

2022 Annual Report

A Year of Willpower, Courage, and Solidarity





Foreword

Hayat Mirshad,
Executive Director

2022 has been another year of challenging circumstances but also a year full of learning and looking forward.

These challenges arise, especially while most people in Lebanon cannot secure their social and economic rights amid a deepening financial crisis, with low-income households bearing the brunt.

The decline in economic activity, political instability, and rising living costs have caused alarming levels of poverty and food insecurity in Lebanon, while women and marginalized individuals remain the most impacted.

In this context, we kept focusing on movement building, knowledge production, advocacy, and campaigns to speed up making policy and bringing about social and behavioral change. Our 2022 Annual Report mirrors the strength that Fe-Male and its members gain from solidarity and shared values.

“Fe-Male’s center is very safe, especially amid all the unsafety that’s happening outside of the walls.” - One right holder said.

Fe-Male’s feminist safe spaces have been open in Beirut, Tripoli, and Nabatieh, and recently opened a fourth center in Beqaa to expand its feminist network into rural areas of Lebanon and strengthen its efforts to create safe spaces, develop capacities and skills, and connect young women and girls across the country.

We stepped up to the challenge and made progress by taking the lead on activism, gaining more knowledge, doing more work in the community, and getting more people involved.

We also developed new tools and methods to deal with social, economic, and political conditions.

We thank all our members, partners, staff members, consultants, and collaborators who made this work possible.

Together, we can continue to be loud, proud feminists in the face of Patriarchy, violence, and injustice.

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Our Community and Reach in 2022

We see communication as relationship-building, a necessary foundation for deeper collaboration. Fe-Male thus works on various communication structures to expand its reach and facilitate cross-movement connections.

Direct Reach



2,135

Women and girls

reached through awareness and capacity
development activities



290

Young men



50

Hygiene kits distributed
for the benefit of more than

100

Women and girls

Direct Reach



60+

national and regional awareness raising and capacity developments sessions/workshops on feminist, gender, cyber security, media and SRHR topics



3

New publications and toolkits on feminist advocacy, networking, gender-sensitive reporting



4

Safe spaces sustained in Bekaa, Tripoli, Nabatieh, Beirut



300+

Volunteers from all Lebanese regions



30

Members and staff



4

Art exhibitions, Marches and protests



Indirect Reach

Total Reach

5,913,365

New Followers

f i t 10,314

Engagement

322,896



New users on Fe-Male's website: 13,111



Views: 179,433
Subscribers: 452

Followers

71,507



83%

17%



91%

9%



54%

46%

69% of followers are aged below 34 years
82% of followers are aged below 34 years

02

Harnessing Diverse Feminist Power to Transform Realities

Standing up for women's rights frequently requires courage.

As an organization that works to improve the lives of women and girls and bring on social-behavioural change, Fe-Male worked continuously in 2022 with activists and groups from Lebanon and the region to protect women from violence, ensure their access to knowledge, information, and resources and improve their quality of life.



We Sought Fighting Period Poverty

After providing more than 1600 kits over the year 2021 and 50 kits in 2022 for the benefit of around 3300 women and girls, including migrant domestic workers, Syrian and Palestinian refugees, women living with HIV, the LGBTQI+ community, Lebanese women and girls, and women and girls with disabilities, Fe-Male in partnership with Plan International decided to look for new, sustainable, and innovative solutions to address these cultural and societal barriers. In May 2022, we held an advocacy roundtable to figure out how to end period poverty in Lebanon, where ministerial representatives, ambassadors, international organizations, and donors were present. The roundtable concluded with concrete sustainable solutions and commitments for follow up from different stakeholders.



We Supported Women Escaping Extremely Conservative Environments

The words “pride and prejudice” are often used to describe the tribes of Arabia. These two words have a lot of violence and discrimination associated with them, particularly against women and girls.

With the support of Fe-Male, Rawda Abdel Kafi Mazloun, a social activist and recipient of Jordan’s Change Makers Award, developed a novel initiative called “Thaerat” that specifically targets women in tribes living in Lebanese and Syrian communities in the Bekaa region. Mazloun fled to Lebanon after the outbreak of the Syrian revolution and ensuing armed conflicts in 2011 and has decided to oppose all of these tactics and bring about change among the tribes’ families, who uphold extremely conservative traditions and customs that forbid women from living their lives with dignity.



