

# Annual Report 2012-2013

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مركز الموارد  
للمساواة بين الجنسين  
Resource Center  
For Gender Equality



# Annual Report 2012-2013



# Contents

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p.5	Acronyms
p.6	A Word from Dr. Lina Abirafeh, ABAAD Board Member
p.8	A Word from Ghida Anani, ABAAD Founder and Director
p.10	About ABAAD
p.12	Intervention Strategies
p.14	Operational Strategies
p.16	Direct Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Al Dar</li><li>• Men Center</li></ul>
p.20	Resource Development
p.24	Advocacy
p.30	Capacity Development
p.34	Community Engagement
p.35	Voluntary Support To Local And Regional NGOs
p.36	Donors, Partners, and Allies
p.38	Contact

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# Acronyms

**AFE:** Arab Foundation for Freedoms and Equality  
**AUB:** American University of Beirut  
**CCECS:** Centre for Civic Engagement and Community Service  
**CCSAS:** Clinical Care of Sexual Assault Survivors  
**CEDAW:** Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women  
**CMR:** Clinical Management of Rape  
**CPWG:** Child Protection Working Group  
**CSO:** Civil Society Organisation  
**DRC:** Danish Refugee Council  
**ESCWA:** Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia  
**EVAW:** Ending Violence against Women  
**GBV:** Gender-Based Violence  
**GE:** Gender Equality  
**GUPW:** General Union of Palestinian Women  
**HRW:** Human Rights Watch  
**IEC:** Information, Education, and Communication  
**IMC:** International Medical Corps  
**INGO:** International Non-Governmental Organisation  
**IRC:** International Rescue Committee  
**MC:** Men Centre  
**MENA:** Middle East and North Africa  
**MoPH:** Ministry of Public Health  
**MoSA:** Ministry of Social Affairs  
**NGO:** Non-Governmental Organisation  
**NLP:** Neuro-Linguistic Programming  
**OXFAM GB:** Oxford Committee for Famine Relief - Great Britain  
**PHC:** Primary Healthcare Centre  
**SAIA:** Stockholm Association of International Affairs  
**SDCs:** Social Development Community Centres  
**SDC:** Swiss Development Cooperation  
**SGBV:** Sexual and Gender-Based Violence  
**SOPs:** Standard Operational Procedures  
**SRHR:** Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights  
**ToT:** Training of Trainers  
**UN:** United Nations  
**UNHCR:** United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
**UNICEF:** United Nations Children's Fund  
**UNRWA:** United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East  
**USEK:** Université Saint-Esprit de Kaslik (Holy Spirit University of Kaslik)  
**USJ-ESIB:** Université Saint-Joseph – École Supérieure d'Ingénieurs de Beyrouth (Saint Joseph University–Engineering Campus)  
**VAW:** Violence against Women  
**WFP:** World Food Programme

# A Word from Dr. Lina Abirafeh, ABAAD Board Member

The old adage “The Personal is Political” could not hold truer for the work we do for gender equality and the elimination of gender-based violence. Indeed, we persevere despite frequent setbacks, each time pushing forward with greater determination.

I am honoured and delighted once again to be writing the Foreword of ABAAD’s 2012-2013 Annual Report. This report is a testimony to the great triumphs this organisation continues to achieve – even amidst great global and local challenges and tragedies.

In the world, in the Middle East, and in Lebanon itself, 2013 was a year of many tragedies – and yet, it also held many triumphs.



## Triumph... at the Global Level

On a global scale, despite witnessing a conservative backlash, the world’s women were able to make gains. We fought to institutionalise women’s rights and pass more progressive laws. ABAAD participated in the 57th session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York. Conclusions on sexual and reproductive rights were at long last agreed-upon – even in spite of fundamentalist opposition. ABAAD uses these conclusions as part of its gender equality ammunition, both in Lebanon and the region. Also in 2013, the UN Security Council issued Resolution 2106 which makes an explicit and unprecedented call for non-discrimination and access to health services – including sexual and reproductive health – in armed conflict. These global triumphs have a resounding impact in the region and are being harnessed to advance our cause.

## Triumph... at the Regional Level

The MENA region continues to suffer great instability. It goes without saying that women and children bear the brunt of this ongoing – and often increasing – insecurity. The great tragedy of the region is the conflict in Syria, which has been going on since March 2011 with no signs of abating. This crisis has forced over 2 million refugees into neighbouring countries, mostly to Lebanon. Of these refugees, a hefty 80% are women and children. To respond to this tragedy, ABAAD opened three midway houses in 2013. These houses provide shelter for women in life-threatening situations, as well as a safe space to receive different types of needed assistance.

In addition to providing essential services, ABAAD continued to produce and share knowledge with the global and regional humanitarian communities, solidifying the organisation’s role as sought-after international experts. This included gender and vulnerability assessments among Syrian and Palestinian refugees that shed light on perceptions of physical safety and emotional wellbeing, leading to higher quality programming.

ABAAD also shares its knowledge with others through an extensive capacity-building programme that targets care providers, frontline personnel, health staff, and others. Through training in clinical management of rape, GBV case management in emergencies, organising support groups for male youth and boys who are survivors or witnesses of GBV, and other key skills, ABAAD continues to support other organisations in providing high quality care and services for affected communities and individuals.



## Triumph... within Lebanon

Lebanon continues to face sociopolitical changes and challenges from within. We fought for legislation to protect women from domestic violence and withstood the resurgence in extremist violence in parts of the country.

Despite these challenges, ABAAD continued its pioneering work in Lebanon with religious leaders to end GBV. The nationwide campaign “We Believe... Partners to End Violence against Women” engaged Muslim, Druze, and Christian religious leaders in Lebanon to speak out against GBV. These leaders also committed to join ABAAD in the fight to end GBV in Lebanon. The campaign and commitment was the first of its kind in Lebanon, and it took place even despite the country’s fragmented history and lingering religious tensions. The campaign was presented in many global fora, including the 2013 Sexual Violence Research Initiative Forum in Bangkok. ABAAD’s work with religious leaders is now a global case study considered a best practice in challenging and changing social norms and engaging religious leaders in GBV prevention.

The Engaging Men programme has also been a leader in its own right. The Men Centre, the documentary “Men in the Shadow,” and the photography project “Picturing Gender Equality” have all worked to challenge gender inequality and create space for positive, non-violent masculinities in Lebanon.

## Triumph Despite Tragedy

This is indeed the story of those who work tirelessly to achieve universal human rights and gender equality. We must be prepared for tragedy, but accept nothing less than triumph. It is our own resilience that keeps the movement alive and that morphs each setback into an opportunity. And no tragedy – neither personal nor political – obstructs the view of our goal. It only serves to solidify our resolve.

I once again invite you to read, share, and enjoy this report, which, in and of itself, is a great triumph.

**Lina Abirafeh, PhD**

*Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies Expert  
ABAAD Advisory Board Member*



**DR. RITA SABAT**

A professor at Notre Dame University (NDU), Rita was a valued board member, and a great activist in field of GBV and UNSCR 1325

# A Word from Ghida Anani, ABAAD Founder and Director

Sadly, during this past year, ABAAD was hit with tragedy twice: two beloved team members, Ms. Fadia Haddad and Dr. Rita Sabat, passed away. Fadia, one of the ABAAD co-founders and the team's Primary Prevention Program Coordinator, and Rita, a valued board member, a great activist in field of GBV, and a professor at Notre Dame University (NDU), were both amazing, dynamic, passionate, hard-working, and genuine women who will be greatly missed. Their unyielding belief in and work towards the cause was remarkable, and added a great deal of energy, support, guidance, and opportunities.

