

# **Annual Report on Activities 2021**

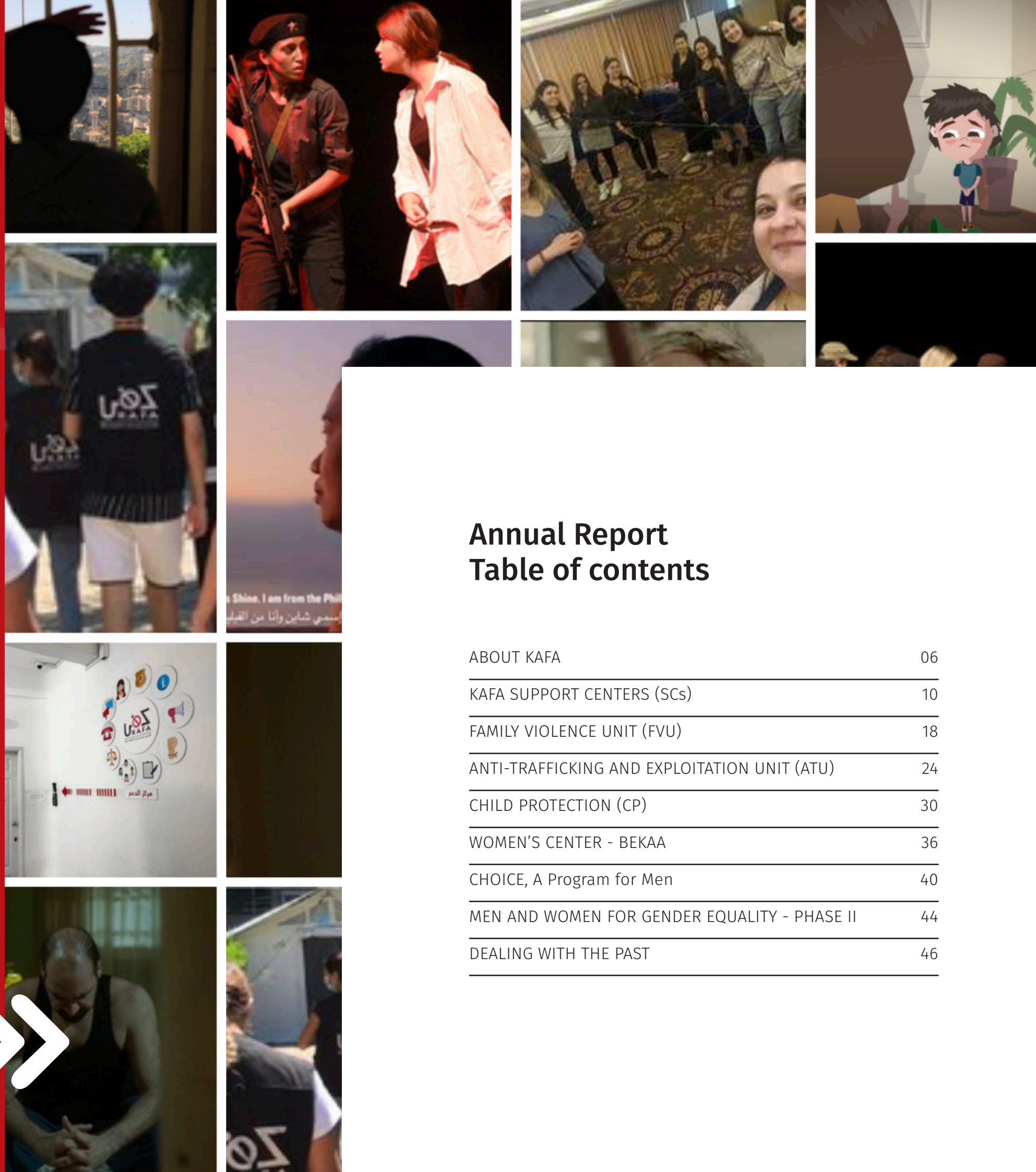
[www.kafa.org.lb](http://www.kafa.org.lb)



# Annual Report On Activities 2021



Annual Report



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# INTRODUCTION

Kafa's fight continued in 2021 benefiting larger number of women. Despite the deteriorating conditions in Lebanon, Kafa gained more public support and its activities targeted more women victims or at risk of gender-based violence and exploitation.

The economic crisis of 2019 that drove Lebanon into a depression coupled with Covid-19 pandemic and the Beirut explosion of August 2020, brought most of the population under the poverty line and eroded public institutions leaving some to qualify the country as a failed state. Within this operating environment, Kafa continued its protection, prevention, and advocacy work serving women and girls who are the most affected by the compounded crisis.

On the level of services, Kafa's helpline received over 3,000 calls and provided protection and life-saving services to over 2,000 women and girls victims of sexual and gender-based violence - including refugees and migrant women. Women benefited from information, referral, and emergency help. They were provided with emotional and psycho-social support, legal help and representation, as well as safe accommodation through Kafa's shelters. In 2021, Kafa continued to provide counselling to male perpetrators of violence and expanded its child protection services through dedicating a phone line for parents and caregivers providing advice and information on positive parenting.

In fact, Kafa's protection and prevention actions were strengthened in 2021. Kafa partnered with the police to prepare a national reporting and complaint mechanism dedicated to migrant domestic workers – a population that lacks access to justice. Kafa also partnered with the Ministry of Social Affairs to support and rehabilitate 2 of their social centers in Beirut and Tripoli. Moreover, Kafa trained volunteers, outreach workers, peer educators, NGOs staff, and frontliners across Lebanon on issues related to domestic violence and sexual and labor exploitation, and on ways to identify and refer victims. Kafa also supported the establishment of community-based protection committees and interventions across Lebanon aiming at detecting and preventing violence against women and girls.

Additionally, Kafa scaled-up its awareness raising and public education actions. Child protection interventions targeted about 7,000 children, women and men. Community interventions on promoting gender equality and raising awareness on different forms of SGBV targeted over 4,000 women and men. Kafa reached several million viewers in Lebanon and outside through disseminating awareness videos and sharing testimonies of SGBV survivors as well as survivors of Lebanese civil war. During 2021, Kafa educated the public about the necessity of having a

unified law on personal status law (UPSL) in Lebanon which ensures equality among family members regarding marriage, divorce, child custody, and finances regardless of their religion. Kafa conducted a poll according to which 84% of the 1,222 responders supported a UPSL. Moreover, a positive parenting campaign targeting caregivers was launched through KAFA's social media platforms, as well as two other media campaigns, focusing on challenging stereotypical male sex roles and calling for men to stop perpetrating violence against women and girls. Finally, Kafa produced a video calling for recognizing paid domestic work as any other profession, and putting forefront the voices of the women workers.

On the level of advocacy, Kafa succeeded in obtaining foundational support from several key civil society organizations and media institutions for the passage of a unified personal status law in Lebanon. Kafa also succeeded in gathering political support and gathered the initial endorsement of key political parties for a unified law on the personal status. On a different level, Kafa lobbied successfully the immigration authorities to prohibit the use of the term “runaway” by employers filing a notice of departure of their domestic worker thus limiting malicious accusations of theft against these workers. Moreover, during 2021, Kafa launched the drafting process for a domestic work law aiming to abolish the Kafala system and extending labor protection rights to domestic workers.

Kafa's produced several training publications throughout 2021 including “Engaging Men, As Men, For Gender Equality” handbook, “Menkhol” magazine for educational tools on child protection and GBV prevention, “KAFA's Community-based Approach for the Protection of Women, Girls and Boys” guide, the “Child Protection Policy in Media”, as well as a research paper entitled “Gender Justice in Lebanese History Books.”

Our fight continues through amplifying the voice of women survivors of SGBV and working with them to bring change in behaviors, in practices, and in laws. The state of Lebanon will not rise again without the full participation of women and the enactment of their basic rights.

Onwards,

**Zoya Rouhana**  
Director and Founder





# ABOUT

## Kafa (enough) Violence & Exploitation



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

Since its inception in 2005, KAFA has worked relentlessly to eliminate gender-based violence and exploitation. It seeks to achieve substantive gender equality through the adoption of multidisciplinary approaches, specifically: advocacy for law reform and introduction of new laws and policies; influencing public opinion, practices, and mentalities; research and training; empowering women and children

victims of violence; and providing them with social, legal, and psychological support.

