

SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND

"PARTNERS FOR JUSTICE" PROJECT - LEBANON

Baseline Report

SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

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Abbreviations

CSO	Civil Society Organization
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
DRL	Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, United States Department of State
GBV	Gender Based Violence
KII	Key Informant Interview
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SO	Specific Objective
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
USG	United States Government
UN	United Nations
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls

Executive Summary

Introduction and Objectives

Search for Common Ground (Search) in partnership with ABAAD - Resource Center for Gender Equality (ABAAD) implement the DRL-funded *Partners for Justice* project with the overall goal to reduce violence against women and girls (VAWG) in Lebanon. Patriarchal social structures and practices, as well as communities' lack of awareness on women's rights, continue to limit women's access to economic resources and leadership positions. Furthermore, traditional social images of male superiority and power imbalances continue to foster attitudes and behaviors that sustain gender inequality and even violence in the Lebanese society. Moreover, the outbreak of COVID-19 in spring 2020 and the consequential lockdown in Lebanon increased the burden of women as caregivers and incidents of Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV). These facts and negative developments highlight the urgent need for more efforts tackling the issue of gender equality and VAWG in Lebanon.

The project's activities include a series of workshops with youth and media stakeholders, as well as youth led-research on gender and masculinity, in order to embed gender sensitivity skills and positive masculinities within individuals and civil society organizations (CSOs), who will be able to draw upon these skills in the future. These activities will include participants from across the country including from Beirut, Mount Lebanon, Bekaa, South, and North. They will feed into the design of a national advocacy and awareness campaign that is locally rooted and thus relevant to rural and urban contexts in Lebanon. The campaign will promote positive narratives of masculinity and raise awareness about VAWG to a wider public audience.

This report from the baseline ensures contextual relevance and efficient project design, and guides the project's monitoring plan of important indicators by providing measurable performance benchmarks. The study report provides information for measuring project outcomes of six indicators as outlined in the project logframe. Specifically, it documents the knowledge, attitudes and practices of project participants and community members towards gender equality, masculinity and VAWG, as well as, research and media work capacities for direct project participants.

Methodology and Limitations

The research methodology aimed to ensure triangulation to maximize the quality of the findings of the baseline study by utilizing a multi-method approach including Outcome Surveys, Perceptions Surveys and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs). In total, **30 Outcome Surveys** were conducted with all youth-led CSO representatives participating in the project in order to assess their capacity in research practices, their access to neutral platforms for discussing research findings, and their previous experiences and skills in developing national campaigns and promoting the reduction of VAWG. The participants included 14 men and 16 women from one organization in Beirut, four organizations in the North, three organizations in Mount Lebanon, five organizations in Bekaa, and three organizations in the South.

Perception Surveys were conducted with all 30 youth-led CSO representatives as well as 405 community members equally split across the five geographical regions of Lebanon to generate baseline data for target communities' awareness and attitudes towards VAWG, perceptions of masculinity, and gender equality. The sample of community members included 100 young men (ages 16-24), 100 adult men

(ages 25-59), 103 young women (ages 16-24), and 102 adult women (ages 25-59). Moreover, **ten Qualitative KIIs** with stakeholders from each geographical region having in-depth knowledge of the prevalence and perceptions around VAWG in their communities were conducted. The questionnaire for the KIIs was broadly in line with the structure of the Perception Surveys but was tailored to the area of expertise of the informants, including specific questions about religious, social, or legal and policy aspects concerning VAWG to supplement the quantitative data from the Perception Surveys and to further guide the project activities.

A local data collector in each of the five geographical target regions conducted the data collection entirely over the phone to limit concerns over COVID-19 in line with Search policy. Due to these circumstances of the data collection and further limitations of time, a convenience sampling strategy was applied to this study. To avoid non-representativity and bias, the sample was divided into several subcategories taking into account age, gender, and locality (rural/marginalized vs. urban/affluent areas). Moreover, data collectors were strongly advised to collect answers from a diverse set of respondents accounting for factors such as educational level, income, and nationality. However, the disproportionately high number of university graduates in the sample might cause more progressive views presented in the findings than actually held by the overall society as education is a key factor for both men and women with regards to having equitable views on gender and VAWG. Therefore, it is not recommended to extrapolate specific numbers from the findings of this study to the entire Lebanese population.

Other limitations concern the attempt to measure attitudes towards a sensitive topic such as VAWG. Mainly, this includes social desirability bias, in which the respondents may choose their response based on what they consider to be acceptable behaviour instead of a truthful answer. In anticipation of these challenges, the data collectors' training included thorough discussions on topics of gender, violence, sexuality, and how to ensure a safe, comfortable environment for all survey respondents. Despite these precautions, these are challenges in any survey research on such topics and cannot be completely removed. A final limitation concerns the assessment of direct project participants, which only included the youth-led CSO representatives as participating media stakeholders will be hired later on.

Key Findings and Recommendations

The findings on research capacities highlighted that all of the project participants have at least some basic knowledge on research methodology and practices - and are eager to apply it to gender and masculinity research on behalf of their organizations. As the participants showed a slight lack of knowledge on interview techniques, **it is recommended that proper interview techniques are thoroughly discussed in the research training.**

Granting access to neutral platforms for sharing and discussing the findings of the gender and masculinity research is an integral part of the project and thus, Search and ABAAD should ideally ensure that all participants have access to such platforms during the project's lifespan or even aim to organize an event for this purpose. The baseline information collected on this topic points towards diverging understandings on what a "safe" or "neutral" platform is. Thus, **to guide project participants on what platforms are safe or neutral to discuss research findings on gender and masculinity is vital.**

Overall, the majority of project participants reported previous experience with NGO work that often included awareness raising activities in their communities as well as national campaigns and touched on topics related to VAWG. This impression was supported by their detailed answers regarding safe spaces or platforms analyzed under Indicator 2. While their answers were not always applicable for the assessment of the indicator, the participants demonstrated their extensive experience with local NGOs and their

understanding of grassroots work promoting positive change including on the reduction of VAWG. The activities for the *Partners for Justice* project should be planned in a way to **leverage the existing capacity and skills of participants to maximize the impact of the project.**

The findings on community members showed that the majority of respondents were well aware of the prevalence of VAWG but that it remains a topic surrounded by taboo and stereotypes. The fact that openly discussing VAWG was widely considered unusual in the target communities and about half of the respondents considered it part of Lebanese culture highlights the importance of the *Partners for Justice* project which aims at addressing these issues specifically. Community members showed higher acceptance rates for sexual and psychological violence than physical violence underscoring that **“hidden” types of violence including psychological VAWG and sexual violence in marriage should be addressed specifically in Lebanese society.** Moreover, **regional patterns highlight significant differences with regards to tolerating VAWG with higher tolerance reported in the Bekaa, North and South than in Mount Lebanon and Beirut.** Therefore, locally rooted and developed campaign messages are an important aspect to the project.

Economical violence emerged as a fourth important dimension of VAWG that should be addressed specifically in the national campaign. It is broadly part of psychological violence and includes all types of financial and work related pressure women face from men, commonly exercised by their fathers or husbands. Moreover, **“cultural factors” including religious views and patriarchal traditions in Lebanese society emerged as the most important justifications for VAWG** - mostly expressed from an expert point of view among key informants. These factors should also be accounted for when designing the national campaign.

The analysis of stereotypical and patriarchal perceptions of masculinity highlighted that such images are prevalent among the assessed community members, especially in Bekaa, the North, and South Lebanon. Thus, tackling these images as a root cause of VAWG should form an integral part in the activities conducted under *Partners for Justice* as suggested in the project’s proposal. Overall, the findings showed that **while respondents are generally aware of VAWG they might not be aware that certain cultural practices and images of masculinity contribute to perpetuating its occurrence.** These images include notions of men’s and women’s roles in a relationship and community’s attributions of honor and reputation. Finally, with regards to entry points to tackle VAWG in Lebanese communities, two key points shall be highlighted: first, the educational sector was repeatedly named by key informants in order to reach young members of society in a neutral setting. While the project’s activities specifically engage youth in the role of direct project participants, it does not target them in the national campaign. It might be of **additional value to the campaign to come up with a strategy to target schools or universities as well.** As the campaign will be developed by youth-led CSO representatives, it will be easy for them to reach their peers.

1. Background Information

About Search for Common Ground

Search is a non-governmental organization working to transform the way the world deals with conflict. Search acquired over 37 years of experience in peacebuilding and is based in over 50 countries around the world, including in Africa, Europe, Asia, North America, and the Middle East. Search first worked in Lebanon in 1996, addressing multiple issues arising within Lebanon's diverse society. In each project,

Search seeks to engage all stakeholders to work together to address shared challenges and develop joint solutions.

About ABAAD - Resource Center for Gender Equality

ABAAD is a non-profit, non-politically affiliated, non-religious civil association that aims to achieve gender equality as an essential condition to sustainable social and economic development in the MENA region. ABAAD seeks to promote women's equality and participation through policy development, legal reform, and gender mainstreaming, engaging men, eliminating discrimination, and advancing and empowering women to participate effectively and fully in their communities. ABAAD also seeks to support and collaborate with civil society organizations that are involved in gender equality programs and advocacy campaigns.

Project Overview

Despite various efforts made in Lebanon to achieve gender equality and end VAWG, the situation remains troubling. In 2019, Lebanon ranked 145th out of 153 countries in the world on the World Economic Forum's global gender gap index and 14th among the 19 MENA countries.¹ Patriarchal social structures and practices, as well as communities' lack of awareness on women's rights, limit women's access to economic resources and leadership positions in the political and social spheres, while simultaneously codifying discrimination in public policy. Furthermore, traditional social images of male superiority and power imbalances still foster attitudes and behaviors that sustain gender inequality, discrimination, and even violence.² Most recently, the outbreak of COVID-19 in spring 2020 and the consequential lockdown in Lebanon increased the burden of women as caregivers and incidents of SGBV with women and girls feeling less safe at home and in their communities and access to specialised services being constrained.³ These facts and negative developments highlight the urgent need for more efforts tackling the issue of gender equality and VAWG.

The *Partners for Justice* project is funded by the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor Affairs, United States Department of State (DRL) and collaboratively implemented by Search and ABAAD between September 2019 and December 2021. It seeks to reduce VAWG in Lebanon by addressing its root causes and transforming men's and women's, boys' and girls' attitudes towards patriarchal norms that define masculinity in public and private spheres. The project's goal will be met through the following specific objectives (SO):

- SO1: Empower men and boys to positively engage in working with women and become allies and champions of gender equality and prevention of violence against women and girls; and

¹ World Economic Forum, 2019, Global Gender Gap Report 2020, available at http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2020.pdf, p. 9

² See DRL-Project Proposal for further details and sources.

³ Panagoulia, Angeliki, May 2020, CARE Rapid Gender Analysis - COVID-19 and Beyond, Report by CARE International in Lebanon, available at http://www.careevaluations.org/wp-content/uploads/CIL_RapidGenderAnalysis_COVID-19_FINAL-2007022.pdf, p. 2

- SO2: Promote a shift in communities' attitudes in target areas around the permissibility of, and assumptions related to, violence against women and girls.

A series of workshops with youth and media stakeholders, as well as youth-led research on gender and masculinity, will embed gender sensitivity skills and positive masculinities within individuals and CSOs, who will be able to draw upon these skills in their future. These activities target participants from across the country including from Beirut, Mount Lebanon, Bekaa, South, and North. They will feed into the design of a national advocacy and awareness campaign that is locally rooted and thus relevant to rural and urban contexts in Lebanon. The campaign will promote positive narratives of masculinity and raise awareness about VAWG to a wider public audience.

Through this project, men will deconstruct and change their own attitudes around the socially built norms of masculinity that push them to play the role of “protector” and “controller” of women and girls in public and private spaces. They will learn to understand and embrace the role they can play in shifting communities' attitudes toward the permissibility and justification of, and assumptions related to VAWG.

2. Methodology

The methodology for this baseline study was grounded in Search's principles of a comprehensive and systematic inquiry as well as respect for people and an inclusive approach of the research team and respondents with regards to gender, age, national and social background. The study provides benchmark information for measuring project outcomes based on the *Partners for Justice* logframe in the thematic areas of Engaging Men, Gender Equality, Masculinity and VAWG as well as Research Practices and Media Campaign experiences of the direct project participants.

Conceptual Framework

The project's aims revolve around two main concepts that needed to be defined in order to determine measurable baseline values: Firstly, VAWG needs to be defined in its composing elements, and secondly, the *empowerment* of men and boys needs to be conceptualized specifically in relation to VAWG.

Violence Against Women and Girls

In producing baseline data to assess a change in attitudes towards VAWG, it is first necessary to define different aspects of violence that the baseline seeks to address. The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, adopted by The United Nations (UN) General Assembly in 1993, defines violence against women as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life”. The study adopted this definition and understanding of VAWG and integrates the three components of physical, sexual, and psychological violence into the analysis, the definitions of which are outlined below.⁴

- **Physical violence:** Consists of “acts aimed at physically hurting the victim”. The UN outlines a minimum and non-exhaustive list of the most common acts of physical violence against women including: slapping, pushing or shoving, hitting, kicking, biting, and threatening her with a knife, gun or other weapon.⁵
- **Sexual violence:** Consists of any kind of “harmful or unwanted sexual behavior that is imposed on someone, whether by use of force, intimidation or coercion.” Examples include but are not limited to “acts of abusive sexual conduct, forced engagement in sexual acts, attempted or completed sexual acts without consent, non-contact acts such as being forced to watch or participate in pornography, etc.”⁶

⁴ General Assembly resolution 48/104, *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women*, A/RES/48/104 (20 December 1993), available from

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/violenceagainstwomen.aspx>

⁵ ‘Guidelines for producing statistics on violence against women-statistical surveys’, 2014, *Department of Economic and Social Affairs Statistics Division*, United Nations.

https://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/docs/Guidelines_Statistics_VAW.pdf Page 2.

⁶ Ibid.

