

LOUDER VOICES

FOR REVOLUTION AND FEMINIST CHANGE



Copyright © 2019 by Fe-Male

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law.

For permission requests, write to the publisher at info@fe-male.org

Pages

1) 2018 & 2019 In our Team's Words: Co-Directors and Members	. 03 .
2) Who we are	. 07 .
3) Mission and vision	. 08 .
4) Meet our board members	. 09 .
5) Fe-Male in numbers 2018- 2019	. 12 .
6) Projects and initiatives 2018- 2019	. 15 .
I- Building a Young Feminist Movement	. 17 .
a) Fe-Male in the frontlines of the Revolution 2019	. 18 .
b) Young Voices Challenging Inequalities 2018	. 20 .
c) HerStory 2018	. 22 .
d) Rootslab 2018	. 24 .
II- Promoting gender-sensitive media coverage and challenging inequalities and the stereotypical women's image in media and audio-visual sectors in Lebanon and the Region	. 25 .
a) Sharika wa Laken feminist online platform 2018- 2019	. 26 .
b) Protection and Mitigation of GBV against Women and Girls in Lebanon among Syrian Refugees and Vulnerable Host Communities 2018	. 27 .
c) Creation of an online directory of female film professionals in the Maghreb-Mashreq region & Advocacy for the promotion of gender equality in the film industry of Arabic expressions 2018 -2019	. 30 .

Pages

III- Campaigning for Women, Girls and Marginalized Groups' Rights	. 33 .
a) Transforming Attitudes towards Migrant Domestic Workers in the Arab States- My Fair Home Campaign 2018- 2019	. 34 .
b) Making UPR Process an Effective Mechanism to break barriers for ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2018	. 36 .
c) Storytelling Night 2018	. 38 .
d) Educational, Economic and Social Development for Syrian and Lebanese Youth 2019	. 40 .
e) Promoting access to protection, participation and services for women refugees and women in host communities in Lebanon using Media and Social Media Platforms 2019	. 42 .
IV- Digital and Cybersecurity	. 44 .
a) Women/ Girls ICT and skills empowerment in rural areas: 2018	. 46 .
7) Achievements and Success Stories	. 48 .
a) Life changing story: Fighting Trafficking	. 49 .
b) Youth Feminist Clubs	. 50 .
c) Network of Journalists	. 51 .
d) ICT and Entrepreneurship for Women in Rural Areas	. 52 .
e) Women and Girls Streetball Tournament	. 54 .

2019 & 2018 In our Team's Words: Co-Directors and Members



Aliaa Awada
Co-Director

The years 2018 and 2019 were very challenging yet very promising. The most thing that makes me very happy and proud is how, after years in pursuing our dream in building a courageous young feminist movement, Fe-Male's members, volunteers and small community joined the Lebanese women in conquering the streets in October 17th revolution. I feel extremely proud of them having been among the Lebanese women who were massively present during the revolution; fighting the patriarchal power structures leading, talking, inspiring and taking initiatives to demand full rights and gender equality.

Hayat Mirshad
Co-Director

I've learned a lot from my journey in Fe-Male, and developed to become a louder, prouder feminist. Practicing transformational and horizontal leadership, being a hardcore feminist collective in a male dominated patriarchal community, speaking truth to power, amplifying the voices and changing lives of many women and girls, contributing to building a young feminist movement and generating power through feminist solidarity, are all live evidence on how we walked the talk not only in the past 2 years but throughout our years of activism as a young, innovative and achieving feminist collective.



Volunteers



Batoul Ezzeddine

I cannot talk about Fe-Male without being emotional. Since the day I joined Fe-Male, I got rid of the shy girl inside, and my character changed for the better. Today, I am more confident to speak loudly about my rights, and to express my opinion freely. I am becoming a strong advocate of my rights and the rights of women around me. I learned a lot about the different forms of gender based violence, and how to confront them. Fe-Male taught me that women's voices are a revolution and that we should raise them in the face of patriarchy.

