

Better support and increased legal rights to women survivors of domestic violence in Palestine

Midterm Review

June 2022



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Introduction

Since 2017, Rural Women's Development Society (RWDS) and DANNER have partnered to support women survivors of domestic violence in Palestine, and to address gender norms that reproduce and legitimise violence against women (VAW). The reviewed intervention, beginning from 2021 and now half-way, refines RWDS' support to violence survivors and builds bridges between strategic services and advocacy efforts by collecting solid data on domestic violence in rural areas in order to advocate for the adoption of a family law which protects survivors of VAW. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it has been difficult to implement the planned activities, and parts of them have been delayed. Despite this, RWDS have been able to adapt to local circumstances and implement activities reaching a large number of women exposed to or at risk of violence.

The purpose of our RWDS-DANNER intervention is to 1) create a supportive and empowering environment for women exposed to domestic violence, 2) work comprehensively with challenging norms that reproduce and legitimize violence, and 3) advocate for the adoption of a family law protecting women victims of violence. RWDS provide group counselling services to women in six rural areas in Hebron and Bethlehem, offer individual counselling services to women exposed to domestic violence at RWDS Women's Clubs, and offer awareness raising sessions to women about VAW and how to identify and handle domestic violence. Through these activities, RWDS aim to contribute to a change in knowledge, attitude and behaviour towards violence.

To apply pressure on key stakeholders for the adoption of a new family law, RWDS and DANNER have focused on strengthening RWDS' advocacy efforts, including up-scaling the systematic collection of data on VAW in Palestine. RWDS have found inspiration in DANNER's work throughout the years on strategically collecting and using data on VAW in advocacy efforts, e.g. when advocating for a law criminalising psychological violence, which was adopted in Denmark in 2019. Activities relating to this have included training of RWDS staff on systematic data collection, enhancement of RWDS' data analysis efforts, as well as advocacy efforts in collaboration with the Palestinian Women's Rights Network, Al Muntada, of which RWDS is an active member.

Methodology and data

Methodology

In conducting the midterm review of this project, we have drawn on the method of *outcome harvesting*. Outcome harvesting is a monitoring and evaluation tool used to identify, describe, verify and analyse the outcomes of the project. Here, an outcome is identified as *change in behavior, relationships, actions, activities, and practices of an individual, group, community, organization or institution*. Outcome harvesting focuses on collecting evidence of change, and then assessing how the project contributed to that change. The specific changes assessed are based on the project's expected outcomes as described in the project's Log Frame, which was designed in the initial period of the project.

Further, outcome harvesting is useful for complex situations where the desired changes and the activities are carried out under unpredictable circumstances. In this way, outcome harvesting is a great tool to deal with both intended and unintended consequences.

Finally, outcome harvesting is a useful method to learn about change in order to improve future performances. This is relevant considering this is a midterm evaluation, as there is still room and time to improve the activities and the project as a whole.

When working with outcome harvesting, we work with a set of unique terms:

| Change agent | Social actor | Harvest user | Harvester |
|--|--|--|--|
| ... is an individual or organisation that influences an outcome. | ... is an individual, group, community, organisation or institution that changes because of a change agent's intervention. | ...is the stakeholder who needs the findings of an outcome harvest to make decisions or take action. | ...is the person or people responsible for managing the outcome harvest. |
| RWDS | Palestinian women in the 6 rural areas targeted in the project | DANNER | Project manager, DANNER |

The six steps of the midterm review

Part 1) Design data collection and collect data

| 1) Design the harvest | 2) Gather data and draft descriptions | 3) Engage with informants |
|--|---|---|
| Interview guide and impact grid workshop was planned and prepared. | DANNER project manager visited Palestine and gathered primary data from RWDS and Al Mun-tada. | Through interviews, DANNER project manager engaged with the target group. |

Part 2) Analyse data and produce text

| 4) Substantiate outcomes | 5) Analyse and interpret | 6) Support use of findings |
|--|---|---|
| The interviews were analysed along with questionnaires and material from the workshop. | Danner and RDWS cooperated on analysing and interpreting the interviews and material from the workshop. | The final midterm evaluation is reviewed by RWDS. |

Data

Pre- and post-questionnaires

This report draws on data from the pre- and post-questionnaires that were distributed to women participating in group counselling, awareness raising sessions, and individual counselling.

