

PILOT ACTION “PROSTITUTION AND TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN IN THE EASTERN SUBURBS OF BEIRUT”

COORDINATING ASSOCIATION

Lebanese League of Women's Rights - LLWR

TARGET AREA

Eastern suburbs of Beirut, LEBANON

CONTEXT

This pilot action is framed within the project "Strengthening the capacities of actors working for gender equality" led by the IEMed, in partnership with CAWTAR, FLDDF, FFM, RUSEMEG and the French State. It is funded by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development. The project sets up, each year, *local clusters of gender equality actors* in 7 countries, made up of associations, research and education institutions, local and regional authorities, companies, syndicates and media working in favour of gender equality in a specific territory. Each local cluster elaborates a *diagnosis of the situation* at the local level on a topic of interest related to gender equality and, subsequently, defines a *project* to address the problems identified in the diagnosis. Each local cluster of gender equality actors© is structured around an association that leads all its actions.

The LLWR is coordinating the Lebanese local cluster in 2017 (cycle 2) and is leading a mobilization pilot action of gender equality actors in the Eastern suburbs of Beirut consisting of consultations of stakeholders and developing a diagnosis on prostitution and trafficking in women in a participatory manner.

With the current deterioration of the social and economic situation and the influx of refugees, including a large number of highly vulnerable women and girls, trafficking in women and prostitution are increasing. Indeed, the country has become a hub, a place of passage, residence and export of prostitutes. This deplorable context facilitates the exploitation of women by individuals and networks from Lebanon and elsewhere. Moreover, the existing laws, including the law of silence, lead to almost total impunity for the perpetrators.

OBJECTIVE

- Investigate prostitution and trafficking in women in the eastern suburbs of Beirut in order to analyze the existing legislation and to identify measures and tools to deal effectively with this violence against women.

ACTIVITIES

- Meetings with different kinds of actors (the Parliamentary Commission for Human Rights, the Bar Association, the concerned Ministries - Education and Teaching, Women's Affairs, Social Affairs, etc. - Security forces, officials of the municipalities of Sin el-Fil and Jounieh as well as researchers and journalists who have already published on the subject, to discuss measures to combat trafficking (awareness campaigns, education, penal code, legislation, security ...).
- Visits of associations that assist victims of prostitution and trafficking in human beings.
- Elaboration of a diagnosis and validation of the conclusions with all the actors involved and formulation of a project in response to the problems mentioned.

The Axis 1 "Strengthening the capacity of the actors working for equality" is part of the project "Women of the future in the Mediterranean" funded by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, and the project "Developing women's empowerment" labelled by the Union of the Mediterranean

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