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| Danish organisation | Danner |
| Title of the intervention | Protecting women victims of violence and preventing femicide in Tunisia |
| Partner name(s) | Association Femmes et Citoyenneté (AFC) |
| Amount applied for | 3.317.425Dkk |
| Country(ies) | Tunisia |
| Period (# of months) | 36 months |

1. **Objective and relevance**
   1. **Purpose of the intervention**

Since 2018 Danner has been working with Tunisian partners to build a network of Women’s rights organisations and shelters in Tunisia. There are now 24 members of the network, and they are deeply involved in the work around implementing Law 58, Tunisia’s ambitious law to combat violence against women (VAW) passed in 2018. One of the organisations in the network is *Association Femme et Citoyenneté* (AFC), based in Kef. Since the CISU funded seminar arranged by Danner on Violence and Norms in Tunis in 2020, where AFC participated along partners from the MENA region, Danner and AFC have been focusing extensively on femicide and how to prevent femicide: the killing of women by their partner, ex-partner or family member. The debate around femicide in Tunisia was sparked by the killing of a 26-year-old young mother, Refka, by her husband, a policeman in Kef in 2021. Karima Brini, the director of AFC started campaigning to create awareness about femicide and the prevention measures that should be possible under the Law 58. In an interview to Amnesty, first published by Nawaat, she stated that Refka had contacted her two days before she was killed, trying to get assistance in filing a complaint against her abusive husband: *“Refka told her that her husband beat her frequently. That day, he had hit and attempted to strangle her. She went to the special police unit in charge of violence against women to file a complaint, but she had found the office closed and was told it was “outside of regular working hours”.* Refka then went to file a complaint at a regular police station and told Brini that they took her testimony and referred her to forensic examination - the doctor then prescribed 20 days of rest. *“The police then summoned her husband, who is a member of the security forces, to the police station. Refka told Brini that he threatened her while she was waiting in a room in the police station saying: “If you don’t give up the complaint, I will slaughter you.* [[1]](#footnote-2)*”*

In Tunisia the path taken by women who are trying to escape from the circle of violence or to exercise their rights in court is extremely complicated and discouraging. There are multiple reasons for this; the vulnerability of the victims, their lack of knowledge of their rights and of the services available, the pressure they face from family and society, the lack of training of the frontline staff, and the absence of effective coordination mechanisms between the structures for the care of victims. Despite adoption of law 58, the implementation of the law has proved challenging by state institutions due to the lack of real political will, sufficient budget, and strong cultural resistance. Indeed, practices have not changed much, and the path of women remains complex even though law 58 has been passed and the intersectoral agreement was signed by 5 ministries in January 2018 (Justice, Interior, Social Affairs, Health, Women's and Family Affairs). The family violence units processing domestic violence, created under law 58, gave Tunisia’s internal security forces right to impose provisional protection orders. This can entail ordering the offender to vacate the home and to stay away from the victim and her children and refrain from contacting the victim. The judge in charge is empowered to issue “protection orders”. *“In Refka’s case, none of those measures were applied. In order to prevent such cases in the future, the Tunisian government should take comprehensive measures to protect and support victims of domestic violence. This requires training police, judges and prosecutors about the requirements of the law and holding them accountable when they fail to register complaints, issue and enforce protection orders, and investigate cases. It also means raising awareness about support services for victims of domestic violence and implement awareness raising campaigns and public education to change social attitudes that are conducive to violence against women[[2]](#footnote-3)”.*

In light of the current situation and the combined solid experience of Danner and AFC working with VAW and linking data to advocacy,***this project proposal will qualify AFC’s support to violence victims; strengthen women victims of violence’s access to legal support by training judges, police and security forces and build bridge between strategic services and advocacy by collecting solid data on protection orders in order to improve practice as well as advocate for effective implementation of Law 58, to protect victims of violence and prevent violence against women, and ultimately, femicide.***

**1.2 Intervention context**

Tunisia has in numerous ways been a pioneer in the Arab world when it comes to tackling discrimination against women. In 2014, a new constitution was drafted, which importantly included articles emphasising equality in opportunities between men and women, as well as equal access to political participation and representation. In 2017, Tunisia saw the adoption of Law 58 on elimination of VAW – a landmark document safeguarding women’s rights to a life free from all types of violence and discrimination. However, implementing the law and living up to its stipulations is another matter entirely. Despite legislative progress, women in Tunisia remain deeply affected by traditional gender norms, manifesting also in stark levels of VAW. In order to achieve gender equality and eliminate gender-based violence in Tunisia, more intensive efforts must be undertaken to engage multiple stakeholders in the implementation and enforcement of legislation and in supporting women victims of violence to enter into new, violence-free lives.

***Gender equality and VAW in Tunisia***

Tunisia has, indeed, seen some progress on gender equality. Women and girls have better access to health care and education, and there is an increase in the number of women who are elected for public functions. Nonetheless, Tunisian women remain impeded in fundamental aspects of everyday life, such as access to the labour market, with a significant lack of access to jobs and a major wage gap persisting. This leads to limited economic independence for women, which results in a need to rely on spouses or family members. Furthermore, and of particular interest to this project, VAW remains widespread. One 2010 survey from the Ministry of women and Family Affairs[[3]](#footnote-4) states that at least 47 % of women have been exposed to violence in their lifetime, while 32 % of respondents had experienced violence during the past 12 months. In the main share of these cases, the aggressor has been either intimate partners or family members. While these numbers may seem dated, there has not since been compiled equally comprehensive data, and there are also no real indications that the situation has improved. In fact, the Ministry of women and family said last year that gender-based violence has climbed by 6 percent over the past four years since the adoption of Law 58 against violence. All forms of violence seem widespread – both physical, psychological, sexual and economic violence. In 2020, the national help line for women victims of violence received more than 15.000 inquiries. Of these callers, 76 % had been subjected to physical violence, while 85 % had experienced psychological violence. The husband/intimate partner was the aggressor in 75 % of the cases of violence reported to the help line[[4]](#footnote-5). As also seen elsewhere in the world, the Covid-19 Pandemic has acted as a further catalyst for VAW, with the Ministry claiming that the number of cases of VAW has increased sevenfold during the period of medical lockdown. In 2020 and 2021, the COVID-19 crisis increased the economic pressure on Tunisia, whose population had already experienced increased economic hardship prior to the health crisis. The health crisis therefore led to even more tension and violence in public and in private spheres, in a situation that was already volatile. This situation of economic crisis and political instability influenced priorities in policies, tending to push aside issues related to the agenda of gender equality. This also means that challenges of reversing the rises in violence become even more difficult to overcome. Nonetheless, civil society has rallied attention to the issue in recent years. Following the case from the intervention area Kef, where a young mother was killed by her police husband mentioned in section 1.1, there is increased awareness of Tunisia’s problem with femicide, the ultimate form of gender-based violence. Tunisia, however, has yet to present any official statistics on femicide in the country.

Since 2017, with the promulgation of Law 58 to eliminate VAW, Tunisia has entered a new era; for the first time in its history, the country has a law that “aims to put in place measures to eliminate all forms of VAW that are based on gender-based discrimination, in order to ensure equality and respect for human dignity, by adopting a comprehensive approach founded upon fighting against the different forms of VAW, through the prevention, prosecution and repression of the perpetrators of this violence, and the protection and care of the victims.”[[5]](#footnote-6) However, the law has faced and is facing a variety of challenges upon implementation and therefore failed to be completely in force. The implementation has not been sufficiently prioritized, also not financially, and there remains limitations to the knowledge of stakeholders enabling them to enforce the law. Challenges further remain with regards to both coordination, but also dedication, as not all individuals are fully in favour of the law.

