



## **BUILDING LOCAL P/CVE CAPACITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST THROUGH COMMUNITY PREVENTION NETWORKS**

### **QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT: LEBANON AND JORDAN**

Report submission date: March 31, 2021

Performance period: October – December 2020

#### **SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS: LEBANON**

- Prevention of Violent Extremism training delivered to the five new municipalities and the three partner municipalities awarded grants to scale up PVE work in Lebanon
- Positive Parenting Sessions delivered in Majdal Anjar
- Draft strategy developed for the establishment of a Psychosocial Support Unit in Saida
- PVE activities implemented by municipalities awarded grants by SCN

#### **SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS: JORDAN**

- PVE dialogue sessions “Dewaneyat” organised and policy-briefs produced
- Murals painted in the three-member cities in order to convey messages of peace and social cohesion
- Legal aid network in Zarqa continued defending the rights of individuals on the cusp of being pushed to violence

#### **COMPLETED ACTIVITIES: LEBANON**

**Outcome A: Increased ability of the community Prevention Networks (PNs) in select municipalities to meaningfully engage with local, national and international policymakers and peers to support the implementation of the national P/CVE strategies.**

The situation in Lebanon remains unstable, with the country witnessing the worst economic crisis in decades, leading to social unrest and political turmoil. With community vulnerabilities exacerbated by the overlapping crises of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Beirut port explosion, thousands have been pushed into poverty. In October 2020, general inflation rose to 137 percent, while food price inflation recorded an annual increase of more than 440 percent, affecting people across the country. In August 2020, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia estimated that more than 55 percent of the population live in poverty and struggle for basic necessities, up from 28 percent in 2019.<sup>1</sup> Similarly, with more than 60 percent of young people unemployed<sup>2</sup>, COVID-19 restrictions imposed by the government have pushed youth to the streets to protest.

Throughout these challenging circumstances, the Strong Cities Network (SCN) continued to carefully monitor local communities’ needs through consultations with Local Prevention Network (LPN) focal points, prevention network members, as well as other local partners and stakeholders. During the reporting period, tailored preventing violent extremism (PVE) programs were delivered to enhance the resilience of vulnerable youth by involving them in community engagement initiatives meant to enhance local responses to hate and polarization.

---

<sup>1</sup> (Relief Web- GIEWS Country Brief: Lebanon 02-December-2020)

<sup>2</sup> (Relief Web- GIEWS Country Brief: Lebanon 02-December-2020)



### **Local- Local Coordination**

In line with the framework of scaling up PVE initiatives in Lebanon, training was delivered to new and existing partner municipalities on the National Strategy for PVE in Lebanon, in partnership with the National PVE Unit. The training highlighted indicators of radicalization, the concepts of individual and social resilience, and the role of education in preventing violent extremism and hate speech. Furthermore, municipalities presented their action plans and how they contribute to local PVE programming.

Municipalities commenced their activities, delivering a range of context-sensitive initiatives that aimed to raise awareness on Prevention of Violent Extremism. Awareness messages were disseminated through Interactive approaches such as media, arts and sports. Youth groups were established and empowered to engage in peer-to-peer awareness activities on PVE. Training teachers and initiating dialogue sessions with religious leaders to adopt the “Religious Tolerance Advocacy Agenda” developed by SCN were also major activities initiated by municipalities. Furthermore, two municipalities choose to work on socio-economic initiatives through local engagement, vocational and entrepreneurship programs due to the failing economic situation.

### **National-Local Coordination**

The SCN partnered with the British Council in Lebanon and the National PVE Unit to deliver a series of virtual training sessions on monitoring extremist groups online. The workshops are intended to support the LPNs and local civil society organizations working on PVE. Workshops are expected to take place during the second quarter of 2021.

