



KAFA (enough) Violence & Exploitation **ANNUAL REPORT** 2015 Highlights



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ABOUT KAFA

KAFA (enough) Violence & Exploitation is a feminist, Lebanese, secular, non-profit, non-governmental civil society organization seeking to create a society that is free of social, economic and legal patriarchal structures that discriminate against women.

KAFA has been aiming to eliminate all forms of exploitation and violence against women since its establishment in 2005. It seeks to realize substantive gender equality through the adoption of a combination of different approaches, such as:

Advocacy for law reform and introduction of new laws and policies; altering public opinion, practices and mentality; conducting research and training; and empowering women and children victims of violence.

Our focus areas are:

1. Family violence;
2. Exploitation and trafficking in women, especially in migrant domestic workers and women in prostitution;
3. Child protection, particularly from sexual and gender-based violence.

KAFA (enough) Violence & Exploitation

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

KAFA's team is grateful to all individuals, groups, organizations, the media, and other public or private institutions that encouraged our organization's mission and activities throughout 2015, in addition to all those providing moral or financial support to **KAFA**'s efforts to eradicate all forms of gender-based violence and exploitation of women and children. The following achievements would not have been possible without your support.

KAFA takes this opportunity to extend its thanks to the funding agencies, which provided financial support during 2015 for the protection of women and children from family violence, abuse, and exploitation. These resources assisted in achieving the noticeable progress in the promotion of legal reforms and change in policies, in addition to influencing public opinion regarding the adoption of relevant laws and their enforcement.

KAFA's appreciation goes to all civil society actors who partnered with KAFA, and to each of the following organizations that joined hands in working for the cause of women and children in Lebanon: UNICEF, Save the Children, UNIFIL, UNHCR, Anti-Slavery International, International Labor Organization, International Federation of Red Cross, Open Society Foundations, UNFPA, Norwegian People's Aid, Norwegian Embassy in Beirut, Kvinna Till Kvinna, Amica e.V.

Special gratitude goes to the media for their partnership in providing wide coverage of **KAFA**'s advocacy and awareness-raising activities and for courageously denouncing violence and abuse against women and children.

KAFA also thanks all its local partners, stakeholders and recipients for their participation in the planning, monitoring, and implementation of all program activities, bringing their valuable contributions to the success of the different projects.

KAFA (enough) Violence & Exploitation

I. FAMILY VIOLENCE UNIT (FV)

1) Capacity Building for Volunteers

As part of its efforts to raise awareness on gender-based violence (GBV) and mobilize new people to join the struggle to end GBV in Lebanon, **KAFA** organized a 3-day training session targeting volunteers who had previously contacted **KAFA** and expressed their support to its efforts in combating violence against women.

The training aimed at raising the awareness of a group of young volunteers on the issue of GBV by clarifying main concepts related to gender, violence against women, family violence, and feminism, and providing the participants with the needed informational background and a few awareness-raising tools that will enable them to start organizing their own awareness sessions inside their communities (universities, organizations, local gatherings, etc.). Many participants already started to organize and give awareness sessions in schools and universities.

2) International 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

Like every year, **KAFA** draws on the International 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (November 25th – December 10th, 2015) to shed light on an issue pertaining to women's human rights and their protection from violence.

Four years ago, **KAFA** opened the debate on the Personal Status Laws (PSL) with a campaign revolving around CEDAW convention and Lebanon's reservations on several articles in the convention, namely article 16 concerning equality in marriage life.

After the approval of LAW 293 in 2014 and its implementation during over a year and a half, it was important to remind people that one of the core obstacles to women's full protection is the current content of the PSL.

The 16 Days campaign in 2015 thus focused on the PSL with the objective of creating more awareness and knowledge about their content, their meaning, and how they affect women specifically.

Preparations started during the summer of 2015. Several media tools were used to simplify and spread the legal information alongside alarming messages about the patriarchal and discriminatory characteristics of the PSL, namely the issues of:

- Early marriage
- Unfair laws and practices related to custody
- Unfair laws and practices related to women's financial rights

Two slogans were used on the campaign materials:

"The personal status laws are 'dissonant'"

&

"An outdated/patriarchal law cannot govern us today"



From the May 30 “Lil Saber 7doud” protest, demanding justice for victims of family violence...



Regional conference organized by KAFA on “the International Failure to Protect Women: A challenge for civil society”, December 12, 13, 14, 2015- Beirut

3) Equipping Centers and Conducting Trainings

Equipping a call center for KAFA's Listening and Counseling Center and Recruiting and Building the capacity of the call center team

In order to ensure an effective response to cases of family violence and to keep up with the increasing demand by women victims of violence, **KAFA** established and equipped a call center as an emergency unit to ensure a professional, quick, and organized response for victims.

The recruited operators were coached by **KAFA's** LCC team to better understand **KAFA's** approach in dealing with cases of GBV and cases of violence, to get familiar with the huge networks of stakeholders providing support to women victims of violence including internal security officers, lawyers, judges, shelters, NGO's, services providers, psychotherapists, etc.

