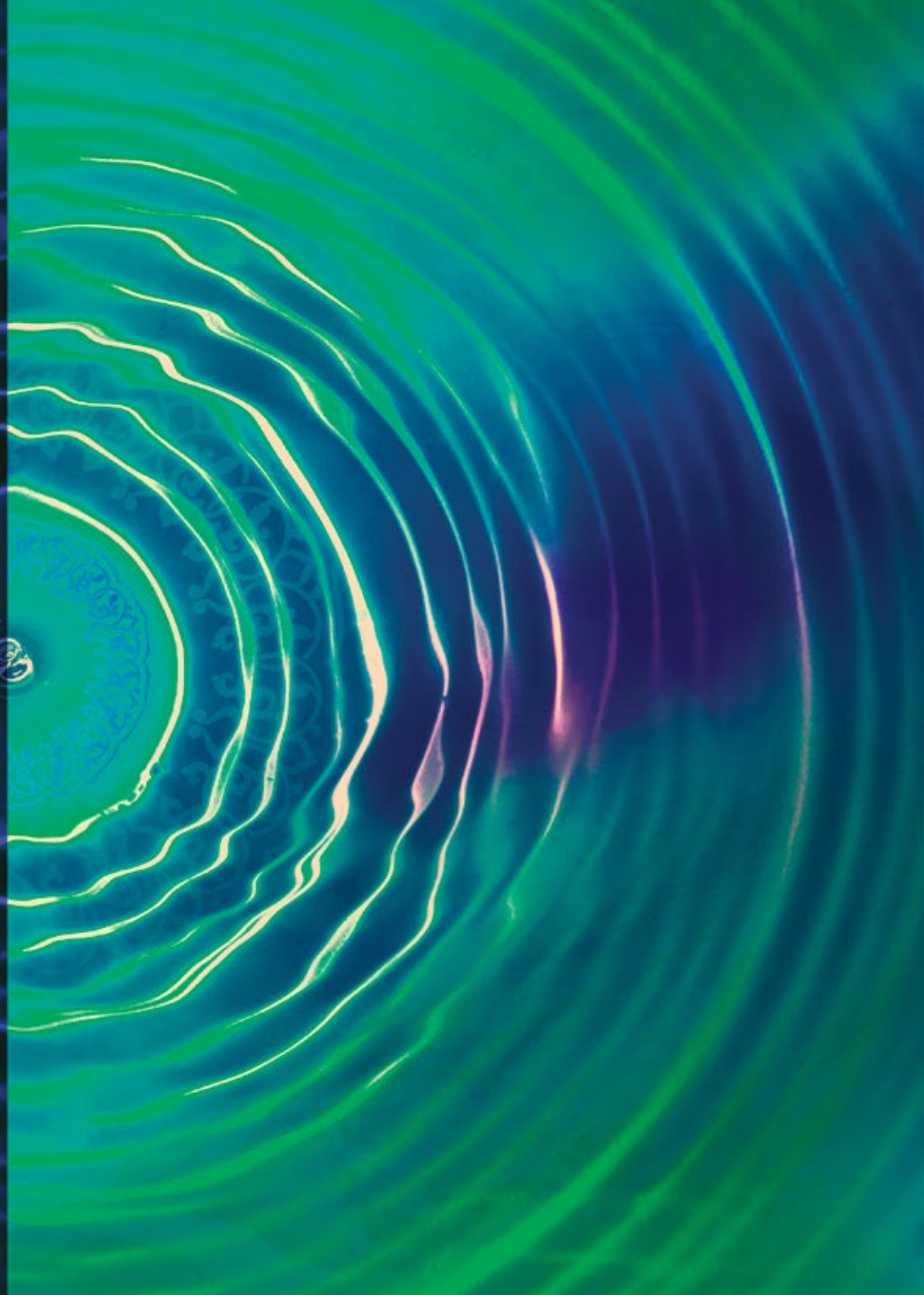
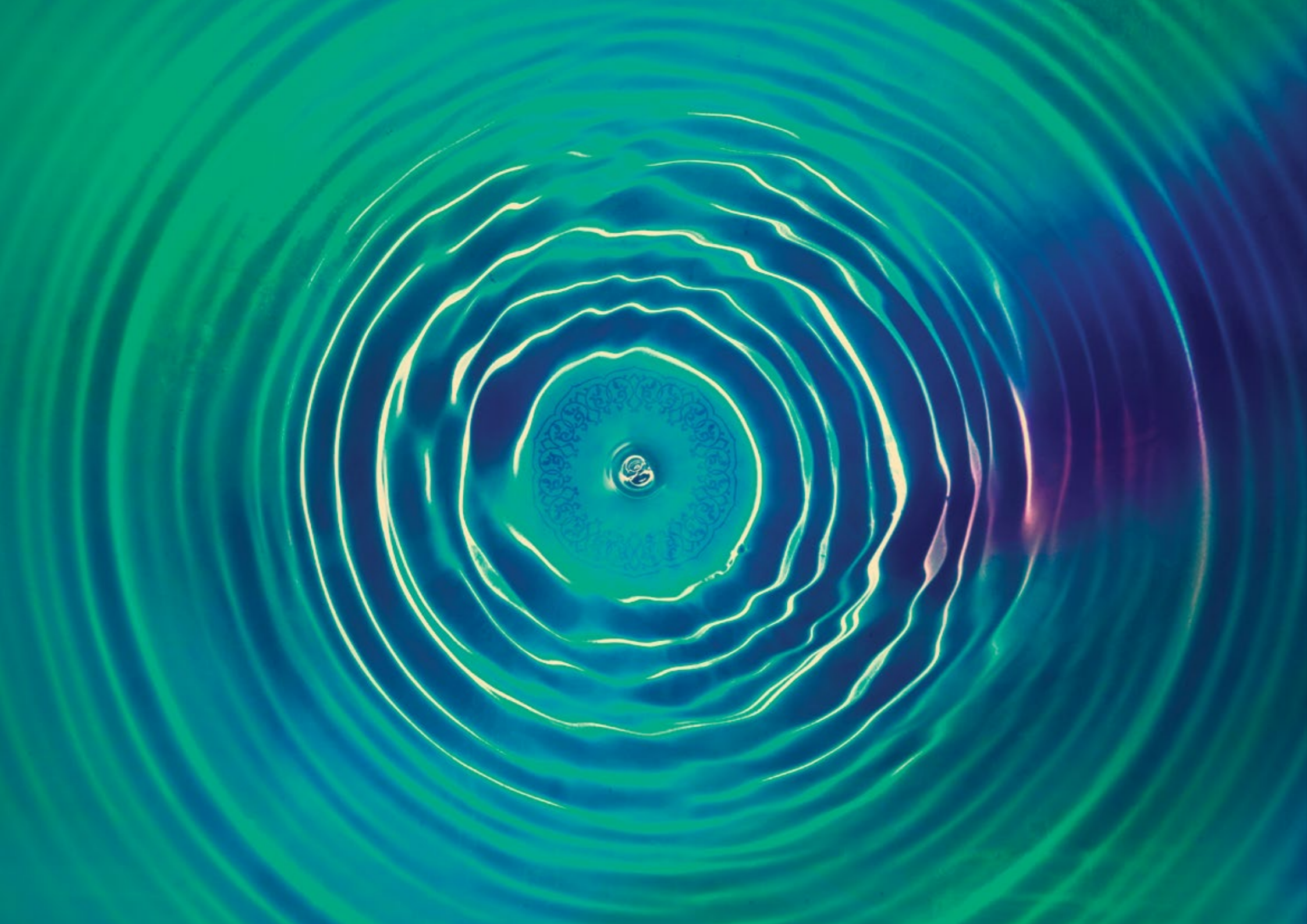




# ANNUAL REPORT 2017







أبجد  
abjad

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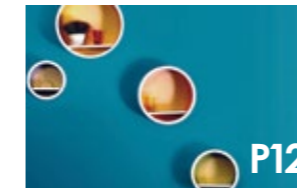
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# GHIDA ANANI

A Word from  
ABAAD Founder  
and Director

## DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS,

It is with great pleasure that I present to you ABAAD's Annual Report for the year 2017, which reflects not only our achievements, but also trends and opportunities of the future. I hope you will find this report both informative and interesting!