We Conducted Gender Audits and Published Feminist Tools

Fe-Male developed a new toolkit titled “Women’s Rights and Feminist Organizations Guide for Influencing and Collective Work.” The guide helps feminist activists and women human rights defenders in the WANA region plan and run advocacy campaigns, networks, and alliances. It also gives theoretical and practical advice, examples of best practices, lessons learned from past experiences, and theoretical and practical tips. The toolkit was produced in partnership with the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL).



Fe-Male initiated a gender media audit on Beirut Blast titled “The Untold Stories of Women and Girls and their Role in Recovery” with the support of Women, Peace and Humanitarian Fund, and UN Women Lebanon. This was part of an effort to address, highlight, and recognize the needs, challenges, and contributions of women, girls, and other marginalized groups to peacebuilding and recovery efforts. The gender media audit included consultations and one-on-one coordination meetings with relief and response actors, an advanced training workshop on storytelling and mobile journalism (MOJO) for adolescent and young girls affected by the blast, the production of multimedia content amplifying women’s and girls’ voices and needs, monitoring media coverage of the explosion from a gender perspective, and a final event meant to raise the voices of women and girls and amplify their needs. During the project, Fe-Male gave a voice to underrepresented women and girls by documenting and disseminating their experiences, speaking up for their needs and priorities, promoting gender equality through informational and investigative reports, and coming up with solutions based on what women and girls in the local community wanted and needed.



A Magnified Impact

Liliane Cheaito, a Lebanese mother who was severely affected by the Beirut Port Blast, hadn't left the hospital since August 4, 2020, when she was bruised and bleeding after the massive explosion. In 2022, Liliane said her first words in nearly two years, "Mama," as a cry for her toddler Ali, whom she hadn't seen since the explosion due to a custody battle with her husband and discriminatory religious laws. After Fe-Male maintained continuous follow up and published several reports about Lilian and the injustice she is fighting amid complete neglect from the government, and after months of pressure from Fe-Male, other feminist groups and activists, and the media, Lilian was finally able to meet her son after two years of suffering and to secure the cost for pursuing her medical treatment outside Lebanon.



We Mobilized Communities, Organized, and Marched

In March, on the occasion of Mother's Day and Women's Month, Fe-Male organized, along with Bassmeh, a Lebanese community-based organization, a sit-in with the participation of more than 40 women and men at Martyr's Square in Beirut to advocate for women's rights, and specifically the rights of mothers, who face daily the arbitrary decisions coming from personal status laws in Lebanon.



This sit-in proved that the unfairness of personal status laws toward women is just a reflection of how bad this system is, where politicians meet with the men of their religion to keep and deepen division, violence, and exclusion.

In July, hundreds of women marched through the streets of Beirut under the slogan, “We refuse, We stand in solidarity, We act: To the streets in the face of your violence.”

The protest took over the streets of Beirut, where women of all ages from different social and ethnic backgrounds, members of the LGBTQ community, and migrant workers marched the streets, defying violence and showing solidarity with victims of the patriarchal state. The movement was organized by a grassroots network of feminists seeking intersectional approaches to activism, including Fe-Male.



During the same month, Fe-Male organized along with a group of activists and feminist groups from the WANA region and amplified a call to stand in a regional women's strike that would call for an end to all forms of violence against women and all acts that justify or help this violence, whether they are apparent or not. This was done to unite our voices and show our solidarity as one body with a single heart while also encouraging the actions of any other decentralized forms of protest. This strike involved thousands of women and witnessed more than ten on-ground activities across Arab-speaking countries.

In October, women, feminists, and other supporters from all over Lebanon came together to protest the violence and deaths of Iranian women. They also stood in solidarity with change-makers and pioneers fighting for justice throughout Iran. Fe-Male participated in the planning and organization of this protest because we felt it was crucial and urgent to draw attention to this issue and because we think that for women to be free and safe, feminists and other women must collaborate and be active internationally.

The protest served as a reminder that the fight for justice is never-ending and that any crime against one woman is a crime against us all. There is no giving up; hopefully, women's rights in Iran and elsewhere will advance.



We Crafted a Self-Defense Program

In the summer of 2022, after launching a series of online videos during the 2021 lockdown that introduced self-defense tips, Fe-Male decided, following the audience's requests and high engagement from girls in particular, to expand the intervention offline after the quarantine came to an end. As a result, Fe-Male started a self-defense program, offering free sessions to 45 girls and young women aged 13 to 28 in its safe spaces in Tripoli and Nabatiyeh.



03

A Growing Feminist Movement

To support and amplify the power and skills of young women and girls about feminism, we must ensure they have the space and resources to reach their full potential. In this focused mission, Fe-Male worked on a specialized feminist awareness program and several capacity development interventions that contained diverse topics and an eclectic range of participants' backgrounds.