Equipping a recently established Regional Judicial Detachment in Beit el Din

An investigation room at the judicial department in Beit el din has been equipped and furnished. The ISF officers of Beit el Dinn detachment were trained on documenting the cases of family violence. They were trained on the family violence questionnaire and the content of the law 293 and made aware of their role in dealing with cases of family violence.

Capacity development, ISF Trainings:

- Sixteen one day-trainings were implemented. They targeted 181 ISF officers who had had a previous training on the curriculum before the passage of the law 293. The trainings took place at the ISF academy – Aramoun.
- The *ISF lecture hall* was equipped on the 1st of October 2015 with a Projector, screen and sound system.
- The *manual of the film* “BelKanoun 293” (By law 293) was produced.
- An ISF TOT 5-day workshop on the *Teaching Curriculum and Law 293* targeted 12 ISF officers (4 women and 8 men): training was done based on the Family Violence Curriculum.
- ISF *Series of 3 training workshops* (4 days each) for *judicial detachments* (15 officers / workshop) took place at the ISF academy in Aramoun and targeted highly ranked officers for training on the curriculum and the law 293 during.

Trainings with health care providers:

- A half-day training on Clinical Management of Rape (to include CMR refresher session and updates on CMR national)
- Two half-day trainings on CMR (to include CMR refresher session and updates on CMR national protocol) were conducted at **KAFA's** premises on 11 and 13 June 2015:

They targeted 6 doctors in total. The aim of these half day trainings was to brief the trainees (doctors) on the CMR training content so as to include a session in the training they deliver to health facilities.

The training focused on the clinical management of rape: How to deal with survivors of rape in terms of support provision, confidentiality and medical ethics, and most importantly, the provision of an appropriate medical intervention.

-Series of *14 trainings* targeting 196 medical health care providers:

10 trainings were implemented. They targeted a total number of 159 medical health care providers and humanitarian actors.

-Series of *4 trainings* targeting 80 midwives:

A total number of 88 midwives from different areas in Lebanon were targeted during the implementation of 4 trainings.

Series of 4 one-day trainings targeting humanitarian actors:

Four training days were held in four Lebanese regions, and addressed humanitarian actors working in the field with direct contact with women. The objective was to increase awareness and knowledge among humanitarian actors working in the field on the new Law to Protect Women and All Family Members from Family Violence (Law 293), and enable them to provide advice and support to any victim of family violence they might meet during their work.

4) Data Collection / Assessment

Concerning the study titled "Women's complaints between the penal code and the protection law", **KAFA** collected the needed data and has provided it to the researcher Maître Marie-Rose Zalzal. The study should be published in 2016.s

A field survey was done to form an opinion poll about the family violence law: this will embody the first nationwide report on the public's awareness of family violence in Lebanon. The computation of the results has been completed by IPSOS. They will be published in 2016.

II. LISTENING AND COUNSELING CENTER (LCC)

1) Partnership with Kvinna till Kvinna

KAFA partnered with Kvinna till Kvinna (KTK) to empower and provide support to women who are victims of family violence, and push them towards a greater autonomy. The main objective of the services provided and activities implemented is to establish a sense of empowerment and let it reflect in the recipients' life.

In January 2015, **KAFA**'s Listening and Counseling Center began its planned activities with KTK. The project's overall goal is to break the silence surrounding GBV and to empower a larger number of women in the Lebanese society to confront violence by informing them about their rights.

The following table briefs the results of the activities and services conducted by the Listening and Counseling Center during the first six months of the first year of the project:

<i>Month (2015)</i>	<i>Follow up</i>	<i>New case</i>	<i>Psychological sessions (patients)</i>	<i>Legal consultations (recipients)</i>	<i>Referral to shelter</i>	<i>Forensic doctor</i>	<i>Legal authorization</i>
<i>January</i>	67	53	130/38	53/48	1	3	4
<i>February</i>	60	50	133/46	41/39	2	1	9
<i>March</i>	73	78	137/44	52/48	1	5	2
<i>April</i>	76	65	175/49	61/56	0	2	1
<i>May</i>	77	68	133/48	65/ 59	1	1	2
<i>June</i>	77	91	135/48	72/68	2	5	4
<i>July</i>	90	81	122/45	47/44	4	4	7
<i>August</i>	80	62	124/40	59/57	2	4	10
<i>September</i>	55	65	113/37	60/54	3	6	5
<i>October</i>	72	55	97/31	52/49	1	6	3
<i>November</i>	80	53	100/33	41/45	4	2	5
<i>December</i>	83	51	116/37	35/34	2	0	3
<i>Total</i>	890	772	1515/49	638/601	23	39	55

2) Social Intervention and Follow-up

From January 2015 until December 2015, the LCC unit provided listening, counseling, and follow-up to approximately 1662 women victims of violence and exploitation who sought help and assistance from **KAFA**: this number exceeded the initially predicted number of recipients of

services. Among them, 772 new recipients benefited from listening and social counseling services, whereas 890 old cases benefited from the regular social follow-up.

We expect the total number of recipients benefiting from the LCC services to exceed the expected number predicted in the log frame (1700) by the end of 2016.

