

**REPORT ON THE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SUB-WORKING  
GROUP ACTIVITIES DURING THE 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM  
AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE CAMPAIGN FOR THE  
YEAR 2021**

25<sup>th</sup> of November until 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2021



دور  
النهضة  
العلمية  
والثقافية  
والرياضية  
والفنية  
والفكرية  
والاجتماعية  
والعقلية  
والجسدية  
والروحية  
والعقلية  
والجسدية  
والروحية

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# BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT:

## What is the 16 Days Campaign?

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an international campaign that is celebrated yearly from the **25th of November**; the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to **10th of December**, the Human Rights Day, and it's a time to galvanize action to end violence against women and girls around the world. The international campaign originated from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute coordinated by the Center for Women's Global Leadership in 1991. This 16-day period also highlights other significant dates including November 29, International Women Human Rights Defenders Day; December 1, World AIDS Day; December 3, International Day of Persons with Disabilities; and December 6, which marks the Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre.

Each year, specific themes on global and national levels are developed to ensure efforts are under common messages, hashtags and slogans.

## National Themes:

On the **national level**, the women's machinery in Jordan - The Jordanian National Commission for Women (JNCW) - thematic focus of the national campaign was **"Together to end violence against women in the public and political spheres"** because of recent parliament elections results. As a sub-theme, the GBV SWG focused **"Controlling behaviors: limiting my choices and my power"** which was one of the key findings from the 17 Focus Group Discussions (FGD)<sup>1</sup> that were organized by 11 organizations members of the GBV SWG 16 Days campaign taskforce; which was led by UNFPA together with UNHCR, and conducted with more than 250 women, men, girls and boys with and without disabilities from different nationalities including Jordanians, Syrian refugees and non-Syrian refugees such as Iraqis and Sudanese living in host communities and refugee camps.

The theme focused on tackling different forms of denial of resources/ opportunities/ services that women and girls in Jordan are subjected to. This was one of the main forms of violence reported by women and girls in Jordan for the last three years<sup>2</sup>.

According to the national and sub-national themes that organizations used throughout the campaign, the hashtags: **#16DaysJo** **#لها\_مكان\_ومكانة** and the slogans of the national theme: **"Together to end violence against women in the public and political spheres"**, **"معاً لإنهاء العنف ضد النساء في المجالين العام والسياسي"** of the sub-national theme: **"Controlling behaviours: limiting my choices and my power"**, **"السلوك المسيطر: الحد من اختياراتاتي، وقدرتي"**

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<sup>1</sup> 17 of Focus Group Discussion were conducted in host communities and refugee camps in Jordan, including: Zaatar Camp, Azraq Camp, Mafraq, Zarqa and East Amman by 11 organization - members of the GBV SWG 16 days taskforce -, which are: ActionAid, East Amman Charity (EAC), ICCS, IFH, IRC, JRF, Mateen, MoSD, Tkiyet Um Ali, Forearms (Sawaed) and UNHCR

<sup>2</sup> Jordan GBV IMS Taskforce, *Annual Report*, 2020: <https://bit.ly/3owh9n5>

# GBV SWG ACTIVITIES:

In September 2021, the GBV SWG established a taskforce to work on the preparations of the joint activities to mark this year's 16 Days Campaign. The taskforce was chaired by UNFPA and UNHCR and gathered **23** organizations - members of the GBV SWG - including United Nations agencies, INGOs, NGOs and local women's organizations<sup>3</sup>. The taskforce met on a bi-weekly basis for two months to prepare for the GBV SWG joint activities which included the following:

## 1. Development of Key Messages

The GBV SWG, in consultation with more than 250 women, men, girls and boys with and without disabilities in camps and host communities - including Jordanians, Syrian refugees and refugees of other nationalities - developed [16 key messages under 4 main topics](#) under the sub-national theme targeting the community and decision makers in Jordan. The messages were shared with GBV SWG members to be distributed among their beneficiaries through SMS, voice recordings, short videos and more.

A [social media package](#) with the messages has been developed and used by members of the taskforce during the Orange Hour on 4th of December on all social media platforms.

## 2. Joint calendar collecting all activities at different field locations

Like each year, the GBV SWG designed a [calendar](#) collecting **312 activities** conducted during the 16 days campaign period, which were organized by in total **28 organizations** - members of the GBV SWG reaching around an estimated number of **15,100** through in-person activities and a total of around **801,600** of media views.