This year marked a historic legal step for women in Lebanon, as the Parliament abolished Article 522 of the Penal Code - the infamous "rape-marriage" law. This accomplishment was a direct outcome of several national initiatives, including a successful nation-wide advocacy campaign led by ABAAD, with the huge support of our partners, donors, beneficiaries, and the community. While we celebrated this first step to changing the mindset and traditions of the society, it goes without saying that there's still a lot to be done and for us, this is just the start! We will continue to work tirelessly

towards our advocacy, policy, and capacity building agenda, challenging gendered social norms that promote inequality and violence.

Marginalized women, men, and children from local and refugee populations remain the core of our work. As such, throughout 2017, we maintained and expanded ABAAD's engendered humanitarian response to address issues related to Gender Equality, Masculinities, Sexualities and Reproductive Health, through direct service provision, outreach training and resource publication. In the coming years, and as part of ABAAD's strategic plan to achieve sustainable social development, we aim to bring our unique and extensive expertise in protection, policy development and masculinities as added value for more standardized and accountable approaches in the Middle East and North Africa region. We will provide support, knowledge and resources to the public and civil sectors all around MENA, to enable them to contribute to efforts aimed at ending violence against women and girls, and promote gender equality and active participation.

As we continue to courageously and creatively test new approaches and search for constructive dialogue across divisions, we would like to hear from you! Your ideas regarding crucial topics in the fields of women's

rights, gender equality and gender-based violence will be incorporated into the last phase of ABAAD's 5-year strategy, which will contribute to scaling up social transformation at the local and regional level. I invite you to join us in tackling the challenges lying ahead and help devise pathways to sustainability.

Together we can change!

Warmly,

Ghida Anani

ABAAD Founder and Director









# STRATEGIC PLAN

2017-2020





## WHO WE ARE

ABAAD is a non-profit, non-political, non-confessional organization that aims to achieve gender equality as an essential condition to sustainable peace, democracy and social and economic development in the MENA region. ABAAD believes that eliminating gender based barriers, discrimination and violence while building women and girls' agency and critical consciousness can allow them to participate effectively in all life spheres, lead change on their own, realize their rights and freely determine their life outcomes.



## HOW WE SEE THE IDEAL WORLD

ABAAD envisions a world in which men and women live as equitable partners and work together to secure better lives for their future. Women are effectively empowered and participate in democratic processes that affect their lives and their communities. In this world, there is no violence or discrimination and people live in freedom, dignity and peace. Women have fair access and control to all social, economic and natural assets and resources and are able to pursue their happiness.



## WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

ABAAD seeks to promote gender equality through policy development and reform, ending gender-based violence, empowering women and providing protection and support services through a holistic care approach to GBV survivors during times of peace, war and disasters.

As a resource center, ABAAD also seeks to collaborate with, support and build the capacities of both civil and public organizations that are involved in gender equality, democracy, human rights, sexualities and SRHR, MHPSS, case management and protection programs.



## WHAT WE BELIEVE IN

ABAAD's vision, mission and work are guided by the Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, gender related conventions, resolutions and agreements as well as by the values and principles of equality, mainstreaming, empowerment, participation, inclusion, protection, holistic care approach, rights-based approach, survivor-centered approach, partnership, accountability and transparency.



## HOW WE PLAN TO DO THAT

ABAAD plans to achieve its mission and overall goal by focusing on the following strategies and objectives:

1. Policy Development: Develop/amend/implement fair gender responsive policies and laws.
2. Ending Gender-based Violence: Reduce all forms of gender-based violence and mitigate its harmful effects.
3. Empowering Women, Girls & GBV Survivors: Increase capability and agency of women and girls to realize their rights and determine their life outcomes.
4. Gender Equality in Humanitarian Action: Provide women and girls affected by humanitarian crises with appropriate, relevant and gender sensitive support and protection services.
5. Building Capacities of the Civil & Public Sectors on Gender & GBV: Enhance civil and public institutions and organizations' capacities and skills.

## WHO WE WORK WITH

The geographical coverage of ABAAD is the MENA region with special emphasis on Lebanon and Syria. The targeted groups are:

- A. Women and girls of all age groups who are either survivors or vulnerable to violence or distress.
- B. Men and boys of all age groups who are either part of the problem or the solution
- C. Community, media, religious and political leaders from all groups.
- D. Civil and public institutions and organizations who are players in gender related issues.
- E. People affected by crisis and disasters.

## WHERE WE WORK

ABAAD plans to operate in three geographical spheres:

### First Sphere: Lebanon

ABAAD implements its strategies including 'policy development' all around Lebanon and targets Lebanese citizens, Syrian refugees and other foreign nationals.

### Second Sphere: Syria

ABAAD intends to extend its work to Syria to help women directly through programs implemented by ABAAD and indirectly by building the capacity of Syrian CSOs and enabling them to effectively implement gender equality and GBV prevention & response programs.

### Third Sphere: The MENA Region

As a resource center for gender equality, ABAAD plans to provide support, knowledge and resources to the public and civil sectors all around the MENA region to enable the main players to promote gender equality, active participation and to end violence against women. ABAAD wishes to bring its unique and extensive expertise in policy development, protection, masculinities and engaging men as an added value for more standardized and accountable approaches in the region.

**In addition to ABAAD's work on the local level, we have also carried out projects and participated in global forums and panels in numerous countries, including:**

**Belgium, Brazil, Cyprus, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Jordan, KSA, Kurdistan, Morocco, Netherlands, New York, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, UK, Washington DC.**





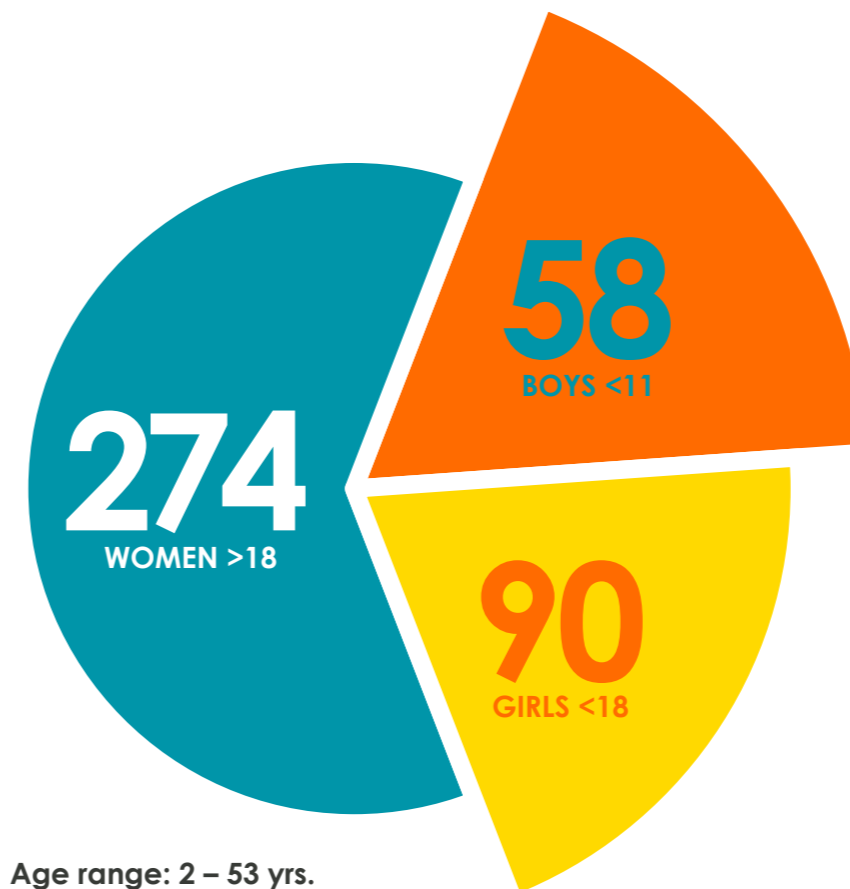
# Direct Services

- Al Dar - Emergency Safe Sheltering
- Women and Girls Safe Spaces
- Men Centre

# AL DAR

## EMERGENCY SAFE SHELTERING PROGRAMME

Al Dar Emergency Line (24/7):  
+961 76 06 06 02



Age range: 2 – 53 yrs.  
Average age: 25.63

#### Nationalities:

Syrian	54.78%	Palestinian	1.91%
Lebanese	35.67%	Other	7.64%

Al Dar, ABAAD's emergency safe shelters are free, safe, and supportive temporary houses for women at risk or survivors of GBV. This includes single and married women, their children, as well as adolescent girls.