We noticed an increase in demand, which illustrates the impact and importance of **KAFA**'s personal status campaign and other media and awareness campaigns, as well as the radical existence of domestic and family violence in Lebanon's patriarchal society. The referral of the recipients to **KAFA** has proven to be highly efficient but has also highlighted difficulties faced by the LCC team, particularly due to the understaffing of the LCC.

Each recipient has a social file which is updated regularly by the social workers in order to get a clear vision concerning her situation. The collected information is added to a software system and saved in a computerized database. This documentation is useful for further social, legal, and/or psychological follow-up.

The social file comprises information about the abused woman, her family members, her status, her work, etc. as well as information related to the act of abuse and the abuser. The social worker highlights any important information and comments regarding the case and is responsible of noting any changes occurring on the case.

The LCC unit provides not only a safe space for women victim of violence but also allows the social workers to follow the women's daily evolution.

The main objective of the LCC is to empower each woman who approaches **KAFA** by providing her with skills to better face, confront, and overcome her difficult situation.

3) Legal Intervention

We provided 638 legal consultations and 55 legal authorizations from January until December 2015. Our goal is to provide the woman with a legal consultation that makes her aware of her rights. Legal representations are not the goal in itself but are necessary for exceptional cases in which the woman needs to be represented by a lawyer and cannot take up the procedures by herself. These legal consultations lead to the empowerment of women by showing them which legal tools they have to defend themselves with. Therefore, by equipping them with the knowledge regarding their rights, the recipients become more capable of making appropriate decisions.

"Nada came to **KAFA** in 2015 following the murder of Nisrine Rouhana by her husband. Nada feared a similar fate, and hence, decided to seek help.

Nada, her husband, and their 2-year-old son live with her parents. She was physically and psychologically abused in front of her parents. Her husband was a drug user and was financially dependent on her.

She arrived to **KAFA** 6 months pregnant, and wanted to seek protection from her abusive husband who was threatening to kill her. The lawyer she met was able to quickly provide her with a demand of protection against her husband. Luckily, an empathetic and cooperative judge automatically delivered an order of protection, which guaranteed a restraining order against the husband and his eviction from their home.

Today, Nada has the sole custody of her two children and a steady job. The LCC lawyer is in the process of legally finalizing the separation."

4) Psychological Follow-up

1515 psychological consultations were provided to women and children victims of violence. The psychological follow-up was done by a team of psychotherapists. Regular meetings were held in order to follow each case, monitor the psychotherapy duration, and discuss every progress occurring on the psychological level.

“Josiane lost both her parents at the age of 6. Following their death, she was forced to leave Africa and move to Lebanon to stay with her parent’s relatives.

She was separated from her other siblings, and she and her twin sister lived with her uncle until the age of 18. Josiane was subjected to severe financial, physical, and psychological abuse, and was not even given her basic rights during her childhood years. She did not even have any personal identification papers due to internal family problems related to the inheritance of her father. Josiane was also sexually abused by a friend of her uncle at the age of 8.

Despite her tough childhood, she started working at the age of 18 in a hospital as a janitor and started taking nursing lessons with the help of a nun. She gradually built a future for herself.

At the age of 30, she met her current husband and got married. Josiane was victimized throughout her marriage and endured psychological, physical, and sexual abuse by her husband for long years.

The physical abuse abruptly stopped when she started working as a dentist assistant, thus gaining financial autonomy and becoming the main financial provider of the family.

Once her son turned 14, he started abusing her psychologically. The abuse gradually became physical over the years. She decided to seek help when her son turned 15 by taking him to a psychologist and to an NGO that works with children. The violence unfortunately did not stop but rather intensified.

She then came to **KAFA** for help in 2013. She was followed by the social worker and benefitted from psychotherapy. During her follow-up, Josiane showed signs of great resilience. Despite the pressure she faced in her life and the fact that her perpetrator was her son, she eventually became more assertive, gained emotional autonomy, and felt more empowered. She was able to confront her husband and son and learned to protect herself.

Leaving her husband was a very difficult decision for her, as it would mean leaving her son. Her legal dependency to her husband, given that she had no papers and had to renew her residency permit as his wife, made it very difficult for her to take that step. But after deciding she no longer wanted to be a victim and that the solution did not lie solely in her hands, she was finally able to end the cycle of violence and left her husband. She found a better job, rented a house, and was even able to obtain alimony from her husband and keep her savings.

It has been almost a year since Josiane has made this life-changing step. She has become a strong, confident, self-sufficient, independent woman, and has maintained her relationship with her son by occasionally seeing him and making sure he is continuing to see his psychotherapist and psychiatrist.”

5) Forensic reports

The LCC covered 39 forensic reports. Throughout the counseling, we stressed the importance of having a forensic report in order to document the incidents of violence, especially if the beneficiary needs to go through legal procedures.

It is important to note that a forensic report is only legally requested in case of physical violence.

“Yasmeena arrived to **KAFA** with a fractured arm after consulting a forensic doctor who gave her a 7-day report for her injury without examining the X-rays. After meeting with a case worker and a lawyer, she was advised to see the forensic doctor again and have him examine the X-rays of her broken arm. Consequently, the forensic doctor provided her with a 6-week report which led to the arrest of her abusive husband.

