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LEBANON PROTECTION EMPLOYMENT EMERGENCY  
AWAANES SAHABAT CAKIRAN BANGSA INDONESIA



EuroMed Feminist Initiative  
المبادرة النسوية الأوروبية  
Initiative Féministe EuroMed

| LEBANON |  
Newsletter - October 2020



## MADAD FOR WOMEN RESPONDS TO COVID-19 - A DOUBLE PANDEMIC LOOMS OVER WOMEN & GIRLS -

Gender-based violence (GBV) does not begin with disasters like Covid-19, nor does it end when they are curbed. However, GBV which increases during every type of emergency witnessed a sharp rise during Covid-19.



### UNDERSTANDING THE PROBLEM MAY HELP RESOLVE IT

#### Why does GBV rise during emergencies?

Let us look at this through the lens of genders; from the male gender perspective, pre-existing social and cultural norms that govern patriarchal societies, culminated in significant gender inequality. Add to that the social isolation and quarantine measures enforced during Covid-19, which in turn led to massive economic strain, and ultimately to a palpable tension in households.

Unexpected and sudden emergencies, such as the blast that ripped through Beirut on August 4, have also exacerbated an already precarious situation.

#### Unforeseen factors which gave way to a sharp increase in GBV

From the female perspective, the scenario is a painful one to grasp; many women are in 'lockdown' with their abusers, while violence at home worsens with the prolonged confinement. Women and girls are isolated from the people and resources that can help them, and have few opportunities to distance themselves from their abusers.

### HOW DID WE ACCOMPANY THE VICTIMS OF GBV (WOMEN & GIRLS) THROUGH THE MADAD FOR WOMEN PROGRAMME?

This is a testimony by "Hanaa" a 38-year-old Syrian refugee woman, who took part in the GBV awareness raising sessions, implemented under the Madad for Women programme-Lebanon.

*"After attending the sessions, I now know more about the natural rights of women and gender equality."*

*"I learned what gender-based violence is, be it verbal, physical or psychological. All of which I was not aware of."*

*"In addition, I was assured that providing school education for my daughter is the right choice."*



Hotline for Psychosocial Support provided by RDFL

**71 500 808**



Hotline for Legal Aid provided by LAW

**81 315 001**

### WHAT MEASURES WERE TAKEN BY THE MADAD FOR WOMEN PROGRAMME TO MITIGATE GBV DURING COVID-19? (MARCH-JUNE 2020)

The Madad for Women programme geared all its efforts towards providing protective services for women and girls which were classified as "vital" during Covid-19, and particularly following the blast that hit Beirut in August.

Through domestic violence hotlines, sexual and reproductive health services, referral pathways, and legal consultations, GBV survivors are supported through consistent access to sustainable services, in the current context of increased violence in the household and/or community level.

**565** Safe Identification and Referral  
individuals

**1131** Psychosocial Support (PSS)  
individuals Psychosocial First Aid (PFA)

**1367** Sexual and Reproductive Health  
Individual Counselling

**146** Sexual and Reproductive Health  
individuals Group Counselling

**1838** Legal Assistance and Counselling  
assisted cases

**1000** Hygiene Kits Distributed to Vulnerable  
Women and Girls

\*Figures correspond to the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020

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