Gender-based Violence Working Group
Lebanon
Minutes of the Meeting

GBV WG MoM	
Date	16 July 2025
Time	10:00-12:00
Location	Hybrid/H Office
Chaired by	GBV WG Coordinators
Participants	46 participants (28 online and 17 in-person)
Document attached	GBV WG Deck Presentation 16 July and other essential documents were included into the meeting minutes for your further reference and follow-up.

Agenda

- Welcome by UNFPA Representative
- Review previous meeting action points
- National and Sub-National Coordination Updates
- GBV Legal Framework: Response, Capacity building, and protection of survivors by KAFA
- Presentation of the New Safe Shelter by ABAAD
- Q2 LRP progress-dashboard
- CMR Presentation by RHS WG
- SA on GBV, SRH, and Safe Shelter intervention in Lebanon by Care
- Update on Return activities and GBV focus
- AoB: Planning for 2026 LRP, LHF results on GBV, Planned Regional GBV Surveys

Minutes of the Meeting

Subject/ agenda item	Discussion Points	Follow-up action and FP
Welcome by UNFPA Representative	The UNFPA Representative delivered a welcome speech to the participants, focusing on the current global funding shortfalls and funding cuts, as well as the future of GBV intervention and its impact on localization and WLOs. The summary of the representative's speech are: - Need to strengthen our shared commitment to maintaining and continuing GBV as a life-saving intervention by prioritizing our programming and diversifying sources of funding	

	- Ensure the importance of coordination mechanisms to avoid duplication and provide comprehensive, survivor-centered services. - Need for enhanced integration of GBV response across sectors, importance of GBV ethical data sharing and safeguarding, and maintaining GBV as a priority for all actors and donors. - Finally, she added that UNFPA will continue to support the GBV WG in collaboration with UNHCR and other actors and donors, to ensure that comprehensive and specialized GBV prevention and response support are provided for affected individuals, with the focus on women and girls.	
Review previous meeting action points	- To incorporate feedback and finalize the GBV Service and Key Messages Leaflet - North GBV WG to share findings of Safety Audit North and present at the next month's meeting. - Access to justice was presented by Kafa - GBV WG IM will share Q2 GBV facility service mapping with the partner to provide updated information on current GBV WG Facilities during Q2.	- to be finalized and shared - Analysis was shared: DONE, pending to be presented at next meeting - Coordinators will compile a summary of the findings from the three focused sessions and share a compiled analysis with GBV CG on the access to justice workstream.

National Coordination Updates	Streamlining Sub-national coordination exercise - Coordinators shared the current discussion at the ISCG level regarding proposed coordination streamlining, sector deactivation, and merging due to defunding, as well as the efficient use of resources in the context of the Lebanon response. - Some of the proposals suggested by ISCG and discussed during the meeting include reducing the frequency of coordination meetings, streamlining the field structure, and potentially implementing area-based coordination, as well as assessing the coordination capacity of Leading and co-leading agencies at national and sub-national levels. - Particularly, sectors are requested to review roles under their sector's responsibility and conduct consultation with partners and their respective sectoral coordination mechanisms. - Coordinators emphasized on a gradual transition, not an overnight change, with continued collaboration needed—especially to clarify area-based coordination. - Lebanon's coordination streamlining will not be a mirror of the global humanitarian reset, as it has a mixed (with large scale refugee, IDP, host, and migrant communities) model and a diverse cohort of people with different backgrounds.	- In consultation with sub-national coordinators and the GBV Core Group, the GBV WG will assess the coordination capacity of partners/agencies, conduct consultation, and develop a pager recommendation. - Based on the consultation outcome, GBV WG will agree on the best effective and fit to purpose–harmonized coordination structure across all regions.
	Funding Gap Analysis and Q2 Dashboard - The GBV sub-sector requires a total funding of $ 32 million for 2025 and has a current funding gap of $20.3 million (65% funding gap in Q1). - In Q2, a brief analysis through partners indicated that only 2% additional funding was received. This would mean that if the sub-sector fails to receive additional funding in Q2, Q3 and Q4 of 2025, 118,340 people will not have access to life-saving GBV services. - Significant challenges with regard to the partner capacities and case management programs were raised with concerns over a decrease in intake by partners. - To ensure access to critical GBV services, partners are advised to refer to life-saving GBV activities, as suggested in the Protection sector prioritization guidance note, published in June 2025.	- GBV WG members to reach out to the Protection Sector to join the Cash WG - Rasha to share a draft GBV Case Management case prioritization document developed by GBVIMS TF

