

# ANNUAL REPORT 2018



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abjad





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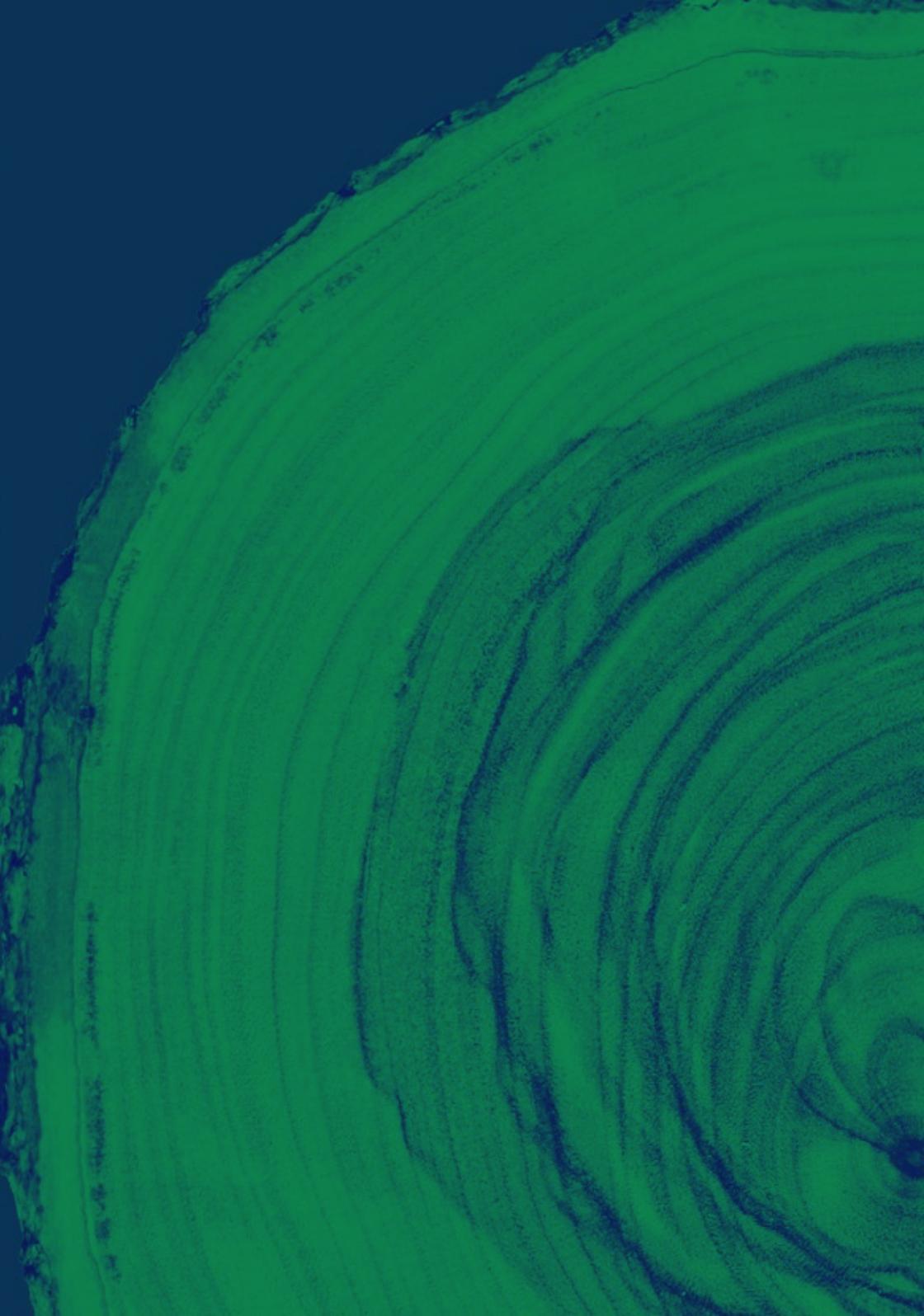
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You can trace my growth  
like tree rings, in the  
scars I gathered along  
the way. The raised  
flesh of rough days,  
the lighter shine of skin  
painted with endurance.  
Count them all, and find me  
ancient.

