



# KAFA (enough) Violence & Exploitation ANNUAL REPORT 2014 Highlights



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## ABOUT KAFA

KAFAN (enough) Violence & Exploitation is a feminist, Lebanese, secular, non-profit, non-governmental civil society organization seeking to create a society that is free of social, economic and legal patriarchal structures that discriminate against women.

KAFAN has been aiming to eliminate all forms of exploitation and violence against women since its establishment in 2005. It seeks to realize substantive gender equality through the adoption of a combination of different approaches, such as:

Advocacy for law reform and introduction of new laws and policies; altering public opinion, practices and mentality; conducting research and training; and empowering women and children victims of violence.

Our focus areas are:

1. Family violence;
2. Exploitation and trafficking in women, especially in migrant domestic workers and women in prostitution;
3. Child protection, particularly from sexual and gender-based violence.

### **KAFAN (enough) Violence & Exploitation**

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**KAFAN**'s team is grateful to all individuals, groups, organizations, the media, and other public or private institutions that encouraged our organization's mission and activities throughout 2014, in addition to all those providing moral or financial support to **KAFAN**'s efforts to eradicate all forms of gender-based violence and exploitation of women and children. The following achievements would not have been possible without your support.

**KAFAN** takes this opportunity to extend its thanks to the funding agencies, which provided financial support during 2014 for the protection of women and children from family violence, abuse, and exploitation. These resources assisted in achieving the noticeable progress in the promotion of legal reforms and change in policies, in addition to influencing public opinion regarding the adoption of relevant laws and their enforcement.

**KAFAN**'s appreciation goes to each of the following organizations that joined hands in working for the cause of women and children in Lebanon: DROSOS Foundation, Save the Children, UNICEF, Open Society Institute, Anti-Slavery International, Danish Refugee Council, UNFPA, Kvinna Till Kvinna, Amica, French Embassy in Lebanon, in addition to the General Federation of Nepalese Trade Unions, International Domestic Workers Federation, NARI, Zoukak Theater Company, and Legal Agenda. Special gratitude goes to the media for their partnership in providing wide coverage of **KAFAN**'s advocacy and awareness-raising activities and for courageously denouncing violence and abuse against women and children.

**KAFAN** also thanks all its local partners, stakeholders and beneficiaries for their participation in the planning, monitoring, and implementation of all program activities, bringing their valuable contributions to the success of the different projects. Special thanks are also due to the Lebanese Internal Security Forces, for embracing the cause of women and children victims/survivors of violence and abuse.

Last but not least, in the year that saw the adoption of the first law on family violence in Lebanon, **KAFAN** is grateful to all the partners and supporters who brought the law into fruition, whether through their participation in exerting pressure on the parliament, their diligent efforts to expose the issue of gender-based violence and violence against women to society, or their continuing endeavors to eradicate all forms of violence and discrimination against women.

**KAFAN (enough) Violence & Exploitation**

## INTRODUCTION

In its work towards the elimination of all forms of Violence Against Women (VAW), **KAFAN** is committed to a legal framework in line with international human rights standards as one of its focal advocacy actions. For more than a decade, **KAFAN** advocated for legal mechanisms against VAW and gender-based violence (GBV) and partnered with civil society and state actors to put an end to such violence.

**KAFAN** and the National Coalition to Legalize the Protection of Women from Family Violence began campaigning for a law to criminalize family violence and provide support for victims in 2008 (based on a law drafted in 2007 in response to the absence of legislation criminalizing family violence and protecting women). Advocacy efforts brought the law for discussion in a special parliamentary subcommittee in 2011.

In 2014, after years of advocacy, popular campaigns, networking with civil society actors and local communities, and one of the biggest public gatherings on women's rights in memory (with almost 5,000 people joining the march against VAW on International Women's Day in Beirut) Law 293/2014 was adopted by the Lebanese Parliament. Despite the many flaws and the need to continue challenging patriarchal mentalities, structures, and laws, the law legislated new mechanisms to address family violence and was seen to promote women's safety, despite the need for its reform.

This report will begin with addressing **KAFAN**'s efforts related to adoption and implementation of the new law in 2014 and will move to the various aspects of the organization's work, which had been integral components in addressing the question of GBV and providing the needed space for the law's promotion and adoption.

## I. PROTECTION OF WOMEN FROM FAMILY VIOLENCE

KAFAN receives more than 2,600 calls to its domestic abuse helpline each year. KAFAN's analysis of media reports in Lebanon indicated that 25 women had been killed by family members between 2010 and 2013 and four women lost their lives as a result of family violence in the first four months of 2014.



### A | Achievements:

#### 1) Draft Law to Protect Women From Family Violence

The draft law to protect women from family violence was first submitted to Parliament in 2010. A parliamentary subcommittee was set up to review the draft in May 2011, finalizing its amendments in August 2012. The amended draft was approved by the Joint Parliamentary Committees in July 2013 and sent to the General Assembly. On Tuesday, April 1, 2014, the Lebanese Parliament passed the Law on Protection of Women and Family Members Against Family Violence, an amended version of KAFAN's original draft. On May 14, 2014, it was published in the Official Gazette under Law No. 293.

