

Advancing Economic Empowerment for GBV Survivors:
Innovating and Localising Integrated Programming

Summaries of Four Pilot Programmes in Jordan, Lebanon, Niger and Uganda

As part of the Programme for Advancing Economic Empowerment for GBV Survivors, pilot programmes were implemented by local humanitarian organisations in Jordan, Lebanon, Niger and Uganda. These pilots were designed based on a Theory of Change developed jointly by the Local Anchor Group (LAG) in the country – a coalition of international, national and local GBV and economic recovery actors – and highly contextualised for their communities. These programmes and the initial outcomes are summarised below.

Uganda

In the Imvepi refugee settlement in Uganda, DRC supported the refugee-led organization **Youth Empowerment to Act (YETA)** to implement the localised Uganda LAG's Theory of Change (ToC). By applying a survivor-centred approach, YETA provided skills-based and business development training for targeted GBV survivors, and DRC offered GBV case management and awareness-raising with both men and women in the community. Using a group-based model, the GBV survivors were provided with start-up capital for their small businesses. The participating survivors reported increased self-reliance and well-being as a result of the programme as well as an impact on the community at large by increasing local market access and fostering greater independence among women and girls.

Lebanon

In Lebanon, DRC supported the women-led organization **Key of Life** to deliver a programme to Syrian and Lebanese GBV survivors in Akkar. Building on the Lebanon LAG's ToC, the project delivered comprehensive livelihood skills-building and business marketing training, alongside a mentorship programme, GBV case management and GBV awareness sessions. Participating survivors in the programme reported increased self-confidence, integration with their community and improved relationships with family members. A handful of survivors were able to gain employment or start their small businesses. Even the participants who did not secure immediate livelihood opportunities felt that they gained valuable skills and had an improved outlook on their economic capacity and potential in their community.

Jordan

In Jordan, DRC supported two local organisations, the **Arab Women Organisation (AWO)** and the **Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD)**, implementing different adaptations of the Jordan LAG's ToC. In the Ma'an governate, AWO integrated project management and financial literacy training, with psychosocial support services, sessions on worker's rights, and access to legal assistance for Syrian and Jordanian GBV survivors. AWO also conducted training workshops with nearby WLOs and community awareness-raising sessions with men and women on gender equality. Despite substantial gains in financial literacy and project management skills, participating survivors did not report increased income in the short term. Still, attendees of the community awareness raising sessions reported improved understanding of gender equality and WLOs reported enhanced capacity to support women and GBV survivors.

In Sahab and al Nuzha in east Amman, JOHUD used a survivor-centred approach to deliver vocational or career development training alongside cash transfers to build the economic capacity of Syrian and Jordanian GBV survivors. In addition, JOHUD organised career days, a women's forum with women and community leaders, a media campaign and awareness raising sessions with private sector employers and community members on violence against women in the workplace. Survivors in the programme were able to grow their existing small businesses or find employment by the end of the programme. Private sector employers made commitments to foster safer work places and women in the programme and in the community gained access to a network of professional opportunities.

Niger

In Niger, DRC supported three organisations to deliver a series of microprojects to GBV survivors in displaced and host communities in the Guidan Roudji department. **Education for Peace and Progress Association (EPP)**, **Coordination des ONG et Association Féminines Nigériennes (CONGAFEN)** and **Union Rufin Asiri (URA)** integrated a combination of vocational and financial literacy training, start-up kits, access to microfinance initiatives, such as Village Savings and Credit Associations, alongside dialogues with community leaders and awareness raising sessions with community members on GBV. Participating survivors reported increased perceptions of autonomy, safety, and access to equitable economic opportunities, as well as decreased conflicts in the community due to gender relations.



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