

Three stylized hands are arranged around a central text box. An orange hand is at the top, pointing downwards. A teal hand is on the left, pointing upwards. A yellow hand is on the right, pointing upwards. The hands are simple, flat-colored shapes with white lines for fingers.

“When Women Lead”

**Report on the Gender-Based Violence Sub-Working
Group in Jordan Activities marking the International
Women’s Day 2021**

**GBV
Sub-Working Group**

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BACKGROUND:

Each year on the 8th of March, the **International Women's Day (IWD)** is renowned in many countries around the world to celebrate women's social, economic, cultural and political achievements, but also to reflect on the progress made towards gender equality and to call for change.

Each Year, UN Women releases a global theme on the occasion of the International Women's Day. This year, the theme chosen was **"Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world"** where the national theme was also aligned with this theme, in order to jointly celebrate the tremendous efforts by women and girls around the world and in Jordan towards shaping a more equal future and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The hashtags **#IWD2021 #GenerationEquality / #اليوم_العالمي_للمرأة** were used by different stakeholders celebrating this day in 2021.

The **Gender-Based Violence Sub-Working Group (GBV SWG)**; which is the coordination body mandated to strengthen GBV prevention and response in emergency settings in Jordan, comprising more than 30 partners, including UN agencies, INGOs, national NGOs, and government counterparts operating across governorates in Jordan serving refugees and host community; has been marking the International Women's Day for the past couple of years by organizing joint activities aligned with each year's theme.

This year, the GBV SWG organized several activities on both national and sub-national level to mark the IWD under its theme which are listed in detail below.

GBV SWG ACTIVITIES:

In February 2021, the GBV SWG established a taskforce to work on the preparations of the joint activities to mark this year's IWD. The taskforce was chaired by UNFPA and UNHCR and gathered 16 organizations - members of the GBV SWG - including United Nations agencies, INGOs, NGOs, local women's organizations and embassies as follows: UNFPA, UNHCR, UNRWA, IOM, UNDP, AVSI, IRC, INTERSOS, ICMC, IMC, VdT, ONG Rescate International, The British Embassy, IFH, JRF and Taleed Hub.

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

1. Development of Key Messages (Annex I)

The GBV SWG, in consultation with groups of young women in host communities - including Jordanians and Syrian refugees - developed 6 key messages under 4 main topics aligned with the theme targeting the community and women leaders in Jordan.

Four of those messages were included in the national common package of advocacy messages that were prepared by The Jordanian National Commission for Women (JNCW) which were distributed and published on the social media of JNCW and UN Jordan. The messages were shared with GBV SWG members to be distributed among their beneficiaries and to be used in their activities.



2. Joint calendar collecting GBV SWG activities at different field locations

The GBV SWG designed a joint calendar collecting activities organized by members of the GBV SWG to mark the IWD. 25 organizations organized 72 activities and events; 25 activities were conducted online and 47 activities were conducted in person across the country in urban areas (Irbid, Mafraq, Amman, Zarqa, Maan and Aqaba) and in the three refugee camps (Zaatari, Azraq and EJC Camp).

The activities included TV and radio shows, awareness raising sessions, trainings, webinars and panel discussion with women leaders, art activities, awareness raising videos, bazaar, movie screenings, social media campaigns and cooking sessions.

3. GBV SWG joint activity at national level:

The IWD Taskforce at the national level organized one joint activity to mark the occasion, which is:

A Panel Discussion with Women Leaders in Jordan, under the title: "When Women Lead: Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life during COVID-19".

Under the theme "Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world"; the GBV SWG organized on the **8th of March** a virtual panel discussion with 6 women leaders from Jordan to shed light on their experiences and achievements towards combating the challenges that COVID-19 pandemic initiated, with a specific focus on their role in combating Gender-Based Violence which has increased during the pandemic.

