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Arab Women Organization of Jordan



RAPID ASSESSMENT

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON MOSAWA NETWORK ORGANISATIONS JORDAN

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RAPID ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON MOSAWA NETWORK ORGANISATIONS IN JORDAN

The overall aim of this rapid assessment is to better understand the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on women-led organizations affiliated to Mosawa Network in Jordan. Mosawa Network is an umbrella that involves 106 women-led organizations from the local communities. It is run by the Arab Women Organization in Jordan (AWO) and founded in 2005.

The assessment included questions related to providing services during the lock-down using the technological tools; crisis management; and the implications of COVID-19 on women.

Field of work of Mosawa Network Organizations



METHODOLOGY

This assessment was conducted by AWO Jordan on May, 2020 via a survey questionnaire.

As Mosawa Network functions through a flexible structure which involves 12 focal points, representing the 12 Jordanian governorates. An initial step was planned to conduct an orientation meeting with the 12 focal points via ZOOM application. Each focal point is responsible for connecting the organizations in each governorate and to get the answers the questionnaire.

Subsequently, 71 organizations responded from all governorates in Jordan. As most of Mosawa Network are women-led organisations, the respondents were all women.

Main findings

Providing services during the lock-down using the technological tools

-More than 75% of respondents of Mosawa Network organizations mentioned that 90% of their activities have been suspended during the curfew.

When asked if they work remotely during the lockdown, 82% of respondents said: yes. They are managing the activities from home via some applications like; WhatsApp, phone calls, Facebook and Zoom application. 66% are experiencing challenges in accessing electronic applications and social media platforms. The reasons are: -unavailable strong internet connection, unavailable laptops, - unavailable smart phones, -lack of technology skills or

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challenges in accessing electronic applications and social media platforms.

The reasons :

- Unavailable strong internet connection.
- Unavailable laptops,Unavailable smart phones.
- Lack of technology skills or support.
- Lack of internet credit cards.
- Understanding how to use web browsers, search engines, email, text, wiki, blogs, Photoshop, power-point, video creation/editing software, etc. to showcase learning.

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When asked if they face any challenges to reach the beneficiaries through online applications, 85% of respondents said that it is very difficult to provide the services online for the following reasons: -Most of the beneficiaries live in rural and remote areas without online applications because of lacking the internet coverage in these areas, - financial difficulty to keep buying internet credit cards and - lack of the smartphones. Furthermore, most of the beneficiaries lack the knowledge and the skills to use these applications. Hence, they prefer using phone calls or direct connection.

The Implications of COVID-19 on women

As for the perception of women leaders on the impact of COVID-19 on in grassroots communities. The answers were divided into three aspects;

Economic implications;

%79 respondents said that women in such communities depend on marketing products of small income-generating projects. During the lock-down the markets are no longer opened for their products. Knowing that most of these women are the main source of income to their families and some of them are the head of their families. For instance, women farmers, daily-wage female workers, women who own, what's called "productive kitchen/food delivery", etc. Respondents have pointed out that women are bearing unequal load. In Addition to carrying out the unpaid household work, including both direct care of persons, such as children or the elderly, and indirect care, such as cooking, cleaning, and teaching, they have to manage extra burden during the lockdown.

79% of Women

depend on marketing products of small income-generating projects.



Women farmers



Women who own, what's called
"productive kitchen/food delivery"



Daily-wage female workers

Social and psychological implications;

Women reported that the economic impact have led to social and psychological implications. 54% said that women are suffering from anxiety and fear from the future as their economic status are collapsing. The increase in tension in the families has resulted in escalating violence against women who find themselves alone in facing the dangers of violence, in very severe social and economic conditions, with their abuser in the same place. In Jordan, “1534 cases of domestic violence in the first month of the lockdown, an increase of 33% compared to the same period last year – as stated by the Director of Family Protection Department”.

In the same context, respondents mentioned that women were overwhelmed and overworked during the lockdown due to the multifold load on women of the traditional family duties, online schooling, working remotely (If the mother is a worker), and more efforts of the family health care with limited resources. Women stand alone in such hard circumstances to bear all these responsibilities and to meet all family needs. Thus, women are becoming fatigued physically and emotionally.

As a result, what women have achieved in the past years regarding the gender stereotypes is rolling to a pushback because of the Corona crisis.

Few respondents indicated that the lockdown has impacted positively on women as they consider it an opportunity for the family members to stay together at home. “I feel that my husband has finally realized my significant role at home. Thus, he asked to help me with the family duties) one woman said.



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Health implications;

Due to the economic, social, and psychological impact during COVID19 crisis women are more susceptible to diseases than men. 35% of Respondents mentioned that the increase of the double or even triple load on women during the lockdown has exposed them to weakening the immune system