### **National-International Coordination**

A virtual meeting on the Dutch Safety Houses model and its lessons learned for rehabilitation, reintegration, national-local coordination and institutionalization in Jordan and Lebanon was scheduled to take place in mid-December 2020. However, due to the newly-appointed government in Jordan, the National PVE Unit advised postponing the meeting in order to include relevant national stakeholders from the Jordanian parliamentary PVE committee. The meeting was rescheduled to take place during the first quarter of 2021.

### **Outcome B: Enhanced quality of P/CVE activities by PNs targeting vulnerable youth, teachers, youth workers and religious leaders in select municipalities in Jordan and Lebanon.**

In response to the political, social and economic crises in Lebanon, the LPNs were capable of anticipating responses to their communities’ emerging needs and vulnerabilities. Coordination meetings with focal points, LPN members and contact points of municipalities receiving awards under the call for proposals, are regularly being conducted to plan and implement activities and develop strategies to respond to local challenges.

#### **Majdal Anjar**

Positive parenting sessions were delivered to address child needs and behaviour, enhance familial relationships and provide guidance on identifying early signs of extremism among children and youth.

A seminar was also organized on religious teaching in educational institutions and its essential role in raising awareness to prevent violent extremism. Representatives from Lebanon’s Sunni authority Dar Al-Fatwa, municipal members, religious scholars, academics and civil society activists participated.

A short movie that aims to combat stigmatization and stereotyping about Majdal Anjar is also in progress. It will integrate the initiatives that are implemented by the LPN in a comprehensive approach to display a positive reflection that counters Majdal Anjar’s violence and extremism labelling.



## **Saida**

The teachers' PVE toolkit was tested with Saida's private and public-school teachers in a 2-day workshop. During the coming period, a psychologist and a governance expert will be consulted to contribute to specific sections in the toolkit. Recommendations will feed into the final version of the toolkit that will be presented to the Ministry of Education to discuss roll-out across schools in Lebanon.

Furthermore, the LPN started preparing for the creation of a Psychosocial Support Unit at the municipality. This included several preparatory meetings with experts to explain the unit's objectives and the development of a draft strategy for community outreach. Training will start during the next quarter, for LPN members, teachers, scout leaders and youth on psychological first aid, detection and referral will take place.

## **Tripoli**

The SCN team and the LPN are working together with Tri-pulley initiative, a socio-economic impact initiative that matches unemployed skilled individuals with vulnerable families over a period of seven months. Through this partnership, vulnerable youth and ex-prisoners are provided with employment opportunities through community service activities complemented by professional psychosocial support and life skills training. So far, four individuals have benefitted from the initiative and are providing services to 20 youth and children. This activity will help support a key strategic objective to develop effective community-based rehabilitation and reintegration mechanisms.

It is worth noting that in response to the existing crisis, the LPN has provided 30 disadvantaged teenagers who do not have access to online tutoring with tablets containing curriculum to help them study at home when schools are closed during the COVID-19 lockdown.

During the next reporting period, and parallel to the initiative that was conducted by the Tripoli LPN with youth and parents in Jabal Mohsen, a training program will be delivered to youth in Bab Al Tabbaneh. The training will be based specifically on a need's assessment conducted with the vulnerable youth. However, general training will also be delivered that covers civic rights and responsibility, violence including physical, psychological, verbal and sexual violence in addition to non-violent communication.

Furthermore, and as per the LPN plan that aims to enhance youth's critical thinking while bolstering their capacity to respond to hate and polarization in their community, a training will be delivered on media literacy, hate speech, misinformation and disinformation and production of alternative media content. The media production skills provided will enhance youth's future economic opportunities.

## **Scaling up the Local Prevention Network model at the national level**

With regard to growing the local prevention network model to new cities, the national call for proposals resulted in providing financial and technical support to five new municipalities and three existing ones. Municipalities are currently delivering a range of context-sensitive initiatives that aim to raise awareness on Prevention of Violent Extremism.