***Battling VAW in the intervention area, Kef Governorate***

The project will take place in the governorate of Kef, a region located in the North-West of the country. The governorate is divided into 12 delegations. This agricultural region with few resources and a largely rural population is currently facing social and economic problems due to declining economic growth and high unemployment, especially among young people (40%) and women (30.61%), problems that are aggravated by political instability and the health crisis. Rural women are particularly vulnerable to discrimination and violence. 40% of women living in rural areas are illiterate, and many face difficulties in accessing free healthcare and gainful employment. Conservative and patriarchal gender norms are particularly powerful in the rural areas, and rural women face even higher rates of violence than does the average female population in Tunisia. The region has four specialised law enforcement units that focus on VAW and children. Such units, akin to the ones that Denmark have instituted as a result of the Police settlement of 2020, were put in place at national level as a legal provision following the adoption of Law 58. However, there are only 4 such units in Kef to cover all 12 delegations. Moreover, they are understaffed and overloaded with non-specialised cases, as the notion of VAW is still confusing and unclear to many staff. The specialized units are only operational for a limited part of the day and not in weekends, when they are taken over by the duty stations, whose staff are not trained. Therefore, they are not currently able to function as intended – as a guaranty of women’s safety and security. The units and other actors are, as of now, not able to do proper risk assessment for women victims of violence to assess their security situation and the women’s security needs.

As a result of limited risk assessment, protection mechanisms provided for by Law 58 are not properly used and enforced. In law 58, two major protection mechanisms are mentioned: the police or national guard forces may take *emergency and provisional protection measures* with the authorization of the deputy prosecutor (removal of the aggressor, or removal of the victim and the children for secure accommodation). The victim herself or a person mandated by her (whether or not a formal complaint has been filed), can also apply for a *protection order*. The protection order is given by the family judge for a maximum period of 6 months, renewable once. It may order the prohibition of the aggressor from approaching or contacting the victim and/or the children, rule on housing, custody of the children, personal effects, maintenance, or parental authority. In the 4 years that the law has been in force, these protection mechanisms have not been sufficiently or effectively used. At national level, there were more than 68.000 registered complaints with specialized units in 2020 – but only about 2500 instances were protective measures instigated by the special units[[6]](#footnote-7). In Kef, measures and orders for the protection of victims are rarely ordered by the deputy public prosecutor and the family court judge, and there are problems of follow-up due to a lack of resources and effective coordination between the judiciary and the police. This means that even when protection orders are given, it is unclear whether they are also enforced properly.

There is also limited care options for women victims of violence in Kef. AFC is running the *Manara Centre*, a listening and care unit open during the day for women victims of violence, where they can come in and receive support, care and counselling. There are also other service providers for women victims of violence in Kef, but experience shows that they often have very limited knowledge on VAW or how to care for violence survivors. Providers oftentimes do not systematically inform victims of their rights as stipulated by the law, and there is a tendency to follow own convictions about best care practices instead of established and tested procedures and tools. Further, there is a fundamental lack of knowledge on the part of the women of care opportunities, services available to them as well as their rights according to law.

In Kef, multiple stakeholders are involved in the battle against VAW. These stakeholders are organized through a regional coordination body for the fight against VAW. This coordination body (referred to as the IRC) is a multisectoral institutional body mandated by decision of the Minister of Women to monitor and evaluate the implementation of Law 58, the intersectoral convention and sectoral protocols for the care of women victims of violence, and also to collect data and statistics on VAW. The members (15 permanent members) include stakeholders from the sectors of women's affairs and child protection, justice, security, social affairs and the AFC (representing civil society), and the committee is scheduled to meet quarterly. While multiple stakeholder coordination is thus formally in place, this does not function optimally in reality. The complexity of procedures is confusing to women victims of violence, who do not always know where to turn, and there is limited communication between stakeholders, even though a forum is provided. The IRC is not always able to live up to its full responsibility, as it is not sufficiently prioritised by the Governorate, who should be in charge of securing smooth coordination. Therefore, there is a need for a capacity boost to ensure cooperation more effectively between actors and the sustained push on local regional authorities to maintain violence on the region’s agenda. Facilitating the IRC’s functioning will also ensure that the civil society perspective is brought to the fore, and that the coordination, data collection and advocacy is informed by and builds on professional knowledge on VAW, and therefore is as effective as possible.

***A clash of norms***

Like the rest of Tunisia, the region of Kef is very conservative. Society in Kef, and Tunisia as a whole, remains strongly influenced by a patriarchal structure based in a gendered division of space and work between women and men. Men are seen as the heads of the family, the main providers of resources, and women as housewives, caregivers and responsible for the home and children. This pattern is reinforced by legal codes and instruments. The Personal Status Code, for example, still considers the man as the head of the family. These roles will subsequently determine the distribution of tasks, behavior and decision-making between women and men. This gendered division of labor supports a social system that constructs a differentiation and hierarchy between men and women and the idea of a dominant/hegemonic masculinity. These expectations and roles are based on social norms that define the expectations of femininity and masculinity to which individuals must conform. Compliance with these societal expectations and norms for women and men is based on a mechanism of social control (resistance, stigmatisation, gender-based violence, exclusion, etc.) to ensure that these norms are respected. Due to Tunisia's religious identity, these social norms are often justified by religious rules and customs. In this sense, social norms intersect with religious rules to create socio-religious normative expectations that women and men are expected to respect. According to the report by the Centre de Recherches, d'Études de Documentation et d'Information sur la Femme (CREDIF) on the social representations of VAW among young and adult men, representations of violence still clash with an entrenched conservative traditional culture, which affects adherence to universal values often associated with Western culture. The report highlights the persistent link between masculinities, social norms, and the acceptance of VAW. VAW is therefore socially trivialised and justified, and even blamed on the victim herself, who is blamed for not submitting to male authority and patriarchal traditions that value sacrifice and the acceptance of violence in order to safeguard the "family unit" or "honour". Based on findings made during the evaluation of the AFC's projects in the fight against VAW, the work done by AFC’s *Manara Centre*, and the monitoring done by the IRC, the situation of women and girls has not improved much, and their access to protection, quality essential services and the exercise of their rights in court are not satisfactory.

***Fear of a shrinking democracy***

Recent political developments in Tunisia must be mentioned here. Since the 2011 revolution, Tunisia has had the most progressive and democratic legal framework for civil society in the Arab region through the Decree 88. This progression is currently crumbling and the political crisis the country is witnessing has further complicated the advancement of gender equality and the fight against violence. After a long arm wrestling between the executive, legislative, and judicial powers, on July 25th, 2021, Tunisian President Kais Saied announced the suspension of the country’s Parliament, immunity of all deputies and fired Prime Minister Hicham Mechichi[[7]](#footnote-8). In February, President Saied issued a decree establishing a new provisional Supreme Judiciary Council, effectively replacing the judicial body he abolished and granting himself additional powers to control the country’s top judicial organisation[[8]](#footnote-9). Thus, the democratic gains Tunisia acquired in 2011 are strongly challenged. This, of course, presents a risk to the project, as it remains unclear what the implications will be. Indeed, it does not look like Tunisia is on the right track towards civic participation and open democratic space, as civil society seems to be President Saied next target. In early February 2022, Tunisian media reported that the government had drafted amendments to Decree 88[[9]](#footnote-10). These amendments will significantly increase state control over civil society. Specifically, President Saied pledges to change the legal framework of civil society organisations to prevent them from receiving foreign funding. He claims foreign funding “serves as a cover for the financing of political parties and” and “in reality, they are extensions of foreign powers, which seek to control the Tunisian people through their money”[[10]](#footnote-11). For obvious reasons this will complicate the work of civil society organisations and make international cooperation more difficult. Feminist organisations and activists fear the effects of a crumbling democracy, because it is a long-standing tradition that women are often the first victims in situations of political turmoil. The partners will keep updated on the situation and continuously evaluate the best ways to move forward.