The draft law had been the culmination of years of struggle by KAFAN and women's rights organizations in Lebanon. On March 8, 2014, and after six years of campaigning, thousands of citizens, activists, and politicians joined together in pressuring parliament to endorse the law in its original version, in the largest gathering on International Women's Day held in Lebanon. The protest, coordinated by KAFAN, and called for and led by both KAFAN and the mothers of victims

of family violence, was an indicator of the changing social attitudes towards family violence, and violence against women in particular, and compelled Parliament to adopt the bill a few weeks later, albeit in an amended form.

**KAFAN** kept the protest's momentum going throughout the month through the Red Thumb campaign/"Vote for Us so We Vote for You", with the hashtag: #NoLawNoVote. According to Leo Burnett, it was the most viral online campaign in Lebanese social media history. This was followed by an online petition and letter campaign, "Leave no ink, stamp the petition", urging the President of the Republic to reject the parliament's amendments.

To raise awareness on Law 293 and its implementation, **KAFAN** launched the promotional video "[Driving Change: A very disturbing taxi ride](#)", encouraging more women in Lebanon to speak up against violence. With the enactment of the law, **KAFAN** began collecting Orders of Protection issued by judges based on the law's provisions (Please see *Table 1: List of OFPs in 2014*).

A Q&A booklet targeting ISF officers was produced by **KAFAN** and ISF on the content of the law in November 2014, with the launch of [Zalfa](#) campaign, a friendly and informative Q&A webpage that provides information to women and girls on the law to protect women and other family members from family violence. Other tools included holding workshops and roundtables on Law 293 with local civil society organizations and the judiciary, and an educational film based on true stories.

## **B | Flaws in Law 293**

Law 293 was the first legislation against family violence in Lebanon. However, it contained several shortcomings and falls short of providing full protection from abuse. **KAFAN** denounced legislators for not considering the amendments recommended by the National Coalition, as the current law's protection measures fail to specifically protect women and does not go far enough on the issue of child custody. An earlier draft of the law criminalized marital rape, but the provision was removed after it sparked a backlash from religious and political authorities.

Several flaws in the law were [identified by the National Coalition for Legislating the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence](#), namely:

- 1) The Law should be amended in a manner specifying the protection provisions and measures for women, in particular.
- 2) Paragraph 7 of Article 3 provides for "marital rights", which is a flagrant violation of the civil framework of criminal law, while it should be used to sanction marital rape.
- 3) Paragraph 2 of Article 12 should be amended to include the protection of the victim's children, regardless of age of custody.
- 4) Article 13 should be amended to allow the Public Prosecution authority to issue OFPs, in addition to the Judge in Chambers, to facilitate women's access to justice.

Despite the above flaws, the Law's implementation was almost immediate. The first legal decision – issued by the Judge of Urgent Matters in Beirut on 31 May 2014 – was taken two weeks after the Law was published in the Official Gazette on 14 May. By the end of the year, 36 complaints by women from various governorates had been registered, 30 OFPs were issued (83%) and six requests rejected.

Following the first decision at the end of May, judges issued an average of around 4 decisions per month, with the month of December recording 8 decisions. In terms of geographic distribution, 6 decisions were taken in each of Beirut and Jdeidet el-Metn, 5 in each of Baabda and Keserwan, 2 in each of Aley and Tripoli, and 1 in each of Baalbek, Zahle, Sour, and Halba. The great majority (80%) of the decisions (24) were taken in Beirut and Mount Lebanon.

**Table 1: List of Orders of Protection based on Law 293 in 2014**

#	Chamber (Judge of Urgent Matters)	Decision #	Date
1	Beirut	539	31/5/2014
2	Beirut	543	5/6/2014
3	Baabda	243	9/6/2014
4	Beirut	608	20/6/2014
5	Baabda	686	24/6/2014
6	Jdeidet el-Metn	179	22/7/2014
7	Keserwan	333	24/7/2014
8	Keserwan	355	18/8/2014
9	Jdeidet el-Metn	225	20/8/2014
10	Baabda	365	28/8/2014
11	Beirut	831	2/9/2014
12	Beirut	849	3/9/2014
13	Zahle	298	18/9/2014
14	Keserwan	396	23/9/2014
15	Jdeidet el-Metn	288	26/9/2014

#	Chamber (Judge of Urgent Matters)	Decision #	Date
16	Baalbek	49	6/10/2014
17	Aley	257	13/10/2014
18	Beirut	1023	14/10/2014
19	Jdeidet el-Metn	297	14/10/2014
20	Jdeidet el-Metn	264	28/10/2014
21	Keserwan	505	20/11/2014
22	Keserwan	510	27/11/2014
23	Baabda	524	2/12/2014
24	Aley	600	3/12/2014
25	Baabda	519	9/12/2014
26	Tripoli	537	10/12/2014
27	Tripoli	543	12/12/2014
28	Jdeidet el-Metn	400	12/12/2014
29	Sour	106	18/12/2014
30	Halba	1134	19/12/2014