The call for proposals will result in expanding the SCN's municipal-led prevention networks model to two or three other municipalities, potentially Beddawi in north Lebanon, Aarsal in Bekaa and Kfarchouba in the south. During the second quarter of 2021, a training-of-trainers will be delivered to the LPNs to ensure that they are capable of delivering PVE information to other municipalities and assisting those who have expressed interest in establishing a Local Prevention Network.

The following provides a brief of the initiatives and the progress to date:

## **Akkar El Atika**

The Akkar El Atika municipality is working on enhancing youth employability through ecotourism in both host and refugee communities. The project will build youths' capacities to become local guides, while developing their communication and critical thinking skills. As polarisation is increasing with the deteriorating situation in Lebanon, youth will also be



capacitated to respond to hate speech through their interactions and discussions with people visiting the area from their community and the surrounding communities.

During this quarter, youth were trained to detect and respond to hate speech in their community. Theoretical and practical ecological lectures were also provided to 40 field workers working on opening the hiking trails.

During the next quarter, capacity building will be pursued for youth to become local guides, and a tourist brochure will be produced.

### **Arsal**

The project aims to establish a group of youth leaders and school teachers capable of preventing violent extremism in their communities. Furthermore, the project seeks to enforce a unified tolerant religious narrative in the village.

During this reporting period, a series of meetings with prominent sheikhs were conducted as groundwork for the initiative to spread moderate religious speech. The “Religious Tolerance Advocacy Agenda” developed by SCN was distributed to influential religious scholars who will share it with their students during training and seminars.

The municipality also engaged 100 young men and women in a mini football tournament and games while spreading messages of tolerance and peace.

During the upcoming period, the capacities of youth will be developed to detect and respond to hate speech, misinformation and disinformation in their communities and become capable of resolving conflict peacefully. Youth will also learn how to lead peer-to-peer awareness sessions to respond to hate and polarization in their community.

### **Beddawi**

The project aims to empower a team of social activists and community influencers, from both host and refugee communities, to become aware of the drivers and dangers of extremism, and promote values of dialogue and tolerance in their community.

Dialogue sessions with activists, teachers, religious leaders and influential youth were conducted during this period. A steering committee consisting of the community stakeholders is being formed in preparation for the potential formation of an LPN.

During the next quarter, young people will be trained to promote human right and tolerance values in their community through interactive activities such as dialogue on human right issues and leading on sports tournaments.

### **Berqayel**

The project aims to integrate young men and women in the labour market and enable them to generate their own start-up business by developing their entrepreneurial, leadership, soft and technical skills. By the end of the project, the municipality will link the trained youth to a multimedia company located in Dubai, which will offer a number of job opportunities to a selected number of exceptional trainees.

During this reporting period, training on communication skills, leadership, web development, computer programming, graphic design, project management, and installation and maintenance of solar energy devices were delivered to 45 youth divided into groups.

During the coming period, training on the above topics will continue.

### **Kfarchouba**



The project aims to empower teachers and youth to implement activities that contribute to the prevention of violent extremism and enhance tolerance.

During this reporting period, the municipality of Kfarchouba organized a three-day training workshop for teachers on the prevention of violent extremism in schools. One of the Saida LPN members delivered the training, which gathered 26 teachers from the village and three surrounding villages. Due to the participants' distinctive commitment and interest, the mayor of Kfarchouba was prompted to solicit further cooperation with Saida LPN and discuss infrastructure that ensures continuity and sustainability to prevent violent extremism in the area.

During the next quarter, training will be provided to 15 young men and women to build their communication skills and their awareness of hate speech and conflict transformation methods.

### **Majdal Anjar**

The project aims at developing the capacities and digital knowledge of young women and men to access the labour market, while empowering them to detect and counter hate speech on social media platforms. At the end of the project, at least three youth will be linked to work in companies on digital marketing.

The project also seeks to challenge existing stereotypes in Majdal Anjar and promote social integration among various groups of society. This will be achieved through a national chess tournament gathering more than 250 chess players from all over Lebanon.