Zahraa Berjawi

Working with Fe-Male has had an impact on me in ways that I never expected. I have met women from different backgrounds and cultures, and heard their stories and listened to their struggles. I have learned that although we can be so different, we are still the same when it comes to fighting for our rights. I now know that our power is not bound by limits, and that the patriarchal society shall one day be broken. Women are the future of all societies, and a bright better future is ahead of us.



Damila Khodor

Since joining Fe-Male, feminism became to me more than a concept, it became a way of life. The knowledge and skills I gained while being part of Fe-Male shaped the way I perceive things. I aspire to achieve gender equality in my day-to-day encounters and to promote it when dealing with people around me and in my community. I crossed all the social barriers that were standing in my way, and I learned to fight any form of discrimination against women. Fe-Male helped me draw a new path; to be loud about my rights and free from the society's restrictions on me as a woman.



Members



Marie Lou Baydoun

In Fe-Male I found a safe and caring environment that I didn't find elsewhere. The support and encouragement from my friends and co-workers at Fe-Male, those with beautiful souls, always makes me feel that I am not alone and there will always be someone standing by me. I am blessed to be part of an environment that trusts in every woman's capabilities and brings the best in her, because that is what specifically happened with me. I learned from Fe-Male that every girl is beautiful inside out and that she should speak of her rights with no fear.

Maria Maalouf

Three years ago, I was fortunate enough to become a member of Fe-Male. It was an opportunity for me to learn and participate in many advocacy events, projects, workshops and marches that promote women's rights and an inclusive society, in addition to the valuable networking with influential people. I have made both professional and personal experiences that I cherish and will do my best to use for the benefit of my community and to continue the fight for gender equality.



Mariam Al Khodari

Ever since I joined Fe-Male six years ago, I learned the true meaning of Feminism; and that is empowering other women and to appreciate the rights they have and encouraging them to speak their mind, free of all the fake restrictions that the society imposes on them.



WHO WE ARE



Fe-Male is a civil feminist collective working with women and girls to eliminate injustice through building young feminist movement, empowering agents of change, and campaigning together against discriminatory norms and policies. Fe-Male was recognized in 2013 by the Lebanese Government and registered at the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities under the number 867.



MISSION

Eliminate injustice through building young feminist movement, empowering agents of change, and campaigning together against discriminatory norms and policies.

VISION

Together Towards a just world free of patriarchy.



Meet Our BOARD MEMBERS

As a grassroots feminist collective, Fe-Male adopts the transformative leadership approach where leadership is not performed solely by individuals in a formal position of authority in our organization, but by each woman and girl in the collective. We recognize the leadership capacity of every member and encourage their contribution to Fe-Male's mission each in her own way, irrespective of her role, position, power or status in the organization. In 2019, we worked on the re-distribution of power and responsibilities through the election of a new board and development of mechanisms and policies that will help make Fe-Male more transparent, accountable and governed by rational, value-based systems and guidelines.

Meet our new board members who are dedicated to using their power, resources and skills in non-oppressive, inclusive structures and processes to mobilize other women and girls around our shared feminist agenda and to bring marginalized voices to the center of the conversation.



Abeer Zeidan
President

Abeer is a hardcore feminist who joined and accompanied Fe-Male since its establishment in 2013. She is a holder of a Diploma in Gender in Development and Humanitarian Assistance from the Lebanese American University in Beirut, and an activist with more than 7 years' experience volunteering and working on women and human rights issues. Abeer is our brilliant accountability mind who started her career with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) in Beirut and is currently the Accountability Manager at the International Rescue Committee.

Mirella Abou Khalil
Vice President

Mirella, a Fe-Male member since 2015, trainer on women's rights and a BA holder of Communication Arts in Journalism from Notre Dame University (NDU). Her experience included work, internships and activism with the Lebanese Center of Human Rights (CLDH), and Social Media Exchange (SMEX), the Lebanon Dialogue Initiative (LDI), Oghma Group International, and Justice Without Frontiers"... Mirella is currently a news reporter at MTV Lebanon.