## II. KAF's LISTENING AND COUNSELING CENTER



### A | National Model

*Established in 2005, KAF's Listening and Counseling Center (LCC) aims at providing women victims of violence free counseling, support and referral services, guided by the principles of empowerment and support for self-independence. The center consists of a multidisciplinary team with substantial experience in the area of VAW. Since its establishment, the center has supported hundreds of victims of family violence, abuse and exploitation without discrimination, and irrespective of religion, race, ethnicity, educational background, nationality, marital status, area of residence or age, or any other affiliation.*

In 2014, with the support of DROSOS, **KAF-LLC** continued promoting innovative approaches and methods for the rehabilitation and empowerment of women victims of family violence. The aim was to rid these women of their victim status and empower them to engage in the collective struggle against violence and abuse. This required the addition of complementary activities to support the socio-legal and psychological services traditionally provided by the LCC, such as art workshops, drama therapy, and income generating activities to enhance the economic independence of women.

As a National Model for holistic care for women victims of violence, **KAFA** developed cross-cutting activities aimed at sharing knowledge and expertise with other actors, including the establishment of a multidisciplinary "coaching" group on specific cases, collective documentation of good practices on rehabilitation of victims of violence, and utilization of specialized software to continuously document, analyze, and evaluate the quality of services provided to women.

Although the context of **KAFA's** engagement on VAW changed with the adoption of the new law and its implementation by mid-2014, the above developments in the program will allow the organization to benefit from the legislation, address its flaws, and continue lobbying with its partners to adopt further reforms based on direct experience with women victims of violence. During 2014, **KAFA** noted that the number of women seeking support at the LCC had remarkably increased. Demand for services provided by the center multiplied, along with the accompanying cost of maintaining comprehensive and integrated service provision.

## B | Activities

### 1) Social Intervention and Follow-up:

*Table 2* indicates the number of services delivered to beneficiaries at the LCC in 2014, showing an increase of requests from women victims of violence, especially after the enactment Law 293. The requests were initiated from several police stations, other social organizations, and civil society organizations in general.

New tasks and functions were added to those already executed by the LCC team, as social workers, psychotherapists, and lawyers are increasingly being sought, with the adoption of Law 293 on family violence. For example, the number of calls to the 24-hour Helpline increased significantly in 2014 and an average of three cases per month were referred to forensic doctors, with a total of 33 forensic reports followed up by the organization. Despite difficulties related to admission procedures, 33 women were referred to shelters in 2014.

**Table 2: Services Delivered at KAFA-LCC in 2014**

Month	Regular follow-up	New Cases	Psychological follow-up (sessions/patients)	New legal consultations	Legal authorization	Forensic Doctor	Shelter Referral
January	35	27	110/36	22	1	1	3
February	28	38	121/35	31	2	2	5
March	31	49	110/33	33	4	3	2
April	35	38	92/29	27	1	2	1
May	49	60	132/40	51	5	4	1
June	45	72	121.5/38	65	2	5	4
July	35	63	106.5/39	65	5	2	1
August	39	64	122.5/38	58	2	6	6
September	60	50	133/39	47	0	3	5

October	64	57	137/38	32	0	3	2
November	67	35	95/39	44	2	2	2
December	60	71	136/34	38	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>1416.5/40</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>

## 2) Legal Intervention (Legal Consultation and Court Representation)

**KAFA** provided 513 legal consultations to LCC beneficiaries during 2014, a notable increase from the 233 cases in 2013. Legal authorization of a lawyer was provided in 24 instances in the report year. Protection claims and related documents were presented on behalf of more than 20 vulnerable women and victims of violence who live in permanent menace from abusers, resulting in 18 OFPs.

## 3) Psychological Follow-up

Through counseling, **KAFA** identified 40 new patients needing psychological support. A total of 1416 psychological consultations were provided to women and children victims of violence during the reporting period. Psychological follow-up was carried out by four psychotherapists and regular meetings were held to follow-up on each case, monitor the psychotherapy duration, and discuss progress, which included multi-disciplinary and professional meetings to assess procedures, complications, and way forward.

## 4) Awareness Sessions

Awareness sessions – one of the key activities implemented by LCC – maintained the same pace as in the previous year, but with new topics and the participation of around 20 women. Between April and November 2014, LCC held 11 sessions ranging from question of emotional response, women's status, sexual problems, economic activities, protection laws, and psychological problems.