The panel discussion was attended by around 50 participants from different UN Agencies, International and local NGOs but also from the community who joined through [Zoom Webinar](#) and also through the live-stream on [UNFPA's YouTube Channel](#).

The session started with welcoming remarks by representatives of the organizations co-chairing the GBV SWG; **Mr. Bouchta Mourabit**, Humanitarian Coordinator at UNFPA Jordan and **Ms. Tayba Sharif**, Senior Protection Officer at UNHCR Jordan who highlighted the role of the GBV SWG in supporting women's leadership and effective participation by ensuring all women are provided with the services, skills and information they need.



Facilitated by **Ms. Yara Deir**, GBV Programme Analyst at UNFPA Jordan, the dialogue hosted **six women leaders** who spoke in detail about their efforts and achievements in responding to COVID-19 and specifically in combating all forms of violence against women and girls which has significantly increased during the pandemic; namely domestic violence. Also, they highlighted the challenges they faced and how they overcame them.



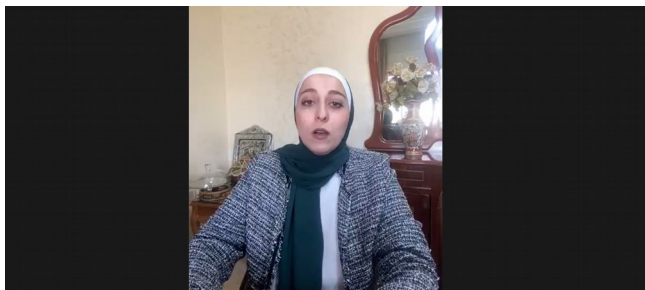
The dialogue started with **Ms. Maha Alasasfeh**, Case Management Services Manager at Jordan River Foundation and **Ms. Ameera Abu Samra**, Director of Tanaghom in Aqaba who explained their role in responding to the increased number of GBV incidents during lockdown. As Ms. Maha revealed that "Despite all the challenges that COVID-19 initiated, with the support of my team, we managed to double our work efforts to ensure that all GBV survivors receive all the assistance and support needed". Moreover, **Ms. Ameera** emphasized their role in Aqaba governorate in providing support to Syrian women "We are one of the few organizations in Aqaba that provide support for Syrian women in the governorate. We continued providing PSS for GBV survivors and ensured to stay online 24 hours for women who need any support, but also we continued on raising the awareness on Child Marriage through awareness raising sessions for Adolescent Girls but also for parents."

Following is **Ms. Isra Tawalbeh**, who is the first woman in Jordan to run a public hospital and **Ms. Rawan Barakat**, *Founder and Director of Raneen Foundation*, who both underscored the various challenges they faced in their leading roles; "At first, both the staff and the community were minimizing my ability as a woman to run the hospital due to social stereotypes; until I proved them wrong!", said **Ms. Tawalbeh** confidently.

Nonetheless, for women with disabilities, challenges are doubled; as Ms. Barakat stated: "In society, women with disabilities are minimized; not only because of their gender, but also because of their disability. We need to double our efforts in fighting all the stereotypes that falsely promote the powerlessness and incapability of women with disability to effectively participate in decision-making in various sectors".

During the lockdown, everyone turned to social media. We have witnessed how women were attacked in numerous articles, posts and on the news merely because of their gender. That is to say although, social media was the tool that supported in disseminating information on services available for survivors of GBV during COVID-19, which at the same time it has also made GBV shockingly explicit. **Ms. Rana Al Hussein**, Author, Senior Journalist and Human Rights Activist commented, *“We need to raise awareness on the importance of reporting cyber harassment. The Cyber Crimes Unit in Jordan responds immediately to any reporting it receives and takes actions accordingly to ensure that all survivors are protected.”*

Moreover, early interventions through support to girls’ leadership are thought to be particularly essential to fostering women leaders. **Ms. Heba Shaib**, a young woman leader emphasized that *“We must continue to build the capacity of young girls and ensure they are provided with all skills, training and opportunities that enhance their leadership skills.”*



A Q&A session followed with the public where they asked the panellists for more recommendations on how to continue the battle to reach an equal future for all. And as **Ms. Ameera** ended: *“We all are leaders and we all can be leaders and representatives in every sector”*.

