Gender-based Violence Working Group
Lebanon

Minutes of the Meeting

GBV WG MoM	
Date	20 August 2025
Time	10:00-12:00
Location	Hybrid (Online and UNFPA Office)
Chaired by	GBV WG Coordinators
Participants	35(29 online 6 In person)
Document attached	GBV WG Deck Presentation 20 August and other essential documents were included in the meeting minutes for your further reference and follow-up.

Agenda

- Review Action points from the previous meeting.
- National updates (Coordination, funding analysis, impact, and way forward)
- Increased security measures and impact on GBV service provision
- LRP 2026 timeline and overview of JIAF
- Presentation and discussion on Jan to July LRP Progress
- Presentation and discussion on GBV Service Facility Mapping
- GBV Safety Audit Report by GBV WG North/Akkar
- Update about the launch of the Men Engage action plan by ABAAD
- Update on GBV Return Activities
- AoB: 16 DoA Planning activities

Minutes of the Meeting

Subject/ agenda item	Discussion Points	Follow-up action and FP
Review Action points from the previous meeting.	- Previous action points were reviewed, discussed, and addressed during the meeting.	- Develop an action plan specific to the legal framework related to GBV, addressing the gaps and barriers

National coordination updates	**Protection sector Coordination streamlining at sub-national level:** - Sub-national inter-sector coordination will continue to move towards the operational, area-based inter-agency model (North/ Akkar, South, BML and Bekaa/Baalbek El-Hermel) with representation of operational actors rather than sector based–although each sector retains the flexibility to adopt tailored arrangements at the sub-national level. - The final Sub-National Operational Coordination ToRs is waiting for HCT approval. - Inline with HCT recommendations, protection sector lead agencies of UNHCR, UNICEF and UNFPA have been discussing the most suitable modality in line with the developed strategy and the agreed final version will be shared in the coming week **Note:** The Protection streamlining is based on fit for purpose, efficiency and is not a direct mirroring of the global humanitarian reset, but contextualized to lebanon setting and coordination capacity at of Leading agencies and NGOs. **Mid-Year Funding Gap Analysis:** - GBV: 38% funding received – 62% gap - $25.8 required for GBV high Priority activities, out of which only $9.56 has been funded (37%) until the end of June. - As a result, 1,12,423 women and girls will be impacted for High priority activities(CM, Access to essential information and cash assistance and WGSS services) - Shortages in the provision of quality and survivor-centered case management and psychosocial support. - WGSS often serve as key entry points for survivors into broader humanitarian support systems, and their closure fragments the response. - With limited structured support, survivors may face heightened risks of re-victimization, exploitation, or social isolation, preventing survivors from rebuilding their lives. - South–Insufficient access to private accommodation and high rental prices have resulted in families sharing housing or living in below the standard - Increased administrative measures–resulted in imposed and self-imposed movement restrictions, limited access to safe spaces for women and girls and higher protection risks.	-The final Streamlined and agreed protection sector coordination strategy at sub sub-national level will be shared with partners. -The approved Inter-agency operational/ area-based coordination model ToR will be circulated with partners -Further discussion needed with GBV CG on funding gap analysis(LAT Variation).

	- Specialized GBV services and activities–relating to PwDs, older persons, GBV, CP and for LGBTIQ+ have been significantly impacted. - Longer-term funding for prevention programs has been deprioritized, which in turn may negatively impact the overall protection environment.	
Increased security measures and impact on GBV service provision	Recent increase in restrictive measures, including a visibly increased number of new checkpoints, raids, protests, detention and reported fears of deportation (security campaign started on 29 July) - **Situations/Incidents:** Partners observed arrests, searches, harassment and risks of detention, and deportation - **Impact on programming:** closure of safe spaces/centres and stopped GBV sessions. - **Actions:** Alerting refugees/IDPs not to approach a service if deemed unsafe, remote modalities, timely reporting of the incident to the concerned body, and updating about the ongoing situation. For instance: In Aley area, partners reported–rising tensions between host communities and Syrian refugees have resulted in evictions, emotional abuse and reluctance to attend community activities and the temporary closing of Safe spaces - Partners also shared decreased referrals and limited integration of GBV across sectors due to security measures on other essential services - In addition to tension between the host and refugee community, there is also tension b/n the refugee community themselves, as they are unsure when to go back to Syria/and are uncertain about their future stay in Lebanon.	-Coordinators to prepare a one-pager to be shared with partners to document and alert on the increased risks in affected areas, with consideration for proactive engagement and targeted follow-up in high-risk cases.

