TOGETHER AGAINST VIOLENCE

Report on the Gender-Based Violence Sub-Working Group Activities during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign for the year 2020
# TABLE OF CONTENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SECTION</th>
<th>PAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Background and Context</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SGBV SWG Activities</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of Key Messages</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint Activity Calendar</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SGBV SWG National Level Activities</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SGBV SWG Sub-National Level Activities</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic Media Activism</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Challenges and Main Lessons Learnt</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annex</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Sub-Working Group (SGBV SWG) conducted this year's 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign under the framework of the national campaign launched by the Jordanian National Commission for Women (JNCW). The thematic focus of the national campaign was

“Eliminating all forms of Domestic Violence against women and girls”

The theme is aligned with the global theme “Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!” to fight against Domestic Violence that has been exacerbated due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Moreover, the national theme was decided based on the evidence, assessments and studies on the impact of COVID-19 on the lives of many women and girls in Jordan. For example; a rapid assessment conducted by UNFPA in collaboration with Plan International and the Institute for Family Health indicated that Gender-Based Violence - particularly domestic violence - has increased during the pandemic: with 69 percent of all survey respondents and informants advising of increasing risks. The hashtags: #16DaysJo #TogetherAgainstViolence #نحن_معكم_ضد_العنف and the slogans “Together against Violence” and “نحن معكم ضد العنف” were developed at the national level and used by different stakeholders throughout the campaign.

SGBV SWG ACTIVITIES:

In October 2020, the SGBV SWG established a taskforce to work on the preparations of the joint activities to mark this year’s 16 Days Campaign. The taskforce was chaired by UNFPA and UNHCR and gathered 23 organizations -members of the SGBV SWG- including United Nations agencies, INGOs, NGOs and local women’s organizations: (ActionAid, APS, ARDD, AWO, CRP, DRC, IFH, INTERSOS, IOM, IRC, Islamic Relief Worldwide, KHF, JNCW, JRF, NRC, Oxfam, SIGI, UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNRWA and WFP).

The taskforce met on a weekly basis for 2 months to prepare the SGBV SWG joint activities which included the following:

1. Development of key messages
2. Joint calendar compiling all activities of the different members from the SGBV SWG
3. Arrangement of joint activities at the national level in Amman and in 5 different locations through sub national working groups.

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1. Development of Key Messages (Annex I)

The SGBV SWG, in consultation with groups of women, men, girls and boys in camps and host communities - including Jordanians, Syrian refugees and refugees of other nationalities - developed 14 key messages under 7 main topics aligned with the national theme targeting the community and decision makers in Jordan. The messages were developed based on the SGBV SWG Guidance Note on GBV Service Provision during COVID-19 in Jordan and a forward look to safe resume of services (April 2020)², and were shared with SGBV SWG members to be distributed among their beneficiaries through SMS, voice recordings, short videos and more.

2. Joint calendar collecting all activities at different field locations

The SGBV SWG designed a calendar collecting all activities taking place during the 16 days campaign period³. 30 organizations organized more than 350 activities and events. Due to COVID-19 situation in Jordan, the majority of activities were conducted online, except for few number of activities which were conducted in person across the country in urban areas (Irbid, Ajloun, Mafraq, Amman, Zarqa, Madaba, Karak) and in the three refugee camps (Zaatari Camp, Azraq Camp and EJC Camp).

The activities included TV shows, awareness sessions and webinars on domestic violence, art competitions, awareness raising videos, podcasts, theatre shows, musical festivals, debates, puppet shows, art trainings and sessions and more under the national theme “Eliminating all forms of Domestic Violence against women and girls”.

3. SGBV SWG joint activities at national level:

The 16 Days Campaign Taskforce at the national level organized 3 joint activities, detailed as following:

A) Not just hotlines - Innovative GBV service provision: “GBV technical workshop on developing safe and innovative ways for GBV survivors to seek help amid and beyond COVID 19 in Jordan”

On 3rd of December 2020, the SGBV SWG organized an online technical workshop for GBV practitioners in Jordan on developing safe and innovative ways for GBV survivors to seek help amid and beyond COVID 19 in Jordan, objective of the workshop was to generate a common position among GBV practitioners on which innovative and safe, alternative ways for targets of GBV to seek help other than by mobile phone.