	Cross-sectoral activities and task forces Partners were briefed on the different Task Forces under the Protection Sector and were asked to join the TF as necessary: Protection Monitoring and Analysis Task Force: overview of SDR: Link here - Shared folder of the PWG can be found link with relevant documents on protection monitoring of the sector, including GBV sub-sector information. Cash for Protection: - Workshop held to address technical guidance as well as cross-sectoral complementarity of protection cash with BA/FS, Shelter; upcoming workshop on linkages with the national social protection framework developed by MoSA. Sector guidance applicable to all GBV Case Management: - GBV IMS coordinator has reviewed the prioritization of cases - The CBP Task Force has reviewed the Community-based Protection Guidance Note for the sector extensively, which is expected to be finalized by August at the latest. - GBV key advocacy messages - The protection sector's draft advocacy message for donors, governments, and international communities is under development and under review by coordinators, CG and Advocacy TF members. - The GBV-focused advocacy key messages primarily focus on GBV and gaps related to the legal framework, access to legal services, the capacity of legal actors, and the role of the media in preventing and mitigating GBV, as well as a request for sustainable and flexible funding.	members with GBV partners. - GBV IMS coordinator to provide an analysis on the prioritization discussion for GBV - See the Advocacy's key message will be shared with GBV partners.
Subnational coordination updates	North- Updates and Challenges - GBV services continued for new arrivals and existing IDPs in various areas of North and Akkar, primarily through dignity kits (including PSEA key messaging), awareness-raising	

	sessions, light PSS, and case management services through static and mobile service provision modalities. - GBV survivors under case management services reject return to Syria, citing different insecurities (protection risks for them and their children, lack of livelihood opportunities, lack of basic assistance…etc.) - A decrease in funding for specialized services (legal services) is leading to limited access to justice and limited access to livelihood opportunities, Cash, and other services. - Restriction of movement for new arrivals–contributed to heightened protection risks, especially IPV and Sexual harassment. - School dropouts among girls are increasing, leading to negative coping mechanisms (child labor, early marriage). - Refusal to register children born out of sexual violence. - Continued threats of abduction by separated/divorced or abusive fathers BML Updates, Challenges, and Way Forward - Continued provision of essential GBV service, including Dignity kits. - An upcoming project in SSoB will include components related to health, mental health, and protection. - MF will lead on GBV case management, and community clubs for youth, boys, and girls will be established to address SRH The project will be open to all nationalities. - MHPSS services are overstretched, with long waiting lists and support primarily focused on high-risk cases. - LGBTIQ+ survivors face barriers to shelter and legal help.; - Many adolescents drop out of support after disclosure due to fear or family pressure. - Under-reporting on child survivors of GBV and delayed access to CMR– from those referred, a very limited number were reported to judicial CP - ongoing efforts from the CMR TF to segregate data on child survivors. - Makani centers offer strong CP services but no GBV case management, same for WGSS - CP actors manage most child survivor cases (except child marriage) - Not all partners have updated their service maps, making coordination harder.	MOSA to follow up and support –Refusal to register children born out of sexual violence cases in collaboration with North GBV WG. The BML GBV WG coordinator will seek age-segregated CMR data from the CMR task force. Further discussion on this regard will be conducted with Rasha and GBV/CP CM partners.