As the COVID-19 situation in Jordan has been improved and Jordan started to go back to normal; the majority of activities were conducted in-person by 26 organizations covering all 12 governorates in Jordan including 3 Syrian refugee camps (Zaatari, Azraq and EJC camps). The in-person activities included: Awareness sessions on denial of resources/ opportunities/ services and cybercrimes, art competitions and galleries, showcasing awareness raising videos, theater shows, musical festivals, debates, puppet shows, art training and sessions and more under the national and sub-national themes, in addition to facility assessments on the occasion of the International day of Persons with Disability within the 16 days period<sup>4</sup>.

Virtual activities were also organized by 19 organization, that varied from: Videos broadcasting, distribution of messages, awareness raising sessions via WhatsApp groups, Microsoft Teams and Zoom on the sub-theme, self-care, case management and other topics, cartoon episodes, art competitions, virtual events, live-stream interviews, TV shows and more.

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<sup>3</sup> GBV SWG 16 Days taskforce organizations: (ActionAid, AWO, DRC, East Amman Charity, Forearms, ICCS, IFH, IRC, JRF, Mateen, MoSD, Plan International, Save The Children, SOS Children's Villages, Tkiyet Um Ali, TdH, UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF and UNRWA).

<sup>4</sup> UNFPA together with the Higher Council for Persons with Disabilities conducted a facility assessment of a UNFPA supported Women and Girls Safe Space in Irbid to assess the accessibility of the center for WGwD.

### 3. GBV SWG simultaneous joint event:

On 2nd of December, the 16 days taskforce organized a [joint event](#) that simultaneously took place in 5 locations (Amman, Mafraq, Irbid, Zaatari Camp and Azraq Camp). The joint event was conducted in-person in all locations but in Irbid, and was in total attended by more than 230 beneficiaries and service providers from different locations.

The joint event was divided into 3 sections:

#### A) Joint opening via Zoom and live-streamed on UNFPA Jordan Facebook Page:

Under the patronage of the Swedish Ambassador of Jordan, **Ms. Alexandra Raydmark**; the joint opening was streamed from Zaatari Camp, including remarks for her excellency, in addition to remarks from **Mr. Tony Onen**, UNHCR Camp Manager, **Mr. Firas Al-Habahbeh**, Deputy to the General Manager at SRAD, **Ms. Enshrah Ahmed**, UNFPA Jordan Head of Office and **Mr. Adnan AL-Hayajneh**, Program Development and International Relations Manager at the Institute For Family Health.



Photo Credit: UNFPA. Participants attending the joint event in Amman, listening to the joint opening streamed from Zaatari Camp.

The joint opening was [live streamed](#) on Zoom where all other 4 locations connected and listened.

The remarks included reflecting on the key messages of this year's sub-theme and with the action of calling everyone to join efforts to combat and put an end to all forms of violence against women and girls.



Snapshot from the live-stream on UNFPA Jordan Facebook Page

## B) Video Screening - Voices of Women:

A joint video was developed that included a number of videos developed by women and girls telling their stories and stories of other women and girls on controlling behaviors. 16 women and girls developed their videos as an outcome of **2 storytelling workshops** that was organized by the GBV SWG for in total 24 women and girls with and without disabilities and from different nationalities (Jordanians, Syrian refugees, Non-Syrian refugees including Palestinians and Iraqis) located in both host communities and refugee camps, where women and girls were trained on storytelling and story writing skills that was provided by a storytelling expert; **Ms. Doha Khassawneh**.

**2 storytelling workshops were conducted:** One in-person at Jordan River Foundation community center in Marka - Amman, and the second in both Zaatari camp at IFH center and Azraq Camp at IRC center, where the trainer joined virtually. During the workshops, women and girls were taught how to rewrite their stories reflecting forms of denial of resources/ services and opportunities, but also they were trained on how to use the cameras in their mobile phones to film their stories in exact 1.30 minutes, which was provided by the Communication Specialist at UNHCR Jordan, **Mr. Mohammad Hawaari**.



Photo Credit: UNFPA. During the storytelling workshop conducted in JRF community center.

As an outcome of the workshop, women and girls have developed videos telling their stories and the stories of other women and girls in their communities on the forms of denial of resources/ opportunities and services that they are subjected to, such as denial of education, denial of work, control over their movements, denial of accessing health services and others.

In total, 16 videos were developed by 16 women and girls where some of them were collected in [one video](#) that was presented during the joint event in all the 5 locations. Discussions were facilitated with the audience on the video reflecting on the definition of denial of resources/ opportunities/ services and its common forms among women and girls in Jordan.

