





GBV Sub sector report for 16 days of activism 25th November to 10th December 2018

Background

What is 16 days?

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence is an international campaign emanating from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute coordinated by the Center for Women's Global Leadership in 1991. Participants chose the dates November 25- International Day Against Violence Against Women- and December 10-International Human Rights Day- in order to symbolically link violence against women and human rights and to emphasize that such violence is a violation of human rights. This 16-day period also highlights other significant dates including November 29, International Women Human Rights Defenders Day, December 1st, World AIDS Day.

In light of the above, the 16 days' campaign takes place every year from the 25th of November to the 10th of December as a strategy used by individuals, organizations, and groups around the world to call for the elimination of all forms of violence against women by:

- Raising awareness about gender-based violence as a human rights issue at the local, national, regional and international levels
- Strengthening local work around violence against women
- Establishing a clear link between local and international work to end violence against women
- Demonstrating solidarity with women around the world through organizing campaigns to stop violence against women

The 2018 theme was on **"End Gender Based Violence in the world of work"** "أمانة ومساواة في المنزل والعمل وكل مكان which underscores the importance of equality and safety, active involvement of men and boys as well as women and girls in preventing GBV at home, community and work place.

Main highlights of the achievements during the campaign in Syria

- The Minister of Social affairs and Labour, Ms. Reema Khadil in presence of UNFPA Country Representative, Mr Karen Daduryan as the lead agency of the GBV Sub Sector and Dr Akram Al-Kash, Head of Syrian Commission for Family Association and Population(SCFAP) opened a Bazar¹ in Damascus(picture#1)
- Governor of Al Hasakeh (Mr Jaiez Sawadah Al Hmod Al Mossa) in presence of Chief of Police, the Director of Social Affairs and Labour (Mr Essam Rashid Al-Hussin) and GBV Sub sector partners opened and participated in a joint exhibition staged by UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNDP in Qamisily where women products were displayed and sold. Some of them spoke during the exhibition event about the rights of women in society, women equality and safety(picture#4)
- The Deputy Governor Mr. George Hanna of Tartous together with Director Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour Mrs. Afraa Ahmad, chairman of Board of Directors ALBATTOL Dr. Ghannwa Khaddour, participated in the closing ceremony of 16 days in a Tartous where he honoured and presented gifts to 16 beneficiaries(picture#2)
- Staff of the Directorate of Social Affairs and Labour facilitated a GBV awareness trainings to staff of the deaf and mute institute in Aleppo
- UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA jointly coordinated the 16 days' activities through their implementing partners in Qamishli
- The GBV Sub Sector partners conducted the 16 days' campaigns in 13 out of 14 governorates (except Idleb) with more than 600,000 people (women, men, boys and girls) reached
- Men football matches at Municipal stadium where women were among the spectators, something that is unusual in Qamishli because women culturally are not allowed to watch football matches particularly in stadiums. The stadium was decorated with orange balloons and players as well as spectators were also given orange balloons. The orange balloons were chosen because orange is a colour designated by the UN Secretary-General's UNITE to End Violence against Women hence symbolised the 16 days' campaigns
- Men were put into a cooking competition in North East Syria (<u>Ras Al-Ain City</u>) to make meals for their wives as a way to mitigate the cultural stereotypes around gender roles where the act of cooking for men is perceived inappropriate in Syria(picture#38)
- Several women participated in backgammon tournament while a number of men were engaged in a cooking event in Tartous and Lattakia, again to overcome some of the gendered stereotypes in the Syrian society

¹ Bazar is a form of a small market where women made products were displayed and sold. Due some bureaucratic challenges the bazar took place 13-15 December 2018

The campaign activities

The campaign activities focussed mainly on raising awareness of the negative impacts of violence against women, adolescents' boys and girls, children and people with disabilities.

