

# BREAKING THROUGH BARRIERS TO CHANGE SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS IN PALESTINE

In Palestine, work is being done by community-based organizations and their partners to support communities with knowledge and skills which will contribute towards a reduction of vulnerabilities and risks related to their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Many of these interventions are changing lives and infusing a heightened sense of empowerment and capacities among target groups. For this goal, a Memorandum of Understanding between Juzoor and Ministry of Education was prepared for a five year implementation period to facilitate and implement joint activities. Having the MoU will enrich and promote the objectives of the project and will create opportunities for Juzoor's organization in the future. In addition, the MoU will strengthen cooperation between national partners under the lead of the Ministry of Education by working together on building strategic cooperation relationships to highlight the importance and raise awareness on adolescent health.

By documenting the interventions that have a positive impact and strategically sharing the successes and approaches used to achieve the goals, other organizations can learn, adapt and replicate the successful interventions to benefit communities in their constituencies. Additionally, documented success stories increase the body of available knowledge for reference on what 'works' and how it works, and presents a valid basis to reliably inform resource allocation and mobilization decisions made by funding agents and programme managers. Of course, documenting a success story and sharing it widely also provides inspiration and motivation for those involved in making the intervention a success and raises the visibility of their efforts. With that said, **below are a few of our success:**

## PARTNERSHIP

**A Palestinian Adolescent Health Coalition** was formed, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health, to ensure the importance of increasing the access of the SRHR for adolescents and provide them with the knowledge, and positive skills that empowers self-initiation, perseverance and leadership to address risky behaviors. The Palestinian Adolescent Health coalition is composed of local organizations working with adolescents, UN agencies dedicated to improve the lives of adolescents, and international organizations with adjacent missions towards adolescents. This coalition supports the continuous multi-sectoral collaboration between stakeholders, in both the educational and health sectors, to compose and execute a holistic program to empower the national system and advocate for policies to support adolescent health on the national level. The aim is to join efforts and reduce duplicity to ensure a healthier transition for Palestinian adolescents into adulthood.

## ADVOCACY & COLLABORATION

**The Sharia Court** is responding to this practice and will ensure to adapt the SRHR and positive discipline concept into their system. It is vital to get the sharia court on board, particularly in developing countries like Palestine where a range of cultural factors mean that many, mostly women and young girls, are unable to fully realize their rights. The sharia court will implement the SRHR into its preparatory phase for pre-weds. This will help form the foundation of a successful marriage by building a mutual understanding with the couples, which in turn will create a healthy community that respects children's rights and protect them from all forms of violence.



## CYBER SAFETY

**A Cyber Safety Module** was developed and linked into the SRHR modules for parents, service providers, and children. It was developed to help parents address standards of behavior in the context of cyber safety and social media. It also helps parents better interact with their children, use tools to protect them, and monitor their activities to avoid having them being exposed to cyberbullying, sexual or nonsexual harassment and embarrassment. It is important to link cyberbullying material into SRHR modules as these modules should recognize and address different forms of violence and abuse to prevent any long-term consequences and achieve immediate and lasting changes their lives.



## SUMMER CAMPS

**A summer camp guideline** was developed to facilitate children's summer camps with the aim to raise awareness of children on health issues and to develop their skills and abilities. The guideline provides a clear methodology for the facilitators and is a useful tool to help implement the activities in a creative way. It also provides ways for Juzoor and other organizations to transfer concepts and knowledge to adolescents on sexual and reproductive health and rights through various play-based activities and ideas.