### OUR VISION

KAFA envisions a society where individuals are free from violence and exploitation, have equal opportunities, and their human rights are respected, protected, and valued. Women's and children's rights are essential to building a fair society, as they contribute to economic productivity and human capital formation. Therefore, KAFA addresses the different forms of violence and exploitation against women and children, namely family violence, physical and sexual abuse of children, labor trafficking and domestic labor

protection and rights, all women become subject to violence. Therefore, KAFA's lifelong mission will always be to advocate for their freedom and ensure they receive their due rights. Thus, we wholeheartedly thank these women for their trust in KAFA. We will remain committed to supporting them, sharing their stories, and making their voices heard.

### MAIN DONORS

UNICEF, UNHCR, OCHA, UN Women, UNDEF, Norwegian People's Aid, Kvinna till Kvinna, Amica e.V, Oxfam, Open Society Institute, African Women Development Fund, Brot, Canada Fund for Local Initiatives, EU-Caritas Austria, International Labor Organization, Jida Bittner-MJBBB GmbH, Madre, Apsos, The Sisterhood is Global Institute.

They are the essential cornerstone of KAFA's success and the reason for its broader outreach.

KAFA's outreach would not have been nearly as effective without the groups and organizations that helped spread our mission, be it our civil society partners or media entities that raise awareness around KAFA's many advocacy issues.

### ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

KAFA is divided into four units:

- Child Protection Unit (CPU)
- Family Violence Unit (FVU)
- Anti-Trafficking Unit (ATU)
- Support Centers (SCs)

Each unit operates semi-autonomously. Activities are coordinated and supervised by KAFA's director and board members. Despite their specific focus area, they all strive towards the same goal: to improve the lives of women victims of violence and exploitation. The units operate a wide range of activities, such as service provision, capacity-building, awareness-raising, research, and advocacy.

exploitation, and prostitution and trafficking for sexual exploitation.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The road to equal rights is a long and bumpy one. However, KAFA's journey has witnessed many successes throughout the years. All this was made possible due to the generous support of donors, partners, and every individual who contributed to achieving the organization's goals. One of KAFA's primary goal will always be to protect women in Lebanon, regardless of their nationality, background, race, or socioeconomic status. Without laws ensuring their

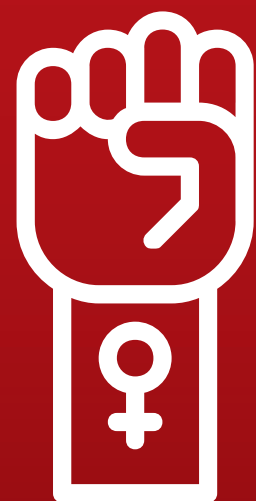
# SUPPORT CENTER

## UNIT BRIEF AND GOALS

**Kafa's Support Centers (SCs) in Beirut and Bekaa provide women, victims/survivors of SGBV, with a wide range of services such as case management, psychosocial support, legal consultations, court representations, referral to temporary safe housing, forensic medical reports, and 24/7 emergency support hotline.**

All services are provided in a safe environment, follow women using a victim-centered approach, and foster a sense of personal control through providing choice, autonomy, and empowerment.

Since the staff's well-being is paramount, the support centers organize staff-care activities to maintain a healthy and effective working environment. A transitional shelter was also made available to provide temporary lodging for women victims of DV. It was established in 2020 as a direct response to Covid-19. All the other shelters had been closed or required quarantine before admission. Since then, KAFA has been operating this transitional shelter for emergency placement until another safe location is found. The secure site might be a GBV shelter where cases could be referred for a longer term.



## IMPACT OF SOCIOECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY ON SC SERVICES

The social impact of the different crises in Lebanon, including political instability and social, economic, and financial problems, is enormous and could become catastrophic. Gender-based violence and poverty are inextricably linked; poverty exacerbates gender-based violence in many ways. Women and girls living in poverty are more vulnerable to abuse, exploitation, and trafficking.

Poverty and price inflation affected the ability of SGBV women to access KAFA services as transportation costs skyrocketed, and some women could not afford them.

In some instances, disadvantaged SGBV women may find themselves prioritizing the essential needs of their children over the options of breaking the abuse cycle away from the perpetrator.

The economic crisis and the high unemployment rates also affected the implementation of court decisions. In some instances, perpetrators of domestic abuse could not pay the alimony ordered by courts, affecting victims' ability to afford the costs of raising their children.

Facing the high prevalence of GBV in our community and the exacerbation of its risks in critical socioeconomic circumstances, KAFA's SC continued to provide various programs and services that focus on creating and sustaining positive change for victims and their families. Unfortunately, the country is in dire need of such services in the complete absence of a governmental strategy to reduce GBV and mitigate its risks.

From therapy sessions (social, psychological, and psychotherapy) to legal services and psychosocial activities, we provide resources that facilitate the healing process for long-term empowerment. Through individual counseling with professionals trained in helping people deal with trauma, the beneficiaries develop and carry on plans to establish safer lives, avoid abusive relationships and help them gain control of their lives. We work with them to stop victimizing themselves, increase their self-esteem, and empower them enough to be aware of the opportunity to break free of the circle of violence. KAFA encourages beneficiaries to initiate new steps in their lives, such as starting or pursuing their education, finding or improving their profession, and other measures that could lead to their self-development.



The impact of those services on the beneficiaries with KAFA’s services was measured through pre- and post-tests with 70 randomly selected beneficiaries from the SC Beirut. Results have shown that the vast majority of the participants (80%) reported improved well-being when asked questions about their mental health and decision-making. Additionally, the impact of the SC work is seen when empowered women refer GBV cases from their surroundings to KAFA. In 2021, even children who were followed up at the SC took the initiative to call the governmental hotline to report domestic violence (1745) and their father’s abuse towards their mothers. In 2021, the transitional shelter provided temporary lodging for women victims of DV at a time when all the shelters were closed or required quarantine before admission. This shelter was crucial for women (sometimes with their children) who didn’t have another place to go while searching for a permanent safe residence. Moreover, we make sure that we join beneficiaries in psychosocial activities such as support groups, dance therapy sessions, art therapy, and self-defense activities to help them gain self-confidence and have more physical and emotional control. The support groups, for instance, give the survivors a chance to talk about experiences with trained community education advocates and understand the impact that abuse has had on their lives and their children. As a result, victims share similar life experiences and realize that they’re not alone in going through difficult situations and help each other build their strengths, courage, and resilience.

SCs MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS 2021

The department provided case management services for 1396 new cases and 575 follow-ups, in addition to 5056 social services and 4356 legal services. The SCs received 3024 calls, including 1876 new calls, 594 report/complaint follow-ups, 388 inquiries on helping GBV victims, 128 miscellaneous questions, and 38 shelter inquiries.

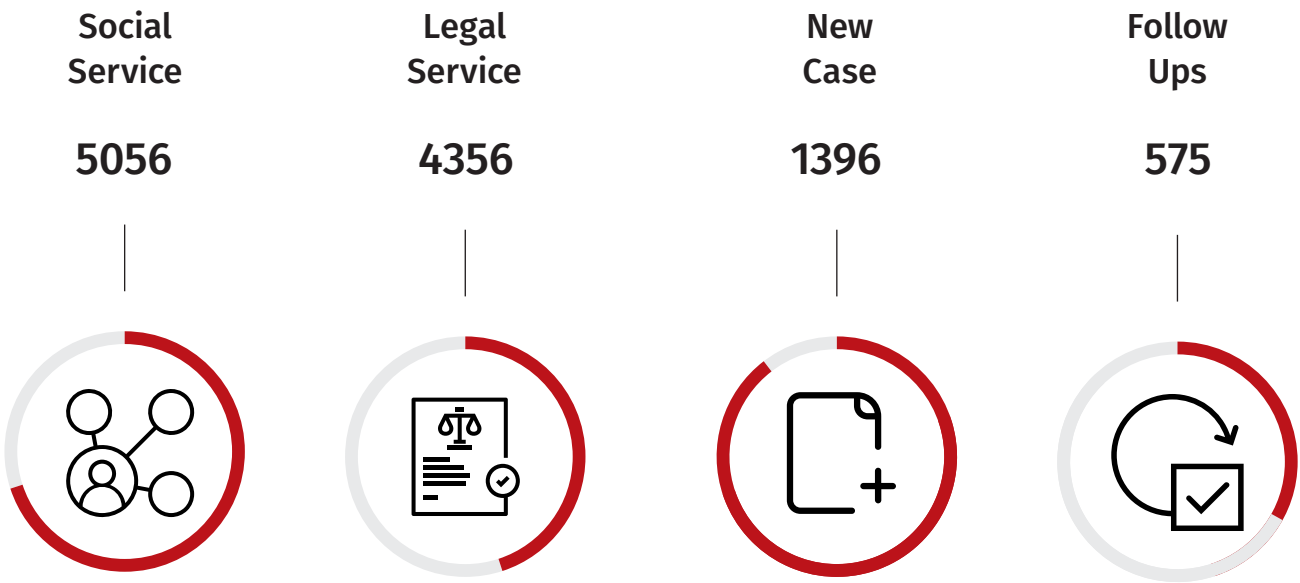


**03 018 019**  
4/7 emergency support  
hotline

Total  
number of calls

3024

- 1876 New Calls
- 594 Report/Complaint follow-ups
- 388 Inquiries on helping GBV victims
- 38 Shelter Inquiries
- 128 Other Inquiries