This experience illustrates the importance of providing victims with such documents. These prove to be crucial to completing the legal files at court.”

6) Victim referral to safe housing

The number of cases referred to shelters will depend on the needs of the women approaching **KAFA**'s office. During 2015, 23 cases were referred to safe houses to assure the women's safety. It is important to mention that the decision of a woman to go to a shelter is still extremely hard to take, considering the traditional Lebanese society.

We are still facing a lot of difficulties in finding a shelter for the recipients due to a shortage of shelters in Lebanon, each of which has limited spaces and its own admission policies.

“Rana, a single mother who had her one-year-old son out of wedlock, arrived to **KAFA** with the request of finding a shelter for herself and her son.

Rana has a history of family abuse, but the violence severely intensified when she got pregnant due her family's conservative mentality.

Due to harsh childhood and reality, Rana holds a lot of anger that she sometimes expresses through aggressive behavior. Due to her psychological and emotional condition and the presence of her child, we have not been able to find her a suitable shelter.”

7) Support Groups



The activity consists of an open group where women exchange their knowledge about their interests.

"I learned to stop feeling guilty... I realized that to be a divorced woman is not a crime."

The support group is one of the essential activities implemented by the LCC.

The goal of the group is:

- To provide a space for people from different social and cultural backgrounds.
- To support them in realizing: "I am not the only battered woman."
- To give the chance to each participant to feel capable of evolution and change.
- To cope with their symptoms, stress, and traumatic experiences.
- To express a personal problem by using potential skills through verbal and nonverbal communication. As a team, we perceive the evolution of each woman as part as the group life:

The ones who enter it and the ones who leave it:

It is important to know that during the preliminary meeting, the social worker encourages the woman to take part in the group where she can meet other victims/survivors. Usually, the women who attend **KAFA**'s activities are those who do not work and those who do not have a baby or young children to take care of.

The psychotherapist used various techniques during the sessions: meditation, verbal expression, singing, drumming, breathing, playing, body contortions, head massages, etc.

The support group consists of 12 sessions: Each lasts for 2 hours and takes place once a week. Twenty recipients attended the group meetings during each session from 23 July 2015 until 8 October 2015.

8) The Listening & Counseling Center in Chtaura- Bekaa

The LCC in Chtaura offers the same services to women victims of violence. Many women Syrian refugees also visit the center for counseling and participate in the awareness-raising sessions and activities organized by the LCC-Chtaura.

Here's a brief of the services delivered during 2015:

<i>Month (2015)</i>	<i>Follow up</i>	<i>New case</i>	<i>Psychological sessions (patients)</i>	<i>Legal consultations (recipients)</i>	<i>Referral to shelter</i>	<i>Forensic doctor</i>	<i>Legal authorization</i>
<i>January</i>	14	12	17/7	5	1	2	4
<i>February</i>	15	11	18/8	11	1	0	3
<i>March</i>	16	19	34/10	10	0	3	2
<i>April</i>	23	10	31/8	16	0	3	3
<i>May</i>	18	15	25/7	9	0	1	1
<i>June</i>	16	11	19/7	7	0	0	0
<i>July</i>	16	12	35/9	6	1	1	0
<i>August</i>	26	18	45/14	21	1	0	3
<i>September</i>	29	13	73/18	18	1	3	5
<i>October</i>	30	10	87/20	16	0	3	0
<i>November</i>	24	5	51/16	4	0	0	1
<i>December</i>	28	14	46/14	19	0	0	0
<i>Total</i>	255	150	481/34	142	5	16	22

III. ANTI-TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION UNIT

The Anti-trafficking and Exploitation Unit at **KAFA** works on building opinions against trafficking and exploitation of the two groups of women most vulnerable to these forms of violence: female migrant domestic workers as well as Lebanese and foreign women in prostitution. The Unit also aims at calling for better legal and social protection for victims, women, and girls at risk. Several approaches are deployed by the Unit to reach these objectives, such as advocacy work, raising awareness, capacity building, and service provision to victims.

A highlight of the 2015's work of the Unit is the opening of **Amara** shelter for victims of human trafficking, a refugee and empowerment center for women and girls victims of sexual and labor trafficking.

The shelter mainly hosts migrant domestic workers as well as women and girls victims of prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation; and provides a safe place for them, as well as case management (legal, social, psychological, and medical), rehabilitation programs, and empowerment.

A| Prostitution and Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation Program

1) Advocacy and Raising Awareness on the Realities of Prostitution and Trafficking

Anti-prostitution social media campaign “Al Hawa Ma Byinshara”

In the continuity of the anti-prostitution campaign “Al Hawa Ma Byinshara” (“sex/love” cannot be bought) launched in September 2014, **KAFA** produced a short animated video on the popular misconceptions about prostitution. Real testimonies of women in prostitution, collected during research interviews made by **KAFA**, were used to show the reality of their lives and the violence that they endure regularly. The video was broadcasted on **KAFA**'s social media platforms in October 2015.

