JULY 2022

PEACEBUILDING PROGRAMS: MONTHLY RESULTS IN LEBANON!

In a released statement, member of Parliament Cynthia Zarazair said that “women MPs should think of ways to protect their own physical safety in the Parliament, after the Parliament did not take any actions upon receiving complaints of harassment.” Accordingly, Amnesty International Tweeted that “It is shameful that Lebanese women MPs, especially those who criticize the authorities, are experiencing harassment by their male counterparts and by the Speaker himself only and simply because they are women in a men-dominated parliament.”

The Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) together with the United Nations in Lebanon has launched the second window of its financial support to eight women-led organizations in Lebanon that are working on community peacebuilding in Lebanon, as part of strengthening their institutional capacity and maximizing peacebuilding results.

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.

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Youth-led Initiatives

Seven initiatives were implemented by the partner CSOs and their youth representatives during July. The initiatives aimed at engaging men and boys in adopting and promoting equitable masculinities. More specifically, the initiatives focused on raising awareness on sexual and reproductive health and rights to community members in efforts of promoting positive behaviors in different communities. This will encourage community members, especially men and boys, change opinions and perceptions towards sexual and reproductive health and rights and are engaged in promoting positive sexual behaviors in their communities.

A few of the initiatives implemented are presented below:

“You Can” is an awareness raising initiative targeting youth in the North of Lebanon between the ages of 15 and 20 to empower them and raise their awareness about gender and SRHR.

“Joo my Al Hat”, or “part of the solution”, is an initiative implemented by NABAD CSO in the Bekaa region. It consisted of a marathon activity followed by a debate between the youth on different topics from Program Fla on SRHR such as family planning, violence and drug addiction.

“Let’s change together” is an initiative implemented by Jossour Al Nour; a partner CSO located in Arsal area. The initiative aimed to raise awareness on gender based violence (GBV), breastfeeding, drug abuse, breast cancer, stress management and other relevant topics. It targeted a group of 15 female and male youth participants, from Lebanese and Syrians nationalities aged between 17 and 21 years.

Mouawad, a partner CSO located in Nahr El Bared Camp in North of Lebanon implemented an initiative “Taxi bala ta’arah” meaning “taxi without harassment”. It targeted male taxi drivers and youth from the camp in the aim of raising their awareness about the definition, types and consequences of sexual harassment through the dissemination of legal information and other training sessions.

Youth leader representing the CSO team conducting an awareness session on gender stereotypes.

“Thank you for offering the youth this space to discuss sensitive topics that they can’t possibly discuss in their families. I’m very happy with the discussion we had. I learned a lot and I look forward to attending more sessions.” - Male youth participant from North Lebanon.

Youth leader representing the CSO team leading a discussion about drug abuse and its link to violence.

A youth leader from Jossour Al Nour conducting an awareness raising about reproductive rights in a group of teens and female youth from Arsal.

The focal point representing Mouawad CSO leading an information session discussing the law number 289 against sexual harassment.