The pre- and post-questionnaires have proven to be the most efficient tool for RWDS to measure change among target beneficiaries. Before implementing any activity, RWDS distributed pre- and post-questionnaires to measure changes in both knowledge, attitude, and behavior, before and after the activities. Implementing the use of these questionnaires provided a clear way to measure the outcomes and to see what has been achieved.

The questionnaire was designed by the RWDS team with the support of a local data analyst, and was filled out by the women at the beginning of the activities and after ended activities.



Interviews with social actors

Second, we draw on interviews performed by Danner's harvester. 12 interviews were conducted from an interview guide prepared by Danner and reviewed by RWDS. The purpose of the interviews was to acquire qualitative data on the changes that the women participating in activities have experienced. The material from the interviews was analysed using content coding, to decipher which changes can be identified. During the project we added a stronger focus on measuring not only changes in knowledge and attitude but also changes in behavior, and the interviews were useful for that purpose.

Data from the questionnaires and the interviews was compared in order to find coherence between the two.

Interview with Al Muntada

To evaluate on desired outcomes relating to advocacy efforts, we carried out an interview with Al Muntada. In this project, Al Muntada works as both a change agent and a social actor. The interview guide was designed to capture how the partnership between RWDS and Al Muntada contributes to realising the desired outcomes, but also to identify some of the challenges present in relation to the current project setup.

Impact grid workshop

During the latest monitoring trip, Danner's harvester conducted an impact grid workshop with RWDS' key staff and management. An impact grid is a tool that supports stakeholders involved in a development intervention to analyse multiple changes by mapping those changes onto a grid. The grid then provides a visual aid to help analyse the changes. It provides a graphic interpretation of changes showing 'the big picture', and enables stakeholders to look for patterns and discuss why some changes are seen as more important than others, or why stakeholders differ in their views about an organisation, programme or the project's contribution to change. The results from the impact grid workshop are analysed alongside the rest of the data.

The impact grid workshop consisted of four steps:

Step 1: Identifying changes in relation to the situation before RWDS-Danner's current intervention

Step 2: Assessing the significance of identified changes; and the contribution made by RWDS-Danner

Step 3: Identifying stronger and weaker contributions

Step 4: Catching the surprising and unexpected



Meeting with RWDS and project management

In March 2022, DANNER's project manager and harvester, visited RWDS in Bethlehem and Ramallah. The purpose of the trip was to monitor the ongoing implementation of project activities, to revisit the partnership and cooperation, and to collect data for this midterm evaluation.



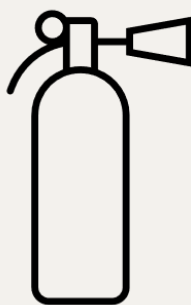
Due to the pandemic, this trip was the first since 2019. RWDS and Danner spent three days together, holding status meetings, talking to field staff, observing and participating in project activities, revising implementation plans and collecting data and best practices from the project. Having the opportunity to not only communicate online but also meet physically provided a solid basis for the continuation of a strong and healthy partnership.

Counselling and protection services



RWDS has provided support group counselling services to **190 women** from the targeted areas in six rural areas in Bethlehem and Hebron within the first year and a half of this project. Each group consisted of 20-25 women and met for **eight sessions**. Focus was on developing strategies to deal with domestic violence in their family and community, and deepening their understanding of gender roles and women's rights.

RWDS has provided awareness sessions to an **additional 190 women** about violence against women, focusing on identifying and handling incidents, knowledge on VAW, tools for dialogue and handling violence, and promoting safe environments.



RWDS has provided protection and prevention services to **122 women** who sought help after reporting being exposed to domestic violence.