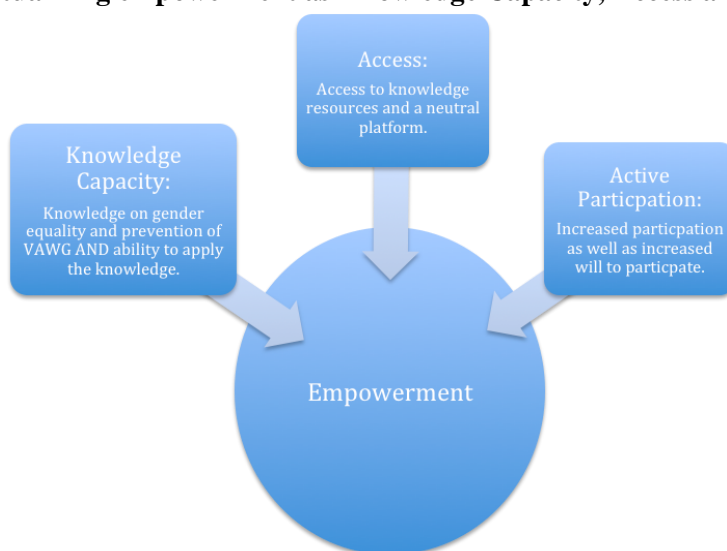
- Psychological violence:** Consists of a range of behaviours or acts of emotional abuse and controlling behaviour intended to induce fear or emotional distress caused the behaviour or act.⁷ These often go hand in hand with other acts of physical and sexual violence and are considered acts of violence in themselves. Examples include consistent and reoccurring threats of physical or sexual violence, humiliation and intimidation.

Empowerment

SO1 aims to *empower men and boys to work with women to become allies and champions of gender equality and prevention of violence against women and girls*. Conceptualising empowerment is challenging as it is an inherently abstract concept that encapsulates many dimensions and is context specific. The term should be used sensitively in the current context given that it is applied to men, who are commonly considered to be more empowered than women and girls by nature of their sex.

In this baseline study, empowerment is determined through a capacity assessment of youth-led CSO representatives and it is mandatory that different aspects of empowerment are reflected in the assessment. Specific elements of empowerment are identified that help to situate the indicators for this project in a broader conceptualization of empowerment, in order to understand it as both an outcome and a process. For instance, an indicator measuring knowledge capacity (see e.g. Indicator 1 below) may show that a training has increased the knowledge of a participant but does not capture whether the activity enabled the participant in other ways, which we consider important as well. Participation in the training or access to a neutral platform alone can be empowering as a process in addition to demonstrating empowerment as an outcome such as through an increase in knowledge capacity. Thus, the intangible aspects of access and active participation were considered when developing the methodology for this capacity assessment. The holistic conceptualization of empowerment that takes into account knowledge capacity, access and active participation as key elements of empowerment (see Diagram 1) serves as a conceptual tool to ground the project's logframe indicators in the concept of empowerment.

Diagram 1: Conceptualizing empowerment as Knowledge Capacity, Access and Participation



⁷ Ibid.

The three components of empowerment can be defined as follows:

- **Knowledge Capacity:** Building knowledge capacity means increasing the expertise or skills of individuals through knowledge accumulating activities and can be achieved through training, capacity building, lectures or seminars with the support of teaching materials such as toolkits, guides and databases. Increasing knowledge capacity empowers individuals to make more educated decisions and enables them to better articulate and represent their wants, needs, interests and beliefs in a responsible and self-determined way, acting on their own authority.
- **Access:** Means to facilitate “entry” to platforms, resources and/or spaces such as seminars, webinars and workshops that provide a neutral, inclusive and collaborative space to exchange and build up knowledge. Providing access empowers individuals to become more involved in exchanging knowledge and resources in a space in which they feel comfortable and safe to articulate their wants, needs, interests, and beliefs.
- **Active Participation:** Means encouraging and supporting individuals to participate in activities in a genuine and independent manner. Increasing active participation empowers individual agency and ownership by allowing individuals to genuinely articulate themselves to make decisions and take action.

Objectives of the Study

The baseline study sought to ensure contextual relevance and efficient project design, and will serve to guide the monitoring plan of predefined indicators by providing measurable performance benchmarks. The study provided quantitative and qualitative data and analysis on six indicators that broadly reflect the two primary project objectives (SO1 and SO2). The assessment provided sex and age disaggregated data in all five geographical target regions of Lebanon on:

- The knowledge, attitudes and practices of the targeted communities and key informants towards gender equality, masculinity and VAWG;
- Youth-led organizations representatives’ capacity in raising awareness around gender equality, masculinity and prevention of violence against women and girls in their communities;
- Youth-led organizations representatives’ capacity in research practices; and
- Youth-led organizations representatives’ capacity to develop a national media campaign.

The specific indicators of the project logframe that are assessed in this study are further described in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Overview of indicators relevant to the baseline study

	Indicator in logframe	Indicator definition	Baseline determined by
Indicator 1	1.3.2: % increase of young men and young women who were trained in Search's youth-led research methodology who report an increase in capacity in research practices.	This measures the change in ability of young women and young men who participated in Search's youth-led research training who report increased skills in research practices.	Outcome Survey: tailored to the “Listening and Learning” toolkit applied in the training
Indicator 2	1.4.2: % of target stakeholders who report to have had access to a neutral platform where they can share and reflect on the findings of the Gender and Masculinity Research.	This measures the research participants’ participation in collaborative formats to constructively discuss, learn from, and deconstruct the findings of the research.	Endline , mainly. Outcome Survey: A question about knowledge on the presence of safe platforms is embedded
Indicator 3	2.2.2: % of youth-led organizations' representatives and media stakeholders who show an increase in skills to develop a national strategy that promotes the reduction of VAWG by addressing social dynamics that justify violence against women and girls and/or perpetuate victim blaming.	This measures the increase in capacity and opportunities to develop a strategy and messages for a national campaign that challenges stereotypes, taboo and assumptions related to VAWG.	Outcome Survey: gives us a benchmark value for the youth representatives only as media stakeholders will be selected later on in the project
Indicator 4	2.4: % change in attitudes towards the permissibility or justification of VAWG in target communities reported by the target audience of the National Campaign (male leaders, local leaders, religious leaders, policy makers, educators, social workers, male family members).	This measures the change in attitudes that target communities and target audiences undergo as a result of attending events linked to the national campaign or seeing/discussing the messages developed and disseminated as part of the national campaign.	Perception Survey: with target communities. KIIs: with local leaders, religious leaders, policy influencers, educators, social workers, etc.
Indicator 5	GNDR-4: Percentage of participants reporting increased agreement with the concept that males and females should have equal access to social, economic, and political resources and opportunities.	Donor Indicator 1-Indirect participants: community members 2-Direct participants: Youth-led CSO representatives	Perception Survey: Two questions included in Survey for Indicator 4, with target communities and Youth-led CSO representatives
Indicator 6	GNDR-7: Percentage of participants that view Gender-Based Violence (GBV) as less acceptable after participating in or being exposed to USG programming.	Donor Indicator 1-Indirect participants: community members 2-Direct participants: Youth-led CSO representatives	Perception Survey: same as Indicator 4, with target communities and Youth-led CSO representatives

Research Tools

The research methodology to assess the six indicators above ensured triangulation to maximize the caliber of the findings identified during the data collection of the baseline study by utilizing a multi-method approach. Therefore, three research tools were designed in accordance with the main concepts of the project as defined above. The tools included an **Outcome Survey** to assess the capacities of the direct project participants (youth-led CSO representatives) in order to generate baseline values for Indicators 1, 2, and 3. To measure an increase in research capacity in line with the aspect of “knowledge capacity” described in the conceptualization of empowerment above, the questionnaire included several questions based on the manual for Search’s “Listening and Learning” toolkit, which will be applied in the project. It further included questions about access to neutral platforms and previous knowledge and skills around gender, VAWG, and media campaigns.

Moreover, **Perception Surveys** were conducted with direct project participants and community members across the five geographical regions of Lebanon to generate baseline data for Indicators 4, 5, and 6. The survey tool included separate sections about the respondents awareness of VAWG, their perception of masculinity, as well as their attitudes towards physical, sexual, and psychological VAWG and two questions about gender equality. To complement the findings from the quantitative Perception Surveys, **Qualitative KIIs** with stakeholders having in-depth knowledge of the prevalence and perceptions around VAWG in their communities were conducted as well. The structure of the questionnaire was broadly in line with the tool of the Perception Survey. The questionnaire for the KIIs was tailored to the area of expertise of the informants, including specific questions about religious, social, or legal and policy aspects concerning VAWG.

All data collection tools were first developed in English and after undergoing an internal approval process they were translated to Lebanese Arabic by the *Partners for Justice* Project Manager. The tools are attached to this report in Annexes 1-3.

Data Collection

The data collection took place between August 17 and August 31, 2020 after being postponed for two weeks following a huge explosion in Lebanon’s capital Beirut on August 4, 2020 that affected the lives of hundreds of thousands living in the capital. The data collection took place entirely over the phone to limit concerns over COVID-19 that restricted Search’s ability to implement projects and send people to the field.

Search hired a team of local data collectors that included one person located in each of the five geographical target regions of Lebanon. They were hired based on proven experience with qualitative and quantitative data collection activities and knowledge of sensitive topics such as VAWG. The team included one man covering South Lebanon and four women covering the remaining regions. Prior to the data collection activities, they were trained on the data collection tools, research ethics and a sensitive approach to the intimate questions asked in the surveys as well as referral guidelines in case of disclosures of violence experienced by a respondent. All of the data collectors conducted interviews with both women and men.

All interviews were conducted in Arabic. For the Perception and Outcome Surveys, the questionnaires were submitted online by the data collectors directly after the interview was completed through the data collection software Kobo. For the KIIs, the data collectors received the questionnaires in word format and

took notes in Arabic and/or English during the interviews. After the interviews, they cleaned and translated their notes to English where necessary and submitted a word document with the answers by email.

Perception Surveys

A total of 405 perceptions surveys were conducted with community members across Lebanon. Initially, the total sample size was set at 384 to provide a margin error of less than 5 percent at a confidence level of 95 percent for a random sample at the national level (for a total population size of five million).⁸ However, due to limitations of time and resources, a disproportionate sampling framework was subsequently developed to cover all five geographical regions equally. Given further restrictions on movement imposed by COVID-19, a convenience sampling strategy had to be applied in each region with specific targets to be reached for the criteria of gender and age. A further criteria to diversify the sample was introduced based on localities (rural/marginalized vs. urban/affluent areas). For each of these criteria, the minimum threshold of 10 respondents per subcategory was set to exceed the initial sample size and thus provide more robust findings despite the sampling limitations. Over all, these minimum thresholds were reached as highlighted in Table 2, which shows the actual numbers of conducted interviews per subcategory:

Table 2: Disaggregated sample of Perception Surveys with community members

Region locality	Young men (ages 15-24)	Adult men (ages 25-60)	Young women (ages 15-24)	Adult women (ages 25-60)	Total
Beirut <i>affluent</i>	10	10	10	10	40
Beirut <i>marginalized</i>	9	10	10	12	41
North <i>urban</i>	10	10	13	10	43
North <i>rural</i>	10	10	10	10	40
Mount Lebanon <i>urban</i>	11	10	10	10	41
Mount Lebanon <i>rural</i>	10	10	10	10	40
Bekaa <i>urban</i>	10	10	10	10	40
Bekaa <i>rural</i>	10	10	10	10	40
South <i>urban</i>	10	10	10	10	40
South <i>rural</i>	10	10	10	10	40

⁸ This sample size was generated using the “Sample Size Calculator” on <https://www.surveysystem.com/sscalc.htm>

Total	100	100	103	102	405
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The primary locations for data collection were set according to the areas in which the youth-led CSOs that will participate in the project are active. Each data collector received a respective list of locations divided into urban or affluent areas and rural or marginalized areas (see Table 3), but was free to recruit respondents in these locations according to his or her abilities.

Table 3: Primary locations for data collection

Region	urban/affluent	rural/marginalized
Beirut	Verdun, Mar Elias, Ras Nabeh, Furn Chebbak	Basta Tahta, Khanda' el Ghami', Burj al Barajneh, Zqaq el Blat
North	Halba, Tripoli (Dam w Farez, Maarad, Azmi)	Wadi Khaled, Baddawi, Naher el Bared, Quobbeh
Mount Lebanon	Dawhet Aramoun, Aramoun, Damour, Baakline, Choueifat	Baissour, Sawfar, Kfarmatta, Ain Dara, Barouk, Dibbieh
Bekaa	Zahle, Chtaura, Ksara	Kaa, Hermel, Baalbeck, Bar Elias Camp, Majdel Anjar Camp ⁹
South	Tyre, Saida	Old Saida, Nabatieh, Burj Chmali Camp

The age distribution in the sample ranged from 16 to 59. In the category “young” the mean age was 21.7, in the category “adult” the mean age was 33.7. The data collectors were further advised to include respondents of various nationalities, educational levels, and social responsibilities measured by marital status and children in order to diversify the sample. With regards to these criteria, no disaggregation will be provided in the analysis, as no minimum thresholds were set for those, which led to a non-representative distribution of these criteria in the sample. With regards to nationality, 77.3 percent of the total sample were Lebanese, 6.6 percent were Syrian, 14.8 percent were Palestinian refugees from Lebanon, and 1.3 percent were Palestinian refugees from Syria. Concerning educational levels, 1 percent of the total sample completed no degree, 6.9 percent completed primary school, 18.5 percent completed preparatory/secondary school, and 73.6 percent completed a higher degree, i.e. university. With regards to social responsibility, 76.3 percent of the total sample were single, 20.9 percent were married, 2.5 percent were divorced, and one person was widowed with 20.2 percent of the total sample having children.

Additionally, Perception Surveys were conducted with all of the 30 representatives of youth-led organizations who will participate in the project. Further details about this group are included in the section about the Outcome Surveys below.

Key Informant Interviews

A total of ten complementing KIIs were conducted with two key stakeholders from each of the five geographical target regions. The data collectors were tasked with searching for potential candidates. The final selection was made by the lead researcher and aimed at achieving a gender balance among the key

⁹ Aarsal was added as an intervention area of the youth-led CSOs later on but could not be considered in the data collection as it had already been completed at the time.

informants (five men, five women) and including representatives from different spheres of influence such as policy and law, religion and social spheres. The final selection is illustrated in the matrix below (Table 4).

Table 4: KII candidate selection by sphere of influence and gender (M/W)

Location	Policy	Lawyer	Local Leader	Religious Leader	Educator	Social Worker	Total
Beirut	W-Activist	W					2
North				M-Sunni		W	2
Mount L.			M		W		2
Bekaa				M-Christian	W		2
South				M-Shia	M		2
Total							10

Outcome Surveys

The direct project participants were assessed in their entirety, meaning that the Outcome Surveys and additional Perception Surveys were conducted with 30 representatives of youth-led organisations. Thus, the selection of this target group was done by Search and ABAAD during the mapping exercise and included representatives from a total of 16 organizations (for further disaggregation see Table 5). Their ages ranged from 18 to 35 with an average of 26.6 years. Their nationalities included 23 Lebanese, one Syrian, five Palestinian refugees from Lebanon, and one Palestinian refugee from Syria. All of them held a higher degree (or are currently enrolled at university).