**Tyler Knott Gregson**

# contents

## 1. about ABAAD

- a. vision
- b. mission
- c. who we are
- d. values

## 5. a word from our Founder and Director

## 7. 2018 in numbers

## 11. achievements

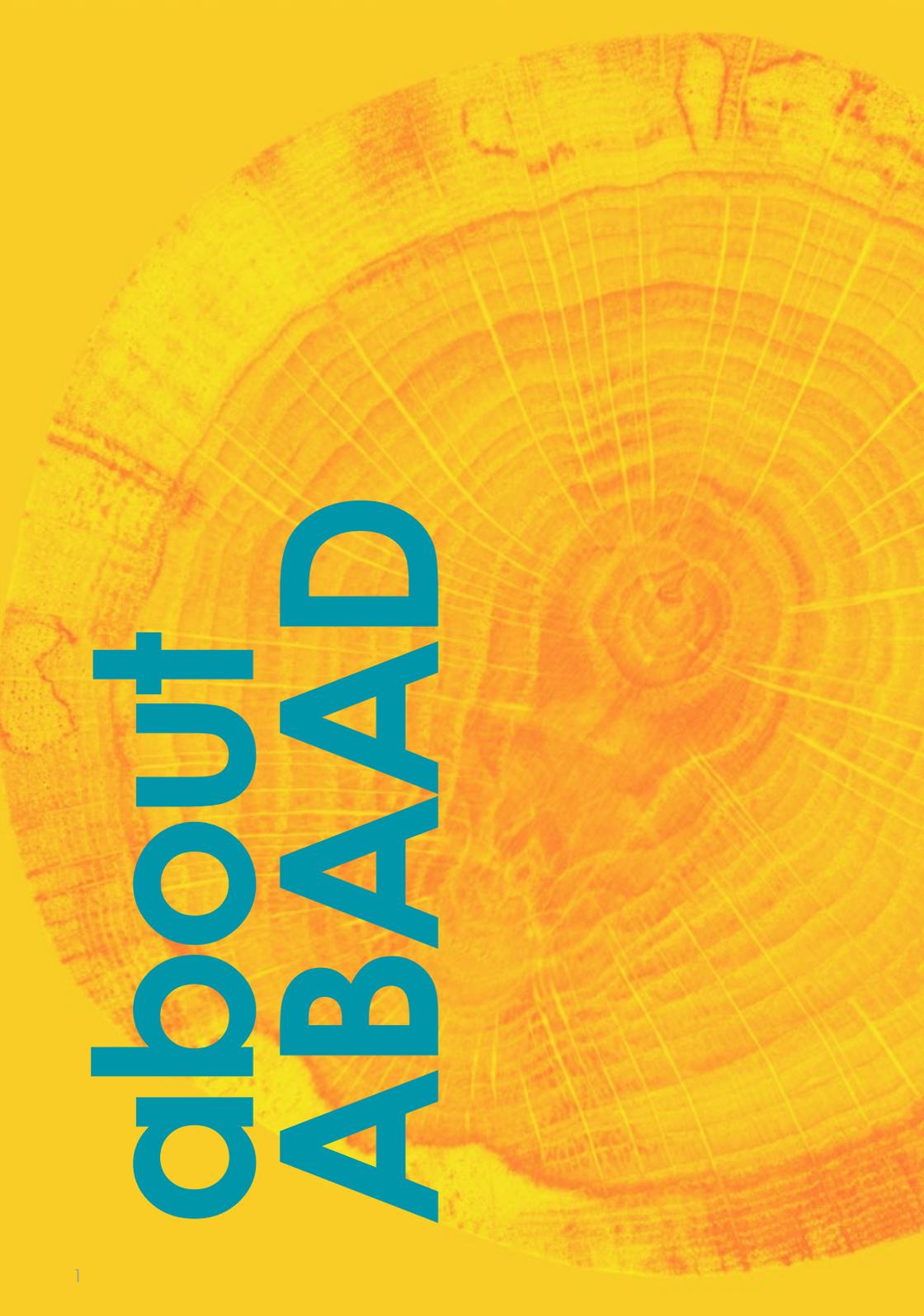
- a. jina al dar – mobile bus
- b. al dar: emergency safe-sheltering programme
- c. women and girls safe spaces
- d. masculinities

## 21. capacity building

## 26. advocacy

## 31. resource development: studies and toolkits

## 35. funding



**about**  
**ABABAD**

# our vision



ABAAD envisions a world in which:

- Men and women live as equitable partners and work together to secure better lives for their future.
- Women are effectively empowered and participate in democratic processes that affect their lives and their communities.
- There is no violence or discrimination and people live in freedom, dignity, and peace.
- Women have control and fair access to all social, economic, and natural assets and resources, and are able to pursue their happiness.



# our mission

ABAAD is a UN ECOSOC-accredited NGO that aims to achieve gender equality as an essential condition to sustainable peace, democracy, and socio-economic development in the MENA region. ABAAD seeks to promote gender equality through policy development and reform, fighting gender-based violence, empowering women and providing protection and support services through a holistic care approach to GBV survivors during times of peace, war, and disasters. As a leading actor promoting gender equality in the region, ABAAD also seeks to collaborate with, support, and build the capacities of both civil and public organisations that are working to promote women's empowerment, democracy, human rights and sustainable development.



# who we are

ABAAD's dynamic team comprises more than 100 dedicated activists, lawyers, consultants, social workers, and researchers, all working towards achieving an equitable society free of hegemonic masculinities and violence against women.

# values



ABAAD draws its core values from the essence of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (2016-2030), ILO's Vision on Gender Equality, ECOSOC's Strategy to Mainstreaming Gender, The Core Humanitarian Standard Commitments and the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda.



we believe  
in equality,  
inclusivity,  
diversity,  
accountability,  
and  
transparency.

# A WORD FROM OUR FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR

Dear readers, supporters, and friends,

ABAAD's Annual Report 2018 documents, in words and numbers, a successful year in which we dedicated all our efforts to breaking social stigmas and reach out to the unreached.

A main highlight of these efforts was our ground-breaking 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence **#ShameOnWho** campaign, which sparked significant debate and shed light on the issue of rape, not only in Lebanon and the MENA region, but also around the world. The campaign gained massive online and offline attention, and was featured on several media outlets, including CNN.

While we know that there is still a long road ahead to ensure an adequate and supportive environment for survivors of sexual violence, we are proud of all the women and girls who came forward and spoke out against their perpetrators during this time.

We are also honoured by the solidarity visits of ministers and UN officials to our safe shelters, which showed their commitment to combat gender-based violence at the national level. That, alongside the finalisation of the National GBV Standard Operating Procedures (GBV SOPs) under the leadership of the Ministry of Social Affairs, increases our confidence that survivor-centred quality care services will be enhanced in Lebanon.

