Gender-based Violence Working Group
Lebanon
Minutes of the Meeting

GBV WG MoM	
Date	25 June 2025
Time	10:00-12:00
Location	Hybrid/UNFPA Office
Chairpersons	GBV WG Coordinators
Participants	27 participants (20 online and 7 in-person), new members include HI Gender and Inclusion Office
Document attached	GBV WG Deck Presentation 25 June and other essential documents inserted into the meeting minutes for your further reference and follow-up.

Agenda

- Review previous meeting action points
- Updates on relevant coordination workstreams
- Practices to Support Meaningful Access to Justice for GBV Survivors
- GBV Facility Service Mapping
- GBV WG Q1 funding gap analysis, and prioritization exercise Guidance
- Return Plan of Action (GBV activities)
- AoB: Preparatory activities for LRP 2026 and the future for GBV coordination, Update from ECOSOC(Jeane, on behalf of GBVcommunity of practice (CoP) field implementation.

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Subject/ agenda item	Discussion Points	Follow-up action and FP
Review previous meeting action points	- During the meeting, the action points from the previous meeting were reviewed, and the action points addressed, ongoing, and pending.	- CARE to share the final Safety audit report on GBV, SRH, and Shelter - see LINK here - Guidance Notes: finalized the Dignity Kits Guidance note: here: LINK here - WGSS Guidance to be finalized internally and circulated
Updates on relevant National coordination workstreams	**GBV Service and Key Messages Leaflet** - Finalization of the community-level GBV service and key messages flyer - final flyer accessible here - Translation of the flyer in Arabic, French, Bengali, Swahili, Tagalog finalized	- Participants provided comments such as pink color and female-only pictures, which may reflect and mislead that GBV services are only for women and girls only, while it is for everyone regardless of their

	- Amharic, Walayta, Oromia, and Krio: pending final vetting by migrant community volunteers **Protection Sector Task Forces** - The protection sector has different task forces dealing with specific areas of protection interventions, such as Case Management Cash for Protection, Advocacy, Systems Strengthening, Community-based Protection and Protection Analysis and Monitoring TF. This will help to streamline our tools, strategies, and approaches in a coordinated manner across the sector;	gender. In addition, it should reflect further on persons with disability to be inclusive of diverse range of people. So, the color and picture of the leaflet will be revised to a more inclusive design. - Members of the GBV WG are kindly encouraged to join different TF based on capacities, available time and expertize; cross-cutting ones include: Cash for Protection, Advocacy, Community-based and Protection Monitoring and Analysis - interested GBV WG members please contact: r. - For focal points for CBP TF are please contact PWG and GBV WG coordinator Sophie Etzold etzold@unhcr.org - Please see the GBV WG Deck presentation for more details on co-chairs and contacts
Practices to Support Meaningful Access to Justice for GBV Survivors	The main aim of the presentation is to better understand the laws specifically applicable to gender-based violence in our context; Reflect on current practices in the response to increase access to justice for GBV survivors, and discuss gaps and provide recommendations. The main GBV-specific laws that govern the GBV WG members' work were presented during the meeting are: - Family violence Law 204 (amendment of law 293 on family violence) Law On the Protection of Women and Other Family Members from Domestic Violence - Law 205 on sexual harassment Law No. 205 to criminalize sexual harassment and for the rehabilitation of its victims - Law 164 on Trafficking in Human Beings Law on punishment for the crime of trafficking in persons - Penal Code provisions Penal Code	- Due to the importance of the topic, GBV and related legal frameworks in Lebanon will be a continuous agenda item for the GBV WG group for the next quarter - KAFA, ABAAD, and UNFPA will share with WG members additional broad perspectives of legal frameworks related to GBV in Lebanon, especially ongoing interventions and progress made in collaboration with the National Government. - UNFPA to share the Online tool to track progress made on the implementation of Law No. 205/2020 - Coordinators will compile a summary of GBV-related legal frameworks,

