

ABAAD'S RESPONSE TO GBV DURING THE CRISES IN LEBANON

JUNE - JULY - AUGUST 2020



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In May 2020, ABAAD launched a brief [report](#) highlighting its response to gender-based violence that ensures continuity and access to lifesaving GBV services along with risk mitigation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, Lebanon is in a much more difficult situation and is currently facing multiple crises, as the devastating explosion which occurred on August 4 has further exacerbated the country's already existing socio-economic crisis.

The scale and magnitude of the disaster has left hundreds of thousands of people in need of immediate aid including food, shelter, water, fuel, protection, as well as support to rebuild their lives and livelihoods. People affected are also suffering from psychological distress and trauma due to the blast that has led to a tragic loss of lives, with many missing and thousands injured, in addition to the damages on properties, homes and businesses.

As of August 25, a total of 200,000 housing units were affected by the explosions, with an estimated 40,000 buildings damaged, of which 3,000 severely ([UNDP](#)). The loss of homes have resulted in overcrowded households and communities, raising other risks such as COVID-19 transmission and gender-based violence. The latter is also exacerbated by financial uncertainties, heightened tensions and the disruption of life-saving services. In fact, [UNFPA](#) estimates that approximately 81,000 women (15-49 years), including 24,000 adolescent girls, were immediately affected by the explosions and require support to address post traumatic stress disorder and GBV.

This report summarizes ABAAD's efforts on the ground during the months of June, July and August, combining the response to GBV during COVID-19 and in the aftermath of the Beirut Blast.



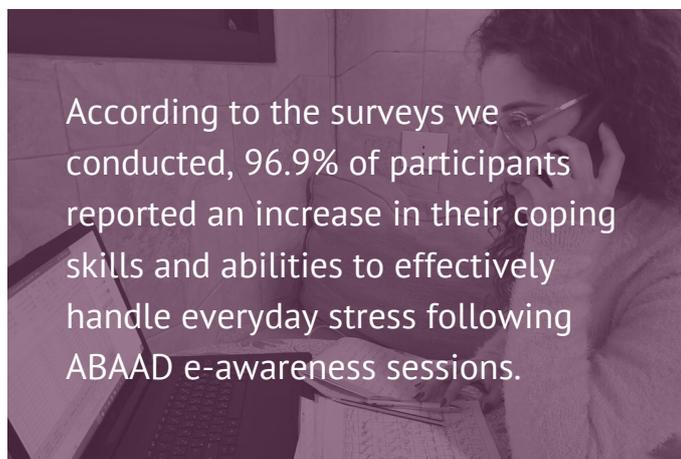
ABAAD specialised team deployed on the field after the Beirut Blast



PROVIDING GBV PREVENTION & RESPONSE SERVICES

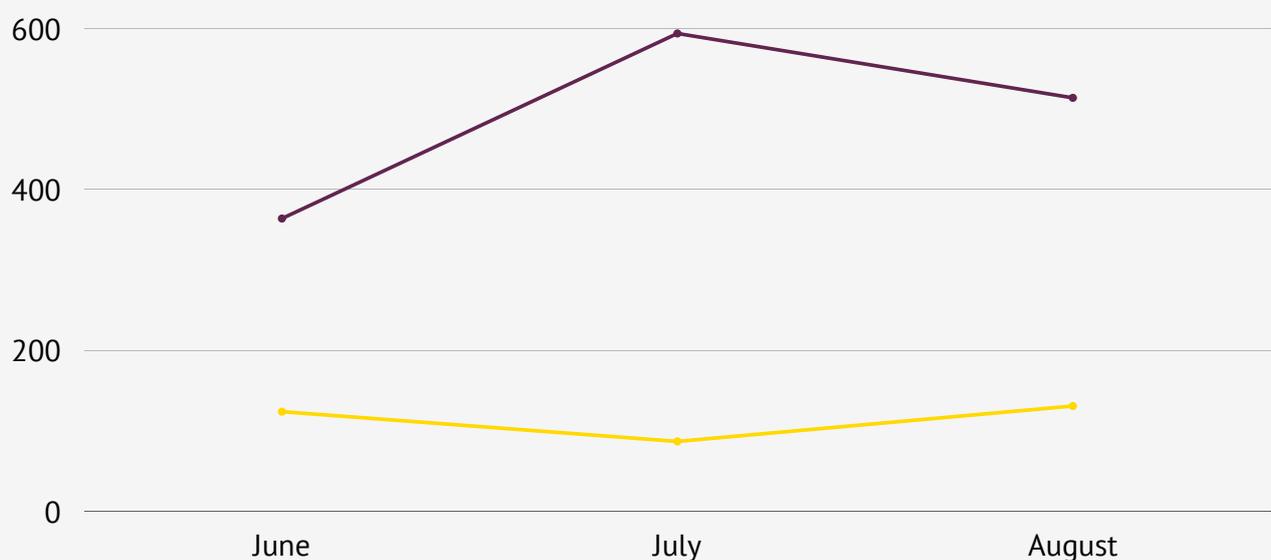
In the months of June, July and August combined, ABAAD reached out to **3527** unique rightholders to provide various services, in addition to **664** individuals who continue to benefit from case management (open active cases).