An Inclusive Space for Women, Girls, and Feminists to Discuss Rights, Protection, Participation, SRHR, Taboo Topics, and Everything in Between

In its centers in Tripoli, Nabadieh, and Beirut, Fe-Male implemented six full days of capacity development training workshops and three awareness raising sessions led by electoral, political, and gender experts as a part of its project on "Promoting Women and Youth Political and Civic Participation" and under our partnership with the French Embassy. One hundred young women and men attended the workshops and sessions, which emphasized the importance of youth and female effective participation in civic and political life and attracted their enthusiastic participation. More than 15 of the youth who benefited from this program played an active role later in monitoring the Lebanese elections in 2022 and supported independent female candidates in their public campaigns.



As part of its theoretical and practice approach to eliminating and combatting Gender-based violence (GBV), Fe-Male, in collaboration with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), designed and implemented a nationwide awareness-raising program explaining gender-based violence and its diverse forms and impacts on women and girls, in addition to protection mechanisms and tools. Our volunteers coordinated with different stakeholders, visited more than ten regions and entered community spaces, schools, and universities to spread awareness and knowledge on achieving equality, ensuring protection, and eliminating gender-based violence. An overall total of 237 rights holders attended the sessions. Fe-Male also developed a workshop to work on the capacities of 18 young women who aspire to become activists and change-makers in their communities through organizing training of trainers in combating gender-based violence. Fe-Male continued its fight against GBV with the help of these individuals, who assisted in holding awareness sessions for women, girls, and youth in their communities.



A Safe Sphere of Knowledge

To establish and maintain safe spaces; develop capacities and knowledge; and create a nationwide feminist network of young women and girls, Fe-Male organized a feminist awareness program constituting of 36 sessions targeting 1000+ women, girls, and LGBTQ individuals to deliver different topics including the history of GBV, environmental issues, gender justice, SRHR, the feminist movement, human rights... in each of its four centers in different regions in Lebanon. An Open Feminist Networking Day was also organized and presented to young feminist activists and formal and non-formal groups and organizations from all over the country to support and enhance feminist networking among young women and girls, groups, and organizations contributing to strengthening and expanding the feminist movement.



A Pioneer Regional Platform Documenting, Reporting and Amplifying the Marginalized and Feminist Voices and Causes

As in previous years, Fe-Male concentrated its efforts in 2022 on maintaining its status as a credible and reliable platform for producing feminist knowledge through its pioneer feminist platform, Sharika Wa Laken.

Videos, photo stories, GIFs, articles, infographics/images, and other cutting-edge innovative multimedia content that broke taboos and spoke to the needs of the most vulnerable communities affected by the growing crises were made. Up to 100 Arab journalists are part of Fe-Male's network, and they all share our commitment to promoting the rights and causes of women and girls through grassroots reporting and investigations from all countries in the region.



The social media content created and posted on Sharika Wa Laken's website and social media platforms were inclusive and diverse, highlighting the hardships experienced by vulnerable and marginalized communities. This led to public discussions and encouraged a shift in the public's perceptions of taboo subjects.

Because of a fundamental difference in the data ecosystem, a feminist view of data journalism can help find hidden biases in the flow of information; we established a weekly gender crime data counter at SWL and launched the first-of-its-kind feminist investigative journalism award.

The weekly gender crimes counter on SWL's platform aims to make criminal law enforcement data sharing more transparent and more well-known, make law enforcement more accountable, and help shape public policy, making the world safer.

IN NUMBERS



Daily news coverage on women and marginalized communities' issues, women, and human rights violations documenting their struggles, achievements, and success stories

551



Special reports and unique coverage articles from Lebanon and the MENA region

109



Videos and video graphics

250



Infographics, info-images, and 19 photo stories summarizing statistics, informative data, case studies, and reports that tackled SRHR, GBV, access to rights, women in politics, mental health, and well-being, digital rights

300+

IN NUMBERS

Total Reach

23,077,913

Engagement

1,273,476



Followers

123,550



New Followers



10,052

Audience:



68.5%



31.5%

56% of followers are aged below 34 years



16,648

Audience:



86%



14%

81% of followers are aged below 34 years



9,745



875



101,000 31,000

new users

unique users

Women 44%- Men 56%



Views: 9,600
Subscribers: 1,130

05

Crafting a Space for Gender-Sensitive Reporting, Feminist Media, and Digital Safety

Fe-Male and SWL are constantly working to provide journalists with the feminist expertise and tools they need to do gender-sensitive reporting, produce feminist knowledge. In 2022, we offered technical mentoring and support to 8 alternative media outlets and supported them in creating editorial policies that take gender into account.