*“So much has happened during ABAAD’s second year of work, creating a roller coaster of both, great impact and great emotion.”*

**In order to cherish their memory and continue the journey and mission as they had envisioned it, the ABAAD team was also unyielding in the way we carried out our work.**

During 2012 – 2013, ABAAD scaled up and grew on several levels: we established Al Dar, a midway house for women, with three branches in the North, South, and the Bekaa, providing services for single women, adolescent girls, and women with their children. At Al Dar, victims of sexual assault or gender-based violence can seek different kinds of clinical care and other services, engage in individual or group therapy, and take part of numerous activities.

We also launched the Men's Center, in partnership with the International Medical Corps, to provide men with free, anonymous, and confidential rehabilitation services for men with abusive behavior. The Center's Psychological Program proved highly successful within its first few months, and we were therefore able to take it beyond the Men's Center premises and onto the field through support groups, art therapy, drama therapy, workshops, and other cathartic components.



In addition to its new service centers, ABAAD was also able to accomplish numerous achievements on the national and international levels, including but not limited to the following: The Emergency Program was launched, and began providing its services to Syrian refugees throughout Lebanon. Numerous tools, reports, and resources were developed and launched in partnership with a number of organizations including IRC, DRC, UNICEF, ESCWA, IMC, Save the Children, and UNHCR, among others. We also participated in the year's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Shadow Report.

One of our highlight campaigns was “We Believe” which involved hosting several religious leaders from various Arab countries for a conference in Beirut, and a Public Service Announcement featuring Lebanon’s four main religious figures. We also carried out the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence campaign for the second year in a row, including a number of partners, from universities, to international NGOs, to other civil society organizations.

We also held the “Masculinity and Ending Violence against Women (VAW) in the Middle East and Abroad” conference in partnership with the Swedish Institute Alexandria, where we invited three international keynote speakers who are considered pioneers of the Engaging Men approach, and a number of MENA participants to Beirut. The conference centered around working on masculinities and engaging men and boys in ending VAW.

Through expanding and conducting activities nationwide, ABAAD has become an established reference in specific training fields including Stress and Anger Management, Self-care Using Art Techniques and Neuro-linguistic Programming, Clinical Management of Rape, and Gender-Based Violence Case Management.

With our growing team of staff, volunteers, and partner networks, we were also able to start working on a regional level by carrying out programs in several MENA countries, including Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, KSA, Kurdistan, Syria, and Tunisia.

We are looking forward to another successful year of growth, dissemination of information, capacity building, providing services, involving men, and, in collaboration with our partners, creating a domino effect of positive change....  
And we thank you for being a part of it!

**Ghida Anani**  
*Founder and Director*



**FADIA HADDAD**

One of the ABAAD co-founders, Fadia was also the team’s Primary Prevention Program Coordinator.

# About ABAAD

ABAAD Resource Center for Gender Equality is a non-profit, non-politically affiliated, non-religious civil association founded in 2011.

**Our aim is to promote sustainable social and economic development in the MENA region through equality, protection and empowerment of marginalized groups, especially women.**

ABAAD comprises of a dynamic pool of resources, human rights activists, lawyers, consultants, social workers, and researchers that are all dedicated towards achieving gender equality and women empowerment.

## 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. In this world there is no violence or discrimination, and women live in freedom, dignity and inner peace. Women also have fair access to assets and resources within their communities.

## Our Values

ABAAD draws its values and goals from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the CEDAW, and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. ABAAD, as an association, also believes in the spirit and values of equality, protection, empowerment, inclusion, partnership, networking, good governance, accountability, and transparency.

## Our Mission

ABAAD believes that achieving gender equality requires systemic changes in policy and modes of social interactions at all levels of the society: home, work place, school, public services, media, and others.

Hence, ABAAD seeks to promote women's equality and participation through prevention and protection for women, men, and children and youth by way of Advocacy; Resource Development; Direct Services; and Building Capacities, Raising Awareness, and Technical Support.

ABAAD also seeks to support and collaborate with civil society organisations that are involved in gender equality programs and advocacy campaigns.



# Our Strategies

**ABAAD works through:**

<b>Resource Development</b>	Conducting action-oriented research as a baseline for work, developing resources and tools
<b>Capacity Building</b>	Providing capacity and skill building trainings for individuals and civil society organizations on a spectrum of issues related to gender
<b>Technical Support</b>	Providing technical support and services to NGOs and other associations Advocacy
<b>Advocating</b>	For gender equality through policy dialogue, mobilizing media and stakeholders, and networking with local, regional, and international organizations
<b>Prevention &amp; Protection Interventions</b>	Responding to GBV through preventive and protective approaches directed at any woman, man, or child/youth (of all backgrounds) in Lebanon:

## FOR WOMEN

- Awareness-raising sessions
- Establishing Al Dar; three free, safe, and supportive midway houses in different Lebanese governorates
- Providing psychosocial support (individual and group therapy), medical care, and temporary residence

## FOR MEN

- Awareness-raising sessions
- Engaging men at all levels to effect change within the public and private spheres
- Establishing the Men’s Center to provide men with aggressive/violent behavior with rehabilitation services (psychosocial support, anger management, stress management, perceptions of masculinity, deconstructing gender stereotypes)

## FOR YOUTH

aged between 8-12 and their care-givers

- Awareness-raising sessions
- Playing for gender equality via interactive and specialized games

# Intervention Strategies Protection & Prevention

## For Men

The Men Centre

While the concept of gender equality is not new, what is relatively new is the concentrated effort to revisit men's roles and identities in order to significantly increase men's involvement in working towards gender-equal societies. Changing individual men's and boys' understanding of acceptable behaviours that normalise violence is an essential component in ending violence against women and girls. "While men have long been addressed as perpetrators, now they are also being addressed as "partners" in prevention." (Flood 2005-2006) "A number of studies have argued that in associating men with violence, we should also ensure that men are part of the solution." (Lang 2002; Ruxton 2004; Flood 2005)

ABAAD believes that increasing men's involvement will not only promote gender equality, but will contribute to ending men's violence against women through a secondary prevention approach.

Thus, ABAAD launched the Men's Centre where various rehabilitation services are provided to men who engage in violent behaviours.

## For Children and Youth

Playing for Gender  
Equality Training Programme

"From the time their children are babies, parents treat sons and daughters differently, dressing infants in gender-specific colors, giving gender-differentiated toys, and expecting different behavior from boys and girls." (Thorne, 1993) "One study indicates that parents have differential expectations of sons and daughters as early as 24 hours after birth." (Rubin, Provenzano, and Luria, 1974).

Hence, because gender is "done" or constructed, it can also be "undone" or deconstructed. ABAAD is committed to "deconstructing" gender stereotypes at childhood and early adolescent phases in order to educate about and promote principles of gender equality. Despite civil society efforts and attempts to eliminate gender stereotypes from society, the tendency to evaluate people on the basis of their sex remains a challenging social problem. By learning the terms and concepts associated with Gender Equality, children can begin the important process of questioning the inequalities they see around them, and having different perspectives of gender relations than those they have witnessed in their homes, culture, and the local media. This therefore begins building a generation of individuals who are sensitive to issues of gender and gender inequality.