In the upcoming years, ABAAD will continue to prioritise the provision of holistic care for families. With two new centres in Baalbek and Bisariye catering to women, men, and children, ABAAD's efforts to challenge gendered social norms continue expanding to cover more remote areas that lack such services.

We are committed to bringing an end to the stigma and discrimination associated with sexual assault, mental illness, and hegemonic masculinity.





**ABAAD, with the valuable support of its partners, remains uncompromising on any laws and practices that question the dignity of women and girls in Lebanon and the MENA region.**



# 2018 in numbers

# 17,681

women and girls attended sensitisation and psychosocial support sessions through ABAAD's Women and Girls Safe Spaces Programme

# 223

women and girl survivors of GBV and their dependants accessed. Safe-Sheltering services

# 117

men with violent behaviours benefited from psychotherapy sessions at the ABAAD Men Centre

# 415

women, men, and adolescent girls were trained on GBV Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

# 544

survivors of GBV were provided with case management services

# 1,900+

women and girls called our  
emergency 24/7 helplines

# 1,500+

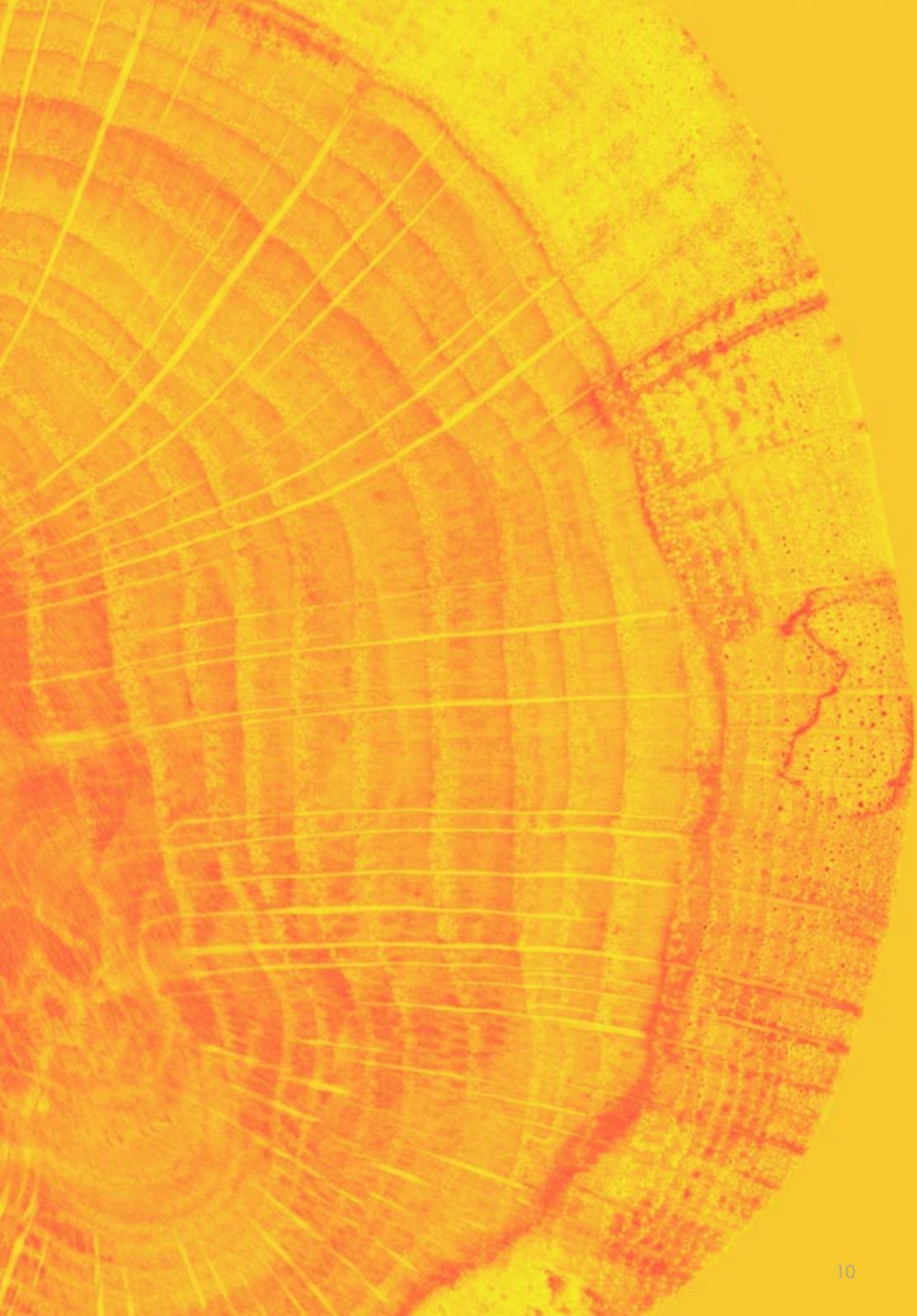
officers from the Internal Security Forces (ISF)  
received sensitisation training on the "Clinical  
Management of Rape," "Mandatory Reporting,"  
and "How to deal and investigate with survivors  
of sexual abuse and human trafficking."