Around 50 participants attended the technical workshop from different UN Agencies, International and local NGO’s in Jordan; the majority were GBV practitioners working in different areas across the Kingdom.

The webinar was facilitated by UNFPA and UNHCR in collaboration with UNDP accelerator lab. The webinar was divided in two sections, firstly a presentation of pilots and experiences from Jordan and then a brainstorming session to come out with recommendations to be included in the updated version of the SGBV SWG Guidance Note on GBV Service Provision during COVID-19 in Jordan and a forward look to safe resume of services⁴; which was first published in May 2020 by the SGBV SWG.

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The first segment included presentations by 5 panelists. UNICEF provided an overview on UNICEF’s paper that provides ideas and challenges of reaching survivors who cannot easily access phone-based GBV support. Followed presentation of 3 pilots in Jordan on alternative ways for women to seek help rather than hotlines. Starting with Rukni Initiative5 that was launched jointly by ARDD and UNDP in coordination with I am a Human Association and Madaba Cultural Association piloted phone booths in October 2020, in addition to two other presentations followed about two pilots funded by OCHA Humanitarian funding: Jordan River Foundation’s initiative which strengthens the helpline and case management services through diversifying and expanding JRF’s national Helpline to receive text and audio messages, in addition to act as a GBV protection access points, beside raising the awareness on GBV support services through women committees, SMS, leaflets/brochures, and social media campaign. Moreover, the second pilot which is supported by OCHA Humanitarian Funding is INTERSOS pilot where women can seek help for GBV services through pharmacies. The pilot is being implemented in 3 pharmacies in 3 locations; Amman, Irbid and Karak, where a community facilitator; who could be a caseworker, trained volunteer or the pharmacist, provides women with brochures and leaflets that contain information on available services, in addition that those pharmacies contain a space for women who want to report and seek help.

Following the presentations, an interactive session was facilitated by UNDP’s Accelerator Lab dividing the participants into small groups. Each group came up with solutions for the different challenges that are faced by women and girls in accessing the services during COVID-19; such as establishing phone booths, code words and support in pharmacies, mobile GBV clinics, capacity building of service providers and more. The output of the workshop is the publication of an updated version of the Guidance Note on GBV Service Provision during COVID-19 in Jordan that was first published in May 2020 by the GBV Sub-Working Group. The republication will feature all recommendations raised during the webinar.

5 Rukni Initiative: https://www.ardd-jo.org/News-Room/rukni-initiative-launched
The SGBV SWG launched a Drawing Competition on UNHCR’s Website and Facebook Page on the 25th of November, that aimed at ensuring the engagement of the local community and persons of concern in the celebration of the 16 Days of Activism Campaign and their engagement in advocating for the elimination of all forms of domestic violence.

The Drawing Competition was under the title/ question: “What does safety at home mean to you?” in the context of domestic violence. The competition was also shared on UNFPA’s Facebook Page and from other partners’ social media.

The SGBV SWG received around 280 submissions for the competition, which were evaluated by a panel consisting of different members of the SGBV WG. Based on the agreed criteria, the panelists awarded the following 3 winners:

**Winner 1:** Hanaa Alhasan, 25 years old

**Winner 2:** Layan Omar, 11 years old

**Winner 3:** Saja Rawdan, 13 years old

The winners were announced on UNHCR’s Facebook Page and won tablets sponsored by IOM.
C) Joint Video on Domestic Violence:
The SGBV SWG produced a joint video that aims at raising awareness on domestic violence, its forms and how to prevent it. The joint video included short clips from members of the 16 Days Taskforce (DRC, IRC, IFH, INTERSOS and UNFPA). The video was first published on UN Jordan’s Facebook Page during the Orange Hour on 4th of December at 8 PM - 9 PM, which was viewed by more than 260 viewers, and also was published on UNFPA’s Youtube Channel and was viewed by 165 viewers. The video was also displayed during the UN Talk on 8th of December that was attended by around 200 participants. Moreover, the video was distributed among the SGBV SWG members to be used in different awareness raising sessions.

