

## **Enhancing the Participation of Marginalized Bedouin Women in Society in East Jerusalem and Hebron and Providing Them with Humanitarian Aid**

**The Jerusalem Center For Women implemented the aforementioned project in the period between 1/05/2020 – 30/06/2020, with funding from the government of New Zealand in Egypt.**

### ➤ **Project description**

It was supposed to implement various activities to raise awareness and accountability in Bedouin communities that suffer greatly from the lack of services and essentials for a decent life, which affected them negatively and denied their access to resources. However, due to the covid-19 pandemic, the activities were converted to be awareness sessions for women. The activities were carried out in marginalized communities, in order to discuss various health topics and explain how to take preventive and safety measures. Humanitarian assistance was also provided to them, for example, medical, sterilization, and disinfection equipment were provided. Awareness sessions and medical kits were provided to breast cancer survivors.

### ➤ **Where the activity took place**

Project activities targeted marginalized Bedouin communities in East Jerusalem, "Khan Al-Ahmar Al-Kasarat gathering, Abu Ghalia community" and in Hebron Governorate, Susiya Bedouin community and Al-Butm people, given that these gatherings witnessed and recorded the highest rate of violence against women based on the statistics of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics.

### ➤ **The objectives of the activity (i.e. the need, problem, opportunity addressed, and who the beneficiaries were).**

The aim of awareness meetings in general was to raise awareness of women in Bedouin communities that suffer from violence and are constantly exposed to it, as well as shedding light on gender-sensitive services. Afterwards the need arose to shed light on the health conditions that the State of Palestine is going through in general. Therefore, training and awareness sessions were given on how to maintain good health, prevention and self-protection from covid-19 pandemic.

The target group was mainly women, but sometimes men also participated in the meetings. Women's awareness has been raised on many issues, thus we have achieved the goal of protecting and providing them with adequate health care.

### ➤ **The measurable outcomes/results of the project and how they will be sustained now that the activity has ceased.**

- Medical kits were delivered to the beneficiaries of the project
- Beneficiaries were provided with training on various topics such as gender concepts, mechanisms of dialogue and communication
- Providing care packages to 23 beneficiaries of breast cancer survivors
- Providing first aid courses and health education courses to 100 beneficiaries
- Distribution of milk and supplies for the targeted mothers' children.

### ➤ **What lessons were learnt from the activity?**

- We should have sent a notification to decision makers in the Palestinian governmental institutions in order not to make unfulfilled promises to women, as that contributes to losing the credibility of our Center.
- The beneficiaries need more sessions, more effort for everyone separately
- The beneficiaries need more financial support
- More time was needed, one month was not enough to conduct the plan and then measure and assess it
- In the future we would include adaptability to epidemics in risk assessments as covid-19 hit Palestine hard and resulted in restriction of movement.

➤ **How were gender equality, human rights and environment issues taken into account? (Where applicable)**

Gender was largely considered, as most of the participants in the activities were women, however men also participated in support for them.

As for the environment, we kept the health and safety conditions in mind, we didn't use plastic materials or anything that affects the environment negatively, and we used to leave the place clean.

**SUPPORT FOR THE ACTIVITY**

**Feedback received from participants and host government authorities.(Provide direct feedback wherever possible)**

The women and the targeted community were glad to participate in such a project where they found the Savior of their psychological and health crises. They also demanded that we intensify our efforts to reach them more often, and to hold more meetings in which they can participate, benefit personally and provide assistance and support to the rest of the women in the gatherings. All feedbacks were positive

**Proposed follow-up: *immediately; and long term***

**Both of them.**

***They will be reengaged with other projects***

***Now we are delivering other activities for them***

➤ **RISKS and MONITORING OF PROGRESS**

***Monitoring progress against expectations***

***Risks and how they were managed***

The only danger was the emerging covid-19, as the spread of the pandemic affected the implementation of previous activities in terms of the implementation and type of the activities. However, that risk was avoided by implementing the project after the end of the state of emergency in Palestine.

Focus was placed on providing medical kits for women in these communities.

Preventive and safety measures, announced by the Ministry of Health, were taken during the implementation of the activities

