



جمعية النساء العربيات في الأردن
Arab Women Organization of Jordan

☀ **Impact of COVID-19 on women and girls in Jordan:**

Violence against women is a global phenomenon, and its most prominent manifestation is Domestic Violence committed by a family member (mainly the husband / brother / father) against another individual within the family, especially women, children, the elderly and women with disabilities.

The increased cases of domestic violence in Jordan is supposed to be high, as it is reported in the world due to the spread of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The imposed quarantine measures and the accompanying social distancing, curfews and economic hardships are negatively impacting daily workers and those who own small enterprises to the extent of losing jobs and close down the enterprise.

During the quarantine days, Jordan has witnessed two disturbing incidents in one week. First, the killing of a 30-year-old woman with a live bullet in Ma'an Governorate, in southern Jordan (10/4/2020). On the same day, a wife was wounded by a live bullet fired by her husband while in argument in Marj Al-Hamam area in the Capital Amman.

7 family murders of women since the beginning of 2020:

1. During January 2020; on 10/1/2020, a young man stabbed his sister in Karak governorate. On 19/1/2020, a mid-twenties' wife died after throwing herself from the balcony on the third floor after family disputes with her spouse in the Al-Batravi district of Zarqa governorate. On 20/1/2020, a mid-twenties girl died after she fell of the roof of her home in Liwa al-Wasatiya in Irbid governorate. Knowing that investigations are still ongoing, the results will show the existence of murders behind the aforementioned suicides.
2. On February 25, 2020, two women were murdered. One strangled in her home after disputes with a lineage relationship.
3. During March; on March 8, 2020, the International Women's Day, in particular, a husband killed his wife (newly married), by deliberately pushing her into the King Abdullah Water Canal in the northern Jordan Valley, claiming that she had already caused family disputes. In the last third of the same month, two sons shot their father and stabbed his wife in the northern Badia region, an argument between them.
4. On April 10, 2020, a mid-thirties woman was killed by a live bullet in Ma'an Governorate.
5. On May 6, 2020, a young man stabbed his 14-year-old sister inside their house (south of Amman), which led to her death.

☀ **AWO Humanitarian Efforts and Actions, in the Times of COVID-19 Pandemic:**

AWO has been fighting violence against women (VAW) in the hosting areas whereby Syrian refugees' dwell. AWO has been providing services for Syrian and Jordanian women and girls, including case management and individual and group counselling as well as vocational training and raising awareness sessions on JONAP 1325, women's rights, peace-building, social cohesion and conflict resolution. In addition, AWO addresses men and boys via special awareness sessions on the same topics.

As of March 16, 2020, AWO staff began working remotely after the imposing of the Defense Law as well as social distancing. All institutions, including AWO centers in the governorates of Irbid, Mafraq and Zarqa and Amman were closed. AWO staff began to develop plans to continue providing services to GBV women and girls survivors. The fieldwork team resorted to various means of remote communication to provide services to the beneficiaries, by organizing lists of beneficiaries and distributing them to the psychiatric specialists team to be

contacted by phone and informing the beneficiaries that AWO centers will be providing services over the phone and through social media.

Types of provided services:

- 1. Psychosocial Support Services:** Only the case managers are allowed to contact the GBV survivors as well as those who attend the individual counselling to keep maintaining the privacy and confidentiality. Case managers explain the procedures and mechanisms which should be followed, confirming the usage of safety plan based on using codes that were previously agreed upon in any communication between the survivor and the case manager for protection.
Other beneficiaries were also contacted to complete group counselling sessions or to start new sessions. AWO social workers used different mobile applications (WhatsApp, Messenger and Emo) to communicate and work with the groups, where each group was contacted based on the available application to each of them and their capabilities to use it.
- 2. Awareness raising services:** Communication teams and AWO lawyers (we have a lawyer working in the Irbid and Mafrq centers and a second lawyer working in Russeifa Center) started sending text messages (sms) containing information about COVID-19 and how to prevent it. In addition to some messages about our services during the crisis period, awareness messages on GBV, and legal information were sent. The communication team also conducted awareness raising sessions via WhatsApp on GBV for groups of women and men (especially at Russeifa Center).
- 3. Coordination:** The fieldwork team coordinated with the Yarmouk University to give awareness sessions on GBV using Zoom application for a group of university students. An agreement was reached to coordinate other sessions, in future.
- 4. Legal Counselling:** In addition to referring psychosocial cases to case managers, the communication teams were able to refer legal cases to AWO lawyers to deal with such cases as needed.
- 5. Training:** AWO Projects Coordinators, while in Amman, also provided a set of empowerment trainings to the fieldwork team on the requested topics to assist in better handling of the raising awareness sessions. The fieldwork team also benefited from distributing WHO trainings on dealing with the Corona virus.
- 6. Vocational Training:** The special trainers of Vocational Training in the four women centers provided vocational training through disseminating "Videos" to groups and follow-up with them by exchanging videos. The mobile video application had proved to be of great success. The demand for vocational training has been getting higher, during the past two months.