The activities included:

- GBV awareness sessions
- GBV trainings
- Educative discussions on legal concerns particularly women legal rights
- Interactive talks on women health subjects
- Exhibitions of women made products for sale (as form of economic empowerment)
- Sports for women and men including cooking competition for men
- Vocational trainings
- Women self-defence and stress management lessons amongst others
- GBV Mainstreaming and risk mitigation training across sectors 09/12/18 and 26/11/2018

These activities were executed through several methods that comprised;

- Social media platforms (what-sup/facebook/tweeter messaging, TV advertisements, interviews and radio discussions)
- Road bill boards
- Songs and dances
- Fine art- wall drawings
- Cinema shows
- Street marching using placards and banners
- Children theatre performances
- Puppet theatre shows
- Open day events and bazars
- Empowerment courses (computer learnings/ GBV trainings/ etc)

Some of the GBV awareness messages that were aired/ shared (via placards/banners/brochures) during the campaigns encompassed;

- •We all have a role to play in ending gender-based violence in education لكل منا دورٌ يلتزم به لإنهاء العنف القائم على النوع الاجتماعي من خلال التعليم
- •With awareness and empowerment our voice will reach the whole world سكننا إيصال صوتنا للعالم عن طريق نشر الوعي والتمكين
- •You are stronger with your job, don't let your work be the reason for others to abuse
- عملك يجعلك أقوى، لا تدعى عملك يكون سببا للآخرين للإساءة لك
- •Feeling safe is your right no matter where you are

.من حقك الشعور بالأمان، أينما كنتي

CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES BY GOVERNORATES

- Open day bazar that was opened by Minister of Social affairs and Labour Ms.
 Reema Khadil in presence of UNFPA Country Representative, Mr Karen Daduryan
 as the lead agency of the GBV Sub Sector and Dr Akram Al-Kash, Head of Syrian
 Commission for Family Association and Population(SCFAP) where women products
 were exhibited and sold as a form of women economic empowerment (picture#1)
- Vocational training for women and girls on life and livelihood skills
- Basic self-defence lessons targeting women and adolescent girls
- Legal sessions on women rights and issues of equality
- GBV awareness through mass media (TV talks) and fine arts where women and men drew pictures on walls to sensitize people on GBV
- Recreational activities such as sports where both women and men participated
- Cinema and theatre shows on GBV forms such as early and forced marriages
- Open discussions on safety and equality at home, work and open day events that involved people with disabilities and their parents
- Stress management forums and interactive health awareness sessions on women related diseases and prevention methods
- GBV mainstreaming training to sector partners (protection/nutrition and food security) which aimed at raising GBV awareness to sector partners in line with the 16 days' theme
- GBV awareness sessions through Children theatre plays (pictures #8/11/32)

Rural Damascus

- GBV awareness sessions through Children theatre plays
- Legal sessions on women rights and issues of equality
- GBV sensitization to the general public through fine art
- Stress management forums and interactive health awareness sessions on women related diseases and prevention methods

Aleppo

- GBV awareness training that was conducted by staff of the Directorate of Social Affairs and Labour to staff of deaf and mute institute
- GBV sensitization to the general public on different forms of GBV through fine art (paintings and drawings) that was done by women (picture#37)
- Puppet theatre shows to raise awareness against women abuse and sexual harassment
- Musical concerts to highlight the fundamental roles women play in society and why violence against women should be stopped
- Village talk shows (Hakawati) where elders shared stories on the history of their villages (picture#36)
- Street marches where women held placards and banners with GBV awareness messages (picture#34)
- Interactive GBV awareness trainings targeting students and university lecturers of Aleppo University

- Discussions on women rights to work
- Distribution of GBV awareness brochures at GBV awareness sessions and in the Aleppo streets to women/men passers-by
- Exhibition of women made products in small bazars for sale (a form of women economic empowerment and a mitigation measures against economic related violence)
- A mobile band staged a public show to mark the 16 days campaign
- UNFPA organised a workshop on the concepts of Reproductive health and Family Protection issues in cooperation with the Ministry of Higher Education and the University of Aleppo

Homs

- Chess courses for disabled and widowed women from the Women and Girls Safe Spaces (picture#16)
- A bazar where women from women and girls safe spaces displayed and sold their products
- GBV awareness sensitizations particularly on early marriages and sexual harassment
- Health awareness talks on first aid and reproductive health
- Self-defence lessons targeting women and adolescent girls
- Interactive theatre performances and distribution of GBV awareness brochures
- Orientation sessions to youth and children on GBV awareness booklet developed by UNICEF(picture#12)
- Legal awareness sessions to inform women of their rights in marriage, education and maternity entitlements according to the Syrian law