	The strengths and gaps/challenges (implementation and policy level) were presented during the meeting. For detailed discussion points. Some of the barriers presented during the meeting are: - Fear of arrest, detention, or deportation due to irregular legal status - Lack of awareness (reporting channels, available services, how to report, etc.) - Inefficiencies and lack of trust in authorities, with the assumption that the response will be fast (limited lack of oversight) - The level of readiness of the victim to pursue the complaint - Lack of support system (family support, social support) - Language and cultural barriers - Access for specific groups, including refugees, migrants, and stateless persons - Fear of retaliation - High fees for legal proceedings - Lack of or limited financial resources - Familial and social pressure - The level of readiness of the victim to pursue the complaint - Preference for obtaining a protection order or other solutions over pursuing complaints (specifically for family violence) - The gap between the victim's expectations and the law enforcement intervention that needs to be taken - Lack of systemized implementation by judges (perceptions and mentalities) Similarly, access to the Gender Justice Report in Lebanon, conducted in 2023, was presented, and the following are gaps identified related to Gender/GBV - Discrimination against women in Personal Status Laws; Lebanese women still cannot pass nationality to their children or foreign spouses. While Law 293 (on domestic violence) was a step forward, it had limitations, and while some	including existing laws, policies, assessments, tools, and essential documents in Lebanon, for easy reference by partners. - Follow up on the status of– Kafa proposed three draft laws to the Parliament: a Comprehensive Law to combat VAWG, a Unified Personal Status Law, and an Amendment of the Labor Law to include Domestic Work under its provisions. - ABAAD: Follow up on draft revision of Chapter 7, main key amendments related to the increase of sentences to match the crime, gender-sensitive language - KAFA: Will present any progress made so far on ongoing draft laws and response interventions(not presented during this meeting)

	protections exist, there are gaps in enforcement and coverage, especially for domestic workers. **Response and protection of survivors through legal assistance (KAFA, ABAAD & UNFPA)** **KAFA** - Support for survivors reporting family violence, VAW, and Migrant Domestic Workers by employers and recruitment agencies to law enforcement, ISF hotline #1745 - Workshops and Training on family violence law, human trafficking affecting women, safe referrals, investigation techniques, for law enforcement institutions (ISF -GS - LAF) **ABAAD:** - Sexual harassment law - chapter 7 to be updated; ISF: training on 1745 as well as human trafficking and Lebanese Law 205; ISF training on safe disclosure and referrals; PSEA sensitization and training to ISF; TOT for ISF training unit and under the gender work stream: enhancing women participation in elections and political participation. **UNFPA** - Developed SOPs and policy documents to guide the application of Law No. 205/2020 across sectors, - Developed training manuals for the Internal Security Forces (ISF), and ToT sessions to ensure law enforcement personnel are equipped to handle cases of sexual harassment effectively; - Produced informational, educational, and communication materials targeting legal professionals, social workers, and youth - The UNFPA partnered with the Lebanese Parliament to develop an **online tracking and monitoring tool** to assess the implementation progress of Law No. 205/2020. - The discussion will be continued in the next WG meeting, focusing on short, medium, and long-term mechanisms to address GBV-related legal framework gaps and advocacy requests.	