## 5) Healing through Art

**KAFA** held a Drama Therapy Workshop, in partnership with Zoukak Theater Company, based on story building and movement and voice techniques. It was a space for beneficiaries to think collectively, experiment with drama therapy tools, and explore and empower themselves individually and as a group of women. This was followed by Dance Therapy Workshop with 12 sessions aiming to help women perceive how they could better themselves, how their bodies deserved their attention, and how their health and energy were linked to their general state of being, to their actions and decisions. Finally, a Yoga and Relaxation workshop was held at the end of the year, between 1 October and 23 December.

## 6) Building LCC Capacity and Sustainability

### *Coaching*

A total of 6 coaching sessions with follow-up meetings, were held between the LCC team and a specialized psychiatrist, to consolidate their skills as social workers and avoid difficulties, especially with people suffering from some psychological disorders. Moreover, the meetings are a chance for the psychiatrist to provide consultation for some beneficiaries.

### *Sharing Experiences*

**KAFAN's** center in Marj in the Bekaa targets Syrian women refugees as well as the Lebanese community and provides similar services with a team of different professionals. Transfer of skills from the LCC in Beirut to Marj center of Bekaa Marj is increasing, specifically regarding work in a multidisciplinary team. Results pertaining to implemented activities are becoming more measurable at this stage, due to the continuous coordination with new social workers, new NGOs, and even new police stations referring GBV cases to **KAFAN**.

### III. ANTI-TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION UNIT

*The Anti-trafficking and Exploitation Unit at KAFAN works on building opinions against trafficking and exploitation for two groups of women vulnerable to these forms of violence: female migrant domestic workers and Lebanese and migrant women in prostitution. The Unit also aims at calling for a better legal and social protection for victims and women and girls at risk. Several approaches are used to reach these objectives, such as advocacy work, awareness raising, capacity building, and service provision to victims.*

#### A | Migrant Domestic Workers Program:

In addressing the critical situation of women migrant domestic workers (MDWs) in Lebanon who are deprived of their basic human rights, this program is designed to build support against violence and exploitation of MDWs and includes different components, such as, advocacy to change the [sponsorship](#) system and provide legal protection for domestic workers, awareness raising and information sharing, capacity building, [organizing](#), and direct [services](#) to MDWs victims of trafficking, and physical and sexual abuse...

#### 1) Sponsorship System Advocacy and Awareness-Raising

##### *International Conference on Promoting Migrant Domestic Workers' Rights*



**KAFAN**, in partnership with Anti-Slavery International and the General Federation of Nepalese Trade Unions GEFONT, held a conference on January 14, 2014, on “Promoting Migrant Domestic Workers’ Rights by Addressing the Migration Continuum between Origin Countries and Lebanon”, within the framework of a multi-year project addressing the migration continuum between Nepal and Lebanon. The one-day

conference brought together different stakeholders from Lebanon and abroad to discuss the main structural problems within the current recruitment and employment system for women Migrant Domestic Workers (MDWs) in Lebanon with the purpose of looking at practices from other countries and applying potential lessons.

***“If not for the system... Migrant domestic workers tell their stories”***



After the writing workshop, which took place in September 2013, 19 stories of domestic workers were published in a booklet titled “If not for the system... Migrant domestic workers tell their stories.” The booklet was launched in May 2014, on the occasion of Workers' Day celebrations in Monot theatre. Five migrant domestic workers read their stories or the stories of their friends, in the presence of the chair of the International Domestic Workers Federation, Ms. Myrtle Witbooi from South Africa.

***Workers' Day 2014***



Within the MDWs Coordination Consortium and for the fourth year in a row, **KAFAN** co-organized the Workers' Day parade 2014 to call for a better legal protection for MDWs in Lebanon. Hundreds of migrant women and men, together with many supporters and organizations, marched on the 4 May from Dora to Mar Mikhael, carrying banners calling for the abolishment of the sponsorship system. In Mar Mikhael, migrant women continued the Workers' Day celebration in a closing festival of the three-day long celebrations.

### **Launch of the study "Dreams for Sale"**



On September 8, 2014, **KAFAN** and Legal Agenda launched the study "The Exploitation of Domestic Workers from Recruitment in Nepal and Bangladesh to Working in Lebanon", in Saint-Joseph University. The report examines the processes and practices pertaining to the recruitment of MDWs from Nepal and Bangladesh and explores their work and living conditions in Lebanon.

### **Round Table with Lawyers at the Beirut Bar Association**

On October 24, 2014, **KAFAN** organized a roundtable at the Beirut Bar Association (BBA), in the presence of its president Me. Georges Joreij, who stressed on the BBA's defense of human rights, and in particular, MDWs' rights to work and live free of exploitation. The roundtable aimed to share the results and recommendations of the "Dreams for Sale" study and create a network of sensitized lawyers who are willing to represent migrant workers for free.

## 2) Building the Capacity of Migrant Communities

### ***NARI – Group of Nepalese Feminists in Lebanon***

**KAFAN** continued its coordination with migrant community leaders in general, and with NARI in particular, the Nepalese migrant community group it helped establish in 2013. NARI is a group of Nepalese women working as domestic workers, who organized themselves under the objective of improving the situation of Nepalese migrant women in Lebanon. NARI's specific aim is to give other Nepali women advice and information, support those who have problems and help them learn from the experience of NARI's members in living and working in Lebanon. This initiative is designed to help Nepalese migrant workers become empowered and claim their rights, raise awareness amongst their peers and Lebanese society more widely, and inspire other migrants to self-organize in Lebanon.

