Advocacy meetings and monitoring the implementation of NAP1325.



04

Community outreach

- ◆ Women to women dialogue sessions.
- ◆ Training community leaders, gatekeepers, policemen and policewomen.
- ◆ Outreach sessions.
- ◆ Awareness workshops.
- ◆ Seed grants to Community Based Organizations.

02

Build capacity of service centers – thematic knowledge and management

- ◆ Capacity building of service providers and staff.
- ◆ Training sessions on case management, UNSCR 1325 and use of GBVIMS database.
- ◆ Trainings and mentoring on GBV, outreach and risk mitigation.

05

Advocate and raise awareness on Sexual & Gender Based Violence

- ◆ 16 days of activism campaign against gender based violence.
- ◆ Advocacy events to promote the adoption of the anti-domestic violence law and the implementation of UNSCR1325.

SURVEY FINDINGS



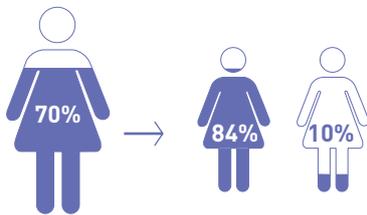
32% of women reported experiencing psychosocial/emotional abuse.



31% of women reported experiencing psychosocial assault.



26% of women were denied access to resources or services.



70% of women had experienced violence but did not seek support or help (reasons being 'shame' (84%), and fear of repercussions from the perpetrator (10%)).



64% of women reported seeking help, the majority sought assistance from relatives.



82% of men found shouting acceptable.



73% of men found physical force acceptable.



73% of men found restricting money or resources in some circumstances acceptable.



5% of men found forced sex acceptable.



64% of men believed that restricting a female partner's access to healthcare service was not acceptable.



36% of men believed that restricting a female partner's access to healthcare service was acceptable.



70% of men had shouted at their female partners in the last year.



48% of men had used physical force.



41% of men had restricted their partners from accessing resources and/or services.



66% of men reported being the decision makers in their home.



5% of men reported that decision making was equally shared.



11% of men allow their female partners to make decisions in the household without their input.



79% of men allow their female partners to work.

Most common types of GBV mentioned during interviews with service providers and key informants, included: psychosocial and physical abuse; Intimate Partner Violence (IPV); early marriage and depriving females from continuing school and work; sexual harassment, rape, sexual enslavement, and trafficking. IDP women in camps were also perceived as being at greater risk because of their lack of social support networks. This was more so the case for women and children who have been associated with ISIS. Moreover, refugee women were perceived as particularly vulnerable, because of their legal status, or rather lack of it. Many also lacked legal documentation, which placed them at greater risk to exploitation.

FOCUS GROUPS

FGDs findings highlighted that the general acceptance for women's economic participation may be associated with increased economic pressure within families. Moreover, despite the survey findings indicating that the majority of men would allow women to work, FGDs shed light on aspects relating to conditions in which it would be acceptable for them to work, such as in non-gender mixed environments, and in locations close to home. Hence, while men may claim to accept that women work, it is important to understand the conditions on which men accept women to be economically active.

Important areas of weakness in policies and legislation identified by key informants (a social worker at the directorate for protecting women's rights, a minister of justice, who is also a member of CSTF and a UNFPA representative) are:

- The family protection bill: since 2010, civil society has worked on the realisation of the bill, but there has been objection from parliament. Different sectors are already working within the structure provided by the bill, but more advocacy is required to support its implementation and enforcement at all levels.
- Iraq's VAW strategy was launched in December 2018. However, this needs to be enforced and relevant institutions trained and supported to implement its requirements.
- The early marriage law is in place (marriage under the age of 18 is prohibited). But this can be circumvented by using traditional or religious clerks to 'marry' younger women.
- Iraq's law of countering family violence (8th Article of 2011) is under debate and has not yet been issued but should make a positive contribution to Iraq's supportive legal environment for women.
- There is no law against sexual harassment or assault. Perpetrators only receive a USD100 fine, or three months in jail if they are caught.
- The constitution has been revised and is progressive, but there is no structure or framework in place to support its implementation. Also Iraq's legal system still has several gender discriminatory provisions. Moreover, although Iraq has ratified the CEDAW and Child Rights Convention, no measures have been made towards fulfilling the country's responsibilities, nor has it lifted all the reservations. Furthermore, some of the laws in the Personal Status Law and Penal Code Law still discriminate against women and further consolidate gender stereotypical roles of women and men.