4. The SGBV SWG joint activities at Sub-national level:

A) SGBV SWG joint activities in Zaatari Camp:
In Zaatari Camp, the SGBV SWG established a 16 days taskforce consisting of 13 organizations (IFH, RI, Blumont, Mercy Corps, JHAS, ARDD, LWF, Save the Children, IMC, FPD, UNHCR, UNFPA and UN Women). Under the national theme “Eliminating all forms of Domestic Violence against women and girls”; the taskforce organized 2 joint activities:

1. A joint video by members of the SGBV SWG in Zaatari on the SGBV SWG key messages. The video was distributed by 15 members of the CPSGBV SWG among the community in Zaatari Camp through WhatsApp groups, reaching around 1000 beneficiaries in the camp.

2. A webinar for GBV service providers in Zaatari Camp to discuss the challenges faced by GBV service providers during COVID-19 and to come up with recommendations for ensuring the continuity of services during and amid COVID-19. The event was conducted on 1st of December and was attended by 19 participants from 10 organizations (IFH, RI, Blumont, Mercy Corps, UN Women, LWF, JHAS, UNFPA, IMC and ARDD).

Moreover, in Zaatari Camp; 8 organizations (UNHCR, UNICEF, Blumont, RI, IFH, Save the Children, IMC and LWF) conducted their own 118 virtual and in-person activities, where they reached through the in-person activities that were conducted in the camp to around 1400 community members. Activities conducted in Zaatari camp varied from awareness raising sessions on domestic violence, art galleries, videos, art competitions, virtual marathons, role plays, singing and drawing activities.

In-person 16 days campaign activities implemented by IFH in Zaatari Camp
Photo Credit: IFH
B) SGBV SWG joint activities in Azraq Camp:

The SGBV SWG in Azraq Camp established a taskforce consisting of 14 organizations (UNFPA, UNHCR, UN Women, UNICEF, WFP, IRC, Plan International, Care, DRC, IMC, World Vision, Mercy Corps, Relief International and IFH) who worked on organizing 3 joint activities under the national theme which are:

1. An interactive webinar for GBV service providers in Azraq Camp on the effect of COVID-19 on the service provision for Domestic Violence survivors in the camp, that was conducted on 2nd of December and was attended by 30 participants from different organizations working on GBV service provision in Azraq Camp. The webinar was led by IRC, IMC and UNHCR and included a general discussion on the Domestic Violence situation during COVID-19 in the camp, following with the Case Management service and the challenges that were faced during the lockdown, in addition to the safe referrals.

2. A joint voice recording featuring the SGBV SWG common messages that was distributed among the SGBV SWG members in Azraq Camp, and also among community members and beneficiaries through WhatsApp groups reaching more than 4,200 beneficiaries.

3. A short video was produced by members of the SGBV SWG which includes service providers and volunteers talking about violence. The video was distributed among community members through WhatsApp groups reaching more than 4,200 beneficiaries.

Moreover, in Azraq, 7 organizations (UNICEF, Mercy Corps, DRC, IMC, Care, IRC and RI) conducted 18 activities such as awareness sessions on domestic violence, videos, puppet shows, self-defense sessions, drawing and signing sessions, where they reached around 4000 beneficiaries.

Photo Credit: IRC in Azraq Camp. IRC beneficiaries participating in a video for 16 Days Campaign sharing messages against Domestic Violence.
C) SGBV SWG joint activities in Mafraq:

The SGBV SWG in Mafraq established a taskforce consisting of 7 organizations (UNHCR, Care, IRC, IMC, ICMC, JRF, AWO) who worked on organizing 2 joint activities under the national theme which are:

1. A radio interview with Farah Al-Nas Radio (a national radio, mainly popular in Mafraq Governorate) on 30th of November on a show called “With Refugees” covering different topics and issues related to refugees in Jordan. The radio interview focused on presenting this year’s campaign national theme and defining the different forms of Domestic Violence, in addition to highlighting the available services in Mafraq for survivors of Domestic Violence.

2. 7 voice recordings by members of the SGBV SWG; who recorded the SGBV SWG key messages for this year’s 16 days campaign and were distributed among the SGBV SWG members in Mafraq, and also among community members and beneficiaries in Mafraq through WhatsApp groups, women groups as well as through radio channels in Mafraq.