## 3) Support and Assistance to Victims of Trafficking and Physical and Sexual Abuse

**KAFAN** continued providing services to MDWs victims of physical and sexual abuse and operates a helpline specific to MDWs. The **Helpline (+961 76 090910)** and the **KAFAN** team offer MDWs Socio-legal advice, legal representation, referral to a shelter, and return assistance. During 2014, about 100 cases had reached or contacted the organization, with a third receiving comprehensive support and the remaining referred to other existing service providers.

## **B | Prostitution and Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation Program:**

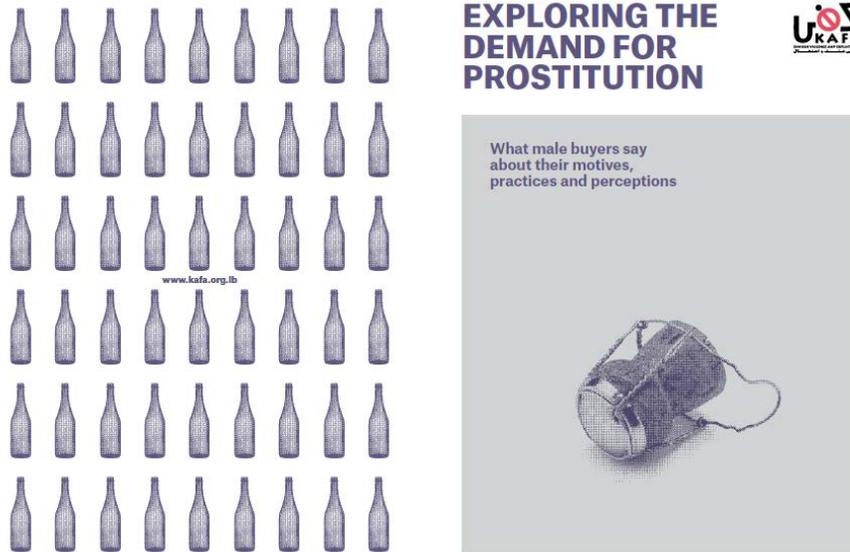
### **1) Advocacy and Raising Awareness on the Realities of Prostitution and Trafficking**

#### ***Providing baseline knowledge on prostitution***

In January 2014, **KAFAN** published the study "Prostitution: A Moral Crime or a Crime of Exploitation: A legal Analysis of 228 Cases of Women Arrested for Prostitution Crimes", which examined the applied legal and policy framework with regards to prostitution in Lebanon and analyzed 228 cases of women arrested for prostitution crimes in Lebanon.

This was added to the study "Exploring the Demand for Prostitution: What Male Buyers Say about their Motives, Practices, and Practices", the first publication of a larger research on prostitution and human trafficking in Lebanon. It is also a first attempt to explore and better understand the demand side in Lebanon where little has been written on this critical component of the prostitution industry. The study collects and compiles

insightful data and information on 55 male buyers in Lebanon, their motivations and rationalizations for buying sexual acts, their behavior and practices, and their gendered interactions with and perceptions about women in prostitution. The study concludes by proposing policy recommendations to tackle the demand side, and more holistically, the resulting prostitution and trafficking of victims.



### **Release of a Film on Prostitution in Lebanon: “The Oldest Oppression”**

The forty-minute film explores the world of prostitution in Lebanon through interviews that reveal real stories and experiences of women in prostitution, sex buyers, and witnesses, as well as explanatory comments by experts in the field of trafficking and prostitution. It is the first documentary film in Lebanon to tackle the issue of prostitution based on testimonies from different parties involved in the industry. The film exposes to the public the harm inflicted on women by the sex industry in both “regulated” and unregulated sectors, highlighting the close linkages between prostitution and trafficking for sexual exploitation.

### **Anti-prostitution media campaign “Al Hawa Ma Byinshara”**

**KAFAN** launched its first anti-prostitution campaign titled “*Al Hawa Ma Byinshara*” (Sex cannot be bought), showing a clear position against the sexual exploitation of women, be it prostitution or trafficking, knowing that both are intrinsically related. The media campaign materials, disseminated throughout September, consisted of: a TVC/radio spot, posters and outdoors campaign, informational material, and a Myths and Facts booklet. The campaign was launched on 15 September 2014.

## ***Awareness Sessions and Interventions***

**KAFA** conducted several awareness-raising sessions and discussions about prostitution in universities, schools, civil society groups, and religious communities. **KAFA** also spoke about the topic on various local and international Radio and TV shows.