# 107

women and girl survivors reached out to  
ABAAD to share stories and incidents of  
sexual assault throughout the course of our  
awareness campaign

# 3.8 billion

reached through online and offline campaigns



# achievements

# “Jina Al Dar” Mobile Bus



ABAAD's mobile bus visited the most marginalised areas, towns, and villages to work with unreached populations who reported never having received any similar services -OR- never having participated in such activities

## Successes

- Increase in number of participants, which reflects increased community interest in the intervention modality compared to previous years
- Inclusion of programme axes for individuals with disabilities
- High participant satisfaction rates
- Expansion of activities to include positive masculinities sessions
- Use of innovative and interactive approaches that ensure the delivery of quality services
- Active engagement of participants

**32** field visits



**134** villages

**11,385.5**

km crossed



**5,223** women reached

**713** men reached



**6,517** children reached

**28,000**

leaflets/flyers distributed



# ABAAD's specialised team provides:

- Awareness, education, and information sessions on women's and girls' legal rights
- Awareness, education, and information sessions on women's and girls' sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Referrals to the long-term psychosocial support, legal, and medical services provided by ABAAD's centres, as relevant
- Psychosocial support recreational activities targeting boys and girls
- Recreational activities targeting families, women, and men, including interactive theatre, puppetry, and screening of documentaries

## Emergency Safe-Sheltering Programme – Al Dar

"Al Dar," ABAAD's free and temporary emergency safe shelters for women at risk or survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), are located in three different governorates across Lebanon.

These shelters provide immediate safe-housing (24/7), crisis counselling, emergency support, legal rights information and legal consultations (short term cases), psychosocial support, referrals

for long-term welfare provision, income assistance, and access to resources for adolescent girls, as well as single and married women along with their children.

Survivors of sexual or gender-based violence can seek different kinds of services such as clinical care, individuals or group therapy, and a myriad of vocational activities. In the confidential and safe environment, women are able to gather information and explore their options, with the assistance of trained professionals.



**Women and girl survivors of GBV and their dependants accessed ABAAD's Emergency Safe-Sheltering services:**



During an event that brought together the Lebanese Minister for Women's Affairs, Mr. Jean Ogassapian, and more than 150 representatives of national and international NGOs, UN agencies, embassies, governmental bodies, and media outlets, ABAAD launched the "Safe-Sheltering Manual" that was developed through a consultative process held the year prior in partnership with Fondation de France.

ABAAD will be rolling out the manual through conducting Trainings of Trainers, both nationally and regionally, targeting both, organisations already running safe-sheltering services, and those with upcoming plans to institutionalise them.

# Women and Girls Safe Spaces

Located at the Social Development Centres (SDCs) of the Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs, ABAAD's Women and Girls Safe Spaces (WGSS) across Lebanon (**Beirut, Mount Lebanon, South, Nabatiye, Bekaa, North Lebanon, Akkar**) provide direct prevention and response services for women and girls survivors or at risk of GBV. This includes case management, legal consultations, court representation, CMR services, psychotherapy, psychiatric evaluation and follow up, as well as referral (GBV/family violence protection orders) to emergency safe housing (Al Dar) and soft skills/economic empowerment training.

In 2018, through its model centres for holistic care, ABAAD provided:

## sensitisation

total: 6,394



4,044



1,608



239



503

## PSS

total: 11,105



9,594



993



195



323

## case management



525



19

total: 544

## socio-economic empowerment



142



39

total: 181

## psychiatric services



15



3

total: 18

## individual psychotherapy



37



1

in total: 38

## Legal Services

total: 26



25



1

## Group Therapy

total: 438



198



18



222

With the aim of preventing and decreasing the prevalence of GBV in underprivileged communities, ABAAD also provided information and support group sessions to **1,000 women and 222 men**. As a result of ABAAD's community-based approach, **eight community groups** were formed to conduct grassroots activities on issues related to GBV and Domestic Violence (DV), targeting a **total of 476 women and 9 men**.

During December 2018, three community events in three different areas (Jbeil, Ghazir and Ein el Remmeneh) were held under the title "Colourful spaces - Let's Play for Equality." These community art events gathered approximately **1,500 women, men, and children**, and included focused awareness sessions, animations with cartoon characters, and face paintings. Mobilising and engaging children, and paved the way to increased outreach for intended upcoming protection activities.

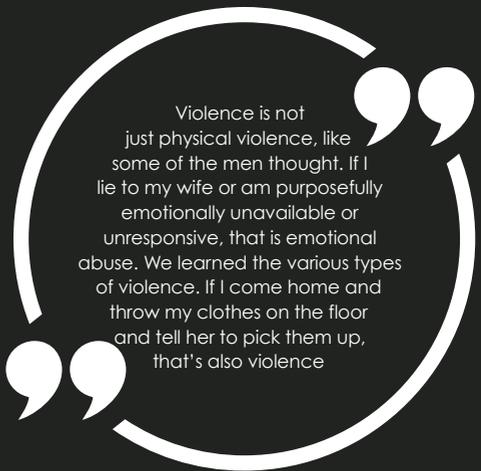
# Masculinities

Through its pioneer “Masculinities” programme, ABAAD continues to effectively engage men as partners in working towards achieving an equitable society free of hegemonic masculinities and violence against women.

In 7 different regions across Lebanon, ABAAD implemented “Programme P” sessions, which aim to foster positive parenting and engaging fathers. The initiative reached 316 men and women, and addressed men’s involvement in caregiving, prevention of violence against women, and early childhood development (ECD).

In partnership with UN women, ABAAD also organised community events in 5 different areas in Lebanon (**Bint Jbeil, Jbeil, Qobbeh Bebnine, and Labwe**) and worked with youth to raise awareness on the IMAGES study results, including non-traditional gender roles, divorce, and health problems within their communities.

