



مشروع مناهضة العنف ضد المرأة

Together Reducing Violence against Women

Serious National Efforts to Reduce Violence Against Women

REDUCING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

All religions honor women and value their pivotal role in the family and society. And our Arab culture acknowledges women who played important roles in their communities and were highly respected in many fields. Today, if we are to empower Jordanian women, and enable them to effectively utilize their abilities and contribute to nation-building, side by side with men, we must work to protect and safeguard their rights, and reject any acts of violence against them. All endeavors aimed at reducing violence against women are supported by Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah, who shows great interest in women's affairs as part of efforts to improve the quality of life for the Jordanian family.

According to the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, violence is defined as: "Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life." The World Health Organization defines violence as "the intentional use of force or threat of using physical force against oneself or against another person or group, which might lead to injury, death, hindering development or deprivation" and in 2002 declared domestic violence to be a health issue.

Gender-based violence is violence that is directed to a woman as a female or that affects women disproportionately, and which may be in a physical, psychological or sexual form of violence. It may occur in the family and include beating by the husband or parents or siblings in addition to sexual abuse of female children by family members, and can also include economic, social violence, and psychological violence. It is noteworthy to mention that this project will develop a definition of family violence against women in Jordanian society.

NATIONAL PROJECTS AIMED AT REDUCING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Violence Against Women Initiative

In the spring of 2007, the Private Sector Project for Women's Health (PSP) launched an initiative in support of the National Strategic Plan for Family Protection efforts to reduce violence against women practices. This is in line with international conventions, National laws and legislation that enhance the role of women in society, ensure women's protection and respect her status. This initiative was launched in cooperation with leading national institutions in Jordan. The initiative includes projects which consider violence against women a priority that deserves support and endorsement from decision makers in the country. PSP conducts community outreach counseling efforts, and institutional capacity building with a group of non-governmental organizations and community based organizations. It also trains private sector health care providers to diagnose and provide assistance to victims of domestic violence, and refers them to concerned entities for counseling and services.

Advocacy and Awareness Raising

National Council for Family Affairs (NCFA)

This project aims at exploring and advocating issues related to violence against women (VAW), especially among Jordanian policy and decision makers. It also seeks to put VAW as a national priority with concerned entities, thus creating a common understanding and support for violence against women policies and programs, and fostering coordination and accountability of organizations implementing VAW programs. NCFA will prepare a situation analysis about violence against women in Jordan in order to reach a common definition of VAW and develop common indicators. It also plans to develop a policy newsletter and VAW fact sheet and an advocacy plan targeting decision makers. This project also conducts training workshops for practitioners in Ministry of Health, employees at Women Shelter (Dar Al-Wifaq Al-Usari) Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Awqaf preachers, and the media. An operating mechanism will be developed for the Family Protection Team to strengthen coordination among organizations implementing VAW programs.

Project for Strengthening the Capacity of Private Health Care Providers

Institute for Family Health / Nour Al Hussein Foundation (IFH/NHF)

This project aims at improving the quality of services provided to female victims of family violence by the private sector. This is being achieved in collaboration with the Jordan Medical Council and other relevant medical entities, with the aim of tackling violence against women from the health perspective as part of continuous medical training plan. The project will be implemented with nine private hospitals in the North, Central, and South of Jordan, where 90 medical staff will be trained on VAW detection and referral. This project includes an awareness raising program on VAW as a health issue for 100 private doctors including Physicians in PSP Network.

Project for NGO Capacity Building

The Zein Al Sharaf Institute for Development (ZENID)

This project aims at upgrading NGO counseling services to female victims of domestic violence, fostering coordination and networking among NGOs with VAW services, and decreasing acceptance of violence among Jordanian women. In addition to this, six participating NGOs will receive support in networking and coordination as a means to upgrade the quality of their services. Competitive grants will be awarded to support the expansion of NGOs awareness raising activities and enhance their capacity in offering counseling services.

Extended Outreach Activities

Circassian Charity Association (CCA)

Through this project, CCA plans to reach 42,000 women victims to raise awareness about violence, and provide counselling services to VAW victims as well as referrals. This will occur through community workers' home visits in local communities in which the rate of violence is above average & where local NGOs can provide services for women victims of violence.

It is expected that by the end of the project in January 2010, the above mentioned local organizations will adopt all project activities as part of their sustainable programs to decrease acceptance of VAW in local communities and raise the awareness of Jordanian women regarding their rights. The project encourages partnerships, coordination and networking among civil society institutions, health care providers and other institutions concerned with violence against women, in order to reinforce and institutionalize articles of the National Strategic plan for Family Protection for the years 2005-2009.

The Private Sector Project for Women's Health (PSP)

The Private Sector Project for Women's Health (PSP) is a five-year project (2005- 2010) funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and managed by Abt Associates Inc.

Abt Associates Inc, founded in 1965, is one of the largest for-profit government and business research and consulting firms in the world. Abt Associates delivers practical and measurable results.

The project aims to:

- Improve the health of Jordanian women and families through increasing the availability of quality health care services in the private sector.
- Improve knowledge of how to self manage illness, increase demand for modern contraception and related women's health services, increase early detection of breast cancer, and reduce domestic violence.

During its lifetime, the project will endeavour to reach 1.1 million women in their homes through the community outreach program, which educates women on modern Family Planning Methods and also encourages them to detect breast cancer in its early stages. In addition to training private sector doctors, applying quality control measures, and developing a referral system to a network of female doctors, the project is also using multiple media for sending its communication messages to relevant sectors of the Jordanian community.