* 1. **Strengthening civil society organising**

This intervention is designed to strengthen the collaboration between CSOs, policy makers and other relevant stakeholders, and build a stronger civil society alliance in order for civil society to stand together when pushing for the implementation of Law 58’s proper implementation. The intervention will strengthen the collaboration between CSOs, both in the governorate of Kef and on a national Tunisian level. In Kef, the civil society organizing will be strengthened through activities focusing on the multi-stakeholder body IRC, thus sharing data and knowledge on VAW in the governorate of Kef through IRC. On a national level, civil society organizing will be strengthened through AFC and its involvement as a member organisation in the national Network of shelters and women’s rights organisation consisting of 24 organisations from all governorates of Tunisia. The network organisations will be included as invited collaborating stakeholders giving input and knowledge sharing. Finally, the intervention is designed to strengthen the ability of women exposed to violence to know and claim their rights under current legislation, as women victims of violence are an integral part of the planned study on the use of protective orders. As part of the study, women exposed to violence will be interviewed and their experiences will be a substantial part of the data foundation, and they will therefore be involved in mapping out the obstacles as well as future solutions for the implementation of Law 58. As such involvement entails substantial possible risks, the women will be involved in accordance with the Do No Harm-principles.

**1.4 Climate and environment**

This intervention does not deal explicitly with climate and environmental issues, and climate change is not currently deemed a main determinant of women exposed to domestic violence in Kef’s conditions. The majority of activities are taking place in the governorate of Kef, which naturally limits travel activities. Some project activities, however, will necessarily entail a certain amount of traveling, both domestically and to some extent internationally. This is seen as a crucial component of the project, as it facilitates training of relevant stakeholders in Tunisia, and the highly valued sharing of experiences and lessons learned across borders. Nonetheless, the project partners will always seek out the most sustainable solutions for travelling, looking at both economic and environmental sustainability.

1. The partnership

This project is the first formal collaboration between AFC and Danner, but the two organisations have been collaborating around ending VAW in Tunisia for the last 5 years in a network of women’s shelters and organisations established by Danner and Danner’s former Tunisian partner, AFTURD. The network consists of 24 shelter and women’s’ rights organisations and covers all of Tunisia’s 24 governorates. AFC covers Kef and is vital in the fight against femicide and supporting the increased legal access for women victims of violence. Further to this, Danner invited AFC to a CISU funded seminar on fighting gender-based violence by addressing gender norms in Tunis, January 2020. At the seminar, it became even more evident that both partners share values and a wish to explore new ways of working towards a world free from VAW, and to continuously engage in debates on gender norms and perceptions of women to fundamentally challenge the status quo.

## **2.1 AFC**

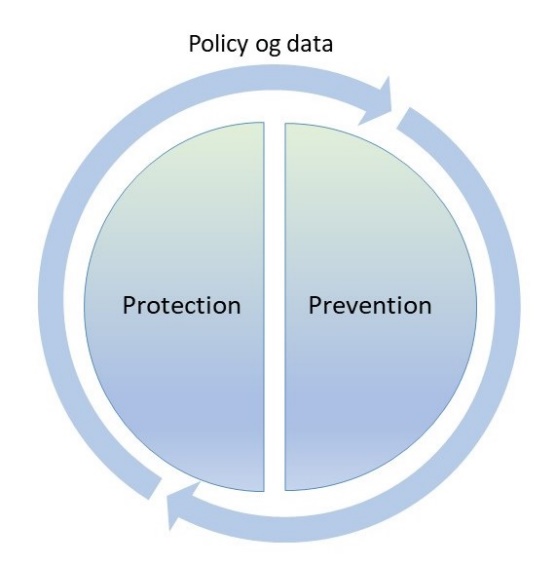
*Association Femme et Citoyenneté* (AFC) (Organisation of Women and Citizenship in English) is a Tunisian feminist association created in Kef. AFC was created by 13 women activists on April 15, 2011, in the post-revolution period that saw the rise of a religious conservatism and extremism representing threats for women's rights and for the emerging democracy. AFC is working to end VAW and promote civic values, convinced that without the effective recognition of women's full citizenship, their contribution to the development of the country, the guarantee of their economic, social and cultural rights as well as respect for their dignity and physical integrity, Tunisia will not be a just, egalitarian and democratic society. The organisation has 13 members of staff, all women and is supported by more than 60 members and many volunteers, mainly young people. AFC works to:

1. Fight against the precariousness of women, the discrimination and violence they may suffer.
2. Promote equality and parity by carrying out actions for the defence and development of women's rights in the economic, social, cultural and political fields.
3. Ensure the establishment of egalitarian, equitable and just legislation.
4. Change the misogynistic value system, representations and stereotypes that reproduce unequal relationships and sexist behaviours, among other things.
5. Promote respect for the values of citizenship.

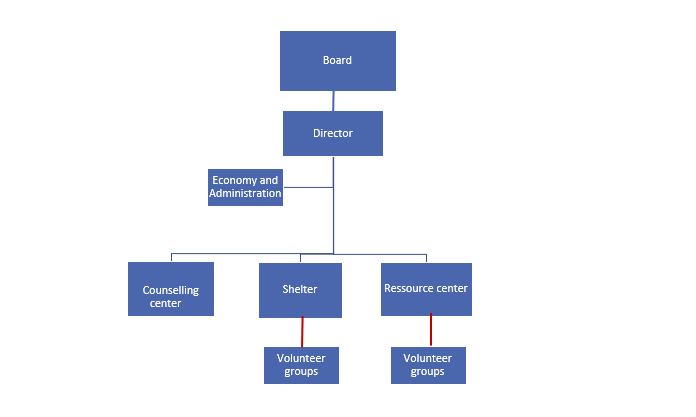
AFC’s programs, projects, and activities are mainly implemented in the governorate of Kef, located in the North-Western region of the country on the Tunisian Algerian border. Since 2013, AFC has implemented several projects to fight against VAW supported by its technical and financial partners (CIDEAL, DANNER, Terre des Hommes, POMED, Kvinna till Kvinna, the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation). In 2014, the organisation put in place the Manara Centre which until now have supported more than 18.000 women. AFC also took initiative to establish a local Coordination Committee between partners involved in caring for women victims and victims of violence. This committee is still operational, and it is composed of focal points representing the Police, the National Guard, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Women, and members of the Judiciary. This committee was institutionalized by a decree of the Ministry of Women in May 2019, as a Regional Coordination Committee to Fight against Violence against Women.

Further, AFC has strong experience with awareness raising. AFC has worked with nearly 3,000 women in rural areas of the governorate of Kef on gender, gender-based violence, and services for women victims of violence through a network of 10 female focal points scattered all over the governorate. Training is also a tool used by AFC, similarly to the activities in this proposal – AFC has for example trained more than 110 service providers from administrations affiliated with the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Women, the Police, and the National Guard in topics such as gender, gender-based violence, the cycle of domestic violence, the caring for women victims of violence and intersectoral coordination. Thus, AFC has very solid experience in caring for women victims of violence, while working with duty bearers and enhance communication and coordination between civil society and duty bearers.

## **2.2 Danner**

Danner is a privately funded organisation working nationally and internationally to eliminate violence against women and children in support of Sustainable Development Goal 5. Danner runs a *shelter* for women and children exposed to violence in Copenhagen as well as a *councelling centre*. Annully, Danner receives more than 2500 calls for help, support and advice and provides counselling. Approximately 60 women and their children stay at the shelter every year. Danner also runs a *Resource Centre* which takes lead on all external engagements, including national and international partnerships and projects, research and analysis as well as advocacy work. Over the past five years, Danner has expanded its advocacy efforts, and is now an active part in the national political debate on all areas related to VAW and children. With very few resources, Danner has managed to achieve good policy results, including the criminalisation of coercive control (in 2019) and securing psychological therapy for all women at shelters in Denmark. This has been possible due to a simple strategy, which draws on newest research, quantitative and qualitative data as well as experiences from the psycho-social practice at the shelter and counselling service, where we meet thousands of women every year. It is our experience that alliances need to be made to succeed with major policy changes, because alliances with several actors contribute to holding authorities accountable