Hama

The launch of the 16 days was done by lighting of Masayf Castle at night (picture#3)

- GBV awareness particularly on sexual harassment at public transport bus stations
- Legal awareness sessions on the impact of Syrian national law to women rights
- Health education sessions on reproductive health
- Musical and theatre performances to sensitize people on GBV and exhibition/selling of women made products at bazars

Tartous and Latakia

- Street performances and decorations of community centre to launch the 16 days' campaigns
- A GBV awareness march in the streets of Tartous and lattakia where participants carried placards and banners with GBV awareness messages
- A cooking competition event and backgammon tournament for several men and women respectively to overcome some of the gendered stereotypes on women and men roles

- Interactive talks on equal rights between women and men to job opportunities
- Legal awareness sessions on women rights including rights to access education
- Sports (marathons-both women/men, and football marches-men only, and car rally) for both women and men
- Learning sessions on how to maintain household appliances.

In closing the 16 days' events, the GBV sub sector partners invited the Deputy Governor Mr. George Hanna of Tartous who participated together with Director Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor Mrs. Afraa Ahmad, Dr.Ghannwa Khaddour, chairman of Board of Directors ALBATTOL in a ceremony that was marked by speech from the Dr Ghannwa(picture#2),GBV awareness theatre performances, sharing of personal experiences in respect of the "Do no harm principle" by some beneficiaries to the audience present and exhibitions of products made by women who benefitted from vocational trainings at Women and Girls Safe Spaces. One of the personal stories shared in the ceremony included; how a beneficiary who benefited from WGSS vocational trainings applied hairdressing skill by opening her own saloon.

Al Hasakeh- <u>Qamishli</u> (North East Syria)

In Qamisily, UNFPA, UNDP, UNHCR, and UNICEF jointly coordinated activities of this year's 16 days' campaign through their implementing partners. Remarkably, the Governor of Al Hasakeh Mr. Jaiez Sawadah Al-Hmod Al-Mossa in presence of Chief of Police and GBV Sub sector partners opened a joint exhibition organised by UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF and UNDP where products made by women were displayed and sold.

Al-Hasakah city

- Governor of Al Hasakeh (Mr Jaiez Sawadah Al Hmod Al Mossa) in presence of Chief
 of Police, the Director of Social Affairs and Labour (Mr Essam Rashid Al-Hussin)
 opened and participated in a joint exhibition staged by UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA
 and UNDP where women products were displayed and sold. Some of them spoke
 during the exhibition event about the rights of women in society, women equality
 and safety (picture#4)
- Mobilisation of people at Al Nasra square while holding banners with the 16 days' logo and balloons along with GBV awareness brochures
- GBV awareness sessions that targeted adolescents' boys and girls in Al-Mwahadah and Al-Amal Schools respectively
- Women open day competition which involved a question and answer competitions around the topic of GBV in Church hall where women who answered questions correctly were awarded gifts. The competitions were opened by songs, dances and GBV awareness speeches
- Women spectated football matches organised during the campaigns in Qamishli which is unusual in Qamishli
- GBV awareness sessions about sexual exploitation to women and men in church hall

- GBV sensitization through fine art where women and men painted and drew meaningful pictures on walls of buildings in the city to raise GBV awareness
- A marathon where girls, women, boys and men ran together(picture#24)
- An open day GBV awareness session for people with disabilities and their care givers
- A reality talk show (at cultural centre) on women rights that was moderated by a lawyer and a sheikh in the cultural center where participants shared experiences regarding equality between women and men
- Sports event day (in the cultural centre) where women and men participated in athletics, gymnastics, karate and basketball

Areesha Camp and nearby Villages

- Women through fine art, artistic drawings and crafts (that were attached in a cloth line) raised awareness about violence and the need to break silence to end violence against women
- Adolescent boys and girls participated in the Kit runners game (you are able to fly) that aimed at encouraging young people to live in an environment free of violence
- Women and men were invited into cinema shows that cast (showed) documentaries about gender based violence and why it is important to end violence against women
- Young women and men drew sketches to demonstrate some of the violence that women face at home and work
- Discussions and talks about women rights and equality between women and men were organised in a special day referred to a day of planting hope
- The WGSS team raised awareness on the importance of women to raise their voice and ask for their rights through a circle of equality demo
- Women and girls were oriented on self-defence techniques, a form of empowerment against violence
- "Let me choose sessions" was organised where early marriage and how it negatively affects young girls was discussed at depth
- Poetry competitions, interactive theatre performance, expressions through fine art, storytelling sessions were organised in an open day at the Areesha camp where awareness on GBV and violence against women was done(picture#23)

