

ONLINE NAJOON

Lifeboats!

Gender-based violence (GBV) will remain one of the complex dilemma in the communities around the world especially in the Arab region which is ranked second after Southeast Asia in terms of the most widespread areas of violence against women.

Yemen by all means falls in the aforementioned context concerning the deep root of GBV in the prevalent culture and at the level of some discriminatory practices and local traditions and customs too.

Therefore, the title of the newsletter "Najoon" is not made arbitrarily instead of "Taunted" or "Battered". Najoon (male or female survivors) become an accredited term to describe individuals who survived any type of GBV because those surviving the suffering of this bitter life experience is considered a new birth and salvation.

The determined contribution of the Yemeni Women Union with their partners to spare no efforts in eliminating GBV helps them realizing the gravity and aggravation of this problem at the level of the community awareness. Nevertheless, they refused to stand idly with arms folded but rather ensured to contribute in providing sectional services to male and female survivors in more than 13 Yemeni governorates whether it is a legal support, or a health care service or safe shelter or livelihood and so on.

Given the important need to introduce these efforts and to mobilize the community to stand united against this worrisome phenomena, The YWU is delighted to issue the first edition of the seasonal newsletter "Najoon Online" as a humble contribution. The YWU is, however, filled with great hope and expectations on this to have a significant impact against GBV in our society.

The YWU and the Charitable Society for Social Welfare and the British Council would not have brought this newsletter to light without the generous support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Yemen, the perceptive partner to the seriousness of concealing the exacerbation of violence especially during the current conflict in Yemen. Therefore, we extend our thanks and appreciation to them.

Editor-in-Chief



Orange Day Campaign

The 16-day campaign to eliminate violence against women in Yemen

The Yemeni Women Union (YWU) in collaboration with the Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW), funded by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), launched a 16-day awareness campaign on the occasion of the international day to eliminate violence against women, which falls on November 25 each year under the slogan "Safe education for everyone".

The campaign included various activities in three governorates: Amanat Al-Asema Sana'a, Al-Hodeida and Hajjah. It included training, field outreach and through the distribution of posters and the presentation of the video flashes in schools and host communities and displacement camps.

[Details on page 3](#)



Female trainers prepare to outreach the targeted governorates

Dignity kits caravans travel across the governorates

The Yemeni Women Union (YWU) and partner NGOs in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) inaugurated the distribution of the dignity kits caravans to the Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and people affected by the war and female survivors in twelve governorates since mid August 2016.

Total of 30,000 households benefited from the dignity kit project in the targeted governorates. During the distribution of the kits, number of speeches affirmed the valuable role of the project in supporting the IDPs and their families during the war.

Worth mentioning, the dignity kits caravans come in the framework of promoting women in the community

and preserve their dignity during displacement. It aimed at contributing to secure part of the basic needs for female IDPs and to alleviate their suffering and psychological side-effects besides the difficult livelihoods in the current circumstances of the country. Partner NGOs have contributed in the distribution of the Dignity kits in number of Yemeni governorates with the YWU. Care International distributed the kits in Lahj while the Yemeni Association for Reproductive Health (YARH) took care of Sana'a and Hodeida. The Humanitarian Forum Yemen (HFY) distributed the kits in Ibb, Hodeida and Amran whereas All Girls take over Hodeida and finally Bani AL-Hassani Charitable Society in Rayma.



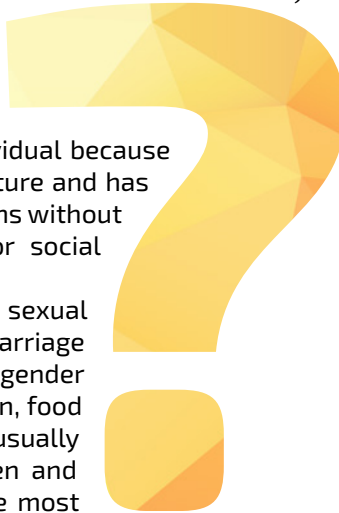
Dignity kits are alleviation for female IDPs and survivors

What is Gender-Based Violence (GBV) ?

GBV is defined the term multi-lingual database of the United Nations as: "any act of physical, psychological or social violence) including sexual violence (either exercised or threat to exercise), such as violence, threat, coercion, exploitation, deceit, manipulation of cultural concepts, the use of weapons or the exploitation of economic conditions (directed towards any individual because of their gender or social role in some society or culture and has no choice of accept or refuse or resort to other options without severe economic, or physical, or physiological, or social consequences.