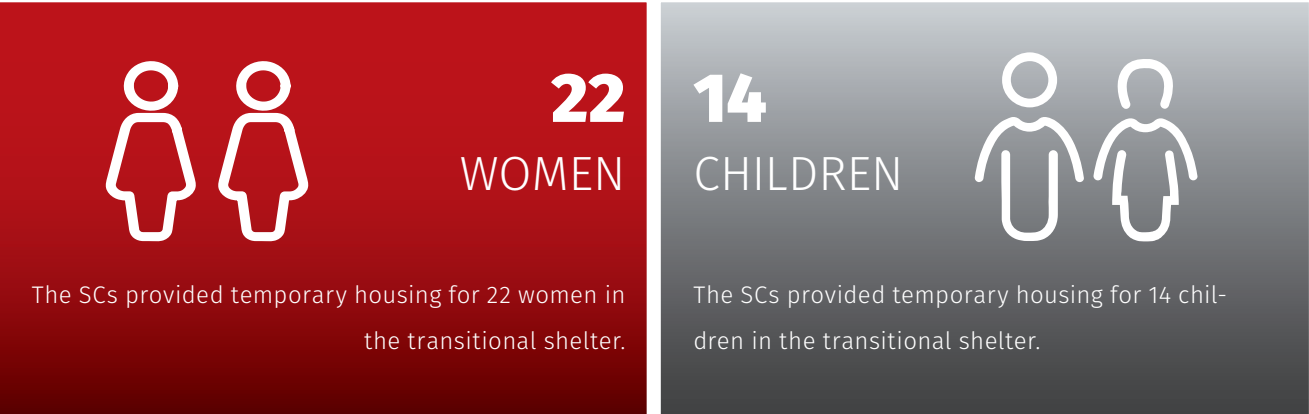


1. The SCs provided Awareness and Support Group sessions for SGBV women.

- a) Awareness group sessions on GBV for SGBV women: **Eight sessions were provided for a group of SGBV women.** Those sessions increased the knowledge of women on various SGBV topics, including different forms of GBV, and aimed at changing their perception and attitudes on SGBV and possibly becoming women activists in this field and doing some change in their close community.
- b) Support groups for SGBV women: **Eight support group sessions were provided for 10-12 GBV survivors.** The sessions aim to help struggling women cope with their problems, provide moral support, and develop new skills. It is based on common factors such as moments of expression where they can talk freely, even about painful emotions.

2. The SCs provided temporary housing for women and children in the transitional shelter:

- a) Transitional shelter: In 2021, 22 women and 14 children were provided with temporary housing, including accommodation in dorms and lodging at the temporary shelter.





**3. The SCs conducted staff care activities, including relational skills training, 22 continuous learning/coaching sessions, and 54 individual sessions with psychologists for frontline professionals.**

- a) Relational skills training: The SC staff received five training sessions on relational skills that increased the participants' knowledge of communicating effectively with people. This training included sessions on different topics, including parental relationships; couples' relationships; and communication among colleagues at work.
- b) Coaching: The frontline professional staff at KAFA received 22 coaching and mentoring sessions as a continuous learning method for the team.
- c) Individual sessions: Frontline professionals (9 social workers, helpline operators, and psychologists) received 54 individual sessions by experienced psychologists to equip them with needed skills for self-preservation.



**4. The economic empowerment project aims to support vulnerable women and victims of GBV in accessing protection, employment, and other income-generating opportunities.**

For the past few years, Kafa has been engaged in ongoing reforms to ensure the strengthening of the system coherence in supporting SGBV victims and women's empowerment and providing guidelines for working environments with inclusivity, diversity, and equality.

As part of Kafa's vision to create a safe and secure society for women victims of SGBV, and in addition to Kafa's regular interventions in providing immediate protection services and case management, this UN Women's project also aimed at economically empowering this marginalized group of women, through supporting them in the creation of two women led economic projects.

To achieve the project's goals, Kafa partnered with Daleel Tadamon, a local NGO, to train women on managerial and marketing skills before choosing the businesses they wanted: a soap production and sales entity and a home service-providing entity. The initiatives are run by 23 women and registered as NGOs. They are now fully operational and growing. They are also being closely monitored by Kafa every quarter. Moreover, under this project, Kafa provided immediate protection services and case management to 250 women victims of SGBV.

In addition to the above, Kafa collaborated with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) to support two SDCs staff by providing them with capacity building on SGBV and referral mechanisms, as well as to rehabilitate 2 SDCs, one in Bab al-Tabbaneh in Tripoli and one in Tariq Al Jadidi in Beirut.



# FAMILY VIOLENCE

## UNIT BRIEF

The Family Violence Unit (FVU) focused on advocating for change in policies and laws that discriminate against women in Lebanon by improving current laws or proposing new ones.

More concretely, KAFA is currently working on a unified personal status law and a comprehensive law to eliminate all forms of VAW (including sections and articles related to the new proposed amendments on the content of the newly amended law 293, in addition to nationality and early marriage). In addition, the FVU continued to provide awareness campaigns and sessions for the general public, capacity-building training for the ISF, specialized front liners, journalists, and political activists, and developing legal studies.

## FVU ACHIEVEMENTS

### Lobbying Activities for a Unified Personal Status Law (UPSL)

As a continuation of the lobbying and advocacy efforts, KAFA built partnerships and a network of supporters towards adopting the UPSL. A series of activities were conducted throughout the year. They included networking with 21 political groups, two political platforms, and partnerships with online media platforms and institutions such as Daraj, Annahar Newspaper, and MTV Lebanon TV station. In addition, more than 23 online and offline awareness sessions were conducted, along with two media campaigns and several group discussions with media activists, NGOs, and Political movements. The activities raised the awareness of men and women in Lebanon of the discriminatory impact of religion-based status laws and courts on women and their families and the content of the proposed UPSL. The number of people reached through the media reached 370,000 in the 16 Days Campaign 2021 and 12,000,000 between November 2021 and February 2022.

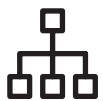
Audience members were convinced of the need for a civil personal status code. Participants in awareness sessions increased their knowledge about UPSL by 33% - 311 men and women in 23 awareness sessions. Social media users' knowledge of UPSL has increased. The developed Web App served as an awareness tool, integrated with ten interactive questions related to the UPSL. The App allows the public to access and interact to solve the questions and understand more about the law topic. It is also used as an evaluation tool to measure the level of knowledge about UPSL and public support following the two social media campaigns. The Web App was published online with a reach of 50034. It was filled by more than 1222 users (different age groups, Lebanese areas, and genders), and 1026 out of 1222 supported the UPSL.



+33 %

KNOWLEDGE ABOUT UPSL

Participants in awareness sessions increased their knowledge about UPSL by 33% - 311 men and women in 23 awareness sessions.



84%

SUPPORT UPSL

Two social media campaigns. It was published online with a reach of 50034 and filled by more than 1222 users; 1026 (84%) supported the UPSL.



12M

MEDIA CAMPAIGN REACH


The number of people reached through the media reached 370,000 in the 16 Days Campaign 2021 and 12M between Nov 2021 and Feb 2022.



Civil society and media support the passage of the UPSL through lobbying and advocating

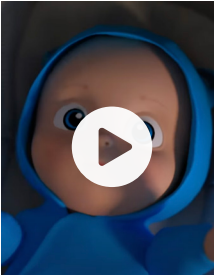
Knowledge about personal status laws, their impacts, and the proposed alternative law (UPSL) grew:

- 51 organizations and activist members of the Feminist Platform adopted the UPSL. It was listed in the agenda as the primary demand.
- 21 organizations from the Feminist Platform registered for the discussion session.
- 11 political groups and ten electoral coalitions were approached to adopt the UPSL in their electoral programs. Twelve registered to attend the discussion session.
- 30 journalists were approached.
- 7 initiatives were conducted (articles, an investigative report).
- 2 partnerships were established with media institutions: a TV station and an online media platform.