4. GBV SWG joint activity at sub-national level:

In collaboration with UN Women, the GBV SWG in Mafrq, Zaatar and Azraq Camp organized **15** in-person movie screenings to **141** women and girls displaying one of the Women’s Film Week¹ movies for 2021, which was presented by the Embassy of Bahrain in Amman.

The film is called: [“Influential Bahraini examples facing COVID-19”](#)

It is a 5-minute film that aims to shed light on the exemplary efforts by Bahraini women and their role during the challenging circumstances caused by COVID-19 pandemic, especially those serving as frontline responders. The film tells the stories of three women working in the education and health sector, showcasing their efforts in balancing between work duties and support to their families, highlighting the importance of family support in balancing both responsibilities.



¹ **Women’s Film Week:** An initiative run by UN Women in collaboration with the Royal Film Commission in Jordan which offers a unique opportunity for the public in Jordan to see and reflect on women’s issues, as portrayed through the work of various national and international filmmakers. Visit this year’s movie brochure: <https://bit.ly/2N1RnHV>

5. GBV SWG in Zaatari Camp:

In Zaatari Camp, 3 members of the GBV SWG (IFH, RI and IMC) organized 4 movie screenings which were attended by 34 adult and young women from the camp.

The movie screening followed with a discussion on their reflection on the movie and the importance of women being leaders, and as one participant reflected: ***“There are many women leaders in Zaatari camp, and this is something we are very proud of!”***. Moreover, the discussion included the challenges and barriers that stand in front of women in Zaatari Camp from being leaders. ***“Parents and husbands do not allow a woman to be a hero! It starts as a girl when they prevent her from traveling to learn, following with preventing her from working in a profession that she looks forward to, especially if it requires overnight stay! They might allow her to work but based on some standards that they put which might be against her will.”***



Moreover, In one of the activities, women participants filmed a [video](#) telling messages to other women and girls on this occasion.

6. GBV SWG in Azraq Camp:

In Azraq Camp, 4 members of the GBV SWG (IRC, IMC, RI and Plan International) organized 10 movie screenings covering all villages in Azraq Camp which were attended by 98 women and girls from the camp. The movie screening followed with a discussion on their reflection on the movie, and as one Syrian woman reflected ***“Our lives here in the camp during COVID-19 are exactly like in the movie. We managed to fight all the challenges and barriers that COVID-19 pandemic initiated”***.

Followed also with a discussion on women's roles in responding to the pandemic and the challenges they faced and how they overcame them. ***“2020 was one of the hardest years that we have lived. It made me feel like a refugee again, but thanks to all the support from all organizations; especially psychosocial support, I was able to overcome all the challenges”***. Some of the movie screenings also included Origami sessions which were organized by IRC.



7. GBV SWG in Mafrag:

On the 8th of March, the GBV SWG in Mafrqa organized one movie screening activity which took place at UNHCR's Office in Mafrqa, that was attended by 9 Syrian women living in Mafrqa. The activity was led by UNHCR and IMC, with the support of Care, JRF, IRC, ICMC, NRC and AWO. The movie screening was followed with an open discussion with attendees on the role of women during COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the main challenges they faced. During the session, participants emphasized their important role in supporting the dissemination of awareness raising messages on the available services for survivors of GBV especially areas where women cannot easily access services. ***"Women can be creative in many areas, and their role is just as important as men"*** said one of the women during the discussion.

At the end of the session, all participants were provided with flowers and participants expressed their emotional feelings towards the gift. ***“This is the first flower that I have received in my life! Thank you for remembering us on this day”***.