Table 5: Disaggregation of direct project participants by gender and region

Region	Organizations	Men	Women	Total
Beirut	1	0	2	2
North	4	6	2	8
Mount Lebanon	3	2	3	5
Bekaa	5	4	5	9
South	3	2	4	6
Total	16	14	16	30

Data Analysis

The Research Consultant conducted the data analysis with support from Search Lebanon's MEALManager and an external acquaintance with expertise in statistical analysis. The quantitative data of the Perception Surveys was cleaned in Excel and analysed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) and Stata to generate descriptive tables and figures presented in the findings section below. In total, the Perception Survey included 37 questions grouped into seven dimensions or topics that were analyzed separately in order to gain baseline data for Indicators 4, 5, and 6 as well as some additional analysis of contextual relevance. The questions assessing the awareness of VAWG (Questions 1-6) and perceptions of masculinity (15-21) were analyzed individually, while indices of the questions assessing perceptions of gender equality (7-8), violent acts (9-14), and attitudes towards physical (22-26), sexual (27-31), and psychological (32-37) VAWG were calculated to generate baseline values for Indicators 4, 5, and 6. A qualitative content analysis was conducted for the KIIs using a manual coding sheet in Excel format and applying a thematic approach to identify common themes including topics, ideas and patterns of meaning that came up repeatedly in the interviews. The data of the Outcome Surveys included both quantitative and qualitative information. Due to the small number of participants (30), the data was cleaned and directly analyzed in Excel. Quantitative values were grouped and recoded manually and analyzed using simple formulas to count distributions and averages. Where needed, the qualitative information included in the data was coded in new columns to count occurrences of specific themes.

Ethical Considerations

Due to the general sensitivities with regards to VAWG, it was vital that no psychological harm was done to respondents and that they could share information in an environment of safety and trust. To achieve this, the data collection took place based on voluntary participation and informed consent. The research team ensured that all respondents agreed to participate after they were informed about the purpose of the interview and research and that they could withdraw their consent at any time during or after the interview or the Perception Survey. Data was anonymized and no information revealing the respondents identity is mentioned in the baseline

report. Perception survey respondents were given an anonymous ID and their phone numbers were removed from the dataset before processing the data. The identity of participants of KIIs and the Perception Survey remains confidential as well with names and contact information stored in separate folders. The contact information of the selected members of the CSOs is known to the project staff but was anonymized for the purpose of this study. To measure their individual capacities and compare their capacity in an endline evaluation, the participants were given the choice to use a nickname to protect their identity.

Limitations

Several limitations with regards to the recruitment of direct project participants, the sampling of target community members and the sensitive topic of the study in general need to be taken into consideration. With regards to recruiting, four of the initial youth-led CSO representatives dropped out of the project in the final stages of writing this report, when the analysis of the data was already completed. To account for the new set of participants nevertheless, the Outcome and Perception Surveys were conducted with the new recruits and a brief analysis of this new data can be found in the “Additional Analysis” chapter in this report. Moreover, this baseline study only assessed youth-led CSO representatives, while Indicator 3 further includes media stakeholders that will contribute to the national campaign. The latter could not be included in the baseline as they had not been recruited at the time of the data collection. As suggested in the Inception Report, this indicator shall primarily be measured by the endline study. Meanwhile, the assessment of the youth-led CSO representatives can guide the further implementation of the project’s activities.

The sample of community members for the Perception Survey initially aimed at a random sample of the Lebanese population. However, due to the circumstances of the data collection described above this was not feasible, which is why a convenience sampling strategy was applied. To avoid non-representativity and bias, the sample was divided into several subcategories taking into account age, gender, and locality as highlighted in Table 2 above. Moreover, data collectors were strongly advised to collect answers from a diverse set of respondents also including factors such as educational level, income, and nationality. Their progress in this regard was closely monitored during the data collection process. However, it should be mentioned that the disproportionately high number of university graduates in the sample might cause more progressive views presented in the findings than actually held by the average of society as education is a key factor for both men and women with regards to having equitable views on gender and VAWG.¹⁰ Therefore, it is not recommended to extrapolate specific numbers from the findings of this study to the entire Lebanese population. For the purpose of this baseline study, we collected the phone numbers of respondents so the same respondents can be surveyed again for the endline evaluation, which grants internal validity to the sample. Non-respondents can be exchanged with similar respondents with regards to their demographic profile as mentioned above.

A second set of limitations concerns the attempt to measure attitudes towards a sensitive topic such as VAWG. Mainly, this includes social desirability bias, in which the respondents may choose their response based on what they consider to be acceptable behaviour instead of a truthful answer. In anticipation of these challenges, the data collectors’ training included thorough discussions on topics of gender, violence,

¹⁰ El Feki, S., Heilman, B. and Barker, G., Eds., 2017, Understanding Masculinities: Results from the International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES) – Middle East and North Africa. Cairo and Washington, D.C.: UN Women and Promundo-US, p. 15.

sexuality, and how to ensure a safe, comfortable environment for all survey respondents. Despite these precautions, these are challenges in any survey research on such topics and cannot be completely removed.

3. Findings

The data was analyzed based on the needs for each indicator. Hence, the findings are presented in that order as well. An additional section at the end provides some further analysis on perceptions of masculinity among community members and some inputs by the key informants on potential entry points to promote the reduction of VAWG in Lebanese society. For demographic information on the samples refer to the Methodology section above.

Indicator 1: Capacity in research practices

1.3.2: % increase of young men and young women who were trained in Search's youth-led research methodology who report an increase in capacity in research practices.

Indicator 1 measures the change in ability of young women and young men who participate in Search's youth-led research training with regards to research practices. To provide a benchmark for this indicator, an average score of the six questions in the Outcome Survey measuring knowledge on research practices was calculated. Each question was assigned a score of 1 point if answered correctly (0.25 points for each correct answer of questions with four sub-questions), resulting in a total score of 6 possible points. The project participants scored between 2.25 and 5 with an average of 3.5. A distribution of the scores divided into low (2.25-3), medium (3.25-4) and high scores (4.25-5) for both men and women can be found in Table 6 below with the percentages of high scores to be set as a baseline value (see Annex 5).

Table 6: Scores of project participants for research practices

Scores	All	Men	Women
Low scores (2.25-3)	9 (30%)	6 (42%)	4 (25%)
Medium scores (3.25-4)	14 (47%)	4 (29%)	9 (56%)
High scores (4.25-5)	7 (23%)	4 (29%)	3 (19%)
Total	30 (100%)	14 (100%)	16 (100%)

The scores highlight that all of the participants have at least some basic knowledge on research practices, with some even having more expert knowledge that applies to Search's youth-led research methodology (the "Listening and Learning" toolkit). While all of the project participants still have potential to increase their skills in the training - as none of them achieved the total score - it should be mentioned that some of the questions included rather detailed practices from the "Listening and Learning" toolkit which are difficult to know without previous engagement with this methodology. Other questions, however, concerned interview techniques, research ethics and report writing more generally, which are important foundations

for community-based research. The scores for the the latter type of questions highlight where the participants have more needs for further training: **the questions on research ethics and report writing produced relatively high scores** with 27 participants (90%)¹¹ and 25 participants (83%) giving correct answers respectively. **The question on interview techniques was answered rather poorly** as only 12 participants (40%) chose the correct statement from a list of four stating that “The team to engage in an authentic interview ideally consists of one person taking notes, while the other focuses on engaging in the conversation.”

While this cannot be reflected directly in the baseline value for this indicator, the Outcome Survey also evaluated the “active participation” component of capacity as defined in the conceptual framework. Participants were asked whether they feel comfortable using and applying participatory research methodology to embed a gender sensitive approach to their organization’s work, which 26 out of 30 participants confirmed with the remaining four feeling “neither comfortable nor uncomfortable.” This positive picture highlights the **eagerness of participants to take part in the project and their willingness to apply the content of the training to their future work**. The third component of capacity building - “access” - is further analyzed for Indicator 2 below.

Indicator 2: Access to platforms

1.4.2: % of target stakeholders who report to have had access to a neutral platform where they can share and reflect on the findings of the Gender and Masculinity Research.

Indicator 2 will mainly be measured in the endline evaluation. It measures the research participants’ participation in collaborative formats during the project’s activities to constructively discuss, learn from, and deconstruct the findings of the gender and masculinity research. In the Outcome Surveys, a surprisingly high number of **28 participants (93%) reported to already have access to knowledge resources and knowledge sharing platforms to embed a gender sensitive approach to their organization’s work**. The definition of such platforms was given as “all types of settings where knowledge can be discussed and information exchanged including conferences, seminars, webinars, etc.” However, additional baseline information collected on this indicator pointed towards diverging understandings among project participants on what a safe or neutral platform is as several named Social Media such as Facebook and Twitter or public places such as the municipality building as specific examples. On the other hand, none of the participants (0%) named specific events they previously participated in to share research findings on gender and masculinity. Some of the supporting qualitative answers further indicated that the participants were referring to engagement with survivors of VAWG rather than peers when discussing safe spaces creating a possible information bias in the baseline value reported above. In any case, **guiding the participants towards neutral platforms in the definition of this project will be vital** in spite of the fact that most of participants claimed previous access to such formats.

Additionally, 15 participants (50%) of those claiming to have access to neutral platforms named the offices of their own organization or other NGOs as spaces to safely discuss and share information on such topics. They included the following:

- Progressive Youth Organization (منظمة الشباب التقدمي);
- Lele Wadi Tamniya Mina L Kaleb;
- CLAC Qaa Center;
- Nabad;
- ABAAD;

¹¹ The question on research ethics included four subquestions. The percentage given here refers to those answering at least three out of four subquestions correctly including 16 participants (53%) answering all four correctly.

- I'M Possible;
- Sawa Cafe;
- Al Tajammoo Al Nisa2i Al Dimokrati;
- Moosawat; and
- Youth Development Organization.

Indicator 3: Capacity in campaign development

2.2.2: % of youth-led organizations' representatives and media stakeholders who show an increase in skills to develop a national strategy that promotes the reduction of VAWG by addressing social dynamics that justify violence against women and girls and/or perpetuate victim blaming.

Indicator 3 measures the project participants' increase in capacity and opportunities to develop a strategy and messages for a national campaign that challenges stereotypes, taboo and assumptions related to VAWG. As mentioned above, this baseline study could only assess existing skills and experiences of the youth-led CSO representatives as the participating media stakeholders will be recruited at a later stage. Table 7 shows the self-reported percentage of research participants with skills or experience in developing national campaigns, the promotion of reduction of VAWG, and in both fields.

Table 7: Reported skills for national campaigns and/or reduction of VAWG (% of participants)

<i>Skills</i>	Reduction of VAWG	
Media	No	Yes
No	4 (13%)	8 (27%)
Yes	3 (10%)	15 (50%)

The table highlights that **15 participants (50%), which included eight men (57%) and seven women (44%), reported skills or experiences with both media campaigns and promoting the reduction of VAWG**. However, this value has to be considered with caution, as it is based on self-reporting and also includes participants having worked on national campaigns and issues related to VAWG on separate occasions. The qualitative explanations indicated that **8 participants (27%) including five men (36%) and three women (19%) reported specific experiences working on campaigns specifically promoting the reduction of VAWG**. These experiences included:

- Conducted a media campaign called “Arts Rise against SGBV”;
- Got trained at a regional conference in Amman on advocacy regarding women’s and girls’ rights and on organizing awareness campaigns in communities;
- Organized events on gender equality and the prevention of SGBV (two participants);
- Participated in advocacy campaigns on limiting early marriage for girls;
- Developed campaigns and activities for the “Young Men and Women for Justice and Equality” project in partnership with Kafa and UN Women (two participants);and

- Participated in campaigns in the role of an affected woman.

In general, 18 participants (60%) named previous engagement with topics related to VAWG and gender equality including attending relevant trainings and workshops, educating Lebanese or Palestinian community members (including men and boys) on VAWG and women's empowerment, pre-marriage counseling to reduce underage marriage, outreach work, and psychosocial support activities. With regards to campaign work, 16 participants (53%) named specific relevant skills ranging from photography to video making, social media skills gained from trainings, and experience in campaign work on policy issues and other topics. With only four participants (13%) not reporting any relevant skills, the overall impression of the project participants shows a diverse range of skills and experiences that should be leveraged when developing the national campaign.

Indicator 4: Community members' attitudes towards VAWG

2.4: % change in attitudes towards the permissibility or justification of VAWG in target communities reported by the target audience of the National Campaign (male leaders, local leaders, religious leaders, policy makers, educators, social workers, male family members)

Indicator 4 measures the change in attitudes that target communities and target audiences undergo as a result of attending events linked to the national campaign or being exposed to the messages developed and disseminated as part of the national campaign. While the indicator specifically targets male community members, data was collected for both men and women. The findings on women will be presented separately as a reference for the project team. However, the data showed that the most significant differences occurred between different geographical regions rather than between men and women. Age measured in the categories Young (15-24) and Adult (25-60) did not prove to be highly relevant either and is thus not specifically reported on below (the percentages are included in Annex 5 for this indicator).