Al Dar provides:

- Immediate safe-housing (24/7)
- Crisis counselling
- Emergency support and information on legal rights
- Psychosocial support
- Access to resources
- Referrals for the provision of welfare, social services, and income assistance

At this confidential and safe environment, women can seek services, gather information, and explore their different options with the assistance of trained, multi-disciplinary professional staff. The services offered by Al Dar contribute to supporting women through:

- Enhancing their self-esteem
- Increasing their life management skills
- Providing emotional support
- Decreasing physical and psychological harm
- Enabling their long-term safety and empowerment

This empowering environment provides women with the opportunity to grow, mature, and escape abusive situations.

In addition to the different services provided at the emergency shelters, Al Dar also aims to build community awareness, strengthen local capacities, and work with relevant stakeholders, both internal and external, to better respond to GBV.



Accordingly, ABAAD has held the following activities:

o **Regional Roundtable entitled “Towards Coordinated Efforts for the Promotion of Safe Sheltering Services for Women and Girls Survivors of GBV in the MENA Region”**

ABAAD, in partnership with Fondation de France, hosted a four-day regional working seminar entitled “Towards Coordinated Efforts for the Promotion of Safe Sheltering Services for Women and Girls Survivors of GBV in the MENA Region.”

The attending participants were representatives of NGO-run shelters, governments, and Ministry family units coming from Denmark, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kurdistan, Lebanon, Morocco, the Netherlands Palestine, Syria, and Tunisia.

The roundtable provided participants with a platform to raise different issues and challenges faced at shelters, and to reflect on the best ways to address them.

Information and findings from the roundtable focused on informing the development of the Manual on Shelter Implementation, SOPs, Mission and Vision, Human Resources, and Intervention Approaches. The manual will be launched in 2018.



**Based on the AI Dar strategy and intervention plan, the programme aims to build the resilience of survivors at the psychosocial, psychological, and socio-economic level.**

Taking both, strategic plan and survivor needs into consideration, ABAAD has built an ongoing evolving vocational training programme that aims to improve the survivors' skills and empower them to increase their independence following their exit from AI Dar.

**In 2017, a new dimension was introduced to AI Dar through the support of RDPP and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. This dimension focused exclusively on socio-economic empowerment and life skills building to increase and enhance the beneficiaries' employability and provide them with a wider range of opportunities, empowerment, and independence.**

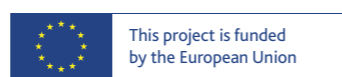
In addition to regular in-house activities and awareness sessions, vocational trainings for the women and girl residents of the shelters have included Recycling workshops, Handicraft vocational trainings, and Jewellery workshops.

o Capacity Building trainings for AI Dar team members on:

- Art-Based PSS Approaches
- Playback Theatre Tools
- Masculinities and Femininities
- Programme R (set of workshops on working with young men on ERAW)
- Regular Technical Meetings for the GBV case workers
- Self-Care

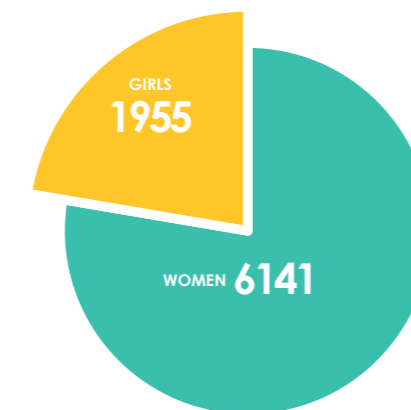
# WOMEN AND GIRLS SAFE SPACES PROGRAMME

24/7 Helpline: +961 81 78 81 78

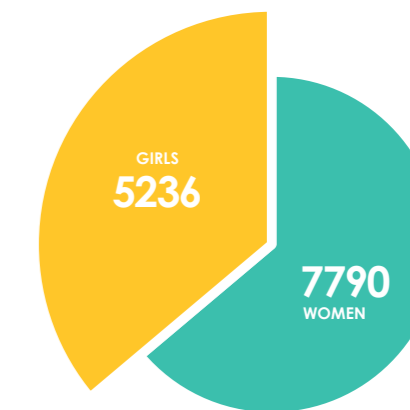


This project is funded by the European Union

A total of 8,096 women and girls benefited from socioeconomic and PSS activities, case management, and specialised services.



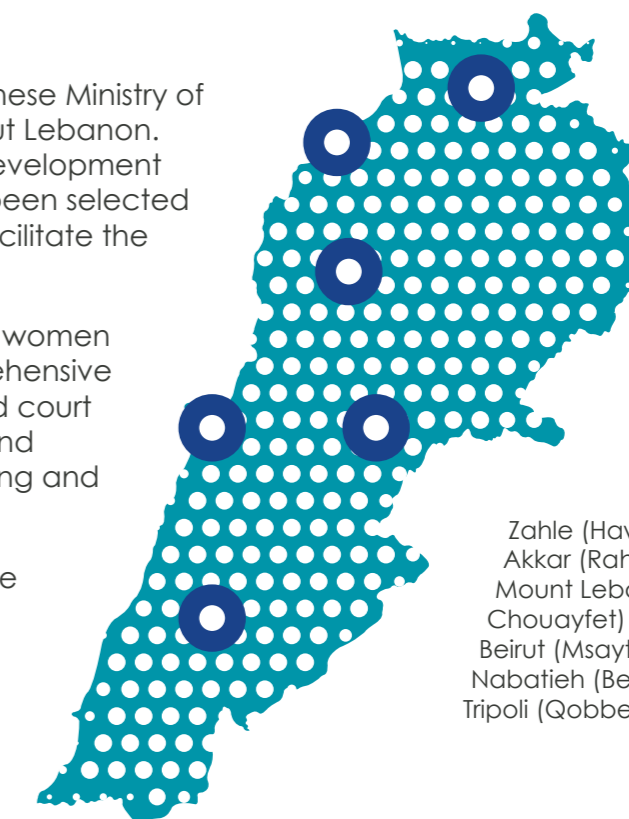
A total of 13,026 women and girls attended GBV sensitisation sessions and activities.



Since 2015, ABAAD, in partnership with UNICEF and the Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs, has been operating 8 model centres throughout Lebanon. The Women and Girls Safe Spaces are based at the Social Development Centres of the Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs, and have been selected in a manner that ensures wide geographical coverage, to facilitate the reach of women in different areas of Lebanon.

The Centres provide a safe, non-stigmatising environment for women and girl survivors of GBV and their children to receive comprehensive holistic care (PSS, case management, legal consultations and court representation, psychotherapy, and psychiatric evaluation and follow-up) and referrals (including to emergency safe sheltering and CMR services) as needed.

During 2017, a package of mobile and static age-appropriate activities and services were provided for Syrian refugee and vulnerable host community women and girls at the 8 WGSS localities.