Awareness sessions and interventions

KAFA conducted several awareness-raising sessions and discussions about prostitution and human trafficking for sexual exploitation in order to sensitize the participants on these topics. Students, midwives, NGOs as well as journalists participated in these sessions.

According the specialization of each group, **KAFA** provided specific tips and tools on how to identify victims and how to refer them to services providers, or provide them with assistance and protection. For instance, a handbook for journalists was produced on how to cover stories of sexual exploitation and avoid sensationalism.

Access to Justice

KAFA produced a model defense for lawyers with the proper arguments to call for the decriminalization of persons charged with the crime of prostitution according to article 523 of the penal code. The model defense was presented during a workshop held by **KAFA** on the topic of sex trafficking to a group of lawyers.

The model defense was elaborated along a legal review which explored the Lebanese laws and policies related to prostitution and human trafficking and the contradictions that exist among these texts and policies.

2) Capacity-building of the law enforcement agencies

A hundred officers from the Internal Security Forces as well as a dozen officers from the General Security were trained on the topic of human trafficking for sexual exploitation and the Lebanese anti-trafficking law. These training workshops were done in order to cover the gaps in the knowledge about the reality of the prostitution and human trafficking situation in Lebanon. They provided tools to officers who might potentially be in contact with victims of sex trafficking concerning better identification and support as well as better cases investigation and perpetrators pursuit. The feedback from the participants of these trainings was very positive. **KAFA** will thus continue to provide them in 2016.

B| Migrant Domestic Workers Program

This program is designed to address the critical situation of women migrant domestic workers (MDWs) who are deprived of their basic human rights in Lebanon. It aims to build support against violence and exploitation of MDWs and includes different components, such as advocacy to change the sponsorship system and to provide legal protection for domestic workers, as well as raising awareness and sharing information, building capacity, organizing, and directing services to MDWs victims of trafficking, and physical and sexual abuse.

1) Advocacy for Better Legal Protection

Establishing the Domestic Workers Union

On the 25th of January 2015, after persevering hard work, the Domestic Workers Union was formally founded within the structure of FENASOL (the National Federation of Employees' and Workers' Unions in Lebanon). **KAFA**, among other organizations, had the privilege to contribute to the efforts that lead to the establishment of the Union. In late 2012, **KAFA**, along with other NGOs and the FENASOL participated in a participatory action research (PAR) with women migrant domestic workers implemented by the ILO. The three main objectives of the PAR are:

- to raise consciousness among women migrant domestic workers in Lebanon and encourage their participation in advocacy campaigns
- to encourage collaboration between workers, unions, and NGOs
- to create synergies with the global domestic workers' movement.

KAFA's role was to bring MDWs to the focus groups and the sessions. **KAFA** also facilitated a number of these sessions. The participating workers were the critical mass required for the establishment of FENASOL's Founding Committee for a Union of Domestic Workers.

International Labor Day

For the fifth year in a row, **KAFA** co-organized the Workers' Day parade 2015 on the 3rd of May, to call for the recognition of the Domestic Workers' Union which was established in January 2015. The union's formation was rejected by the Ministry of Labor.

The demonstration, co-organized by the newly-established union and the National Federation of Employees' and Workers' Unions in Lebanon (FENASOL) and a number of NGOs, called the

government to recognize this union as the legitimate entity representing migrant workers' interests and advocating for their rights in Lebanon.

Hundreds of migrant women and men, together with many supporters and organizations, marched from Mousseytbeh to Hamra, carrying banners calling for the abolishment of the sponsorship system and the recognition of the newly established union. In Hamra, migrant women continued the Workers' Day celebration by giving empowering speeches and performing their traditional dances.

Letter-writing workshop: Migrant Domestic Workers directly address decision-makers

KAFA, in collaboration with Anti-Slavery International, conducted a letter-writing workshop for the members of the different communities of MDWs in Lebanon during the month of July 2015. The output of this workshop was the writing of 4 letters by groups of domestic workers in Lebanon including the Nari group. Each letter addressed one of the relevant authorities within the Lebanese system.

The letter addressed to the General Security demanded a grace period for MDWs and the possibility to change employers; the one addressed to the Ministry of Labor asked for the recognition of the newly founded domestic workers' union; the letter to the Internal Security Forces demanded serious investigations for the incidents of deaths of migrant workers; lastly, the letter to the president of the council of notary publics requested that the unified employment contract be made available in the native languages of MDWs.

Due to the political deadlock and the popular uprisings against the system in the country during that period, **KAFA** waited for a more suitable political period to send the letters.

KAFA proceeded with sending the letters to their intended recipients during the first week of December 2015. The letters attracted media coverage from prominent news outlets such as Al Akhbar and Al Arabi Al Jadeed. The resulting reports featured a positive reply from the council of notary publics reassuring the workers that the council will be trying its best to work on providing translated contracts.

2) Building the Capacity of Migrant Communities

NARI – Group of Nepalese Feminists in Lebanon

KAFA continued its coordination with migrant community leaders in general and with NARI (the Nepalese migrant community group it helped establish in 2013) in particular. NARI is a group of Nepalese women who work as domestic workers, and have the objective of improving the situation of Nepalese migrant women in Lebanon. NARI's specific aim is to give other Nepali women advice and information, support those who have problems, and share the experience of NARI's members in living and working in Lebanon.

