

Subject: Application for the GIZ Gender Awards 2024 – GIZ Lebanon

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GIZ Lebanon through the Gender Working Group is committed to advancing gender equality that aligns perfectly with the German government's goals within the framework of both the feminist foreign policy and the feminist development policy. We wholeheartedly endorse the pursuit of overcoming structural causes of inequality, disadvantage, and exclusion while advocating for equal rights and opportunities for all, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, place of birth, or cultural affiliations.

As we reflect on the remarkable words of **Bärbel Kofler**, Parliamentary State Secretary at BMZ, spoken during the gender award ceremony in March 2022, we are inspired by her insight: *"The entries to the GIZ-Gender Competition show how we can achieve effective development cooperation for more gender equality and how GIZ systematically anchors gender in its entire portfolio and activities."* These words serve as a testament to the importance of recognizing and celebrating efforts in this crucial arena.

Our aspiration is to continue the pursuit of gender equality, building upon the foundations laid in previous years. Our comprehensive gender strategy, closely aligned with the objectives outlined by BMZ, serves as the guiding framework for our initiatives.

We are excited to participate in the GIZ Gender Awards 2024. It is our belief that recognition through these awards will not only honor our commitment but also inspire others to join us on this transformative journey.

Within the P-VAWG – Preventing violence against women and girls – GE2 project – a theatre play called **"Beit Byout"** (or in English Let Us Play House) was created and implemented by the Union of Progressive Women (UPW) a local non-governmental organization in Lebanon which partnered with P-VAWG under a local subsidy agreement. The play directed by **Dr. Lina Abyad** – a Lebanese director and a feminist activist- was rolled out in seven villages in Mount Lebanon that are conservative communities and hosted in public community spaces that were accessible to all community members.

The play showcased real stories of survivors of violence who were assisted by the UPW. It has helped in shedding the light on gender-based violence, its types, its effects on family members, and the importance of breaking the silence as a first step to transform a targeted woman from a victim to a survivor.

In total, around 900 individuals (women, men, girls, and boys), from different nationalities and ages attended the play in seven areas across Lebanon. This play is interactive, where the audience gets the chance to ask questions, share experiences or even tell stories following the play.

Using expressive arts, especially storytelling, acting and dancing to raise awareness against this sensitive topic was very important. The play portrayed four different stories of two women, a girl and a boy sharing their experiences and stories as GBV survivors. Another factor that amplified the play was the expressive dancing which made many of the audience get emotional. Fighting gender-based violence is a long process that starts with deconstructing the social, legal, and economic roots of gender inequality. While arts would not stop violence, it can act as a median to open this conversation that is usually not that common in conservative societies.

The play acted as a catalyst to convey feelings that are generally felt by survivors of GBV and opened an important conversation about the impacts of violence on not only women but on the whole household. The discussions that followed each play showed well how the audience were moved by the feelings expressed and that in certain cases they themselves witnessed violence within their lifetimes.

The presence of two children's characters within the play, showed how not only GBV happens with vulnerable women, but can be found anywhere within a society and have harmful impact for generations to come.

Based on the success of the play and the positive feedback within the P-VAWG project and the community, the GWG at GIZ Lebanon decided to organize one more show in collaboration with the Arab Institute for Women (AIW) at the Lebanese American University in Beirut with the attendance of the German ambassador to Lebanon Mr. Andreas Kindl.

german cooperation
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEITUNGSGESAMTSCHAFT

giz
GLOBAL WISDOM
LOCAL SOLUTIONS

LAU
LEBANESE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
Beirut

AIW
ARAB INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN
Beirut

50
YEARS
OF
WOMEN'S
RIGHTS

"When a woman tells
you she feels in danger, believe her.
She could be steps away from death."
Excerpt from the play.

GIZ Lebanon in collaboration
with the Arab Institute for Women
at the Lebanese American University cordially invites you
to the *Let us Play House (Beit Byout)* theater play,
written and directed by Lina Abiad.

Funded by Germany, the play was initially produced and performed in 2022
within a project implemented by the Union of Progressive Women (UPW)
in partnership with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).
It showcases real stories of survivors of violence.

مسرحية من إعداد وإخراج لنا أبيض

Date: Thursday, March 09, 2023
Time: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
Location: LAU Beirut
Irwin Hall Auditorium

RSVP please reply to this email.

Figure 1 First invitation card for the play

The play used a gender transformative approach tackling the root causes of gender inequalities through raising awareness for the whole members of the family including men and boys, the audience who attended the play was diverse from different Lebanese communities including GIZ colleagues and partners.

GIZ Lebanon GWG, created this video (DMS link: 236911951) to raise awareness on local media as well, where we hosted his excellency German ambassador to Lebanon Mr. Kindl, GIZ country director and other local stakeholders who worked on the theatre play.