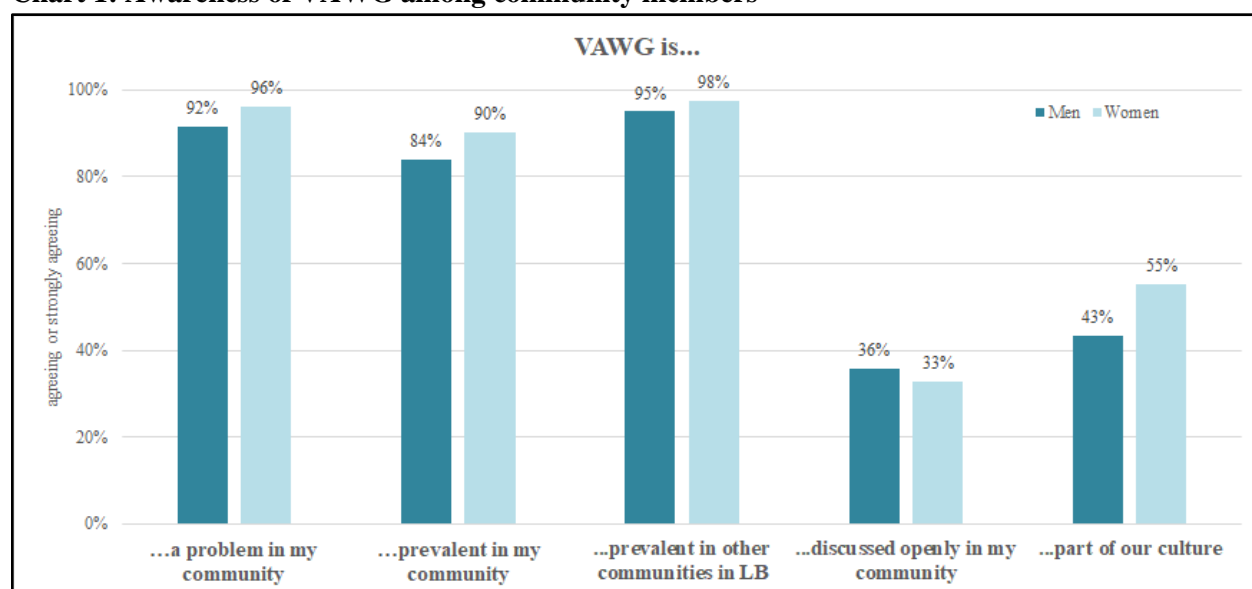
To measure *attitudes* towards the *permissibility or justification of VAWG*, several dimensions of the topic were addressed in the Perception Surveys including general awareness of the issue as well as attitudes towards the permissibility (and justification) of physical, sexual, and psychological violence more specifically. The baseline value for Indicator 4 as reported in Annex 5 reflects the combined rates of respondents not reporting any permissibility/justification of physical, sexual, and psychological violence presented in Charts 2 and 3 below. In general, there was rather little variance in the sample as most respondents were well aware of the issue and at least theoretically agreed with the understanding that any violent acts against women are not permissible or justified. This impression is supported by additional data gathered on whether respondents thought specific types of violent behavior were appropriate with answer categories given as “never,” “sometimes,” and “always.” It turned out that close to 100% of respondents considered violence as never to be appropriate (see Annex 4, index for “Act”). Given the general knowledge from reports and testimonies that violence *does* occur regularly,¹² this finding has to be considered in a normative way and cannot be understood as a reflection of actual practices or attitudes. It is thus not included in the baseline value for Indicator 4.

¹² see e.g. “Images Report” and “Rapid Gender Assessment” cited above

Awareness of VAWG

The quantitative data highlights that respondents were generally well aware of VAWG both in their own community and across Lebanon at rates of above 90 percent as Chart 1 below shows (with a slight drop to only 84 percent of men acknowledging the prevalence of VAWG in their own community). However, when it comes to the assessed communities' approach towards the issue, only 36 percent of men and 33 percent of women agreed that it is discussed openly. This sheds light on the fact that the topic is still widely considered a taboo in Lebanese society, which is further supported by the fact that 43 percent of men and 55 percent of women believe that VAWG is part of the Lebanese culture and thus acceptable under certain circumstances - whether they refer to their own cultural practices or the perceived practices of other community members cannot be assessed from the data. In addition to the data presented below, **66 percent of men and 77 percent of women reported knowledge on available and accessible service providers that address VAWG**. While this information does not directly relate to the community members' awareness of the *problem* of VAWG, it highlights that only around two thirds of community members are aware of these services and therefore, awareness raising activities could also include further promoting the visibility of such providers.

Chart 1: Awareness of VAWG among community members



The qualitative data from the KIIs supports the community perceptions described above with all ten informants reporting awareness of the issue and its variations including physical, sexual, and psychological dimensions. Three informants including one from the North and two from Bekaa further mentioned that awareness of the issue has increased over the years in their communities. However, while the majority of informants clearly condemned VAWG, three male informants tended to downplay the issue or considered it part of their culture. One local leader mentioned that

“if a woman stays silent despite being subject to violence on many occasions, then it’s her fault”
(m, 47 years old, Mount Lebanon).

Moreover, two religious leaders from different sects made statements confirming that they see at least some occurrences of VAWG as part of their culture, as the following two quotes highlight:

“What is considered violence against females is relative, as one conduct may be considered normal in one society but frowned upon in another” (Shia Islamic leader, m, 45 years old, South).

“The concept of abuse and violence can be explained and understood differently. A man has the right to sleep with his wife, as she [belongs to him]. And a father has the right to discipline his daughters as he is supposed to be their father figure and guardian. In other cultures they view this behavior, which is considered a rule in the Islamic religion, as severe abuse” (Sunni Islamic leader, m, 64 years old, North).

These quotes underscore community members’ views that VAWG is accepted by some as part of local customs and point towards Islamic religious views particularly that perpetuate this understanding.

Permissibility and justification of VAWG

In line with the definition of VAWG adopted in this study, the permissibility and justification of physical, sexual, and psychological violence among respondents was assessed across several items for each subtype (see research tool in the annex for a detailed list). An individual mean was calculated for each respondent across all items of a subtype between 0 (tending towards disagreeing or strongly disagreeing) and 1 (tending towards agreeing or strongly agreeing). The aggregated means were then used to calculate the percentage of respondents that overall tend to regard a subtype of VAWG permissible and justified (agreeing) or not permissible and justified (disagreeing).

Interestingly, the analysis shows that the attitudes towards violent behaviour vary not only across subtypes but also across geographical regions of Lebanon while variance between men and women is rather small. Respondents from the Bekaa have the highest percentage across all subtypes as Charts 2 for men and 3 for women show. Communities in the Bekaa and the North belong to the most marginalized and poor across Lebanon, which might influence their attitudes towards VAWG, meaning they have less knowledge or awareness of the topic. This underscores the necessity to tailor project activities to the needs of each region and design locally rooted campaigns.

Chart 2: Men’s attitudes towards physical, sexual, and psychological VAWG

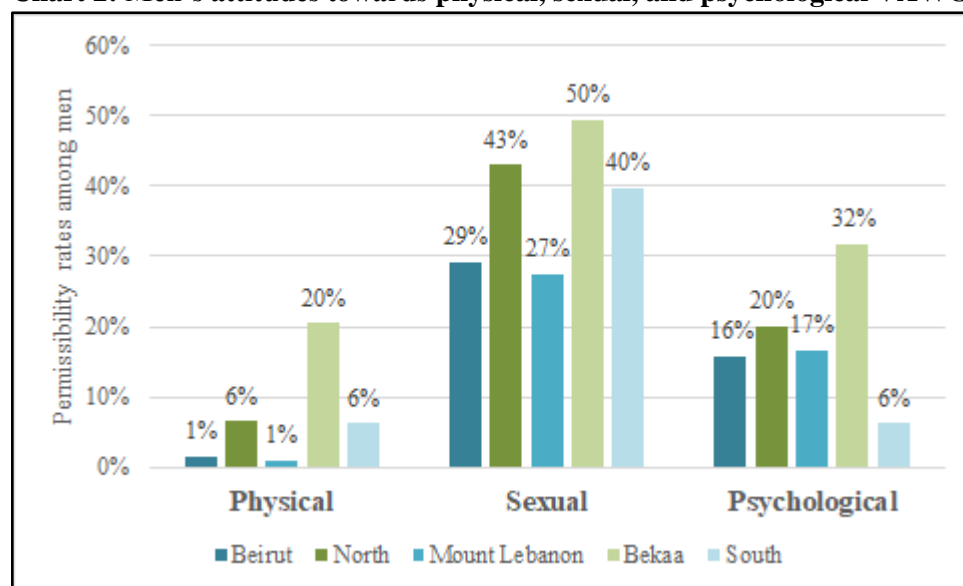
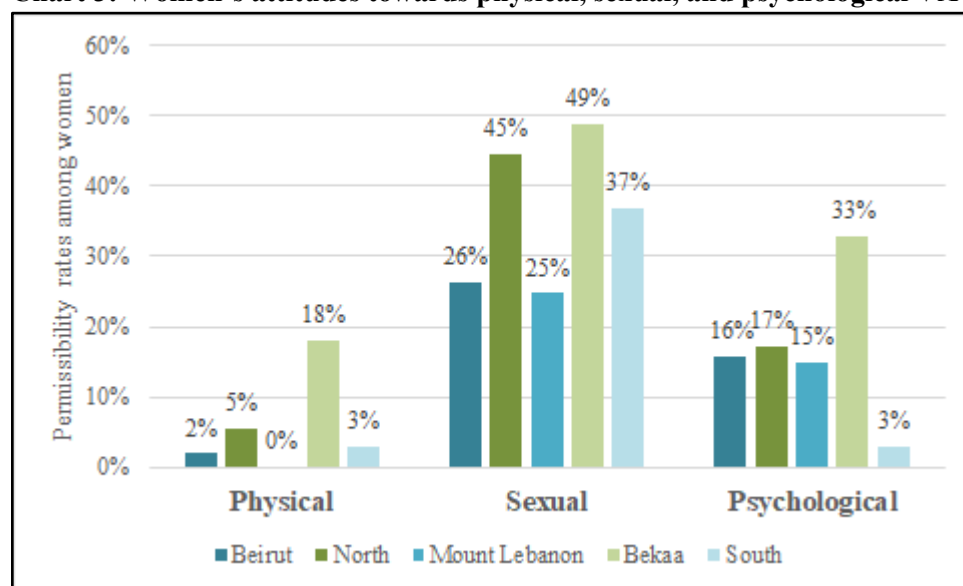


Chart 3: Women's attitudes towards physical, sexual, and psychological VAWG

Moreover, community members' attitudes - including women's - showed higher permissibility rates of sexual violence than physical and psychological violence as the charts above highlight. The items to assess sexual violence in the survey included among others questions about men's prerogative to demand sex in marriage, woman's right to refuse sex, and whether certain acts or dresses of women in public warrant for them to be sexually harassed. It might be the case that some segments of the communities don't even consider such behaviour as VAWG as general awareness rates of the issue were very high as seen above. The KIIs provide some explanations for these differences as one informant stated in this regard:

"I can say that physical violence rates are for sure, now lower than they used to be in the past. Since everyone is against it. Even religion is against physical violence. But regarding emotional violence, it is still a problem in our community" (Tertiary level educator, f, 51 years old, Bekaa).

In line with this, four informants stated that "violence in general is bad" when referring to physical violence. This implies that the general attitude towards physical violence as a non-permissible act is higher than of the other two types, which might lead to higher permissibility rates of sexual and psychological violence among community members. Moreover, one informant outright approved of sexual violence in marriage - in an Islamic cultural context specifically. He said:

"There is no sexual abuse in marriage; men have the right to sleep with their wives and to treat them the way they want to" (Sunni Islamic leader, m, 64 years old, North).

The quantitative analysis in combination with the qualitative explanations highlight that more "hidden" types of violence including psychological violence and sexual violence in marriage are more tolerated in Lebanese society and thus, should be addressed specifically in project activities. An additional pattern with regards to specific types of VAWG emerged from the KIIs: In addition to the subtypes of VAWG assessed in the Perception Surveys, **four key informants distinguished a fourth subtype that can be described as economical violence and is based on women's dependence on men in financial matters and also with regards to work opportunities.** One informant described this as follows:

"Sometimes we also face a kind of work violence where the male family members cannot tolerate the idea that their female relatives work on night shifts for example and the female here loses a job opportunity just because of this" (Christian religious leader, m, 68, Bekaa).

Economical violence can broadly be subsumed under psychological violence. Yet, the high frequency at which it came up during the KIIs shows it's relevance for the Lebanese context, which should be taken into account when addressing the issue, for example when developing messages for the national campaign of this project.

While one key informant clearly justified VAWG with his own religious views as seen above, most of the other informants rather spoke about such justifications from an expert point of view, reporting on their knowledge and experience with VAWG in Lebanon. Three of them also pointed at certain religious views justifying such acts, as the following two quotes highlight:

"There are misconceptions of certain practices, which people enlist under the umbrella of religion falsely. Such practices include the deprivation of the inheritance for the girl totally and the deprivation of pursuing academic studies" (Shia Islamic leader, m, 45 years old, South).

"Society tolerates it because of the interference of religion in personal affairs that dictate everything based on each sect. The law is dictated through religious institutions and is not secular, which means it privileges men over women" (Lawyer, f, 27 years old, Beirut).

The second statement above already includes another dimension that is regarded by several informants as counterproductive to the eradication of VAWG in Lebanon, namely the institutional and legal setting. Issues mentioned included the nationality right which is not granted to women and corruption, which men take advantage of by bribing their way out of being judged in cases of wrongdoing as one informant said. However, the most recurring theme with regards to justifications of VAWG were patriarchal practices in society that promote traditional gender roles and negative images of masculinity. Six of the informants name this as a major contributing factor to the prevalence of VAWG, highlighted by the following quotes:

"The fact that most households are dependent on the male - not due to the incapability of women to work but the refusal of it and even considering it 'shameful' - leaves women no choice but to put up with any kind of maltreatment of them" (Educator, m, 26 years old, South).

"Abusive men believe that they own a woman once they marry her, and that she should be obedient, take care of the house, stay in and do whatever he asks from her" (Social worker, f, 26 years old, North).

More detailed findings with regard to community members' perceptions of masculinity are reported in a separate section below. While this is a factor commonly considered as a root cause of VAWG - which is addressed directly in the *Partners for Justice* project proposal - the findings on masculinity from this analysis cannot directly be attributed to attitudes towards VAWG and are thus not directly relevant for Indicator 4.

Indicator 5: Participants' attitudes towards gender equality

GNDR-4: Percentage of participants reporting increased agreement with the concept that males and females should have equal access to social, economic, and political resources and opportunities.

Indicator 5 measures the change in project participants' agreement with the concept of gender equality in social, economic, and political aspects. As required by the donor, this indicator is reported for indirect participants identified as the community members assessed with the Perception Survey and the direct participants identified as youth-led CSO representatives.¹³ The data showed overwhelming agreement with gender equality among direct and indirect project participants, which was measured with two questions posed to respondents as outlined in Tables 8 and 9. Only 5.5 percent of male community members and none of the youth-led CSO representatives self-reported disagreement with social, economic, and political equality between men and women.

¹³ Again, media stakeholders participating in the activities related to the national campaign were not assessed in this baseline study due to their recruitment at a later stage of the project.

Table 8: Percentage of respondents agreeing that “Females and males should have equal access and opportunities to social, economic, and political resources in Lebanon”

Gender	strongly disagree	disagree	agree	strongly agree	prefer not to s
Community Members					
Men	0%	5.5%	33%	61%	0.5%
Women	0%	0%	16%	84%	0%
Youth-led CSO representatives					
Men	0%	0%	21%	79%	0%
Women	0%	0%	12.5%	87.5%	0%

Interestingly, slightly more respondents disagreed with the notion that both sexes should be treated equally in Lebanon, as Table 9 shows. This finding, however, should not be mistaken with respondents saying that one sex should be treated favourably. It can also be interpreted as an understanding among some of the respondents that women and men have different needs. In general, however, response rates were still overwhelmingly positive.

