

APRIL 2022

PEACEBUILDING PROGRAMS: MONTHLY RESULTS IN LEBANON!

The "Center for Lebanese Studies" (CLS) at the Lebanese American University and the Ecumenical Disability Advocates Network (EDAN) developed in partnership with The National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW) the "Towards a Fruitful Life", an online learning program (Massive Open Online Course - MOOC) for personal development targeting young women with disabilities and all persons interested in the topic of disability in the Arab world. The program that is funded by the Public Affairs Section at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, includes a set of free workshops and training encouraging participants of young women with disabilities to consider change as a possible and achievable goal.

PARTNERS FOR JUSTICE

Goal:

To reduce violence against women and girls (VAWG) in Lebanon by transforming attitudes of women, girls, men, and boys towards patriarchal norms that define masculinities, and addressing the root causes of VAWG in public and private spheres.

Youth Representative-Led Community Trainings

During this month, 14 youth leaders from eight Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) delivered in-person training on the second edition of Program Ra to youth; males and females; across three different communities in Lebanon, including the North, South and Bekaa. The youth-led training focused on gender, masculinities and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) related topics including but not limited to: sex vs. gender, gender and socialization, gender roles, sexual and gender based violence (SGBV), masculinities vs. men engagement, substance abuse, anger management, breastfeeding, breast cancer, etc., to increase the awareness of youth on these topics, with the aim of creating more allies for gender equality and prevention of VAWG.

30 Sessions were delivered by 8 CSOs across 3 Lebanese regions in April 2022.



Youth leaders from CLAC CSO in the Bekaa introducing anger management to youth participating in the session.



Youth leaders from the Diyarouna CSO in the South of Lebanon presenting a video illustrating cervical cancer symptoms.



Youth leaders from Mousawat CSO in the North of Lebanon are working in groups with community youth to explore gender roles.

"I've leveraged a lot from the information provided in this training since it's relevant to my job, as I work in raising awareness about women's health."

- Female community participant in the Bekaa

"This training covered the most important topics that we can't discuss in our community usually."

- Male community participant in the North

TOWARDS A GENDER EQUITABLE SOCIETY

Goal:

Contribute to an enabling environment in which social norms around SGBV will be shifted and access to safe and quality prevention and response services will be increased.

The production of five films and two mini-segments was finalized as well as their dissemination plan which will start in May 2022. The media products will be disseminated online and offline through social media and during a film festival which will be organized by Search.

Five films were selected:

1. "Warde" talks about harassment and sexual violence and the importance and power of speaking out;
2. "Al Helwe Wel Morra" talks about domestic violence including intimate partner violence and about violence against socially non-conforming individuals;
3. "Ilham" talks about violence against people with disabilities;
4. "La Sharaf" talks about toxic vs. equitable masculinities;
5. "Ihtira" is a silent movie that talks about domestic violence and the importance and power of breaking the cycle of violence.



Search project and media teams finalizing the media products through one final round of feedback sharing with film students and production houses teams in April 2022.



Shooting of "Warde" film.

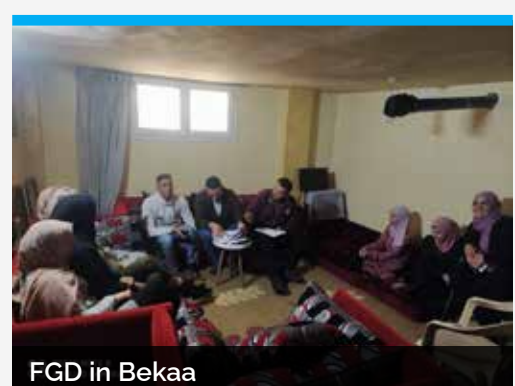


Shooting of "Ihtira" film.

Water as a Tool for Diffusing Socio-Political Tension: Supportive Focus Groups and Program Models-UNICEF

Goal:

To gain better insight into residents' perspectives on water-related issues to enhance collective understanding of what forms concrete and effective water-related conflict resolution programs to best address tensions and leverage entry points for peace in Baalbeck and West Bekaa regions.



FGD in Bekaa



FGD in Baalbek

The first round of Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) targeted community members from locations with high water-related conflict issues including: Deir El Ahmar, laata, Yammouneh, Dar el Ouassa, Jenta, Yahfoufa, Qaa Baalbeck, Chlifa, Aarsal, Bouday in Baalbeck, Haouch el Harime, Khiara, and Ghazze in West Bekaa.

In order to broaden the study's reach in both target areas and ensure a comprehensive dataset through which water-related issues could be understood, findings from the first round of FGDs were used to select communities for the second. These communities are present in the following locations: Aarsal, Ras Baalbeck, Serraine el Tahta, Serraine el Fauqa, Nabi Chit, Youmine, Douris, Fakeha, Zeitouneh in Baalbeck, Haouch el Harime, Ghazze, Mansoura, Loucy, Jebb Jannine, and Kamed el Laouz in West Bekaa.

Both rounds of FGDs were conducted in-person between March 23 and April 13, 2022 with a total of 143 participants (65 men and 78 women). Each FGD included around eight participants.

Project Outcome:

Based on the findings, Search developed and shared with UNICEF a detailed report about the scope of the project, methodology, findings, and suggested program models that included:

- 1) general program recommendations for any WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) related work within West Bekaa and Baalbeck,
- 2) specific suggestions for high-priority technical projects, and
- 3) accompanying opportunities for peacebuilding that can and should accompany future WASH interventions.

These recommendations are made to address significant issues regarding:

- 1) water quality, access, and distribution; management of water resources; and water scarcity,
- 2) persistent energy concerns, and
- 3) local conflict dynamics and ongoing tensions.