# For Women

## Establishment of three Midway Houses

The Lebanese Constitution stipulates that “the Lebanese shall be equal before the law, equally enjoying civil and political rights, and they are equally subject to public duties and obligations without any discrimination” (Article 7). While the Lebanese Constitution tends to establish gender equality in rights and freedoms, it stipulates no affirmative actions, does not condemn discrimination as unconstitutional, and is often neither enforced nor supported by other types of laws which affect women more directly. This kind of gender discrimination is clearly evident in the three reservations accompanying Lebanon’s ratification of CEDAW in 1996, where major gaps still exist in both the letter and application of the law.

Thus, Lebanese women still live under a traditional patriarchal system and suffer from legalised discrimination and deeply-rooted traditions that subordinate them to men, which in turn, exposes them to all forms of violence (Arab Report on Human Development 2009, ‘The Human Security Challenges in Arab Countries’, UNDP). Their reality as second class citizens is therefore continually shaped by traditions imposed by both a patriarchal culture and confessional system. Hence, ABAAD is committed to strengthening women’s knowledge about their social, economic, and political rights, as well as their confidence and self-esteem. This is done while simultaneously focusing on influencing decision-makers to modify policies and laws and change values and norms, and designing stronger programme strategies about the relevance of identity and gender. Additionally, since the onset of the Syrian crisis, ABAAD, in collaboration with multiple governmental, national, and international organisations and agencies, has been at the forefront of GBV-related emergency responses, including SGBV needs of both refugee and host communities. Efforts have been directed through different channels to provide a holistic sustainable response targeting the Lebanese, as well as Syrian, Iraqi, and other refugees currently residing in Lebanon. Initiatives have included the formation of three mid-way houses (temporary shelters); provision of psychosocial support for women, men, boys and girls; and building the capacities of field staff working with Syrian communities on GBV related issues; and most recently, the plan to develop safe spaces for women and girls within the social development centres of the Ministry of Social Affairs.

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# Operational Strategies

## Direct Services

In order to respond to GBV-related needs of both men and women, ABAAD has created two fronts to provide necessary services, the Men Centre and Al Dar respectively.

In order to engage and support men facing issues with aggression or masculinities, ABAAD piloted the Men Centre, a listening and counselling centre operating six days a week and providing individual and group therapy sessions focusing on issues faced, as well as on deconstructing masculinities and patriarchal ideologies, providing tips on healthy communication techniques, as well as holding anger and stress management workshops.

To support women and girl survivors of gender-based violence, ABAAD launched “Al Dar,” three Midway Transition Houses in three different Lebanese governorates, that offer a free, safe, and supportive temporary house for women at risk or survivors of GBV, whether single women, adolescent girls, or women with their children. In addition to safe accommodation, Al Dar provides psychosocial support, legal support, as well as vocational and life skills trainings.

## Resource Development

An extremely important component of raising public awareness is the creation of effective, attractive, and suitably tailored IEC material. Combined with other communication techniques, (like carrying out launching events, trainings, and other relevant activities where the developed material is introduced and/or discussed) resources like flyers, brochures, educational pamphlets, documentaries, public hearings, baseline studies and needs assessments, public service announcements, artwork, literature, and others, become a crucial part of reaching out more comprehensively to each target group as required.

## Advocacy

ABAAD uses policy dialogue as a mechanism to promote an equitable and violence-free society. Knowing the pattern of power distribution in dialogue settings, ABAAD is committed to setting the foundations of dialogue and positive channels with community leaders, religious leaders, stakeholders, and the media with the aim of engaging them to achieve gender equality in our society.

ABAAD believes that addressing GBV and promoting gender equality require the comprehensive and coordinated efforts of a number of actors, primarily governmental and non-governmental organisations. Additionally, ABAAD has a core role within local and international working groups and taskforces.

Hence, since its establishment, ABAAD has been proactively engaged in fostering policy dialogue and development to address GBV and VAW.



## Capacity Development and Technical Support

Thus, since its inception, ABAAD has been expertly developing the capacities of governmental and non-governmental institutions. ABAAD has also been working on developing the skills and changing the behaviour of men and women to prevent the incidence and recurrence of Gender Based Violence. This has been done through different processes, including conducting

ABAAD believes that skill building and capacity development are a key-in for bringing about sustainable change in promoting gender equality while addressing Gender Based Violence.

cross-cutting and functional capacity development for individuals and organisations, and developing information, education, and communication resources on gender rights and GBV-related issues.




# Direct Services

## Al Dar: Midway Houses for Women

 **41**  
Women

WITH

 **37**  
Kids

**24**  
Syrian

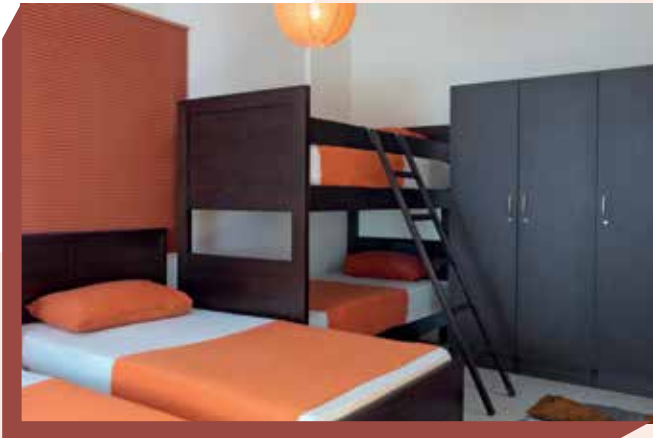
**16**  
Lebanese

**1**  
Iraqi

**33**  
Syrian

**4**  
Lebanese

**TOTAL NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES AT AL DAR: AUG. 2013 – DEC. 2013 (5 MONTH SPAN)**



ABAAD launched its Midway Transition House “Al Dar,” a free, safe, and supportive temporary house for women at risk or survivors of GBV, whether single women, adolescent girls, or women with their children, in three different Lebanese governorates. The three Midway Houses operate in partnership with UNHCR, DRC, and UNICEF.

At the confidential and safe environment, women can seek services, gather information, and explore their different options with the assistance of trained, multi-disciplinary professional staff. Immediate safe-housing, crisis counselling, information on legal rights, psychosocial support, referrals for the provision of welfare and social services, income assistance, and access to resources are all available.

**Al Dar also contributes to building community awareness and strengthening local capacities to better respond to GBV.**

The services offered by Al Dar contribute to supporting women/beneficiaries in enhancing their self-esteem, increasing their life management skills, receiving emotional support, decreasing physical and psychological harm, and enabling women’s long term safety and empowerment.

This empowering environment provides women with opportunity to grow, mature, and escape abusive situations.

“I never wanted to leave this house; they had everything I needed to feel secure and independent.”