Table 9: Percentage of respondents agreeing that “Females and males should be treated equally in Lebanon”

Gender	strongly disagree	disagree	agree	strongly agree	prefer not to s
Community Members					
Men	0.5%	8.5%	32%	59%	0%
Women	0.5%	7%	15.5%	77%	0%
Youth-led CSO representatives					
Men	0%	0%	36%	64%	0%
Women	6%	6%	19%	69%	0%

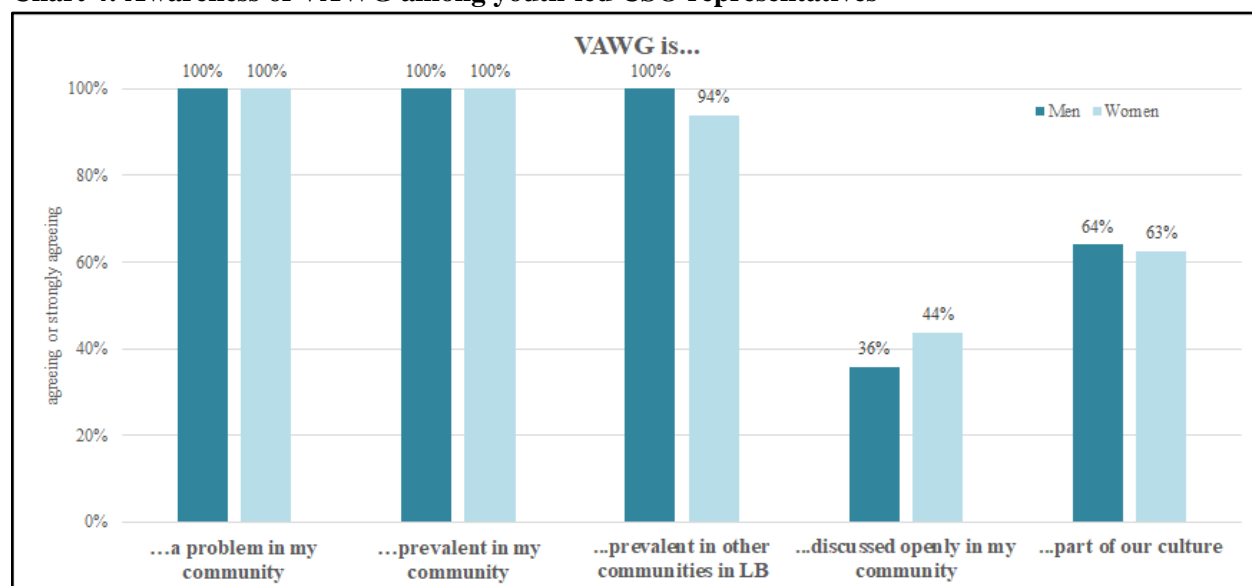
The baseline value for this indicator reflects the average agreement rates of Tables 8 and 9 amounting to 95 percent of community members and 97 percent of youth-led CSO representatives (see Annex 5). The extraordinarily high agreement rates with gender equality need to be regarded with caution. First of all, the answers might not reflect some of the respondents’ true opinions due to social desirability bias and second, while respondents agreed to gender equality in theory, their practices might be different - consciously or unconsciously.

Indicator 6: Participants' acceptance of VAWG

GNDR-7: Percentage of participants that view Gender-Based Violence (GBV) as less acceptable after participating in or being exposed to USG programming.

Indicator 6, a standard indicator by the donor, essentially measures the same as Indicator 4 with the addition that it needs to be reported for direct project participants as well. For baseline information on the indirect project participants (community members) refer to the section of Indicator 4. A comparable analysis of the quantitative data for the youth-led CSO representatives is added below. They showed similarly high levels of awareness of VAWG as the community members (see Chart 4). Additionally, 36 percent of men and 44 percent of women replied that the issue is discussed openly in their community and 64 percent of men and 63 percent of women considered it part of Lebanese culture. These figures confirm findings from the community members' sample which highlight that areas to be improved include taboos surrounding VAGW and cultural justification of the issue. Additionally, **93 percent of the participants reported knowledge on available and accessible service providers that address VAWG.** The high percentage reflects the participants' previous engagement with VAWG that became clear in the Outcome Surveys.

Chart 4: Awareness of VAWG among youth-led CSO representatives



When it comes to physical, sexual, and psychological VAWG, low levels of permissibility were expected as previous findings showed that most of the participants had already engaged in activities promoting the reduction of VAWG through their work with local NGOs. In line with this expectation, only sexual VAWG showed some noteworthy rates of permissibility with 6 percent for men and 18 percent for women. A closer analysis of this subtype can give further insight into specific behaviour that is considered permissible even among people working on the issue. The data showed that mainly two items from the Perception Survey resulted in the overall permissibility rates mentioned above:

- “Sex is a right granted by religion to the husband to practice whenever he wishes” was agreed to by a total of 3 participants (10%); and
- “Sex is a man’s right in marriage and he can demand it and exercise this right” was agreed to by a total of 15 participants (50%)

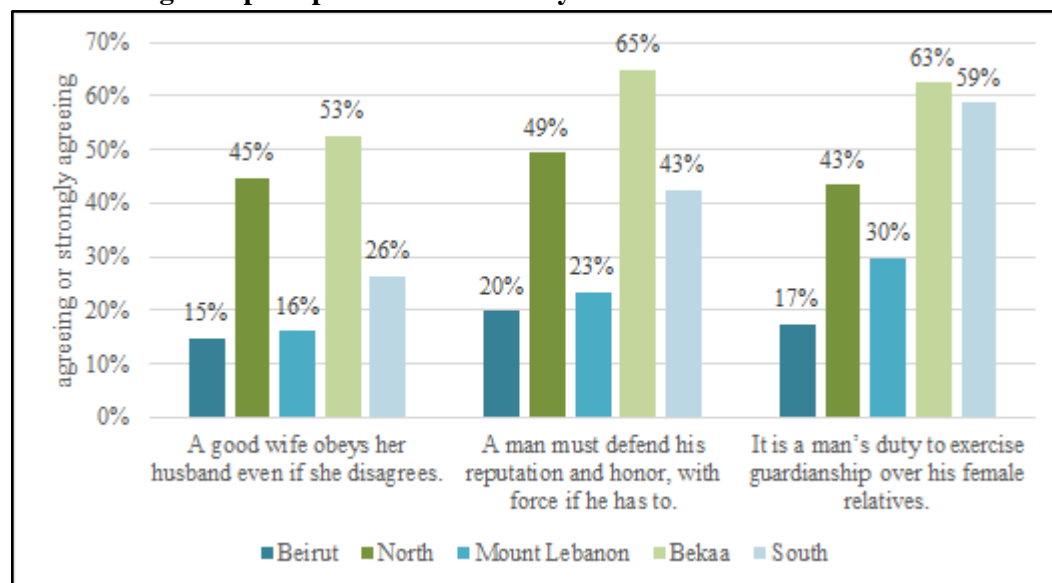
In line with previous findings, this highlights how deeply rooted views on cultural and religious images of men define their private relationship with women. Additional analysis on related perceptions of masculinity is presented below.

Additional analysis

Masculinity

While the concept of masculinity is not specifically measured in the above indicators, it is an integral part of *Partners for Justice* as the project directly aims to target stereotypical or patriarchal perceptions of masculinity as a root cause of VAWG. Data collected from the community members on such images showed a similar regional pattern as reported above: When combining all seven items measuring masculinity, respondents in Bekaa tended to agree with patriarchal images of masculinity at a higher rate (54%) than respondents from other regions. Bekaa was followed by the North and South at 44 percent and 40 percent respectively, while Mount Lebanon and Beirut showed relatively low rates at 19 percent and 18 percent. Three selected items from the Perception Survey are presented in Chart 5 below - clearly showing the regional differences.

Chart 5: Regional perceptions of masculinity



Entry points to tackle VAWG in Lebanon

Qualitative information was gathered from key informants on the settings, in which they believe the topic of VAWG should be addressed. To inform the future activities of the *Partners for Justice* project, the main findings from this data are presented here. A variety of opinions about the right settings was voiced with

nine out of 10 informants agreeing that the topic should be discussed in public. (The remaining one mostly denied the prevalence of the problem based on his religious views.) Many considered different entry points in their explanations as highlighted by the following quote:

“School is no doubt the gate toward a better community. There we can reach out for the young who are the future holders. Church and mosque are the gate to raise awareness in the community. The cultural and social centers... this is a whole phenomenon. It is a topic to be discussed everywhere” (Christian religious leader, m, 68, Bekaa).

Most notably, eight out of ten informants mentioned the educational sector as an area of intervention to promote the reduction of VAWG. As highlighted in the quote above, the young were considered as key to change the society’s mindset for the future. Furthermore, when addressing youth in schools and universities, they were considered outside of their family’s potentially harming influence:

“Since the parents are engaged in the violence process, [education] is the only adequate means to reach out for the young, and make the needed change in their mindset” (Tertiary level educator, f, 51 years old, Bekaa).

Four informants named political institutions and the law as a main entry point, three the workplace, and two called media campaigns an adequate means to reach communities. Additionally, three informants named religious institutions as a right setting to discuss the topic. With regards to the latter, it seems noteworthy that one religious leader named religious teachings as a way to promote model behaviour:

“There are more religious teachings on how to properly behave and communicate not only with the spouse, but also with the children, neighbors, and all people whatever the relationship was” (Shia Islamic leader, m, 45 years old, South).

The last quote highlights that specific approaches must be chosen when intervening in different settings. Especially in a religious setting, where previous quotes from key informants even highlighted resistance towards tackling the issue of VAWG altogether, an approach coming from “within” religion might be better than an “outsider” approach. As stated by the religious leader himself, solutions to tackle the issue of VAWG should be found in collaboration with religious figures rather than attempting to educate them on the “correct” understanding of VAWG.

Information on newly recruited project participants

The four newly recruited project participants all represented the selected organizations from Mount Lebanon and were of Lebanese nationality. They included two men and two women with ages ranging from 19 to 22, which is younger than the average of the initial set of participants (26.5 years). In line with their peers, they were holders of a higher educational degree or currently enrolled at university.

The scoring of their assessment in research practices ranged from 2.25 to 3.75 (average 2.75) with none of them reaching the threshold of a “high score” of 4.25 or above. Moreover, three participants reported having access to neutral platforms but one of those could not name a specific example and none of them named a relevant format or event which they previously participated in. These findings highlight that **the new recruits are slightly less versed in research practices and the safe dissemination of findings, which might be a consequence of their comparably young age.** This overall lack of experience was also reflected in their answers regarding skills relevant for developing a national campaign and/or promoting the reduction of VAWG. While **all of them reported experience with VAWG (not further specified), only one participant reported experience with a national campaign on “fake news.”**

All four new recruits showed similarly **high levels of awareness with regards to VAWG as their peers and fully agreed to the concept of gender equality.** They didn’t show any tendency to approve of physical or psychological violence while one male participant reported some acceptance of sexually violent behaviour. **Overall, these findings didn’t produce any significant deviations from the previous set of participants.**

4. Conclusions and recommendations

Capacity assessment of project participants

The findings on research capacities highlighted that all of the project participants have at least some basic knowledge on research methodology and practices - and are eager to apply it to gender and masculinity research on behalf of their organizations. As the participants showed a slight lack of knowledge on interview techniques, **it is recommended that proper interview techniques are thoroughly discussed in the research training.**

Granting access to neutral platforms for sharing and discussing the findings of the gender and masculinity research is an integral part of the project and thus, Search and ABAAD should ideally ensure that all participants have access to such platforms during the project's lifespan or even aim to organize an event for this purpose. The baseline information collected on this topic points towards diverging understandings on what a "safe" or "neutral" platform is. Thus, **to guide project participants on what platforms are safe or neutral to discuss research findings on gender and masculinity is vital.**

Overall, the majority of project participants reported previous experience with NGO work that often included awareness raising activities in their communities as well as national campaigns and touched on topics related to VAWG. This impression was supported by their detailed answers regarding safe spaces or platforms analyzed under Indicator 2. While their answers were not always applicable for the assessment of the indicator, the participants demonstrated their extensive experience with local NGOs and their understanding of grassroots work promoting positive change including on the reduction of VAWG. The activities for the *Partners for Justice* project should be planned in a way to **leverage the existing capacity and skills of participants to maximize the impact of the project.**

Community perceptions of VAWG

The findings showed that the majority of respondents were well aware of the prevalence of VAWG but that it remains a topic surrounded by taboo and cultural permissibility and justification in Lebanese society. The fact that openly discussing VAWG was widely considered unusual in the target communities and about half of the respondents considered it part of Lebanese culture highlights the importance of the *Partners for Justice* project which aims at addressing these issues specifically. Community members's attitudes showed higher acceptance of sexual and psychological violence than physical violence underscoring that **"hidden" types of violence including psychological VAWG and sexual violence in marriage should be addressed specifically in Lebanese society.** Moreover, regional patterns highlight significant differences with regards to VAWG with higher acceptance reported in the Bekaa, North and South than in Mount Lebanon and Beirut. Therefore, locally rooted and developed campaign messages are an important aspect to the project. **Economical violence** emerged as a fourth important dimension of VAWG that should be addressed specifically in the national campaign. It is broadly part of psychological violence and includes all types of financial and work related pressure women face from men, commonly exercised by their fathers or husbands. Moreover, **"cultural factors" including religious views and patriarchal traditions in Lebanese society emerged as the most important justifications for VAWG** - mostly expressed from an expert point of view among key informants. These factors should also be accounted for when designing the national campaign.

The extraordinarily high approval rates of gender equality need to be regarded with caution. They were likely to be too high for two reasons: first, the answers might not reflect some of the respondents' true

opinions due to social desirability bias and second, while respondents agreed to gender equality in theory, their practices might be different - consciously or unconsciously. Therefore, it is recommended to measure the concept across several dimensions in the endline study.

The analysis of stereotypical and patriarchal perceptions of masculinity highlighted that such images are prevalent among the assessed community members, especially in Bekaa, the North, and South Lebanon. Thus, tackling these images as a root cause of VAWG should form an integral part in the activities conducted under *Partners for Justice* as suggested in the project's proposal. Overall, the findings showed that **while respondents are generally aware of VAWG they might not be aware that certain cultural practices and images of masculinity contribute to perpetuating its occurrence.** These images include notions of men's and women's roles in a relationship and community's attributions of honor and reputation. Finally, with regards to entry points to tackle VAWG in Lebanese communities, two key points shall be highlighted: first, the educational sector was repeatedly named by key informants in order to reach young members of society in a neutral setting. While the project's activities specifically engage youth in the role of direct project participants, it does not target them in the national campaign. It might be of **additional value to the campaign to come up with a strategy to target schools or universities as well.** As the campaign will be developed by youth-led CSO representatives, it will be easy for them to reach their peers.