## IV. PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM GBV

*For the past several years KAFAN became aware of the extent of Child Abuse and Exploitation in Lebanon, through its wide range of activities combating family violence since its inception in 2005, through the LCC.*



Due to the lack of scientific research and official statistical data regarding the incidence, extent, and nature of child abuse in the country, **KAFAN** initiated a research on Child Abuse (CSA) after the 2006 war. The study was designed to assess the magnitude of CSA, identify its predisposing factors, draw a profile of children who may be at high risk of survivorization, and finally assess the effect of the July 2006 war on the prevalence of CSA. The research, covering several areas of Lebanon, included 2 major components: a cross-sectional survey of children aged 8-17 years and focus group discussions with children, mothers, and educators.

The study revealed the extent of the incidence of CSA, particularly in cases of family violence. From the 1,025 children surveyed, 16.1% admitted to experiencing at least one form of abuse, 8.7% witnessed abusive attempts, and 4.9% were exposed to photos or movies with harmful

content. The survey showed that most incidents of CSA occurred at home repeatedly by an unidentified male perpetrator. 54.1% admitted to having talked to someone, most commonly to their mother. In addition to the many symptoms and consequences of CSA on children's mental and psychological health, school failures, and other posttraumatic stress disorders, the survey also revealed the gender bias in addressing cases of CSA, as girl-survivors were treated with greater secrecy than boys.

This unprecedented study undertaken on Child Abuse was conducted to help **KAFAN** set a national strategy to address CSA in Lebanon, laying out recommendations for reducing its occurrence. Recent data compiled by the **KAFAN-LCC**, indicate that around 18% of cases applying to the center report abuse and violence perpetrated on their children.

Thus, the Child Protection Program (**KAFAN-CCP**) works on combating violence against children and adolescents, with a focus on gender-based violence and sexual abuse.

By working on the protection and empowerment of children, the CPP is participating in the creation of a safer future free of violence and discrimination.

The CPP action plan seeks to improve prevention and protection measures for children and adolescents, by reaching out to different target groups, namely children, adolescents, caregivers, and service providers, while always applying a child participatory approach and combining different tools and strategies, such as:

- Increasing societal awareness by producing knowledge, research and campaigns, and developing informational and educational material for various target groups;
- Capacity building for service providers in public and private sectors;
- Advocating for better legislation for the protection of children from violence and abuse, and creating child-friendly policies and spaces in state institutions;
- Working on children's and youth's practices, behaviors and attitudes;
- Offering legal, social, and psychological support to children and adolescents survivors of gender-based violence, family violence and sexual abuse.

## A | Main Achievements

### 1) Awareness on GBV (Early Marriage and Child Sexual Abuse)

Activities under this section are based on the assumption that vulnerabilities of children, adolescent boys and girls, and caregivers are reduced and their resilience strengthened, by increasing their awareness on GBV (early marriage and child sexual abuse) through awareness and outreach. In this respect, the following actions were implemented:

## Awareness Festivals

Ten festivals were held in Bint Jbeil, Sour, Douris–Baalbek, Ghazze, Zahle, Barja, Sin El Fil, Miniyara, Anfeh, and Byblos for around 12,000 children affected by the Syrian crisis. Festivals included entertainment games, as well as GBV prevention and awareness-raising activities with children.

The festivals gave the children a space to forget about their daily suffering and the sorrows they face for a few hours, while simultaneously benefiting from awareness raising games to provide them with appropriate ways to protect themselves from abuse.



## Awareness Sessions on GBV

Awareness Sessions on GBV, including early marriage and child sexual abuse, were conducted with 500 children and adolescents in schools, NGOs, and SDCs from different regions in Lebanon.

## 2) Services for Children Survivors of Sexual Abuse

Services are provided to children survivors of sexual abuse with the assumption that child protection violations are mitigated and addressed through case management and professional interventions to children survivors of GBV and abuse.

Results from **KAFAN**'s LCC for the Rehabilitation of Women Survivors of Family Violence, the knowledge gained from this experience, and the realization that there is an important number of children who are survivors of abuse and violence in cases of family violence has led **KAFAN** to confirm the need for a Listening and Counseling Center for Children under the age of 18, from different backgrounds and nationalities (including refugees and migrants).

**KAFAN** acquired an additional space in the same building hosting the LCC for women and the organization's offices. Locating the LCC for Children within the same space will facilitate the provision of holistic and comprehensive services to women/mothers survivors of family violence and at the same time to their children who have either witnessed abuse and violence or are also themselves survivors of abuse and violence and developed symptoms related to this violence.

### 3) Capacity Building and Resources Development

Capacity building is an important aspect of the work of this program. It focuses on building the capacity and skills of service providers working with vulnerable children, adolescents and caregivers, through the development of training and IEC resource materials, and through training and coaching sessions.