This initiative is designed to empower Nepalese migrant workers to claim their rights, raise awareness amongst their peers and the Lebanese society, and inspire other migrants to self-organize in Lebanon.

In 2015, Nari grew to over 70 members and celebrated its 2nd anniversary on the 1st of February in a festive event gathering its members and friends from the different migrant communities in Lebanon. Besides actively participating in the formation of the domestic workers union and the organization of the Workers' Day parade, Nari members worked on their development and were supported by **KAFA** to build their capacity in outreach, leadership and documenting, referring and listening to MDWs complaints of abuse. Nari members also took part in events, activities and trainings organized by other migrant communities and NGOs working on MDWs issues.



In May 2015, Nari started the Earthquake Relief fund to collect funds for the families of Nepalese workers affected by the earthquake that hit Nepal earlier in the year. Nari collected more than 2,000\$ that was taken to Nepal to be distributed to the families.



Listening, cases documentation and referral training for the Domestic Workers Union

In collaboration with Anti-Slavery International and the ILO, **KAFA** organized and conducted a workshop for over 40 members of the Domestic Workers Union on the basis of receiving and listening, referring and documenting cases. The workshop that took place at the FENASOL on the 13th of December, 2015, aimed at empowering the union members with the necessary knowledge and tools to support their communities and other migrant domestic workers in need of support. The workshop also touched on the workers' rights and duties in the contract as well as the services provided by organizations in Lebanon. This workshop is the first in a series of workshops that will be conducted in cooperation with the Trade Union.

3) Support and Assistance to Victims of Trafficking and Physical and Sexual Abuse

This year, the Anti-trafficking and Exploitation Unit opened the **Amara** shelter, a refugee and empowerment center for women and girls victims of sexual and labor trafficking in October 2015. The shelter mainly hosts migrant domestic workers as well as women and girls in prostitution. It provides a safe place for them, as well as case management (legal, social, psychological, and medical), empowerment, and rehabilitation programs.

KAFA continued providing services to MDWs victims of physical and sexual abuse and operates a helpline specific to MDWs. The Helpline (+961 76 090910) and the **KAFA** team offer MDWs Socio-legal advice, legal representation, and return assistance.

During 2015, over 240 cases reached or contacted the organization, with almost a third receiving comprehensive support and the remaining referred to other existing service providers.

IV. PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM GBV

*For the past several years **KAFA** became aware of the extent of Child Abuse and Exploitation in Lebanon, through its wide range of activities combating family violence since its inception in 2005, through the LCC.*



Due to the lack of scientific research and official statistical data regarding the incidence, extent, and nature of child abuse in the country, **KAFA** initiated a research on Child Abuse (CSA) after the 2006 war. The study was designed to assess the magnitude of CSA, identify its predisposing factors, draw a profile of children who may be at high risk of being subjected to violence and abuse, and finally assess the effect of the July 2006 war on the prevalence of CSA. The research, covering several areas of Lebanon, included 2 major components: a cross-sectional survey of children aged 8-17 years and focus group discussions with children, mothers, and educators. The study revealed the extent of the incidence of CSA, particularly in cases of family violence. From the 1,025 children surveyed, 16.1% admitted to experiencing at least one form of abuse, 8.7% witnessed abusive attempts, and 4.9% were exposed to photos or movies with harmful content.

The survey showed that most incidents of CSA occurred at home repeatedly by an unidentified male perpetrator. 54.1% admitted to having talked to someone, most commonly to their mother. In addition to the many symptoms and consequences of CSA on children's mental and psychological health, school failures, and other posttraumatic stress disorders, the survey also revealed the gender bias in addressing cases of CSA, as girl-survivors were treated with greater secrecy than boys.

This unprecedented study undertaken on Child Abuse was conducted to help **KAFA** set a national strategy to address CSA in Lebanon, laying out recommendations for reducing its occurrence. Recent data compiled by the **KAFA-LCC**, indicate that around 18% of cases applying to the center report abuse and violence perpetrated on their children.

Thus, the Child Protection Program (**KAFA-CPP**) works on combating violence against children and adolescents, with a focus on gender-based violence and sexual abuse.

By working on the protection and empowerment of children, the CPP is participating in the creation of a safer future free of violence and discrimination.

The CPP action plan seeks to improve prevention and protection measures for children and adolescents, by reaching out to different targets groups, namely children, adolescents, caregivers, and service providers, while always applying a child participatory approach and combining different tools and strategies, such as:

- Increasing societal awareness by producing knowledge, research and campaigns, and developing informational and educational material for various target groups;
- Capacity building for service providers in public and private sectors;
- Advocating for better legislation for the protection of children from violence and abuse, and creating child-friendly policies and spaces in state institutions;
- Working on children's and adolescents' practices, behaviors and attitudes;
- Providing legal, social, and psychological support to children and adolescents survivors of gender-based violence, family violence and sexual abuse.