Since 2007 Danner has worked **internationally** in network alliances and through partnerships, based on a feminist understanding that the causes of VAW are partly rooted in patriarchal gender norms and weak gender sensitive structures. Hence, VAW must also be addressed internationally to assure real change and impact. Today, Danner works in Afghanistan, Tunesia and Palestine (previously, Danner has also worked in Greenland, Morocco, Burundi and Egypt). In spring 2019, Danner adopted a new international strategy. The strategic approach to combatting VAW is to enhance protection and prevention supported by advocacy, which is based on solid data on VAW. In addition, Danner’s motivation to engage in international partnerships lies both in a vision of giving solidarity by supporting fellow women’s rights organisations as well as an ambition of gaining more knowlegde on VAW and how to best prevent it. Danner’s international work is based on four thematic areas:

1. *Building the capacity of professionals working in the field of VAW.*
2. *Strengthening national and international networks to enhance joint efforts in protection, prevention and advocacy*
3. *Adressing the root causes of VAW, including gender stereotypes and to promote equality at all levels.*
4. *Specialised effort for vulnarable groups, including migrant women and women in fragile contexts.*

Our work is based on the experience that a professionalized shelter and women’s rights movement rooted in a strong civil society can play a key role in mobilizing political and public support for legal reforms that hold perpetrators accountable, provide support and protection of victims to violence, and promote social norms that render VAW unacceptable. All Danners’ projects build on strong partnerships and investment in the mobilisation of civil society organisations from a bottum up-approach.

Danner consists of (see organisational chart):

* A General Assembly, where Danner’s +200 volunteers elect the Board.
* A Board with 10 members, who are elected every second year.
* The permanent and core staff of Danner (approximately 50 staff) consists of a CEO, a deputy director, a management group, which each heads Danner’s four departments (Shelter, Counselling Centre, Administration and Resource Centre).

**2.3 Division of roles and responsibilities**

With their long-standing experience working with women in Tunisia, and especially in Kef, AFC will take charge on planning and implementing the project, including outreach, communication, and coordination with relevant stakeholders such as judges, police, Ministry of Women’s affairs and women victims of violence with Danner as consulting operational partner. This project is heavy on coordination between a multitude of stakeholders, warranting the need for significant project management resources. An experienced AFC project manager will be engaged in this project with the support of a financial assistant. In close collaboration with Danner, they will be responsible for the proper implementation of project activities, logistics, technical and financial management in an effective and efficient manner in order to achieve the expected objectives and periodic reporting. As AFC’s role is centred on development and implementation of trainings these efforts on the ground entails a relatively heavy number of local hours. Danner, in turn, will be involved as a consulting partner when AFC is to implement trainings using Danner’s training manual *Empowering staff to combat violence against women*. Furthermore, Danner will support strategic planning and project implementation and will contribute particularly with experience on network building, strategic advocacy planning and training on shelter methodology. Danner and AFC will rely heavily on exchange of experiences on how to work with the Femicide agenda. While AFC will monitor the implementation of individual activities, Danner is responsible for monitoring project progress in general. To ensure smooth cooperation on this first project partnership, AFC and Danner will hold bi-weekly coordination meetings to follow up on project implementation, ensuring the continuous close dialogue on how the partners can best achieve their goals and the project can go forward towards fulfilment of the objectives.

**2.4 A mutually beneficial partnership**

As previously described, Danner and AFC have not been working in a partnership before this intervention but have experience working with and in the same network of shelters and women’s rights organisations in Tunisia. Further to this, working with norms as a way of fighting gender-based violence has been and is a focus area for both organisations. In this partnership the collaboration will draw on AFC’s unique experience from Tunisia and Kef. AFC has a solid relationship with the target group and working both on the individual level of women victims of violence as well as violence against women as a societal problem, with close ties and allies on duty bearer level build up over the years. Over the last couple of years Danner has been increasingly focusing on Femicide both in terms of creating awareness around Femicide but also around preventing Femicide, for example by initiating collaboration with police and working with policy makers and politicians. AFC on their side have also had increased focus on the issue of Femicide, especially sparked by the killing of a woman by her husband, a police officer, and what went before this incident as described in the beginning of this proposal. AFC also sees the need to collaborate with, involve and train police in Tunisia to be better equipped to handle cases of women victims of violence as well as being able to protect women in danger of being victims of femicide. For that reason, working with the protection orders as a specific element of this process is essential. Thus, Danner and AFC have a lot to offer to each other as partners in terms of knowledge sharing and relying on Danner’s extensive experience with data collection and advocacy and AFC’s extensive experience with women victims of violence in Kef as well as the relevant stakeholders in need of more knowledge and collaboration such as the police and the judicial system.

**2.5 AFC, Danner and other stakeholders**

Through this intervention AFC will deepen and qualify their relation to several important sectors and actors in terms of fighting VAW, including judges, police, and members of security forces as part of developing and implementing the training program, which will be described in section 3.3. The program will include gender-based violence and its structural origins, consequences of violence, the cycle of domestic violence/process of marital dominance, risk assessment and management for women victims of domestic violence + other priorities that the study, also an activity in this proposal described in section 3.3, may reveal. The study will centre around an evaluation of the application of a protection mechanism provided for by Law 58, which is the “protection order” that women victims of violence can ask for from the Family Judge, whether they have already filed a complaint or not. Through the study AFC will seek the support of and thereby collaborate with the Association of Magistrates to ensure that it affects the sectors responsible for the application of this mechanism, namely the judiciary (family judge, prosecutor's office), police and national guard units specialized in gender-based violence. Further to this, an important stakeholder and source of knowledge and sparring is the Network of shelters and women’s rights organisation consisting of 24 organisations in Tunisia, of which one is AFC. The network, with all the participating organisations with experience from all over Tunisia, will provide feedback on the study and the recommendations of the study as well suggest ways forward. What is developed based on the study, i.e., training and data collection tools will then again be provided to the network to use in their work.

1. The intervention

**3.1 Target groups**

All activities of this project are undertaken with the explicit long-term aim of preventing VAW and protecting women victims of violence. Therefore, women exposed to domestic violence are the final beneficiaries of this intervention, although they take up only limited space as direct target groups of the project. Instead, the project engages target groups that play a strategic role in preventing violence and protecting women victims of violence. Essential to achieving the objectives of this project is that the project works with multiple stakeholders and that these individual target groups will be working together to achieve the objectives. The objectives will be reached through several activities. Hereunder, a study revolved around a mapping of the current situation and in terms of protection of women victims and how well the protection mechanisms work; a seminar following up on the study and involving multiple stakeholders in shaping the way forward; and trainings and sensitization of both judges, police and security forces as well as shelter staff; and capacity building of the regional committee in Kef (which consists of multiple stakeholders) to improve the coordination between the stakeholders working with the protection of women victims of violence. These activities and the objectives of the proposal will be described further in section 3.3. The project will directly engage the following target groups:

**Judges and Judiciary in Kef:**

Working with the judges and judiciary in Kef is essential as they are the frontline stakeholders in collaboration with the police when it comes to enforcing the protection measures for women victims of violence.

* 12 judges and judiciary will participate in training on enhancing the protection of victims of violence, with the purpose of improving the implementation of protection provisions of law 58 and thereby enable more effective protection of women victims of violence and prevent femicide.
* 10 judges and judiciary will participate as informants to the study
* 5 judges and judiciary will participate in the follow-up seminar to be part of shaping the best way forward in terms of reenforcing the protection measures. This will create ownership of the process and ensure the sustainability of the outcomes of the seminar and study.

**Police and security forces in Kef**

Police and security forces are crucial to the protection of women victims of violence as they are often the first place women go to seek help. If the capacity and awareness of the police is enhanced and the police and security forces are involved in the multiple stakeholder process, more women will be able to get the help and support they need.

* 12 police and security forces in Kef will participate in training on enhancing the protection of victims of violence. The training will focus on integrating knowledge and tools in daily work with the purpose of increasing the capacity and awareness of upholding and enforcing protection.
* 10 police and security forces will participate as informants to the study
* 5 police and security forces will participate in the follow-up seminar to be part of shaping the best way forward in terms of reenforcing the protection measures. This will create ownership of the process and ensure the sustainability of the outcomes of the seminar and study.