¹3RP 2017-2018 Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan 2017 – 2018 In response to the Syria Crisis, Iraq.

²Global Protection Cluster, (2016) Iraq GBV Sub-Cluster Strategy for 2016. [Online] Available at: https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/gbv_sub-cluster_strategy_iraq_2016_full_endorsed.pdf [24 March 2019].

METHODOLOGY

- 16 conducted in-depth interviews
- 8 FGDs (involving a total of 92 females and 18 males)
- 2 surveys were administered, one targeting women and the other community members (There were 165 responses to the women's survey, and 44 responses to the men's survey)

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE BASE-LINE REPORT IRAQ

- Address cultural aspects and encourage a more supportive environment for the engagement of women Syrian refugee, IDPs and women host community populations in the public sphere.
- Provide Syrian women refugees, women IDPs, and women in host communities with income generating opportunities (such as cash for work for the former, access to decent jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities for the latter).
- Raise awareness of both women and men on women's rights, encouraging men to become supporters of gender equality and women's access to the public sphere.
- Provide women IDPs, Syrian women refugees and women in host communities with multilateral, safe and holistic support, that includes legal, PSS, SRR, GBV related services. Issues of safety need to be taken into consideration when providing such services.
- Strengthen referral systems in order to further enhance existing support and ensure that comprehensive services are provided to women.
- Enhance the visibility of centres, and services or interventions supporting women IDPs, Syrian refugees and women from host communities in order to ensure that 'invisible' populations are reached.
- Provide male-focused interventions targeting behaviour change and knowledge of GBV, harmful masculinities, social norms and customs.
- Strengthen and ensure gender sensitisation of protection mechanisms that support GBV survivors. Interventions that target confidence building of women (both survivors and others) would benefit all women in the program areas in Iraq.
- Enhance coordination and capacities of service providers and decisions makers, to better support vulnerable women. This can be done through improving cross sector coordination, as well as increased institutional awareness on women's rights, and participation.
- Advocate for changing or improving the legal environment for women in Iraq towards zero tolerance on GBV, to benefit all. The specific areas of the legal framework that could be targeted are:
 - Awareness raising and implementation of the Strategy for Combatting VAW
 - Implementation and enforcement across sectors of the early marriage law
 - Advocacy for a law against sexual harassment and assault.
 - Change of discriminative legislation.
 - Adoption of laws criminalizing VAW/GBV.
- Build the capacities of government institutions, police, and other relevant organisations on UNSCR 1325, NAP 1325, GBV, CEDAW, and the anti-domestic violence draft law.

A B O U T U S

EUROPEAN UNION REGIONAL TRUST FUND IN RESPONSE TO THE SYRIAN CRISIS, THE EU "MADAD" FUND



FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

EU REGIONAL TRUST FUND 'MADAD'

الصندوق الاستئماني الأوروبي 'مدد'

The European Union Regional Trust Fund 'MADAD' (EUTF) provides support to more than 2 million Syrian refugees and local communities in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, the Western Balkans, and Armenia. Providing access to education, livelihoods and socio-economic opportunities, health care, water and hygiene as well as providing more opportunities for a sustainable income generation are at the heart of the Trust Fund mandate. EUTF has a particular focus on women and girls. The EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis pools an increasing share of the EU's aid to the region into one single and flexible instrument. The Fund primarily addresses educational, economic and social needs of Syrian refugees while also supporting local communities and their administrations.

EUROMED FEMINIST INITIATIVE EFI



EuroMed Feminist Initiative

المبادرة النسوية الأورومتوسطية

Initiative Féministe EuroMed

EuroMed Feminist Initiative (EFI) is a policy network that provides expertise in the area of gender equality and women's rights as inseparable from democracy building and citizenship. EFI advocates for political solutions to all conflicts, for the right of peoples to self-determination, and for strengthening of women's impact and voices in conflict resolution. EFI seeks to improve and promote women's rights as universal human rights, the value of gender equality and the use of non-violent means to solve conflicts. EFI's criteria and position align with the international resolutions and conventions and regional instruments promoting the universality of women's rights and strengthening women's impact and voices in conflict resolution.



Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere "CARE" (CIL) is a leading relief and development non-governmental organization fighting global poverty. In Lebanon, CARE has set up operations in 2013 to support the growing needs of Syrian refugees. Over the next two years, our emergency response includes: supporting refugees to seek assistance so that they are able to address their immediate needs; providing access to shelter for newly arrived refugees and crisis-displaced families; assisting refugees and host communities with livelihood opportunities and vocational training that will help them earn a living; supporting refugees and host communities with access to water and sanitation; ensuring support for host communities that have been overwhelmed by the crisis; and providing psychosocial support, protecting the rights of vulnerable women and helping prevent gender-based violence.



Legal Action (LA) is a Lebanese non-profit organization comprised of human rights lawyers focused on identifying creative avenues for accessing justice for those who are experiencing protracted violations of their human rights. LA's main focus is addressing sexual and gender-based violence. LA is funded by Legal Action Worldwide (LAW), an independent and unique non-profit network and think tank of lawyers who provide creative legal assistance in fragile and conflict-affected areas. LAW provides legal assistance to the most vulnerable and places national lawyers at the forefront of legal interventions designed to increase access to justice, challenge impunity, and advocate for progress. LAW uses legal advocacy, research, advice and strategic litigation to bring about change.



The Lebanese Women Democratic Gathering (RDFL) is a feminist, secular, non-governmental organization advocating for and raising awareness about the rights of women and girls in Lebanon. Founded in 1976, the RDFL is one of the oldest feminist organizations, one based on volunteerism. RDFL's vision is to achieve equality between women and men in all spheres, and to provide protection from gender-based violence. RDFL's mission is to work on and advocate for the elimination of gender-based violence and all forms of discrimination, and to achieve full citizenship for women through a widespread and empowered membership and in collaboration with civil society.



Business Development Center
مركز تطوير الأعمال

The Business Development Center (BDC) is a non-profit entity founded in 2004 that is dedicated to accelerating regional economic development by providing capacity building, advisory & follow up services, career enhancement and entrepreneurial development programs at all levels, with a special emphasis on youth, entrepreneurs, women and SMEs. BDC's principal and ongoing commitment is to improve the standard of living and quality of life of Jordanians by creating jobs and stimulating economic development anchored in encouraging public-private partnerships, providing support to SMEs, and making available training and career opportunities for youth.



Tamkeen Fields for Aid "Tamkeen" is a Jordanian non-governmental organization that works on promoting the principles of human rights, combatting human trafficking. The organization also works on protecting the rights of the most vulnerable groups in society, particularly migrant workers and refugees, through a three-prong strategy of prevention, protection and prosecution. Tamkeen aims at increasing legal awareness within Jordanian Society, with a focus on issues related to Labour Laws, the rights and duties of workers and the Anti-Human Trafficking law. Tamkeen also works on promoting the rule of law by ensuring the effective participation of human rights activists, lawyers, judges and those responsible for implementing and proposing legal amendments in issues related to its work; in addition to enabling victims whose rights have been violated to seek justice.

I R A Q

Baghdad Women's Association (BWA) works to reduce violence against women and girls by providing all necessary support services to survivors of such violence, advocating for the implementation of appropriate laws, policies and government programs as well as working to increase women's political participation through leadership development, knowledge and capacity building. Their vision is to combat all forms of violence against women and girls, ensuring legal protection, equality, respect and all human rights for women and girls.



Women Empowerment Organization (WEO) was established in Erbil, Iraq in 2004. Since then, WEO has worked with a range of partners and donors that include UN agencies and EU grantees. They have implemented programs and activities that promote equal rights for women to ensure they have an active role in the Iraqi community through enhancing their social, political, economic and cultural participation. In addition to its main headquarter in Erbil, WEO has offices in many provinces of Iraq such as Kirkuk, Baghdad, Nineveh, Diyala, Duhok and Sulaimaniyah. WEO works to prevent and respond to GBV and provides survivors of GBV with social and psychosocial counselling, legal assistance, case management and advocates to increase women's legal protection.



Madad for Women combines emergency response with long-term development. It provides comprehensive services to Syrian women refugees and women from host communities in Lebanon, Iraq and Jordan, bringing the needs of the most vulnerable to policy level and ensuring gendered response to the Syrian crisis.