At the policy level, a roundtable meeting was held with religious leaders, government representatives, judges, as well as local and international NGOs, to discuss the findings of the images study and to adapt the produced policy briefs under the study to the Lebanese context. Recommendations by the youth groups were taken into consideration.



Violence is not just physical violence, like some of the men thought. If I lie to my wife or am purposefully emotionally unavailable or unresponsive, that is emotional abuse. We learned the various types of violence. If I come home and throw my clothes on the floor and tell her to pick them up, that's also violence

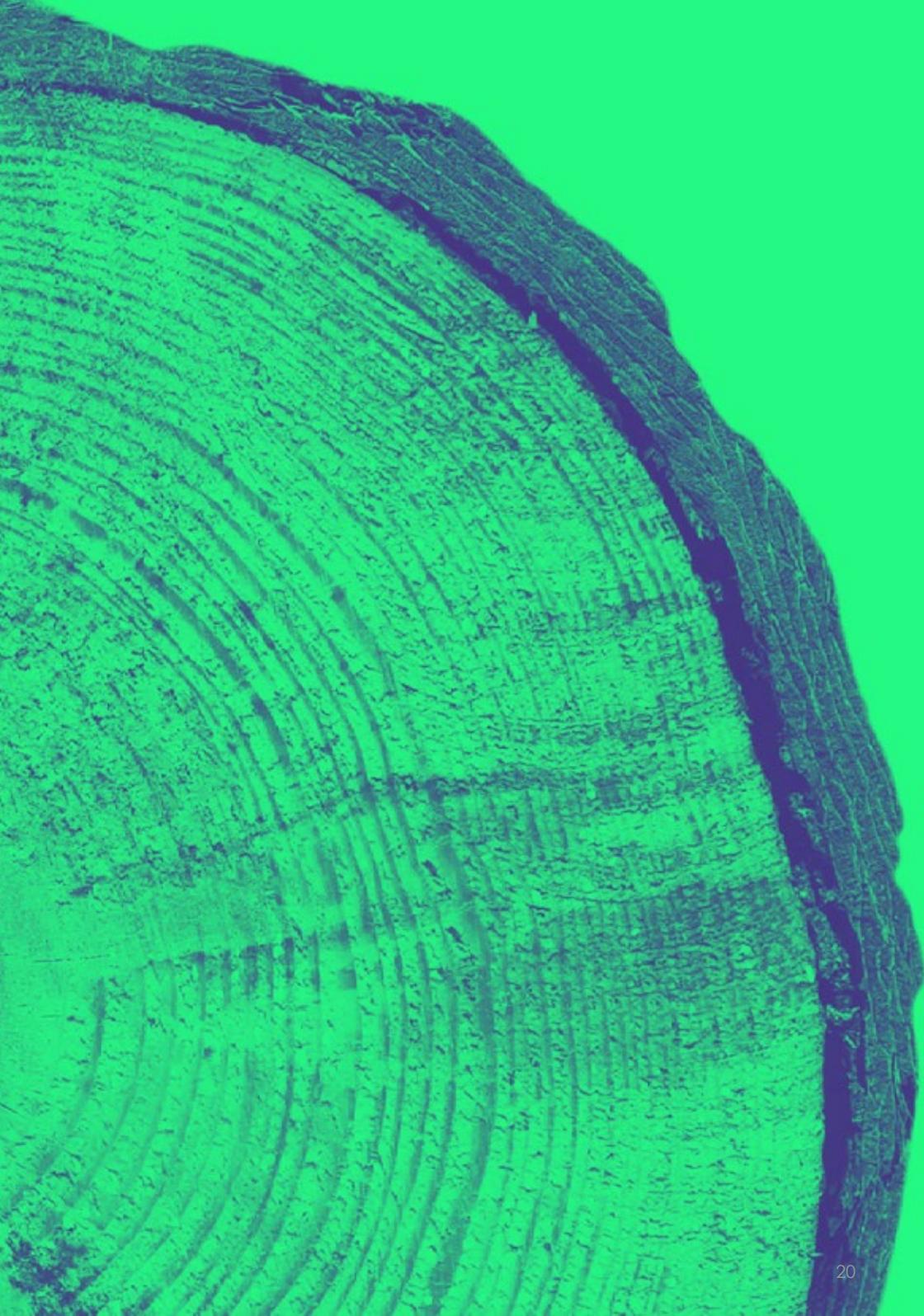
Programme P Participant

# In 2018, two new Men Centres were established In Bisariye and Baalbek

ABAAD's Men Centres provide mental health support at the individual, family, couples, and community level, with the aim of promoting non-violent behaviour and reinforcing positive familial and social relationships. As such, the Men Centre aids men to dispel singular and patriarchal notions of masculinity and commit to healthy, non-violent and gender-equitable masculinities upon which they can model their lives. The Men Centre promotes human rights, gender equality, and non-violent behaviours, and works towards informing national action plans and policies. ABAAD's qualified psychotherapists and social workers help men to:

- Identify how hegemonic and culturally specific notions of masculinity affect their personal lives and the lives of others, especially women and girls.
- Deal with stress caused by overly-high expectations they may hold for themselves and others.
- Learn healthy ways of communication and emotional expression.

The Men Centre offers one-on-one sessions to men seeking change in their lives and behaviour, couples facing difficulties in their relationships, family members seeking to improve relationships, and any group through emotional support therapy.