**Panel members of (IRC) The regional Committee on Violence in Kef**

The panel members of the IRC are essential as target group as they should facilitate the multiple stakeholder coordination around implementing the law 58 and ensuring prevention of VAW and protection of women victims of violence.

* 15 members of the IRC will through meetings, ongoing dialogue, joint activities, data management and advocacy training and workshops, be supported and strengthened in its work for putting pressure on local regional authorities to keep domestic violence on the region’s agenda.

**Staff and volunteers at the *Manara Centre* in Kef**

* 12 staff and volunteers at the *Manara Centre* in Kef will be trained on shelter methodologies, and workshops on development of procedure manuals will be implemented, with the purpose of improving and strengthening the level of qualified support that women victims of violence receive when the seek support from professionals

**Women exposed to domestic violence in Kef**

* 500 women victims of violence will receive counselling and legal support at the *Manara Centre* to enable them to escape the violence and live a life free of violence.
* 30 women victims of violence provide input and are interviewed for the study. It is essential to involve the women as they have the first-hand experience when it comes to seeking protection and how the police and legal system works.

**The Tunisian network of 24 shelter and women’s rights organisations**

The network is a central stakeholder when working with prevention and protection, as they have established themselves as an influential voice and have built the capacity and ability to advocate on behalf of the women victims of violence throughout the last 5 years in collaboration with Danner. The network is a member of the National Observatory for Violence and are responsible for the regional coordination between stakeholders. AFC is part of the network and hence working to improve the coordination between stakeholders in Kef.

* 15 member organisations in the network will be used to inform the study and will participate in the follow-up seminar to bring the networks experience from all over Tunisia to the discussions of best ways forward in kef.

The project furthermore works with a few **secondary target groups**:

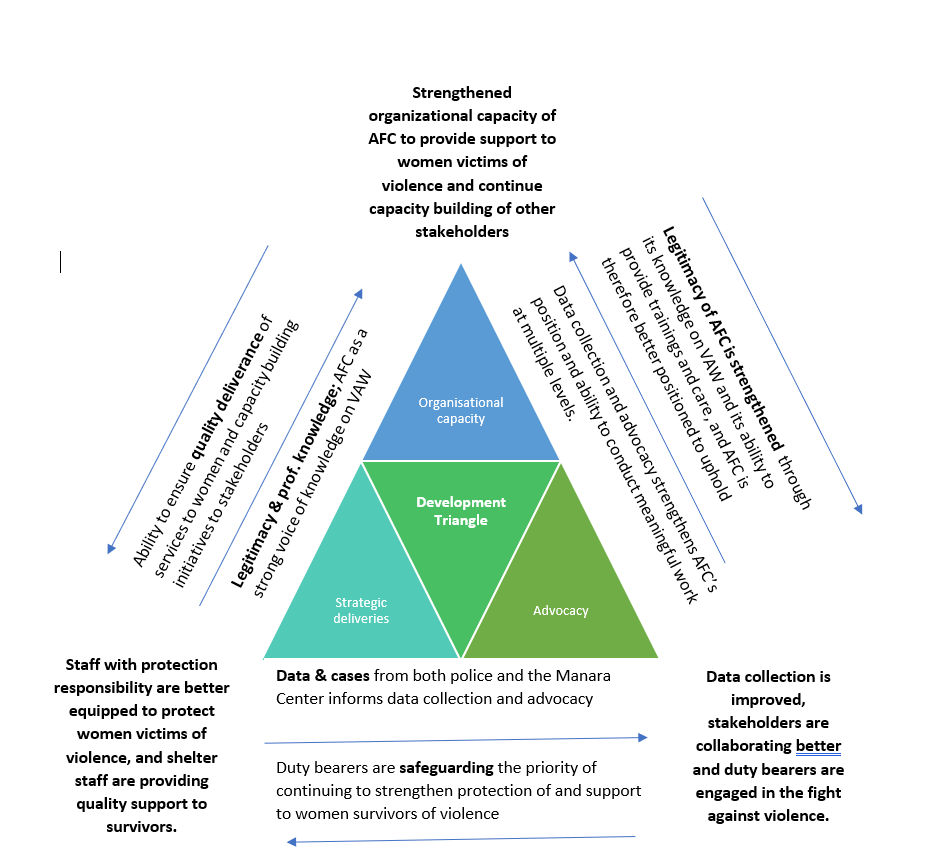
* 20 frontline stakeholders within the field police and security forces as well as the judiciary field will, through colleagues who have participated in trainings within the project, be better equipped to support the protection of victims of domestic violence as well as being sensitized to the lives and conditions of victims of domestic violence
* 25 staff from the organisation of the 15 IRC members will be strengthened in their work with preventing VAW and protecting the victims of violence, as members of the IRC will bring back new knowledge and tools
* 25 Policy makers and members of the civil society working with VAW will be involved in shaping the way forward when working with protection and prevention.

**3.2 Strategy and theory of change**

This project is, ultimately, intended to be a contributing element of the Tunisian fight towards elimination of gender-based violence, including femicide. This, of course, is a much more expansive aim than what can be achieved by a single project. Nonetheless, this project inscribes itself in a much larger effort towards securing the safety and equal rights of all women and girls in Tunisia. One major obstacle on the path to elimination of VAW in Tunisia, is the perpetual slowness of implementation of Tunisia’s otherwise progressive legislation prohibiting all forms of violence. Therefore, speeding up implementation and ensuring that the implementation builds on specific knowledge and professional expertise on the dynamics of violence will be imperative if Tunisia is to make proper progress on this agenda. This intervention will have a particular focus on protection of women from violence in general and femicide in particular. Such protection is legally granted through the Law 58, but measures in practice keep lagging behind. Therefore, we operate with the following overall objective: *Women in kef are better protected from violence through improved stakeholder coordination and implementation of Law 58.* In our analysis of the implementation of Law 58, the problem is three-fold:

1. Policymakers lack awareness on gender-based violence and femicide, and they tend to down-play the risks to women’s lives, underestimate the social and societal consequences of violence and ignore the responsibility of duty bearers to protect women from violence. This results in insufficient dedication from the political and social leaders of the country to accelerating implementation of Law 58.

2. Front line staff who are charged with the implementation of the law on a day-to-day basis lack theoretical knowledge of violence and femicide as well as practical skills on protection of women victims of violence. This goes for both police, who will typically encounter victims of violence as first responders, as well as judiciary professionals, including lawyers and judges, who must enact the law in support of the violated women. At the same time, there is only limited coordination between different stakeholders who work for the protection of victims of violence.

3. Victims of violence lack opportunities for quality support – both in terms of seeking out protection and security, healing their traumas and demanding justice in accordance with the law.

Therefore, the strategy for realising meaningful implementation of the law and real protection for women exposed to violence will hinge on three different strategic aims, responding to the issues as defined above:

1. Pressure must be placed on duty bearers to realise their responsibility towards protection of all women
2. Front line implementers of the law must be capable and qualified to grant proper protection to women
3. Women victims of violence must be able to receive qualified care and support.

The project is designed to accommodate all elements of the development triangle: The organisational capacity of AFC and partners will be strengthened, strategic deliveries to both women and relevant stakeholders will strengthen capacity and increase protection and support, and duty bearers will be involved based on solid data collection on the need for increased protection of women in Kef. These three points of the triangle are mutually reinforcing and will contribute to the sustainability of the project overall, as shown above.