UPSL Video 1

Type: 3D Animated video  
Duration: 45 sec



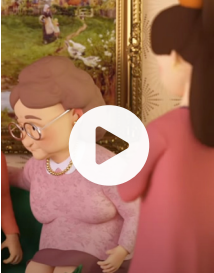
UPSL Video 2

Type: 3D Animated video  
Duration: 35 sec




UPSL Video 3

Type: 3D Animated video  
Duration: 68 sec




UPSL Video 4

Type: 3D Animated video  
Duration: 55 sec




MTV - My Rights

Type: TV talk show  
Duration: 13 min




MTV - My Rights

Type: TV talk show  
Duration: 14 min



MTV - My Rights

Type: TV talk show  
Duration: 14 min



MTV - My Rights

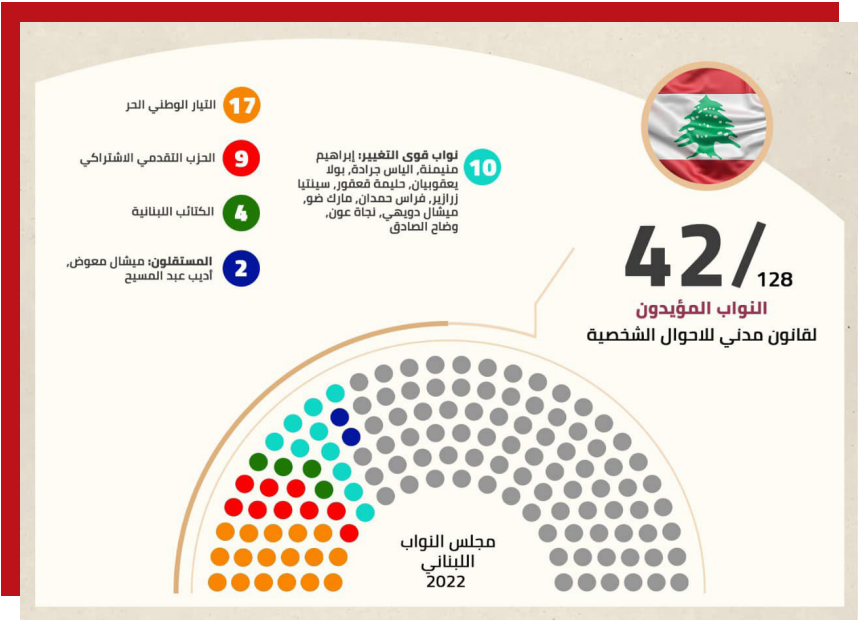
Type: TV talk show  
Duration: 14 min

Over the past few years, efforts accumulated, and public awareness grew about the injustices and discrimination in the current personal status laws in religious courts. The demand for a UPSL was reiterated during the October 17 revolution. The process culminated in the 2022 Parliamentary elections, whose main results were the following.

- During the preparations for the parliamentary elections, several oppositional political groups, co- alitions, and status quo political parties adopted the unified personal status law in their electoral programs.
- The issue was represented in the media and was one of the main questions asked of the candidates.
- The most critical achievement is establishing the linkage between violence against women and the personal status law in the public consciousness.

Political parties and groups supporting the UPSL

- Six political parties publicly announced their support and adoption of the UPSL.
- Forty-two approached political movements, and parties adopted the UPSL in their electoral programs during the parliamentary elections in 2022.



# ANTI-TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION

## UNIT BRIEF

**The Anti-Trafficking and Exploitation Unit (ATU) at KAFA works on supporting women migrant domestic workers (WMDWs) who are victims of abuse and exploitation as well as Lebanese, refugees, and migrant women who are exploited in the abusive system of prostitution. In addition, the ATU aims to build public opinion against exploitation and human trafficking and establish a national legal and social protection framework for victims, particularly women and girls.**

In 2021, the ATU maintained its programs despite the massive challenges of the ongoing crisis. As always, the needs and voices of women victims of abuse and exploitation were at the center of our team's efforts and the main driver to informing and implementing our programs and interventions. We primarily aimed at responding to the needs of migrant domestic workers and Lebanese and refugee women victims of abuse, exploitation, and human trafficking through the 24/7 helpline, safe shelter operations, and providing quality case management services.

Building on previous years' efforts, the ATU managed to impact the advocacy scene around domestic workers' issues and take its work to a higher level. In addition, the ATU kicked off the preparatory work for drafting a law on domestic work. Once adopted, it would abolish the Kafala system and establish labor rights for domestic workers.

Moreover, long-term cooperation with the Lebanese police (ISF) was launched to develop and implement a better response toward women migrant domestic workers victims of abuse and those at risk of violence. Finally, despite the several challenges, the ATU worked on advancing capacity building and community-based interventions to address the issues of prostitution and sex trafficking.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

**A significant policy change was achieved, prohibiting the term “runaway” and preventing malicious accusations of theft.**

In February 2021, General Security (GS) issued a decision and an administrative measure enabling employers to report directly to the GS when a domestic worker leaves the employer's house. In addition, the decision prohibited using terms such as “escape” or “runaway” in official records, de facto limiting the malicious theft accusations usually filed by employers against MDWs who leave their workplace, i.e., the employer's house. This reform resulted from a series of meetings organized by the ATU with the GS, ISF, and judges, in addition to submitting an official request to the DGS demanding them to take action in this regard.

**ATU drafted an updated curriculum on prostitution and sex trafficking for police officers, putting the voice of the survivors at the forefront.**

Kafa's ATU updated its training curriculum on prostitution and sex trafficking to include lessons learned from training hundreds of law enforcement officers since 2015. In addition, the new curriculum puts forward the voice of survivors to police officers. It contains three videos of testimonials of Syrian, Lebanese, French, German, and Irish women survivors of prostitution and sex trafficking. The updated curriculum was finalized after being piloted with a group of 16 officers from ISF and GS.



**410**  
DIRECT  
SUPPORT

The ATU directly supported 410 migrant, refugee, and Lebanese women victims of labor and sexual exploitation, through the helpline and direct social, legal, and medical services, including accommodation at the safe shelter



**340**  
REFUGEE  
TRAINED

The ATU identified, trained, and raised the awareness of 340 Syrian refugee women, community mobilizers, and outreach volunteers on prostitution and trafficking for sexual purposes.

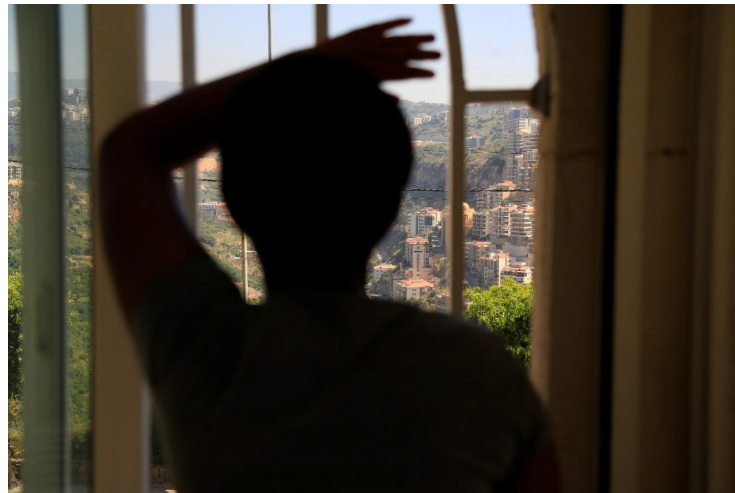
**Towards abolishing the Kafala system and establishing labor protection for domestic workers, the ATU started preparing a draft law on domestic work and establishing a national reporting and complaint mechanism at the ISF.**

#### **Drafting a law on Domestic Work**

For years, KAFA had lobbied and campaigned to establish in public opinion and among decision-makers that the Kafala system is at the core of the exploitation of migrant domestic workers in Lebanon and that domestic work should be recognized as work. Finally, in 2021, KAFA's ATU started preparing a draft law on domestic work. The legal reform would abolish the Kafala system, remove the Lebanese labor code exclusion of domestic workers, establish legal and labor protection for domestic workers, and set clear penalties for abusers.

Establishing a national reporting and complaint mechanism at the ISF

In October 2021, the ATU began working to establish a national reporting and complaint mechanism for domestic workers who are victims of abuse or at risk of violence, abuse, and exploitation. The Internal Security Forces will operate the mechanism and help officers implement a victim and women-centered approach throughout victim interviews and investigations.