Due to the Covid-19 outbreak in Majdal Anjar, all activities were suspended during this period.

During the coming reporting period, training will commence targeting 26 young men and women from Majdal Anjar and the Syrian refugee community.

### **Saida**

The project aims to establish a youth committee, hosted by the LPN and the municipality of Saida, that is trained to actively engage in their community and contribute to preventing violent extremism among their peers.

During this reporting period, the LPN was engaged in the recruitment process for the youth committee. In the next quarter, youth will receive a series of training workshops to enable them to raise awareness among their peers on PVE related issues.

### **Tripoli**

The LPN is working to reopen a public park located in the Jabal Mohsen - Qobbeh friction area by creating a team of youth capable of working, together with the municipality, to enhance social cohesion across the two neighbourhoods.

During this quarter, mapping and analysis of the historical causes of conflict between the two neighbourhoods that led to the park's closure was conducted. A plan was also formulated to mitigate risks that would jeopardize the sustainability of the project.

During the next quarter, a committee of 15 influential young men and women from both neighbourhoods will be formed in partnership with local actors and the municipality. The youth committee will be trained, in partnership with World Coaches and War Child Holland, to become football coaches and peer educators, capable of positively communicating and implementing initiatives that enhance social cohesion in their community. The initiative will also involve children and parents located around the park and will contribute to the creation of a positive environment for both neighbourhoods to interact.

**COMPLETED ACTIVITIES: JORDAN**



**Outcome A: Increased ability of the community Prevention Networks (PNs) in select municipalities to meaningfully engage with local, national and international policymakers and peers to support the implementation of the national P/CVE strategies.**

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Jordanian government implemented tight restrictions between October and December 2020. Even though these restrictions have impacted project implementation, the team was able to adapt and engage with local communities through LPN members, physically where possible, and remotely when restrictions were tightened.

This period also witnessed the resignation of the WANA project manager and the assignment of a new manager. Thus, in October 2020, WANA's new team was introduced to the focal points and LPN members, relevant stakeholders, the Ministry of Local Administration (MoLA) and the P/CVE Unit at the Prime Ministry.

A brief slowdown of progress was observed in October, as the new team was getting into position and familiarising themselves with the project and its stakeholders. Another key challenge to progress was the parliamentary season and the focal points' engagement in the elections.

**Local- Local Coordination**

As restrictions were still rigid during this quarter, there was less space for the LPNs to conduct extended meetings with partners and stakeholders. Thus, the LPNs continued with their engagement with the local community through the "Dewaneyat" online dialogue sessions. The "Dewaneyat" brought together LPN members with policymakers, academics, religious leaders, youth workers and active civil society members to discuss topics related to PVE and extremist ideologies.

To ensure wider engagement, outreach and documentation of the dialogue sessions, the WANA team started issuing policy-briefs synthesising and disseminating the monthly discussions in Arabic.

The sessions held during this quarter focused on i) the "Jordan 2020 parliamentary elections" (attended by 35 people) and ii) combating violence against women (attended by 55 people). On the 15th of every month, a new "Dewaneyeh" is organised and moderated by the LPN members.

Moreover, to ensure that the three Mayors are well aware of the LPN activities and remain supportive of the LPNs, the WANA team and the FPs met with the three mayors of the cities of Zarqa, Karak, and Irbid. The mayors were provided with a summary on the upcoming LPN activities, and the progress that the LPNs aim to achieve during the coming period. The three mayors acknowledged their support for the networks. The mayors were also informed about a virtual meeting that will be held with mayors in the Netherlands about the Safety Houses model, and they were also informed about a meeting with the Embassy of the Netherlands in Jordan, due to take place in the coming months.