The types of GBV include the sexual violence and sexual exploitation and sexual harassment and early marriage and forced marriage and discrimination based on gender and denial of rights) as well as the right of education, food and freedom (female genital mutilation, which is usually GBV) due to the imbalance of power between men and women, boys and girls as women and girls are the most group exposed to GBV because of the social standards and believes that rank them always second in the society. However, they are not the only target for this type of violence.

GBV surfaces in times of peace and during armed conflicts and natural disaster and afterwards.



YWU in Aden celebrates the international day for the elimination of violence against women

Ms. Fatima Muraisi, the Head of YWU in Aden affirmed that "Yemen, represented by the YWU celebrated with the rest of the world the international day to eliminate the violence against women and commenced the -16day campaign to stand against the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in such exceptional circumstances in the country."

Ms. Muraisi said to "Najoon Online" that the YWU concentrates on the importance of the safe education for everyone and dissemination of peace and awareness within the community through their purposeful activities and programs in the near future



Female survivors participated in springboard program - Hajjah

Springboard Program

A new life and revival for survivors!

The British Council in Sana'a conduct Springboard Program in collaboration with the Yemeni Women Union, funded by the UNFPA in Hajjah and Hodeida.

The SpringBoard program work on empowering and assisting the female survivors from violence through a unique and distinguished initiative and approach that brings together the economic empowerment and acquisition of the life skills and the anti-GBV protection. After a successful completion of the psychological support program, the female survivors from violence are

enrolled in the Springboard program, which provides them with the required training and qualifications from them to regain self-confidence and liberate their capacities for distinguished achievements in their personal and professional life. The beneficiaries of the program are also granted a seed capital to establish their own start-up businesses

Springboard in Hajjah

Within the activities of the 16-day campaign to eliminate violence against



women, the British Council – Sana'a Office – funded by the UNFPA, organized a Springboard Program late November and early current December in Hajjah province.

Spring Board is a specialized program to develop women and help utilize their capacities to achieve success in their personal and professional lives. The workshop targeted 20 Gender-Based Violence (GBV) survivors. In addition to the training, they received financial support to assist them to establish their own start-up businesses and achieve economic autarky possible.

Orange Day Campaign

The 16-day campaign to eliminate violence against women in Yemen



Continued : Dr. Mona Al-Hajri, the Project Officer explained that the campaign aimed at raising the awareness on the issues of women during 16 days to eliminate the Gender-Based Violence (GBV), and to change the negative ideas and discriminatory practices against women in the community.

CSSW, as a sub-contractor for the YWU, implemented the production process of the campaign in terms of print-outs, T-shirts and caps showing the logo of the campaign besides the awareness flashes and the outreach activities in the three governorates according to the plan.

Dr. Al-Hajri clarified that the work mechanism of the implemented outreach activities was based on building work teams of facilitators and training them on the outreach methods in the targeted areas. The field facilitators learned,

over three days, to define gender and differentiate between gender and sex and types of Gender-based and sex-based violence (family and domestic violence, forced marriage, early marriage, harmful traditional practices, deprive girls of education) and the reasons of violence and factors contributing to. Additionally, the implications of the GBV, which were reflected on the tree of violence. They also learned the regulations and conventions and acquired interpersonal communication skills.

The direct outreach process was accompanied by making advantage of the produced materials, i.e. posters, Radio and Television flashes and the distribution of caps and T-shirts showing the logo of the campaign plus the delivery of the necessary devices and tools for demonstration.



1086,868

users watched the messages of the campaign

273,128

users interacted with the messages who either read, viewed or commented

2224

users shared the messages

One million viewers for the messages of the campaign on the internet

Over sixteen days of the campaign against Gender-Based Violence (GBV), More than one million users on Facebook and Twitter interacted with the messages of the campaign. They watched the two video-clip flashes and three posters made particularly to support the slogan of this year "from peace at home to world peace: Safe education for everyone".

Mr. Yusuf Saleh, the person in-charge of the e-campaign confirmed the interaction of the internet users with the implemented campaign, based on the comments that showed interest in the content of the designed messages, and the total shares of the posts that reached 2224.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Three million women and girls are exposed to violence

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Yemen sponsored a series of awareness initiatives and activities from November 25 to December 2016, 10 in 19 different Yemeni governorates implemented by thirty partner organizations members of the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) cluster. It included video flashes for youth and outreach sessions on the prevention of violence in schools, and media campaign about the protection from the main issues of GBV in Yemen through Radio, Television and printed means of media.

A press release, issued by the UNFPA, pointed out the universal theme of the campaign for this year "from peace at home to the world peace, safe education for everyone".