Veronica Akoury
Secretary

Veronica is a journalist at heart and a feminist by blood. She studied Journalism at Notre Dame University (NDU) and worked in both journalism and communication in different media institutes such as LBCI, Annahar, Jamalouki, NAHNOO, and Greenpeace MENA. She is currently pursuing her Master's degree in strategic communications in Italy and is an active member of Fe-male even from abroad. Veronica joined Fe-male in the summer of 2015 as a volunteer and in 2018 she helped prepare and co-write the code of conduct for media coverage on gender-based violence. She aspires at making this world a better place for everyone, especially women.



Fatima Zeineddine
Treasurer

Fatima is an activist and a member at Fe-Male since 2014. She is a holder of a BA in Journalism from the Arab University in Beirut (BAU). Fatima started her career in written and audio journalism, and later on moved to the television where she worked as a reporter, news and programs anchor and producer for a number of news and social TV shows. Fatima currently works for Palestine Today TV station in addition for being the manager of Sharika wa Laken Feminist online platform since the year 2017.

Roua Dandachi
Accountant

Roua is a feminist activist and trainer with more than 10 years' experience working in the humanitarian and women's rights field. She is a double MS graduate of Chemistry, Analytical and Environmental Chemistry and Oil Refining and Hydrocarbon Technologies from the Lebanese University. Her scientific background, nonetheless, never kept her away from humanitarian activism. On the contrary, her passion to feminism kept on increasing day after day. Roua joined Fe-Male since 2013, and worked with other national and international organizations mainly Danish Refugee Council, the Lebanese Women Democratic Gathering-RDFL and the International Labor Organization on several researches and projects on protection, gender-based violence and human rights.



2018

2019

NUMBERS

Sara Majdalani

Digital Media Coordinator

Digital media gave women new platforms to speak out! Encouraging solidarity and emphasizing shared experiences, Voices of women from different backgrounds and countries, with or without traditional power are being heard louder and LOUDER!

Fatima Zeineddine

Media Manager

Based on our vision and the priorities of our work in advocating for women's issues, and given the significant role that the media plays, whether traditional or new, in shaping the public opinion, we try to use these means to raise awareness about women's rights causes at various levels. We rely on producing and reporting the news from a gender and justice based perspective, and hence having a bigger impact on our audience and getting them to interact with the material we publish.

2018



1800

Women, girls, university students, journalists, academicians, experts, civil society members, migrant workers, persons with disabilities, adolescents were directly involved and mobilized through our activities;

60

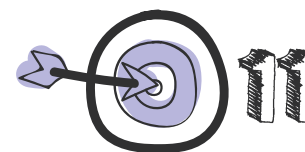
Rural women and girls trained on cyber-security, life skills, women's rights and entrepreneurship;

+350

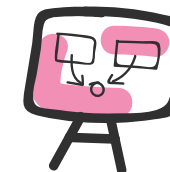
Articles, videos, info graphs and media content produced and shared on our social media accounts;

45

A network of 45 youth mobilized and engaged in promoting gender equality in their communities;



Focus groups & self-care sessions targeting more than 145 journalists, gender experts, activists...;



50

Young translators produced more than 200 feminist texts in arabic and uploaded them on wikipedia within herstory campaign;



+200

Journalists trained on gender-sensitive media coverage of cases of gbv, investigative journalism and women's rights issues;

1000

Students sensitized to challenge perceptions and stereotypes towards migrant domestic workers in lebanon;



+400

People from different backgrounds and communities attending different events organized by fe-male's for the aim of promoting gender equality and raising awareness on women's rights and causes.



40+

Establishing a network of 40+ freelance journalists committed to covering women's rights issues



2

FEMINIST CLUBS

Feminist Clubs Established In Two Conservative Areas In Lebanon

2019



100

People, Including 84 Adolescent And Young Girls, Participated In The First Of Its Kind Streetball Tournament In Lebanon Dedicated For Women And Girls Only And Organized By Fe-male And Play In Her Shoes Initiative;

+190



Profiles Of Female Filmmakers From 7 Countries In The Mena Region Joining The Online Directory;

what's your story?