LRP 2026 timeline and overview of JIAF	- One year extension of LRP 2026 approved by LRP Steering Committee - The detailed timeline for the 2026 LRP is available here **What is new in the 2026 LRP?** - 2026 LRP will focus on humanitarian stabilization while sustaining the capacity to respond to acute and newly emerging needs. - Recovery activities will remain outside the LRP's scope for 2026–strengthening linkages that support the eventual transition to recovery and development. - Sub-national Coordination will take ABC model– not sector lead, but based on the nature of sectors, can be redefined(not finalized) - More streamlined coordination mechanisms–centralized at the national sectoral coordination - Source of Information for LRP: Allow Multiple sources, but mainly MSNA and VASyR - Suggest limited sectoral indicators, activity Tag, LRP partners meeting on a bi-annual basis. - No sector-specific situational analysis section under the Response strategy **Overview of JIAF:** - **JIAF is** an IASC-endorsed tool that sets a global standard for the estimation and analysis of humanitarian needs and protection risks–flexible for customization - **Primary objective** is to inform strategic decision-making, response analysis, and planning through a joint, rigorous, evidence based, and comprehensive JIAF - **Analysis methodology:** unified outlook and evidence of needs–harmonized, comprehensive analysis of needs for 2026 LRP - **Relies on diverse data sources** (VASyR, MSNA, sector data, including qualitative data such as the safety audit, etc.) to address information gaps and understand Lebanon's changing humanitarian situation. - JIAF Learning and resource center if you are interested in knowing more about JIAF version 2 **What is the Next** - GBV SS to identify the most suitable indicators and relevant data for the PiN and severity estimations per population cohort (expected by end of September) in consultation with GBV CG - Waiting for the final Population figure, LRP 2026 Package and ABC	- Partners to share assessments and research that can be used for needs and PiN analysis. - Finalize Protection sector coordination streamlining and revise sub-national coordination ToR

	ToR from ISCG - Collection and analysis of assessment, including VASyR, MSNA and other qualitative assessments–Protection sector, including GBV assessment LINK	
Presentation and discussion on Mid-year LRP Progress	- GBV Sub sector partners have reached 57% of their LRP 2025 Targets, with 43% remaining to be achieved by the end of 2025. - There is a 17% decrease in target reach in July compared to June. This is due to several factors, including some partners not reporting in June, reduced activities/fewer targets reached, and the closure of some facilities. - The highest Target reach from the population cohort is Lebanese (74%), while the lowest is migrants, at 8% (zero in the south). Participants requested justification for the absence of target reach in the south and overall reach for migrant PiN. - Target reach compared to the same calendar year is almost double in 2025. - 19 LRP partners reported in July, while 28 in June. IM specialist asked partners to improve their reporting practice (completeness, quality and timeliness). - The highest GBV Partners are present in North/Akkar (15), while the lowest in Nabatieh(08). Partners also shared a need for more partners' operational presence in South and Nabatieh. - For detailed information, please access the LRP progress report here	
Presentation and discussion on GBV Service Facility Mapping	- According to Q2 GBV facility service mapping, A total of 111 facilities across Lebanon, 92(65 Static, 27 mobile) are functional. There are 71(50 static and 21 mobile), out of this, 63(44 static and 19 mobile WGSS are functional, while 8(6 static and 2 mobile were closed due to defunding. - All GBV Mobile WGSS are located in the north/Akkar. - The online GBV facility service is accessible here	
GBV Safety Audit Report by GBV WG North/Akkar	**Summary of Safety Audits:** - GBV Safety Audit conducted in 6 collective shelters in Akkar (Massoudiyeh Mosque, Massoudiyeh School, Hissa Mosque, Municipality Hall, Tall Bireh, and Daghleh Hall). Data collected through FGD, KII and Direct observation focusing on GBV risks, safety perceptions, and service gaps for displaced populations. - A total of 187 participants (78 women, 64 men, 27 adolescent boys, and 18 adolescent girls) participated through FGDs, KIIs, and site	