**Immediate Objectives:**

- Providing women and adolescent girls at risk or survivors of GBV with immediate temporary accommodation, 24/7
- Providing emergency support, including health, psychosocial and legal support
- Raising society’s awareness about GBV in general, and on the importance of safe-housing in particular through networking with local stakeholders
- Strengthening the referral system as per set SOPs and guidelines, and advocating the Midway Transition Houses as an option for breaking the cycle of violence
- Providing individual case management agencies with an alternative and immediate response to women and adolescent girls in need of temporary accommodation



*“I found a refuge and care here, after surviving the homelessness and security of a tent. Thank you for protecting my daughter and me... I really needed to know what security feels like. “*

**Midterm Objectives:**

- Strengthening capacities of local actors involved in GBV prevention and response, especially in the field of case management
- Raising community awareness about GBV and the specific risks it poses to women and girls
- Empowering women and girls to break their social isolation
- Providing women and girls with psychosocial support essential to develop increased levels of resilience and to overcome social and emotional difficulties



**Long term Objectives:**

- Participating in the drawing of national policies at both prevention and response levels in order to end violence against women and adolescent girls

“It feels like home, thanks to your warm care and attention. No one has ever taken care of us like you have. I need to apologise about the aggressive behaviour of my children, and thank you for your patience...”

*“I did not know I could ever be accepted exactly the way I am – not even in my own family...”*



# Men Center

It has become a more recognised concept, globally, that in order to end Violence against Women and attain a gender equal society, we must engage men in our work as Women's Human Rights Activists.

Failure to engage men in strategies promoting gender equality not only overlooks one of the most important aspects of combating the long-standing social epidemic of VAW – that men are the perpetrators of VAW and need to be rehabilitated – but it also leaves women alone in the fight to end the horrors of VAW in patriarchal societies.

It is for these reasons that the work on Engaging Men in ending VAW must begin now in order for true and sustainable change in building gender equal societies. This is specifically the reality when considering strategies to be employed in the MENA region, which is still an extremely patriarchal region with men dominating government, the workplace, religion, and the household. The understanding of Masculinity among the people also tends to be a very traditional one, where the father is the provider and head of the household, while the mother is the subservient and sacrificial “second in charge”.

As part of ABAAD's pilot initiative to engage men, the Men Centre (MC), a psychological counselling centre for men to address issues of masculinities and rehabilitate men with abusive behaviours, was launched. The MC is a place that provides support to men residing in Lebanon (including Palestinian, Iraqi, and Syrian refugee populations) with services such as support groups, discussion groups, and individual psychological counselling. The focus of the MC is to have the men who come to the centre analyse and question the current stresses in their lives, through psychological counselling, from a gender perspective. They investigate societal gender roles, and how these roles are affecting their daily lives, attitudes, and behaviours,

specifically in their relationships with others. The MC also provides stress management and anger management workshops, and teaches healthy emotional and solution-focused coping strategies, in addition to healthy and unhealthy communication dynamics (such as violent responses) in their lives. The MC aims to empathise with men, while allowing them to assume responsibility for any behaviours and attitudes that may be abusive or violent in nature. On an advocacy level, the MC succeeded in sensitising relevant governmental agencies about the need of a holistic approach in addressing the issue of GBV; discussions began with the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice and Ministry Of Social Affairs on the institutionalisation of such services within national structures and referral mechanisms under the GBV prevention and response efforts.

It is in the MC that men will begin to question what it means to “be a man” in our society. They will come to better understand the costs and rewards of traditional gender roles as well as those of assuming a more gender equal stance in their behaviours and attitudes.

The MC is open 6 days a week with an average of 50 beneficiaries who come on a weekly basis.

**70**

Beneficiaries

**3**

Psychotherapists

**31**

Average sessions/week

**APRIL 2013 –  
DECEMBER 2013**

ABAAD launched the Men Centre in June 2012. The Centre aims to improve men’s reactions and emotions due to daily stress, and to support them in better dealing with and managing this stress. The Centre employs three therapists and offers one-on-one PSS sessions, counselling by phone, group therapy, and stress and anger management workshops.

All the centre’s male beneficiaries have sought out its services voluntarily, especially since they are completely free and confidential. The centre’s location is private and inconspicuous, and does not attract any attention.

Simultaneous to the launch of the MC, and with the support of the IMC and AFE, ABAAD launched a nationwide media campaign to enhance and promote an institutionalised referral system to spread the word about the Men Centre throughout Lebanon. The slogan of the campaign was “Mest’eddeen Nisma’a Haki” (“We are here, and willing to listen,” a phrase that carries a double meaning of someone speaking to another in an abusive manner), and was publicised through a TV spot, billboards, posters, and postcards of four different men in stressful situations.

*“I used to feel that they deserved to be beaten up because of what they did to me when I was young. Today, I no longer feel the need to take it out on them, and my main concern has now become my future.” – Maurice, 28 years old, talking about his parents*

*“I advise every man in Lebanon to consult the Men’s Centre before getting married, to see if he is capable of raising children. Bringing innocent people who have done nothing wrong into this world - only to fail at raising them properly - could scar them for life.” – ADEL, who sought treatment after years of abusing his sisters, wife, and children*

*“Even though I am aware that my psychological issues have not completely disappeared, I now know how to keep them under control. I know what things trigger my anger and how to avoid them, and if avoiding is not possible, I know what I need to do to face them pacifistically.” – HANNA, 46 years old, suffering from OCD leading him to behave violently*



Additionally, ABAAD conducted numerous field visits to different local organisations and institutions in order to initiate discussions about gender roles, GBV, masculinities, the necessity of engaging men in ERAW efforts, as well as raise awareness about ABAAD’s pilot initiative, the Men Centre. The mission, vision, and services of the Men Centre were introduced, as were future steps to enhance referral systems between the different institutions and ABAAD’s MC.

In 2013, ABAAD launched a refresher campaign, with four additional men in different stressful situations.



# Resource Development

## Shifting Sands: Changing Gender Roles Among Refugees in Lebanon (study)

### SHIFTING SANDS

Changing gender roles among refugees in Lebanon



In collaboration with OXFAM, ABAAD conducted a gender situation and vulnerability assessment among Syrian and Palestinian refugees arriving from Syria to Lebanon. The qualitative research was conducted with over 150 people through focus group discussions and individual interviews with refugees and key people.

The aim of the study was to explore people's experiences related to how their gendered social and economic roles are changing, and the negative and positive effects these changes are having on their lives. The areas investigated included: changes to gendered norms, values and identities; changes in people's physical safety and emotional wellbeing; changing gendered control over resources; and gendered access to aid and basic services. The study was shared and presented during the National GBV Taskforce meeting, as well as with targeted lists of active local and international NGOs working on responding to the crisis. It has also reaped the interest of a number of fronts like HRW, WFP, UNHCR, Caritas, and Carnegie among others.

## Syrian Women and Girls: Fleeing Death, Facing Ongoing Threats and Humiliation (report/assessment)



"We fled from death to live in ongoing humiliation," were the words a Syrian refugee woman used to summarise her experience in Lebanon. This consequently became the title of a study, conducted by the IRC in partnership with ABAAD, to monitor and document the forms of violence taking place at different social levels. The study was the topic of a monthly talk at ABAAD, where the situation of Syrian refugee women and girls in Lebanon was discussed. Some of the burdens they face are forced marriages, forced trafficking and sex work, receiving medical and social services in exchange for sex, all on top of being displaced/refugees.