#### **Story of Joyce**

<https://kafa.org.lb/en/node/464>

#### **The ATU campaigned for the recognition of migrant domestic workers as rights holders.**

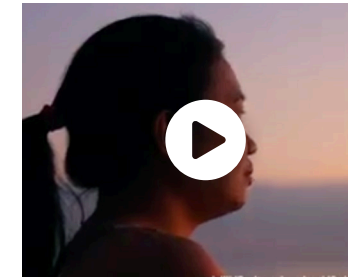
*"I will never forget that someone stole my hard-earned money."*

In 2021, the ATU published the stories of Joyce and Buzuneh, migrant domestic workers victims of physical and sexual abuse as labor exploitation, to raise public awareness of violations against MDWs through their voices and stories. Central to these stories is the Kafala/Sponsorship system, an enslaving system allowing all kinds of abuse against domestic workers.



#### **TV SPOT**

**Type:** Video  
**Duration:** 45 sec



#### **The Story of Dija and Shine**

**Type:** Video  
**Duration:** 45 sec

#### **The ATU called for the recognition of domestic work.**

"Domestic Work is Also Work" is a short video that calls for recognizing domestic work as a job (similar to other recognized professions) and for its regulation under the Labor Law by repealing Article 7, which excludes domestic work from its provisions. In addition, the video indicated the changes occurring in this sector in Lebanon in light of the financial crisis and the increasing involvement of Lebanese women in domestic work. The video reached approximately 900,000 people on KAFA's Facebook, Instagram, and Youtube.

#### **The ATU launched the event: Domestic work is work! Together on Labor Day.**

On Labor Day 2021, the ATU disseminated a video testimony of 2 MDWs, Dija and Shine, who were hosted at Kafa's shelter after suffering from abuse and exploitation by their employer.

Link to the video testimony: <https://www.facebook.com/KAFALebanon/videos/471240740866921/>

The ATU also organized an online panel discussion that hosted WMDWs community leaders. They spoke about the situation of MDWs in Lebanon, the impact of the socioeconomic and health crisis, and the outlook at the policy level.



# CHILD PROTECTION

## UNIT BRIEF

**KAFA's Child Protection Unit's (CPU) strategy aims to create a society free of violence and discrimination against children and women. The strategy's goals are based on the Sustainable Development Goals for child protection. Our primary focus is prevention, building on our integrated community-based approach (CBA) to violence against children and women. KAFA wants to ensure that all communities have equal quality access to information, support, and resources that enable them to prevent violence against children and promote gender equality.**

**In support of these objectives, the strategy adopts two core strategic goals:**

1. It addresses the behavioral, social, cultural, and economic determinants of child protection violations through our CBA.
2. It supports CP/GBV and non-CP/GBV actors and institutions in preventing and responding to child protection violations through the adoption of child-friendly policies, the production of education and prevention resources, and the capacity development of frontline workers.

KAFA's community-based approach (CBA) was designed to prevent violence against women, girls, and boys. It addresses harmful social norms, attitudes, and behaviors; ensures access to response services for survivors of violence; and engages, mobilizes, and strengthens community agency to create a safer, more protective environment for women and children.

KAFA's structure includes center and community-based interventions, coordinating efforts to prevent and respond to GBV against women, adolescent boys and girls, and younger children, as well as CP violations. Our approach also builds on the already invested and established community-based approach. Affected populations are considered vital partners in developing strategies and interventions related to their assistance. Their inclusion in decision-making would strengthen their capacity to identify, design, and sustain solutions, ensuring better protection. The primary innovation in that regard has always been a strong focus on local communities where children and adolescents live, contributing to their safety and capacity to protect. The peer education approach ensures sustainable community development. It impacts social norms and behaviors by using peers as catalysts for change, allowing us to engage men in our interventions.

Community-based (CB) programs are increasingly recognized as an essential strategy to enhance the safety and protection of the most vulnerable community members. Humanitarian and development practitioners are continuously looking for new, efficient, and sustainable approaches to engage and support communities and their members to protect themselves and realize their rights to safety, assistance, repair, recovery, and redress.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2021, the Child Protection Unit's community-based interventions provided an important example of how members of vulnerable communities can come together to create a safer environment for children and women. It is one of the few programs that address violence against women and children through integrated programming. These interventions targeted around 7,000 children, adolescents, women, and men in Beirut/Mount Lebanon and Central and West Bekaa. They led to establishing three new protection committees, providing awareness, safety assessments, risk mitigation action plans, and referral to GBV and non-GBV related services. In 2021, the already established protection committees autonomously identified and intervened to stop 14 cases of early marriage within their communities.

The interventions and approaches mentioned above were documented in a guide, "KAFA's Community-based Approach," aiming at knowledge-sharing around best practices on child protection (CP) risks and the gender-based violence (GBV) integrated approach.

Moreover, the severe economic crisis in Lebanon, the Beirut Blast, and the Covid-19 pandemic have imposed unprecedented challenges on women and men caregivers. They had to meet children's basic needs and maintain their physical and emotional well-being while facing the stress caused by the economic situation, lack of resources, and the lockdown, juggling homeschooling, play times, and their day-to-day schedules as adults. Hence, KAFA created an information telephone line that connects parents and caregivers with KAFA staff and specialists to provide them with direct support, advice, and information on positive parenting, stress management, and self-care. As a result, around 123 phone calls (112 female and 11 male caregivers) were received in 2021.



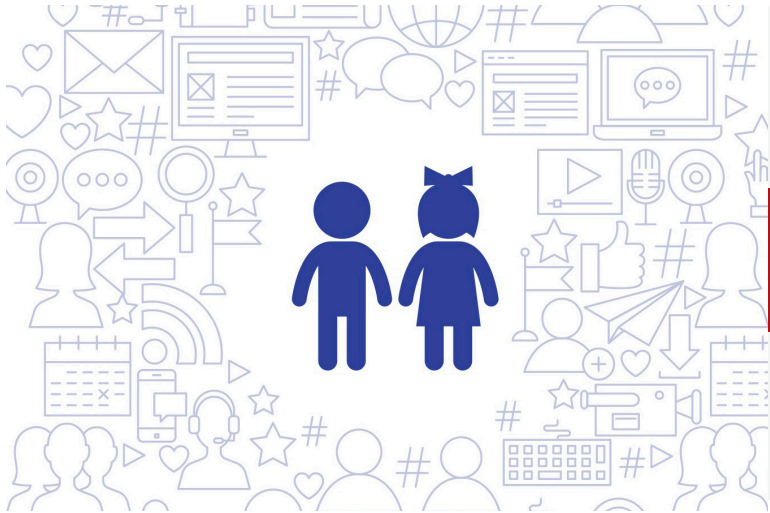
A “positive parenting” campaign was launched through KAFA’s social media platforms. It aimed to improve prevention and protection measures for children and adolescents and create safe environments. The campaign targeted caregivers to help them understand the needs of children, enhance their ability to build healthy relationships with them, raise awareness, and build the capacity of local communities on the subject.

The second edition of “Menkhol” magazine was developed, targeting toddlers, children, and adolescents. It is disseminated in primary health care centers, schools, pharmacies, supermarkets, and others. The magazines aim at providing educational tools on CP and GBV prevention as well as contributing to breaking stereotyped images and ideas that are directly or indirectly acquired from the patriarchal society in which we live.

On a national level, the Child Protection Policy targeting media platforms was finalized in terms of development and design with a plan to start advocacy and lobbying with media institutions and organizations within 2022.

The CPP’s goals are as follows:

- Protect the interests of the child and award it the highest priority.
- Guarantee non-discrimination between children for any reason possible.
- Respect a child’s dignity in all circumstances.
- Guarantee a child’s right to the protection of their identity, privacy, and confidentiality, especially when those rights are violated.
- Respect a child’s right to obtain information in a manner suitable to their interests and abilities.
- Listen and take the children’s opinions into consideration.
- Encourage children’s participation in making decisions that affect them, especially ones related to appearing in the media.
- Ensure that children and their caregivers provide informed consent about dealing (directly or indirectly) with the media and any related consequences.
- Ensure a child or a legal guardian’s right to accept or refuse to be exposed to the media.
- Notify when a child is suspected of being or having been subjected to assault.
- Ensure a proper referral of cases, especially those requiring a specialist’s intervention.



