

2024



COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT

ABAAD - Resource Center for Gender Equality

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement:
2021-2022

*For questions or comments contact Narod Haroutunian,
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Part I

Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive

In today's Lebanon, faced with ongoing socio-economic and political challenges, striving for positive change can often feel like a steep climb. At ABAAD, our dedication to societal transformation, policy reform, and altering norms remains steadfast.

We recognize, however, that this journey is collaborative, necessitating the collective efforts of government, business, and civil society alike. This recognition fuels our continued support and renewal of our commitment to the United Nations Global Compact.

Our work stands as a testament to the power of partnerships across sectors. It is through this unified approach that we can accelerate our progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 5, and indeed, all other SDGs, striving towards a society where equality, free from injustice and inequality, is a reality for all.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an organization like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely,



Ghida Anani

Founder & Director

ABAAD - Resource Center for Gender Equality

Part II

Description of Actions

ABAAD strategically partners with civil society, government entities, and various stakeholders to advance our mission towards gender equality and the effective participation of women.



Our multi-faceted approach, encompassing direct services, advocacy, capacity strengthening, and public awareness campaigns, aligns with the United Nations Global Compact's principles and significantly contributes to the broader Sustainable Development Goals. While our core focus remains on SDG 5 (Gender Equality), the inclusion and effective participation of women are cross-cutting themes that resonate through multiple SDGs.

ADVOCACY AND LOBBYING

Legal Advocacy and National Strategy

Contributions: ABAAD collaborated with the National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW) to influence legal frameworks and shape national strategies, such as the National Women's Strategy, marking a significant year in legal advocacy and strategic contributions for women's rights.

Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies (CTA): A multi-stakeholders initiative led by a state actor, currently the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, in which ABAAD co-chaired the network.

UN Generation Equality Forum Participation: Represented as a co-lead of the Action Coalition on GBV, contributing to the development of action plans and participating in international forums.

Lebanon's Feminist Civil Society Platform: Advocated for equitable space for women and demanded credible investigations into the Beirut Blast, with a gender-sensitive approach.



Part II

CAPACITY STRENGTHENING AND GENDER INTEGRATION

Generation G Partnership: A multi-country collaboration aiming to enhance public support for gender justice, address GBV, and improve women's access to civic spaces.

Activities include:

- Youth Engagement and Development: ABAAD engaged youth-led CSOs and launched an outreach program through Adyan's youth parliament, gathering insights for strategic planning and introducing Generation Gender's goals to young participants.
- Comprehensive Youth Program: Selected 50 individuals (18-35 years) for a custom-designed curriculum focusing on gender roles, positive masculinities, PSEA principles, and skill development, empowering future change-makers.
- Digital Storytelling and Mentorship: Hosted a digital campaigning workshop to challenge gender stereotypes, complemented by a mentorship program that trained 10 mentors to guide new members.

Strengthening Civil Courage Alliance: Joint initiative with global partners to protect civic space, promote gender equality, and support peace and human rights activists in 14 countries.

Activities include:

- Integrated Gender Trainings: Conducted foundational trainings on gender concepts, mainstreaming, and masculinities across 30 local organizations in SCC countries.
- Gender-Sensitive Mental Health Support: Provided MHPSS training with a focus on gender sensitivity and tailored interventions in Iraq.
- Accountability and PSEA Trainings: Held sessions in Erbil and Ethiopia on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse, emphasizing accountability and anti-corruption in humanitarian sectors.
- Masculinities and Engaging Men: Focused on reducing gender discrimination and promoting equality cultures in Lebanon, Yemen, Syria, and Palestine.
- ABAAD Gender Integration Toolkit: Developed a versatile training guide adaptable across various sectors.
- Civil Society Organization Trainings: Targeted gender concept and accountability training for specific CSOs like Abnaa Saida and Al Jalil association.

Part II

Partners for Justice Project: Collaborative effort with Search for Common Ground, focusing on reducing VAWG by challenging patriarchal norms and training youth on gender concepts.

Indashyikirwa Program for Economic Participation: Adapted a program to reduce intimate partner violence and shift societal norms, with a focus on the economic empowerment of women.

Stand Up Initiative with L'Oréal: Launched training for youth on public harassment, employing the 5D's methodology to encourage bystander intervention.

Women in Peace Building Processes: Partnered with WILPF to promote the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, focusing on women's role in peacebuilding.

Co-chairing PSEA Network in Lebanon: Co-chaired the Lebanon PSEA In-Country Network, offering technical guidance and support to CSOs in Lebanon on mainstreaming PSEA, establishing complaint mechanisms, and setting minimum standards for PSEA reporting and investigations.

GBV Awareness for the Mexican and Latino Community: Conducted training for the Mexican Embassy's staff in Lebanon, focusing on GBV awareness and safe identification and referral techniques.

AIOMIS Program Development: Developed an integrated online monitoring and evaluation system, enhancing real-time data tracking and case management services.

Training Internal Security Forces (ISF) on SGBV: Collaborated with the ISF, enhancing their capacity to respond effectively to SGBV cases. This involved institutionalizing robust measures for prevention and response to GBV, with 71 ISF members receiving ToTs and further disseminating the training to an additional 726 officers.



ABAAD & WILPF Consultation on WPS



ISF ToT Program



ABAAD & L'Oréal: Against Street Harassment



ABAAD & L'Oréal: Against Street Harassment



ABAAD's GBV Training for Consular Staff

Part II

CAMPAIGNS

“Dayman Waata” (#Priority_Too) Campaign: Launched during the 16 days of activism, this campaign focused on raising public awareness about the urgency of women’s safety amidst various crises in Lebanon, with the resonating message “Women Safety is a Priority Too.”