A | Main Achievements

1) Awareness on GBV (Early Marriage and Child Sexual Abuse)

Activities under this section are based on the assumption that vulnerabilities of children, adolescent boys and girls, and caregivers are reduced and their resilience strengthened, by increasing their awareness on GBV (early marriage and child sexual abuse) through awareness and outreach. In this respect, the following actions were implemented:

Awareness Sessions on GBV

Awareness Sessions on GBV, including early marriage and child sexual abuse, were conducted with around 300 children and adolescents in schools, NGOs, and SDCs from different regions in Lebanon.

- **Screening of “I AM NOOJOOM”:** The film revolves around a Yemeni girl who was forced to get married at the age of 9 and struggled to get divorced after being raped and abused. More than 100 individuals attended the screening, and the amount gathered was used to purchase educational toys and equipment for the LCC for children in Beirut.



2) Services for Children Survivors of GBV

Services are provided to children survivors of sexual abuse with the assumption that child protection violations are mitigated and addressed through case management and professional interventions to children survivors of GBV and abuse.

Results from **KAFA**'s LCC for the support of women victims of family violence, the knowledge gained from this experience, and the realization that there is an important number of children who are survivors of abuse and violence in cases of family violence has led **KAFA** to confirm the need for a Listening and Counseling Center for Children under the age of 18, from different backgrounds and nationalities (including refugees and migrants).

KAFA acquired an additional space in the same building hosting the LCC for women and the organization's offices. Locating the LCC for Children within the same space will facilitate the

provision of holistic and comprehensive services to women/mothers survivors of family violence and at the same time to their children who have either witnessed abuse and violence or are also themselves victims of abuse and violence and developed symptoms related to this violence.

The LCC for Children was equipped during the month of January 2015 with the needed furniture and stationary to provide a child friendly environment. Rooms are inviting, comfortable, clean and equipped in order to ensure safety, confidentiality (both visual and auditory) and accessibility by children with disabilities. Ambiance/design of the rooms is gender-neutral and they are attractive to children and adolescents (clear and vivid pictures; colors and graphics; fonts; etc.)

All case managers working with children survivors of abuse have signed KAFA's Child Protection Policy that includes a transparent and confidential mechanism to submit complaints or feedback about services.

As a total, starting from January till December 2015, 55 cases were identified as child abuse, from different regions in Lebanon, divided as follows:

29 females and 26 males aging between 2 and 18 years old, from Beirut, Mount Lebanon, South and El Chouf. They are survivors of physical, emotional, economic, sexual abuse, in addition to neglect, early marriage, sex exploitation, and rape. The abuser was almost a member of the family or from the enlarged family.

These children were provided with case management services such as social interventions, psychotherapy individual and group sessions, referral to forensic doctors, referral to psychiatrists, and legal services.

Three drama therapy group workshops were conducted, and were attended by 9 adolescents between 14 and 16 years, 15 children between 5 and 7 years old, and simultaneously 15 children between 8 and 14 years old.

These workshops were conceived as a pilot project in order to create a space for children and adolescents to think collectively and experiment drama therapy tools as a space to explore and empower themselves individually and as group.

Also, two groups of music therapy were conducted with 20 adolescents, the first group for the adolescents aged between 12 and 14 years old, and the other group for the adolescents aged between 15 and 17 years old.

The music therapy is an allied health profession and one of the expressive therapies, consisting of a process in which a music therapist uses music and all of its facets—physical, emotional, mental, social, aesthetic, and spiritual—to help them improve their physical and mental health. The music therapist primarily helped the adolescents to improve their health in several domains, such as: cognitive functioning, motor skills, emotional development, social skills, and quality of life, by using music experiences such as free improvisation, singing, and listening to, discussing, and moving to music.

3) Capacity Building and Resources Development

Capacity building is an important aspect of the work of this program. It focuses on building the capacity and skills of service providers working with vulnerable children, adolescents and caregivers, through the development of training and IEC resource materials, and through training and coaching sessions.

Development of training and IEC materials

- A training toolkit for children (6 to 9 years old) and caregivers on the prevention of Child Sexual Abuse was developed. This toolkit was based on the “Towards Safety” toolkit that was developed in 2008.
- Referral Leaflet for Central and West Bekaa targeting caregivers that was developed in 2014 based on a mapping of services available for children and families affected by the Syrian crisis was updated during 2015 in partnership with the CPiEWG and SGBV task force in Bekaa.

4. Training and Coaching Sessions

“Citadel of Protection” toolkit training:

Four training sessions were organized and implemented on the “Citadel of Protection” toolkit in 6 areas in Lebanon: T5, Akkar, Beirut/Mount Lebanon, South, Nabatieh and Bekaa. 90 service providers from different organizations participated in the training sessions. Coaching sessions were conducted with all of the trained service providers in order to monitor and evaluate the newly acquired knowledge, skills and attitudes of service providers.



UNIFIL-funded training

A 10 days training session was held in partnership with Aita El Shaab SDC in South funded by UNIFIL with 20 service providers working in SDCs and NGOs in Aita El Chaab and surroundings. The sessions involved training on the COP toolkit and the “Caring for Child Survivors of Sexual Abuse” guidelines.