Ms. Raydmark reflected during the video screening activity: *"I have learned a lot from their stories and experiences, as well as from great partners like UNFPA, UNHCR and UN Women. I feel honored being in this room full of role models and powerful women in the heart of Zaatari camp for the 16 Days campaign."*

With the contribution of the Higher Council for Persons with Disabilities, the [video](#) included sign language to make it more accessible for all.

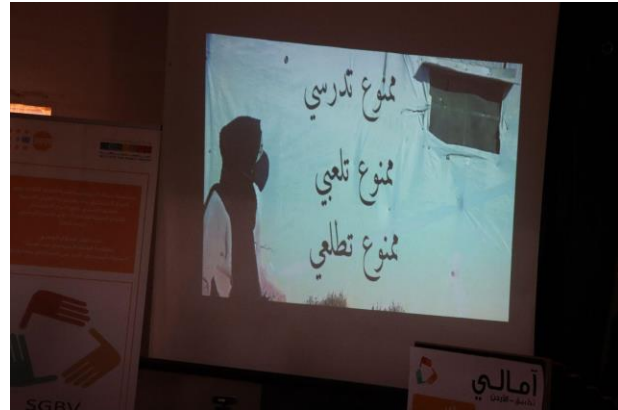


Photo Credit: IFH. Displaying the videos of women and girls during the joint event in Zaatari Camp.

### C) Other activities during the joint event:

Following the video screening activity, additional activities were organized in each location, which were:

#### 1) GBV SWG joint event in Amman:

A self-defense class, facilitated by a Syrian refugee trainee from IFH was organized where the facilitator taught the audience on some techniques to protect themselves from any danger especially in the streets or using public transportations.

Also, a group of adolescent girls, participants of UNFPA's 'Me & My Mobile' course in collaboration with IFH and Zain, together with a group of adolescent girls from Plan International raised awareness on the Psychosocial Support service and the Amaali App where PSS services are available there. Moreover, three volunteers from the HeForShe movement presented a Bingo game on gender equality where they distributed prizes for the top 3 winners. The event ended with a song presented by Plan International on girl's empowerment.



Photo Credit: UNFPA. Participants gathered for the self-defense session provided by volunteers from IFH.

#### 2) GBV SWG joint event in Irbid<sup>5</sup>:

The event also included: A presentation on emotional abuse from an Islamic perspective, showcasing a video on cybercrimes and sharing successful stories of women.

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<sup>5</sup> The CP-GBV SWG 16 days taskforce led the preparations of the joint simultaneous event, which consisted of 5 organizations (UNFPA, UNHCR, Islamic Relief, IRC and IFH)

### 3) GBV SWG joint event in Mafraq<sup>6</sup>:

Starting with an awareness raising session on tech-facilitated GBV and the online risks that women and girls can be subjected to, in addition to reflecting on the available services. Participants were very interactive and they have emphasized that they need this kind of awareness about technological violence because it is widely present in societies.

In addition to the joint event, the WG jointly developed a [video](#) tackling some of the key messages developed by the GBV SWG. The video was published on UNHCR's twitter account, in addition to other social media platforms and also shared among the different WhatsApp groups with beneficiaries.



*Photo Credit: UNHCR. A discussion on the GBV SWG video with women and girls stories on forms of controlling behaviors.*

### 4) GBV SWG joint event in Zaatari Camp<sup>7</sup>:

Activities in the joint event in Zaatari camp were led by members of the community, including: A play on cyber harassment, presentation and [song](#) on women's leadership and lastly a bazaar with products from the community in Zaatari camp.

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### 5) GBV SWG joint event in Azraq Camp<sup>8</sup>:

In Azraq Camp, the joint simultaneous event that included additional activities, such as: Flash mob on forms of denial of resources/ opportunities and services, a theater play on cybercrime and an interactive theater also on the sub-theme.