40

A Storytelling Event Titled "Holidays Away From Home" Targeting 40 Migrant Domestic Workers And Youth;



+817

Articles, Videos, Info Graphs And Media Content Produced And Shared On Our Social Media Accounts;

21

Journalism Students And Fresh Journalism Graduates Trained On Gender-sensitive Media Coverage;



130

Activists, Experts, Ngo Representatives And Women From Filmmaking Industry Participated In 7 Regional Focus Group Discussions Coordinated By Fe-male And Conducted In Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco And Libya;



60

University Students From 4 Different Universities Benefit From Awareness Raising Sessions On Migrant Domestic Workers Rights;



Creation Of An Online Directory Of Female Film Professionals In The Maghreb-mashreq Region;

Social Media & Online Reach

2018

22000K

New Followers

1 million total Reach

4.2 million total reach on

26761 new followers Fe-Male's pages



60 videos



611 pieces of news

1216 new followers



100 online articles



3000 new followers



Over 1.2 million impressions



60 online infographics

2019



OUR PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

1

Building a Young
Feminist Movement

A. FE-MALE in the frontlines of the REVOLUTION

Since its establishment, Fe-Male has always strived to strengthen the feminist movement, advance women's rights, spread the demands and voice of every woman and girl, and empower them to take the lead in their lives. From its onset, Fe-Male's members and every woman and girl that we once reached out to or worked with, have been an integral part of October 17th revolution, where they demonstrated effective feminist participation, leadership, and courage. They were in the frontlines supporting other women who have inspired the revolution and led the movement. With determination and pride, women and girls were taking the lead of a rightful and very much needed rise-up in the country, and after years of struggle and devotion to have women's causes and struggles as the foundation of all change in the country, Fe-Male is proud to what this revolution has become: A feminist revolution where feminist causes were largely present, unifying thousands around them, and having the largest chunk of the society call for them.



B. Young Voices Challenging Inequalities 2018



Objective

This project aimed at spreading gender equality knowledge and helping in the prevention and elimination of violence against women especially in areas outside the capital and establishing a network of youth that would be engaged in civil society activities leading to a channel of women and men challenging gender stereotypes in these communities.



Key Activities

- A network of young women and men from two conservative rural areas in the North and the South of Lebanon (Nabatieh and Tripoli) was established, who later on became our partners in mobilization for gender equality; 1
- Capacity building workshops on gender, feminism, human rights, advocacy and positive masculinities, that helped shape their attitudes and perceptions;
- Documentary screenings and discussions and learning trips.



Donors and partners:

UN Women and Save the Children International.



The journey and achievements of the youth were celebrated in a closing ceremony that crowned the engaging and interactive learning/ training process from the North of Lebanon to its South. It was a transformative experience for all of the members. More than 60 people attended the event that showcased the creative artwork of the feminist clubs' members, complimenting on their hard work to portray a non-stereotypical image of women that they did with minimal resources.



1- For the first time in Nabatieh and Tripoli, youth were trained on tackling and discussing controversial and critical issues with their peers and families; like the Lebanese personal status law, feminism, LGBTIQ+ rights, women's rights, etc.

C. HerStory 2019



Objective

“HerStory” Campaign honors the women who have shaped humanity and history in all fields. It strives to recognize the achievements and contributions of extraordinary women who have made a significant difference. What has been written and recorded throughout history about women's contributions has been minimal. Those in control or in power have chosen what gets recorded in history, and because decision making is often dominated by men, women's contributions have frequently been overlooked.

Key Activities

- For the occasion of the International Youth Day, Fe-Male organized two back to back translation/ edit-a-thon events titled: “Towards Safe Spaces and Cyber Security for Youth” for the purpose of circulating feminist knowledge. The edit-a-thon is a global project which aims to promote and update Wikipedia content to contribute to closing the gender gap online. During these events, more than 40 youth, mostly young women, focused on translating English biographies and profiles of Arab women into Arabic, and then uploading them on Wikipedia. It is the belief that the power of the written and recorded word is profound, that this idea came into life.