Studies:

- 1.** AWO, in cooperation with CARE International, conducted a study on violence against women policy, "Policy Study Against VAW", which results from "The Humanitarian Response to the Syrian Crisis in Jordan, with a focus on gender-based violence and the role women-led organizations in the coordination working group (or Sub-group) of GBV, created by the United Nations, Global Protection Coordination Group. The study is available in English and soon will be available in Arabic soon.
- 2.** In cooperation with CARE Jordan, AWO completed a study on "Child Early and Forced Marriage (CEFM)" during the remote working period. The study is available in English and soon will be available in Arabic soon.
- 3.** A regional study was completed during this period on "Early and Forced Marriage in Jordan and Lebanon", with the support of ACP / ACCD and in partnership with two organizations working in Lebanon. The study is available in English and soon will be available in Arabic soon.
- 4.** AWO is conducting a study on: "Enhancing women's voices in peace, security and eliminating of violence against women" related to the implementation of the National Plan for Resolution 1325, in cooperation with the UN Women/Amman.
- 5.** In cooperation with the Greater Amman Municipality, the Arab Women Association plans to start conducting a study on "Gender Auditing in East Amman Districts".

6. With the participation of AWO, the Observatory of the EuroMed Feminist Initiative (EFI-IFE) in Amman conducted a study on the efficiency of national policies to address victims of violence against women and the role of women in peace and security in Arab countries.

VAW Services:

Cases of violence against women and girls have increased significantly, but the numbers of women who call to report violence are few due to the presence of the abuser with them at home, and there is no way for women/girls to communicate with case managers who work for AWO except by phone which makes it difficult for them to speak freely.

In the past, the numbers of women/girls inside AWO's women centers were greater because the beneficiaries were able to find a way to come to the centers. There are many women and girls who are subjected to psychological stress, so they speak to the case manager to relax, but without mentioning the causes. In total the number of women and girls who need psychosocial support is increasing significantly, but as previously mentioned without mentioning the causes of violence.

It is worth noting that currently, AWO 4 women centers receive approximately 20 to 30 cases of violence, weekly.

◆	Location	Basic Tasks	Number of Beneficiaries	Nationality		
				Syrian	Jordanian	Others
Psychosocial support and case management	Irbid	Individual counseling, follow-up sessions, referrals	174	93	81	-
		Group counseling	-	-	-	-
	Mafraq (1)	Individual counseling, follow-up sessions, referrals	21	14	7	-
		Group counseling	11	5	6	-
	Mafraq (2)	Individual counseling, follow-up sessions, referrals	284	210	34	4
		Group counseling	-	-	-	-
Rusifeh	Individual counseling, follow-up sessions, referrals	71	15	56	-	
	Group counseling	-	-	-	-	
Community communication	Irbid	Awareness sessions on GBV, home visits, visits to local CBOs, and outreach team call to raise awareness on Coronavirus	656	400	256	-
		Parenting and adolescent awareness sessions	-	-	-	-
	Mafraq (1)	Awareness sessions on GBV, home visits, visits to local CBOs, and outreach team call to raise awareness on Coronavirus	261	160	101	-
		Parenting and adolescent awareness sessions	-	-	-	-
	Mafraq (2)	Awareness sessions on GBV, home visits, visits to local CBOs, and outreach team call to raise awareness on Coronavirus	177	173	4	-
		Parenting and adolescent awareness sessions	-	-	-	-
	Rusifeh	Awareness sessions on GBV, home visits, visits to local CBOs, and outreach team call to raise awareness on Coronavirus	35	2	33	-
		Parenting and adolescent awareness sessions	11	-	11	-
Vocational Training	Irbid	Sewing	619			
	Russiefa	Soap and wax industry	69	2	56	2
		3D flower industry	75	3	71	1
Total			2428			

☀ **Achievements:**

1. At the beginning of the Pandemic, it was difficult to outreach remotely the Family Protection Department; the Ministry of Social Development (MOSD) and Forensic department. But recently, every section is working as usual (24 hours a day) to provide protection to those in need, with a special telephone number made available on TV stations.
2. Nowadays, complaints are received by the Family Protection Department across Jordan. This is carried out through phone numbers, website, Facebook, or through the Command and Control Center 911.
3. Receiving new cases in MOSD protection and care centres and shelters after placing them in a quarantine room equipped for this purpose, to ensure that there are no symptoms of Corona virus before survivors are mixing with the rest of the beneficiaries.

☀ **Recommendations for governmental action during the pandemic:**

1. In Jordan, AWO commends the latest assessments on VAW that reflect the tendency of an increase due to COVID-19 Pandemic and calls upon national NGOs to be careful in giving inaccurate figures of VAW.
2. Continue to use SMS to send health educational messages and to easily reach women and girls who are psychologically and physically abused.
3. Archiving the types of violence associated with the COVID-19 Pandemic after being studied by specialists.
4. Communicating with community radio stations to broadcast messages to women, especially in the morning.
5. Forming a committee to monitor women's economic conditions, from now on.