

EVALUATION BRIEF

Title of the evaluated project:

“FOR HER DIGNITY –HEALTH, FOOD AND PROTECTION AGAINST VIOLENCE FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS IN LEBANON”



Project information:

Geographical coverage: Lebanon (Sidon, Burg Hamoud, and Ein El-Hilweh camp).

Project type: Humanitarian Response

Key areas: GBV and mental health, Sexual and reproductive health.

Project period: April 1st 2023 – October 15th 2025

Donor: [Slovenian Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs](#)

Budget: EUR 271,560 (plus EUR 46,270 in in-kind contributions)

Project implementing partner (s): Naba'a Lebanon

PROJECT SUMMARY

The project operated in some of the most vulnerable communities in Lebanon, including Ein El-Hilweh camp, Burg Hamoud and Sidon. It aimed to enhance the dignity and well-being of Syrian and Palestinian refugee women and poor Lebanese women through psychosocial and medical support for survivors of GBV, awareness-raising and education on GBV, improved access to SRH services, and food provision for vulnerable, female-headed households. While the primary focus was on women and girls, men and boys were also included in some activities to foster broader community engagement.

Activities were planned to provide comprehensive support to women by complementing psychological support with referrals to additional services provided by other actors in the same geographical area. The awareness-raising workshops used culturally appropriate methods to build trust and achieve the goal of increasing communities' knowledge about GBV. **The project was built around four main results, each addressing key areas including GBV awareness, mental health support, sexual and reproductive health services, and food security.**

Result 1 – Provision of psychological support. The first result focused on women and girls, survivors of GBV, to improve their well-being and self-confidence by participating in the psychological support sessions. Group and individual sessions were conducted in all target locations by psychologists and reached all target groups including Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, vulnerable Lebanese individuals and Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

Result 2 – Women, men, youth and leaders of target communities educated and empowered to fight against GBV. Awareness raising activities about GBV and related topics aimed at empowering women, men, youth, and community leaders, the component sought to enhance their awareness and capacity to prevent GBV.

Result 3 – Sexual and reproductive health care for women and girls. Comprehensive services included educational workshops and free gynecological consultations, providing both information and professional care targeted to improve beneficiaries' reproductive health and raise their awareness about SRH.

Result 4 – Food distribution. Vulnerable families, particularly women-headed households, received food packages and hot meals to support their nutritional needs.

The evaluation confirmed that the project was highly relevant, moderately impactful, and highly efficient addressing the urgent needs of vulnerable women and girls in Lebanon's most deprived communities. The project strengthened resilience of beneficiaries, enhanced their overall well-being, and increased awareness of their rights and available services. Psychological sessions for women and girls who are GBV survivors were reinforced by a follow-up system and referral mechanism, which were key factors in enhancing the project's overall effectiveness.

nese women and girls. Findings serve to inform accountability to stakeholders and contribute to future program design.

Evaluation criteria: Relevance, Coherence, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact, Sustainability.

Evaluation methodology: Mixed-methods evaluation approach, combining qualitative and quantitative.

Note: This evaluation brief summarizes key findings, conclusions, and recommendations for internal and external stakeholders. For full details, refer to the comprehensive evaluation report.

Evaluation type:	External final evaluation
Evaluator (s):	Dr. Srdjan Vujovic, EBD International Nino Uglava, EBD International
Final report date:	01 October 2025
Commissioned by:	Zavod Krog/Institute Circle
Managed by:	Katja Alabboud, Project Manager
Evaluation purpose:	

This evaluation aimed to determine the extent to which the project achieved its objectives in supporting vulnerable Syrian, Palestinian, and poor Leba-

KEY FINDINGS & CONCLUSIONS

Relevance and Coherence: The project showed strong relevance by effectively responding to the urgent and context-specific needs of the target population. The support offered across all four components was highly valued by beneficiaries and continues to be essential to them. According to the beneficiary survey, 90,6% of beneficiaries continue to view the project's support as relevant. The project complemented existing programs and services in the area by focusing on filling gaps not covered by other initiatives. Mapping available resources, establishing linkages with other actors, regular meetings with local associations and organizations helped prevent duplication, ensuring a clear division of roles where similar projects operated in the same area.