In Lebanon, gender related discussions have generated diverse opinions and a lot of controversy. Although there are ongoing efforts by activities and organizations to promote gender equality, the dynamic cultural, political, and religious landscape in Lebanon contributes to a wide range of perspectives and opinions that led lately to a backlash and a big debate among religious leaders and politicians that used the LGBTQ topics to fight against gender equality. The topic has been a trend in Lebanon lately, to the extent that this theatre play “Beit Byout” was stopped in North Lebanon, when our colleagues from the North Cluster wanted to do the show in Tripoli city inviting communities from different villages and communities in the North. Some local religious organizations threatened the theatre owner and advised him not to host the play. GIZ North Team coordinated with EMBRACE organization, who provide mental health support services, around 600 brochures were handed out by EMBRACE team to distribute them during the 4 play performances to raise awareness of their presence in case someone needed to call the hotline and seek help from the North communities.

In addition, a series of discussions about GBV, to raise awareness and to let the audience feel their voices are heard, was planned after the performance, held by the film director herself, Dr. Lina Abyad.

Unfortunately, the shows were stopped in the city as it brings high risks to GIZ and to the beneficiaries. For the time being, GIZ colleagues are trying to lobby and advocate with religious leaders in the area to explain that the theatre play is tackling domestic violence, that is also not acceptable in all religions, hitting all family members and has nothing to do with LGBTQ.

في إطار ملاحظة العصف ضد النساء والفتيات
 (GIZ) Deutsche Gesellschaft für International Zusammenarbeit
 الوزارة الاتحادية الألمانية للتعاون الاقتصادي والتنمية
 Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ)

وبتعاون من قبل الوزارة الاتحادية الألمانية
 تتشرك بدعوتكم إن الحضور مسرحية

إعداد وإخراج لنا أبيض


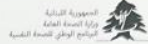


السبت 14 تشرين الأول، الساعة 3:00
 مركز العزم الثقافي، بيت الفن - لبنان الشمالي، طرابلس، ميناء
 الحضور مجاني

يرجى التسجيل على الرابط التالي

ملاحظة: المسرحية غير صالحة للأولاد دون 10 سنة

Figure 2 Invitation for the play in Tripoli

24 / 7
1564
 THE LIFELINE

الخط الوطني للسلامة النفسي والأولوية من الانتعاش
 للتغلب من فترات صعبة إسرائيلي والكهول، مع الرهنج الوطني للصحة النفسية

ما هي الخدمات التي تتلقاها عند الاتصال بخط الحياة الوطني؟

إنّ خط الحياة الوطني هو خط ساخن يوفر مساحة آمنة للأشخاص الذين يمرون بضائقة نفسية أو تراودهم أفكار إيذاء النفس أو الانتحار، يسمح لهم بالتحدث إلى شخص يستمع إليهم.

إن عاملي الهاتف في خط الحياة، مدربين ويخضعون لإشراف أخصائيين في الصحة النفسية وهم موجودون لتوفير:

- الاستماع الفعال
- الدعم العاطفي
- تقييم حدة أفكار الانتحار والدعم للحد من خطر الانتحار
- التوجيه عند الحاجة إلى خدمات الصحة النفسية المتوفرة على الأراضي اللبنانية

* خدمات خط الحياة متوفرة عبر الهاتف على الرقم 1564 حصريا و لا تقدم عبر أي منصة أخرى

Figure 3 Embrace brochure.

EMBRACE
MENTAL
HEALTH
CENTER

مركز
إمبرايس
للصحة
النفسية

ما هي الخدمات التي يقدمها
مركز إمبرايس للصحة النفسية؟

يقدم المركز الخدمات المجانية التالية إلى جميع الفئات العمرية
الأطفال والمراهقين والرشد وكبار السن

- العلاج النفسي باستخدام مناهج علاجية مختلفة
- الاستشارات النفسية من قبل أطباء نفسيين يقومون بالأعراض
ويقدمون المشورة ويصفون العلاجات الطبية
- العلاج الجماعي حيث يساعد المعالج النفسي مجموعة من الأشخاص،
كما يساعدون بعضهم البعض
- الاستشارات النفسية-الاجتماعية لربط الناس بالخدمات في المجتمع، والحصول
على الأدوية المجانية وغيرها من الخدمات

يرحب بأي شخص قد يعاني من أعراض اكتئاب، قلق، حمية أو أي صعوبات نفسية أخرى
بسبب مشاكل في العلاقات الشخصية أو العائلية وسنساعد/ة لمساعدة نفسه/ها

للمواعيد والاستفسار
+961 1 346226

Figure 4 Embrace brochure