"We fled from death to live in ongoing humiliation," were the words a Syrian refugee woman used to summarise her experience in Lebanon. This consequently became the title of a study, conducted by the IRC in partnership with ABAAD, to monitor and document the forms of

All attendees agreed on the fact that the exploitation of Syrian women in Lebanon is no longer acceptable, and it is necessary to unify efforts and coordination to ascertain that Syrian women do not surrender to the idea that rape is their subsequent fate.

## Masculinity and Violence against Women among Lebanese and Iraqis in Lebanon (study)



With the support of the IMC, ABAAD conducted a study with Lebanese residents as well as Iraqi refugees residing in Lebanon with the aim of giving a clear and accurate image of women's and men's perceptions in general, their opinions, their attitudes toward their roles in society, and their perceptions of masculinity, and violence against women. It also attempts to understand how men can be better

involved in solving this problem, in addition to the role of nongovernmental organisations in this regard.

The study's outcome provides concerned parties with substantial information to assess the core of the problem and its stimulus in order to prevent future similar GBV incidents. It can also pave the way to build better strategies that will help fight domestic violence while involving men in this process.

## "Men in the Shadow" (documentary)



"Men in the Shadow" is a documentary film that portrays three different men from different socioeconomic backgrounds, who have all challenged gendered socialization and become role models to other men in the efforts of combatting violence against women. The documentary premiered at the closing event of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence Campaign.

## Playing for Gender Equality Toolkit



Between the ages of 8 and 12, children begin formulating their ideals of gender and inter/intra gender relations. It is during this phase of their lives that they become more observant of the interactions of those in their immediate environments. Thus, this age range is a critical period where they study and question what they see, and begin formulating beliefs and attitudes that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives.

In light of the above, ABAAD produced a cutting-edge training toolkit that is considered one of the first toolkits of its kind developed and tested in the MENA region. The kit includes a training guide composed of 10 games, a referential guide entitled “What do I need to know about gender equality,” and some support items (posters, stickers, colouring sheet). This training guide is a tool for trainers and facilitators to begin work on GE through fun, interactive, competitive, and educational games and exercises for children aged 8 to 12. These games will set important groundwork for children to understand GE concepts and related issues. Each of the games has a section that will allow the facilitator to discuss important lessons and ideas with the children.

The launching ceremony was held in Beirut under the patronage of the Minister of Social Affairs, HE Wael Abou Faour. Over 260 attendees were present, which included representatives from different NGOs working with/for children generally and/or in emergencies, NGOs working on training and development, members of the Technical Taskforces in Lebanon (on GBV, GBV in emergencies, CPWG, and others), UN agencies and INGOs, the project’s peer reviewers, and the MoSA SDCs.



During the implementation period, **over 865 children** were reached.



## How to Engage Men Policy makers in EVAW (booklets)

In collaboration with Oxfam International and Asuda – Kurdistan, ABAAD developed four booklets in the context of involving men in eliminating VAW.

The booklets provide essential keys for workers in the field of women’s rights in the MENA region in general and Kurdistan in particular on engaging men in the fields of law (judges and lawyers), politics (politicians), religion (religious leaders), and security (police).



**Judges and Lawyers:** They have an effective role in society, and are the category which should rule upon or defend different rape, assault, and personal status cases justly.



**Politicians:** They are the category that is supposed to advance and adapt new laws and legislation, and they can either be very positive or very negative influences.



**Religious leaders:** They are able to influence the public opinion, given they are considered an essential reference for many.



**Policemen:** They should be the major implementers of the law, and they are usually the front that conducts investigations of rape and assault cases.

The four documents include an in-depth look at defending women’s rights, its origins and foundations, as well as mechanisms and stages of advocacy, as well as analyses to understand the capacity of the target institutions as direct stakeholders in the efforts to end violence against women.

## Syrian Refugee Women: “Dignity, Care, Protection,” (leaflet)

In partnership with the IMC and UNICEF, ABAAD developed “Dignity, Care, Protection,” a booklet for Syrian refugee women in Lebanon. Through illustrations, the booklet delivered key messages that affirm refugee women’s rights to dignity, care, and protection against all kinds of violence and exploitation, receiving humanitarian assistance at no cost, and being referred to specialised points offering medical, legal, and psychological services free of charge, and within their close surroundings. The booklets were distributed at different community centres throughout Lebanon providing services and support to Syrian refugees.

## “As We Grow...” (animation video)

A short animation produced by ABAAD and UNICEF, the video targets teen adolescent girls and their parents, and aims at raising their awareness on sexual and reproductive health and rights and self-protection from violence and exploitation.



The animation premiered at the closing event of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence Campaign.

## “Seen Jeem” (comics)



The use of the art of caricature to deliver gender concepts has proven to be very effective. Thus, ABAAD produced a series of comics entitled Seen Jeem (a reference to “Question and Answer”) on social constructs of gender perceptions in partnership with the IMC and Dar Onboz. The comic series was launched during a monthly talk in which a number of researchers, activists, and university students participated. The discussion focused on several key points related to creating similar awareness-raising tools and distributing them widely and comprehensively to encompass the various layers of society.



## “Ana Ahlam”: GBV in Palestinian Refugee Camps (documentary film)



In partnership with UNRWA and the General Union of Palestinian Women in Lebanon, ABAAD launched “Ana Ahlam,” a 15-minute documentary that depicts the lives of Palestinian women victims of GBV in refugee camps in Lebanon. Through this resource, ABAAD’s aim is to raise awareness about women’s rights, and to empower women to speak up against violence.

Since this is the first ever documentary to be created from within the Palestinian refugee community, it is more suited to reach its audience to address GBV in the community, and combat it.

Over 150 people attended the launching ceremony at Hotel Monroe, including ambassadors from Switzerland, Mexico, and Iran, represented by their cultural attachés, and numerous activists and representatives from the Palestinian community in Lebanon.

ABAAD then screened the documentary coupled with a discussion session at different events, notably on International Women’s Day at the WPC at the Burj Barajneh Palestinian Camp.

## “Their Influence on My Life” (booklet)



“Their Influence on My Life” is an anthology of stories shared by female survivors of violence and discrimination in Lebanon showing how specific men in their immediate circles had positive roles and influences in their journeys to break the cycle and emerge from oppression.

The book was launched during the closing event of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence Campaign in December 2013.

## Iraqi Refugees: “Hiya wa Huwa” (illustrated legal rights booklet)



In partnership with the IMC, ABAAD produced the Hiya wa Huwa (“Her and Him”) series. Composed of two photo booklets, the series aims to inform Iraqi women refugees in Lebanon about their personal status rights in Christianity (“Helen and Elia”) and in Islam (Wafaa and Muhammad”). The booklets were distributed to Iraqi refugees abiding in the cities of Tyr, Al Jdeideh, and Haret Hreik. Discussion sessions took place for further clarification and information dissemination.

## Frameworks to Combat Violence against Women in the ESCWA Region (study)



In partnership with ESCWA and supported by the Norwegian Embassy, ABAAD published a study entitled “Frameworks for Combating Violence against Women in the ESCWA Region.”

The study’s aim is an initial presentation of the services provided to GBV survivors in ESCWA countries, and an exploration of the nature of the referral system instated in these countries, to both protect GBV survivors, and provide them with the needed services related to protection, prevention, and rehabilitation. The study’s questionnaire was sent to NGOs in 14 countries, out of which ten cooperated. It concludes with recommendations on how to better serve victims of GBV, in line with due diligence.

