GBV
Sub-Working Group

Report on the Gender-Based Violence Sub-Working Group in Jordan's activities marking the International Women's Day for the year 2022

8th of March, 2022

TABLE OF CONTENT

Background 3

GBV SWG Activities 3

- Development of Key Messages
- Learning Dialogue: “How Climate Change fuels Gender-Based Violence in Jordan”
- Recycling Competition
- GBV SWG Sub-national activities
- Agency-led activities

Summary of the impact 7

Main lessons learnt 7

BACKGROUND

Each year on the 8th of March, the world celebrates the **International Women's Day (IWD)** to shed light on women's social, economic, cultural and political achievements, but also to reflect on the progress made towards gender equality and to call for change.

A global theme is released yearly by UN Women[1] to ensure that efforts worldwide are united and under the same messages. In 2022, the theme **"Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow"** gave the opportunity to build more understanding on the vital link between gender, social equity and climate change, and recognized that without gender equality today and women's active participation and contributions, a sustainable future, an equal future, remains out of reach.

On the national level, the Jordanian National Commission for Women decided to align its efforts and messages with the global theme to build a solid ground with evidence-based initiatives on the impacts of climate change on the lives of women and girls in Jordan, but also to shed light on women's important contribution to climate change action.

The official hashtags of the campaigns are: **#IWD2022** #اليوم_الدولي_للمرأة

GBV SWG ACTIVITIES

The **Gender-Based Violence Sub-Working Group** (GBV SWG)[2] has been marking the International Women's Day for the past couple of years by organizing joint activities on both national and sub-national levels in line with the year's theme. In January 2022, a task force was established that consisted of **14 organizations**[3] who led the preparations of the GBV SWG activities together with the co-chairs UNFPA and UNHCR.

The taskforce organized the following activities:

1) Development of Key Messages:

In consultation with more than 120 women, men, girls and boys from different nationalities including Jordanians, Syrian refugees and non-Syrian refugees (Palestinians, Sudanese and Iraqis) and persons with disabilities, the task force developed in total 11 messages targeting the community and decision makers in Jordan with the aim to build an understanding on the impact of climate change on GBV.

The messages were shared with GBV SWG members to be distributed among their beneficiaries and to be used in their activities, and also were included in the **national advocacy messages package**.

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[1] UN Women, *International Women's Day theme*, 2022

[2] The **Gender-Based Violence Sub-Working Group** is the coordination body mandated to strengthen GBV prevention and response in emergency settings, consisting of more than 30 partners, including UN agencies, INGOs, and local NGOs, government counterparts operating across governorates in Jordan serving refugees and host communities. More information: https://data2.unhcr.org/en/working-group/72

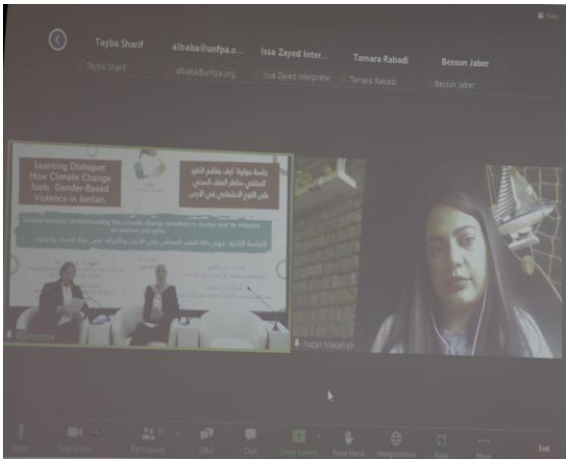
[3] GBV SWG IWD taskforce consisted of 14 organizations in addition to the co-chairs UNFPA and UNHCR, which are: UN Women, WFP, UNRWA, UNDP, DRC, Plan International, IMC, IRC, Save The Children, Oxfam, JNCW, IFH, JRF and Taqatoat.

2) Learning Dialogue "How Climate Change fuels Gender-Based Violence in Jordan":

On March 7, the taskforce organized **a learning dialogue webinar** with 6 experts representing government, civil society organizations, academia and women from the community. The aim of the learning dialogue was to build a solid understanding of the impact of climate change on GBV in Jordan and come up with recommendations for the way forward. The dialogue was attended by more than 45 participants through Zoom Webinar.

The learning dialogue called for concrete actions, including:

1. Strengthening the coordination and partnerships between gender, protection and environmental sectors.
2. Involve women and girls in mitigation and response to climate change.
3. Create more evidence and data on the impact of climate change on the lives of women and girls, including GBV.