39 of the women contacted RWDS social workers after attending the awareness sessions.

61 heard about the services from participants in RWDS' women's clubs.

22 heard about the services from announcements distributed in the local councils and from social media (Facebook).

Summary: Who are the project's participants?

22% of the women hold a bachelor's degree.

Around 45% have completed high school.

30% have completed primary school.



More than 73% of the women are housewives/unemployed.

11 % are employed.

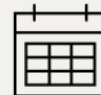
6 % are farmers.

3% are students.

4% work as freelancers.

The majority (**65%**) of the women are between **37-56 years old.**

35% of the women are **20-36 years old.**



About **80% of the women** participating in the activities **are married**, 5% are widowed 11% are single, and 3% are divorced.

Numbers: Group counselling

84.5% of the women participating stated beforehand that they are suffering from bad economic and social situations and are exposed to one or several forms of violence. Out of these,

60% are exposed to *psychological violence*.

41% are exposed to *economical violence*.

Around **25 %** are exposed to *physical violence*.



Numbers: Group counselling

- what changed?

48 women (31%) stated in the pre-questionnaires that they feel they can find solutions to their problems and face their obstacles.



68 women (44%) stated in the post-questionnaires that they feel they can find solutions to their problems and face their obstacles.

51 women (33%) stated in the pre-questionnaire that they feel secure and that they have a stable mental health and self-esteem.



87 women (56%) stated in the post-questionnaire that they feel secure and that they have a stable mental health and self-esteem.

108 women (69%) stated in the pre-questionnaire that they possess tools and skills to communicate better and are able to have healthy dialogues with their husbands and children.



138 women (88%) stated in the post-questionnaire that they possess tools and skills to communicate better and are able to have healthy dialogues with their husbands and children.

Numbers: Awareness raising sessions

73 % are exposed to psychological violence

62 % are exposed to economical violence

69 % are exposed physical violence

62 % are exposed to sexual violence

72 % are exposed to digital violence



Numbers: Awareness raising sessions

- What changed?

106 women (59%) disagree in the pre-questionnaire that men are allowed to resort to violence in order to get their wife to obey.



158 women (88%) disagree in the post-questionnaire regarding the justification of violence as a means to obedience.

58 women (32%) in the pre-questionnaire believe that women have the ability to hold high positions in society.



124 women (69%) in the post-questionnaire believe that women have the ability to hold high positions in society.

85 women (87%) disagree in the pre-questionnaire that men should have the last word.



175 women (95%) disagree in the post-questionnaire that men should have the last word.

What has been achieved?

Development of strategies to deal with domestic violence

A majority of women state that after having participated in RWDS' women's groups, they now know where to go and how to react if and when exposed to domestic violence. The women identify a change, as domestic violence has moved from being an unchallenged basic condition to being perceived as a violation one can articulate, seek support from and act upon.

"Now I know what violence means, especially against women. My husband used to be violent with me. In these trainings I learned where to seek help and how to react. I learned how to solve my problems and how to deal with violence"

- Interview with woman who participated in RWDS' women's groups

Some women report that they can share this newly gained knowledge, awareness and tools with other women in their local community. After having participated in RWDS' women's groups they are able to support each other and especially younger women who face controlling behaviour and domestic violence. They can support them with knowledge on violence and their rights and on existing support pathways and possibilities, such as organisations, hotlines etc. that can be contacted when in need

The women who participated in the women's groups report to be more involved in their local community. This demonstrates a shift from domestic violence being a private matter of the individual household to violence being perceived as societal problem – as something you can and are allowed to talk about out loud. This change of norms is, according to the women, highly connected to attending the women's group and gaining a new network of women or having their existing social circle of women in their local community strengthened. In the interviews conducted, many women directly spoke about a 'before' and 'after' the women's groups.