**National-Local Coordination**

During this period, the WANA team introduced the Safety Houses model to the FPs, who all agreed that the three municipalities were interested to initiate discussions around this model. A subsequent meeting was conducted with Mrs Ghuzayyah Hijazi, the Chief Technical Advisor for the national P/CVE Unit housed in the Prime Ministry. The meeting aimed to gain participation of the Unit in a roundtable discussion on the Safety Houses model and its potential applicability in Jordan. It was agreed that further coordination would be done with policymakers working on P/CVE in Jordan to discuss next steps.

A meeting was also held with the Director of the Local Administration Councils at the Ministry of Local Administration (MoLA), to discuss the rationale and sustainability of adapting the Safety Houses model at the local level. A multi-stakeholder collaborative approach was suggested. It was also recommended that the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD), Ministry of Education (MoE), and Ministry of Youth (MoY) should take part in this project.



## **Outcome B: Enhanced quality of P/CVE activities by PNPs targeting vulnerable youth, teachers, youth workers and religious leaders in select municipalities in Jordan and Lebanon.**

Due to the resignation of WANA's project manager, a new team was formed to follow up on the project. A number of meetings were held in October with the focal points of the three LPNs to introduce them to the new team and follow up on the work progress. During these meetings, the focal points shared their feedback with regards to the project implementation and upcoming activities and also highlighted their concern towards the turnover of the WANA staff.

The focal points were introduced to the Safety Houses model by the WANA team and discussed the potential application of the model in the Jordanian context.

The WANA team held 10 coordination meetings during this quarter with the LPNs to discuss the upcoming activities and to update each of the LPN's action plan. LPN members and focal points were enthusiastic in engaging additional cities and municipalities in the project's work over the coming year and expressed full support to the process by providing training and sharing expertise with potential new cities, or by physically visiting new municipalities to explore ways of engagement. The cities of Ma'an, Balqaa and Ajloun were suggested to be among the potential cities that the SCN could expand to.

As part of their community initiatives, the three LPNs proposed painting a large-sized mural in their cities, promoting a message of hope and peace. WANA and a designated artist worked with each of the LPNs to select the messages they wanted to convey to their citizens, the desired locations, and who they wanted to bring together to celebrate the murals, and what type of dialogue they wanted to provoke. The murals were painted in a participatory fashion, where LPN members and local volunteers got together to paint and inform the community on the messages disseminated through the murals.

All three murals were publicised through the WANA social media outlets and shared by the LPN Facebook pages. The painting work in each of the cities was featured on a different day (28, 29 and 30 November 2020). The posts showed municipal officials, volunteers and LPN members participating in the painting of the murals. On average, each of the posts reached 550 people. Furthermore, once all murals were completed, another social media post was shared (9 December) with a title: *# Murals: Messages of peace colour the walls of our cities*. This post reached 1,500 people. Finally, the murals were presented as the main story in WANA's December newsletter, which was published on 28 December 2020.

### **Irbid**

During this reporting period, the LPN in Irbid held three meetings with civil society organisations and municipal leaders to introduce the LPN's role as a local structure aimed at enriching understanding of – and enabling more effective local responses to – the challenge of violent extremism. During these meetings, joint activities that contribute to the prevention of violent extremism in their local community were discussed. Gender-based violence was flagged as it had dramatically increased during lockdown<sup>3</sup>, consequently, the LPN held an awareness session on gender-based violence among female youth at a women-led NGO "Ray Society for Children" in Irbid.

As for "Kabset Zir" (press a button) - an anti-cyberbullying initiative that was started by a young LPN member to raise awareness on cyber bullying – WANA continued holding internal meetings with the representative of "Kabset Zir" to put forth ideas such as producing short videos and posting messages encouraging anti-harassment and tips to fight bullying.

LPN members continued to work on drafting their action plans and programmatic responses to address Irbid's pressing issues, yet further work will take place in the coming period to finalise their activity plan. The activity plans include forming a shadow youth group, rejuvenating the "Kabset Zir" campaign, and providing legal aid to people who seek it.