KAFA team monitored the implementation of the newly acquired skills through conducting visits and using the monitoring tools through direct implementation and group coaching sessions.



V. EMERGENCY RESPONSE

A | Emergency Response for Displaced Syrians in Lebanon

Although the main focus in emergency response has been on Syrian refugees due to the scale and sensitivity of the issue, the following programs are integrated in KAFA's work in a manner to provide services to the whole community without restricting them to refugees only.

1) Training and Awareness

Community Mobilizers Training:

KAFA adopted a community mobilization approach in 2014 in order to ensure a wider outreach and meet our objective with regards to changing attitudes and practices and behaviors of individuals and groups in relation to child protection and child sexual abuse and GBV matters in general. This approach will increase the participatory decision-making processes, contribute in inclusion of marginalized groups such as women and youth who will be acting as community mobilizers, assist communities in reducing their dependence on aid and achieving a lasting change, and helping the community to be prepared to respond to any other crisis.

In 2014, training sessions for 15 days were held with chosen community mobilizers from the youth population (15 -24 years) coming from the Syrian community to ensure youth engagement as a marginalized group in the process of decisions making in regard to their communities and to build their knowledge and facilitations capacities to become community mobilizers. Training included topics such as GBV, animations skills, the Citadel of protection toolkit, referrals pathways, communications skills and primary intervention.

In 2015, regular training sessions were held with the 15 community mobilizers based on the needs emerged from the field, questions asked by children and caregivers during the awareness sessions, personal capacity building, etc. The topics revolved around Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights and how to deal with certain problematic.

Awareness on GBV in ITS, collective shelters, schools, and SDCs in Central and West Bekaa:

The trained members from the Syrian community targeted groups of children, adolescents, and caregivers in West Bekaa in schools, SDCs, municipalities, collective shelters, ITS and community centers. They operated as **KAFA** staff: Each 2 members targeting 2 groups of children, 2 groups of youth, and 2 groups of caregivers on a weekly basis. **KAFA** team provided follow up and technical support, and materials for the trained members.

3,960 children, 962 adolescents and 2,802 caregivers were targeted in 2015. Each target group received 14 awareness sessions based on the already developed “Citadel of Protection” toolkit.





2) Adolescent Friendly Space (AFS) in Chtaura in Bekaa

Thousands of families and children are fleeing Syria to Lebanon, and the numbers of refugees is increasing on a daily basis. This situation created a state of poverty surrounding Syrian families where they live in crowded houses or crowded tented settlements. This overcrowding and extreme poverty leave adolescents with very little space to play and interact and express themselves. Moreover, many adolescents are subjected to different types of GBV and abuse and exploitation.

This is why **KAFA** created an adolescents friendly space in 2014, delivering case management for adolescent (aged between 10 and 17 years old) survivors of GBV and abuse, psychosocial support, educational activities on sexual and reproductive health (SRHR), educational and awareness sessions on life skills, trainings on child rights, photography, drama and dance therapy sessions.

The AFS conducts the following activities:

- **Art therapy sessions:** Around 60 adolescents benefited from art therapy sessions in the center including drama and dance therapy.
- **Educational sessions:** Around 1110 adolescents benefited from educational and empowerment sessions in the center such as English and Literacy courses, awareness raising sessions and life skill sessions.
- **Case management:** Around 60 adolescents' survivors of different forms of GBV and sexual abuse are receiving case management (legal, social, psychological follow up, referral) from two case managers.
- **Group support activities:** Around 70 adolescents' benefited from group support activities such as drumming sessions, drawing sessions and self-defense sessions.
- **Empowerment activities:** Around 70 adolescents' benefited from photography and theatre sessions. Three exhibitions will be held in 2016 on the children's artworks.

3) Community mobilization around child protection, child rights and GBV to prevent and address violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect against children

KAFA adopted a community mobilization approach in order to ensure a wider outreach and meet our objective in regards to prevent and address violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect against child.

This approach will support based safety planning and risk mitigation and will help the communities to reduce their dependence on aid and to achieve a lasting change, and it will help the community to be prepared to respond to any other crisis.

To implement this approach, KAFA formed two committees (52 individuals) from areas in West and Central Bekaa (Majdel Anjar, Anjar, Hawsh El Harime). The committees participated in a 3 days training, 7 hours per day, organized by KAFA. The training provided information about Child's rights, Shapes of violence, GBV, detecting cases, communication skills, referral and reporting pathways and code of conduct.

A code of conduct was developed with the committee members to clarify their scope of work and their duties as a committee.

KAFA will continue to provide guidance and support and materials to them through conducting weekly meetings and continuous follow up. The follow up meetings aim at helping the structuring of the groups and supporting them in designing their vision and their action plan.



4) Provide nonfood items (clothes) for the families living in the IS in West Bekaa

Thousands of families and children were suffering after the storm that invaded Lebanon during winter 2015 causing damage and deaths among children living in IS with little heating methods. Thus, KAFA opened room for clothes donations that were divided and disseminated to children and families in the IS.



Thank you for reading.