

We can lead the change!



Shereen is a survivor of violence from her partner, which lasted for a year and was witnessed by her children. She decided to confront her abusive partner after learning about reporting methods for violence in one of the awareness sessions and how to defend herself. The option of divorce was not feasible, as she would not be able to take custody of her two children.

However, she managed to rid herself of the violence after reporting it to the authorities once, and this step was deterrent enough for him, as the violence did not recur.

Violence against women is a common issue among Shereen and other women in her community in Mount Lebanon. Raising awareness about this violence and empowering women to overcome it is Shereen's goal, which led her to join the "Makani" project.

The project has become part of her journey to recover from the physical and verbal violence she previously experienced, as well as an opportunity to share all the challenges faced by women in the area. Her participation in various activities within the project has made it a space to enhance her capabilities and empower herself and other women economically and psychologically in the village.

The project's activities throughout the year aim to promote equality and women's empowerment. Currently, Shereen is in the final stage of preparing the Agenda in collaboration with her program colleagues who are in the same area. This agenda includes all the challenges faced by women, as observed personally in their area, and they will soon work to raise them with municipal officials and stakeholders.

All this information included in the plan comes after a series of trainings attended by Shereen and her colleagues at the model centers of Abaad's organization on building these plans, as well as how to present them to stakeholders in the region.

The plan developed by Shereen and her colleagues primarily addresses the issue of violence against women in the region, the difficulty of accessing safe transportation, and the challenges of women's integration into the labor market. It not only presents the problems but also works on proposing solutions, with the first solution being the establishment of awareness and empowerment sessions for women to deter the violence they face.

The long-term ambition for Shereen and the other women in the project is to establish a social center in the area that provides support for women and girls, and hosts activities and initiatives that empower them economically, considering this essential to break the cycle of violence.

The first step, we will start it!

Shereen says, "This plan we have developed is inspired by common problems and challenges faced by women in the region. My experience with domestic violence is not unique in the area, and there are many others who are still suffering from this violence. Economic empowerment is the only solution for them to break these cycles of violence".

She adds, "The path will be long, we know this, and it is not easy to introduce the agenda to decision-makers in the region, especially ours. But we are ready to complete this project".

About the project:

"Makani" project is bringing together Terre des Hommes Italy, COSPE, Ana Aqra Association, and ABAAD in a new mission aiming to help in reducing disparities in access to primary education and early school leaving children at risk of social exclusion and educational poverty in Lebanon. The project is funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), and it is being implemented in Lebanon and Italy.

In Lebanon, the primary objective is to reach and support around 4176 children through non-formal educational programs and Child Protection services, along with 3900 caregivers through community empowerment activities and economical initiatives.