Donors and partners:

UN Women and
Her Story Global Campaign

D. Rootslab 2019

Donors and partners:

FRIDA| The Young Feminist Fund,
Global Fund for Women, Oxfam and
the Young Foundation

Objective

Adaptation of a potentially game-changing approach-a social innovation lab-to advance young women and Trans youth's rights, leadership, and collective action. This project aimed to give young women and Trans youth connections across sectors, financial resources, and access to networks and training platforms to develop their ideas and scale their projects.



OUR PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

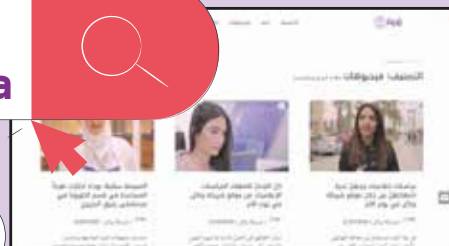
2 Promoting gender-sensitive media coverage and challenging inequalities and the stereotypical women's image in media and audio-visual sectors in Lebanon and the Region

A. Sharika wa Laken feminist online platform 2018-2019

Based on Fe-Male's commitment to produce feminist knowledge and promote a gender-sensitive coverage on women's issues, **Sharika wa Laken** have been one of our priority and continuous projects since 2012. The past two years witnessed additional growth of this online initiative in terms of reach, production, impact and contribution to increasing the awareness of the public on women's causes, influencing policies and ensuring women and girls' protection. A large network of journalists, reporters, and correspondents was established in 2019-2018, better presence in search engines achieved, and the average number of users of the website per day grew from **117 to 1700** of which the majority are **women (%52.3)** and **new visitors (%86.8)**.



www.sharikawalaken.media



B. Protection and Mitigation of GBV against Women and Girls in Lebanon among Syrian Refugees and Vulnerable Host Communities 2018-2019

Objective

Mitigating the root causes of gender-based violence for both refugee and host communities, in the domestic and public spheres. It sought enhancing a better quality of life free from violence, through prevention, empowerment and protection mechanisms.

Donors and partners:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the kingdom of Netherlands and ABAAD.

On May 29, 2019 Fe-Male launched the COC and the training toolkit during a one-day conference titled, "A Voice of Our Own: Retelling the Stories of Gender Based Violence," which took place at Notre Dame University, in collaboration with the Faculty of Law & Political Science. The event witnessed a huge participation from students, academicians and media entities.





Key Activities

- Focus group discussions with journalists, activists, gender experts, researchers, and social workers to develop a **code of conduct** that focuses on women survivors of GBV and that was later regarded as a reference to all journalists, reporters and media institutions to ensure the enhancement of women and girls' situation through media and highlight the ethical dilemmas of media coverage of GBV survivors;
- Producing a holistic **training toolkit** on gender-sensitive media coverage for journalists and journalism trainers;
- Organizing and delivering **training workshops** that targeted journalists, correspondents and reporters to develop their knowledge and skills on gender-sensitive media coverage for both written and visual media;
- Organizing and conducting an intensive workshop for journalists on gender-sensitive **investigative journalism**;
- Launching a competition among journalists to select investigative reports to be produced and published on Fe-Male's website and social media platforms;
- Organizing and conducting **self-care** sessions for journalists and correspondents, especially those who witness repetitive, frequent, and prolonged traumatic content, through which they learned new stress coping strategies as well as breathing and mindfulness techniques;
- Organizing and conducting a national conference to launch the training toolkit and the COC.

C. Creation of an online directory of female film professionals in the Maghreb-Mashreq region & Advocacy for the promotion of gender equality in the film industry of Arabic expressions 2018-2019

Objective

Promotion of a non-stereotyped female representation in films through mobilizing CSOs in the Mashreq and Maghreb countries to advocate for gender equality and freedom of expression in the film sector.



