

16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence 2013 - Jordan



'16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence' (GBV) is an international campaign originating from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute in 1991. The campaign begins, around the world, on International Day Against Violence against Women on 25 November and ends on International Human Rights Day on 19 December, to emphasize that Sexual and Gender-based violence is a violation of human rights.

In Jordan

The Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Sub-Working Group (SGBV SWG)** joined efforts with the United Nations Communication Working Group to help unite refugees and host communities against sexual and gender-based violence. A calendar with the activities of more than 20 different organizations working in all governorates, across the country, was distributed in registration sites, help desks, clinics, women safe spaces, child friendly spaces and schools among other sites, both inside and outside refugee camps. The activities focused on:

- raising **awareness** about forms of sexual and gender-based violence
- providing **information** on available **services**
- promoting **empowerment** and **participation** of girls and boys
- encouraging **discussions** about SGBV
- building **capacity** of service providers
- disseminating **positive messages** on safety
- inaugurating **women safe spaces** in refugee camps
- mainstreaming **SGBV prevention** in other sectors

Different events were organized each day of the campaign and hosted by national and international NGOs, UN agencies and government departments. Below are some examples of the events carried out by the members of the SGBV SWG.

Community-based events

UNFPA and IRC conducted awareness sessions which offered a platform for discussions about forms of SGBV and how to address it within the family and community. Creative and tailored sessions were delivered to address the specific vulnerabilities of women, girls, boys and men, and had a particular focus on youth. An animation about early marriage produced by young women in Zaatari was also launched and IRC and UNFPA inaugurated a new safe space.



Messages against violence, Zaatari Camp. Day 16. (Photo by M. Fernández/UNHCR)



Graffiti with Youth, Zaatari Camp. IRC/UNFPA/YPEER. Day 9. (Photo by M. Fernández/UNHCR)

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IMC conducted activities in both camp and non-camp settings to raise awareness of SGBV and community responses. In Zaatari, sessions engaging parents of children enrolled in the Youth Empowerment Program were held. Innovative communications methods were also used in Zaatari, including community theater and screen movies followed by open discussions. In Zarqa, IMC with the support of UNFPA held a women's group discussion to identify areas of risk in their community and came up with creative solutions against violence as well social activities. An outdoor event for children, families and the community invited participants to paint murals with positive messages about keeping safe.



Launch of awareness session in Zaatari's School. UNICEF, UNHCR and FPD. (Photo by M. Fernández/UNHCR)

A school awareness session campaign targeting teachers, students and families was launched by UNHCR and FPD. The campaign will continue throughout 2014. UNHCR, FPD, UNICEF and Save the Children collaborated to provide awareness sessions during the 16 days. Activities took place in the three schools in Zaatari Camp and in schools located outside the camps in the northern governorates of Jordan.

JHOUD/INTERSOS and UPP/JWU organized daily awareness-raising activities in their centers throughout Jordan. ARDD-Legal Aid provided focused sessions on legal issues surrounding GBV.

UN-Women hosted the screening of a movie followed by a discussion about SGBV and its different forms with their staff and volunteers working in Zaatari camp. In collaboration with JNCW, key messages were disseminated and events were hosted throughout the 16 Days, including awareness raising sessions and discussions.

IRD/UNHCR and other partners took innovative approaches to empowerment activities, combining information sessions on human rights, with fun activities for boys and girls. Football matches combined with awareness sessions on SGBV issues allowed a relaxed environment for discussions.

ICMC led a discussion among women on SGBV, while their children were entertained with a drawing competition. The competition required children to draw a picture of somewhere they felt safe, with each of them receiving a small prize to reward their involvement.

Painting sessions offered a chance for girls to express themselves through art. IFH, with the support of UNFPA, offered theater and art therapy to deliver positive messages, reaching almost 700 people.



UNHCR/IRD Girl's football and awareness session, Zaatari Camp, Day 4. (Photo by M. Fernández/UNHCR)

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Training and Events for service providers



Comprehensive training programs for service providers were delivered by UNHCR, UNFPA, UNICEF, IRC and SCI. Training topics included community-based protection and the national inter-agency GBV and CP SOPs and referral pathways. WHO organized a roundtable discussion on the impact of SGBV on health and mental health.

Studies were presented by the Arab Women's Organization (AWO) with the support of Solidaridad Internacional (SI) entitled 'Challengers and Obstacles: Women breaking the cycle of violence', and 'Symbolic violence against women'. Following the presentation, participants issued a declaration calling on the governments of the world to respect international conventions guaranteeing gender equality. AWO also hosted a conference on International Human Rights Day.

Final Day: Positive messaging



Kites and balloons with messages against sexual and gender-based violence were flown on the final day of the campaign by many of the partners. Messages focused on **unity** and **freedom from violence**.



Flying balloons and kites against Violence, IMC/UNFPA. (Photo by M. Fernández/UNHCR)



Girls decorate kites with messages against violence, UNICEF/Save the Children Jordan. (Photo by F. Azzeh/UNICEF)



SGBV
Sub-Working Group

Participating Agencies: The National Centre for Human Rights, IFH/NHF, Family Protection Department, UPP, IRD Jordan Women's Union, UNICEF, UN Women, JAHR, IRC, General Federation of Jordanian Women, UNFPA, UNHCR, IMC, INTERSOS, JOHUD, ARDD Legal Aid, AWO, War Child, WHO, Save the Children Jordan, SCI

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** The SGBV SWG has the objective to strengthen multi-sectorial SGBV prevention and response in the context of the Syrian refugee emergency in Jordan. The SGBV SWG is chaired by UNHCR and UNFPA. Members of the Sub-Working Group include UN agencies, international and national NGOs, ministries and national institutions.