	- LHF partners face difficulties finding a stable location in Mrajieh to deliver GBV support for new arrivals. Wayforward and ongoing Efforts - Improve coordination between CP and GBV teams, especially around referrals and response for child survivors, with the rollout of the Caring for Child Survivors training to help frontline staff respond better. - Focus on areas with limited coverage and high needs–expand GBV-safe spaces and mobile services, especially in hard-to-reach or high-risk districts. South GBV WG Updates, Challenges and Way Forward - Recent arrivals are more concentrated in Tyre, working in restaurants and on beaches –they are seeking work and durable solutions. - Few arrivals were identified directly through activities, and the source of information is more from community members. - New projects by Amel, PUI, and others in Tyr– awareness, PSS, legal aid, case management, youth clubs. - Community initiatives: legal literacy, marriage contract advocacy, reproductive health in schools.(mainly in Tyre , Bazourieh and Hasbaya) - ISF & partners expanding legal awareness for women in partnership with JWF & working with men on behavior change with Abaad. - A new project by Amel will commence in August, in partnership with UNFPA, covering Nabatieh with GBV activities. - Rise in emotional & physical violence affecting both Lebanese and Syrian women, exacerbated by economic hardship and displacement. - Growing fear around return among Syrian women; returnees (mostly Alawite) show resilience but face limited support. - Increased disclosures of suicidal thoughts & family abandonment, especially among women left behind by spouses. Challenges - Mental health care is severely lacking; psychiatric support is costly or unavailable. - Referral pathways need updating; some service gaps in Nabatieh, Hasbaya & border villages.	- Action Required: Urgent action is needed to update the referral pathway in accordance with the revised service mapping. The national GBV WG digital RPW is underway and will be shared with partners and coordinators to provide the updated information from their respective locations. - Bekaa GBV WG coordinators to take actions to help mitigate the duplication of dignity kits provision among women and girls in collective shelters.

	- Transport remains a significant barrier for women to access PSS and Psychological support. Bekaa GBV WG Updates and Challenges - There is an increase in reported GBV cases, mainly sexual assault and early marriage, highlighting growing vulnerabilities. - Child/ early marriage is high among newly arrived Syrian girls of Iraqi and Bahraini nationalities. - Adolescent girls working in agriculture face long hours, extreme heat, and inadequate protective gear, exposing them to health risks and increasing their vulnerability to GBV. - Evictions from collective shelters have disrupted access to adequate accommodation for newly arrived families, limiting outreach and increasing service duplication (e.g., dignity kits). - Voluntary Repatriation: Some early marriage /legal cases require over two months to finalize legal documentation and BID procedures, often exceeding the deadline set by the GSO. Wayforward & Ongoing Efforts - The agreed action plan is to increase the joint GBV–legal response through awareness sessions and coordination with Jaafari courts to uphold child protection standards. - Coordination with child protection actors is ongoing to ensure the distribution of PPE. - Partners are working with focal points to identify safe and accessible locations for awareness sessions and service delivery, as door-to-door access is limited and transport support has been deprioritized. - Partners are prioritizing VolRep cases to allow sufficient time for legal processing and informed decision-making in the best interest of the individual.	

3rd Round Discussion: GBV Legal Framework : Response, Capacity building, and protection of survivors by KAFA	**Previous sessions included:** - Presentation of the relevant laws pertaining to GBV, intimate partner violence, sexual harassment, and trafficking - Loopholes in the legal system are preventing the prevention or addressing of GBV in society - Barriers to reporting and key capacity challenges - Advocacy and capacity efforts of different actors, including Abaad, IRC, UNFPA, NCLW, Kafa **3rd Round of discussion focused on:** - Kafa capacity and advocacy interventions with the national system - In-depth discussion on challenges/ barriers - Discuss the way forward by the GBV WG *The overall 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: - 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 *The strengths and gaps/challenges (implementation and policy level) were presented during three meetings by KAFA, ABAAD, and UNFPA. 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 oversight)	Next steps and action points: At the next GBV WG meeting, GBVWG partners will discuss and suggest recommendations: - What are short, medium, and long-term mechanisms to address the GBV-related legal framework gaps and barriers? - What are the priority areas for advocacy at different levels? - Develop an action plan specific to the legal framework related to GBV, addressing the gaps and barriers presented (Law/policy, capacity, access to information, awareness, and legal service provision)