In early 2019, Fe-Male launched the first of its kind online directory for Arab women in the filmmaking industry in the Maghreb and Mashreq region, aiming to promote gender equality in the film sector, challenge stereotypes and support women in the field to have better opportunities, connections to media, businesses and each other. Enclosed in the directory are the profiles of women filmmakers, who joined because they found in the directory a space to be more visible in this industry.





Promoting gender equality and freedom of expression in the film sector was Fe-Male's new approach to challenging the stereotypical image of women's image in media.

Donors and partners:

The European Union-EU, UNESCO and Dawaer



Key Activities

- Creation of a regional network of CSOs empowered to advocate for change in policies and raising awareness on this non-stereotyped image in seven countries in the MENA region, namely Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Libya, Lebanon, Morocco, and Tunisia;
- Creation of an online directory which incorporated the profiles of +180 female filmmakers;
www.arabwomeninfilms.media
- Conducting regional focus group discussions involving key actors in the civil society, experts, women from the film industry and activists who came up with recommendations to promote gender equality in the audio-visual sector;
- Regional conference titled **“Promoting Gender Equality and Breaking Stereotypes About Women and Their Role in the Film Industry”** that gathered media personnel, filmmakers, activists, researchers and stakeholders where its different panels discussed the various ways to promote women in the film industry and the initiatives in the MENA region that fed into this objective.

OUR PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES



Campaigning for Women, Girls and Marginalized Groups' Rights

A. Transforming Attitudes towards Migrant Domestic Workers in the Arab States- My Fair Home Campaign 2018-2019

Objective

Educating employers of domestic workers about their rights and responsibilities and changing negative attitudes and behaviors among youth and employers to ensure a decent and rightful work environment.



Donors and partners:

International Labor Organization-ILO and the global My Fair Home (MFH) campaign

Key Activities

- Establishing an advocacy youth network from 15 young women and men;
- Building the capacities, sensitizing, and mobilizing the youth to become agents of attitude and behavioral change towards migrant domestic workers within the family and in their communities;
- Obtaining signatures for the fair treatment of MDW's pledge;
- Visiting universities and raising awareness on MDW's rights;
- Producing innovative visual content and launching an online social media campaign that highlighted the suffering of the MDWs under the "Kafala" system;
- Regional Youth Forum that took place in Beirut to exchange information, ideas, and examine the challenges and learnings between the participating youth from Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar and Lebanon;
- Storytelling event titled "Holidays Away from Home" targeting a number of migrant domestic workers and youth network members.

B. Making UPR Process an Effective Mechanism to Break Barriers for Ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2018

Objective

To pressure for breaking the barriers for ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons of Disabilities and making the UPR Process an Effective Mechanism, and enhancing the accountability of the Lebanese State with regard to fulfilling commitments to acceptance of international norms by ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and especially women.

For four years (2016-2012), Fe-Male published tens of reports on the implementation of UPR recommendations in reference to the human rights violations in Lebanon. The project focused on producing new media content, from experienced journalists seeking to produce stories about UPR with a special focus on women and girls and the reasons behind the delay in ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol.



On June 31st, 2018, the launching conference of the media campaign took place in Beirut, attracting more than 60 people. It discussed the content of the media campaign led by Fe-Male and what impact it will have and how effective it is going to be in shaping the opinions on this topic. The conference included interventions by experts on the situation of persons with disabilities in Lebanon among which was a large network of journalists, video makers and designers.

Donors and partners:

Higher Commissioner of Human Rights- OHCHR and the European Union-EU

Key Activities

- Launching of the media campaign through a conference that assembled journalists, reporters, NGOs and activists;
- Establishing a network of more than 30 journalists; with enhanced commitment, perspective, technical knowledge and official access to effectively report on the most complex challenges, was nurtured.
- Production of more than 80 reports, 30 infographics and 30 videos and uploading them on the UPR's website (crpd.upr-lebanon.org)
- Implementing an online advocacy campaign through which the journalists generated reports, wrote articles, produced feature stories, info-graphics, multimedia reports and data based journalism reports that targeted decision makers to push for the ratification;
- Organizing of a national conference that examined the results of the overall objectives and opened the door for proposing recommendations.