GBV Facility/Service Mapping	- GBV Facility service mapping conducted during Q1 was presented to WG partners. A total of 79 facilities(53 WGSS, 19 CDC, 2 and 5 others including counseling center, Model centers, and social development centers) - Partners reviewed the tool and provided feedback: number is not reflective of the actual number of safe spaces and hence it was agreed to separate static and mobile approaches, including , defining and stating what other facilities include, avoiding confusion related to leading and implementing agencies, using standardized classifications for facilities rather than different names, and considering facilities that provide GBV services but are not owned by GBV actors. - In line with suggestions from partners, the tool will be revised, and all feedback will be incorporated in Q2 facility service mapping. - GBV Facility service mapping is available here	- GBV Subsector IMwill work with the partner to address comments and incorporate feedback in the Q2 facility mapping information.
GBV WG Q1 funding gap analysis, and prioritization exercise Guidance	- For GBV, in Q1, including the Flash Appeal, approximately 33% of the required budget for 2025 was received, including carryover from 2024. - The donor briefing indicated that funding will decrease or cease to exist for Q2, Q3, and Q4. - In Ql, GBVWG has a 50% funding gap for life activities and an annual funding gap of 67% for all GBVWG activities. No funding expected during Q3 and Q4. - GBV WG prioritized activities such as Specialized GBV case management activities, including PSS, Safe shelters, WGSS, and Information dissemination and awareness raising - And activities such as Provision of Dignity Kits, Legal Aid activities, Community engagement, outreach, and empowerment activities, as well as targeted prevention activities, are medium-priority activities.	- Updated funding gap analysis to be conducted using the annual targets as reference figures - to be presented in the next GBV WG. - Partners to focus on life-saving GBV activities in line with the sectoral prioritization guidance note - Rationalization of GBV facilities based on need, available services, and # of targets per facility. - Assess partners' operational presence and distribution in relation to the needs and severity. - Partners to focus on inter-agency training rather than agency-specific training. - Strengthen community-led GBV prevention activities that can be done with limited cost.

		- Sub-national coordinators to conduct area-specific prioritization and rationalization of GBV services to maximize limited resources - GBV partners to develop a pre-exit strategy in the case of phasing out projects/closing facilities - **Rasha** to findings on the impact of dunning on GBV Case management - **IRC** to share experience on the integration and merging of Protection, GBV, and CP. How is it effective? - **IRC** to share TFGBV tools for interested GBV partners
Return Action Plan	- Total of 28 million USD repurposed (under the appeal), considering a 'best case' scenario of a return of 400,000 Syrians by the end of 2025. - Self-Organized Voluntary Return (Supported by UNHCR and Organized Voluntary Return by UNHCR, IOM, GSO) GBV WG Activities under the Return Plan by main actors (UNHCR, UNFPA, UNRWA (PRS), CARE, DRC, INTERSOS) are: - GBV awareness–dissemination of GBV-related information, key messages, and awareness tailored to returnee populations. - GBV Case Management–case management, referrals, and provision of psychosocial support. - Dignity Kits – Distribution of dignity kits to returnee women and girls of reproductive age.	- GBVWG partners are requested to prioritize and include return plan activities in their interventions. - The UNHCR lead cross-border referral and information management discussions, which is ongoing, and an SOP on the overall cross-border referral and information sharing protocol will be developed (UNHCR) - UNHCR GBV WG coordinator to present the return activities in the next meeting in a more detailed presentation
AoB: *2026 LRP, Update* *ECOSOC Meeting(Geneva) by Jeane*	- For your reference and review GBV WG section of the MSNA questionnaires - GBV MSNA questionnaires are mainly focused on four areas: Safety and security and barriers related to accessing GBV services, Availability of GBV services, GBV Risks and drivers, and questions related to GBV risk mitigation and mainstreaming across sectors	

	- **Training:** The UNDP plans to organize 2 2-day conflict sensitivity training sessions between July and October **– APPLY HERE**. - **Membership:** If you are interested in joining the newly revamped GBV Community of Practice (CoP) on Viva Engage! click here ***ECOSOC Meeting(Geneva) by Jeane*** - Four WLOs representing Colombia, Lebanon, South Sudan, and Sudan have amplified their voices in this meeting. - Tom Fletcher has insisted that the WLOs and local actors should be at the center of humanitarian work moving forward and has also committed to OCHA working on increasing the availability and accessibility of pooled funds, which will be accessible and delivered to local actors. - There has not yet been a clear statement with endorsement from the Principles regarding the final decisions on the architecture. - There have been ongoing discussions between UNHCR and the AOR lead Agencies about the proposed consolidated Protection Cluster - ERC suggested reducing the number of global clusters from 11 to 8 clusters	
Next meeting	**July 16, 2025 at UNFPA in person and hybrid option**	

Thank you!