PARTNERS FOR JUSTICE

Since joining the Partners for Justice project, Mohammad has changed the perceptions he holds regarding gender roles and norms. By learning about sex and gender through a scientific, logical lens, his comprehension has grown, as has his desire to share his newfound knowledge with others around him, especially his wife. Partners for Justice provided Mohammad with opportunities to dive safely and deeply into the complex topics of sex and gender:

Empowered by his experience in the Partners for Justice project, Mohammad courageously made changes to his life. In response to the patriarchal environment their children were growing up in, Mohammad and his wife moved their family and have successfully limited their children’s exposure to traditional, repressive ideologies.

I became more determined to move forward with my work and spread awareness as much as possible to help people in my area get rid of the cultural and social legacies that increase men’s control over and violence against women, and reinforce patriarchal authority.

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I would like to thank Search and the project team for giving me this unique opportunity to participate in all of the project’s activities, especially the training and the workshops, which significantly changed my personal and professional life. This helped me accept the second name my father chose for me [Enaam], which I had suffered from for many years in my life because the name is usually given to girls.
His participation has helped him to explore gender issues critically, and has improved the way he communicates with his mother, sister, wife, and other women in his life. These experiences, alongside his own self determination, improved his confidence and strengthened his resolve to teach his children about the true partnership between men and women.

"My son loves to play with kitchen utensils and my daughter wears her brother's clothes. Based on this, I no longer bring my son toys he does not like simply because they suit his gender! The same thing applies to my daughter, Asinat."

Professionally, the training Mohammad received prepared him for positive interactions with his colleagues when discussing gender-related concepts. The skills and capacities Mohammad honed enabled him to pass this train along to his colleagues, and instilled a passion for supporting projects that reduce violence and abuse against girls.

"After each training, I shared everything I learned with my wife and we discussed it together. I feel a lot of joy when I get moral appreciation from my management at work. I also notice I bring an added value to the association through the capacity building I am contributing to alongside the human resources unit. I am very thankful to the Search project team for the empowering opportunities offered to us. They helped me facilitate training sessions in a more effective manner. My approach to cultural and social topics has changed. I noticed the negative impact of normative socialization on individuals and their daily behaviors. Working with the Search team made me feel proud of myself and the shift that I did. I truly love what I do and the change I am experiencing within my work and my family."

**Search** is the world’s largest dedicated peacebuilding organization, and supports programming in 32 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, South America, the Middle East, and the United States. Search’s mission is to transform the way the world deals with conflict from adversarial means to shared solutions. Search has worked in Lebanon since 1996 through a diverse array of programming, including social cohesion, peace education, and media production.

**ABAAD** is a non-governmental organization that aims to achieve gender equality as an essential condition to sustainable social and economic development in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region. ABAAD advocates for the development and implementation of policies and laws that enhance women’s effective participation. With the purpose of ending gender-based violence, ABAAD further adopts a holistic care approach providing protection and support services to Gender Based Violence (GBV) survivors.