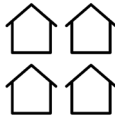
CHILD PROTECTION POLICY IN THE MEDIA

<https://kafa.org.lb/en/node/506>

SAFE SPACES FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Since 2014, KAFA has been working on strengthening the resilience of vulnerable children (boys and girls) by increasing their awareness of GBV/CP through implementing its community-based approach in established safe spaces. KAFA’s Safe Spaces are:

- Adolescent Friendly Space in Chtaura
- 22 Informal Settlements and Households in Central and West Bekaa
- 2 SDCs in the Bekaa: Kab Elias, Jeb Janine
- 2 SDCs in Beirut/Mount Lebanon: Borj El Barajneh and Mazraa
- 2 CBOs in Ashrafieh: Najdeh Association and Berrad El Hay.



22

INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

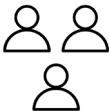
Informal Settlements and Households  
in Central and West Bekaa



4

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER

2 SDCs in the Bekaa: Kab Elias, Jeb  
Janine and 2 SDCs in Beirut/Mount  
Lebanon: Borj El Barajneh and Mazraa



2

COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATION

2 CBOs in Ashrafieh: Najdeh Associa-  
tion and Berrad El Hay.



7000  
INTERVENTIONS

targeted Children, Adolescents, Wom-  
en, and Men in Beirut/Mount Lebanon  
and Central and West Bekaa

## CPU's MONITORING AND EVALUATION DEPARTMENT

The department reviewed and updated the CPU's M&E tools. They include templates for monitoring implementation progress and evaluation tests of programs (PSS, emotional support, parenting skills, AWSO, and life skills). The evaluation tests of every program were reviewed and updated according to the curricula updates. They were further amended to online implementation of the program. Templates for monitoring targets and following the progress on Covid-19 sensitization were developed and tracked regularly. The department conducted training on the many stages, starting with the newly developed templates, the amended evaluation tests, and the new M&E tools. In addition, the team was trained on the most effective change tool and SDQ data collection and reporting by UNICEF.



### استخدام العنف في التربية

Type: Animated Video  
Duration: 42 sec



### الوقت النوعي

Type: Animated Video  
Duration: 45 sec



### التعامل مع الاجهاد و الغضب

Type: Animated Video  
Duration: 47 sec



**03018019**  
**KAFA HOTLINE**





# WOMEN'S CENTER BEKAA



## UNIT BRIEF

**The Women's Center, affiliated with the Support Center (SC) in the Bekaa region, aims to outreach communities of multiple nationalities residing in Central, West, and North Bekaa. It complements the work of the Support Centre by empowering women with knowledge, skills, and tools to become advocates for KAFA's cause within their respective communities.**

The Women's Center has been targeting communities mainly through thematic information sessions on various topics related to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). In addition, it aims to deliver peer-to-peer training programs to provide individuals with the right skills to help in refugee camps on SGBV-related topics, case identification, and safe disclosure and referrals, thus ensuring a sustainable protection network against SGBV.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### Emotional Support Individual Sessions (ESIS):

KAFA conducted 124 emotional support sessions with 31 Syrian women aged 18 to 40. The sessions were carried out individually to ensure the participants' privacy. The sessions aimed to provide a safe space for women to express themselves and tackle particular issues with specialists for improved mental health. Women have stressed the burdens of the economic situation and their obligation to work a double shift to sustain their families. The psychotherapists also reported that participants expressed relief, immediate changes in their daily lives, and a better general mood. They have requested additional sessions if possible. All the interviewees reported an increased feeling of peace and calm following the sessions. They also reported improved relationship and communication methods with their children and anger management. All the interviewees stressed the importance of private sessions to be able to speak freely, mainly since they were held outside the camps. Two women requested additional individual sessions.

### Awareness and life skills sessions around SGBV prevention, online and in person:

At the beginning of 2021, due to the Covid-19 situation, Kafa's staff contacted women's groups weekly through WhatsApp and voice messages. KAFA provided 176 online sessions targeting 581 women between 16 and 60, covering early marriage, women's rights, trafficking, Covid-19, and registering on the platform for vaccination.

One hundred eighteen sessions were held during field visits to North Bekaa ITSS (Saiidy, Bouday, Talia, Deir el Ahmar, Hawsh Tal Safia, Hawsh Barada, Hawr Taala, Btedei, Shifa, and Jabaa). They targeted 856 women between 16 and 60 and covered topics related to GBV and trafficking.



**124**  
INDIVIDUAL  
EMOTIONAL SUP-  
PORT SESSIONS

with 31 Syrian women aged 18 to 40. All the interviewees reported an increased feeling of peace and calm following the sessions.



**176**  
ONLINE  
SESSIONS

targeting 581 women between 16 and 60, covering early marriage, women's rights, trafficking, Covid-19, and registering on the platform for vaccination.

### Build the capacity of national/local stakeholders, Oxfam, and partner staff:

In September 2021, Kafa delivered a three-day training for NGO staff (Oxfam, TDH, ACTED, War Child, Caritas, INTERSOS, AMEL, LOST, LUPD) and members of the Baalbek Municipality Union on different topics related to GBV. The number of attendees was 28: 8 men and 20 women. The training was meant to sensitize participants on GBV to acquire a good attitude towards SGBV cases.

The training covered the following topics: information on Kafa GBV services, the “CHOICE” program that Kafa implements through engaging men in GBV prevention, safe referrals and identification of GBV cases, information about Law 293 and the new amendments and achievements under this law, sex trafficking, and Kafa’s approach in supporting survivors.

An evaluation survey was filled out after each session for 23 out of the 28 participants. In the three sessions, almost all of the respondents (99%) were satisfied with the content. The general atmosphere of the training was positive, especially during the role-playing games.



### Staff capacity-building:

In July 2021, KAFA organized a three-day capacity building and strategic planning workshop for five staff and frontline workers. The first two days covered the topics of sexual education and communication between caregivers and children on issues related to sexual development, SRHR, and the role of caregivers in preventing GBV. The latter was delivered to build the capacity of frontline staff to respond to information requests from individuals in the community after receiving several questions on these topics. The last day covered KAFA’s internal strategic planning and capacity building on delivery of remote activities in case of a renewed lockdown and prolonged fuel crisis. During this workshop, KAFA also reflected on lessons learned, gaps, and good practices around providing GBV services (conducted in person and remotely during the pandemic). In addition, KAFA staff developed several contingency planning scenarios and adapted methodologies to reflect the current challenges that could be implemented later.

### Peer-to-peer training and sessions

In 2021, 2 groups of 5 women (a total of 10 peers) aged between 20 and 38 years old, have received a four-day training covering various topics related to GBV, including sexual exploitation, trafficking, and child protection. First, women were trained to provide peer-to-peer sessions in informal settlements. Then, the trained women started rolling out the peer-to-peer sessions to other women in their communities. In total, 50 information sessions were provided to 362 women between 16 and 62, covering the following topics: child protection, GBV, and its impact, trafficking, and sexual exploitation. To evaluate the effect of these sessions, Kafa’s team conducted 4 Focus Group Discussion sessions with 26 women participants from different informal settlements. All participants mentioned that they liked the sessions and considered them beneficial, as they primarily provided valuable information about child protection and GBV.

### Innovative community initiatives designed and implemented by women’s groups to respond to shared threats and concerns

In May 2021, three community-led initiatives were implemented by three women’s groups in Saide. In addition, 80 women were consulted to identify initiatives that could best respond to and mitigate protection threats.

Consultations were conducted through WhatsApp groups that KAFA has been managing since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The initiatives included the following:

- KAFA’s team facilitated a two-day “First Aid training” in May 2021 for 26 women in the community in Saide and Bouday delivered by the Lebanese Red Cross.
- School supplies were provided to children in Saide 030 based on the request of women’s groups and other women in the community. However, families could not afford the costs due to the deteriorating economic situation and price inflations.
- Wool and sewing needles were also distributed, targeting 170 women aged between 15 to 50.

# CHOICE, A Program for Men



## BRIEF

**KAFA created “CHOICE, A Program For Men” to increase women’s and children’s safety. CHOICE aims at assisting men who have perpetrated violence of any kind (physical, psychological, economic, or other) towards their partners, children, or other family members to develop non-abusive relationships.**

Moreover, to decrease sexual and gender-based violence and create a gender-equal society, CHOICE also works on the community level by challenging gender norms and traditional masculinity through awareness-raising sessions and media campaigning.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### Individual interventions with perpetrators of violence:

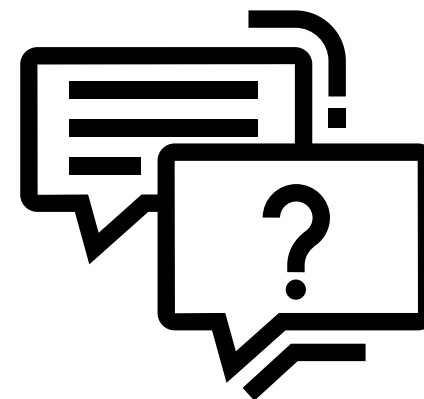
All the men enrolling at CHOICE were referred through beneficiaries at the Support Center further to a safety assessment with their case workers. Those beneficiaries were thus either men’s partners or children subjected to abuse. A total of 11 men received a total of 206 sessions in 2021. Most of these sessions occurred remotely further to the COVID-19 pandemic and logistical reasons. However, progress has been noticed by the men and some of their family members in certain areas, such as acknowledging the cost of violence, masculinity, emotional regulation, fathering and communication skills, and conflict resolution skills.