We held a regional workshop targeting 22 journalists to discuss important issues related to sexual and reproductive health and their sensitive coverage in the media. Some of the things that were tackled were the nature of sexuality, violence, sexual pleasure and problems with it, gender identity, safety, ease of access, and keeping track of and criticizing media coverage from a feminist point of view while suggesting solutions to ensure inclusive and transformative coverage.

Journalists and artists in the field of film, theater, and digital media from Egypt, Tunisia, Palestine, Lebanon, Iraq, and Jordan participated in the workshop.

While Fe-Male's strategic plans contribute to building a safe and abuse-free digital media world, Fe-Male, in collaboration with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF) in Lebanon and Syria, held a series of three trainings and workshops on digital safety for women journalists, women political activists, and human rights defenders.

About 35 participants from Beirut and its suburbs learned about the intersectionality of digital safety and feminist activism and how to protect themselves in online spaces and deal with cyberbullying and online gender-based violence.

To ensure that our reach encompasses as many women as possible and that they have access to information and feminist knowledge, we also collaborated with Deutsche Welle (DW) to deliver two trainings on the same topic at our centers, targeting 18 women journalists living in Beqaa and Tripoli.



06

Towards an Ethical, Transparent, and Accountable Scheme

A Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) Officer joined our team in 2022 to make us even more efficient and improve the accountability and monitoring of our programs.

In her work, our MEAL officer supports projects' implementation with accurate, evidence-based reporting, contributes to organizational learning and knowledge, and upholds accountability and compliance by demonstrating whether our work has been carried out as agreed upon.

To help everyone involved, the MEAL officer also gives stakeholder feedback, especially from rights holders so that they can share their ideas and thoughts about our work.

And finally, it promotes and celebrates our work by highlighting our accomplishments and achievements.

Our MEAL officer also applies feminist MEAL tools. She examines gender and power relations, why they exist, and how they change and strives to produce knowledge that acknowledges power. Her approach is based on tools and methods that encourage participation from a wide range of people. She does this by removing barriers to participation, ensuring a rights-based approach, and emphasizing that measuring and evaluating impact and change is gender-just and based on rights.

This year, Fe-Male has also prioritized enhancing its policies and developing its organizational capacities and operational processes to create an enabling environment for its staff and any who works or volunteers with it or benefits from its work. We worked on reviewing and updating significant policies, mainly those related to finance and procurement, in addition to developing two new policies: The sub-granting policy and the MEAL policy.

During this year, we didn't receive or deal with any issues related to safeguarding or misconduct. We received only five complaints about activities implementation, addressed promptly and following the guidelines stated in our Whistleblowing and Feedback policy.



In Their Words

Abbas Ibrahim, 27

"Because the space is welcoming, people are incredible, and the space encourages sharing ideas."

Amira Hamze, 25

"As a result of the networking sessions, I started feeling powerful since I know that there are women who support me when I speak my mind."

Zeinab Zreik, 26

"I felt at ease sitting wherever I wanted and just being myself."

Gabriella Basel Boughanem, 17

"Positive vibes were all over the place; I felt safe with every organization member and the participants."

Mousa Zein Din, 29

"Honestly, I am overjoyed that Fe-Male is in this region,"

Aya Al Merehbi, 26

"I love all the people I meet at Fe-Male; every session they make me comfortable,"

Tala Ramadan, 29

"In Lebanon, we grow up with a life often rooted in how we were raised. Nevertheless, Fe-Male and its information about women's lives and abilities helped me form my reality. This reality was similar to the beliefs and ideas I once feared sharing."

Zainab Douwayri, 19

"After taking the sessions at Fe-Male, I was able to make informed decisions about my sexual relations, contraceptive use, and reproductive health care, and although I'm still single now, I am currently able to recognize my rights, and now I can clearly say no to things I'm not comfortable with."

Soraya Taktak, 26

"I always feel comfortable at Fe-Male's centers as it feels like home; I can speak up about whatever I think of without any prejudgment from the participants, and the center holds a friendly environment, unlike any other center."

07

Partners In Change



Embassy of the
Kingdom of the Netherlands



RAFTO



Liberté • Égalité • Fraternité
RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

08

2022 BUDGET



Funds received **515,462 \$**
Expenses **513,000 \$**



11%
Increase in Fe-Male's annual
budget from 2021 to 2022



50%
Projects and activities
implementation costs



16%
Administrative and operating
expenses and consulting fees



34%
Human resources and
related charges

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