	observations to identify GBV risks, inform protection planning/response, and strengthen GBV. **Critical GBV Risks** - Lack of privacy in shared shelters/WASH facilities → harassment, psychological distress. - Unsafe environments: poor lighting, non-segregated toilets, remote locations. - Restricted mobility: women/girls avoid schools, clinics, and public transport (minivans/taxis) due to fear. **Systemic Service Gaps** - Limited GBV services: inconsistent SRHR/MHPSS, no emergency hotlines. - Adolescent girls are isolated: school dropout, early marriage as a "coping strategy." - Persons with disabilities: excluded due to inaccessible infrastructure and information. **Community & Systemic Barriers** - Fear of reporting GBV due to retaliation or confidentiality breaches. - CBP: Absence of women's groups, feedback mechanisms, or safety initiatives. - Economic vulnerability: Exploitation in income-generating activities **Recommendations** - Improve lighting, safety and privacy in public and HH shared accommodations and gender segragated WASH facilities - Expand GBV specialized services, scale up community awareness activities, engage men and boys, strengthen linkage b/n safe spaces and disseminate tailored PSEA messages in service points. - Full GBV safety audit report is accessible here	
Update about the launch of the Men Engage action plan by ABAAD.	- In 2025, ABAAD created an action plan on how and what way to implement this strategy during the first year. This year, ABAAD is focusing on establishing a Youth Hub — a youth committee that will work on all issues related to young people and gender justice. - ABAAD will launch a call for participation that will be shared online, focusing on positive and equitable masculinities and social issues, and other interconnected themes - During this year, we worked through a participatory approach to create a detailed action plan for 3 years. In 2026 the action plan will focus on: Expanding the network to the MENA region, *Establishing working groups for advocacy and ethics, creating a youth Hub, conducting awareness campaigns on Gender and peaceful*	

	masculinities, capacity building for Network members and working on research related to Men's roles as fathers in post-war war - *Please access the ABAAD's Men Engage action plan and strategy for detailed information.*	
Update on GBV Return Activities	- 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. UNHCR lead–summary of findings from the Community Dialogue on return and **"Go and See"** visits available here - A cross-border referral system is in place as well as Lebanon-specific discussions for involved partners is ongoing. - Discussion started with Syria GBV WG and UNHCR colleagues on mechanisms of coordinated cross-border referral. - Partners who manage cases and have refugees indicating their intention to voluntarily return, inform them of information channels and the NCC return counseling–process to assess voluntariness is managed by UNHCR - For cases under partner case management, linkages between UNHCR and GBV WG are to be established to see if support is required to undertake return-specific GBV CM - Also, a discussion was initiated b/n GBV WG Lebanon and Syria to see possible areas of collaboration and coordination on return activities/services that need cross-border referrals The proposed activities for GBV under reurtn action plan matrix are: - GBV Case management services, including PSS and referral for returnees (pre, during and post follow-up through linking cross-border referral in coordination with partners in Syria - Information dissemination and awareness raising on GBV, focusing on risks during the return process, info on available services, referral, and safe spaces - Provision of dignity kits for vulnerable returnee women and girls based based identified needs and the DK guidance note. Partners committed under the Return Action Plan matrix: UNHCR, UNFPA, UNRWA (PRS), CARE, DRC, INTERSOS For further information: UNHCR HELP website: Accessible here	-
AoB: 16 DoA Planning activities	- Planning for 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence 25 November - 10 December 2025 - Global Theme: UNITE TO END DIGITAL VIOLENCE AGAINST ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS	

	- Do we need a national 16 DoA against GBV theme specific to the Lebanese GBV context, or use the global theme? This will be discussed in the next GBV WG Meeting.	
Next meeting	**Sep 17, 2025**	

Thank you!