All in all, the project builds on the following theory of change:

|  |
| --- |
| ***If*** we expand the knowledge base on protective measures of Law 58 and their use, identify delimitations and engage relevant stakeholders and duty bearers in discussions on how to improve protection and implement Law 58 ***and*** we train security and judiciary stakeholders on violence and protection of women against violence ***and*** we train support staff on how to work with violence and run efficient shelter facilities, ***then*** the use of protective orders is improved ***and*** judiciary and security actors have the capacity to enforce protective orders and other protection measures ***and*** policy makers and civil society are pushing for implementation of Law 58’s protection mechanics, ***all the while*** women are able to seek support from capable professionals, all ***leading to*** a situation where women in Kef are better protected against violence and the Law 58 is one step closer to being implemented properly. |

**3.3 Objectives, outcomes and activities**

During the project period, the two partners plan on carrying out a number of activities, each placed under one of the three strategic objectives. It is important to notice, however, that the activities may belong to different objectives, but they are still interlinked and mutually reinforcing, and the implementation of one activity under one objective will directly relate to and affect the results of other activities under other objectives. In this way, the activities are designed and planned to work together towards the strengthening of protection for women victims of violence in Tunisia. This is also why the proposal has a multiple stakeholder approach. The activities are as outlined below:

**Objective 1: Key stakeholders are better equipped to support the implementation of Law 58 on the ground, particularly protection provisions of the law.**

Under this objective, the partners will develop training programs targeting relevant stakeholders within police, judiciary, and security forces – all stakeholders, who are on the frontline when it comes to protection of violence victims, and who are the de facto implementers of the Law 58’s protection provisions. Further, the partners will be focused on anchoring knowledge and skills from training in the concerned institutions to ensure a lasting and sustainable capacity lift of not only individuals, but institutions. Danner has extensive experience and a proven track record both in Denmark and internationally, in training front line staff and thereby improving the lives of the women who come in contact with frontline staff. Danner’s training manual is designed to benefit participants and trainers alike. Therefore, it includes both theory and tools for frontline staff as well as training of trainer elements, which will support AFC in their implementation of trainings, after having participated in trainings facilitated by Danner. The following outcomes and activities will be carried out:

Outcome 1.1: Judges and other judiciary stakeholders have improved understanding of the mechanisms of violence against women and have new skills for fulfilling their own role in providing protection and implementing Law 58

Under this outcome, a training programme targeting stakeholders in the justice system will be developed and implemented. The programme will focus on enhancing protection of victims of violence. The programme will be aimed at improving knowledge of the gender approach, VAW and its structural origins, the consequences of violence, the cycle of domestic violence and the process of marital domination. The programme will further involve risk assessment training using risk assessment tools previously developed by AFC as well as risk management, just like it will include information on the minimum standards of protection of victim of violence within the sector. The programme will, in part, build on knowledge accumulated through a study on the granting and implementation of protective orders against violators, which will be carried out as a project activity under Objective 2.

The programme will include several cycles of training, allowing for the trainees to make use of their new skills along the way, and discuss experiences and obstacles they may encounter. Furthermore, the programme will be developed in a way that is attentive to the realities faced by the intended trainees on a daily basis, and concrete tools introduced will be developed to fit into their usual procedures. Thus, the training programme will have a specific focus on how to integrate knowledge and tools into the daily procedures at the trainees’ specific workplaces. Due to the sensitivity of the justice sector and their professional constraints, all or part of the training will have to be provided in a setting away from the city and the participant’s normal tasks and duties. It is the partners’ clear experience that facilitating trainings away from everyday settings ensures more focus, less distraction, and a learning environment that allows for fruitful discussions among the participants, also during break time and evenings. The following activities will be carried out:

1.1.1 Mapping and outreach to actors in need of training

1.1.2 Stakeholder meetings identifying needs, requirements, and procedural limitations

1.1.3 Development of tools, methods, and training sessions.

1.1.4 Training for judiciary stakeholders (basic and follow-up sessions)

1.1.5 Training of judges (basic and follow-up sessions)

Outcome 1.2: Police and other security stakeholders have improved understanding of the mechanisms of violence against women and have new skills for fuldilling their own role in providing protection and implementing Law 58

A training programme targeting police and security actors will also be developed and implemented. The programme will be similar to the one developed for judiciary actors, but will, of course, be tailored to the police’s own role in the protection of victims of violence. For example, the training will include a focus on how to uphold and enforce protection orders but will be less concerned with how to grant them. The following activities will be implemented as part of the project:

1.2.1 Mapping and outreach to actors in need of training

1.2.2 Stakeholder meetings identifying needs, requirements, and procedural limitations

1.2.3 Development of tools, methods, and training sessions.

1.2.4 Training for police and other security actors (core and follow-up sessions)

Outcome 1.3: Institutions charged with enforcing protection mechanisms of Law 58 have adopted improved practices for the enforcement of protective orders and the general support of women victims of violence based in professional knowledge on violence

Under this outcome, the partners will implement a follow-up and supervision program for the integration of learnings into the concerned institutions. In order to support the integration of knowledge at institutional level, the partners will develop a monitoring tool (form including the axes of monitoring and evaluation of knowledge implementation) and conduct supervision visits to the trainees at their workplaces. The field visits will assess the transformation of knowledge into skills to the benefit of women victims of violence as well as the obstacles and problems that have arisen during the integration process. In the end, two workshops will be held, one for judiciary and one for security actors, to discuss the results of the training programme and supervision and share recommendation for future engagements. The following activities will be undertaken:

1.3.1 Development of supervision matrices for security institutions and judiciary institutions

1.3.2 Conducting field visits to security institutions and judiciary institutions

1.3.3 results and recommendation workshops

**Objective 2: Relevant duty-bearers and policy makers are engaged in discussions on how to improve protection of women victims of violence in Kef**

Under this objective, the partners will increase their knowledge base on the use and effectiveness of protection mechanisms of Law 58 and will use this data to influence duty holders and relevant stakeholders to accelerate implementation of the protection provisions of the law. Further, the partners will build the capacity of the regional body for coordination in the fight against VAW in Kef to enable them to monitor the situation and institute changes at policy level more effectively.

Outcome 2.1: The knowledge base on use and enforcement of protective orders as a means of protecting women from violence and femicide has been enhanced, and duty bearers are engaged in conversations on how to improve the situation

Law 58 provides protection mechanisms for women victims of violence. However, it is important that an assessment of current practices is carried out to understand how these mechanisms are applied and whether they are, in fact, accessible to victims of violence - and when they are, whether their implementation is effective. In a comparative study of the use and operationalization of protective measures and orders, we will present the conditions and procedures for taking protective measures or giving protection orders as well as their effect, in order to see if they work as intended as a real protection measure against violence. The study will be conducted in Kef and one other governorate in Tunisia (TBD). The partners will pursue a partnership with the Association of Magistrates around the production and dissemination of the study to ensure that it affects the sectors responsible for the application of this mechanism, namely the judiciary (family judge, prosecutor's office) and police and national guard units specialized in gender-based violence. As part of the study, women will be included and asked about their experiences with protective measures and protection orders and their capacity for providing protection.

Following the production of the study, a seminar will be planned in coordination with the Association of Magistrates to disseminate knowledge gained through the study. The seminar will have attendance of stakeholders representing both policy makers and those responsible for enforcing protection, as well as civil society actors working with Law 58. The focus of the seminar will be to discuss the findings and their implications for implementation of Law 58, as well as discussing possible strategic and practical steps forward towards fulfilment of protection mandates stipulated in Law 58. The following activities will be carried out:

2.1.1 Stakeholder meetings with the Association of Magistrates and other potentially relevant stakeholders in order to establish partnership and secure access to information

2.1.2 Data collection and analysis. Data will be a mix of survey answers, interviews and document material

2.1.3 Production of study report

2.1.4 Mapping of and outreach to relevant stakeholders and duty bearers

2.1.5 Planning and holding the seminar

2.1.6 Production and dissemination of outcome material to stakeholders in order to keep the seminar agenda alive.

Outcome 2.2: The Kef regional body for coordination on violence against women (IRC) have increased capacity to facilitate regional coordination and collaboration on practical and tactical aspects of the implementation of Law 58 and are keeping regional and national stakeholders updated on the situation on VAW in Kef

Under this outcome, the partners will supporting the increased capacity of the Kef Regional body for coordination in the fight against violence against women (IRC). The IRC is a multisectoral institutional body mandated by decision of the Minister of Women to monitor and evaluate the implementation of Law 58, the intersectoral convention and sectoral protocols for the care of women victims of violence, and also to collect data and statistics on VAW. The members (15 permanent members) include stakeholders from the sectors of women's affairs and child protection, justice, security, health, social affairs and the AFC, and the committee is scheduled to meet quarterly. The IRC publishes an annual report, first one published in 2020, containing updated statistics on VAW in Kef, status on implementation of Law 58, IRC activities, challenges, and recommendations.