The women confirm the relevance of being able to share experiences of domestic violence while also learning about other women's experiences, and the impact this can have on gaining strategies to deal with domestic violence and acknowledging domestic violence as a rights violation—as something that is unacceptable and not self-inflicted. It is mentioned that they feel stronger knowing their rights and what to do when dealing with domestic violence. The women feel more empowered, strong, and self-confident in confronting domestic violence after having participated in RWDS' women's groups.

Before the awareness raising sessions only **70 women (39%)** knew where to go if they experienced violence. After the awareness raising sessions **135 women (75%)** knew where to seek help.



What has been achieved?

Understanding of gender roles, rights and norms is enhanced

"I started to be stronger and I started to defend myself, I increased my self-confidence. I used to cry all the time, but now, no! I stand in front of him and I tell him that I will go to the specialized staff and tell them what happened with me"

- Interview with woman who participated in RWDS' women's groups

Providing a new understanding of domestic violence and increasing women's empowerment and self-confidence is strongly connected to the enhanced understanding of gender roles, rights and norms.

Participating women report to have gained increased knowledge on the topic of violence, hereunder the different types of violence; digital violence, psychological violence, physical violence, sexualized violence, and economic violence.

The women report that they are now to a higher degree knowledgeable on how to claim their rights, and many report to have gained new beneficial knowledge on their rights regarding inheritance and dowry, claiming that they increasingly perceive themselves as an equal partner in the household. This is not an understanding that is given in the rural areas of Palestine

where societal norms largely continue to be heavily affected by patriarchal norms. This change in understandings of gender roles and gender norms is clearly reflected in the questionnaires.

The massive shift in opinions about what is considered violence emphasizes the shift that was happening in the women's perception of gender roles, norms and rights.

78 women (50%) in the pre-questionnaire agreed that if men forbid their wives to work, it is means of control. In the post-questionnaire, **153 women (98%) agreed.**

74 women (47%) in the pre-questionnaire agreed that men's disposal of their wife's property is violence. In the post-questionnaire **149 women (95%) agreed.**

85 women (47%) in the pre-questionnaire agreed that that punishing a woman, if they leave the house without permissions is violence. In the post-questionnaire **162 (90%) women agreed.**

(Data from group counselling)

Across RWDS' women's groups, one issue has been re-occurring: A lacking acceptance from the husbands of their wives' attendance in the women's club meetings. Many women and men in the targeted areas believe, due to patriarchal structures and norms, that men are the natural head of the household. However, a recent survey on norms and masculinities in Palestine concludes that although patriarchal norms are still prevalent, patriarchal structures, such as gender relations and gender attitudes, are gradually changing. The women in our project further report that after having participating in RWDS' women's groups, they are to a greater extent able to articulate their

own thoughts and feelings, and e.g. stand up to their husbands if they are disapproving of or keeping them from participating in the women's group. They state that they are less hesitant and afraid to insist and explain to their husbands and male relatives why they should be able to attend RWDS' activities.

The combination of women talking more openly about domestic violence, knowing where to go and who to contact while also being aware of their rights and understanding how norms and gender roles play out in their local community is the key driving factor for the change this project has effected.

Norms

94 women (52%) disagree in the pre-questionnaire that men should have the last word in the household. In the post-questionnaire, **158 (88%) women** disagree.

58 women (32%) in the pre-questionnaire think that they have the ability to reach high positions. In the post-questionnaire **124 women (69%)** think so.

106 women (59%) in the pre-questionnaire disagree that men are allowed to use violence on wives who disobey them. In the post-questionnaire **171 women (95%)** disagree.

(Data from the awareness raising sessions)

What has been achieved?

A supportive and empowering environment

One of the most significant effects of the project became visible when interviewing women on their gains from the project. Here, it became clear that many women have experienced their participation as fundamentally empowering. They report that they feel stronger, more secure, braver, and are setting limits and defend themselves more after attending the women's groups. One woman reports that attending the group gave her support to attend local elections which sparked her political interest. She is now a member of the local village council.