SUMMARY OF THE IMPACT:

With the implementation of 72 activities by the members of the GBV SWG; more than 165,100 people were reached either by direct participation through online and in-person activities or through media engagements (TV and radio shows, social media posts, etc..), covering all areas across the kingdom.



UNHCR Jordan - المفوضية في الأردن 7 March at 18:31

Join us tomorrow to discuss how women - including refugees - can be the leaders of tomorrow 🌟

#IWD2021

https://unfpa.zoom.us/j/.../register/WN_zj8NE06iTDSyF9Tbg7MFIA



جلسة حوارية مع نساء قياديات في الأردن بمناسبة اليوم العالمي للمرأة

عندما تقود المرأة:

مشركة المرأة القادة والمهاتمة في الحياة العامة ونموذج القادر خلال جائحة كورونا 19

الزمان:
الثلاثاء 8 آذار / مارس 2021 في تمام الساعة 10 صباحاً و10:30 بعد الظهر

المكان:
عن طريق رابط Zoom: <https://bit.ly/3B6GRGn>

الأردن:
UNFPA الأردن UNHCR المفوضية السامية لحقوق اللاجئين UN Women

اللغة: العربية
الأردنية (إلى الإحاطة متوافقة مع رومانيا)

UNFPA Jordan
6 March at 16:30

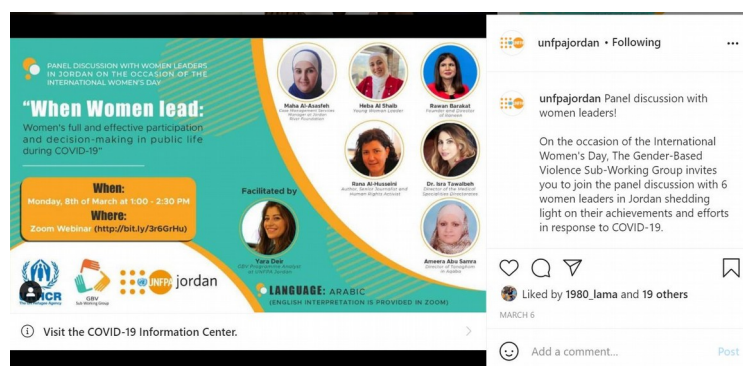
حلقة نقاش مع نساء قيادات!
تدعوكم مجموعة العمل القرعية المعنية بالعنف المبني على النوع الاجتماعي بمناسبة اليوم العالمي للمرأة للانضمام إلى حلقة نقاش مع 6 من ال... See more

267 33 comments 5 shares

Like Comment Share

Moreover, the GBV SWG joint activities were also covered through social media. As for the panel discussion, 20 posts were shared in that regard, receiving the attention of 379 likes, 35 comments and 35 shares, reaching around 48,000 people on social media. The panel discussion was shared on the social media platforms of UNFPA, UNHCR, UNFPA Arabic and by the panellists.

As from one of the GBV SWG key messages for this year's IWD: "Women front liners are the real heroes of today. On International Women's Day, let's pay tribute to their commitment and their efforts.", the GBV SWG members tackled in their activities the achievements and stories of more than 90 women leaders in Jordan, whether women leaders from the refugee or local community, women leaders in the health, media, protection and political sectors, or young women leaders and women leaders with disabilities. "Your focus on celebrating this day and acknowledging the efforts of all women in Jordan provided me with strength and confidence to be a leader and to share my story next year on this exact day." said a Syrian refugee woman during one of the GBV SWG joint activities conducted in Azraq Camp.



MAIN LESSONS LEARNT:

- o Joint efforts with the Jordanian National Commission for Women and members of the United Nations Communication Group (UNCG) on developing the national package of the advocacy messages ensured that messages are directed to all women in Jordan, but also to girls, men and boys, and that the messages are commonly used among all members and actors in both local and refugee communities.
- o The diversity of activities conducted across Jordan this year by the GBV SWG whether they were online, or in-person ensured a higher engagement from the community and ensured that the messages were widely spread.
- o Focusing campaigning and advocacy efforts under one theme within unified messages ensured a more focused and structured campaign but ensured also a full coverage and a wider and more effective impact at community level.