- Zahle (Hawch al Omara)
- Akkar (Rahbe and Khreibet el Jendeh)
- Mount Lebanon (Jbeil, Ghobeiry, and Chouayfet)
- Beirut (Msaytbeh)
- Nabatieh (Bent Jbeil)
- Tripoli (Qobbah)



# ○ MEN CENTRE

Men Center Line: +961 71 28 38 20  
Email: [men.center@abaadmena.org](mailto:men.center@abaadmena.org)



Launched in June 2012, ABAAD's pioneer Men Centre aims to engage men, promote non-violent behaviour, and provide support at the individual, couple, family, and community levels. It mainly targets three different types of violence affecting actions and reactions: behaviours, thoughts, and emotions. To do so, the Men Centre works with men who show aggressive behaviour to assist them in adopting healthy ways of communication and expression, in addition to supporting them in changing their attitudes and behaviours in order to reinforce positive familial and social relationships.

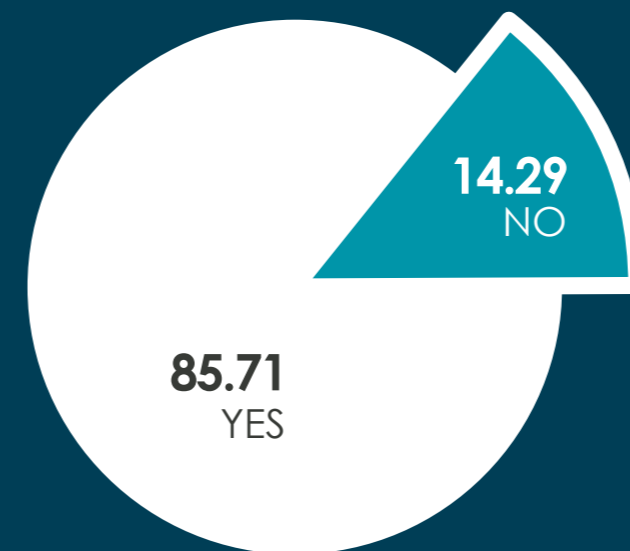
Three therapists and a social worker receive the men who voluntarily seek out the Centre's free, confidential,

and anonymous services. There, they are offered one-on-one psychosocial support sessions, couples therapy, family therapy, group therapy through emotional support groups, and/or stress and anger management workshops.

ABAAD has been running the Centre in a private and inconspicuous location, Through catchy public campaigns, active work towards institutional referral systems, and peer to peer referrals, **ABAAD has reached over 572 men since 2012. During 2017, over 700 sessions were provided to Men Centre rights-holders.**

According to Men Centre statistics, around 86% of men attending sessions have displayed a noticeable level of improvement in their well-being and behaviour.

Men Centre rights-holders showing improvement in well-being



A young couple's testimonial following the completion of a therapy cycle:

“ WE REACHED OUT TO ABAAD IN AN ATTEMPT TO FIND A SOLUTION FOR OUR ISSUES BEFORE REACHING THE POINT OF DIVORCE. THROUGHOUT OUR VISITS, THE PSYCHOTHERAPIST HELPED US FIND IN OURSELVES A WAY TO FORGIVE EACH OTHER AND SEE THINGS DIFFERENTLY.

THIS MADE US REALISE THAT WE CAN DEAL WITH OUR PROBLEMS WITH A NEW PERSPECTIVE.

WE CAN NOW TRULY SAY THAT WE ARE AT A POINT WHERE WE CAN COMMUNICATE BETTER AND LET GO OF THE PERSONAL ISSUES THAT MADE OUR RELATIONSHIP COMPLICATED AND FUSSY.

THANKS TO THE MEN CENTRE, WE CAN NOW MANAGE OUR LIFE AS A COUPLE MORE WISELY.





# Gender Equality and Ending GBV Programme



Gender Equality is both, a major cross-cutting pillar of ABAAD's programming, as well as a standalone programme which focuses on raising awareness about sex and gender, GBV, gender equality, and Women, Peace, and Security (UNSCR 1325). The programme aims to promote and work towards achieving a gender equal society where women are empowered and included in social spheres, in addition to holding decision-making positions.



# Al Mashghal

Supported by UN Women and Ford Foundation, ABAAD, in partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs, Safadi Foundation, and Fair Trade Lebanon, conducted a series of art and PSS sessions with three groups of 49 Lebanese and 33 Syrian women in the Bekaa (Majdal Anjar and Kfarzabad).



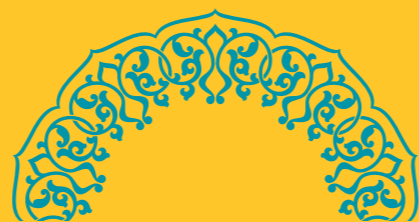
Majdal Anjar I

**11** Lebanese **16** Syrian



Majdal Anjar II

**16** Lebanese **13** Syrian



Kfarzabad

**22** Lebanese **4** Syrian

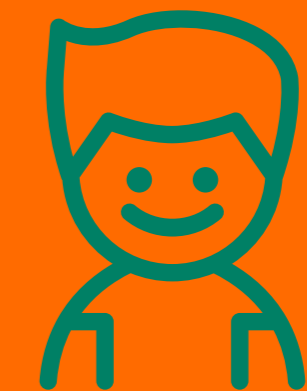


# Enhancing GBV Protection and Prevention Mechanisms of Women and Girls at Community and Policy Levels

With the support of UN Women and the Government of Japan, and in partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs, ABAAD conducted capacity building workshops for 4 groups of 88 youths on Campaigning: how to organise a campaign, use of social media, as well as communication technology and mobilisation. The workshops, which were geared towards women's issues and women's rights campaigning, took place in Jbeil, Ghazir/Bouar, Tekrit/Khreibet el Jindi, and Bazbina.

**25**  
Lebanese boys

**50**  
Lebanese girls





# Enhance GBV protection and prevention mechanisms of women and girls in the most affected communities through enhancing quality access to psychosocial services

Supported by HSF, and in partnership with MoSA, the Safadi Foundation, and Fair Trade Lebanon, ABAAD carried out the following activities:

- Art-based PSS trainings for female and male youth in Qobbeh, Tebbeneh, Jabal Mohsen, and Mina.
- National scale capacity building for youth-led organisations on how to organise GBV info sessions.
- Awareness on sexual harassment, assault, and boundaries for women, men, and female and male youth.



86



196



71

“Sitting here in the garden and meditating with the group have made me realise just how much I had been neglecting myself.”

R. K., Female, Lebanese



## Jina el Dar

ABAAD's mobile unit, which is supported by UNHCR, NCA, Diakonia, Church of Sweden, and Radiohjelpen, was able to reach over 5,000 individuals in the areas of Ain, Aarsal, Baalbek, Chmestar, Hermel, Labwe, Marjeoun, Nabatiyyeh, Qaa, Shebaa, Sour, and Wazzani. Jina el Dar provided legal sessions and consultations, health awareness, PSS activities, and night activities on engaging men.

As the project also aims to foster and raise awareness around social cohesion, the women, men, and children who participated were from both, refugee and host communities.

WOMEN

3400

MEN

395

CHILDREN

1239



## NASEEJ

### Protection and Mitigation of GBV against Women and Girls in Lebanon

(Syrian Refugees and Vulnerable Host Communities)

In 2017, with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, ABAAD launched its Naseej programme, which aims to strengthen national GBV prevention, protection, and response mechanisms in Lebanon.

#### Project Background

Despite the adoption of laws such as the "Protection of Women and Other Family Members from Domestic Violence" (Law 293), and the repeal of article 522 from the penal code (which allowed rapists to escape persecution if they married their victim), women and girls in both host and refugee communities in Lebanon continue to suffer from the lack of available protective legal structures.