The study was launched at ESCWA in Beirut, in the presence of a number of parliamentarians and stakeholders, different UN agencies, and CSOs.

# Advocacy

## 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence 2012 “We Believe” campaign



In Lebanon, as is the case throughout the Middle East region, religion is mostly held in a very high regard. The jurisdiction of religious leaders is not simply one of spiritual issues; it also extends to matters of state and law. The lack of endorsement that the bill presented to parliament to protect women from family violence has received from Lebanon’s religious leaders has not only decreased awareness of and attention to this bill, but also to women’s rights on the whole.

Thus, as part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence, the “We Believe” campaign was launched, built upon ABAAD’s use of positive psychology in addressing men and religious leaders in Lebanon in its efforts to end gender-based violence. “We Believe” took into consideration the undeniable ability that religious leaders possess in changing the attitudes, behaviours, and beliefs of many in the Lebanese society – thus, it is crucial for civil society to engage religious leaders and involve them as allies and partners in the efforts to end GBV.

### Statistics Overview

**YOUTUBE**  
20,296 views



**FACEBOOK**  
6,908 new fans



**BILLBOARDS**

**430 BILLBOARDS** throughout Lebanon displayed campaign posters for one week of the 16 Days

**44 UNIPOLES** throughout Lebanon displayed campaign posters for well after into the following year

PSA aired **6 TIMES/DAY** on 11 local stations

**SEVEN** radio interviews aired



**TELEVISION**

PSA aired **6-7 TIMES/DAY** on 11 local and regional channels

**EIGHT** television interviews aired

One news report aired on LBC International



“We Believe” was a nation-wide campaign that featured Lebanon’s four highest religious authorities citing holy texts to support messages endorsing the culture of respect towards women’s dignity, rejecting all forms of violence, and condemning violence as sacrilege.

Aside from visiting the Grand Mufti, the Head of the Shiite Council, Patriarch Al Rahi and Patriarch Lahham to seek their approval and engagement in the campaign, ABAAD also reached out to a number of local and regional religious leaders and held a series of dialogue roundtable/ think tank session on the role of religious leaders in ending violence against women. The leaders pledged to commit their institutions to follow-up actions.

The messages were widely publicised throughout Lebanon in all major Lebanese newspapers, on billboards, television and radio channels, and social media. The campaign also circulated globally to various networks, like the 16 Days Global Campaign, UNiTE Campaign, Association for Women’s Rights in Development, and WUNRN.

This also led to 41 youths expressing their interest in volunteering at ABAAD, which consequently resulted in creating a “Youth Solidarity/Outreach Program” in 10 days.

## 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence 2013

### The Phrase “May God Help Her...” Does Not Actually Help Her

On the occasion of the International 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence 2013, ABAAD launched its nationwide campaign under the slogan “Kelmet Alla Ysa’eda, Ma Betsa’eda”.

The idea of the campaign stemmed from the fact that despite increasing concern related to GBV, the general attitude towards the subject or GBV-related incidents is overwhelmingly passive. Given that this state of silence can no longer be allowed to define the general reaction to this cause, this campaign came to call for everyone to use their personal talents and skills to combat this problem. We all can and should take part in non-violent protests, educate ourselves and those around us, and speak up when we witness Violence against Women in our surroundings.

The campaign built upon ABAAD’s organisational belief and strategy of using positive psychology and inspirational messages to catalyse social change towards gender equality in Lebanon, and it focused on the individual and collective strengths of people in Lebanon. Change can come from within. The government has a vital role in legalising protection for women and girls. However, with the current political instability, people should take action themselves to stop GBV in Lebanon.

The campaign comprised of three television and radio commercials, in addition to street billboards and unipoles distributed all over Lebanon. The TV commercials portrayed three situations in which Lebanese men and women witness violence against women in their everyday life and immediate surroundings, however, the overwhelming feelings of perceived helplessness lead them to simply say “Allah Ysa’eda” [May God help her] and carry on with their lives.



“Protecting Women from Violence... is also your Cause”

We all can and should take part in non-violent protests, educate ourselves and those around us, and speak up when we witness Violence against Women in our surroundings.

Also as part of the 16 Days Campaign, ABAAD created five postcards, each with a specific word addressing men to engage them in the process of ending VAW: Educate, Dialogue, Enable, Report, Engage.



ABAAD then partnered with the Palestinian Women Humanitarian Organisation to visit Palestinian camps in Lebanon, where men and women alike signed petitions calling for ERAW, and gave suggestions towards combatting violence against women and girls.

The campaign closing took place at Metropolis Empire Sofil in December. It was launched in partnership with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the International Medical Corps, UNRWA, OXFAM, World Vision, Save the Children, the International Rescue Committee, the Norwegian Embassy, the Forum for Development, Culture and Dialogue, the Norwegian People's Aid, the Committee for the Follow-up on Women's Issues, the Palestinian Women Humanitarian Organisation, the General Union of Palestinian Women, and the Lebanese Council To Resist Violence Against Women.

During the event, the following resources were launched for the first time: "As We Grow," "Men in the Shadow," and "Their Influence on My Life."

The ceremony also included a photography exhibition on gender equality in Lebanon through the lens of a group of young men and women (independent photographers as well as students USEK).

## National Taskforce to End VAW Meetings



To supplement work that began in 2012 by the Ministry of Social Affairs in partnership with ABAAD and the IMC, the “National Technical Working Group for EAW” launched its 2013 coordination meetings which were attended by

representatives of concerned ministries, UN agencies, and international and local NGOs. The group’s most important achievements for the year 2012 were the production of unified medical tools to monitor and document GBV cases, the development of national standards for counselling rooms for female survivors of GBV, at MoSA SDCs and MoPH PHCs, and the production of a national training manual on unifying management skills related to GBV cases.

The national priorities for 2013 to be included in the framework of the taskforce were set, and a committee of experts was appointed to review and finalise the first draft of the training manual, which will subsequently be adopted as the official training program on the national level.

## Masculinity and Ending Violence against Women in the Middle East and Abroad Conference



In partnership with the Swedish Institute Alexandria, ABAAD held the “**Masculinity and Ending Violence against Women (VAW) in the Middle East and Abroad**” conference in Beirut, which was attended by a number of participants from the MENA region, as well as Mr. Dean Peacock (Co-director and Co-founder of the South African NGO Sonke Gender Justice Network), Mr. Gary Barker (International Director and Founder of the Brazilian

NGO Promundo), and Mr. Oswaldo Montoya (MenEngage Network Global Coordinator), who are considered pioneers of the Engaging Men and Boys approach. The speakers shared their experiences in working on masculinities with men, promoting GE, and EAW in their countries. The conference was used as a platform for sharing ideas, discussing masculinities in their respective contexts, global networking, and discussing future plans for engaging men in the Middle East.

## Phase II of National Consultation on Women, Peace, and Security



In partnership with WILPF and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, ABAAD organised the “Second National Consultation Meeting on Women, Peace and Security.”

“Ensuring women’s participation in decision-making processes in post-conflict situations and peace building efforts, advocating for women’s active participation at all levels of the and educating younger generations on peace, Human Rights, conflict resolution and democracy practices” were among the most important priorities identified. This meeting aimed at integrating the outcomes and recommendations from Phase I of the national consultation meeting along with the outcomes highlighted in Geneva. More specifically, the meeting focused on identifying national priorities to form a framework to design a national action plan accordingly. It is to be noted that this meeting was a follow up on Phase I of the Lebanon national consultation process held on May 10, 2012. The report of the national consultation meeting was presented by the Lebanese Women Delegation at the 20th Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva on June 22, 2012.

