
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION PROGRAMME (RDPP II) **“Improving Protection Spaces and Practices (IPSP)** **for Syrians and Jordanians in Host Communities”**

Community Needs Assessments 2021 **Key Findings Summary**

Overall Process and Findings

Generations For Peace (GFP) has trained GFP volunteers across four governorates (Amman, Irbid, Mafrq, Zarqa) in participatory action research (PAR). Following the training, they have begun a three-month long Community Needs Assessment (CNA) process to engage community members in outlining their existing assets, and identifying then prioritising the needs/challenges that the members thought could be addressed through the IPSP programme. Using the materials developed by GFPI, the volunteers applied the asset mapping, the field force model, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), interviews, and surveys to identify the gaps together with the community members, following which they have then analysed collected data and formulated their findings. These findings were then re-discussed with the communities, to first surface the identified gaps on the collective level before the agreed upon gaps were prioritised for action through the IPSP programme.

In total, **60 GFP-trained volunteers**, members of the Youth Committees established in **10 communities** across **four governorates** (six per community), have rolled out the CNAs that involved **18 focus group discussions** with **195 community members**, and collected **4,403 detailed surveys (2,567 from female** community members and **1,836 from male** community members).

At the end of this phase, the key findings of the Community Needs Assessment were summarised as:

- a) The rise of SGBV cases as a result of COVID-19;
- b) The lack of safe spaces for children and women;
- c) The lack of general awareness-raising about child abuse and domestic violence;
- d) The lack of specialised service provision to survivors of child abuse and domestic violence; and
- e) The lack of media-generated awareness-raising campaigns that would inform and promote the risk mitigation related to the violence against children and women.

Across all communities, the local population called upon government to improve their services in addressing child protection and SGBV issues.

Community Needs Assessments Details per Governorate

Conducting a CNA required GFP volunteers to first precisely define the communities and community members they will be involving in this participatory exercise; then conduct the asset mapping and apply the field force model; communicate with community members and organise the CNA sessions; and then collect data through participatory exercises such as focus group discussions as well as interviews and surveys. Once the data was in, the volunteers needed to analyse data and formulate the protection-related findings, and validate those findings with the community members engaged in CNAs, before they were tasked with preparation of a report that was to summarise the findings. The main findings will drive the forthcoming ISPS activities, helping narrow down the community-prioritised needs that must be addressed through this programme. The findings will also help adjust the programmatic steps the GFP ISPS volunteers will need to undertake in order to complete activities in the Thematic Area 2. The reports, one for each of the participating communities, included the following sections: Key Players; Methodology; Community Description; Collected Data; Participants; Strengths and Limitations; Key Findings; Assets; Recommendations; and Next Steps.

Key Findings Snapshots

1. Amman

1.1 Naour Youth Centre

- 34% of 148 respondents were between 25-35 years old.
- Women were the most participating group among respondents: 83.3%.
- Violence is among the most serious threats in the community, as perceived by respondents: verbal violence was rated as very high with a percentage of 59.2%, followed by psychological violence with 24.7%, and finally physical violence with 13.7%.
- Women were the most subjected to violence, with 53.5% of respondents confirming that they have been exposed to violence.
- Respondents agreed that the community needs safe places for children and families in addition to intense awareness sessions on violence in general, and on child protection.

1.2 Marka Youth Centre

- 416 respondents in Marka considered verbal violence as the most common form of abuse with a percentage of 68.10% of respondents agreeing on that.
- Respondents commented that the community “does not care about women's issues”, which is why the programmes such as IPSP “are more difficult to implement in the community”.
- The way forward, as seen by respondents, is to find or establish centres that monitor violence, organise trainings and programmes that reduce its effects, and are able to hold the abuser accountable.
- Another important action is to conduct awareness campaigns for all family members, including men, on violence and many of its forms.