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<sup>6</sup> The GBV SWG 16 days taskforce in Mafraq led the preparations of the joint event, which consisted of 7 organizations (UNHCR, ICMC, IMC, IRC, JRF, AWO and Care)

<sup>7</sup> the CP-GBV SWG 16 days taskforce led the preparations of the joint event, which consisted of 7 organizations (UNFPA, UNHCR, UN Women, IFH, IMC, Blumont, LWF, Questscope and Save the Children)

<sup>8</sup> The GBV SWG 16 days taskforce in Azraq Camp led the preparations of the joint event, which consisted of 7 organizations (UNFPA, UNHCR, IRC, DRC, Plan International, IFH and ARDD)



Moreover, the WG organized an opening event to launch the campaign on 25th of November which included opening remarks by UNHCR, UNFPA, and IRC, where remarks included also the joint key messages developed by the GBV SWG. The event included different forms of theater plays from silent theater, flash mob to interactive theaters presenting the GBV SWG key messages which were presented mostly by adolescent girls.



Photo Credit: UNFPA. The joint simultaneous event in Azraq Camp at IRC's center in Village 3.

## ELECTRONIC MEDIA ACTIVISM:

The GBV SWG members used their social media platforms in sharing their activities on the different GBV SWG joint events that were conducted during the 16 days Campaign, but also participated in sharing the developed social media package with messages during the orange hour on 4th of December.

11 posts were shared on Facebook by 6 organizations, receiving the attention of 249 likes, 8 comments and 18 shares. Moreover, the joint event live-stream on Facebook received 300 views.

59 posts were shared on Twitter by 6 organizations, receiving the attention of 358 likes and 166 retweets. The GBV SWG joint event was also shared by the Swedish Ambassador where her Excellency reflected how impressed she was from listening to the stories and experiences of the community in Zaatari camp.

Visibility of the GBV SWG joint activities was also covered by the [Embassy of Canada](#), where they shared some of the GBV SWG Joint Key Messages during the Orange Hour on Twitter, in addition to [Radio Jordan](#) where they shared a post on the GBV SWG joint event in Amman on Facebook.

← Tweet



Alexandra Rydmark  
@SweAmbJordan

Room full of role models and powerful women in the heart of [@ZaatariCamp](#), for campaign [#16DaysOfActivism](#) against [#GenderBasedViolence](#). Humbling stories & experiences, learned a lot from you! ❤️ Together with great partners [@UNFPAJordan](#) [@UNHCRJordan](#) [@unwomenjordan](#)



Sweden in Jordan and 4 others

4:36 PM · Dec 2, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

9 Retweets 1 Quote Tweet 31 Likes

## CHALLENGES AND MAIN LESSONS LEARNT:

Although the diversity of activities conducted across Jordan this year by the GBV SWG and the use of different tools and platforms ensured that information is accessible for all; **several challenges** were faced during the planning and implementation of activities, such as:

- **National theme:** Coming up with a national theme that is not prevalent to all representations of women and girls in Jordan led to the need to come up with a sub-theme in order to reflect all their needs when it comes to GBV which ensured having different messages and less joint and coordinated efforts.
- **Responsiveness of organizations:** A common concern was raised by different WG on the decreased responsiveness of members of the WGs when asking for information and contribution.
- **Different sector working groups:** Limited participation of other sector working groups in the celebration of the 16 days campaign.
- **In Zaatari Camp,** some service providers faced limitations in attending online/ virtual activities due to bad internet connection in the camp.
- **COVID-19 challenges:** Preventive and responsive safety and health measures against the increase of COVID-19 cases put limitations to in person joint activities and outreach. Online activities could not reach to the impact we strive to achieve

Those challenges led the GBV SWG to come up with **recommendations and lessons learnt** for the planning for next year's 16 days campaign activities, such as:

- **Consulting with host and refugee community members** to come up with the national theme will ensure that messages tackle their needs when it comes to GBV. It is recommended to conduct Focus Group Discussions (FGD) before starting the planning to come up with the national theme.
- A lesson learnt from this year and also previous years is that **working under one joint national theme** together with the women's machinery - JNCW - and also the community ensures that more people are reached across the development and humanitarian setting, with the same messages, which amplifies the impact by tackling the main needs of women and girls in Jordan.
- **Conduct regular follow up meetings with Field coordinators** to ensure technical support is provided by the GBV SWG on the national level, and to ensure that all activities conducted by members of the GBV SWG across the country are following the national theme to ensure a wider impact.
- Continuing **early planning** for 16 days activities, for both national and sub-national levels.
- It is recommended for next year to have a separate taskforce for the International Day of the Girl Child and another for 16 Days Campaign as not all organizations are interested in joining both.
- **The creation of a taskforce** with short bi-weekly meetings was conducive for responsibility sharing.

Thanks to all members of the **GBV SWG** who contributed in organizing for the GBV SWG activities to celebrate the 16 days campaign for 2021