# capacity building

# As a leading actor promoting gender equality in the region, ABAAD continues to provide focused capacity building, technical support, and SOPs to civil, public, and judicial institutions, as well as national security forces.



Between July and December 2018, ABAAD facilitated a total of 24 Trainings of Trainers, based on ABAAD-developed or adapted manuals such as Basic Life Skills Programme, Community-Based Approach Manual, Playing for Gender Equality toolkit, Programme P, Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP), Psychological First Aid (PFA), and Caring for Special Groups in Protection from GBV (Older and Disabled persons). The workshops built the capacities of 419 front-liners from the North, South, Bekaa, and Beirut.



Through joint efforts, the Lebanese Internal Security Forces (ISF) and ABAAD have been raising awareness about crimes of sexual violence in Lebanon. Throughout 2018, weekly training sessions were provided to **more than 1,200 officers from the Internal Security Forces (ISF)** on Memo #339/204 S.4 entitled "Standards of Interaction and Investigation in Human Trafficking and Sexual Assault Crimes, and Standards of Support to Survivors of Such Crimes."

**more than 1,200 officers**  
with an average of **22 officers** per session



**1,104**  
male officers  
92% of the participants



**96**  
female officers  
8% of the participants



**435 GBV and Health front-liners** benefitted from trainings on GBV SOPs and the peer-to-peer approach.



In Iraq, ABAAD conducted various trainings aiming to enhance the quality of hotline response mechanisms and tools. The sessions allowed participants to master the skills needed to adequately respond and interact over the phone (including phone counselling to GBV survivors, crisis management, and dealing with difficult scenarios, such as suicide). The coaching also guided the front-liners on building a referral system, networking, and mediating with other GBV stakeholders.



Participants training in a counselling environment based on real emergency cases



ABAAD carried out three workshops on its interactive toolkit on “Sexual Education in Lebanon,” targeting **75 front-liners** working with different NGOs at the community level. *The toolkit has been developed in Arabic, and is available on ABAAD website*



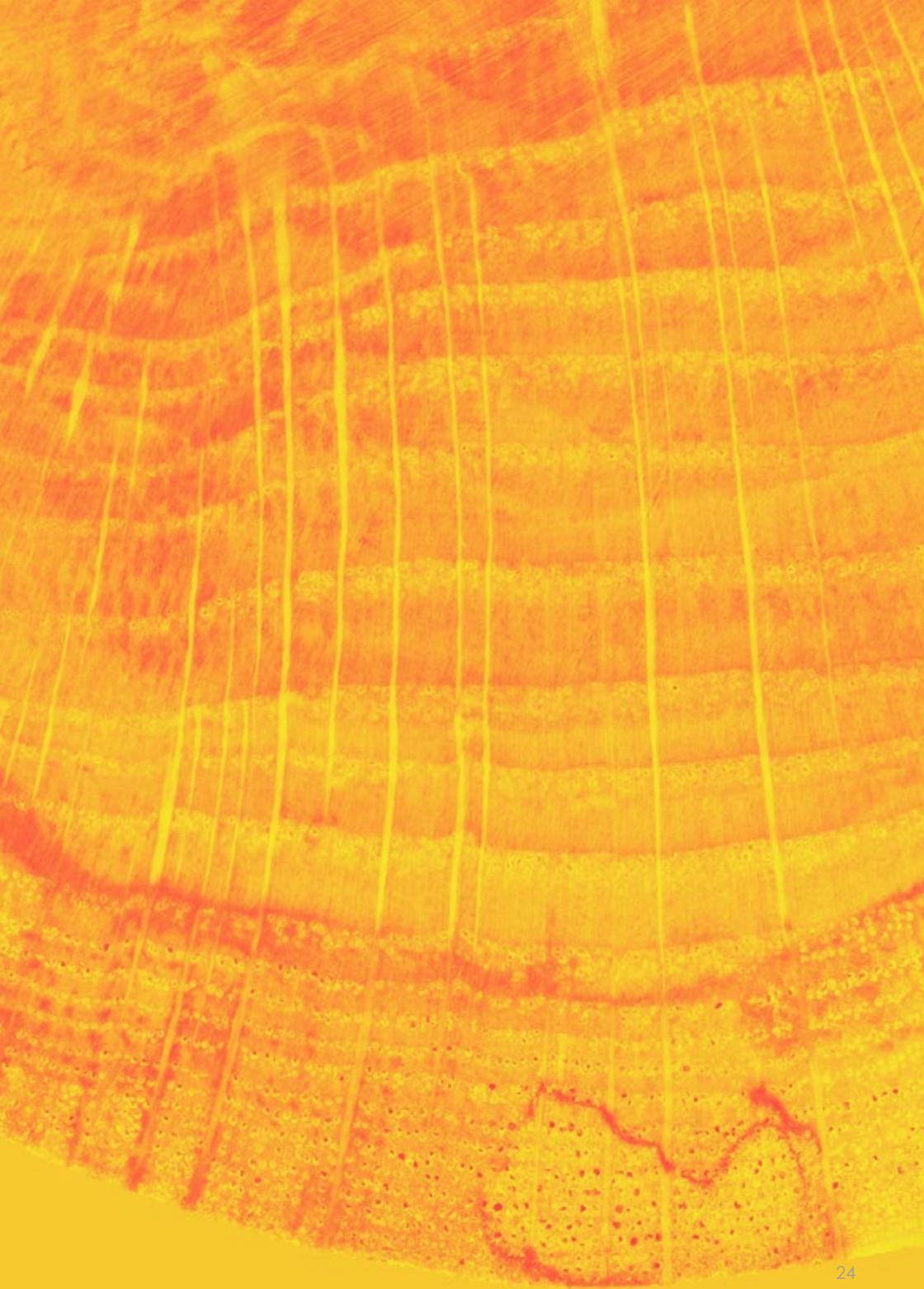
Participants training in a counselling environment based on real emergency cases