#### *Development of training and IEC materials*

- A **training toolkit for caregivers** was developed to be added to the “Citadel of Protection” toolkit on Prevention from GBV, addressing caregivers of vulnerable children affected by the Syrian crisis.
- A **set of puzzles** was developed, based on the already developed posters (2013 report) containing key awareness and age appropriate messages addressed to boys and girls and caregivers were developed on prevention of GBV, of violence and abuse, of early marriage, and of pregnancy among child brides.
- **Referral Leaflet for Central and West Bekaa** targeting caregivers was developed and based on a mapping of services available for children and families affected by the Syrian crisis.
- **Notebooks and pens** containing key awareness messages and age appropriate messages addressed to vulnerable boys & girls affected by the Syrian crisis were disseminated through schools, education programs, festivals, etc. 10,000 copies are being disseminated to children through NGOs, SDCs, community centers, and schools.

### 4. Training and Coaching Sessions

#### *“Citadel of Protection” toolkit training:*

Eight training sessions were organized and implemented on the “Citadel of Protection” toolkit in the 6 areas in Lebanon: T5, Akkar, Beirut/Mount Lebanon, South, Nabatieh, and Bekaa. 182 service providers from different organizations participated in the training sessions. 320 coaching sessions were conducted with 160 of the trained service providers (two sessions with each trainee) in order to monitor and evaluate the newly acquired knowledge, skills and attitudes of service providers.



**“Caring for Child Survivors of Sexual Abuse” (CCS) Guidelines training:**

4 training sessions were organized on the mentioned guidelines to improve primary intervention and children empowerment to protect themselves from GBV and quality and continuity of care for children survivors of GBV.

77 service providers from different organizations participated in the training sessions.

**KAFA** team monitored the implementation of the newly acquired skills through conducting visits and using the monitoring tools provided in the CCS toolkit through coaching sessions.



**“Child Protection Policy” training**

A training session was held with 45 decision makers’ representatives of NGOs, child friendly spaces, SDCs, and schools to train on the already developed child protection policy (2013 report). The training aimed at avoiding situations where abuse can occur,

raising awareness in all programs targeting children to ensure abuse is not occurring. This activity will enhance the commitment of organizations to a violence free environment, in addition to ensuring a better endorsement for the Child Protection Policy.

### ***Training on Child Protection***

This included basic knowledge, attitude, and practices to 10 service providers from different local NGOs to enhance their skills on child protection issues within their work in their organizations.

## VI. EMERGENCY RESPONSE

### A | Emergency Response for Displaced Syrians in Lebanon

*Although the main focus in emergency response has been on Syrian refugees, due to the scale and sensitivity of the issue, the following programs are integrated in KAFAN's work in a manner that provides services to the whole community and are not exclusive to Syrian refugees.*

#### 1) Training and Awareness

##### **Community Mobilizers Training:**

**KAFAN** adopted a community mobilization approach in order to ensure a wider outreach and meet our objective in regards to changing attitudes and practices and behaviors of individuals and groups in relation to Child protection and child sexual abuse and GBV in general. This approach will increase the participatory decision-making processes, contribute in inclusion of marginalized groups such as women and youth, who will be acting as community mobilizers, assist communities in reducing their dependence on aid and achieving a lasting change, and helping the community to be prepared to respond to any other crisis.

In terms of the Syrian crisis, training sessions for 15 days were held with chosen community mobilizers from the youth population (15 -24 years) coming from the Syrian community to ensure youth engagement as a marginalized group in the process of decisions making in regard to their communities and to build their knowledge and facilitations capacities to become community mobilizers. Training included topics such as GBV, animations skills, the Citadel of protection toolkit, referrals pathways, communications skills and primary intervention.

##### **Awareness on GBV in ITS, collective shelters, schools, and SDCs in West Bekaa:**

The trained members from the Syrian community targeted in turn groups of children, adolescents, and caregivers in West Bekaa from schools, SDCs, municipalities, collective shelters, ITS and community centers. They operated as **KAFAN** staff: Each 2 members will be targeting 2 groups of children, 2 groups of youth, and 2 groups of caregivers on a weekly basis. **KAFAN** team provided follow up and technical support, and materials for the trained members.

2,399 children, 1319 adolescents and 1740 caregivers were targeted in 2014. Each target group received at least 6 awareness sessions based on the already developed “Citadel of Protection” toolkit.



## 2) Equipping and operating an Adolescent Friendly Space (AFS) in Bekaa

Thousands of families and children are fleeing Syria to Lebanon, and the numbers of refugees is increasing on a daily basis. This situation created a state of poverty surrounding Syrian families where they live in crowded houses or crowded tented settlements. This overcrowding and extreme poverty leave adolescents with very little space to play and interact and express themselves. Moreover, many adolescents are subjected to different types of GBV and abuse and exploitation.

That is why **KAFAN** created an adolescents friendly space, delivering case management for adolescent (aged between 10 and 17 years old) survivors of GBV and abuse, psychosocial support, educational activities on sexual and reproductive health (SRHR), educational and awareness sessions on life skills, trainings on child rights, photography, drama therapy sessions and dance therapy.



