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## **ZISVAW PROGRAM 2008-2010**

### **Community-based Center for Housing and Rehabilitation of Women Victims of Violence in Syria**

**UN Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women  
administered by the United Nations Development Fund for women (UNIFEM)  
for Association for Women's Role Development (AWRD)  
USA\$100,000**

### **Project Update: November 2009**

#### **PROJECT SUMMARY**

The project will create a one-stop center to provide immediate protection, medical and legal aid, counseling, rehabilitation and reintegration assistance for survivors of violence. In addition, the project will address harmful societal norms and discriminatory practices and will promote awareness-building campaigns focused on women's rights, helping women become less vulnerable to violence and teaching women and men to speak out against violence to women.

#### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

The project aims to:

- Protect and promote the empowerment of women victims of violence through the provision of shelter, health, social and economic interventions that guarantee reduction of their vulnerability and integrating them in their families and communities.
- Urge the relevant bodies to review and, where appropriate, revise, amend or abolish all laws, regulations, policies, practices and customs that discriminate against women or have a discriminatory impact on women.
- Support the legal systems to be in compliance with the international human rights obligations, commitments and principles, including the principle of non-discrimination.
- Take positive measures in addressing the structural causes of violence against women and to strengthen prevention efforts that address discriminatory practices and social norms.
- Promote awareness and information campaigns on women's rights and the responsibility to respect them and encourage men and boys to speak out strongly against violence against women.

## ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Community-based Centre for Housing and Rehabilitation of Women Victims of Violence provides counseling, housing and vocational training services to approximately 1,000 survivors of violence a year. During 2008, AWRD focused on developing and strengthening the capacity of this “One-Stop Centre” and its staff and volunteers to provide quality services to survivors.

To that end, AWRD:

- Organized five training workshops with the participation of 16 staff members and volunteers. Topics included: team building, active listening, case management, psychological first aid and investigation of cases of rape.
- Established a telephone hotline at the Centre to reach women throughout Syria and ensure privacy and confidentiality in an environment that attaches stigma to survivors.



*Training workshop with Centre's staff and volunteers*

## NEXT STEPS

- AWRD will continue to develop the capacity of staff and volunteers of the “One-Stop Centre” through the provision of eleven additional training workshops. Topics will include: gender, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), domestic violence, lobbying and advocacy, presentation skills, problem solving, family conflict resolution, self-affirmation and preservation of personal boundaries, hotline coordination, management and financial systems.
- AWRD will organize four awareness-raising activities for decision makers, public opinion leaders and development actors on gender equality, violence against women and CEDAW, in an effort to influence decisions regarding legislation, policies and action plans and promote the revision, amendment or abolition of all legislation, policies, practices and customs that discriminate against women to facilitate compliance of the Syrian legal system with international human rights standards.

## PHOTOS

### Community-based Centre for Housing and Rehabilitation of Women Victims of Violence



*Bedroom*



*Living Room*



*IT Classroom*



*Hairdressing Classroom*

### **ZISVAW PROGRAM**

The ZISVAW Program is a Zonta International program, funded by contributions to the Zonta International Foundation's **ZISVAW Fund**.