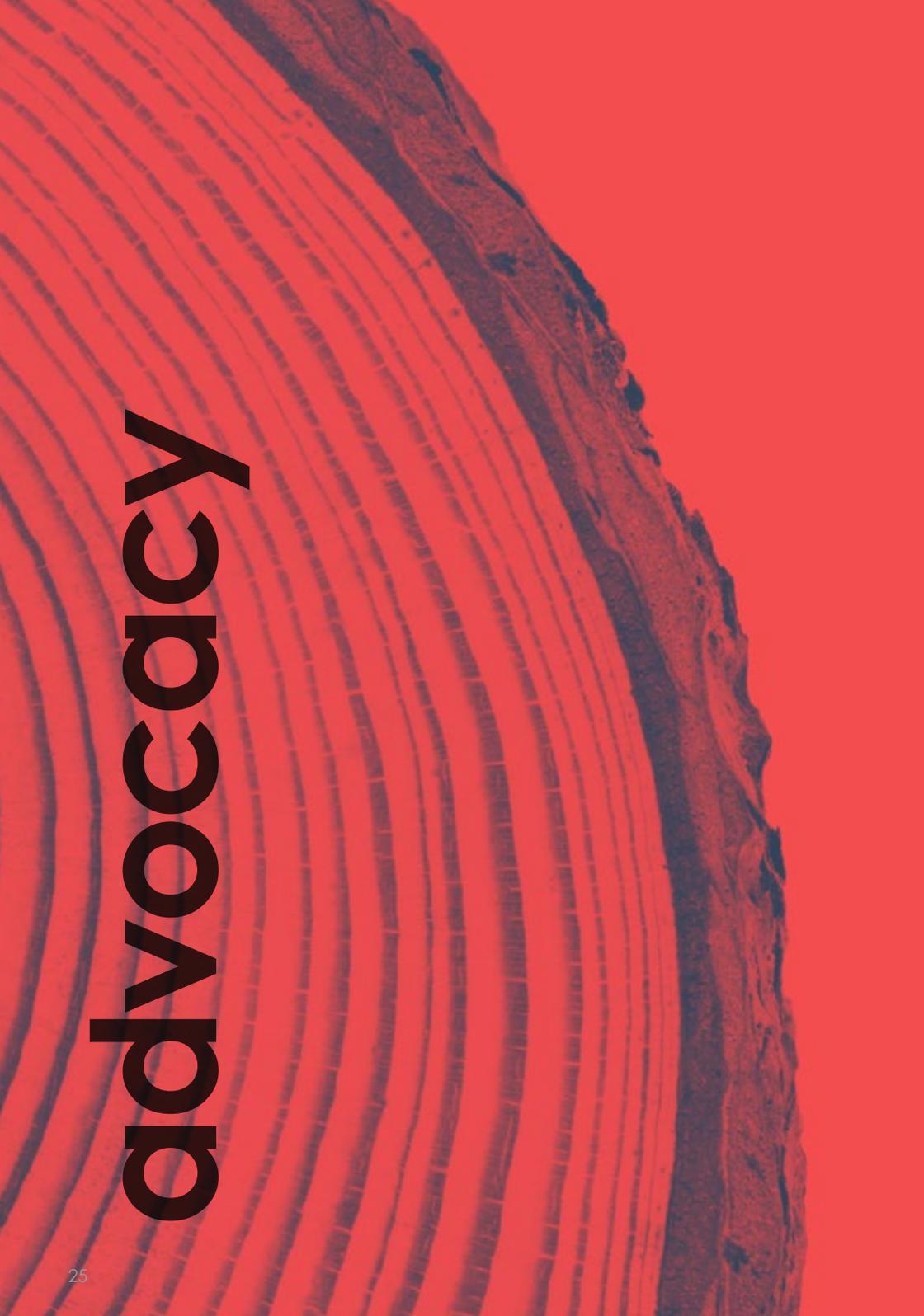
In partnership with Fe-Male, three national capacity building workshops were conducted for around **75 media personnel** on the “Gender-Sensitive Media Coverage in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations” toolkit. The objective was to enhance the mainstream media's gender-sensitive reporting and response to GBV cases.



Participants training in a counselling environment based on real emergency cases



# advocacy



# #ShameOnWho

## Prosecute the Rapist. Do Not Blame the Victim.

On the occasion of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence 2018, ABAAD, in partnership with the Office of the Minister of State for Women's Affairs, the National Commission for Lebanese Women, and a number of partners and allies, and with the financial support of the Dutch Embassy in Lebanon, the British Embassy in Lebanon, and the Norwegian People's Aid, launched the "#ShameOnWho" nationwide campaign.

The campaign comprised a number of different advocacy and socio-political activities calling for the prosecution of all rapists, and aiming to transform public opinion into one that supports the victim rather than judging and blaming her.

After months of preparation, ABAAD released the video of the social experiment, which was conducted in several different areas of Lebanon, showcasing society's negative perception and attitudes towards rape victims.