Ras Al-Ain City and Mabroka Camp

- Joint exhibitions by UNHCR/UNFPA/UNICEF where products made by women were displayed
- GBV awareness sessions particularly targeting children and adolescents where discussions on topics such as my rights as woman, girl, equality to achieve peace, zero tolerance to violence everywhere were conducted
- Football match for women and girls in the western country side of the Ras Al Ain town
- Men were put into a competition to make a meal for their wives as a form of mitigating the cultural stereotypes that perceive the act of cooking for men inappropriate (picture#38)

Qamishli city and its rural areas:

- Awareness sessions about Gender Based Violence through interactive theatre performances that was done by youth
- Discussions on topics such as physical violence, psychological and emotional violence, equality between men and women in home and work place, emotional security, sexual harassment, let her live her childhood, economic violence, women's rights to choose intimate partner, intimate partner violence and domestic violence
- Exhibitions where handicrafts made by women were displayed and sold as a way to empower women economically and mitigate economic related violence(picture#18)
- GBV mainstreaming training to sector partners from nutrition, education, shelter, protection and WASH

Al-Hole Camp and Rural Hasakah-Tal Brak

- GBV awareness sessions targeting women, children, adolescent and caregivers, and men in Al Mahata center, Sawa Building and Al-Hole Camp respectively
- Interactive theatre and dances to raise GBV awareness
- Sensitizing people on violence against women using videos, photo displays and interactive games
- Scaling up RH services to women and men using mobile RH teams

Ar -Raqqa

- GBV awareness raising was done to Children and women in Ragga city
- RH services were scaled to women and men using mobile RH teams

Deir-ez-Zor

- Exhibition for women made products
- GBV awareness puppet theatre shows

Sweida

- A youth and women marathon and a street march that began in front of the tourist hotel building up to the square where young women and men held placards and banners with GBV awareness messages
- GBV awareness messages related to violence, health, psychological and legal issues as well the importance of bringing all people (women/men/boys and girls) together to address and prevent gender based violence
- GBV sensitization through wall painting, for example at the faculty of Agriculture in Sweida one of the partners mobile teams made a wall painting under the slogan of "my voice"
- Other activities comprised of sports, theatre shows, music performances, movies where youth and women participated

Quneitra

- GBV awareness sessions on topics such as gender equity, consequences of sexual abuse and intimate partner violence, to IDPs and the host communities through outdoor activities at open parks and shelters
- Medical and legal interactive sessions on women health subjects and rights

Dar'a

- GBV awareness campaigns through theatres shows, workshops, paintings, open day sport events, singings, dancing, seminars, cinemas.
- Capacity building (vocational) trainings on labour market skills targeting women

Some success stories collected in the 16 days' campaigns throughout Syria

Reham (Nickname): "It was a new experience, I never thought I can participate in football, or watch a life match. Who said football is for boys, I believe that it is my right to decide whatever sport I want to play, and next time in my sport class I will tell the teacher that I will join the football team".

Iman (Nickname): "Finally someone cared for us, and our children, we are always neglected, at the house at the community, and with a disabled child, things get worse, I am happy because they see me now, someone cared for me"

Fatima (Nickname): Expressed herself in, I am a female not a shame activity " I thought of suicide multiple times, I have lost my husband and my sons in the conflict, I am alone, a woman and alone can you imagine what that means in this community, I have lost all hopes, but when I was asked to participated in the campaign activities, I felt relief, I know now how I should fight for my rights and how it is not the end of the world if I was a woman".

Rahaf (Nickname): "I don't know why I felt hope, I felt that maybe, just maybe women can raise their heads and look for equality one day, that is how violence will go away. And I am thankful, because today I have little self-esteem, and I feel that I am able. I have abilities, I have rights, I should feel safe, and those are the things I should fight to get, because silence is not a solution".

