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.
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).

PROVIDING GBV PREVENTION & RESPONSE SERVICES

According to the surveys we conducted, 96.9% of participants reported an increase in their coping skills and abilities to effectively handle everyday stress following ABAAD e-awareness sessions.

98% of participants reported feeling satisfied with the content provided in the sessions and that the topics covered were relevant to their realities.

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.
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

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

Jana A.

"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

Full press release
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

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<tr>
<th>321</th>
<th>356</th>
<th>265</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rapid needs assessments conducted</td>
<td>Psychological First Aid provided</td>
<td>Calls received through hotline</td>
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<tr>
<td>1000</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>72</td>
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<td>Dignity kits</td>
<td>Hygiene kits</td>
<td>Referrals to safe spaces</td>
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