In Mafraq, six organizations (Care, IRC, IMC, ICMC, JRF, AWO) conducted 44 virtual and in-person activities throughout the 16 days campaign period; reaching around 1500 beneficiaries. Activities varied from awareness sessions on Domestic Violence, recreational activities for women including relaxation exercises and yoga, to storytelling, puppet shows, video shows and a WhatsApp competition about domestic violence.
D) SGBV SWG joint activities in Irbid:

The SGBV SWG in Irbid organized a joint virtual session on 7th of December for GBV service providers in Irbid to discuss the different challenges on service provision during COVID-19 and to come up with recommendations. The joint virtual session was attended by 22 attendees from 11 organizations (UNHCR, IRC, AWO, IFH, ARDD, Johud, NRC, INTERSOS, SAMS, ICMC and IMC).

Outcomes of the session were:

A. Challenges that survivors face in seeking help: Lack of privacy due to living in the same place with perpetrator, fear of losing child custody, disconnection of mobile phones, fear of retaliation and lack of shelters that keeps the woman survivor with her children.

B. Recommendations to ensure continuity of service provision during and amid COVID-19:

- Work with CBOs in the remote areas, build the capacity of CBO’s staff on GBV and conduct case management for survivors in CBOs.
- Build the capacity of GBV service providers on cyber-crimes to be able to counsel the survivors.
- Conduct GBV needs assessment.
- Coordinate the services providers efforts to avoid duplication of the services in the same place.

In Irbid, 26 activities were conducted by 4 organizations (AWO, IRC, IFH and INTERSOS) during the 16 days campaign reaching around 1500 beneficiaries. Activities varied from awareness sessions on Domestic Violence, recreational workshops, videos to interactive theatres and competitions.

Photo Credit: UNICEF. The photo was taken during an awareness raising session in UNICEF’s Makani Center in Irbid.
ELECTRONIC MEDIA ACTIVISM:

The SGBV SWG members used their social media platforms in sharing their activities on the different SGBV SWG joint events that were conducted during the 16 days Campaign.

18 of posts were shared on Facebook by 10 organizations, receiving the attention of 1446 likes, 337 comments and 52 shares.

15 posts were shared on Twitter by 6 organizations, receiving the attention of 143 likes, 81 retweets and 26 comments.

Visibility of the SGBV SWG joint activities was also covered by UN Jordan Facebook, where they shared the SGBV SWG Joint Video during the Orange Hour receiving the attention of 17 likes, 4 comments and 4 shares.

CHALLENGES AND MAIN LESSONS LEARNT:

Although the diversity of activities conducted across Jordan this year by the SGBV SWG and the use of different tools and platforms ensured that information is accessible for all; several challenges were faced during the planning and implementation of activities, such as:

- Limitation for in person activities: Although COVID 19 limitation on the number of participants in group sessions to limit the spread of the virus- partners managed to hold in person activities adhering to risk mitigation measures. The bulk of activities were conducted online and virtually but it posed some challenges in terms of lack of internet access by the beneficiaries, shortage/absence of smart phones or limited knowledge of using online platforms such as: Skype, Microsoft Teams.

- In Zaatari Camp, some service providers faced limitations in attending online/ virtual activities due to bad internet connection in the camp.

- Because of COVID-19 restrictions; the range of activities that were conducted during 16 days were mostly virtual which led to limitations in ensuring a variety of ideas of activities.

Those challenges led the SGBV SWG to come up with recommendations and lessons learned for the planning for next year’s 16 days campaign activities, such as:

- Conduct regular follow up meetings with Field coordinators to ensure technical support is provided by the SGBV SWG on the national level, and to ensure that all activities conducted by members of the SGBV SWG across the country are following the national theme to ensure a wider impact.

- A national theme aligned with JNCW ensured that more people were reached across the development and humanitarian setting, with the same messages, which amplified the impact.

- The involvement of key governmental actors within the Family Violence National Team in the national campaign was considered as a good achievement for JNCW to have more stakeholders involved in the women’s rights agenda.

- The creation of a taskforce with short weekly meetings was conducive for responsibility sharing.

- It is recommended to have in person activities especially in the camps respecting social distancing to address connectivity issues. Ensure early planning also at sub national level in parallel with national level.