Magda (Nickname): she is a house hold woman, who supports her entire family including her blind husband, she used to work in one of the sewing workshops, but due to her age and the age criteria set by the association, she was out of the workshop with no income. Her house has two rooms of mud, and cold has invaded. She has been called to participate in the joint exhibition by one GBV sub sector partner, and because she sold all her products, now she can buy diesel to have little warmth in her house for her and her family.

Aisha (Nickname): One of the woman who participated in the marathon "I was not the first or the second to arrive, but at least I tried, I was running side by side with children, men, even People with Disabilities, and for the first time I feel I belong and I am as equal as all. It was an overwhelming feeling.

Amina (Nickname): Today I felt as a Queen in this event, I felt strong, I can break mountains, I will hold my head high. We women are lofty as the oak trees".

Fatuma (not real name): I learned the English basics and became empowered, and encouraged my mother to join literacy courses"

Farah (not real name):" I benefited from the awareness sessions, especially on the topic of sexual harassment and I learned how to protect myself and my children from it

Some pictures² of the 16 days campaigns in Syria



Picture 1: Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Ms. Reema Khadil, UNFPA Country Representative Syria Mr. Karen Daduryan and SCFAP Head Dr. Akram Al- Kash opening Bazar in Damascus in the 16 days campaign



Picture 2: The Deputy Governor of Tartous Mr. George Hanna, Director ministry of social affairs and labour Mrs. Afraa Ahmad, Chairman of board of directors Albattol Dr. Ghannwa Khaddour in 16 days closing ceremony in Tartous-Courtesy of UNFPA-Al-Batoul



Picture 3: Lighting of Masayf castle to launch the 16 days' campaign in Hamacourtesy of RDC.



Picture 4: Governor of Hassakeh Mr. Jaiez Sawadah Al-Hmod Al Mossa in presence of Chief of Police, DOSAL Director Mr.Essam Rashid Al-Hussin opening a UNICEF/UNFPA/UNHCR/UNDP joint exhibition in Al Hasakah city-Qamishli

² Disclaimer; people featured in the pictures gave consent for their photos to be shared



Picture 7: Men in a GBV awareness session in Al-Hol Camp- Courtesy of UNICEF- Al-Mawadah Charity



Picture 8: Children raising GBV awareness through music and theatre in Damascus-Courtesy of IMC



Picture 9: Women and youth marching in Sweida while holding placards with GBV awareness messages- Courtesy of DOSAL Sweida



Picture 10: Women and men attending a GBV awareness session in Tal Brak-- Courtesy of UNICEF- Al-Mawadah Charity Association



Picture 11: Children against GBV show in Damascus-Courtesy of IMC



Picture 12: Girls and boys oriented on GBV awareness booklet developed by UNICEF in Homs Office- Courtesy of UNICEF



Picture 13: A youth raising GBV awareness through fine art in Al-Hasakeh city -Courtesy of UNHCR-SSSD



Picture 15: UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR and UNDP in a joint 16 days of activism activities in North East Syria



Picture 17: Adolescents in a GBV awareness session- Sawa Building for Vocational Training Al Raqqa-Courtesy of UNICEF- Al-Mawadah Charity Association



Picture 14: Women exhibiting their products in Ain Issa camp- Courtesy of UNHCR-GOPA



Picture 16: Women participating in a chess learning course in Homs - Courtesy of -UNFPA -Aoun



Picture 18: Exhibition of women made products in Qamisily city- Courtesy of UNICEF-AL-Ihsan charity association



Picture 19: Young women in a GBV awareness discussion in Areesha Camp-Courtesy of-UNHCR-SSD



Picture 20: Young boys holding a banner with logos of UNICEF/UNHCR/UNFPA-(agencies that jointly coordinated 16 days' campaigns Hassakeh) in Al Hasakah city municipal stadium



Picture 21: Women/men/children holding GBV awareness placards in Al-Hol Camp - Courtesy of UNICEF- Al-Mawadah Charity Association



Picture 22 Children including adolescents in a GBV awareness talk- Mabroka Camp- courtesy of UNFPA-Al-Bir and Al-Ihsan



Picture 23: Women/men/children in an interactive theatre performance on your safety is your right in Areesha Camp- Courtesy of UNICEF- Al-Mawadah Charity Association