Effectiveness: The evaluation found that the project largely achieved its objectives across all four outcomes. It effectively addressed the urgent needs of vulnerable women and girls in Lebanon, improving mental health, resilience, well-being, and awareness of rights and services, with over 90% of beneficiaries reporting positive change. Unintended additional benefit was that women formed social networks that strengthened solidarity and community engagement. Short-term food assistance met immediate needs but did not target long-term solution of the food deficiency.

Challenges included sustaining social norm changes, ensuring male and youth participation, GBV sensitivity, and logistical constraints.

Key success factors were the high relevance of support, skilled staff, strong partnerships, and integrated, holistic services.

Efficiency: The project demonstrated strong efficiency in using financial, human, and time resources, completing all planned activities on schedule and within budget. It was cost-effective, with resources strategically allocated across results to maximize impact, particularly for more intensive interventions like psychological support, while lower-cost activities such as food assistance efficiently addressed immediate needs. Effective practices included leveraging volunteer networks, partnering with local NGOs, mobilizing trained staff, optimizing venues and materials, and ensuring timely procurement. Minor delays due to contextual challenges were mitigated through flexible planning and coordination.

Impact: The project contributed in improved well-being of beneficiaries, providing psychosocial support, GBV and gender equality awareness, SRH services, and food assistance. Participants reported enhanced self-confidence, psychological well-being, knowledge of rights, parenting skills, and social engagement. Many formed informal networks, fostering solidarity and mutual support. Overall, the project had meaningful positive effects on empowerment, rights awareness, and social cohesion, though beneficiaries emphasized the need for ongoing support to ensure lasting change.

Sustainability: Three of the four project components are likely to continue generating some positive impacts, particularly psychosocial support and awareness-raising activities, which have strengthened beneficiaries' coping skills, knowledge of GBV and SRH, and community engagement. The benefits of food assistance, however, are short-term. Sustainability is supported by capacity and skills retention among staff, volunteers, and community members, as well as knowledge-sharing and strengthened local networks.

LESSONS LEARNED

Flexibility is essential: Projects should allow room to adjust activities based on emerging situations and the changing needs of beneficiaries to ensure relevance and effectiveness.

Continuous psychosocial support is critical: Follow-up mechanisms and systematic referrals are necessary to provide ongoing care, monitor progress, and minimize risks or harm to beneficiaries.

Staff support is necessary when working in difficult context: Providing debriefing and psychological support to project staff is vital for their well-being and enables them to deliver high-quality services, particularly in challenging environments.

Culturally sensitive approaches increase acceptance: Using context-appropriate methods, including locally relevant examples and culturally resonant references, helps overcome resistance and encourages meaningful dialogue on sensitive topics like GBV and early marriage.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Increase male and youth engagement- scale up culturally sensitive approaches (e.g., linking messages to religious values) to involve fathers, men, and boys in GBV prevention and gender equality discussions. In addition, organize beneficiary-led support groups to increase the reach.

Maintain and strengthen established service integration and referrals, keep and expand partnerships with clinics, legal aid groups, and NGOs to strengthen referral pathways and ensure holistic support to beneficiaries.

Invest in staff well-being - institutionalize regular debriefing and psychological support for project staff, who face the same social and economic stressors as beneficiaries.

Expand economic empowerment activities- build on improved self-confidence of women by introducing vocational training, small business support, and income-generating initiatives to address economic hardships that are one of the root causes of GBV.

Support women's committees beyond the project - provide refresher trainings and modest resources for women's committees so they can continue awareness-raising and advocacy after donor funding ends.