---

<sup>3</sup> <file:///C:/Users/user/Downloads/SGBV%20SWG%20Jordan-Guidance%20Note%20on%20GBV%20Service%20Provision%20during%20COVID-19%20-final.pdf>



LPN members also proposed a training to be delivered by WANA to ensure that they all agree on the terminology of preventive efforts: C/PVE, radicalisation and de-radicalisation, polarisation, hate speech, human security, and extremism push and pull factors. WANA will provide the training in January 2021.

### Zarqa

The WANA team held a one-day coordination meeting followed by a brief training session for the Zarqa LPN on PVE terminology. The session covered concepts relating to PVE, and an update on Jordan's P/CVE efforts and strategies over the past two years. LPN members agreed that they require further training on definitions, concepts of radicalisation and C/PVE.

Furthermore, meetings were held to guide the LPN towards expanding their activity plan for the upcoming phase, however, more work will be exerted into developing it to ensure that it is contextualised and PVE relevant. As per the discussions, it was agreed that the Zarqa LPN will continue to focus on youth, education and people with disabilities (PwD). According to the Department of Statistics (DOS), PwDs constitute 11.9% of the population in Zarqa governorate.<sup>4</sup> Jordan ratified the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2008, yet they still suffer exclusion and discrimination in education, health and employment<sup>5</sup> in addition to violence<sup>6</sup>. The LPN efforts to include youth and PwDs in the economic and social life will ensure that they are empowered and provided with opportunities.

The Zarqa LPN formed a legal aid network to defend the rights of individuals who lack the financial means to defend themselves, and face injustice, marginalisation and fear. The LPN was able to leverage 4 local pro-bono attorneys who provided hours of uncompensated time to provide legal advice to 9 people who were in extremely vulnerable situations.

The legal network in Zarqa was able to positively change the life of one person who was unemployed, in debt and vulnerable. He was pressured by family members to join extremist groups (unknown to us which groups), but the LPN lawyer was able to assist and provide him with alternatives to re-arrange the debt. The 23-year-old male is now employed and stable.

The legal network in Zarqa also met with its counterpart in Irbid to exchange information and best practices. The two legal aid networks in Irbid and Zarqa agreed to continue meeting periodically to exchange expertise. Due to the success of and demand for the legal network, an adjacent female legal network is being formed in Zarqa to address women and children's issues.

### Karak

The LPN members worked on drafting their activity plans and programs to address violent extremism in Karak. The activity plans were reviewed but were not yet finalised. Further work will take place in the coming period to devise a plan that depicts the local issues through a PVE lens and recognizing issues of identity and perceptions of social injustice as major issues to be tackled.

The LPN members in Karak also indicated the need for definitional clarity of what constitutes VE and C/PVE. Thus, a training will be provided by WANA in January 2021.

**Outcome A: Increased ability of the community Prevention Networks (PNs) in select municipalities to meaningfully engage with local, national and international policymakers and peers to support the implementation of the national P/CVE strategies.**

---

<sup>4</sup> Department of Statistics, 2015.

[http://www.dos.gov.jo/dos\\_home\\_a/main/population/census2015/No\\_of\\_pop\\_depend\\_on\\_GOV.pdf](http://www.dos.gov.jo/dos_home_a/main/population/census2015/No_of_pop_depend_on_GOV.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Early Intervention Procedures for Persons with Visual and Mild Mental Impairments, in Zarqa. The West Asia North Africa Institute (WANA), 2020. [http://wanainstitute.org/sites/default/files/publications/Early%20Intervention%20IM%202020%20English%20resized\\_0.pdf](http://wanainstitute.org/sites/default/files/publications/Early%20Intervention%20IM%202020%20English%20resized_0.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> The current situation of persons with disabilities in Jordan, 2018.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5bb22804ed915d258ed26e2c/Persons\\_with\\_disabilities\\_in\\_Jordan.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5bb22804ed915d258ed26e2c/Persons_with_disabilities_in_Jordan.pdf)