As part of the project, the partners will hold knowledge sharing conferences to disseminate knowledge to regional stakeholders and discuss implications and ways forward for the next year. Once during the project period, a national conference will be planned to encourage knowledge sharing across governorates and push for national action. The national conference will be planned in collaboration with the National Network of Women’s Shelters and Counselling Centres, of which AFC is a member. The committee will benefit from a capacity boost to more effectively ensure cooperation between actors and the sustained push on local regional authorities to keep violence on the region’s agenda. Therefore, the project will support the committee by providing workshops and opportunities for collective learning and shared strategizing. More particularly, the following activities will be carried out:

2.2.1 Facilitation of quarterly meetings of the committee to ensure ongoing dialogue, communication, and a space for direct interaction between committee members

2.2.2 Workshop(s) to support the development of the IRC annual report(s)

2.2.3 Training on data management to ensure sufficient and necessary data collection and the committee's ongoing capacity to use data in advocacy

2.2.4 Regional launch conferences for IRC annual reports

2.2.5 National conference sharing methods and results and discussing national efforts for the implementation of Law 58

**Objective 3: Women victims of violence are seeking out and receiving qualified support from professionals**

Under objective 3, the partners will focus on making sure that women who have been subjected to violence will have a place to receive proper support and care. This will be done through direct counselling services to women at the *Manara Centre* and will also involve an imperative component of strengthening the professional knowledge and skills of staff at the support centre and ensure smooth management, thus improving services for women victims of violence.

Outcome 3.1: Shelter staff and management have professional knowledge on working with violence and managing shelter facilities, and are able to enact self-care and provide quality care to women victims of violence

In order for the staff at *Manara Centre* to be able to provide quality services to women victims of violence, the project will involve training of staff and management at the counselling centre to ensure that those who provide support are at the top of their game. Making use of Danner’s training manual (developed under the Danish-Arab Partnership Project and tested in Tunisia and the whole region with great success), the partners will provide training on how to work with violence and violence victims, how to ensure efficient shelter management, and how to practice self-care when working with violence. Together, these training sessions are aimed to strengthen the capacities of the *Manara Centre* to provide services to women victims of violence, and to ensure smooth management. Experience shows that training on self-care strategies will strengthen the staff’s motivation and prevent burnout and staff turnover.

Following the trainings, procedure manuals will be developed for the *Manara Centre*. A priority will be to make the manuals clear and legible, and to make sure that procedures are compatible with procedures for other partners or stakeholders such as the referring entities, police etc. The procedure manuals will contain guidelines for staff, management, and volunteers on how to go about the everyday work as well as how to ensure smooth coordination. The following activities will be carried out:

3.1.1 Training sessions on ‘working with violence’

3.1.2 Training sessions on shelter management

3.1.3 Training sessions on self-care strategies

3.1.4 Workshop for staff and management on development of procedure manual

3.1.5 Development and production of manuals

3.1.6 Session on integration of manual into work processes

Outcome 3.2: Women victims of violence are knowledgeable on their rights and opportunities for protection, and they are better equipped to continue a life free from violence

AFC is currently running the *Manara Centre* which offers counselling to women victims of violence. The partners will boost counselling services to women at the *Manara Centre* – both social and legal counselling. The counselling will aim at empowering women to move on from violence and start a life without violence. Women at the *Manara Centre* will receive services allowing for a space of free speech, where they can deal effectively with feelings of guilt, understand the origins of the violence they have experienced, and start a process of healing. They will also be supported in assessing their security situation and come up with a security plan, just like they will be connected to other services based on their needs. At the centre, women will also have opportunity to speak to a social worker, who can assist them in diagnosing their health situation and socio-economic situation and support them in their attempts to cover basic needs and gain social benefits and rights. Furthermore, women who need it will be offered legal counselling. Here, they will be advised on their rights, and they will have their legal situation examined. Based on their needs, the women may receive support on e.g., drafting of complaints or other legal documents, preparations for hearings or accompaniment to the court, police etc.

The following sub-activities will be carried out:

3.2.1 Listening and counselling services to support women in healing process

3.2.2 Legal counselling

**3.4 Time plan**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Activity number in LFA** | **Activity** |
| **Year 1** | **2.1** | **Comparative study on the use of protective orders** |
| 2.1.1 | Stakeholder meetings with the Association of Magistrates and other potentially relevant stakeholders in order to establish partnership and secure access to information |
| 2.1.2 | Data collection and analysis. Data will be a mix of survey answers, interviews, and document material |
| 2.1.3 | Production of study report |
| 2.1.4 | Mapping of and outreach to relevant stakeholders |
| 2.1.5 | Planning and holding the seminar |
| 2.1.6 | Production and dissemination of outcome material to stakeholders in order to keep the seminar agenda alive |
| **2.2** | **Supporting the increased capacity of the Kef Regional body for coordination in the fight against violence against women (IRC)** |
| 2.2.1 | Facilitation of quarterly meetings of the committee |
| 2.2.2 | Workshops on development of annual workplans |
| 2.2.3 | Training on data management |
| 2.2.4 | Regional launch conferences for IRC annual reports |
| 2.2.5 | National conference sharing methods and results and discussing national efforts for the implementation of Law 58 |
| **3.1** | **Training of staff and volunteers at *Manara Centre*** |
| 3.1.1 | Training sessions on ‘working with violence’ |
| 3.1.2 | Training sessions on shelter management |
| 3.1.3 | Training sessions on self-care strategies |
| 3.1.4 | Workshop for staff and management on development of procedure manual |
| 3.1.5 | Session on integration of manual into work processes |
| **3.2** | **Support services to women victims of violence** |
| 3.2.1 | Listening and counselling services to support women in their healing process |
| 3.2.2 | Legal counselling |
| **Year 2** | **1.1** | **Development and implementation of training programme targeting judges and judiciary** |
| 1.1.1 | Mapping and outreach to actors in need of training |
| 1.1.2 | Stakeholder meetings identifying needs, requirements, and procedural limitations |
| 1.1.3 | Development of tools, methods, and training sessions. |
| 1.1.4 | Training for judiciary stakeholders (basic and follow-up sessions) |
| 1.1.5 | Training of judges (basic and follow-up sessions) |
| **1.2** | **Development and implementation of training programme targeting police and security actors** |
| 1.2.1 | Mapping and sensitization of actors in need of training |
| 1.2.2 | Stakeholder meetings identifying needs, requirements and procedural limitations |
| 1.2.3 | Development of tools, methods and training sessions |
| 1.2.4 | Training for police and other security actors (core and follow-up sessions) |
| **1.3** | **Implementation of a follow-up and supervision program for the integration of learnings into the concerned institutions.** |
| 1.3.1 | Development of supervision matrices for security institutions and judiciary institutions |
| 1.3.2 | Conducting field visits to security institutions and judiciary institutions |
| 1.3.3 | Results and recommendation workshops |
| **2.2** | **Supporting the increased capacity of the Kef Regional body for coordination in the fight against violence against women (IRC)** |
| 2.2.1 | Facilitation of quarterly meetings of the committee |
| 2.2.2 | Workshops on development of annual workplans |
| 2.2.3 | Training on data management |
| 2.2.4 | Regional launch conferences for IRC annual reports |
| **3.2** | **Support services to women victims of violence** |
| 3.2.1 | Listening and counselling services to support women in their healing process |
| 3.2.2 | Legal counselling |
| **Year 3** | **2.2** | **Supporting the increased capacity of the Kef Regional body for coordination in the fight against violence against women (IRC)** |
| 2.2.1 | Facilitation of quarterly meetings of the committee |
| 2.2.2 | Workshops on development of annual workplans |
| 2.2.3 | Training on data management |
| 2.2.4 | Regional launch conferences for IRC annual reports |
| **3.2** | **Support services to women victims of violence** |
| 3.2.1 | Listening and counselling services to support women in their healing process |
| 3.2.2 | Legal counselling |