That said, many obstacles still stand in the way of women attaining gender justice, including:

- Awareness about available/relevant legal rights
- Awareness about sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)
- Access to quality services across all regions in Lebanon, and challenges with increased costs of specialized services
- Engagement of men, boys, and all members of community in ending violence against women while considering it a contextual social issue
- Lack of commitment to professional ethics with regards to media coverage of women affected by conflict or migration, particularly the coverage of women and children survivors of or at risk for GBV



The above, in addition to other contributing factors, continue to hinder the access of women and girl survivors of or at risk for GBV's to the appropriate specialised services that can break the cycle of violence.

### Lebanon's refugee demographics:



With more than **52%** being women and girls

**88%** of the refugee population lives amongst host communities

**12%** live in informal settlements

### Why “NASEEJ?”

“NASEEJ” (“weaving”) is the translation of mechanisms in need of strengthening on both national and grassroots levels with the goal of fostering social and protective structural cohesion, whilst simultaneously strengthening partnerships with all relevant stakeholders in GBV prevention sector in Lebanon.

“NASEEJ” aims to respond to structural gaps in the GBV response in order to ensure a better quality of life, free of violence, for all women and children in Lebanon. To this end, this project mainly aims to strengthen national prevention, empowerment and protection mechanisms, as well as inter-sectoral partnerships with the respective ministries (such as the Ministry of Social Affairs, MoSA, the Ministry of Public Health, MoPH, and the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, Mol), and other local and national organizations and bodies working in this domain in Lebanon.

### How?

“NASEEJ” works on developing a sustainable response mechanism to prevent GBV by means of enabling multi-sectoral governmental intervention strategies and engaging all major stakeholders in society, including ministries, local and national GBV service providers, UN Agencies, as well as NGOs responding to the Syrian Crisis.

“NASEEJ” will respond to the multiple dimensions of GBV in Lebanon through:

1. Better equipping national inter-sectoral structures to respond to the GBV needs of women on the medium and long-term
2. Enhancing gender-sensitive and quality media coverage on issues related to women in conflict/post conflict setups and affected by GBV
3. Improving access to quality and inclusive services for women, men, and child survivors of or at risk of GBV
4. Enhancing youth access to knowledge and services platforms to positively discuss sexual education, including SRHR, Clinical Management of Rape (CMR), and Child Marriage



## Project Partners:

### Ministries

- o Ministry of Social Affairs
- o Ministry of Public Health
- o Ministry of Interior and Municipalities

### Local/National NGOs

- o Tabyeen
- o Palestinian Women Humanitarian Organisation
- o Committee for the Follow-Up on Women's Issues
- o Women's Working League Association
- o Safadi Foundation
- o Marsa
- o Fe-Male
- o AFEL

“Producing a national code of ethics about gender-sensitive coverage is a need because most local media institutes lack the professional guidelines for media coverage.”

**Larissa Aoun, Sky News Arabia**

“It is very important not only to produce a code of ethics, but also to follow up with the institutes who endorsed it to ensure it is being put into practice.”

**Rita Chemali, NCLW**

“We truly appreciate the work that you are doing in producing such a document, and we are interested in being involved in its completion.”

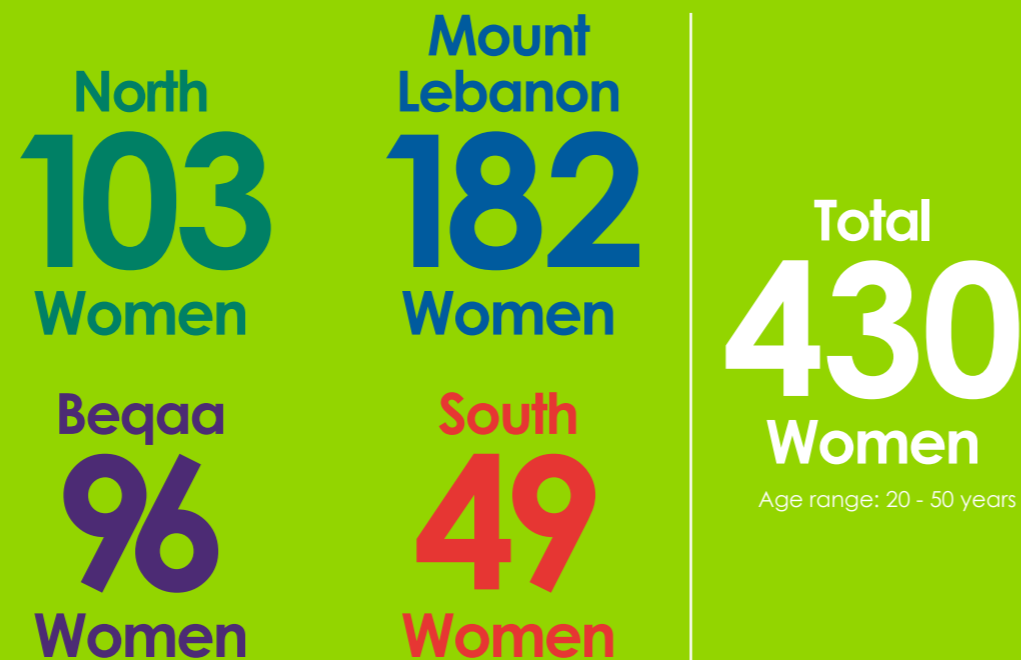
**Maurice Aek, BBC Media Action**



# Enhancing Gender Mainstreaming within WFP Livelihoods Programmes

## Community

Under the framework of WFP's Food for Training, ABAAD worked towards enhancing gender mainstreaming within WFP livelihoods programmes through the provision of basic life-skills training targeting 430 vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian refugee women. Additionally, one-off sessions primarily targeting vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian refugee men, covering concepts of gender equality and against Gender Based Violence under the Food for Assets and Food for Training programmes. The trainings took place in the North (Tripoli and Chekka), Bekaa (Zahle and Kfarzabad), Mount Lebanon (Ainab, Choueifat, Jbeil, and Ghobeiry), and South Lebanon (Bint Jbeil).



"At first, we thought that the sessions would only provide us with some information that we may or may not use. We had no idea just how much of a difference these sessions would make in our daily lives with our husbands and children."

L. H., Female, Lebanese

"I used to spend all my days sitting at home alone. After taking part in these activities, I finally have friends I can talk to."

J. F., Female, Syrian

## Service Providers

ABAAD facilitated a 3-day training workshop on conceptual frameworks of gender, GBV, and masculinities for WFP Livelihoods partners. A total of 17 participants from Akkar, Bekaa, Mount Lebanon, the North, and the South attended the training, which was followed by three separate TOTs.

The main objective of the tailored TOTs was to equip WFP staff members and partner staff with the skills to deliver or facilitate one-hour sessions on GBV, masculinities, and related issues using relevant ABAAD tools and resources.







# Masculinities Programme



diakonia

PEOPLE CHANGING THE WORLD

PREVENTION+



United Nations Trust Fund  
for Human Security



Norad



HIV/AIDS • GENDER EQUALITY • HUMAN RIGHTS



Norwegian People's Aid  
Lebanon



MenEngage Alliance  
working with men and boys for gender equality



PROMUNDO

A pioneer programme in Lebanon and the MENA region, the Masculinities Programme was one of ABAAD's first programmes, and is currently a cross-cutting component across all organisational programming. The programme targets men and women, both, in civil society organisations and in the general population, to increase awareness about masculinities, and masculine gender socialisation which transforms the way men and women understand manhood and masculinities. This in turn supports in promoting an identity for men which is more gender-equal and in line with women's empowerment, human rights, and non-violence.



# International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES) in the Middle East and North Africa



ABAAD, in partnership with Promundo and UN Women, kicked off a three-day regional conference on “Masculinities in the Arab World: Trajectories to Peace and Gender Equality” with the launching of the IMAGES MENA study.