	- 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 **Response and protection of survivors through legal assistance (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) - Provide legal protection services, including family violence, to Kafa through reporting to police and supporting the judicial process to hold employers and recruitment agencies accountable for violence against women migrant domestic workers and perpetrators accountable–24/7 services - Reporting trafficking for sexual exploitation and prostitution through Kafa's helpline: Advocacy–to address legislative gaps and improve GBV prevention and protection of victims, Kafa proposed three draft laws to the Parliament: - Comprehensive law to combat VAWG - Unified Personal Status Law - Amendment of the Labor Law to include Domestic Work under its provisions	
Presentation of the New Safe Shelter by ABAAD	- Abaad launched a new Safe shelter on 3 July. - Presented the Story of Aldar Video and distributed the Shelter Brochure and Flash disk with GBV partners - Partners inquired about access to safe shelter criteria, working hours, and the availability of accommodations for non-Lebanese individuals without legal documentation. Safe houses are open to all nationalities and receive cases 24/7.	- Safe houses to be included in the Updated Referral pathway. - Coordinators will share the Safe Shelter brochure and the Aldar video story with GBV WG partners.

Q2 LRP progress-dashboard	Information is included in the deck presentation Postponed to the next GBV WG meeting on 20 August 2025	Will be presented during the next GBV WG meeting
CMR Presentation by RHS WG	- As of Apr 30, 2025 14 CMR facilities (8 hospitals and 6 PHCCs) have been providing comprehensive CRM services. - MoPH has a plan to establish two new CMR centers, particularly in the Baabda and Zahle districts. - During Q2, 100% of GBV incidents were reported after 72 hours and no incidents were reported from North and Balbek/Tyre - CMR dashboard as of April 2025 - CMR service tracker updated - CMR Feedback Facility Tool (Launched in July 2024 (Only 4 cases reported. It helps to provide feedback on the CMR Facility to which survivors are referred. - Users: Case Managers (GBV/CP) working with survivors of Sexual Violence (SV) *Discussion Topic with GBV WG partners were:* - What are the challenges of referring a survivor to CMR facilities? - What are the possible challenges and solutions to ensure timely (within 72) referral of GBV incidents to CMR facilities and enhance overall reporting? Some of the discussions raised during the meeting are: - The delayed referral of incidents to CMR facilities is due to a combination of reasons, including late referrals and the reporting of survivors' cases, survivors may not be interested in receiving CMR services, under-reporting, and impunity due to social stigma or fear of retaliation, or survivors prepare private health facilities for confidentiality purposes.	- GBV WG partners to provide their feedback on the CMR feedback facility tool for each CMR service provided - Sub-national GBV WG coordinators, especially those with zero case referrals (North & Babek/Tyre), should follow up and work on mechanisms to encourage the confidential and safe referral of Rape cases to CMR facilities. If support is required, CMR TF members and the coordinator/Hpussien are available at any time. - CMR TF chair to present CMR-related gaps, challenges, and recommendations at the sub-national GBV WG as required. *For instance, the presentation was made for BML GBV WG partners.*
Safety Audit report: GBV. SRH and Saheter	Postponed for the next GBV WG meeting on 2O August 2025	Will be presented during the next GBV WG meeting
Return Action Plan	Postponed for the next GBV WG meeting on 2O August 2025	Will be presented during the next GBV WG meeting

AoB:	- Update the Service facility mapping - LHF partners, 2025 LRP planning and preparation - Readiness assessment will be shared ASAP - Surveys to be circulated: WLO Access to Pooled Fund; Emotional Well-being of GBV Response Provider	- Mohita will share the Q2 GBV facility service mapping with partners to update the status, including accessibility and operationalization. - The final endorsed version of the readiness assessment tool will be shared with the GBV EG for their feedback and response - Coordinators will share the regional GBV WG survey on WLO Access to Pooled Fund and Emotional Well-being of GBV Response Provider with partners ASAP
Next meeting	**20 August 2025, at UNFPA in person and hybrid option**	

Thank you!