5. Appendices

Annex 1: Research Tool - Outcome Survey

-INTRODUCTION: Congratulations for being selected as a youth representative to participate in the Partners for Justice project by Search for Common Ground and ABAAD. It has the overall goal to reduce violence against women and girls (VAWG) in Lebanon.

The purpose of this survey is to determine your relevant knowledge and skills prior to participating in the activities of the project. You will be asked to fill in the same survey at the end of the project to see how your knowledge and skills increased. It should take you about 15-20 min to complete the questionnaire. To guarantee your anonymity, you are not required to note down your name. However, please provide an identifier that can be a nickname, a number, the name of a plant, a bird, a star, a mountain... It is important that you use the same identifier for the survey at the beginning and at the end of the project.

-PARTICIPANT'S IDENTIFIER: _____

-PLACE OF ORIGIN: ☐ Beirut ☐ Bekaa ☐ North ☐ Mount Lebanon ☐ South

-GENDER: ☐ Female ☐ Male ☐ Other/Prefer not to say

-NATIONALITY: ☐ LB ☐ SYR ☐ PRL ☐ PRS ☐ Other

-AGE: _____

-Respondent Profession: _____

-Respondent Level of Education (highest level completed):

☐ None ☐ Primary ☐ Preparatory/Secondary ☐ Higher

Marital status:

☐ single ☐ married ☐ other

If married or divorced, does the respondent have children?

☐ yes ☐ no

Question 1: Please arrange the different phases of the research process below from 1 - 4 according to their chronological order:

_____ Orientation

_____ Report Writing

_____ Desk Research

_____ Data Collection

Question 2: All the following statements are correct, except one. Choose the statement that is incorrect:

- 1) Conflict analysis is done as part of the desk review phase at the beginning of the research process.
- 2) Conflict analysis helps to identify key issues and themes of the research project.
- 3) Conflict analysis is an output of the data collection.
- 4) Conflict analysis is the systematic study of the profile, causes, actors, and dynamics of conflict.

Question 3: Tick TRUE or FALSE for each of the following statements about good research practice when conducting an interview with a research participant:

STATEMENT	TRUE	FALSE
Record the conversation, take notes and pictures in secret.		
Focus on the conversation and engage sincerely.		
Interrupt the interlocutor if he speaks for more than 5 minutes.		
Build on the knowledge you gain from previous conversations.		

Question 4: Which one of the statements about interviews is correct? Choose one.

- 1) The ideal team to engage in authentic conversations is three people.
- 2) The team to engage in authentic conversation ideally consists of one person taking notes, while the other focuses on engaging in the conversation.
- 3) Each member of the research team should take notes equally to guarantee objectivity.
- 4) Only the note taker needs to introduce himself/herself in the beginning because he/she won't participate in the conversation.

Question 5: Tick TRUE or FALSE for each of the following statements about analyzing data:

STATEMENT	TRUE	FALSE
Wait to review and analyze the data until the entire data collection process is done.		
Analyze the data for recurring themes, issues, and terms when drafting the document with the key findings.		
Solutions proposed in the conversation by both the team members and the research participants are considered in the analysis.		
Findings from one locality or region cannot be compared with findings from a different locality or region.		

Question 6: Which one of the statements about report writing is incorrect? Choose one.

- 1) Share the final report with individuals, CSOs, government agencies, international bodies that can utilize the information in the report and act upon its recommendations.
- 2) Add pictures and tables to your report to make it more appealing to the reader.
- 3) Allow enough time for getting feedback and responding to comments before finalizing the report.
- 4) When you present your findings, you risk having to rewrite your report in case of criticism.

Question 7: How comfortable do you feel using and applying participatory research methodology to embed a gender sensitive approach to your organization's work?

Please tick the corresponding box:

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

1: Very uncomfortable - 2: Uncomfortable - 3: Neither comfortable nor uncomfortable - 4: Comfortable - 5: Very comfortable

Question 8: To what extent do you agree with the following statement:

“I have access to knowledge resources and knowledge sharing platforms to embed a gender sensitive approach to my organization's work.”

Note: Platforms include all types of settings where knowledge can be discussed and information exchanged including conferences, seminars, webinars, etc.

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

1: Strongly disagree - 2: Disagree - 3: Neither agree nor disagree - 4: Agree - 5: Strongly agree

Question 9: Please name specific examples of platforms in your community that you think are safe spaces to share and reflect on knowledge in a collaborative, inclusive way? Briefly describe why you consider this a safe space for exchanging information:

☐ I don't know any

☐ _____

☐ _____

☐ _____

Question 10: Which of the above mentioned platforms did you have access to in the past two years?

☐ None

☐ _____

☐ _____

☐ _____

Question 11: Do you have any relevant skills and/or experience to develop a strategy for a national media campaign?

☐ No

☐ Yes (please elaborate): _____

Question 12: Do you have any relevant skills and/or experience with promoting the reduction of violence against women and girls?

☐ No

☐ Yes (please elaborate): _____

Question 13: To what extent to you agree with the following statement:

“Females and males should be treated equally in Lebanon”

1	2	3	4
---	---	---	---

1: Strongly disagree - 2: Disagree - 3: Agree - 4: Strongly agree

Question 14: To what extent to you agree with the following statement:

“Females and males should have equal access and opportunities to social, economic, and political resources in Lebanon”

1	2	3	4
---	---	---	---

1: Strongly disagree - 2: Disagree - 3: Neither agree nor disagree - 4: Agree - 5: Strongly agree

Thank you very much for taking the time to fill in this questionnaire.

--- Add only to the post-test (after question 9) -----

Question 10a: To what extent do you agree with the following statement:

“Through this research workshop, I have gained access to (additional) knowledge resources and/or knowledge sharing platforms to embed a gender sensitive approach to my organization’s work.”

1	2	3	4
---	---	---	---

1: Strongly disagree - 2: Disagree - 3: Agree - 4: Strongly agree

Question 10b: If you answered “strongly disagree” or “disagree”, please explain why:

Question 11: Can you name some of the resources and/or platforms you learnt through the training?

☐ I don’t know any

☐ _____

☐ _____

☐ _____

Answer key Questions 1-6

Question	Answer
1	2 4 1 3
2	3
3	FALSE TRUE FALSE TRUE
4	2
5	FALSE TRUE TRUE FALSE
6	4

Annex 2: Research Tool - Perception Survey

Reminders for the researchers:

- Please ask the questions in the same language and order as they appear below. It is important that you convey all the information mentioned in the questionnaire.
 - Speak calmly and clearly so the respondent can understand you well and feel comfortable.
 - If a respondent does not know or does not want to answer a question, please make a note of this and move on.
 - DO NOT write down anyone's name who gets mentioned in the interview.
 - For Section 4: If the respondent answers 'Strongly Agree' or 'Strongly Disagree' to one of the statements, you may ask "why" and note any additional information that seems important or interesting to you. You don't need to make a note for each item, note a maximum of 2-3 comments per interview.
-

INTRODUCTION

Introduce yourself:

- My Name is _____ and I am a Data Collector with Search for Common Ground here in Lebanon.

Introduce Search for Common Ground:

- Search for Common Ground is an international peacebuilding organization and has worked in Lebanon since 1996. Search's mission is to transform the way the world deals with conflict, away from adversarial approaches and toward cooperative solutions. Search addresses multiple issues arising within Lebanon's diverse society. In each project we seek to engage all stakeholders to work together to address shared challenges and develop joint solutions.

Purpose of the study:

- Search for Common Ground is currently working on the "Partners for Justice"-project that aims to reduce violence against women and girls (VAWG) in Lebanon. For this project, we are conducting a study to obtain information about the knowledge and attitudes towards violence against women and girls of the residents in your area. This information will help us to implement the project in the most effective way.

Ensure Informed Consent:

- This survey should take around 20 minutes to complete.
- There will be no financial compensation for participating in this survey.
- If you don't feel comfortable to answer a question, you can skip it and you can end the survey at any point if you prefer.
- The information you provide will only be used for the purpose of this study and will be treated with confidentiality and anonymity.
- Your name will not appear in the research report and any identifying information will be removed from the report.
- While your name will remain anonymous to external readers, Search for Common Ground would be glad to keep your contact details in a safe space and contact you again next year to conduct a follow up survey.

Do you provide informed consent and wish to continue with the survey questions?

Yes No

Do you agree to be contacted in the future with a follow up survey? *Yes No*

DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS:

Respondent Name:

Respondent Phone Number:

Respondent Sex (circle one): **Male** **Female** **Other**

Respondent Age:

Respondent Area of Residence (City/Town):

Respondent Nationality (circle one):

☐ LB ☐ SYR ☐ PRL ☐ PRS ☐ Other

Respondent Household Income (Average/Annual):

Respondent Level of Education (highest level completed):

☐ None ☐ Primary ☐ Preparatory/Secondary ☐ Higher

Respondent Profession: _____(write)

Marital status:

☐ single ☐ married ☐ divorced ☐ other

Does the respondent have children?

☐ yes ☐ no

First Section: Assessing awareness of VAWG in the community and on the national level.

	Q: To what extent do you agree with the following statements. Please indicate whether you “Strongly Agree”, “Agree”, “Disagree” or “Strongly Disagree” with the statement.		
#	Statement:	Response (Scale of 1-4)	Rationale: Rank
1	Violence towards women and girls is a problem in my community.	1: Strongly Agree 2: Agree 3: Disagree 4: Strongly Disagree	Assessing to what extent the respondent believes VAWG is a problem within the

			respondents community.
2	Violence towards women and girls is prevalent in my community.	1: Strongly Agree 2: Agree 3: Disagree 4: Strongly Disagree	Assessing to what extent the respondent believes VAWG exists in the respondents community
3	Violence towards women and girls is prevalent in other communities in Lebanon.	1: Strongly Agree 2: Agree 3: Disagree 4: Strongly Disagree	Assessing to what extent the respondent believes VAWG exists in other communities in Lebanon.
4	Violence towards women and girls is discussed openly in my community.	1: Strongly Agree 2: Agree 3: Disagree 4: Strongly Disagree	Assessing to what extent the respondent believes the issue to be discussed openly/widely.
5	Violence towards women and girls is part of our culture/acceptable under certain circumstances.	1: Strongly Agree 2: Agree 3: Disagree 4: Strongly Disagree	Assessing to what extent the respondent believes VAWG is permissible culturally.
6	There are a number of service providers that are available and accesible that address violence against women and girls	1: Strongly Agree 2: Agree 3: Disagree 4: Strongly Disagree	Assessing to what extent the respondent is aware of service providers working in the field of VAWG.
Assessing Donor indicator GNDR-4			
7	Females and males should be treated equally in Lebanon	1: Strongly Agree 2: Agree 3: Disagree 4: Strongly Disagree	Assessing to what extent the respondent is in agreement with the concept that males and females should have equal access to social, economic, and political resources and opportunities
8	Females and males should have equal access and opportunities to social, economic, and political resources in Lebanon	1: Strongly Agree 2: Agree 3: Disagree 4: Strongly Disagree	Assessing to what extent the respondent is in agreement with the concept that males and

			females should have equal access to social, economic, and political resources and opportunities
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Second Section: Assessing what violent acts and behaviors are considered “permissible”.

	Q: “When do you think the following behaviour or act is acceptable? Please indicate whether “Always”, “Sometimes”, “Never”.		
#	Violent behaviour or act:	Response (Scale 1-3)	Rationale
9	Slapping or pushing	1:Always 2:Sometimes 3:Never	Assessing to what extent the respondent believes the behaviour or act to be considered physical violence against women and girls
10	Beating or burning ¹⁴	1:Always 2:Sometimes 3:Never	Assessing to what extent the respondent believes the behaviour or act to be considered physical violence against women and girls
11	Fondling or sexual touching that is unwanted/not requested	1:Always 2:Sometimes 3:Never	Assessing to what extent the respondent believes the behaviour or act to be considered sexual violence against women and girls
12	Forcing a person to have sex with physical force	1:Always 2:Sometimes 3:Never	Assessing to what extent the respondent believes the behaviour or act to be considered sexual violence against women and girls
13	Repeated and continuous harassment	1:Always 2:Sometimes 3:Never	Assessing to what extent the respondent believes the behaviour or act to be considered psychological violence

¹⁴ https://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/docs/Guidelines_Statistics_VAW.pdf

			against women and girls
14	Continuously threatening the use of force ¹⁵	1: Always 2: Sometimes 3: Never	Assessing to what extent the respondent believes the behaviour or act to be considered psychological violence against women and girls

Section Three: Social norms that sustain or perpetuate VAWG: Assessing the beliefs of widely held norms and beliefs in society often used to justify and permit VAWG.

#	Q: To what extent do you agree with the following statements. Please indicate whether you “Strongly Agree”, “Agree”, “Disagree” or “Strongly Disagree” with the statement.		
15	To be a man, you need to be tough.	1: Strongly Agree 2: Agree 3: Disagree 4: Strongly Disagree	Assessing to what extent the respondent agrees or disagrees with social norms that sustain or perpetuate violence against women and girls.
16	It is a man’s duty to exercise guardianship over his female relatives.	1: Strongly Agree 2: Agree 3: Disagree 4: Strongly Disagree	Assessing to what extent the respondent agrees or disagrees with social norms that sustain or perpetuate violence against women and girls.
17	Boys are responsible for the behaviour of their sisters, even if they are younger than their sisters.	1: Strongly Agree 2: Agree 3: Disagree 4: Strongly Disagree	Assessing to what extent the respondent agrees or disagrees with social norms that sustain or perpetuate violence against women and girls
18	A good wife obeys her husband even if she disagrees.	1: Strongly Agree 2: Agree 3: Disagree 4: Strongly Disagree	Assessing to what extent the respondent agrees or disagrees with social norms that sustain or perpetuate

¹⁵<https://aic.gov.au/sites/default/files/publications/rip/downloads/community-attitudes-to-violence-against-women-survey-a-full-technical-report.pdf>

			violence against women and girls
19	A man must defend his reputation and honour, with force if he has to.	1: Strongly Agree 2: Agree 3: Disagree 4: Strongly Disagree	Assessing to what extent the respondent agrees or disagrees with social norms that sustain or perpetuate violence against women and girls
20	It is important for a man to show his wife who is the boss.	1: Strongly Agree 2: Agree 3: Disagree 4: Strongly Disagree	Assessing to what extent the respondent agrees or disagrees with social norms that sustain or perpetuate violence against women and girls
21	How female relatives act and dress directly affects a man's honour.	1: Strongly Agree 2: Agree 3: Disagree 4: Strongly Disagree	Assessing to what extent the respondent agrees or disagrees with social norms that sustain or perpetuate violence against women and girls

Section Four:

Permissibility towards physical violence. Assessing the permissibility of different forms of VAWG.