IMAGES MENA is the first multi-country study in the Middle East and North Africa to take a wide-angle lens to the lives of men – as sons, husbands and fathers, at home and at work, in public and private life – to better understand how they see their positions as men and their attitudes toward gender equality. It also includes the perspectives of women, challenges many of the stereotypes commonly associated with men in these countries, and highlights pathways to equality.

The study included data collected from approximately 10,000 individuals in Egypt, Morocco, Lebanon (including Syrian refugees), and Palestine.

The launching revealed the research findings and took an honest look at what it means to be a man today in the four countries surveyed.



## Men and Women for Gender Equality

ABAAD, supported by UN Women, reached out to 12 new civil society organisations in Beirut and its surrounding and provided capacity building on working with women and men towards gender equality.

## Violence against women is a crime! Criminalise the act not the person!

ABAAD, supported by Norwegian People's Aid, reached 154 men and boys in the Bekaa and Beirut, and provided them with various services, including Stress and Anger Management workshops, Engendered Psychotherapy, and support groups, as a prevention mechanism to reduce GBV.

104 MEN & 50 boys

## “Engaging Men and Boys through community mobilisation and advocacy for gender equality and women’s rights”

With the support of NORAD, ABAAD worked with a total of 317 local community leaders and female and male youth populations across Lebanon on issues of child marriage through community mobilisation and advocacy for gender equality and women's rights.

259 MALE AND FEMALE YOUTH & 58 COMMUNITY LEADERS

# Production of a Case Study on the Implementations of Programme Ra

ABAAD, in partnership with SONKE and NORAD, published a case study on engaging men and boys in Gender Equality programming in Lebanon, titled “Program Ra – A Case Study of the First Implementation in Lebanon”.

Program Ra is a manual adapted to the local context by ABAAD from Promundo’s globally successful Programme H, and focuses on working with teenagers and young adult men on Gender, Masculinities, Femininities, and Gender Equality.

The case study is a comparative review of the first two implementations of the programme. One of the implementations used for this study was made possible through a project implemented with Promundo under the Womanity Foundation Award.

Direct link to the case study: <http://www.abaadmna.org/documents/ebook.1499692506.pdf>





## Enhance GBV protection and prevention mechanisms of women and girls in the most affected communities through enhancing quality access to psychosocial services

In partnership with UN Women and supported by the Human Security Fund, ABAAD held capacity building workshops (TOT) on masculinities and engaging men and boys in Gender Equality for 35 staff members from youth-led NGOs, and GBV awareness sessions for 90 men from the Bekaa, North, and South.

## ENGAGING SYRIAN MEN – PHASE II: A narrative project on exile and forced migration

Supported by DIAKONIA, ABAAD conducted support group sessions with a total of 90 Syrian men in Akkar and T5.

The sessions addressed the participants' experiences with exile and forced migration, and taught them to create complete narrative frames relevant to their personal stories.

The sessions also aimed to transform the narrative frames through creative settings (for example, documentaries).

## Psychosocial Support (PSS) for Men

In partnership with Concern Worldwide, and supported by DIAKONIA, ABAAD held six sessions of six support groups for Syrian men in Bedawi, Beit el Faqs, Berqayel, Kocha, and Sfiereh.

**Berqayel Group I**  
**20** men

**Berqayel Group II**  
**12** men

**Beit Elfaqs**  
**10** men

**Sfiereh**  
**15** men

**Kocha**  
**13** men

**Bedawi**  
**15** men



# Cross-Border Programme



This project is funded by the European Union



The Cross-Border Programme addresses the multiple psychological dimensions of the crisis and enables individuals and communities to improve their capacity to find meaning in their suffering and to transform their negative experiences. The strength and resilience centred approach used within this project has supported the capacities of affected communities inside Syria to cope with immediate needs emanating from the crisis, recover from its impacts, and sustain this recovery over the long-term.



Through networking, assessments, resource production, and conducting different capacity building workshops, ABAAD's Cross-Border Programme, funded by the European Union and entitled "Bel Salameh," operated over the course of two years, 2015 - 2017. It aimed to enhance the capacities of mental health practitioners, front-liners, social workers, and educators working directly with beneficiaries, and medical practitioners, to provide better relevant services to the residents of Syria. Additionally, the programme has targeted youth change-makers through art-based trainings for promoting peace messaging, tolerance, acceptance, and overall social cohesion.

## Overall Reach 2015 - 2017:

Over 3000

applications from all Syrian governorates received

Indirect beneficiaries:

1,805

trained by Bel Salameh TOT participants

Direct beneficiaries from 11 Syrian governorates:

101

Mental Health practitioners and psychiatrists

701

case managers and case workers

22

medical doctors

120

youth change-makers

## Trainings:

2

Narrative Exposure Therapy (NET)

1

Mental Health in Extreme Adversities

1

Family Systemic Counselling

1

Self Care Training of Trainers

5

PFA and mhGAP in 4 Syrian governorates

2

Trainings

1

TOT (over 30 training days) on working with Children and Families through based PSS techniques and interactive forum theatre. These trainings were then replicated by TOT participants in Syria with hundreds of participants

1

Clinical Management of Rape TOT for medical doctors

5

Trainings for youth change-makers (painting and expression through art, graffiti (2), Forum theatre, physical theatre). The trainings utilised different art/PSS techniques to promote messages of peace, tolerance, and resilience, and addressed 24 contextually-relevant topics.

6

Youth-led public events following the change-maker trainings.



## Resources Developed:

- Two rapid participatory needs and capacity assessments in English and Arabic: "Self-Care Needs and Resources of MHPSS Workers in Syria" and "Capacity Needs and Resources of Mental Health Practitioners in Syria" (put covers)
- "The MHPSS Training Pack" which includes two manuals, the MH Manual, and the PSS Manual, in English and Arabic (covers)
- Two helpdesks (GBV Case Management and Mental Health)
- GBV CMiE Distance Learning Course
- Community Leaflets

**3000 leaflets**

about 3 different MH disorders

**1000 calendars**

with images from Syria and messages of resilience

\* All resources can be found on the ABAAD website



المفروض  
Al Mafroud  
"The Enforced / What Should Be"

## Documentary: "Al Mafroud"

(A play on words meaning both "the imposed" and "what should be") is a documentary produced by ABAAD with the support of the European Union.

The 30-minute film highlights the effects of the war in Syria on conventional gender role transformation through focusing on first-hand narratives of four families/individuals from Syria. Each of the different stories takes us on a journey of displacement, lessons learnt, empowerment, and powerful change.

"Al Mafroud" was officially launched in December 2017, in the presence of a number of local governmental and non-governmental, regional, and international stakeholders.

check out ABAAD YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UODnpskWkkQ>





# Sexualities and Sexual and Reproductive Health Programme



University of Colorado Boulder



The SRHR and Sexualities Programme focuses on sexualities and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) issues as essential means to holistically address social factors that contribute to GBV against women, men, girls, boys, and persons with alternative sexualities.

Since its establishment, the programme's work has focused on the subtopics of girls' autonomy and agency, as well as combating sexual gender-based violence.