<p><b>Output A.1:</b> Increased access of select national and municipal P/CVE stakeholders to best practices and knowledge about the Dutch experience in setting up national and local infrastructures for the implementation of the P/CVE strategy</p>	<p><b>Activity A.1.1: Conduct 1 national policy roundtable</b></p> <p><b>Activity A.1.2: Conduct 2 workshops for Dutch, Lebanese and Jordanian mayors</b></p>	<p>The 2<sup>nd</sup> virtual roundtable is planned for Q1 of 2021.</p> <p>This will be conducted during Q2 of 2021.</p>
<p><b>Output A.2:</b> Engagement of Jordanian national policymakers and mayors with their international peers in global policy dialogue about P/CVE strengthened.</p>	<p><b>Activity A.2.1: Facilitate the participation of 3 national policy makers in GCTF national – local cooperation initiative</b></p> <p><b>Activity 2.2: Facilitate the participation of 3 Mayors and practitioners in international forums, including GCTF national – Local Cooperation Initiative, SCN Global Summit and/or UNGA events</b></p>	<p>To be conducted over the course of 2021.</p> <p>To be conducted over the course of 2021.</p>

**Outcome B: Enhanced quality of P/CVE activities by PNs targeting vulnerable youth, teachers, youth workers and religious leaders in select municipalities in Lebanon and Jordan.**

<p><b>Output B.1: Capacity-building provided to select PNs in Lebanon and Jordan on Training of the Trainer model (ToT) and on effective P/CVE approaches inspired by the Dutch model.</b></p>	<p><b>Activity B.1.1: Conduct 2-way practitioner exchange visits between Dutch, Lebanese and Jordanian PNs</b></p> <p><b>Activity B.1.2: Conduct 6 practitioner training workshops</b></p> <p><b>Activity B.1.3: Conduct 4 ToT workshops with PN focal points</b></p> <p><b>Activity B.1.4: Conduct 60 coordination meetings for PNs in Lebanon and Jordan</b></p> <p><b>Activity B.1.5: Support at least 4 PN-led training workshops to potential focal points</b></p> <p><b>Activity B.1.6: Support at least 4 PN-led training to potential PN Members</b></p>	<p>This activity is to be conducted during 2021, when the COVID-19 situation is improved and restriction measures are eased.</p> <p>This activity started during Q4 of 2020 and will be conducted at several intervals of the project.</p> <p>This activity is planned to be conducted during the Q2 and Q3 of 2021.</p> <p>A total of 20 coordination meetings were conducted in Lebanon and in Jordan during this period.</p> <p>This activity is expected to take place in Q2 of 2021 in Lebanon.</p> <p>This activity is expected to take place during Q3 of 2021 in Lebanon</p>
<p><b>Output B.2: Financial and technical Support provided to PN members from selected municipalities in Jordan to design and implement P/CVE activities.</b></p>	<p><b>Activity B.2.1: Provision of small community activity grants to facilitate the scaling of local initiatives outlined as priorities within the Jordanian National CVE Action Plan</b></p>	<p>Upon launching the call for proposals, training was delivered to the five winning and the three partner municipalities' mayors, municipal members and CSOs on prevention of violent extremism and the national strategy. MOUs were signed with the SCN, and municipalities started implementing activities in line with their communities' needs and as specified in their action plans.</p>

**CHALLENGES AND OBSTACLES**

**Lebanon**



During 2020, Lebanon has endured multiple crises, including a massive explosion in Beirut's port, an economic collapse, rising political instability, swelling social unrest, and the Covid-19 pandemic, all of which endangered residents' basic rights. The Lebanese political class failed to adequately address any of these crises. The Lebanese Pound has dramatically devalued, limiting people's ability to access basic goods, including food, shelter, and healthcare. In light of this complex backdrop, the SCN team, LPN members and partners are joining efforts to respond to the emerging needs and concerns of the local communities. In addition, conducting virtual meetings is challenging due to the weak internet infrastructure in Lebanon.