65	2233	367	322	17	508	15
Capacity Building	E-awareness sessions	E-emotional support group/ E-PSS	E-sensitisation sessions	Community-based groups	Case management	Anger and stress management



Putting things to perspective regarding the drastic increase in the number of calls to ABAAD helpline

In June, July and August 2020, ABAAD received **1,472** calls to its 24/7 helpline compared to just **342** during the same period in 2019



CAMPAIGNING TO FIGHT STIGMA ASSOCIATED WITH COVID-19

ABAAD, The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) through the National Mental Health Programme, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNICEF and the World Health Organization joined forces together to break the stigma associated with the novel corona virus. Under the slogan **#TheRealTest**, a national campaign was launched on several TV outlets with a synchronized introduction of primetime news and on social media.

[Full press release](#)

“YOU GUYS ARE SO STRONG. PLEASE FOCUS ON STAYING MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY HEALTHY. STAY SAFE AND ABOVE ALL, HOPEFUL.”

Jana A.

#TheRealTest

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WITH MILLIONS OF PEOPLE AROUND THE GLOBE HIT BY COVID-19, IT IS SAFE TO SAY THAT THE VIRUS ITSELF DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE. HOWEVER, THE SOCIAL STIGMA ASSOCIATED WITH THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE IS PARTICULARLY AFFECTING WOMEN AND GIRLS, ESPECIALLY IN VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES, CAUSING THEM TO HIDE THE ILLNESS AND AVOID SEEKING HEALTH CARE, TO AVOID DISCRIMINATION & RISK OF VIOLENCE & FEMICIDE.

GHIDA ANANI

ABAAD FOUNDER & DIRECTOR

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#TheRealTest Campaign Billboard



PUBLISHING RELEVANT GUIDELINES AND RESOURCES

ABAAD continues to grow its list of relevant resources on GBV in the context of the COVID-19 Pandemic. All toolkits and guidelines are made available on ABAAD website:

ABAADMENA.ORG/RESOURCES

Quelle attitude adopter ?

• Gardez votre calme et votre sang-froid. En gardant le **contrôle de vos émotions**, vous ne vous laisserez pas entrainer dans la provocation, pouvant être recherchée par votre partenaire.

• Apprenez à **repérer les prémices des émotions négatives** de votre partenaire (comme l'agitation, l'irritabilité, les crises de colère, etc.)

• Lorsque votre partenaire commence à critiquer, reprocher ou se moquer, il est primordial de vous protéger. **Mettez symboliquement un bouclier** et ne prenez pas les messages dégradants et destructifs comme une atteinte personnelle. Ne ripostez pas et dites-vous que c'est la colère de votre partenaire qui parle, et que ses mots ne



ASSESSING & RESPONDING TO THE BEIRUT BLAST

In the aftermath of the devastating explosion in the port of Beirut, ABAAD identified priorities to help alleviate the impacts of the crisis and scale up its specialised services in order to ensure provision of life-saving services to the affected people. In addition to the field centres through which various interventions are provided, ABAAD deployed two emergency response field teams to ensure presence at the heart of the affected area to increase access for rightholders to information and services.

ABAAD launched a dedicated information hotline (24/7) for affected communities to manage urgent requests, such as basic needs (food, hygiene and dignity kits), mental health, protection and GBV services in addition to referrals to other specialised agencies in WASH, shelter and health services.

A month after the Beirut blast, ABAAD field team has reached out to more than 900 affected individuals

321

Rapid needs assessments conducted

356

Psychological First Aid provided

265

Calls received through hotline

1000

Dignity kits

255

Hygiene kits

72

Referrals to safe spaces