Q: To what extent do you agree with the following statements. Please indicate whether you “Strongly Agree”, “Agree”, “Disagree” or “Strongly Disagree” with the statement.			
22	A man has the right to physically discipline a woman for “unacceptable” behaviour.	1: Strongly Agree 2: Agree 3: Disagree 4: Strongly Disagree IF respondent answers 1 or 4: Why_____	Assessing the permissibility of physical violence towards women and girls.
23	Physical force is an acceptable way to resolve conflict in a relationship	1: Strongly Agree 2: Agree 3: Disagree 4: Strongly Disagree IF respondent answers 1 or 4:	Assessing the permissibility of physical violence towards women and girls.

		Why_____	
24	A man has the right to kill female relatives or partners if he suspects her of engaging in socially unacceptable behaviour	1: Strongly Agree 2: Agree 3: Disagree 4: Strongly Disagree IF respondent answers 1 or 4: Why_____	Assessing the permissibility of physical violence towards women and girls.
25	There are times when a woman deserves to be beaten.	1: Strongly Agree 2: Agree 3: Disagree 4: Strongly Disagree IF respondent answers 1 or 4: Why_____	Assessing the permissibility of physical violence towards women and girls. (This indicator is included in the GEM Scale and will provide a comparable baseline indicator to be crossed checked).
26	A woman should tolerate being physically harmed by a male family member to keep the family together.	1: Strongly Agree 2: Agree 3: Disagree 4: Strongly Disagree IF respondent answers 1 or 4: Why_____	Assessing the permissibility of physical violence towards women and girls. (This indicator is included in the GEM Scale and will provide a comparable baseline indicator to be crossed checked).

Permissability towards sexual violence:			
27	Sex is a right granted by religion to the husband to practice whenever he wishes	1: Strongly Agree 2: Agree 3: Disagree 4: Strongly Disagree IF respondent answers 1 or 4: Why_____	Assessing the permissibility of sexual violence towards women and girls.

28	Sex is a man's right in marriage and he can demand it and exercise this right	1: Strongly Agree 2: Agree 3: Disagree 4: Strongly Disagree IF respondent answers 1 or 4: Why_____	Assessing the permissibility of sexual violence towards women and girls.
29	If the husband provides financially, his wife is obliged to have sex with him whenever he wants.	1: Strongly Agree 2: Agree 3: Disagree 4: Strongly Disagree IF respondent answers 1 or 4: Why_____	Assessing the permissibility of sexual violence towards women and girls.
30	A woman should be able to refuse sex if she doesn't want to have sex.	1: Strongly Agree 2: Agree 3: Disagree 4: Strongly Disagree IF respondent answers 1 or 4: Why_____	Assessing the permissibility of sexual violence towards women and girls.
31	A woman that acts or dresses in a certain way deserves or asks to be sexually harassed.	1: Strongly Agree 2: Agree 3: Disagree 4: Strongly Disagree IF respondent answers 1 or 4: Why_____	Assessing the permissibility of sexual violence towards women and girls.

Permissibility related to psychological/emotional violence:			
32	A man has a right to control the social life of female relatives and his wife by denying them from leaving the house and interacting with family and friends	1: Strongly Agree 2: Agree 3: Disagree 4: Strongly Disagree	Assessing the permissibility of psychological/emotional violence towards women and girls.

		IF respondent answers 1 or 4: Why_____	
33	It is acceptable to threaten women and girls with physical force if it is necessary	1: Strongly Agree 2: Agree 3: Disagree 4: Strongly Disagree IF respondent answers 1 or 4: Why_____	Assessing the permissibility of psychological/emotional violence towards women and girls.
34	It is acceptable to scare one's partner by threatening to hurt family members	1: Strongly Agree 2: Agree 3: Disagree 4: Strongly Disagree IF respondent answers 1 or 4: Why_____	Assessing the permissibility of psychological/emotional violence towards women and girls.
35	It is acceptable to control women and girls by denying them access to basic amenities	1: Strongly Agree 2: Agree 3: Disagree 4: Strongly Disagree IF respondent answers 1 or 4: Why_____	Assessing the permissibility of psychological/emotional violence towards women and girls.
36	It is never acceptable to yell abuse at women and girls with the aim to humiliate them	1: Strongly Agree 2: Agree 3: Disagree 4: Strongly Disagree IF respondent answers 1 or 4: Why_____	Assessing the permissibility of psychological/emotional violence towards women and girls.
37	Harassment, stalking and spying is harmless behaviour that allows men to keep tabs on women and girls	1: Strongly Agree 2: Agree 3: Disagree 4: Strongly Disagree	Assessing the permissibility of psychological/emotional violence towards women and girls.

		IF respondent answers 1 or 4: Why _____	
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Annex 3: Research Tool - Key Informant Interview

Reminders for the researchers:

- You do not have to ask the questions in exactly the same language as they appear below. What's important is that you convey all the information and in a way that is conversational and puts the respondent at ease.
 - It is preferable to follow the order of the questions to better follow the flow of the conversation. If necessary, some questions may be rearranged within sections.
 - Probe the respondent for details and ask for clarification of the answers if necessary.
 - If a respondent does not know or does not want to answer a question, please make a note of this and move on.
 - Please ask additional questions that are not on this questionnaire if the respondent brings up a relevant topic that you think would be useful to know more about.
 - DO NOT write down anyone's name. For example, if the respondent discusses the case of a particular person, DO NOT write down their name – instead use an abbreviation in your notes that protects their identity, such as “K's husband experienced...”
 - At the end of the interview, the interview summary should be submitted as soon as possible. Anything that is a direct quote should be included in quotation marks (“...”).
 - Below, notes for the interviewer are written in *[brackets and italics]*.
-

INTRODUCTION

Introduce yourself:

- My Name is _____ and I am a Data Collector with Search for Common Ground here in Lebanon.

Introduction Search for Common Ground:

- Search for Common Ground is an international peacebuilding organization and has worked in Lebanon since 1996. Search's mission is to transform the way the world deals with conflict, away from adversarial approaches and toward cooperative solutions. Search addresses multiple issues arising within Lebanon's diverse society. In each project we seek to engage all stakeholders to work together to address shared challenges and develop joint solutions.

Purpose of the study:

- Search for Common Ground is currently working on the “Partners for Justice”-project that aims to reduce violence against women and girls (VAWG) in Lebanon. For this project, we are conducting a study to obtain information about the knowledge and attitudes towards violence against women and girls of the people living in Lebanon. This information will help us to implement the project in the most effective way. To support a larger survey and to get more in-depth information, we would like to ask you as a key informant on this topic some more detailed questions.

Ensure Informed Consent:

- This interview will take 30-60 minutes to complete, depending on your time and the information you can share.
- If you don't feel comfortable to answer a question, you can skip it and you can end the survey at any point if you prefer.

- The information you provide will only be used for the purpose of this study and will be treated with confidentiality and anonymity.
- Your name will not appear in the research report and any identifying information will be removed from the report.
- There will be no financial compensation for participating in this study. Due to the sensitivity of the research, you may not be able to receive feedback on the outcomes, but Search will share whatever they can.

Is this all ok with you? Do you have any questions for us?

[If there are any questions, please make a note of them here so that we can anticipate these in future interviews]

Is it all right if I take some notes during our conversation so that later we can remember correctly what we discussed?

Circle one: yes / no

[If no, then immediately after the interview write down everything you remember about the interview]

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

-NAME: _____

-PHONE NUMBER: _____

-GENDER: ☐ Woman ☐ Man ☐ Other/Prefer not to say

-NATIONALITY: ☐ LB ☐ SYR ☐ PRL ☐ PRS ☐ Other

-AGE: _____

-PROFESSION: _____

-Respondent Level of Education (highest level completed):

☐ None ☐ Primary ☐ Preparatory/Secondary ☐ Higher

Marital status: ☐ single ☐ married ☐ divorced ☐ other

Does the respondent have children? ☐ yes ☐ no

- 1) **Can you please tell me a little about yourself and your role in the community?** *[This is both a conversation starter, and also provides a better idea of the type of information the respondent may be able to speak knowledgeably about].*
- 2) **What do you think are the biggest problems and challenges facing women and girls in your community?** *[This does not specifically relate to violence but serves to understand broader problems or challenges facing women and girls].*

- 3) **When we say violence against women and girls, what are the main elements that come to your mind to define it?** *[this seeks to understand what the respondent perceives to constitute as violence against women and girls]*
-Probe: Physical, sexual and psychological/emotional violence/economic violence.
- 4) **Do you think violence against women and girls is a problem in your community?**
-Probe: Why or why not is this a problem?
If Yes: Probe: Where specifically is it a problem (public, private, the family, certain institutions). Why does the community tolerate it?
If No: Probe: Ask about whether it is a problem in other communities in Lebanon.
- 5) **Where do you think the topic of violence against women and girls should be discussed?**
-Probe: public platforms, in the community, social media, traditional media (TV, newspapers, radio), schools, civil society, religious institutions, the home, among the family, never.
- 6) **What kinds of service providers are available and accessible in your community that address violence against women and girls?**
-Probe: What service gaps are there? What are the main barriers to access?

Tailored questions for different stakeholders:

Religion: Religious leaders and other members of the community with religious authority.

- 7) **In your view, what commonly held religious beliefs and understandings influence attitudes towards violence against women and girls?**
-Probe: Religious norms, beliefs, values, attitudes, understandings. [Examples of beliefs: notions of purity, promiscuity, respect, masculine control/protector attitudes].
-Probe: For specific examples of norms [Examples include early marriage, domestic violence, sexual roles in marriage, gender based violence, specific gendered roles within the private and public sphere etc.]
- 8) **What do you think is the role of religion in influencing the norms regarding the use of violence against women and girls?**
-Probe: Providing safe spaces, alternative narratives and notions of masculinity, counter-norms/understandings, legitimacy and respect in the community.

Policy: policy makers, policy influencers (lawyers), human rights activists

- 7) **In your view, what is the role of policies and/or practices in influencing the attitudes and beliefs that permit or justify violence against women?**

-Probe: Formal/informal policies and practices.

- 8) **How do beliefs and perceptions regarding violence against women and girls impact policy-making and its implementation?**

-Probe: Non implementation of law, public/private divide, lack of confidence in law.

Social: Actors with significant social standing/capital in the community (male and female local leaders, educators, social workers etc.).

- 7) **In your view, what are the commonly held cultural and social norms that permit violence against women and girls?**

-Probe: Ask for experiences in: the home (domestic violence), interpersonal violence, at school (bullying), in the community (sexual harassment).

- 8) **In your view, what gender norms influence violence against women and girls? How?**

-Probe: unacceptable/acceptable behaviour, masculinity and femininity, hyper masculinity, positive masculinity/femininity, social and gendered roles.

Thank you very much for taking the time to speak with us today. What you said will be very helpful for us as we write our report.

Annex 4: Table of disaggregated percentages

The table below shows the disaggregated percentages of six dimensions assessed in the perception survey.

Region	Sex	Age	Sexual VAWG	Psychological VAWG	Physical VAWG	Equality	Act
Beirut	Female	Adult	28%	16%	2%	98%	0.00%
Beirut	Female	Young	24%	16%	2%	100%	0.00%
Beirut	Male	Adult	32%	14%	1%	100%	0.00%
Beirut	Male	Young	26%	18%	2%	100%	0.00%
North Lebanon	Male	Adult	44%	20%	5%	88%	0.00%
North Lebanon	Female	Adult	48%	19%	10%	90%	0.00%
North Lebanon	Male	Young	42%	20%	8%	90%	0.00%
North Lebanon	Female	Young	41%	16%	1%	93%	0.00%
Mount Lebanon	Female	Adult	28%	17%	0%	98%	0.83%
Mount Lebanon	Male	Young	26%	16%	1%	98%	0.00%
Mount Lebanon	Female	Young	21%	13%	0%	100%	0.00%
Mount Lebanon	Male	Adult	29%	18%	1%	100%	0.00%
Bekaa	Male	Young	52%	31%	22%	80%	0.00%
Bekaa	Male	Adult	47%	33%	19%	82%	0.00%
Bekaa	Female	Adult	48%	33%	16%	90%	0.00%
Bekaa	Female	Young	50%	33%	20%	98%	0.00%
South Lebanon	Male	Young	37%	21%	6%	95%	0.00%
South Lebanon	Male	Adult	43%	20%	7%	95%	0.00%
South Lebanon	Female	Adult	36%	16%	2%	98%	0.00%
South Lebanon	Female	Young	37%	18%	4%	100%	0.00%

The interpretation of these percentages varies across the different dimensions as follows:

- **Sexual VAWG** shows the percentage of respondents deeming acts of sexual violence permissible (referring to Questions 27-31 of the perception survey)
- **Psychological VAWG** shows the percentage of respondents deeming acts of psychological violence permissible (referring to Questions 32-37 of the perception survey)
- **Physical VAWG** shows the percentage of respondents deeming acts of sexual violence permissible (referring to Questions 22-26 of the perception survey)
- **Equality** shows the percentage of respondents agreeing with the concept of gender equality (referring to Questions 7-8 of the perception survey)
- **Act** shows the percentage of respondents deeming specific types of violent behavior towards women appropriate (referring to Questions 9-14 of the perception survey). It was measured in frequencies by which violent acts are deemed to be appropriate with answer categories given as “never,” “sometimes,” and “always” but respondents hardly diverted from the category “never” across all items as the table clearly shows.