2. Irbid

2.1 Ramtha Youth Centre

- Of all 462 respondents, 38% highlighted the issues of child-related violence in the community as extremely important. Following were the women, with 36% of respondents agreeing that they are the second most vulnerable population group.
- 56.4% of respondents were aware of the institutions that work to mitigate or reduce violence against children, but they all deemed those institutions are not effective.
- Respondents were of belief that holding vocational education courses and introducing small-scale projects to address prevalent unemployment would very much help reduce violence in the community.
- Also important was to find or establish a centre that mainly aims to support families and raise awareness about child protection and gender-based violence, as well as provide entertaining and safe place for young people and children.

2.2 Mazar Youth Centre

- In this centre, 623 respondents were very vocal about the need for entertaining and safe spaces for young people and children, in which youth can also be engaged to provide basic support thus be busy and feel that they are contributing to the community. This is considered as one of the factors that will help reduce violence.
- Other than that, the educational and advocacy centres are needed, and any action that can help reduce unemployment rates or support youth in searching for job opportunities.
- The respondents also highlighted the lack of awareness of and communication with the institutions that support the development of communities at various levels.

2.3 Dayr Abi Saeed

- More than half of 531 respondents, 52.5%, considered verbal violence as the most common form of violence in the community.
- Once again, providing small projects with seed funding for women was deemed to be one of the means that will help empower women, and reduce levels of domestic violence while ensuring women are contributing to the community.
- Conducting awareness-raising workshops and lectures on violence in society, targeting all age groups, was another important measure given the low level awareness about types or causes of violence.

3. Mafrag

3.1 Sama Al Sarhan Youth Centre

- Women are most vulnerable to violence in the community, with 49.1% of respondents out of a total of 403, agreeing on that, followed by children with 37.3%.
- Violence is most present on the streets, followed by schools, workplaces, and homes.
- The most common forms of violence are verbal and psychological violence, domestic violence, and bullying.
- Implementation of wide awareness campaigns about conditions such as stress, and educating parents on how to deal with their children, were also important ways of reducing violence.
- Providing youth centres and associations with modern equipment or activating the role of youth and local leaders in organising trainings and mentoring programmes for people in the community were discussed as another potential approach that would mitigate violence.

3.2 Shabab Mafrag Centre

- One third of 513 respondents in Mafrag Shabab Centre, 32.9%, agreed that the domestic violence is highly spread, followed by violence against children, agreed by 16.1%.
- Organizing awareness campaigns and seminars on violence, activating the existing centres such as the Shabab, as well as other clubs and associations, and lobbying decision-makers to contribute to encouraging and supporting all stakeholders against violence were the measures the respondents agreed could make difference.
- Supporting sectors that already work on reducing violence and could positively contribute to this goal was another approach the respondents highlighted.

3.3 Manshyet Bani Hasan Youth Centre

- The biggest number of respondents included in CNA process was in this centre: 753. By large margin they all agreed that the majority of Jordanian women resort to a security centre if they are subjected to some form of violence, unlike Syrian women who remain silent out of fear of retribution or the culture of shame.
- Establishment of public places to entertain children, women, and youth, and provision of modern equipment suitable for the rapid technological development to existing centres were deemed as ways of tackling violence against women and children.
- Holding awareness sessions and workshops across public and private sectors, and providing necessary skills to improve capacities and competence, in turn enabling women to enter the labour market, were other important means of dealing with violence against women.

4. Zarga

4.1 Prince Mohammad Youth Centre

- Similar to other centres, providing safe spaces for children and youth, and raising awareness about child protection which was considered to be almost completely unknown subject matter, were the most important measures to be taken in this community.
- 325 respondents in this youth centre also discussed the child labour, and how little knowledge of rights and responsibilities the community members have about this subject. Activating existing legal measures and advocating was considered important to reduce child labour.

4.2 Rusayfeh Youth Centre

- Verbal abuse is the most common form of violence in the community, with 61% of 424 respondents being in agreement, followed by physical violence reported by 25%.
- Children are most vulnerable to abuse in public places, and the community lacks places for entertainment and safe spaces for children that will help deal with this issue.
- Providing protection programmes for children, women, and people with disabilities, which range from awareness campaigns to educational activities was very much needed and would contribute positively to reducing violence in the community.