Generally, the women's group have had a huge personal impact on the participants and participation has led to life changing events, such as receiving support in cases of domestic violence, being empowered and supported in getting a (first) job, changing ways regarding raising one's children and changing the way they communicate with their husbands and children.

Many women state that they gained new self-care skills and learned more about themselves, and that they now know how to express these feelings in a safe environment.

"The women's club was different than any other thing in the past for me (...) I became stronger person"

"I was down and now I am up, I didn't know how to defend myself, I didn't want to talk to anyone, I didn't know what life has, my life has changed to better"

- Interview with women who participated in RWDS' women's groups

What has been achieved?

The change is spreading

When analysing the interviews, it became clear that the positive change identified is not limited to the women participating. Several of the women reported that when they shared what they learnt in the women's group with their husbands and other family members, these were interested to hear more, and some actually participated in other RWDS activities. Some husbands and brothers to some degree experienced a change of mind, in their views on gender roles and domestic violence. In most of the interviews the women express with great joy and some pride that they now know how to help other women in their local community.

Many of the women report they want to

pass this knowledge, empowerment and awareness of own rights to their children, especially their daughters.

One woman shares that she distributes her new knowledge on gender roles, rights and reflections on parenting on social media and that she has a substantial amount of women followers. Another woman shares that she, after having a lot of conflicts and a dysfunctional dynamic with her teen son, brought him to some RWDS activities which contributed to changing his views and attitudes. Thus, the positive change is not limited to the women attending the groups but has proven to have an unexpected reach throughout the women's local communities in the six targeted rural areas in Bethlehem and Hebron.

"I take my son with me to the trainings. I feel like he has changed 100 percent. Whatever I gain from those trainings, I teach my kids. You are like a model in front of them when they see you are strong."

- Interview with woman who participated in RWDS' women's groups

What has been achieved?

A social community and a positive social impact during and after Covid -19

A social impact that was not expected when starting the project was the critical need for social activities after the Covid-19 lockdown. Some of the women explained how the gatherings on Zoom severely decreased loneliness during the lockdown. Many of the women mention the community in RWDS as something special where they can just be women and share their experiences and stories. This change reaches beyond the desired outcomes of this project where the project activities have fostered an unforeseen social community.



"I felt like the workshops came at the perfect time after covid and the bad situation we were in"

- Interview with woman who participated in RWDS' women's groups

Al Muntada and RWDS

– a dynamic partnership

Who are Al Muntada?

The 'Palestinian Non-Governmental Organization Against Domestic Violence Against Women', Al Muntada, comprises 17 women's organizations. Al Muntada are experts on advocacy, and they are leading the new protests against femicide and have scaled up their demand for the immediate implementation of a new family protection law, protecting women victims of violence.

How does RWDS contribute to Al Muntada's work and vice versa?

RWDS are an active member of Al Muntada, through which they work on influencing laws and policies that hinder women's rights and enforcing the adaptation of the new family protection law through lobbying, advocacy and campaigning initiatives.

RWDS have representatives in Al Muntada, which ensures that they can contribute with development of strategic plans, campaigns, action plans and other advocacy related work relating to the adoption of a new family law. This work is also supported by volunteers from RWDS. RWDS participate in meetings with decision makers and provide a vital insight into the local context and communities in which they work.

Further, RWDS are the entry to the local community and can increase public awareness about the importance of women's rights. At the same time Al Muntada are experts in the lobbying and advocacy part and use RWDS's data and knowledge about the local context to assist in the development of policy papers. RWDS operate on the local level, while Al Muntada work on the national level.



منتدى المنظمات الأهلية الفلسطينية لمناهضة العنف ضد المرأة
Palestinian Non-Governmental Organization Against Domestic
Violence Against Women (Al Muntada)

In this way, RWDS and Al Muntada have a fruitful and dynamic partnership where they mutually support each other in reaching their common goal of change in attitudes towards women's rights among key stakeholders and changing the family law.