Annex 5: Baseline values for logframe

Indicator	Baseline	Comment
Indicator 1 1.3.2: % of young men and young women who were trained in Search's youth-led research methodology who report an increase in capacity in research practices	23%	<i>7 out of 30 participants; the percentages reflect the number of participants reaching a "high score" in the Outcome Survey</i>
% of young men who were trained, report an increase in capacity in research practices	29%	<i>4 out of 14 male participants</i>
% of young women who were trained, report an increase in capacity in research practices	19%	<i>3 out of 16 female participants</i>
% of young men and women who were trained, report an increase in capacity in research practices in Beirut	50%	<i>1 out of 2 participants</i>
% of young men and women who were trained, report an increase in capacity in research practices in North Lebanon	38%	<i>3 out of 8 participants</i>
% of young men and women who were trained, report an increase in capacity in research practices in Mount Lebanon	25%	<i>1 out of 5 participants</i>
% of young men and women who were trained, report an increase in capacity in research practices in Bekaa	11%	<i>1 out of 9 participants</i>
% of young men and women who were trained, report an increase in capacity in research practices in South Lebanon	17%	<i>1 out of 6 participants</i>
Indicator 2 1.4.2: % of target stakeholders who report to have had access to a neutral platform where they can share and reflect on the findings of the Gender and Masculinity Research	93%	<i>28 out of 30 participants; the definition of "neutral platform" was given as all types of settings where knowledge can be discussed and information exchanged including conferences, seminars, webinars, etc. However, additional information collected on this indicator pointed towards diverging understandings among project participants on what a safe or neutral platform is.</i>
% of male stakeholders who report to have had access to a neutral platform	86%	<i>12 out of 14 male participants</i>
% of female stakeholders who report to have had access to a neutral platform	100%	<i>16 out of 16 female participants</i>

% of stakeholders in Beirut who report to have had access to a neutral platform	100%	<i>2 out of 2 participants</i>		
% of stakeholders in North Lebanon who report to have had access to a neutral platform	88%	<i>7 out of 8 participants</i>		
% of stakeholders in Mount Lebanon who report to have had access to a neutral platform	80%	<i>4 out of 5 participants</i>		
% of stakeholders in Bekaa who report to have had access to a neutral platform	100%	<i>9 out of 9 participants</i>		
% of stakeholders in South Lebanon who report to have had access to a neutral platform	100%	<i>6 out of 6 participants</i>		
Indicator 3 2.2.2: % of youth-led organizations' representatives and media stakeholders who show an increase in skills to develop a national strategy that promotes the reduction of VAWG by addressing social dynamics that justify violence against women and girls and/or perpetuate victim blaming	50%	<i>15 out of 30 participants; the percentages reflect the participants who reported skills or experience with both media campaigns and promoting the reduction of violence against women; only youth-led CSO representatives could be assessed in the baseline study</i>		
% of male youth-led organizations' representatives	57%	<i>8 out of 14 participants</i>		
% of female youth-led organizations' representatives	44%	<i>7 out of 16 participants</i>		
Indicator 4 2.4.1: % change in attitudes towards the permissibility or justification of VAWG in target communities reported by the target audience of the National Campaign (male leaders, local leaders, religious leaders, policy makers, educators, social workers, male family members)	79%	<i>reflects the percentage of respondents that disagree with the permissibility or justification of physical, sexual, and psychological VAWG; note that the percentages mentioned in the report are agreement rates while the percentages here are the disagreement rates (=100%-agreement rate)</i>		
<i>subtype of VAWG</i>	<i>combined</i>	<i>physical</i>	<i>sexual</i>	<i>psychological</i>
% change in attitudes reported by males	78%	93%	62%	79%
% change in attitudes reported by females	80%	94%	64%	80%
% change in attitudes by young (15-24)	79%	94%	62%	80%
% change in attitudes by adult (25-	78%	94%	64%	80%

60)				
% change in attitudes in Beirut	85%	98%	72%	84%
% change in attitudes in North Lebanon	77%	94%	56%	81%
% change in attitudes in Mount Lebanon	86%	100%	74%	84%
% change in attitudes in Bekaa	66%	81%	51%	68%
% change in attitudes in South Lebanon	80%	95%	62%	82%
	78%	<i>Additional analysis on awareness of VAWG (see Chart 1 on page 24 columns 1-4 combined)</i>		
% change in awareness reported by males	77%			
% change in awareness reported by females	79%			
Indicator 5 GNDR-4: Percentage of participants reporting increased agreement with the concept that males and females should have equal access to social, economic, and political resources and opportunities.	1) 97% 2) 95%	<i>"reflects the combined percentages of Tables 8 and 9 in the report for: 1) direct project participants (youth-led CSO representatives) 2) indirect project participants (community members)"</i>		
% of male community members reporting the increase	93%			
% of female community members reporting the increase	96%			
% of young (15-24) community members reporting the increase	94%			
% of adult (25-60) community members reporting the increase	95%			
% of community members in Beirut reporting the increase	99%			
% of community members in North Lebanon reporting the increase	90%			
% of community members in Mount Lebanon reporting the increase	99%			
% of community members in Bekaa reporting the increase	88%			
% of community members in South Lebanon reporting the increase	97%			
% of male direct participants reporting the increase	100%			
% of female direct participants reporting the increase	94%			

Indicator 6 GNDR-7: Percentage of participants that view Gender-Based Violence (GBV) as less acceptable after participating in or being exposed to USG programming.	95%	<i>corresponding percentages of youth-led CSO representatives to Indicator 4</i>		
<i>subtype of VAWG</i>	<i>combined</i>	<i>physical</i>	<i>sexual</i>	<i>psychological</i>
% of male direct participants reporting the change	98%	100%	94%	100%
% of female direct participants reporting the change	91%	96%	81%	96%
	84%	<i>Additional analysis on awareness of VAWG (see Chart 4 on page 30 columns 1-4 combined)</i>		
% change in awareness reported by male direct participants	84%			
% change in awareness reported by female direct participants	84%			

Annex 6: Terms of Reference

Short-term Consultancy Mapping of Civil Society Organizations and Baseline Capacity Assessment *Partners for Justice Project*

1. Context

About Search for Common Ground

Search for Common Ground (Search) is a non-governmental organization working to transform the way societies deal with conflicts. We have acquired over 30 years of experience in peacebuilding and are based in 53 local offices worldwide. We strive to build sustainable peace for generations to come by working with all sides of a conflict, providing the tools needed to work together, and finding constructive solutions. While conflict is inevitable, violence is not! Our mission is to transform the way the world deals with conflict, away from adversarial approaches and toward cooperative solutions. Instead of tearing down an existing world, we focus on constructing a new one. We do this through a type of peacebuilding called “conflict transformation.” We shift the everyday interactions between hostile groups of people, so they can work together to build up their community, choosing joint problem-solving over violent means. Search first worked in Lebanon in 1996, and we opened up our office in Beirut in 2008. Since then, our activities and capacities have grown significantly. We rely on local staff as well as local partner organizations in order to ensure our work is culturally sensitive, sustainable and well-grounded in the context.

For more information, visit www.sfcg.org and <https://www.facebook.com/sfcg.lebanon>.

About the project

Project's name	Partners for Justice
Project's length	27 Months
Project's geographical scope	Lebanon (North Lebanon, Beirut, Mount-Lebanon, Bekaa and South)
Project's Objectives	Empowering men and boys to positively engage, with women, as allies and champions of gender equality and prevention of violence against women and girls.
	Promote a shift in communities' attitudes in target areas around the permissibility of, and assumptions related to violence against women and girls.

Understanding the background

Despite the various efforts made in Lebanon to achieve gender equality and end violence against women and girls (VAWG), the situation remains troubling. In 2018, Lebanon ranked 140th out of 149 countries in the world on the World Economic Forum's global gender gap index and ranked 14th among the 19 MENA countries. Patriarchal social structures and practices limit women's access to economic resources, political and leadership positions, and foster their discrimination in public policy. They also contribute to high levels of VAWG in the Lebanese society: one third of women in Lebanon have been victims of intimate partner violence, and one in four women is subject to some form of sexual assault. Although Lebanon has joined international instruments supporting women's rights, such as the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action in 1995 and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW-1981) in 1997, comprehensive laws and policies addressing VAWG are still missing. For example, the long-awaited law on domestic violence passed by the government in 2014 was heavily criticized by human rights groups since it did not criminalize marital rape. Additionally, matters of marriage, divorce, and custody are governed by religious courts laws and family religious laws, containing deeply discriminatory clauses against women.

Addressing these gaps in national and local level policy remains challenging, mainly due to persistent social patriarchal structures and norms in the Lebanese society, as well as communities' lack of awareness on women's rights. Many Lebanese are confronted with masculinities that produce attitudes and behaviors sustaining gender inequality, violence, and discrimination. Based on these negative social constructs of masculinity, boys and girls grow up with a notion of male superiority and power, and uphold these structures throughout their life. To protect their hegemonic power, many men police women and girls in public and private spaces - often justifying it as their role as "protector" and "controller" of women. At the same time, men face a variety of challenges in living up to these ideals of manhood, which often causes frustration. For example, many women in Lebanon have taken on the role of the family provider today because their male partners are unable to do so. The financial constraints combined with the fear of a loss of power, which would affect their honor and authority, can often cause men's negative behavior towards women, children, and other women members of their community. Another facet of the prevalent culture of VAWG is a lack of information and awareness about, as well as taboo surrounding gender-based violence. Many women are hesitant to report VAWG due to their limited knowledge about legal frameworks, their economic dependence, dearth of family support, and the perception of domestic violence as a "private matter". While some women seek the help of the community, many more do not speak out due to a fear of negative consequences, exacerbating their vulnerability and feelings of humiliation. A high acceptance of VAWG in private and public spheres - due to witnessing violence throughout their life - also creates a barrier for men and boys who want to speak out against VAWG, as they are constantly forced to adopt and perpetuate patriarchal values.

To break the cycle of VAWG and promote gender equality, men and boys must be provided with a safe space where they can deconstruct masculinities and be educated about the consequences of VAWG, empowered to speak out when they witness it, provided with new role models, and encouraged to become allies and champions for gender equality. ABAAD-Resource Center for Gender Equality's (ABAAD) *MenEngage* report shows that providing men with a safe space to discuss masculinities and reflect on their relationships and behaviors leads to a shift in their attitudes towards gender roles, and a higher commitment to preventing VAWG. In addition, another powerful tool to change people's attitudes are traditional and innovative media: portraying new definitions and examples of masculinities and increasing awareness about VAWG are impactful measures in shifting people's attitudes and behaviors. Within this context and building on our experience in Lebanon and lessons learned, Search and ABAAD will work together to change men's and women's, boys' and girls' attitudes towards masculinities, and address the root causes of VAWG in public and private spheres.

2. Objectives of the consultancy

The Project objective is; To reduce violence against women and girls in Lebanon, Search and ABAAD will leverage their experience to redefine and shape men's and women's, boys' and girls' attitudes around VAWG and to create opportunities for men and boys to become allies in ending violence against women. The first part of this project will focus on selecting 10 youth-led civil society organizations (2 from each area of focus), 10 media actors and training 30 youth representatives (3 from each organization) on exploring and analyzing narratives of masculinity in their contextual settings, and will provide men and boys with a safe space to reflect on their own behaviors. Selected representatives from youth-led civil society organizations will then carry out research in the target geographies to identify local-level barriers to positive masculinities and gender equality as well as to identify characteristics of alternative masculinities the project seeks to encourage. Afterwards, the series of working sessions with youth and media actors, the youth-led research on gender and masculinity, and the knowledge sharing opportunities will feed into the design of a national awareness and advocacy campaign that is relevant to Lebanon rural and urban contexts.

The Consultancy Objectives are:

- Contribute to the mapping of youth-led organization by conducting desk research and supporting the Project Manager and partner in outreach to the organizations.
- Provide benchmark information for measuring project outcomes based on the project logframe particularly in the following thematic areas:
 - Engaging Men
 - Gender Equality, Masculinity and Violence Against Women and Girls

- Research Practices
- Role of Media in Social Change

- Assess the knowledge, attitudes and practices of the targeted communities towards gender equality, masculinity and VAWG

Scope of the consultancy

The assessment will provide quantitative and qualitative information, sex-age disaggregated data, and analysis on stakeholders and target communities in the five targeted areas as per the following:

- **Socio-cultural context:** host community, refugees, adolescents, youth, adults, tribal groups, stateless individuals, etc.
- **Socio-economic context:** employment, income, education background, access to services, etc.

In addition, the assessment will provide baseline information on:

- Stakeholders and community perception, attitudes and beliefs, particularly of men and boys, around gender equality, masculinity and violence against women and girls;
- Youth-led organizations representatives' capacity in raising awareness around gender equality, masculinity and prevention of violence against women and girls in their communities;
- Youth-led organizations representatives' capacity in research practices;
- Youth-led organizations representatives' capacity to develop a national media campaign.

Methodology

The baseline assessment to be proposed needs to apply both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods in North Lebanon, Mount Lebanon, Beirut, Bekaa and South.

The data will be collected through Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) in the targeted communities, and individual capacity assessments with the Youth-led organizations representatives. The consultant will advise on the method to select informants and members of the community. The tools proposed should be easy, context sensitive, include open-ended questions, ensure the Do No Harm principle and participatory.

Timeframe

The duration of the consultancy is 2.5 months.

Expected results and deliverables

- List of identified organizations, summary of their work, and their contact information.
- An inception report (draft and final) that will propose a detailed step-by-step methodology and work plan including a list of stakeholders to be met, initial analysis based on desk review and tools
- A Draft report for review by Search staff
- A Final report (35 pages max in length, excluding appendices) that consists of -amongst other things- the following elements;
 - Executive summary
 - Table of contents
 - Research findings and conclusions with associated data presented in line with the agreed tools and questions
 - Recommendation for decision making
 - Appendices which include detailed research instruments, list of interviewees, evaluator biography
- A PowerPoint presentation of the report
- The data bases
- A short summary report (4-5 pages) meant to be shared with audiences outside Search
- In addition to these outputs, the consultant will provide full and oral feedback to Search's key stakeholders via a debriefing of the field mission at the end of it at Search's office in Beirut.

3. Requirements of consultant

- Proficiency in English and Arabic;
- More than 5 years of experience in project evaluation or the equivalent in DM&E expertise, including collecting data in interviews, surveys and focus groups;
- Experience in working with international organizations;
- Experience conducting large-scale quantitative surveys;
- Evaluation methods and data collection skills;
- Solid communication skills, cultural awareness and sensitivity;
- Demonstrated ability to write high quality, methodologically sound and analytical papers in English;
- Ability to work with people from various social and professional backgrounds and at all levels, (high-level officials to community leaders...);
- Knowledgeable of local governance (municipalities) context;
- Experience in social stability and peace-building in rural areas would be an asset.

The consultant is required to respect the following Ethical Principles¹⁶:

¹⁶ Adapted from the *American Evaluation Association Guiding Principles for Evaluators*, July 2004

- *Comprehensive and systematic inquiry: Consultant should make the most of the existing information and full range of stakeholders available at the time of the review. Consultant should conduct systematic, data-based inquiries. He or she should communicate his or her methods and approaches accurately and in sufficient detail to allow others to understand, interpret and critique his or her work. He or she should make clear the limitations of the review and its results.*
- *Competence: Consultant should possess the abilities and skills and experience appropriate to undertake the tasks proposed and should practice within the limits of his or her professional training and competence.*
- *Honesty and integrity: Consultant should be transparent with the contractor/constituent about: any conflict of interest, any change made in the negotiated project plan and the reasons why those changes were made, any risk that certain procedures or activities produce misleading review information.*
- *Respect for people: Consultant respect the security, dignity and self-worth of the respondents, program participants. Consultant has the responsibility to be sensitive to and respect differences amongst participants in culture, religion, gender, disability, age and ethnicity.*