UNFPA affirmed that around 3 million women and girls are subject to GBV across the country as a result to the crisis

in Yemen to the extent that 8,013 GBV cases were registered from January to September 2016 only. It included marriages of children, rapes, domestic violence whereas %64 of the cases are mistreatment abuse in terms of psychological, emotional and physical assault. UNFPA advised that "the actual scope of violence is still much larger in lights of the social standards, which discourage the reporting of such cases."

UNFPA perceived that GBV was widespread in larger scale even before the eruption of the armed conflict according to the health geographical mapping in 2013 whereas %92 of women said that violence against women is common at home.

UNFPA referred to the displacement of massive numbers of the population where %52 of which are women due to the current armed conflict and continuous crisis for over 20 months.

1 of each 3 Women

around the world has experienced physical or sexual abuse in her lifetime with the abuser usually someone known to her.



The Hotline is a glimpse of hope for male and female survivors from violence.

The Hotline or the Listening Center which is adopted and implemented by the Yemeni Women Union (YWU) and funded by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), is actually a resort for women who are victims of violence. The Hotline with the free toll number (80009990) is a first of its kind initiative in Yemen that contributes to protect women from the different types of violence and delivers its services to the whole community without any exception or discrimination.

The Listening center or "Hotline" was launched 3 years ago particularly for receiving calls from people at risk of violence and mistreatment in order to provide them with the necessary guidance to their problems and guarantee their privacy and confidentiality.

The emergency cases exposed to imminent danger are swiftly received in particular places to determine if they need protection and immediate shelter. The Hotline receives the calls for the male and female survivors every day from 8 am to 6 pm except on Fridays. This service is free of charge across Yemen through the Land line and the Yemen Mobile Telecom Company.

Are you a victim of violence?
Your silence is not a solution!

Get free legal and psychological advisory

Call now the toll free number via
Land line or Yemen Mobile

From 8 am
to 6 pm

8000999

Our goal: improve women situation in Yemen

The fundamental factor to the upswing of countries is by involving women in the development process through empowering them economically, politically and socially in order to abolish all types of discrimination against them and by acknowledging their importance and respecting their existence and applying the social justice and adhering to

the Islamic principles that honor women. Based on that, YWU has always sought to improve the situation of women through the preparation of strategies and projects aiming at promoting livelihoods, education and rights and career for better livelihood and community mobilization, and to strengthen the legal protection programs in the YWU and to reinforce women access to the decision-making positions, and to build their capacities to respond to the contemporary transformation.

The community outreach

(awareness sessions) on the GBV issues and the delivery of the psychological, legal and health care support were the most important activities in addition to the distribution of the dignity kits to more than 30,000 male and female at the level of the targeted governorates and providing shelters to female survivors and livelihoods services besides the Hotline free service that receives calls regarding the GBV cases.



Ms. Fathia M. Abdullah
The head of the Yemeni
Women Union (YWU).

Success Story Najma's adversity!

How would you feel when the closest person to you lets you down just because you are woman? This is indeed the case of the -32year old Najma, who suffered for more than a decade and half of her youthfulness, after her marriage at the age of fifteen to a ten-year older man.

Najma has now 2 daughters where one of them is in elementary school. Najma enjoys the skills of embroidery and tailoring that were learned from her mother. Throughout fifteen years old of her marriage, however, she was helpless by the cruelty of her rude and offensive husband "I have experienced every type of torture since the beginning of my marriage," said Najma.

Najma refused to sit with arms folded after the severity of her suffering. Therefore, she returned home in tears and complains of the unjust life with a cruel husband, but the conservative traditions and customs sent her back humiliated and reluctant to her husband by the closest human to her soul, her own father and so it was every time.



The extremism and eagerness to mistreat and hurt Najma by her husband increased excessively every time she is returned. She tolerated all that and was scare that her daughters might inherit his ill temper. Nevertheless, he divorced her in the end and left her alone with her own daughters suffering the hardship of life having neither a breadwinner nor support.

Najma resorted to the Yemeni Women Union (YWU) secretly and away from her family. Once again, life embraces her with smile. She received an intensive psychological support and participated in the training course on self-development.

Before long, Najma regained her self-confidence after years of ruined life and broken soul. The hope fondled her soul again when she was seeking fund for her small project in embroidery and sewing, which she obtained indeed, to start over her new life and harvest the profits of her successful micro-business. The success that restored her balance financially and psychologically in order to confront the hardship and complication of life.

Today, Najma has become a new person filled with self-confidence and appreciation for the valuable opportunity that bestowed on her. From the ashes of adversity, the flames of determination has surfaced to ignite her life and welfare.

Editor-in-Chief :
Nashwan M. Al Sumairi

Editor :
Ayda Al Sarfi

Designer :
Ayman Al Ahnomi

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Phone : 01480461
Fax : 01480490
Email :
info@najoon.online



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