Knowledge on domestic violence in Palestine

Strengthening the collection of data on domestic violence in Palestine plays a key role in the partnership of RWDS and Al Muntada. RWDS have throughout the project period strengthened their data collection skills and procedures towards a more systematic data collection. RWDS contribute to Al Muntada's data collecting system 'Bank of Information'. The *Bank of Information Data for Women Survivors of violence in Palestine* now collects data from all of Al Muntada's 17 Palestinian women's rights organizations.

Challenges

The economic and political situation

The political situation - counter campaigning

The political framework surrounding RWDS' work is that there are no legislation available protecting women victims of violence in Palestine. This is despite the fact that CEDAW was endorsed without reservations in 2014.

Recently, RWDS and Al Muntada have witnessed a counter campaign against the incorporation of CEDAW in the Palestinian national laws led by conservative leaders of local clans and political Islamic parties. This counter-campaign complicates the advocacy work for the adoption of the Family Law and fosters a political environment where women's rights are not a political priority. In the conducted interview, Al Muntada express their concern regarding the lack of political will and commitment to support women's rights on a national policy level.

Further, the counter campaigning has

recently targeted individuals working for a new family law. Al Muntada members report feeling unsafe and targeted on a personal level. This contributes to a shrinking of civil space which we in RWDS and DANNER observe with concern.

Lack of access to support

Lack of national funding for this area is an obstacle. Shelters are in high demand and there is not enough financial support for them. This limits the opportunities of pathways for women victims of domestic violence and challenges protection mechanisms.

Lack of financial independence

The economic situation is an obstacle on a personal level for women wanting to break free from violence. Many are economically dependent on their family or husband, which is one of the greatest barriers for breaking free from violence. Economic independence is a key factor in strategies to deal with domestic violence.



Challenges

Norms and traditions in the local community

Almost all the women highlight the norms, traditions and culture in their local community as the greatest obstacle they face.

Some give concrete examples about how citizens in the community judge them about attending the women's group or getting a job, and others report that their family members oppose their attendance. Though we see a change in attitudes in the women attending the groups, they still face barriers in responding to and acting on their new perspectives. The patriarchal and religious norms that rule to some extent the local communities where RWDS operate hinder the women in breaking free from violence and living out their dreams and desires.

When facing judgement and indignation from your surroundings, it is natural to feel disempowered. It is the ambition of

RWDS and DANNER that this challenge can be overcome by the continuous spreading of impact to family members and society that we have experienced in this project so far.

Perceiving domestic violence as an individual (and self-inflicted) problem

Many women subjected to violence hesitate to seek legal support and aid services. Some do not know about the existence of support services, such as support hotlines, safe houses and local family protection units. Many report a lack of trust in existing state funded services and institutions. Others prefer settling cases of domestic violence privately, as domestic violence is perceived as an individual and private matter. The women often blame themselves for being in a situation of domestic violence. They fear their local community's reaction, and many survivors of violence avoid documenting incidents of abuse.

"The community is an obstacle for my future. A woman working is not accepted in my community. It is destructive for me, this community"

"The biggest obstacle was the mentality and culture in the community where I live, I don't see myself in it. I constantly try to balance the current culture I live in and my beliefs"

- Interview with women who participated in RWDS' women's groups

Challenges

External factors

Corona

The lockdown resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic in the first period of project implementation entailed complete isolation of whole cities and the closure of markets, schools, universities, mosques, churches, and a ban of major social gatherings. Unsurprisingly, the lockdown represented the main practical obstacle that the project faced. Whole areas were completely closed down, and travel between governorates, and to some extent also within governorates became largely impossible. The pandemic therefore forced the project staff to postpone certain activities that require presence in the field.

Like in the rest of the world, the lockdown led to an increase in domestic violence cases in Palestine. The increase in domestic violence led RWDS and DANNER to apply for separate CISU funding for emergency support to women victims of isolation and violence during the lockdown. The parallel project that was carried out drew on existing RWDS staff and their many existing connections to women exposed to or at risk of violence in the targeted areas. The project activities included development of emergency plans, counselling services, and deliverance of food and hygiene parcels to women and children.