Panelists of the GBV SWG Learning Dialogue
Photo credit: UNFPA Jordan

3) Recycling competition: Young women taking actions on climate change through recycling

On 1st of March, the taskforce and jointly with Zain Jordan launched a recycling competition for girls and young women between the ages of 15 - 35 years old to submit their recycling initiatives, with the aim of amplifying their efforts contributing to mitigating the risks of climate change. In total, 82

submissions were received from local and refugee young women and girls across Jordan especially (Mafraq, Zarqa, Amman, Tafilah, Karak, Madaba and refugee camps including Zaatari and Azraq Camp).

4 out of all submissions won the competition receiving a mobile phone prize from Zain Jordan as an appreciation for their efforts, announcing their products on social media in addition to writing their success stories that will be shared during April on UNFPA's website and social media. ***"This is the first time that I won something because of my work! Thank you for making me feel that my work is valuable and appreciated"*** said Zainab, a 29-year old Jordanian woman and one of the winners. The winners were:

34-year old Iragi woman living in Amman who collects and reuses plastic bags

20-year old young woman from Zaatari Camp who creates bags reusing camp tents

29-year old Jordanian woman from Al-Karak who car tires, wood and old cloths to create furniture

16-year old Jordanian adolescent girls from Al-Tafila who reuses wood to create masterpieces

4) Activities on sub-national level:

In addition to disseminating the key messages and conducting FGD with community on the formulation of the messages, additional activities were organized on sub-national level led by the sub-national GBV SWG, including:

A) Azraq Camp:

A joint event conducted at UN Women's Oasis in Azraq Camp was organized by a CP GBV SWG taskforce consisting of **9 organizations**[4]. The event included different theater plays under the GBV SWG key messages, including an interactive theater, a role play and a puppet show. The event ended with painting a mural.

Activities conducted during the CPGBV SWG joint event in Azraq Camp
Photo credit: Plan International Jordan

5) Agency-led activities:

Members of the GBV SWG on both national and sub-national levels have organized a diverse number of activities across Jordan, that includes awareness raising sessions, recycling sessions, storytelling of women contributors to climate change action, theater plays, mural painting, movie screenings, releasing research papers, side-events of the Commission on the Status for Women, tribute event for Ms. Asma Khader and celebrating the efforts of feminists, etc..

During an awareness raising session were women contributors to climate change shared their stories and initiatives
Photo credit: IFH/ UNFPA-supported project

Distributing flowers with empowerment messages by male staff and beneficiaries to women in UNHCR's center in Mafraq
Photo credit: UNHCR Jordan

[4] CPGBV SWG IWD taskforce in Azraq Camp consisted of 9 organizations, including: UNHCR, UN Women, IRC/ UNFPA, Plan International, DRC, Care, ACF and ICRC.

SUMMARY OF THE IMPACT

The diverse activities in different locations targeting different groups including service providers and community members, contributed to raising more awareness and understanding on the impact of climate change on the lives of women and girls in Jordan, especially in exacerbating the risks of GBV. This has led to reflection on the needs and possible risks against the wellbeing and protection of women and girls ensuring better further response and mitigation.

Moreover, the GBV SWG was able to come up with concrete recommendations to ensure a proper response to the impact of climate change on GBV in Jordan, including calling for the need of in-depth understanding on the linkages between them, create more evidence, build the capacities of GBV actors on the climate change situation and building emergency plans to ensure GBV survivors can access services during climate hazards, also build the capacity of environmental sector on GBV and the impact of climate change on exacerbating the risks of GBV, involving young people as change makers, strengthen women's participation in policy making and more.

Through the activities, stories of women and girls contributors to climate change action were portrayed, linking them to additional opportunities and support to strengthen their work. ***"I'm happy that the International Women's Day this year focused on us women working in agriculture. I feel humble to be able not only to share my story and my voice, but the voices of all women in agriculture."*** said Bassima, a Syrian refugee woman in Jerash who participated as panelists in the GBV SWG Learning Dialogue.

Moreover, the GBV SWG joint activities were also covered through social media reaching to around 42,000 views and 638 engagements.

Twitter post to amplify the work and voices of the GBV SWG recycling competition winners
UNFPA Jordan Twitter Account

"What a great surprise to be one of the winners of the GBV SWG recycling competition. Through products such as MicroPlasticsJO baskets, the battle for a sustainable tomorrow is not yet lost." said Maria, 34-year old Iraqi woman and one of the winners of the recycling competition in her Facebook Page.

MAIN LESSONS LEARNT

1. Consulting with host and refugee community members to come up with the key messages ensures that messages are community-led and that they tackle their needs.
2. Coordination efforts between different sectors ensures the amplification of efforts under specific goals.
3. Focusing campaigning and advocacy efforts under one theme within unified messages ensured a more focused and structured campaign, but ensured also a full coverage and a wider and more effective impact at community level.

Thanks to the members of the GBV SWG who contributed in organizing for the GBV SWG activities to celebrate the International Women's Day for 2022