## “Picturing Gender Equality” Photography Initiative



With the financial support of the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Lebanon, and in collaboration with Dar al Mussawir and Zakira, ABAAD launched “Picturing

Gender Equality,” a photography initiative targeting youth, and aiming at depicting positive masculinity in everyday life in Lebanon.

A number of photography aficionados and professionals attended the workshop. ABAAD team members introduced the initiative and concepts related to gender, gender equality and positive masculinity, while Dar Al Mussawir explained the technical requirements for the submission of photographs. All submitted photos were displayed at the Closing Ceremony of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence in December 2013.

## Candle Vigil in Solidarity with Syrian Women and Children



A number of organisations and activists attended a silent candle vigil in front of the National Museum as to show their support for the civilians whose lives have been affected by the violence and conflict in Syria. The vigil was organised by ABAAD in partnership with Oxfam and the IRC, and was part of a global action in over twenty countries to call for peace and demand an end to the suffering.

## ABAAD dialogues with Religious Leaders to end GBV in the MENA Region



In its continuous efforts to involve religious leaders in the efforts to ERAW, ABAAD held the regional roundtable, “What Roles do Religious Leaders have in ending GBV?” at the Crowne Plaza – Beirut, in partnership with OXFAM GB and the Forum for Development, Culture, and Dialogue.

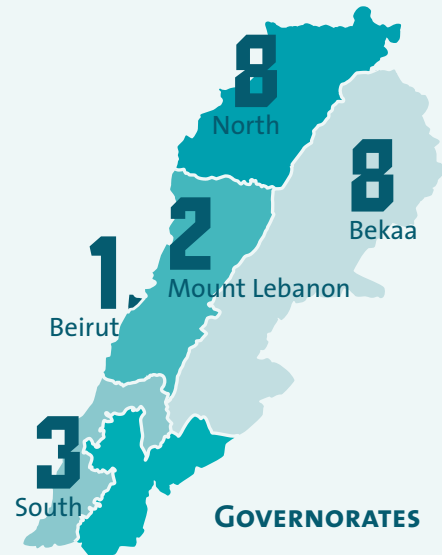
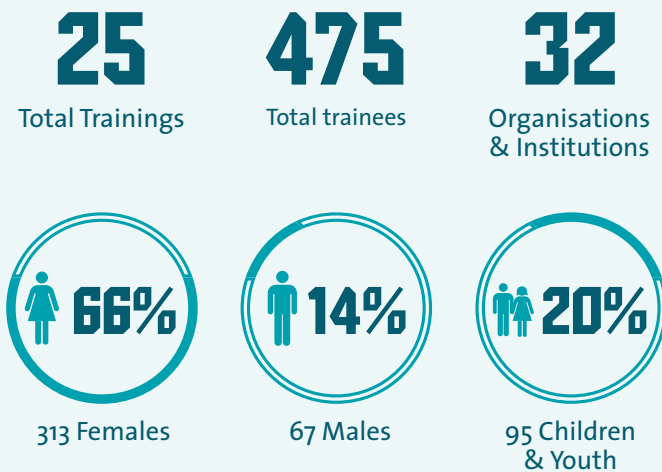
Christian, Druze, and Muslim leaders from the MENA (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria) convened to discuss ways of initiating common grounds with CSOs to end GBV.

Discussions highlighted the different forms of GBV assessed by religious leaders within their practices and communities, in addition to many causal factors behind the prevalence of GBV, as well as how civil society and religious leaders can forge positive partnerships for future ERAW work. The roundtable concluded with identifying the tangible roles that religious leaders play in ending GBV, including preventive, supportive, therapeutic, and legislative.

The roundtable was an important acknowledgement of the possibilities of reform from within institutions and the desire to work together for women in the different communities, in order to build a society of dignity, equality, and freedom from violence.

# Capacity Development

Trainings conducted by ABAAD between April 2013 and April 2014



## Gender-Based Violence Case Management in Emergencies National Training Workshops



ABAAD and IMC completed number of workshops on “GBV Case Management in Emergencies,” including a national five-day workshop, which was conducted by three global GBV experts and involved a mixed-method approach including seminars and plenary discussions, group work and role-playing.

In total, the GBV Case Management workshops were given to 79 social workers/case managers working with local and international NGOs providing services to women survivors of GBV (from both refugee and host communities). Participants were introduced to conceptual framework of Gender, Gender Based Violence, Case Management, Humanitarian Emergencies and steps of Case Management through usage of women’s human rights framework and in line with internationally recognised standards of good practice.

## Clinical Management of Sexual Assault Survivors Trainings



In partnership with UNICEF, ABAAD conducted several facility-based training sessions and large-group workshops on CCSAS in different regions of the Bekaa, North, South, and Mount Lebanon governorates. Overall, 90 PHC staff (72% female, 28% male) – forensic doctors, OB/GYNs, nurses, midwives, and medico-social workers – participated in the trainings. The targeted hospitals and PHCs were selected by ABAAD in coordination with the Reproductive Health Working Group and the National GBV Taskforce based on CCSAS field assessments and pre-defined criteria. The trainings communicated methods and skills of identifying and managing cases of sexual violence and assault using the internationally adopted curriculum and tools.



## Training of Trainers Workshop on “Let’s Play for Gender Equality”



In partnership with Save the Children, ABAAD conducted ToT workshops on how to use the training kit “Let’s Play for Gender Equality”.

Through the use of interactive games, animated tools, and other training methods (role-playing, working groups, discussions, etc...), participants gained the knowledge and skills required to use the kit to work with children. Concepts related to gender equality, gender roles, and GBV, were communicated, in addition to sensitising trainees on the different factors that can contribute to the formation of the children’s gender identity.

Each participant then conducted at least one awareness session with groups of children (aged between 8 and 11 years old), through using the acquired information and skills.

## Sahat Moulawana: Let’s Play for Self-Protection (community awareness festivals)



In partnership with UNICEF, ABAAD organised numerous psycho-social and education community awareness festivals entitled “Sahat Moulawana (“Coloured Yards”): Let’s Play for Self-Protection”, targeting children and adolescent girls and boys in three governorates, the Bekaa, the South, and Beirut. Over 1000 young boys and girls took part in the socio-educational activities designed to equip children with knowledge about self-protection and forms of abuse and GBV.

## Puppet-Making Workshop for Female Adolescents



In collaboration with UNICEF and the IRC, ABAAD held puppet-making workshops for female adolescents, guiding them the different types of dolls used in puppetry, puppet-making techniques, and moving puppets in theatrical manners to animate stories. The aim of the workshops was to teach participants to use puppetry as a means of expression and awareness on to how to address issues that are directly affecting their lives.

## Caring for Care Providers (art therapy)



ABAAD organised a number of Caring for Care Providers (caring for female survivors of GBV) sessions using Art Therapy techniques for different groups, including the teams of DRC and the General Union of Palestinian Women (GUPW) social workers.

