Before the project, I did not have the chance to discuss these topics with my family or friends. It is considered a taboo to actually talk about sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and gender equality. Now, I believe that it is part of my responsibility to encourage people in my community to raise their voices, ask and get the chance to learn about their rights, especially girls and women.

Through her participation in the Partners for Justice project, Qamar started rethinking her role as a woman living in a conservative community. She was engaged in the capacity building and development program and attended consecutive informative sessions about gender and masculinities, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), and safe identification and referral of cases of SGBV along with receiving a training of trainers (ToT) about gender training facilitation skills, all of which motivated her to play the role of a gender equality ally in her community surpassing all traditional and cultural barriers.

Qamar became more comfortable to disseminate the evidence-based information and knowledge that she learned during her commitment to this project, with other women and girls within her community. In fact, she led the facilitation of several sensitization sessions about SRHR and encouraged participating women, men, girls and boys to ask and learn about their sexual health without feeling ashamed.

A gynecologist who knows my mother attended one of the training sessions I was delivering about SRHR. Her feedback & appreciation made my mother feel proud instead of feeling ashamed that I am discussing sensitive topics in a conservative community.

The knowledge and skills Qamar acquired throughout the project increased her presence as an active woman in her community. Nowadays, community members including her family, friends, neighbors, and relatives contact her to get information related to SGBV and sexual and reproductive health - especially about the menstrual cycle, breast and cervical cancers and other relevant topics.
On a personal level, Qamar has reshaped her character based on all the knowledge and skills that she gained throughout the span of the project. She got married and is now confident to voice her opinion and beliefs in her relationship with her husband, she also learned to contribute equally to any family-related decision. As such, she was able to project all that she learned and shift her attitude towards her social role as a woman with her intimate partner as well as with her parents. Qamar intends to resume her job after marriage and will follow family planning as she sees appropriate.

Qamar’s developed personality grounded her presence in her community, and acquired skills fostered her growth in her current position as a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) officer. Qamar leveraged all the learned techniques and skills from the M&E workshop implemented under the project to enhance her performance at work; especially in tasks related to creating goals, objectives, and indicators in the project’s logical framework. This gave her advantage and was reflected by her manager, who delegated new advanced technical tasks to Qamar, as an indication of enhanced trust and accountability. Moreover, the manager is now keen to take Qamar’s opinion into account during the planning and implementation of any project or initiative.

"This was a learning experience, I got to work with people from outside Arsal and make new friends who I learned a lot from. I am grateful for such an experience."

The project was a milestone in Qamar’s journey. It was accompanied by an exchange of experience and knowledge with people from different nationalities and cultural backgrounds that Qamar benefited from to make new friendships and widen her network and connections, making it an unforgettable journey that will escort Qamar all throughout her future endeavors.

"It’s not an exaggeration if I say that the “Partners for Justice” project is a turning point in my life. The period of my participation in the project was the best in my life, I have grown on a personal, professional and social level."

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.