Recolor Your Life Campaign: This initiative engaged 177 women and survivors of violence in art-form workshops, resulting in 10 art installations during the 16 Days of Activism, showcasing their stories and resilience against violence.

The Positive Fatherhood Campaign: Centered around Father’s Day, this campaign released five videos featuring fathers with their children, highlighting the importance of non-violent behavior, positive parenting, and gender equitable roles within families.

#Mesh_Basita Campaign Against Sexual Harassment & Raising Awareness on Law 205: In collaboration with the Center for Inclusive Business and Leadership (CIBL) for Women, this campaign emphasized the necessity of action in implementing Law No. 205 to protect against sexual harassment.

#NoShameNoBlame Campaign: Launched during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, this campaign sought to amend Chapter Seven of the Lebanese Penal Code on sexual assault crimes, calling for stricter penalties. It achieved widespread recognition, securing a Shorty Award, and successfully garnered the support of 9 members of the Lebanese parliament who signed the draft amendment of Chapter 7.



#NoShameNoBlame Stunt at Parliament: Advocating for Change

Part II

RESOURCES

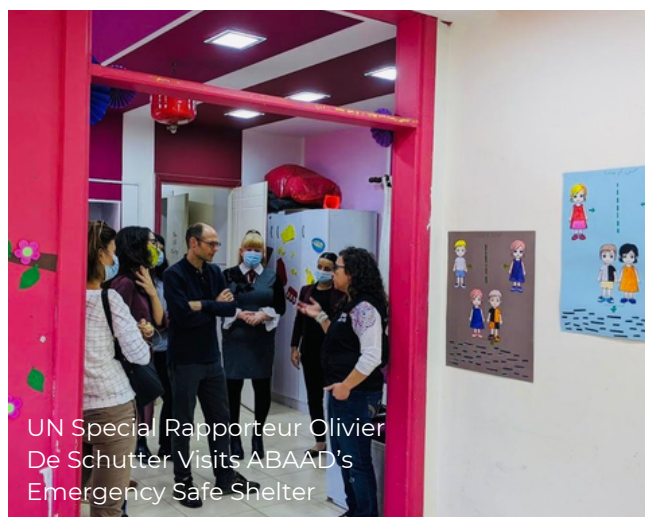
In 2021 and 2022, ABAAD significantly expanded its repository of resources, publishing over 20 diverse materials ranging from national surveys, toolkits, and studies to comprehensive reports, innovative mobile apps, and resources on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). These publications reflect ABAAD's deep commitment to providing accessible, high-quality information and tools to support efforts in combating gender-based violence and promoting gender equality. All these valuable resources are readily available for access on our [website](#), serving as a testament to ABAAD's role as a leading resource center and its continuous dedication to empowering communities, policymakers, and practitioners with essential knowledge and practical tools.



Scan the QR code to access our resources.

DIRECT SERVICES

ABAAD provides life-saving services through our Model Centers for Multidisciplinary Holistic Care to Combat GBV, offering a comprehensive approach to support those affected by gender-based violence. In addition to this, we operate temporary safe shelters and the Men Center, each playing a vital role in our mission. Further extending our reach, the Jina Al Dar initiative – our mobile bus tour – ensures that essential services are accessible even in remote areas.



UN Special Rapporteur Olivier De Schutter Visits ABAAD's Emergency Safe Shelter

Part III

Measurable outcomes

Between 2021 and 2022, ABAAD made significant strides in impacting communities and individuals. Over **50,317** right-holders received direct services, including awareness raising sessions, access to safe GBV shelters, GBV case management, counseling, psychotherapy, legal services, and emotional psychosocial support, along with initiatives at the men center.

Our outreach through the mobile bus in remote areas reached an impressive total of **5,285** individuals, significantly improving protection prospects and empowerment within refugee and host communities. These efforts included diverse awareness-raising activities on different topics related to GBV and Gender through video screenings, live discussions, and community events.

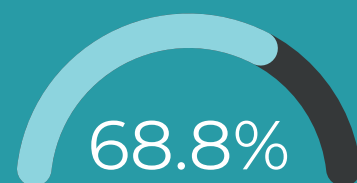
ABAAD conducted **5** nationwide campaigns, with the #NoShameNoBlame campaign achieving particularly remarkable results: over **50 million** cumulative reach, **40 million** views, **65 million** impressions, and **2.3 million** engagements.

The campaign's dominance on social media, even during the World Cup, and its predominantly positive reception (**82%**) highlight its wide-reaching influence and success.

ABAAD has also published over **20** valuable resources, contributing to a broader understanding and engagement with gender-based violence issues. In capacity building, we trained **131** ISF members on GBV-related topics, who in turn extended their training to another **726** officers, thereby amplifying the impact on institutional responses to GBV.

While quantifying the exact number of our other capacity-building initiatives is challenging, the positive feedback and testimonials we've received underscore their meaningful impact both in Lebanon and internationally. These initiatives, varied in nature, have collectively strengthened societal, organizational, and individual capacities, aligning with our mission to combat gender-based violence and promote gender equality.

In 2022, an encouraging 68.8% of case management participants agreed that they had achieved their action plan goals.



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Without the case management and support I found here with the ABAAD team, I wouldn't have been able to move on from the situation I was in, having been married at age 15 and going through a painful divorce. Now, I've found myself. I understand and acknowledge my feelings, and I know that I deserve better and that I am capable of achieving it.

- Suha, Bekaa