# Empowering displaced communities to prevent intimate partner abuse

In partnership with Colorado University and with the support of BPRM, ABAAD carried out an evaluation of a messaging intervention designed to change attitudes, promote help-seeking, and improve well-being in Lebanon and Malaysia. The evaluation activities took place with Syrian women and men residing in Al Marj, Zahle (Bekaa) through the following:

- 4 Focus Group Discussions: 40 persons in Lebanon
- 37 Individual interviews in Lebanon:
  - 21 Females
  - 16 Males
- Community workshops in Lebanon:
  - 2 Female groups / 30 Participants
  - 2 Male groups / 30 Participants

- 6 Service providers
- 13 Community leaders
- 12 Female community members
- 9 Male community members

- 15 Malaysian females
- 15 Malaysian males
- 14 Service providers

# Enhancing GBV prevention and protection mechanisms for girls on CEFM in Lebanon

Supported by the Global Fund for Women, ABAAD carried out a number of activities aiming to enhance GBV prevention and protection for girls subject to child, early, and forced marriage. The target populations in communities located in in Beirut, Bekaa, and the North were as follows:

- Child brides (95 through a qualitative study and direct services at Al Dar)
- Front-liners and community leaders working on CEFM (21 attending training)
- General community members (150 in Beirut, 127 in Bekaa, 120 in the North targeted by community actions)

In addition to the above, a blog was created and launched, which logs stories of child brides. Read all stories at: <http://www.abaadmena.org/stories>



“I am a child. How could it be okay for me to have a child myself?”



watch the full film on: <https://youtu.be/mszl0vb8h5s>

## Baseline Assessment: SGBV Trends, Risk Factors and Coping Mechanisms among Syrian Refugee Communities in the Bekaa-Lebanon

Supported by the UNHCR, ABAAD carried out a baseline assessment with Syrian communities residing within the North, West, and Central Bekaa.

A total of

240

Individuals (including persons with disabilities) were targeted through FGDs

/ 29

Individuals through one-on-one interviews



The background consists of a grid of red circles on a dark red background. The circles are arranged in two rows of five. The circles in the top row are slightly larger than those in the bottom row. The circles are semi-transparent, allowing the dark red background to show through. The text 'Advocacy and Policy Development' is centered in the bottom row of circles.

# Advocacy and Policy Development



ABAAD believes that addressing GBV and promoting gender equality require the comprehensive and coordinated efforts of a number of actors, primarily governmental and non-governmental organisations.

Having had a core role within local and international working groups and taskforces since its establishment (including co-chairing alongside MoSA the National Technical Task Force to End GBV against Women and Girls), ABAAD has been proactively engaged in fostering policy dialogue and development to address GBV and VAW.

ABAAD uses advocacy tools to ensure the development, modification and implementation of policies against gender-based violence, to ensure that fair policies, laws and legislation - especially during conflicts - protect women and girls.

ABAAD gained an ECOSOC special consultative status in 2016.

## Construction and Unveiling of Monument Commemorating Victims of Domestic Violence

In commemoration of women victims of domestic violence and marking the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, ABAAD, in partnership with the National Commission of Lebanese Women and UN Women, dedicated a memorial statue placed on the highway leading to the Presidential Palace in Baabda.

The statue was unveiled by the President of the Lebanese Republic General Michel Aoun, with the participation of:

- The United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Mr. Philippe Lazzarini
- The Regional Director of UN Women, Mr. Mohammad Naciri

And with the remarkable presence of:

- The Minister of State for Women's Affairs HE Jean Oghassabian
- The Minister of Social Affairs HE Pierre Bou Assi

**“Violence against women is an act of barbarism and an absence of human conscience that man has not yet been able to get rid of. One of my goals as president is to eliminate the legal differences between men and women, although this is a small step towards eliminating gender-based violence.**

**Today we are unveiling the monument for both men and women to see. And when they see this monument, men should remember that they should apologise to women who have been abused, both their acquaintances and across the nation.”**

President  
Michel Aoun



**“It is painful to see that 1 in 4 women experiences sexual abuse. It is painful to see that every month, a woman is killed. We are demanding our full citizenship rights.**

**This statue is proof of President Aoun’s commitment to end violence against women.”**

Ghida Anani,  
ABAAD Director





# 16 Days of Activism against GBV: #LifeForLife Campaign 2017



## Nation-wide awareness campaign

1450 billboards and 54 Unipoles throughout Lebanon



318,100 engaged with online campaign posts

4.6 million people outreached nationally and regionally, **both online and offline.**



Tens of women contacted ABAAD seeking GBV case management and other GBV-related services



Meetings with stakeholders, policy makers, and political leaders, which aimed at discussing potential ways of issuing policies, statements, and memos to ensure the protection of women and girls from all forms of violence:

- Lebanese President
- Ministry of Women's Affairs
- Ministry of Social Affairs
- Lebanese Internal Security Forces
- National Commission for Lebanese Women



4 official statements focused on condemning all forms of GBV and emphasising the necessity to expedite national efforts and processes to adapt a NAP on UNSCR 1325. The statements were issued by:

- Deputy UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon **Mr. Philippe Lazzarini**
- Minister of State for Women's Affairs **HE Jean Oghassabian**
- Head of the National Commission for Lebanese Women **Ms. Claudine Aoun**
- **President Michel Aoun** – in addition to the statement, the Lebanese President spoke against GBV; this was followed by lighting the presidential palace orange as a sign to “Leave No One Behind”

High-level visits to Al Dar shelters; during one such visit, the president of the NCLW stated that “it was about time to call upon the endorsement of a National Action Plan for UNSCR 1325 in Lebanon to ensure prevention, participation and protection of women from all forms of GBV during armed conflict.”

On the occasion of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, ABAAD, The National Commission for Lebanese Women, and UN Women launched the #LifeForLife campaign. This campaign aimed to amend Chapter 7 of the Lebanese Penal Code into a law that maximises prison sentences of perpetrators of incest rape.



The call is to amend the law that condemns any offender found guilty of sexual assault towards a daughter, sister, granddaughter, niece, or any person of whom he has physical or legal custody, with a life sentence in prison.

Incest rape is one of the most dangerous and most widespread forms of rape and sexual assault in Lebanon. Security sources in the country indicate that “the unreported numbers of this crime are much higher than those that are reported, largely due to the circumstances of the attacks happening within a family, in remote areas or refugee camps, which makes it more difficult to know the accurate number of assaults committed each year.”



## “1 IN 4 WOMEN IN LEBANON HAS REPORTED A SEXUAL ASSAULT.”

“The primary goal of this campaign is to push decision-makers and legislators to amend Chapter 7 of the Penal Code to sentence perpetrators of incest rape to life imprisonment. We also aim to raise women’s awareness on the necessity of reporting sexual abuse, particularly due to the detrimental psychological damage that incest crimes leave on girls and women, which may even lead to suicide.”

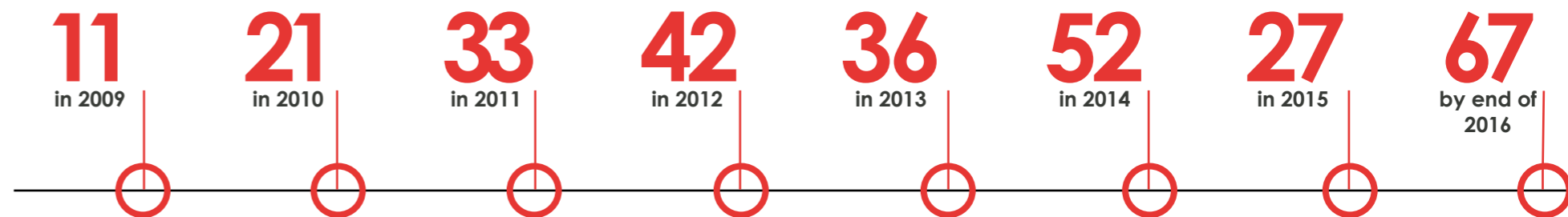
**Ghida Anani,**  
ABAAD Director

“I went through unbearable pain trying to make sense of what was happening to me. I lived in constant fear and became isolated and silent all the time. I preferred solitude to avoid talking about it. It affected my results at school and my teachers told my mother about my grades. Unaware of what was happening, she blamed and punished me.”

**Sumaiya,**  
A survivor of repeated sexual assault by her father

The latest figures have shown that rape crime reporting in Lebanon has increased in recent years.