- Launching the Drawing Competition - organized by the SGBV SWG on National level - on UNHCR’s website and UNHCR’s Social Media Platforms supported in reaching out to a wider audience.
SGBV SWG 16 Days Activities were organized by

[List of logos of various organizations involved]
#TogetherAgainstViolence

SGBV SWG Key Messages - 16 Days Campaign 2020

“Together Against Violence”

Messages have been developed by the 16 days campaign taskforce of the SGBV WG in October 2020, through the consultation with groups of women and men, girls and boys in camp and host communities including Jordanian and Syrian refugees and refugees of other nationalities. Messages are based on the Guidance Note on GBV Service Provision during COVID-19 in Jordan and a forward look to safe resume of services (April 2020)

For Communities

 Topic 1: Safe home for all

Message 1.a Home shouldn’t be a place of fear

Message 1.b Staying at home because of COVID-19 may cause tensions among couples and in households. If you find yourself getting so angry or frustrated that you think a disagreement may turn into a fight with your partner, children or other family members, take a break (pray, meditate, listen to music, read or play some sports) and talk about the matter later when everyone is less angry. Refrain from taking decisions or talking when you are angry. Violence is never the solution and may harm oneself or another person.

Message 1.c Taking care of yourself will benefit your family and is a sign of strength and responsibility. If you feel overwhelmed and tense, seek help from (INSERT contact and opening hours). It is normal to feel out of control and to worry how to provide for your family in this situation.

Message 1.d Domestic violence is not only physical. Verbal abuse and emotional violence, along with controlling behavior and denial of resources are very common forms of domestic violence with harmful consequences on women and girls, families and the society at large.

#TogetherAgainstViolence
Message 2.a During the lockdown, we tend to spend longer time using the internet and social media platforms which might increase the risk of being subjected to online harm including harassment, exploitation, and bullying. It can take many forms (e.g., sexual, financial, verbal, etc.). If you experience this, remember that you are not to blame; tell someone about what you have experienced or seen, you can also seek confidential support from the toll free helplines or the cyber-crime unit. Always remember to save logs, screenshots, chats, emails and SMS so you can use it as proof if needed.

Message 3.a If you are harmed or feel threatened, intimidated or harassed (in person or online), do not remain silent. Seek remote confidential support from the toll-free helplines [add helpline/hotline number(s)]. You have the right to seek and get help. Remember that you do not have to tolerate this at all or manage it on your own.

Message 3.b Do you feel home is not safe for you? Do you need help? Download the Amaali app for further information on protection services.

Message 3.c: Don’t remain silent, you are not alone and you deserve to be supported. Call us on [add helpline/hotline number(s)].
### Message 4.a: There is no honor in honor killing.

There is no honor in honor killing.

### Message 4.b: Anger is not a justification for killing — women are fit for life not for fury.

Anger is not a justification for killing — women are fit for life not for fury.

### Message 5.a: Be an ally for women and girls! Women and girls are not in need of protection but of support to amplify their voices.

Be an ally for women and girls! Women and girls are not in need of protection but of support to amplify their voices.

### Message 5.b: Know your power and privilege and use it to challenge patriarchal norms on what it is to be a man. Step up to stop violence when you see it happening and speak up it is not ok.

Know your power and privilege and use it to challenge patriarchal norms on what it is to be a man. Step up to stop violence when you see it happening and speak up it is not ok.

### Message 6.a: Stop victim blaming. Make perpetrators and power-holders accountable for their choice of being violent!

Stop victim blaming. Make perpetrators and power-holders accountable for their choice of being violent!

### Message 6.b: Don’t blame victims! Violence was not her choice.

Don’t blame victims! Violence was not her choice.

### For Decision Makers

1. GBV protection services are lifesaving and must be understood as part of the first tier of critical services provided to vulnerable populations and must be adequately funded. 

   تعد خدمات العنف المبني على النوع الاجتماعي خدمات منقذة للحياة، وعلى يجب إدراج هذه الخدمات ضمن الخدمات الأساسية المقدمة للفئات المستضعفة من المجتمع والحرص على تمويلها بشكل كاف.

2. Specialized civil society is a key partner to the government in filling gaps in GBV service provision. Their ability to move and provide services can complement government services.

   مؤسسات المجتمع المدني هي شريك رئيسي للحكومة وتساهم في سد الثغرات/الفجوات الخاصة بتقديم خدمات العنف المبني على النوع الاجتماعي. تسهل قدرتهم على التحرك وتقديم الخدمات يسهم في قدرتهم على تقديم خدمات مكلفة للخدمات الحكومية.