**We urge female rape victims to exercise their rights by raising their voices and reporting rapists/criminals, seeking retribution and bringing them to justice**

Ghida Anani, Founder and Director of ABAAD

Another 16 Days campaign activity was a stunt at the Beirut International Marathon, where women and activists decided not to “run,” but instead break the silence to face “the rapist” and all social justifications that defend his act.



#ShameOnWho at the Beirut International Marathon



A woman stands in front of a mural representing her rapist in a street in Beirut

ABAAD also took #ShameOnWho to the streets in a new form: murals on the walls of Beirut, depicting the faces of rapists as described by their victims. Some were even accompanied with voice boxes featuring the oral testimonies of the survivors.

In a complementary effort to change local behaviour around rape culture and victim-shaming in Lebanon, ABAAD put on a play entitled “Shame on Who?” which was based on interviews conducted by the organisation in 2018 with survivors of sexual violence and rape.

The performance painted the untouched reality of those who have suffered and allowed the audience to experience the stories of rape survivors as they moved from room to room in a house in Beirut accompanied by recordings of these women's voices.

The overall campaign reach, both locally and globally, was a significant 72 million impressions. Through vast mainstream and social media coverage, #ShameOnWho was able to accomplish one of its main objectives of encouraging women and girl survivors of rape and sexual assault to come forward, disclose their cases, and seek support.

**Between its launching on  
November 6 until the end of  
December 2018,**

**205**  

**women and girls called ABAAD  
helplines requesting support with  
sexual assault cases.**





53K views



7.8 million



17.1 million



25 million



12 million



10 million of Media coverage

Number of Media Outlets:  
Print: 5  
Television: 26  
Radio: 11  
Online Media Platforms: 98



“The Shame On Who Campaign was to shed light on the rapist, the laws that need to be reformed and to trigger the public debate around blaming and shaming the survivors”





# studies and toolkits

**ABAAD remains committed to its role as a “Resource Centre for Gender Equality” that targets the civil and public sectors both locally and regionally.**



In collaboration with Fe-Male, ABAAD produced a toolkit on **“Gender-Sensitive Media Coverage in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations,”** which includes guidelines on conducting effective media interviews with GBV survivors and dealing with trauma-affected populations, namely women and children.

*(available in Arabic)*



In collaboration with the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP), ABAAD produced a national **“Self-Care Curriculum,”** aiming to build the capacities of front-line workers and service providers to create more sustainable work modalities and encourage wellbeing in times of increased stress and pressure.

*(available in English)*



In collaboration with MARSA Sexual Health Centre, ABAAD produced an interactive toolkit on **“Sexual Education in Lebanon,”** to ensure female and male youth’s access to knowledge around sexual education.

*(available in Arabic)*



In collaboration with the Lebanese Ministries of Social Affairs and Public Health, ABAAD published a brochure that provides guidance **on addressing the types and effects of stress experienced by children and teenagers in a non-violent and participatory manner.**

*(available in Arabic)*



In close coordination with the Ministry of Social Affairs, ABAAD produced the **“Basic Life Skills Programme,”** a toolkit that aims to enhance the skills of women and girls on preventing violence and protecting themselves from it.

*(available in Arabic)*



In collaboration with Queen's University, ABAAD conducted a study entitled **“Caught in Contradiction: Making Sense of Child Marriage Among Syrian Refugees in Lebanon.”** The study sourced its information directly from the Syrian girls themselves.

*(available in English and Arabic)*



In collaboration with the University of Colorado Boulder, ABAAD developed the **“Healthy Relationships, Healthy Community: Incorporating Mental Health, Social Norms, and Advocacy Approaches to Reduce IPA”** workshop manual, which was designed to empower communities to develop their own anti-IPA messaging campaigns in Lebanon.



In collaboration with the International Rescue Committee, Queen’s University, and the United Nations Population Fund, ABAAD developed **SenseMaker®** a monitoring and evaluation tool for gender-based violence programmes and services in Lebanon: lessons learned about feasibility and added value.

- More resources are available on ABAAD website -



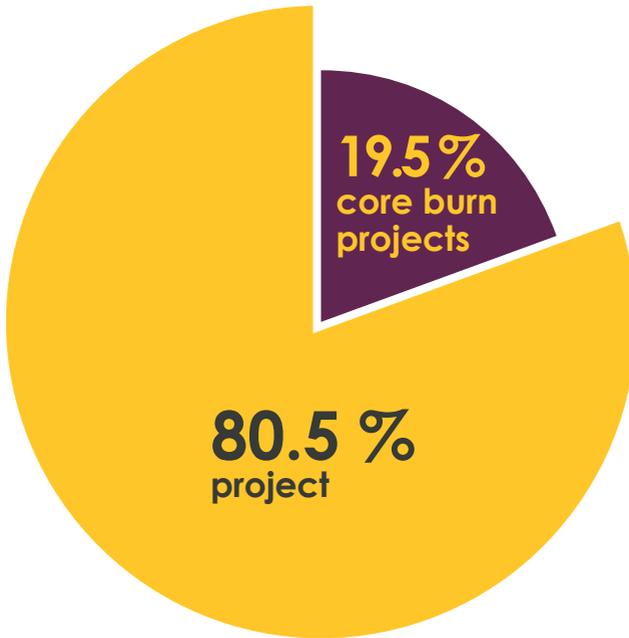
# funding

Funds received

**\$ 9,117,363.21**

Expenditure

**\$ 8,572,414.41**





Thank you all for your partnership and valuable support!  
**We couldn't have done it without you.**

*The ~~Abad~~ Team*







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