EGM Step by Step towards Costing - Shelters in the Arab Region

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Costing methodologies:

1> Workload model: number of events VAW linked x avg. treatment time x daily rate of staff
2> Event model: number of events VAW linked x avg. costs per event
3> Economic model: number of events VAW linked x (budget global / number of events budget linked)
4> Pragmatic model: combination of the 3 models above based on data options and explicit calculation methods

➢ Not able to choose 1 model, data driven
Basic methodology for cost study: shelters

1> list of unit costs associated with shelters
2> create meta table of data collected for each unit cost
3> lower / upper estimate for each cost
4> software template for all unit costs
5> ‘estimate of an estimate’ and include limitations of data, recommendations for improvements
Shelters: Basic economic model, costs

- Number of shelters in each country (Egypt=9, UAE=3)
- Direct costs:
  - Utilisation rate: % of women experiencing violence using the service - Administrative data in 1 year and trend over past 5 years (Egypt, 1.8% women 18-64)
  - Out-of-pocket expenses: personal expenses for transport to and from shelter
  - Trend data of past 5 years for temporary and long-term refuge/housing, hotel vouchers, vocational training
- Fee paid for the service
- Governmental/NGO/INGO financial support
Data collection options

- Macro level approach: Administrative government and NGO/INGO budgets for shelters
- Micro level approach: Regional surveys/interviews of shelters per Arab country

Source: https://cargocollective.com/michellemorehead/Women-s-Shelter-Clinic-Dubai-United-Arab-Emirates
Shelters: Advanced economic model

Social cost-benefit analysis of domestic violence shelter services (Chanley et al. 2001):

• Two measures of economic efficiency
• Net efficiency of the program (total social benefits minus total social costs) to measure total net economic effects of shelters

➤ Benefit-cost ratio to indicate how much economic benefit is gained from each dollar of investment in a shelter

Shelters: Advanced economic model

Shelter Costs

**Operating costs**: Salaries; employee-related expenses; Professional/outside services; travel; utilities/maintenance; equipment; materials/supplies; miscellaneous expenses; housing costs (land and building); volunteer staffing

**Public assistance costs**: Women who seek refuge at a shelter are predominantly with limited financial resources and may seek financial aid; applicable in Arab region?

**Justice system costs**: Shelter program may lead to increased justice system costs as women are informed of their legal rights, value of justice system

**Productivity costs**: Use of the shelter will prevent more violence and potentially increase productivity
Shelters: Advanced economic model

Shelter Benefits

- **Injuries prevented:** to women and to their children
- **Mental health benefits**
- **Justice system benefits:** By helping women avoid assaults, the shelter program reduces the number of VAW crimes that occur. This reduces the need for police, court, and correction system interventions
- **Productivity benefits:** The reduction in violent assaults will result in increased productivity; included in the estimated value of injuries prevented

➢ Benefits – Costs = net efficiency to determine benefit cost ratio
 Recommendation for costing shelters

First → test basic economic model
• Macro level: ministry, NGO/INGO budgets for shelters
• Document data methodology limitations, weaknesses
• Lower and upper estimates per country and for Arab average annual costs (global annual budget / # stays)

Second → consider whether possible in the future to perform advanced model: social cost-benefit analysis

Point out: shelter costs are low (e.g. 1.6% of total costs) because insufficient number of shelters to meet need!
Conclusion

- Model is data driven
- Assumptions have to be made when data not available -> explicit documentation
- Conservative estimate better than no estimate for economic argument in support of shelters
- Pragmatic model necessary for cost study

For more detailed information on cost study Europe (2009), cost study France (2014), Psytel cost software or further collaboration:

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