Picture 24: Youth (women/men) participating in a marathon at Al-Hasakah City-courtesy of-UNHCR-SSD



Picture 25: Girls and boys dancing/singing in Al Hasakah city –Courtesy of –UNHCR-SSSD



Picture 26: Young women and men in a street marathon at Sweida-Courtesy of SFPA



Picture 27: Women and youth marching in Sweida while holding placards with GBV awareness messages- Courtesy of DOSAL Sweida



Picture 28: Women and youth launching a street walk to raise GBV awareness in Sweida- courtesy of DOSAL



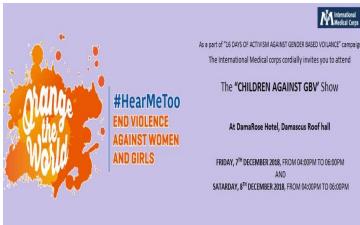
Picture 29: Adolescent girls riding bicycles in the streets of Al-Hasakeh



Picture 30: Closing ceremony of the 16 days campaigns in Damascus



Picture 31: Women and men in a marathon across the streets of Tartous and Latakia-Courtesy of UNHCR and partners



Picture 32: A brochure to raise awareness to end violence against children, women and girls-in Damascus-Courtesy of IMC



Picture 33: Banner for the open Bazar in Damascus, where Minister Ms. Reema Khadil and Dr. Akram Al- Kash Director of SCFAP participated



 ${\it Picture 34: Women\ holding\ GBV\ awareness\ placards\ in\ Aleppo-Courtesy\ of\ UNFPA\ -RDC}$



Picture 36: Men in a village talk session (Hakawati) in Aleppo- Courtesy of -UNHCR- AL Ihsan



Picture 37: Women raising GBV awareness through fine art (wall drawings)- in Aleppo-Courtesy of UNFPA-SSSD



Picture 38: Men in a cooking competition - Ras Al-Ain City - courtesy of UNFPA-Al-Bir and Al-Ihsan



Picture 39: Women in legal awareness session in Homs Courtesy of UNFPA- SSSD and SARC

The GBV sub sector would like to thank all the below sector partners who made this campaign a huge success throughout the Country. They were able to mobilise men, boys, adolescents, children, people with disabilities along with Authorities to have this inclusive event

















































National NGOs

- Mar Assia Center (MAC)
- Syria Al-Yamama Charity Association
- Al-Bir and Al-Ihsan Charity Association (BICA)
- Al-Bir for Social services (BCSQ).
- Al-Ihsan Charity Association
- Al-Mawadah Charity Association
- St. Ephrem Patriarchal Development Committee (EPDC).
- Namaa
- **AL Ihsan**

Links to the media coverage for the 16 days' campaigns in Syria

https://www.sana.sy/?p=858058

https://www.sana.sy/?p=857593

https://www.sana.sy/?p=858670

https://www.sana.sy/?p=858058

https://www.sana.sy/?p=857580

http://jamahir.alwehda.gov.sy/node/408766

https://www.sana.sy/?p=850358

http://www.ortas.gov.sy/index.php?d=programs&a=show_part&id=44710&fbclid=I

wAR2x7VCVFu-HzAtdbZw7zlbBjH5CEJZpHzz2IjFeZ5PksYDdpzH6FObcwQI

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iErHVIxpg3c

http://www.ortas.gov.sy/SyrianTV/index.php?d=programs&a=show_part&id=44599

http://www.ortas.gov.sy/index.php?d=programs&a=view_section&id=14095#mYou Tube

https://syriandays.com/?page=show_det&select_page=66&id=57020

http://allnewstoday.net/index.php?node=5682&nid=9101

http://syriandays.com/?page=show_det&select_page=66&id=56983

http://allnewstoday.net/index.php?node=5682&nid=9097

http://fedaa.alwehda.gov.sy/node/273129

http://fedaa.alwehda.gov.sy/node/273018

http://www.alwatanonline.com/?p=92329

https://events.genndi.com/live/818182175026324417/868260b6f4/-1/

https://syriandays.com/?page=show_det&select_page=66&id=56910

/ختام-حملة-16-يوم-لمناهضة-العنف-ضد-المرأة/https://worldnews-sy.com