

Title: Social Services

Date: Day 3 – 28 July 2021 from 11-12:00

Synopsis:

The provision of quality social services forms a vital component of an effective response to violence against women and girls. Social services comprise a range of services including crisis information and help lines, safe accommodation, legal and rights information and advice. These services support the rights, safety and wellbeing of women and girls experiencing violence, within a culture of women's empowerment. This includes ensuring that services are survivor-centred, non-blaming, and support women to consider the range of choices available to them, and make decisions accordingly.

In the Arab States region, the proportion of women and girls who have been subjected to intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence is even slightly higher than the global average: 37% of women and girls are affected in the region, according to WHO data. Gender-based violence against women and girls has detrimental and long-lasting consequences to women's and girls' well-being, health and safety. In order to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls effectively, social sectors of a certain minimum standard must be made available to survivors. This is particularly important within the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, related increase in violence against women, and implications on service provision.

This session provides an overview of the essential social services that should be available to survivors, the applicable minimum standards of these services, best practices from the region, and the impact of Covid19 on service provision.

Reading List:

Video: Services for Women and Girls Who Experience Violence – UNFPA – 2016

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UbEirgWVTDC> [English]

News Article: BBC – 2020 - هل فاقمت أزمة كورونا من العنف الواقع على المرأة العربية؟

<https://www.bbc.com/arabic/interactivity-55060915> [Arabic]

Minimum Standards: Module on Social Services within the Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence - UN Women, UNFPA, WHO, UNDP & UNODC – 2015

<https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/Essential-Services-Package-Module-4-ar.pdf> [Arabic]

Policy Brief: Violence against Women and Girls and COVID-19 in the Arab Region – United Nations – 2021

https://www.unescwa.org/sites/default/files/pubs/pdf/violence-against-women-girls-covid-19-arab-region-english_0.pdf (specifically pages 7 to 9). [English]

Report: Shelters for Women Survivors of Violence: Availability and Accessibility in the Arab Region – UN ESCWA, UNFPA, Abaad and WAVE – 2020

<https://www.unescwa.org/publications/shelters-women-survivors-violence-availability-and-accessibility-arab-region> (pages v-vi and 65 to 68). [English]

Policy Brief: COVID-19 and Essential Services Provision for Survivors of Violence Against Women and Girls - A Snapshot from the Arab States – UN Women – 2020

https://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20arab%20states/attachments/publications/2020/08/d1_policy%20brief%20esp_ar_211020.pdf?la=en&vs=5323 [Arabic]