### Discussion Sessions on “Redefining Masculinity for a Gender-Equal Society”:

CHOICE also targets Lebanese society through outreach activities aiming at creating change toward gender equality. It provided discussion sessions on “redefining masculinity for a gender-equal society,” aiming to trigger the participants’ curiosity for more self-exploration of their perception of masculinity. The discussions were held in English or Arabic (depending on the public). They took place on Zoom or on-site (depending on the Covid-19 situation and the participants’ requests). Twenty-three zoom sessions were held with university students, school students, NGOs, and other institutions, in addition to two on-site sessions with two different drug rehabilitation centers.

### Handbook on “Engaging Men, As Men, For Gender Equality”:

A guide on “Engaging Men, As Men, For Gender Equality” was developed to be used by trainers in CHOICE to implement workshops with groups of men in Lebanon. These workshops aim to challenge traditional masculine norms imposed by the patriarchal system by working closely with men in the Lebanese community to get them to reconsider their definition of masculinity, allowing us to take a step closer to a gender-equal society. The handbook was divided into



**206**  
SESSIONS

11 men perpetrators of violence  
who received a total of 206 sessions



- A short course or a series of sessions about engaging men to be implemented with the same group of men over several weekly sessions,
- A single workshop to be used as an introductory tool and would give a general idea about the subject matter.

When the handbook was finalized, a Zoom training was held for CHOICE staff and other KAFA departments. It included exploring the exercises as well as the underlying concepts of the handbook.

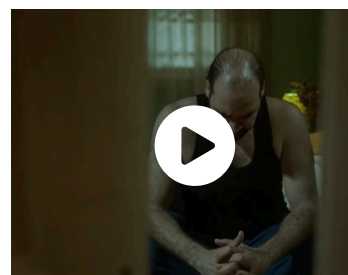
#### Two lobbying campaigns:

- **“Violence is never the best option; you can end it”** – Social Media Campaign The video’s objective was to prevent violence against women/children amid the severe crises in Lebanon, which tend to exacerbate GBV to a great extent. As “CHOICE, A Program for Men,” we speak to men who are aware of their abuse and have a motivation to change, as little as it can be. This video thus targeted these men to prevent them from perpetrating violence by highlighting the costs of abuse on the men themselves. The video was streamed on KAFA’s social media platform and reached 516K views on Facebook and 9K on Instagram.
- **“Toxic masculinity is a choice, not a destiny; Free yourself!”**: Social Media Campaign and TV Public Service Announcement. This advertisement aims to raise awareness about traditional masculinity and how it is inherited on a trans-generational basis while displaying its negative impacts on the men and those surrounding them. We used the concept of the Russian doll to emphasize that most men are trapped in a box without knowing. The video highlights that we are not bound to live up to harmful masculine standards, and we can change. The video was broadcast on the Lebanese MTV channel and KAFA’s social media platforms, reaching 423K views on Facebook and 34K on Instagram.



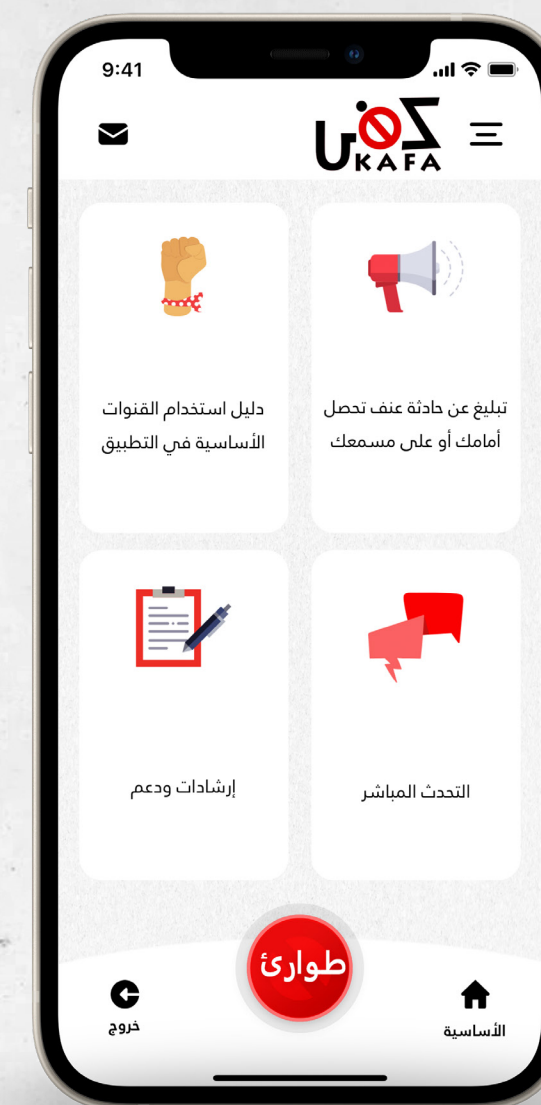
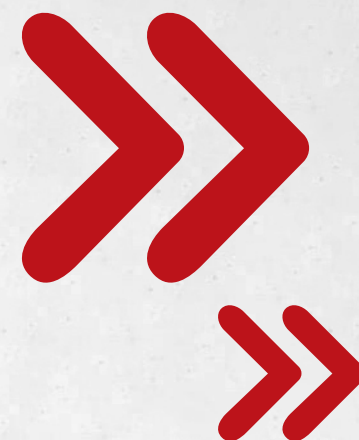
#### Toxic masculinity is a choice, not a destiny; Free yourself!

Type: Animated Video  
Duration: 42 sec



#### Violence is never the best option; you can end it!

Type: Video  
Duration: 45 sec



# NAFAS KAFA MOBILE APP



# MEN AND WOMEN FOR GENDER EQUALITY PHASE II

## BRIEF

**KAFA (enough) Violence and Exploitation is a pioneer in advancing a gender-equal society. Under the UN Women’s project “Men and Women for Gender Equality Program-Phase II,” KAFA is acting as an umbrella organization for four community-based organizations in Tripoli, Saida, Tyre, and Nabatieh.**

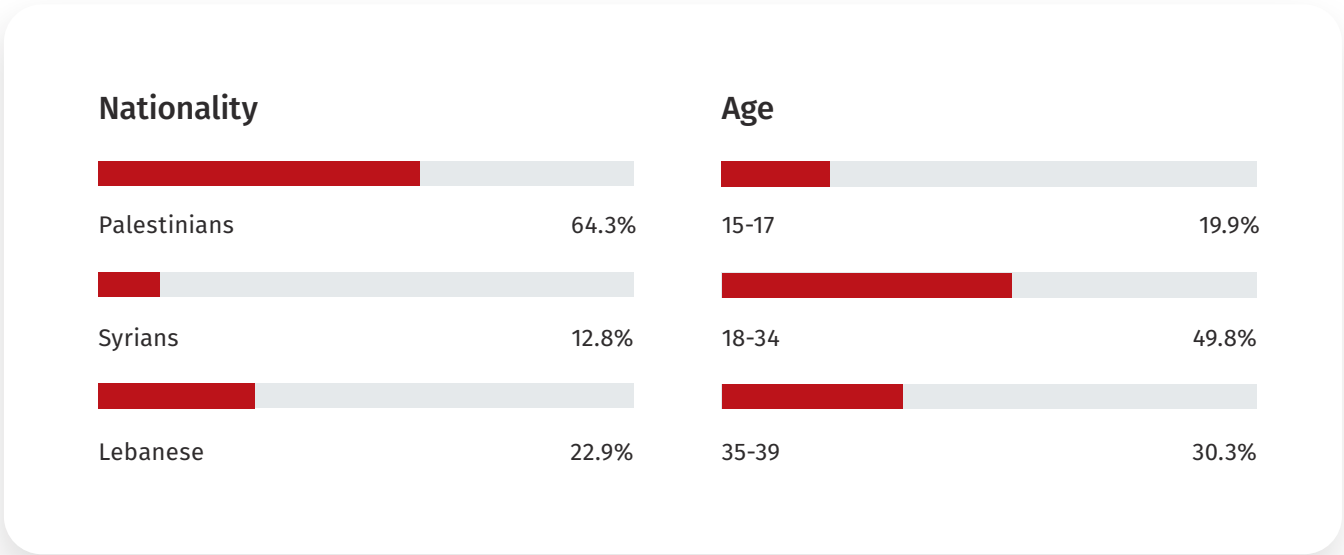
The UN Women’s regional program, “MWGE-II,” was developed to address the root causes of gender inequality. The program had a bottom-up approach addressing social norms, legislation, and policies, supporting several organizations for that end. In 2019, and using the learnings from phase I, UN Women started implementing phase II of the program (2019-2022) with the following focus:

- Implement and replicate interventions for challenging social norms and promoting gender equality.
- Support civil society organizations to advocate for legal and policy change.
- Advocate for the government to reform and develop laws, policies, and strategies

## ACHIEVEMENTS

Throughout the project, 2,159 men and women were engaged in community initiatives to promote gender equality and women’s rights. Furthermore, 770,548 men and women were involved in online activities and campaigns under this project. Through community engagement, 75 men and women’s attitudes towards gender equality improved by 17.9% (exceeding our target), and their positive behaviors towards GE increased by 12.1% (versus a 10% target).

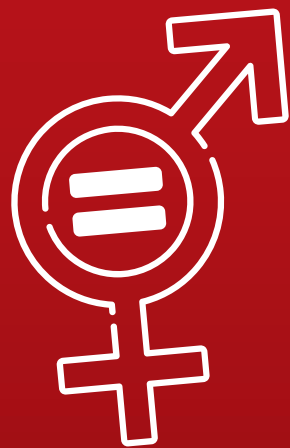
The demographics of direct beneficiaries reached in the project by the working CBOs are shown in the below figures:



On the other hand, the CBOs improved their advocacy and communications skills by 19%, as indicated by the T10 assessment results. The acquired skills empowered the CBOs to work on a national level. For example, they linked their community-based activities to the national campaign held by UN Women on anti-sexual harassment law, “Baada Mish Basita.” As another form of empowerment in advocacy, Mosawat conducted an assessment with 540 women in Tripoli on sexual harassment in taxi cabs. On the other hand, Al Jaleel disseminated posters and videos to raise the community’s awareness of the different types of sexual harassment.

One of the most crucial activities that KAFA implemented was the “Enough Violence” campaign. The campaign coincided with the total lockdown in 2020 and reached almost 425,000 beneficiaries. In addition, the campaign included awareness sessions on the personal status of civil law, in which 509 people participated. KAFA also disseminated through social media: 4 articles on positive fatherhood, 4 Human Impact stories written by young men and women that aimed to share their experiences with online audiences, a comprehensive manual for men on their role in gender equality and training KAFA members on how to use it, a video about masculinity that urges men to seek help instead of resorting to violence.

KAFA also managed to create youth networks within civil society organizations to transfer knowledge on gender equality and advocate for women’s rights.



# DEALING WITH THE PAST

## BRIEF

**The “Dealing with the Past (DWP)” project is part of KAFA’s vision to create a society free of social, economic, and legal patriarchal structures that discriminate against women. Funded by UN-WOMEN, it aims at reconciliation and peace-building among groups that do not interact through talking about the past, finding common ground, and building trust. The central interventions provided a space for women from the war generation to meet and share their experiences from the war. It was also an opportunity for three generations to dialogue on dealing with the past enabling the transmission of knowledge to the younger generation. In addition, the project supported them in leading initiatives that promote social peace, especially women’s role in conflict transformation, as a step for national reconciliation in Lebanon.**

From 2020 to 2021, 60 women from different regions, sects, and social backgrounds came together frequently. Relevantly, their gatherings were happening against a radically shifting backdrop. Where they started to meet soon after the October 17 protests had erupted across the entire country, moved to meet virtually with the COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdown to reach the collective trauma that the August 4 “Beirut Blast” caused, that awakened the war trauma and the fear of a new armed conflict. Nevertheless, women from different generations continued to meet as part of this project, demonstrating their will and belief in the social and political change that they, as women, can lead.

RESTART NGO provided some participants with psychotherapy and physiotherapy sessions to assist them in dealing with the trauma caused by the civil war experience or the current situation in the country.



## ACHIEVEMENTS

For the objective to be reached, participants were stratified into three groups: the first generation represented women who lived the war as first-hand experience (age: 50–75 years); the second generation was made up of women who inherited stories of the civil war from their parents/community (age: 25–50 years of age); and third-generation representing university students active in university clubs (age: less than 25 years).

Adopting a participatory approach designed to foster an engaging, accepting, and motivating environment for all participants, regardless of social, cultural, or political affiliation. The safe space allowed women to freely express themselves and support each other without fear of judgment and where violence is condemned, and all rights are respected and preserved. In addition, it helped bridge the generational gap between women. The 60 women attended several workshops and training sessions to build on their capacity. As a result, women participants held a series of meetings to conduct a general context analysis of social factors affecting them, including economic, social, political, and cultural factors.

### Capacity Building For Women, Sharing For Reconciliation

The eldest generation utilized the safe space to jointly share women’s different roles in times of war to reach proper reconciliation. Thus, younger participants’ perspectives on women’s lives, roles, and struggles during the war were changed. Initially, it was thought that women had a passive, submissive role and didn’t react to the violence or the unjust actions of the Lebanese system. But the view shifted to recognizing women’s crucial and diversified roles as participants and game changers in this war. When surveyed, all participants agreed (91.4% strongly agreed) on the importance of the presence of women in different walks of life, including the political and social spheres.

Moreover, 22 women participated in a training organized by Forum ZFD, where they shared thoughts and experiences about violence, identity, reasons for civil war, and how they picture the war. However, they acquired new tools and approaches to dealing with the past.



**58**  
WOMEN  
PARTICIPATED  
IN THE PROJECT

58 Lebanese women from different areas, backgrounds, and age groups participated in the ‘Dealing with the Past’



**22**  
WOMEN  
PARTICIPATED IN  
A TRAINING

organized by Forum ZFD, where they shared thoughts and experiences about violence, identity, reasons for civil war.



Using Art As A Tool For Social Change

After being introduced to the stories shared by the eldest generation, the second generation of participants was inspired to use art as a tool of social empowerment and mobilization, mainly working on knowledge of the civil war and sharing the different experiences and roles women played during this time. Participants scripted and performed a play, “LEFT TO TELL,” with the help and support of Laban. It caused a radical change in the audience’s opinion of Lebanese women and their different roles. It was performed on July 18, 2021, at the Sunflower Theater on Badaro Street, attended by over 90 attendees, including the public, local NGOs, embassies, and the media. It was also screened twice, once in Nabaa and once in Tripoli. These two events were organized by group 3, consisting of 25 university students and collaborating with the C’est La Vie and SHIFT associations.

Moving forward towards building a peaceful state, leveraging social media platforms to help spread the mission was a must to engage supporters and widen the circle targeting new ones to advocate for eliminating discrimination, thus achieving a unified personal status law. Accordingly, a series of posts and videos were published on various media outlets, reaching more than half a million views. Tackling the inherited thriving memory of the civil war and how people’s daily lives were shaped by an armed conflict that left long-lasting repercussions, unhealed traumas, and memories untold. Through art, women and girls embark on a journey to seek the truth, foster collective remembrance, and, ultimately, move toward reconciliation.

Contributing To The Oral History

At a time when existing civil war narratives rely on men’s experiences of military events, violence, and destruction, women’s experiences and roles are systematically marginalized. And after the first generation shared their stories using a playback theater, participants felt more comfortable sharing more of their stories to serve as an oral history. More than 13 film hours of 12 women’s testimonies were assembled into a documentary trailer, which might be subject to further scalable development in later stages. The trailer refutes the widespread prevalent narrative and sheds light on a history paved by the experiences of its women and their involvement in one of Lebanon’s most crucial stages. By re-centering these experiences, oral history can provide a new perspective on the conflict and potential paths to reconciliation. Witness narratives reveal different perspectives and help receivers understand the sorrow, sadness, suffering, and various waves of emotions behind the events. The oral history in the documentary supports the discovery of behaviors and attitudes that model women’s experiences and acknowledge past myths to assist future generations in maintaining and promoting peace.





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