C. Storytelling Night 2018

Objective

Fe-Male organized a storytelling night that targeted women and Trans* individuals of all nationalities and experiences to share the stories of their struggle in the patriarchal society. The floor was open for stories to be shared in all languages and through all forms of expression, from storytelling to poetry to acting, musical performance, song, dance, ... Whether a girl who challenged her father's will and took her veil off, or a trans woman who was able to come out about her true identity or the woman who was harassed in the work place by her boss, but was able to confront him and speak up, all were equally given the time and safe space to share their experiences with other women who applauded them and related to them.



Donors and partners:

Women Empowered for Leadership
and HIVOS

What's
Your
Story
today?

شو
قصتك
اليوم؟



D. Educational, Economic and Social Development for Syrian and Lebanese Youth 2019

Donors and partners:

ActionAid and Reach Out To Asia- ROTA

Objective

The cornerstone of this project was to empower youth and ensure that young people from both refugee and host communities can engage in assessing the provision of services with specific focus on education, and formulate community-based initiatives to lead change in areas of social cohesion.



Key Activities

- An online campaign to raise awareness on the importance of improving the economic opportunities for youth in refugee and host communities in Lebanon through establishing and sustaining 10 business startups, and influencing policies on youth economic empowerment.
- Promoting and highlighting the social cohesion process between the Syrian and Lebanese communities.

E. Promoting access to protection, participation and services for women refugees and women in host communities in Lebanon using Media and Social Media Platforms 2019

Objective

Promoting access to protection, participation and services for women refugees and women in host communities in Lebanon through producing creative media and social media content highlighting the issues and stories of women and giving insight to both communities to see each other differently.



Donors and partners:

EU Regional Trust Fund “Madad”,
Euro-Feminist Initiative-EFI



Key Activities

- Training for journalists on gender-sensitive and transformative media coverage;
- Production of high quality media reports- written and filmed;
- Launching an online campaign for the 16 days of activism which includes creative social media content contributing to women’s increased knowledge and access to protection, participation and services.

OUR PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

5 Digital and Cybersecurity



A. Women/ Girls ICT and Skills Empowerment in Remote Areas 2018

Objective

Empowering young girls and women in two Lebanese rural areas (Bekaa-West and Akkar-North) and giving them a chance to enhance their capacities and skills in different domains. They were trained on critical thinking, to become leaders in their community and to improve their advocacy and communication skills while ensuring their cyber-security.

Donors and partners:

MIC2 (touch) - Lebanon

“ Rural women's improved capacity building and education is crucial to enable them to acquire the knowledge and skills required to expand and initiate income-generating activities in a changing rural economy. Access to courses in vocational training and continuing education is difficult in rural areas, due to distance, lack of transportation and child-care facilities, etc. ”



Key Activities

- Developing a local training program which included part-time courses focused on introducing rural women to the English language and issues related to ICT; i.e. computer literacy and the use of smart phones and the related social media platforms, through which they were informed about cybercrimes and ways to deal with them and learn more about cybersecurity.
- Conducting awareness-raising sessions on women's rights, business planning, entrepreneurship, leadership, public-speaking, decision-making, and self-assertion.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND SUCCESS STORIES

A.

Life changing story

FIGHTING TRAFFICKING

Following training on gender-sensitive investigative journalism, Fe-Male supported the production of an investigative report tackling trafficking. Young journalist Jana Dheiby set out to investigate the case of a father who was forcing his **three daughters** to practice prostitution after raping them at a very young age. One of the girls who was seeking help, and who was the main source of information for this report, was **aged 17 years** only on the time of conducting the report. Fe-Male provided all the technical, legal and financial support for Jana to be able to not only carry the investigation, but also to close the case in favor of the girls. Following the release of the investigative report on Fe-Male's feminist platform **Sharika Wa Laken**, and due to the high reach of the website, the buzz the report made in the society led the Minister of Interior and Municipalities at that time, **Raya El Hassan**, to inform us that the Lebanese Internal Security Forces will interfere and handle the case. The father, later on, was jailed and the 17 years old girl was sent to a safe place with ensuring her return to school and her mother and sisters were also granted protection from the father's abuse.