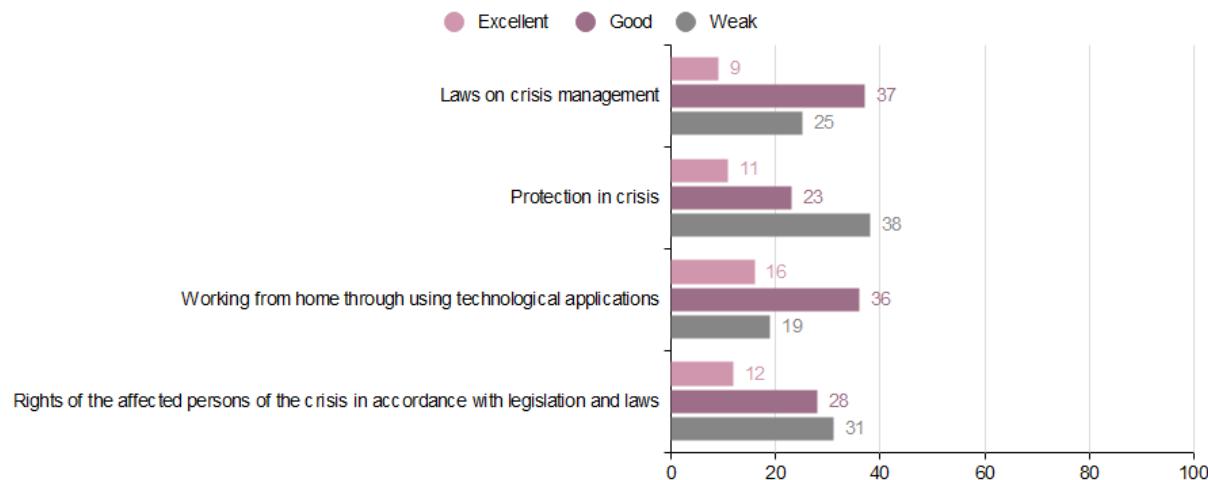


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Crisis Management

In the Rapid Assessment questionnaire, a question that is outlining women's knowledge on crisis management showed that 96% of respondents reported negatively and added that grassroots organizations need to be empowered by training on skills and knowledge of the necessary emergency and prevention measures against COVID-19 and how to cope with crises, in general.

Let's see together how they commented on the skills they need to manage a crisis;



- **Laws on crisis management;** 9% of respondents reported that they have an excellent knowledge on laws and legislations on crisis management while 37% mentioned that they have good knowledge and 25% have weak skills.
- **Protection in crisis;** 11% of women mentioned that they have an excellent knowledge on protection in crisis while 23 % said they do not have enough knowledge on such issue and 38% have basic understanding on protection during crisis.
- **Working from home through using technological applications;** 16% of women said that they have excellent skills while 36% of them have good knowledge and skills, and 19% are weak at using the online applications.
- **Rights of the affected persons of the crisis in accordance with legislation and laws;**
12% of respondents reported that they have an excellent knowledge on laws and legislation on rights of the affected persons during the crisis while 28% mentioned that they have good knowledge and 31% have weak skills.

Thus, the respondents' knowledge and skills on the above-mentioned topics need to be improved. Consequently, there is an urgent need to build the capacities and skills of women-led organizations on these topics.

SDG5: Gender Equality and Empowerment of all Women and Girls

When women were asked about their perceptions on the impact of the crisis on Goal 5 of the SDGs. 74% of women believe that this crisis will impact negatively on the G5. Respondents indicated that it is very noticeable how women in Jordan had been marginalized during the crisis management while men had the lead. This can lead to a pushback on gender equality process .

Respondents had also mentioned that COVID19 crisis contributed to deepening inequalities as it has affected all industries and economies around the world, with negative impact exacerbated on women because they: - often receive less income, - work with insecure jobs that push them to live on the poverty line and - face high levels of domestic violence .

Few respondents indicated that women's issues are always marginalized during any crisis. In Jordan, these respondents believe that this crisis will put Goal 5 of the SDGs on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of All Women & Girls aside under the pretext of giving priority to security and health .

Few women respondents had noticed that their husband's perceptions on the importance of women work have changed to realize that women contribution does really matter. This positive change in the behavior of men can be considered as an achievement for gender equality as men started to acknowledge women new roles .

% 26of respondents mentioned that COVID19 crisis has impacted men and women in the same way in term of economic and health and social life.

74% of women

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The needs of Mosawa Network organizations to cope with the crisis and to outreach the local communities

In answering the questions about their needs as women organisations to cope with the crisis and to outreach the local communities, 74% of respondents reported that the priority is to learn how to work remotely using the technological applications and to deal with technology as an empowering tool. Some of them mentioned that it is necessary to create a special online platform for the Mosawa Network organisations to communicate with each other and also to reach the community through this platform.

Furthermore, women mentioned that their organisations are facing hard financial situation as most of them depend on income-generating, which stopped working during the lockdown. When women were asked to work remotely and to market their products online, they said that they are not ready yet to face the new challenges of using the technology and also they don't have the tools to work from home such as; smartphones, internet cards, and laptops. Another challenge was mentioned on getting funds for their organisations as most of them are facing difficulties in writing proposals for the donors.

Respondents also indicated that they need training on crisis management and emergencies in order to cope with any crisis and to mitigate the risks.

Most of respondents highlighted the significant role of women-led organizations in dealing with the crisis as they are in touch with the local communities and vulnerable people more than any other entities. Nevertheless, women reported that they were not able to reach the community and provide food and assistance to vulnerable people due to the lockdown measures. Women said that the government should have involved the local organisations in the crisis response.

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Conclusions:

- The Rapid Assessment highlighted the contributions of women-led organizations, especially those in the rural and remote areas and their potential to add value to public efforts in mitigating the crisis risks.
- The Jordanian government was gender blind towards women special needs and towards women important participation as first liners in responding to the crisis.

Recommendations:

- There is an urgent need to build the capacities of women-led organizations in:
 - Digital skills to be able to cope with the current situation and the “Post COVID19” situation.
 - Knowledge and skills on crisis management to leverage popular participation in confronting crises.
 - Writing innovative proposals to confront pandemics to donors.
- Awareness raising on the linkages between the current crisis and the SDGs with special focus on Goal 5: Gender Equality and Empowerment of all women and girls.
- Address policy-makers to consider safe outreach of survivors of domestic VAW that rises during crises.
- To create a special online platform for the Mosawa Network organizations to:
 - Communicate remotely with each other and also to reach the community through this platform in times of crises.
 - To support the products of the small income-generating projects through online outlets.
 - To attract, engage and activate the role of young women leaders.
- Encourage women-led organizations to conduct research that revises "Gender Dimensions during Corona crisis in Jordan.