### **Jordan**

Jordan is set to have municipal elections in 2021, and therefore existing municipal councils will be dissolved in the first quarter of 2021. This means that the focal points might change as new councils and mayors are in place. As for the LPNs themselves, the challenge remains in maintaining the members' level of commitment and active engagement. In a pre-emptive move, new young members were added to the LPNs to re-energise their work.

Restrictions on movement and social gatherings are also expected to remain in place due to the pandemic. All these challenges are expected to limit the network's ability to expand to new municipalities in the coming year. Still, the LPNs have proven increased flexibility and engagement (virtually and physically, when possible) since the start of the COVID-19 restrictions.

### **LESSONS LEARNED**

#### **Lebanon**

- The peaking crises affecting Lebanon have provided the SCN team and LPN members with additional incentive to meet more repeatedly to pursue and plan for activities that respond to their communities' emerging needs.
- Focal Points and LPN members demonstrated more substantial engagement during face-to-face meetings than in virtual meetings.
- Establishing partnerships and cooperation with stakeholders on PVE programming in Lebanon is critical to responding to the country's emerging needs and priorities.
- Continuous monitoring of community and youth needs in an increasingly fluid and volatile environment is critical to future engagement, progress and impact.

#### **Jordan**

- Assigning each LPN to plan a monthly "Dewaneyeh" with the WANA team enhances engagement and participation.
- LPNs require team-building exercises.
- Clearer roles and responsibilities for LPN members need to be in place for project activities.
- Ensuring monthly physical coordination meetings to enhance communication channels between civil society, grassroots and LPNs members.

### **NEXT QUARTER**

#### **Lebanon**

- Monitoring of the situation by the SCN team and LPN members to ensure, as much as possible, tailored responses to the communities' needs.
- Coordinating meetings and planning with focal points and LPNs.
- Implementing municipal grant projects.
- Psychosocial support training will be provided for Saida teachers, scouts and youth.



- Launching of the Psychosocial Support Unit in Saida municipality.
- Organizing capacity development sessions with Bab-el-Tebbaneh (Tripoli) vulnerable youth to promote community engagement and non-violence.
- Organizing media information literacy training and coaching with youth in Tripoli. This training will help them detect polarization and hate speech, develop media content and provide them with more job opportunities in the labour market.
- Hosting the second policy roundtable bringing Lebanese, Jordanian and Dutch policymakers together to exchange experiences and introduce the Safety Houses Model.
- Signing an MOU with Tri-pulley, a socio-economic impact initiative, to join efforts on matching unemployed skilled individuals with vulnerable families. This initiative will also work on reintegrating former prisoners after intensive job counselling and psychosocial support sessions.
- Working on finalizing the Teachers’ PVE toolkit version after testing it, in partnership with the National PVE Unit.

**Jordan**

- Maintaining the monthly Dewaneyat Initiative and producing monthly policy briefs.
- Conducting a PVE training for teachers, inspired by the teachers’ PVE toolkit prepared in Lebanon and tailored for Jordan by WANA Institute.
- Providing technical and financial support to the LPNs to design and carry out P/CVE activities.
- Meeting with members of the Kabset Zir, anti-bullying campaign to boost the initiative.
- Meeting with and support members of the legal aid network in Zarqa and Irbid.
- Conducting capacity building workshops for LPNs and focal points, in all three governorates, with the objective of familiarising them with the concept of human security, and with P/CVE concepts and approaches.
- Providing introductory ToT and team building workshops to all core team members.
- Finalising the activity plans with each LPN to start implementing their PVE community activities.

**OVERALL PROJECT PROGRESS ASSESSMENT**

Progress lagging behind - Achievement of target at risk / not possible	<input type="checkbox"/> Red
Some progress made - corrections required to achieve target	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yellow
Progress achieved as planned – target likely to be achieved	<input type="checkbox"/> Green