## Stress and Anger Management Workshops



In collaboration with the IMC, ABAAD conducted a number of Stress and Anger Management workshops for young Iraqi and Lebanese men. The trainings dealt with issues such

as: the number and diversity of possible stressors in our lives; signs of how stress and anger appear in thoughts and behaviour; healthy and unhealthy stress and anger management; advanced techniques for short term stress and anger management (such as Muscle Relaxation and Guided Imagery); and long-term solutions for stress and anger management. In addition to being very interactive and dynamic, the workshops were very successful, which was demonstrated by participants showing marked increases in scores on “Knowledge of Stress and Anger Management”.

## How to Organise Support Groups for Women Survivors of GBV

ABAAD conducted “How to Organise Support Groups for Women Victims of GBV Using a Survivor-Centred Approach,” in the North and in the Bekaa with the aim of reinforcing the capacity and skills of participants in planning and facilitating support group sessions with female survivors of GBV, using a survivor-centred approach. The training provided a platform that improved the participants’ understanding of GBV and different psychosocial and contextual considerations in humanitarian and refugee settings; the survivor-centred approach; the process of support group planning, implementation, and documentation; and the necessity of personal “self-care” while working with survivors. Their communication skills were also strengthened, to complement their ability of facilitating support group sessions.

## Capacity Development Program on Listening and Counselling Skills

*“I was able to move past the phases where I would preach and give advice to the point where I was able to introduce the women to the choices they have.”*

**“I used to feel like a balloon about to explode.”**

*“I now know that this is a person, an entity, and that each entity has their own personality.”*

**“Through this program, I am now aware who I am, where I am, and why.”**

*“The program was absolutely supportive, in all senses of the word.”*

These were the statements used at the closing session to describe the Capacity Development Program that ABAAD carried out for GUPW staff, specifically to build the capacities of the workers at the counselling centres providing services for female survivors of GBV.

## Creative Art Techniques in Working with Syrian GBV Survivors



ABAAD carried out a number of workshops, in partnership with the IRC, which introduced new and unconventional tools and techniques to enhance the psychological wellbeing of Syrian female refugees and to improve the positive coping mechanisms among them. Participants learned creative art techniques to encourage healthy self-expression and a normalising experience among their beneficiaries, how to connect and build support networks, how to release war-related stress, how to create safe and playful environments where healing can take place, how to maintain self-awareness and self-care, and how to become aware of personal qualifications and restrictions in using arts with trauma survivors.

## Psycho-Social Discussion Sessions: Palestinian Refugees from Syria



In partnership with UNRWA, ABAAD organized, over three days, discussion sessions on the current living conditions at Palestinian camps in light of the displacement of Syrian Palestinian refugees due to the humanitarian crisis in Syria.

These sessions aimed at understanding, from the participants' perspective:

- **Working opportunities and difficulties of housing coming families**
- **Protection and privacy of both host families, and newly arriving families**
- **Different consequences of stress on families and how to manage it**

Additionally, different open discussions and exercises addressed general information about the impact of an emergency on the psychosocial well-being of the individual, the family, and the community.

## Jordanian Women Visit Lebanese Women Cooperatives for Study Tour



ABAAD organized, coordinated, and facilitated the implementation of a study tour for sixteen women from Jordan, who visited women's cooperatives in four Lebanese governorates (North, South, Bekaa, and Beirut). The study tour targeted women's economic empowerment initiatives, with a special focus on women's agricultural, production, and manufacturing cooperatives. The group took note of best practices taking place in Lebanon related to product development, packaging, labelling, quality assurance, hygiene, presentation, marketing, as well as fair trade.

## Training Workshop for Women in Chatila Camp



In partnership with Oxfam GB, and in collaboration with Najdeh Association, ABAAD organized training workshops at the Chatila Palestinian Refugee Camp. The training reflected on post-crisis challenges women face on personal, familial, and societal levels, for example: overcrowded residential units, which impose serious security and safety challenges on women and girls, as well as a complete lack of privacy. Women-headed households also face dire financial and economic implications.

Due to the above obstacles among others, the women have developed negative coping mechanisms to their challenging situations, and are failing to express fear, frustration, sadness, anger, and grief. Their physical stress responses become triggered and stay that way, resulting in a state of constant and continuous stress.

The training ABAAD conducted was needs-based, and through participating in working groups, role-playing activities, and other exercises, the women were able to identify their practical and strategic needs, as alternative methods of coping to alleviate the plight of their situations.

# Community Engagement

ABAAD continuously engages with partners, sister organizations, community centers as well as academic institutions and universities to build community awareness and understanding on issues of engaging men and promoting gender equality.

Between 2012 and 2013, ABAAD took part in a number of university talks, mobilisation street campaigns, seminars, as well as demonstrations. ABAAD team members were also invited to different global forums and meetings to participate in conferences, as well as to give sessions in at least 20 countries.



**ABAAD meeting with Stockholm Association of International Affairs**, who visited as part of SAI's Inspirational Program for International Relations students seeking to learn more about different regions and countries in which they may pursue studies or careers. The meeting focused on the situation of women in Lebanon, and the forms of discrimination faced by both women and men in Lebanon. The meeting also shed light on ABAAD pillars of work and main fields of experience.



**ABAAD stand at the GBV Awareness Day**, organised by the CCECS at AUB, where numerous students stopped by to discuss engaging their communities in putting an end to domestic and gender-based violence in Lebanon. During the day, a flash mob dance took place, where female students dressed in white put make-up and bandages on their face to symbolise bruises caused by physical abuse.



**ABAAD stand at the USJ – ESIB NGO Fair**, within the framework of “Empowering Youth and Women in the Lebanese Society: A Model for the Arab Spring Project”. Numerous students engaged with ABAAD staff to find out more about the different projects that ABAAD carries out, and how they could be involved.

# Voluntary Support To Local And Regional NGOs

As part of its mission (the dimension of supporting other NGOs who share the same or similar visions), ABAAD has provided voluntary technical support to over 20 national, regional, and international organisations on several different levels, for example:

Proposal-writing

Advising on establishing and restructuring organisations

Support in organising regional meetings

Support in organising campaigns

Support in resource development

Capacity building

# Donors, Partners, and Allies



اللجنة الأهلية لمتابعة قضايا المرأة  
Committee for the Follow-Up on Women's Issues



INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN  
ALLIANCE INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES



INSTITUTE FOR  
WOMEN'S STUDIES  
IN THE ARAB WORLD



الهيئة اللبنانية لمناهضة العنف ضد المرأة  
The Lebanese Council To Resist Violence Against Women

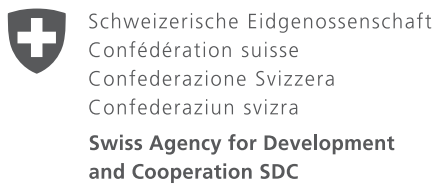
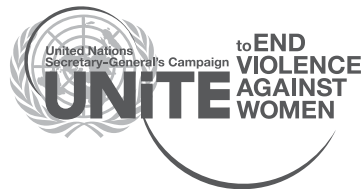


MenEngage  
Working With Men and Boys For Gender Equality





Norwegian People's Aid  
Lebanon



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra  
**Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC**



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/abaadmena





أبعاد  
ab'ad

مركز الموارد  
للمساواة بين الجنسين  
Resource Center  
For Gender Equality



## **ABAAD - Resource Center for Gender Equality**

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abaadmena