The AFS includes the following activities:

- **Art therapy sessions:** Around 41 adolescents benefited from art therapy sessions in the center including drama and dance therapy as well as therapy through photography sessions.
- **Educational sessions:** Around 550 adolescents benefited from educational sessions in the center such as English and Literacy courses, awareness raising sessions and life skill sessions.
- **Case management:** Around 70 adolescents' survivors of different form of GBV and sexual abuse are receiving case management (legal, social, psychological follow up, referral) from two case managers (female and male).

## B | Support Services to Syrian and Lebanese Women victims of VAW

**KAFA** developed this program in response to the humanitarian crisis created by the continuous armed conflicts in Syria and resulting refugee influx in Lebanon. The program aimed at providing a comprehensive response to GBV that comprises detection and prevention of GBV, as well as direct care and services to Syrian refugee women and to Lebanese women in host communities, victims of domestic and sexual violence.

The project had two axes of intervention. The first is a capacity and institutional building action targeting health providers and medical institutions - specifically frontline providers and complementing the capacity building already undertaken by **KAFA** with Internal Security Forces- and the second consists in providing direct help/assistance/counseling to women victims of violence through the LCC which will provide a friendly and safe place to these women to tell their stories and receive help to overcome the agonies they have lived / or are still going through.

## 1) Capacity and Institutional Building for Health Providers

### *Developing a toolkit addressing healthcare providers*

Dr. Jinan Usta and **KAFAN**, supported by UNFPA, developed a toolkit (manual and filmed scenarios) aiming at enhancing the capacity of the healthcare provider to address Family Violence survivors, and sexual assault survivors. It was based on a series of filmed interviews drawn from real life encounters, aiming to enhance the skills of the healthcare provider to communicate with and care for IPV survivors. Other scenarios represent the application of these principles in specific situations.

### *Training providers in primary healthcare centers*

During 2014, **KAFAN** conducted two ToTs targeting Healthcare Professionals to carry out skill building activities in different regions of Lebanon - particularly with high settlement of Syrian refugees - will help multiply both outreach and impact on victims of family violence and abuse.

The ToTs targeted 27 healthcare providers from South Lebanon, Mount Lebanon, North, Bekaa, and Beirut, with trainees from AUB and primary healthcare centers. The trainers then delivered 11 trainings in the following areas: Beirut, Baalbek, Chtoura, Sour, Nabatieh, Tripoli, Akkar, and Mount Lebanon.

The trained doctors in the different regions of the country operate as focal points to detect, care and address issues and conditions pertaining to victims/survivors of domestic violence and abuse and will refer GBV cases to the LCC for further care and assistance

## 2) LCC-Marj Services

Within the Humanitarian context and in partnership with UNFPA, **KAFAN** established a listening and counseling center in Marj/Bekaa (LCC) to respond to the humanitarian crisis created by the continuous armed conflicts in Syria and resulting refugee influx in Lebanon.

During 2014 **KAFAN** was able to outreach to women from the Lebanese and the Syrian communities residing in Marj area. LCC Bekaa was able to establish trust between the LCC and the local communities and to operate as a safe place attracting women to seek its services. The LCC was supported by UNFPA and AMICA.

The LCC in Bekaa provided the following services:

- a) **Social counseling:** many women visited the LCC in Bekaa and sought its services. The services provided by the LCC are all referred through KAFAN's case manager. In total and throughout 2014 more than 135 women sought the assistance of the LCC case manager to disclose stories related to violence against women.
- b) **Psychotherapy sessions:** more than 300 psychotherapy sessions took place throughout 2014. 40 women benefited from these services and they were identified through social counseling and referred by the LCC /Marj social worker.
- c) **Legal counseling:** 76 sessions of legal consultations took place, where 45 women benefited from this service.
- d) **Awareness raising** sessions on GBV & RH.

During 2014, 63 awareness sessions were held at the LCC in Marj on GBV and RH. More than 600 women were targeted. The sessions tackled the following topics: discrimination against women, early forced marriage, family violence, gender roles and stereotypes, couples conflict, family planning, sexual transmitted infections, and reproductive health services providers and contraceptives.

The sessions had an impressive impact on the participants this is reflected by the increased number of attendees where women are inviting their relatives and neighbors to take part of these sessions. Moreover, the sessions are highlighted by remarkable sharing of stories and violence incidents. Also, the LCC team formed two groups of 25 women each who are enthusiastic to intervene in their own communities and ensure a sustainable impact.

### ***Animation sessions for children***

LCC Marj conducted 149 animation sessions in 2014, as part of raising awareness on gender and RH and psychological support, targeting the children of LCC beneficiaries. More than 600 children between 1 and 8 years old took part in age-appropriate sessions, on subjects ranging from tutoring, to artistic activities, to personal hygiene.

### ***Drama & Art Therapy***

Two drama therapy and three arts therapy courses were conducted at LCC/Marj, targeting 103 women. The courses aimed to help women become aware of their own bodies' defense mechanisms.