

# Addressing Sexual & Gender-Based Violence



Women and girls in Syria are at high risk of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Recent assessments in non-governed areas have revealed that adolescent girls are the most at risk of sexual violence, exploitation and early marriage. Female-headed households and women who are widowed or divorced were also assessed to be at high risk. Additionally, disconnect, denial, and stigma within communities often make it more difficult for women to come forward to report instances of SGBV and to seek treatment.

## SRD's response

In areas heavily populated with internally-displaced persons (IDPs) living in difficult conditions—such as individual tents and temporary shelters that put women and girls at greater risk of SGBV—SRD has instituted integrated programming for the prevention and treatment of SGBV.

**SRD Women and Girls Safe Space (WGSS) centers in high-risk areas throughout Syria provide:**

Psychosocial support, Psychological First Aid (PFA), individual and group counseling services, case management, and confidential referrals to appropriate services for SGBV and other issues

Vocational training and development

Monthly protection events led by social workers in cooperation with local authorities and IDP camp management

Education and training for men and boys on SGBV prevention and encouraging the removal of societal stigma

Education for men and women on the prevention of early marriage, maintaining positive parenting practices, risks related to child labor, and other risk interventions

Recreational activities for women and girls, as well as children who accompany their mothers to the safe space centers

**Trained medical personnel at SRD's fixed and mobile healthcare facilities address SGBV through:**

The Clinical Management of Rape (CMR) for SGBV survivors

Referrals to WGSS centers for SGBV cases

## How Our Programs Have Helped Syrian Women

**1.3 million** women provided aid



**255,000\***

women and children cared for through 4 Maternal & Pediatric Health Hospitals



**365,000\***

women provided with Sexual & Reproductive Health (SRH) through **70 SRH locations**, including fixed and mobile clinics



**53,000\***

women provided with Protection services such as sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) prevention and referral, safe space centers, community education on women's rights, and skills-based job training



**600\*\***

women provided with Livelihood Support

*\*since 2016 \*\*in 2017*

## Empowering Survivors

H.D. is 23 year-old survivor of rape and domestic violence. H.D., her husband, and their 5 children were displaced from their home and living in a shelter camp. Her husband's alcoholism led to violent outbursts in which he physically, verbally, and emotionally abused his wife and children on a daily basis. Each time H.D. tried to leave, she was prevented from taking her children with her and would return for their safety.

When we first met H.D. at the WGSS center, she was visibly frightened and had bruises on her face. We admitted her to the center. Within a month, she was happier, safer, and her self-esteem had improved. Additionally, she was learning sewing through the center and was confident she could start earning income to take care of her children.



# Addressing the Physical & Emotional Well-Being of Women



Women are the most vulnerable population in Syria's conflict given their position of being caretaker and nurturer for all those around them. Women often neglect their own physical and emotional well-being to seek care for others. As a result, we've made women's healthcare a priority at SRD's medical facilities and women's centers. And we not only provide care for women, but seek to protect, empower, and elevate their status within Syrian civil society.

## Livelihood Support for Rural Women

Rural areas in Southern Syria have been hit hard by poverty. With borders closed to additional migration outside the country to seek greater opportunities, women in the area have little means of helping support their families, particularly if they are primary breadwinners. In an effort to reduce economic vulnerability and increase the resilience of households in Southern Syria, SRD implemented a pickling project in 2017. Through this project, we helped women in Daraa produce quality nutritious food in the form of pickled seasonal vegetables, provided the women with business training, and also helped them establish connections with local marketplaces where they could sell their produce.



## SRD's response

### Health & Protection

Primary and advanced health care to address disease prevention and management

Advanced reproductive health care that includes:

- ante-natal and post-natal care
- gynecological care for women of reproductive age
- family planning services

Psychosocial support

Prevention of child marriage

Awareness trainings for communities on the importance of human rights, hygiene, health promotion, and maintaining healthy interpersonal relationships

Development of community protection boards that identify cases of vulnerability, abuse, and exploitation

### Livelihood Support

Skills-based training in sewing, knitting, computing, language, and cosmetology

Income generation opportunities for rural women in Southern Syria

Business training and connection with marketplace to help women sell their products

### Education

Midwifery training

Skills-based trainings through our Empowerment Centers

Internationally accredited high school diplomas with a focus on English composition and writing skills through Global High School

Higher education degrees in Computing, Health, Business, and Journalism through International Rescue University