We thank all the members of the GBV SWG who participated in the implementation of the activities



مؤسسة نهر الأردن
Jordan River Foundation



جمعية النساء العربيات في الأردن
Arab Women Organization of Jordan

2020
ذكرى إنشائها 50
50th Anniversary



GBV
Sub-Working Group

GBV SWG Key Messages

International Women's Day 2021

“Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world”

Messages have been developed by the International Women' Day taskforce of the GBV WG in February 2021, through the consultation with groups of young women in host communities including Jordanian and Syrian refugees.

Topic 1: Women GBV Service providers

العنوان الأول: مقدمات خدمات العنف المبني على النوع الاجتماعي

Message 1.a: Did you know that hundreds of female GBV case managers have dedicated their time and efforts during COVID-19 to provide support to survivors of gender-based violence, which has worsened under COVID-19? Let's stand today to honour the women leaders who stand strong for women's rights and dignity as humanitarian front-line responders.

الرسالة 1.أ: هل تعلم أن المئات من النساء العاملات كمدرء حالة قد كرسن وقتهن وجهودهن خلال جائحة كوفيد-19 لتقديم الدعم للناجيات من العنف الذي تقاوم في ظل الجائحة؟ دعونا نقف اليوم لتكريم القيادات النسائية التي تدافع بقوة عن حقوق النساء وعن الكرامة كمستجيبات للعمل الإنساني في الخطوط الأمامية.

Message 1.b: “Women frontliners are the real heroes of today. On International Women's Day, let's pay tribute to their commitment and their efforts.”

الرسالة 1.ب: "النساء العاملات في الخطوط الأمامية هن الأبطال اليوم! دعونا في يوم المرأة العالمي نشيد بالتزامهن وجهودهن."

Topic 2: Engaging men and boys

العنوان الثاني: مشاركة الرجال والفتيان

Message 2.a: Be an ally for women and girls rights in leadership! Women and girls are not in need of protection but of support to amplify their voices and fulfil their rights!

الرسالة 2.أ: كن حليفاً ومناصرًا لحق النساء والفتيات في القيادة! النساء والفتيات لسن بحاجة للحماية بل إلى الدعم لايصال أصواتهن وللحصول على كامل حقوقهن .

Topic 3: More powerful together!

العنوان الثالث: نحن أقوى معاً

Message 3.a: “One hand doesn’t clap! Women need to stand hand in hand together to reach an equal world where their voices are heard and their rights are fulfilled.”

الرسالة 3.أ: "يد واحدة لا تصفق! على النساء الوقوف جنباً إلى جنب للوصول إلى عالم متساوٍ حيث تُسمع أصوات النساء ويتم استيفاء حقوقهن".

Message 3.b: “Being an independent and empowered woman might be challenging in an unequal society. Have faith in yourself and feel confident. You are capable of more than you imagine!”

الرسالة 3.ب: "قد يكون من الصعب أن تكوني امرأة مستقلة ومتمكنة في مجتمع غير متساوٍ. آمني بنفسك وكوني واثقة بنفسك. أنت قادرة على أكثر مما تتخيلي"

Topic 4: Violence against Women

العنوان الرابع: العنف ضد المرأة

Message 4.a: “The under-representation of women in political leadership and not involve them in decision making process impact on the ability of governments to respond to and prevent violence against women. Today we call to enhance more opportunities for women to obtain leadership positions.”

الرسالة 4.أ: "إن التمثيل المتدني للمرأة في القيادة السياسية وعدم إشراكها في عملية صنع القرار يؤثر على قدرة الحكومات على الاستجابة ومنع العنف ضد المرأة. ندعو اليوم لتعزيز فرص حصول المرأة على مناصب قيادية أكثر".