B. Youth Feminist Clubs

Establishing the feminist clubs proved to be a stepping stone towards engaging young women and men in achieving gender equality outside the capital and in conservative areas of the country. We were able to attain great progress with the youth and to get them to critically think of issues related to GBV, and we touched a great deal of change in them. Through the artwork they produced, they were able to deliver messages on several taboo topics like child marriage, LGBTQ+ rights, and control of women over their bodies...

"I was really impressed by the history of feminism, I really appreciate the struggle that the women were seeking to reach equality, I became aware of the movements and ideologies which aimed for equal rights for women, and I think nothing is impossible for me!"

A young female member of the feminist clubs

"We used to practice attitudes of patriarchy at home with our sisters and we did not know that these were only roles imposed on us from the society the moment we are born. Now we better know that girls have equal rights as us!"

A young man targeted through the project



C. Network of Journalists

To ensure gender-sensitive media coverage of GBV and women's issues, the training toolkit and code of conduct produced by Fe-Male on gender-sensitive media coverage connected us to many journalists, reporters and correspondents that were engaged in the various media activities and projects implemented during this year. They composed a great team through the daily production of feminist media pieces and knowledge, and we witnessed a remarkable improvement in their coverages of gender issues.

There are issues that are being exploited, and they are being dealt with in a wrong way, so a victim of rape becomes a victim of the media too, and here comes the importance of learning the exact language when addressing the public

**Rania Hamze
Journalist**

"The development of a code of conduct and a binding checklist for journalists, when covering, is essential to ensure better quality of a media product"

**Maurice Aek
Journalist**

Producing a national code of ethics about gender-sensitive coverage is a need because most local media institutes lack the professional guidelines for media coverage

**Larissa Aoun
Journalist**

D. ICT and Entrepreneurship for Women in Rural Areas

Investing in women and girls in marginalized areas proved that in spite these women's distance from the capital, and the minimal opportunities they get to improve themselves, they were able to attain self-realization and work hard on themselves to build their own identity and be the change in their communities.

This project gave me the motivation to continue my education after I was at risk of Child Marriage and paved the way for new opportunities. I am now more empowered and considering moving to Germany to my relatives to go to college.
Mariam, 17 years old, drop out



These three hours are my only way out of the house, where I can be myself and behave independently from my husband and family
Salam, Early marriage survivor



Women and Girls Streetball Tournament



In December 2019, Fe-Male in partnership with Play In Her Shoes Initiative, founded by Mona Yaacoub, Fe-Male member, organized a streetball tournament dedicated to women and girls . Eighty-five adolescent and young girls teamed up and challenged each other in a first of its kind event in Lebanon with more than 100 women, men and youth attending the event.

Such a small contribution had a lot of impact on the girls participating where they felt acknowledged for their efforts in sports, encouraging them to continue to pursue their passion. This taught Fe-Male that sometimes small but creative and new ideas and approaches can pave the way for more impact and achievements in our struggle to reach and serve every woman and girl from different stands of life and break gender stereotypes in all domains including sports.



We couldn't have made it without your support



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

THE
SIGRID
RAUSING
TRUST

GLOBAL FUND FOR
WOMEN
Champions for Equality.

**KVINNA
KVINNA**



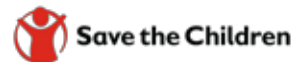
International
Labour
Organization



أبعاد
abta



act:onaid
arab regional initiative





    FeMaleComms
www.fe-male.org



Beirut- Sami EL Solh- Facing Furn El Chebbak
Public Park- Hayek Bldg.- Ground Flr.



+961 (1) 380 873