This redirection of implementation and new procedures and work environment imposed under covid proved to put great pressure on RWDS field staff. This, combined with the tragic death due to Corona of RWDS director Nadia Harb, took a great toll on the entire RWDS staff. However, the RWDS organisation has proven to be resilient and has throughout this process adapted their efforts.

The occupation

The occupation is a constant and unpredictable threat for all project activities in Palestine. It can take the form of cancellation or postponement of day-to-day activities due to increased control from Israeli authorities, which will hinder free movement on the West Bank.

Further, the ongoing conflict is always a priority on the political agenda in Palestine, leaving other challenges such as combatting domestic violence underprioritized. A risk is therefore that obtaining the necessary political awareness regarding the adoption of a family law will not be prioritized by Palestinian authorities due to pressing aspects of the ongoing conflict.

In the post-questionnaires **87% women said that the roles and home chores increased** since the beginning of covid-19.

In the post-questionnaires **88.5% women said that their economic situation became worse** since Covid-19.

Data from both awareness raising sessions and group counselling

Why did the project succeed?

In this section we will address why the project at large has been highly successful in obtaining its outcomes.

1. RWDS as an organization have access to a large group of rural women and their families. In addition, RWDS have specific knowledge on the local context these women and their families live in. Besides supporting women through sessions, RWDS are also meeting other stakeholders and members of their communities to help creating positive trends and constructive environments for discussions of the role of women and gender equality. RWDS' social workers have in many cases spoken directly to the families and husbands of the women participating in the project. The success that has been seen in RWDS' work, can partly be ascribed to RWDS' deep roots in the local communities.
2. RWDS and Danner have years of experience in cooperating. The project builds on 3 years of work between Danner and RWDS, which means earlier experiences and learnings can be taken into account when planning the present project, leading to some mistakes being countered.
3. While the overall societal change is difficult to measure, the spread of influence is one of the reasons for success of the project. The positive impact of the project reached the whole family including children, and not only the women included in the activities. Here, it is important to consider the young generation as agents of change.
4. One of the remarkable aspects of the partnership is the possibility of referring women to the most suitable activities: RWDS are running, in cooperation with other organisations, empowerment projects, such as economic empowerment (micro financing) and skills training workshops. RWDS staff work actively to make sure that the women they meet through other activities, who are exposed to or at risk of violence are invited to and are attending the activities in the RWDS-DANNER partnership. In this way, with RWDS' unique access to the target group, it is possible for the staff to internally refer women to their most relevant activities available.
5. Gender norms are shifting in Palestine. Although patriarchal norms are still dominant in society, gender relations and gender attitudes are positively changing. This change creates space for further work by RWDS, especially when the planned project activities are challenging norms among children by working with school students and challenging norms among men by engaging fathers will be implemented throughout the second half of the intervention period.
6. The ongoing data collection contributes to reviewing the activities and their effect during the project period. In this way, activities can be modified if we don't observe the changes we strive for.

Future prospects and recommendations

The holistic approach must continue in order to create sustainable change

What characterizes this project is its holistic approach to target the whole community when aiming for change. Despite the fact that this midterm report hasn't been able to evaluate on the activities targeting fathers and children, we have still seen the far-reaching effects of the activities that were possible to carry out. This emphasizes the importance of reaching further than just to women in the Palestinian communities

Future projects should continue to build on the needs of the target groups

We have discovered the importance of building programs based on the needs of the target groups themselves, as the group members are more aware of the shortcomings, necessities, and struggles within each group. In this project we have so far seen the fruitful changes that come with specific local knowledge and involvement in the communities.

Ongoing data collection is vital

The ongoing systematic data collection before and after the activities contributes to reviewing the activities and their effect during the project period. In this way activities can be modified if we don't observe the changes we want. Continuation of data collection is vital in order to track changes and observe needs in the target group. At the same time, it contributes to the accumulated pool of data available on VAW in Palestine.