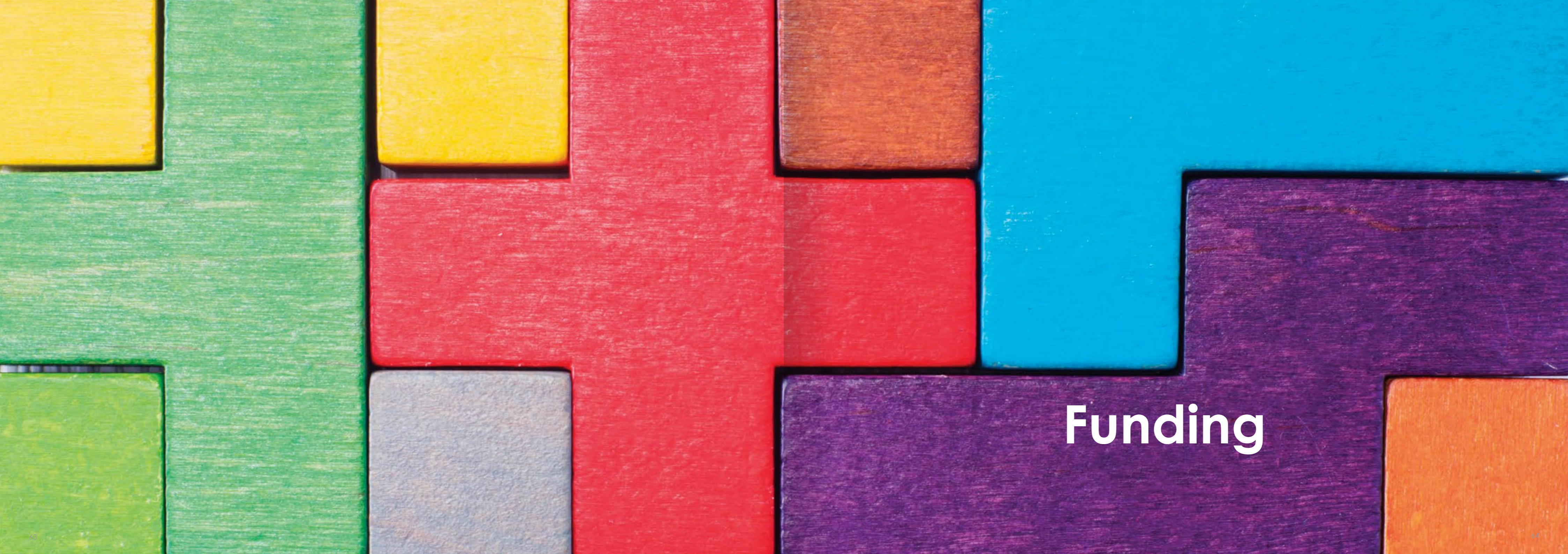
The number of reported cases has risen from



### rape crimes reported,

with the majority of assaults being committed by perpetrators who are familiar to the victim, be it family members, neighbours, or co-workers. It is also common among attackers to commit assaults in places that the victims are familiar with and in which they feel safe.





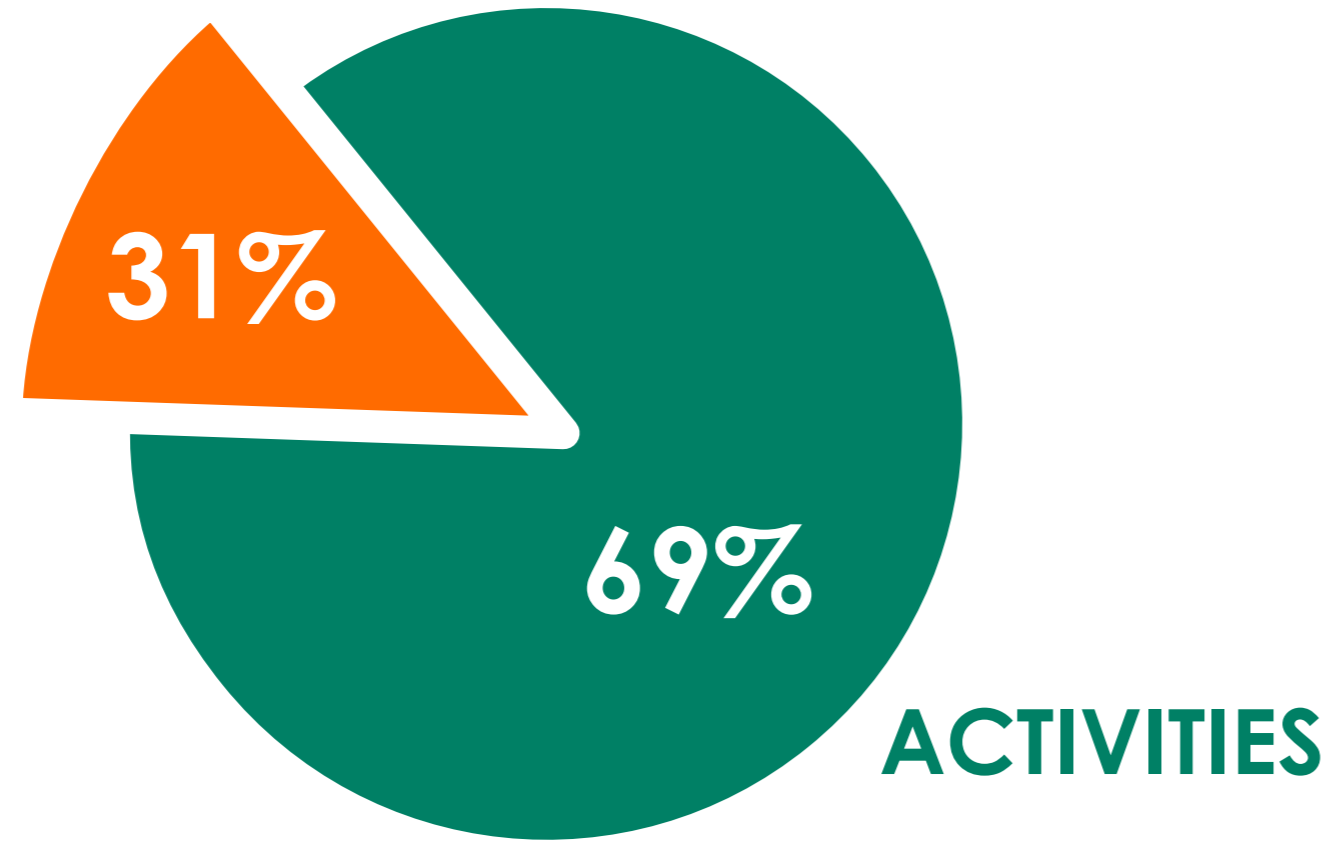
# Funding



Funding received in 2017

**\$7,194,349.00**

**CORE  
BURN**



Thank you for making this journey towards change possible!

*The **Abzed** Team*



# Acronyms



<b>CEFM</b>	Child, Early, and Forced Marriage
<b>CMR</b>	Clinical Management of Rape
<b>COC</b>	Code of Conduct
<b>CP</b>	Child Protection
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organisation
<b>ECOSOC</b>	United Nations Economic and Social Council
<b>EVAW</b>	Ending Violence against Women
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-Based Violence
<b>HSF</b>	Human Security Fund
<b>ISF</b>	Internal Security Forces
<b>MENA</b>	Middle East and North Africa

<b>MoSA</b>	Ministry of Social Affairs
<b>NAP</b>	National Action Plan
<b>NCA</b>	Norwegian Church Aid
<b>NCLW</b>	National Commission for Lebanese Women
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental organisation
<b>SRHR</b>	Sexual and reproductive health and rights
<b>TOTs</b>	Training of trainers
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNSCR</b>	United Nations Security Council Resolution
<b>VAW</b>	Violence against Women
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme



أبجد  
abjad



51 Bustani Str., Sector 2, Najjar Bldg, Furn El Chebbak  
P.O. Box 50-048 Beirut Lebanon  
+961 1 28 38 20/1 | +961 70 28 38 20  
[abaad@abaadmena.org](mailto:abaad@abaadmena.org)  
[www.abaadmena.org](http://www.abaadmena.org)

    /abaadmena