**3.5 Sustainability and lasting organisational capacities**

Both AFC and Danner have extensive experiences working with multiple stakeholders in the effort to prevent VAW and provide quality care and protection of women victims of violence. By applying this method of work, we have succeeded in transferring skills, knowledge, and concrete tools to organisational key staff as well as frontline staff. Danner has experience in integration of knowledge via trainings and following up the trainings with continued knowledge sharing. Danner has solid experience working with Tunisian partners and AFC have solid experience collaborating with relevant stakeholders, for example duty bearers such as the police and policy makers, but also as part of the network for shelters and women’s rights organisations. The multiple stakeholder approach is essential as a way of mitigating the risk of not achieving the expected objectives, because experience show that the increased coordination and collaboration will enhance knowledge and awareness amongst the target groups.

Based on these experiences, we will:

1. **Engage relevant stakeholders to enable increased support to women victims of violence and prevent femicide by**
   1. Mapping what works and what doesn’t in terms of the protective measures in Kef under Law 58 and by doing this, create awareness amongst the stakeholders who are pivotal as frontline staff in terms of providing optimal protection of women victims of violence.
   2. Ensuring stakeholder influence and engagement in finding solutions to increase the efficiency of the protection measures and thereby provide better support to women victims of violence as well as building the stakeholders ability to coordinate effectively amongst themselves.
   3. Building the capacity of the *Manara Centre* and its staff to ensure that they provide the best possible quality care or women victims of violence
   4. Establishing AFC as a knowledge hub on VAW in Kef to enable AFC to enter into partnerships and alliances with others strong actors in the field. In the long run this will strengthen AFC as an advocacy organisation in a fragile political landscape, in relation to both boundary partners and duty bearers at the civic and political level.

We will focus on making lasting changes by:

1. **Focusing on protection through working with data and training.** This implies targeting multiple stakeholders who all must work together in order for the protection of women victims of violence to work. Police, judges, policy makers and civil society will all be targeted in Kef. By targeting these stakeholders and improving coordination between duty bearers and civil society, the aim is to **provide lasting improvements for the target group** in relation to domestic violence.
2. The partnership will work towards **lasting improvement for women exposed to violence**, not only in relation to rights for women already subjected to violence but also in a preventive perspective; ensuring that the Law 58 is implemented, and the right instances and protective measures are in place and working will also have a preventive effect in a longer-term perspective.

**3.6 Risk assessment**

***Political risks***

As described in section 1.2, the political situation is fragile in Tunisia. There is a real fear amongst civil society organisations that what they are witnessing is a democratic backsliding of Tunisia’s political landscape. History and experience show that when democracy is shrinking and especially when combined with a very weak economy, women are the first to face the consequences. However, where many civil society organisations are already facing the pressure due to the nature of their work, working with women victims of violence is often an exception which is allowed even in very fragile contexts (for example, Danner also has experience from Afghanistan and Palestine). Because there is already an extensive law in place concerning VAW in Tunisia, AFC and Danner have a legal and widely accepted frame to work within. During the last 5 years working under The Danish-Arab Partnership Programme, Danner has also gotten solid experience navigating with partners in the Tunisian society and political situation and have formed strong connections with The Ministry of Woman Affairs in Tunisia. Therefore, we are hopeful that we will be able to carry out the implementation of this proposal. AFC is also strongly organised in civil society networks with very strong connection to state stakeholders, and it is expected that this will be a mitigating factor which will limit the potential consequences of new anti-civil society initiatives.

***Organisational risks***

AFC has a strong organisational set-up and a diverse funding stream from different donors. The political situation is of course also an organisational risk, but a mitigating factor is the strong network of women’s rights organisations and shelters AFC is a part of and which supports each other between the member organisations with professional sparring and capacity development.

***Project related risks***

The above-mentioned challenges can of course have an impact on project timely implementation especially when it comes to being able to navigate in the Tunisian civil society as a CSO receiving foreign funding. AFC will design flexible plans and time duration to ensure effective implementation of activities. The partners will also continuously monitor and evaluate if amendments are needed and will be prepared to make short notice changes to the planned project as well as alternative plans that make the project activities possible. The project hinges on the participation of multiple stakeholders, hereunder the police and security forces, association of magistrates, the IRC, and others. There is, of course, a risk that such stakeholders will change priorities and will limit their support and dedication to the project. This risk, however, is skillfully mitigated by AFC through the ongoing nurturing of relationships and alliances, thus decreasing the risk of fallout. The collaboration with such stakeholders within the IRC itself also mitigates the risk, as the forum is mandated from higher up in the system, thus disallowing a complete severance of connections. A few risks have recently presented themselves relating to the current covid-19 pandemic. Firstly, the pandemic may hinder Danner staff from participating in training and monitoring activities. Secondly, locally imposed restrictions on event size may affect implementation of some activities. In terms of mitigation efforts, AFC are prepared to make short-notice changes, and a contingency plan will be developed at project start to ensure implementation of activities in accordance with the project objectives. AFC will be in continuous contact with project participants to ensure safe participation in activities.

* 1. **Monitoring, evaluation and learning**

The partners will continuously monitor progress towards the fulfilment of strategic objectives. This is important to ensure highest possible impact of activities, and to be able to adjust and learn accordingly along the way. The partners will keep in close contact on the results of monitoring to evaluate learnings and assess ways forward. The partners use the log frame and implementation plan as the main tools to track project progress. Additionally, all activities will be monitored at both quantitative and qualitative level using e.g., pre and post questionnaires, most significant change stories etc. Focus will be on substantial changes in knowledge and attitude and, most importantly, changes in practices and behaviour.

To monitor progress on *Objective 1: Key stakeholders are better equipped to support the implementation of Law 58 on the ground, particularly protection provisions of the law*, AFC will systematically conduct follow-up after trainings to assess the effect of trainings on knowledge, attitude, and behaviour. As part of the monitoring, the following questions should, as an example, be investigated:

* Have police and judiciary gained increased knowledge on VAW, the provisions of Law 58 and their own role in ensuring protection and support to women victims of violence?
* Have police and judiciary changed their attitude on VAW, women victims of violence and how to best to support these women?
* Have police and judiciary implemented new practices for risk assessment, application and enforcement of protection orders and referral to shelters and other service providers? This is partially measured by an increase in referrals to shelters and provisions of protection measures.
* Have learnings from the trainings been integrated into the workplaces of participants and spread to other stakeholders?

Regarding *Objective 2: Relevant duty-bearers and policy makers are engaged in discussions on how to improve protection of women victims of violence in Kef*, the impact assessment will focus on:

* Number of relevant stakeholders participating in the seminar
* Number of relevant stakeholders showing interest in AFC’s work and publications
* Intensified public debate on the implementation of Law 58 and its protection stipulations(social media, media etc.)
* Statements from key stakeholders about the need for improved implementation of Law 58, and references from stakeholders to the recommendations provided based on the comparative study

To monitor progress on *Objective 3: Women victims of violence are seeking out and receiving qualified support from professionals,* the partners will focus on quantitative and qualitative data from the *Manara Centre*. Here, focus will be on:

* The number of women receiving listening services and social and legal counselling as compared to numbers prior to the intervention period
* Reports from staff and volunteers on their ability to work efficiently, provide competent counselling and take care of themselves in the process
* The existence and use of procedure manuals
* Reports from women survivors of violence on the care and counselling they have received
* Care receivers feel safer and more comfortable than before, and report that they have received support to live a life without violence.

***Midterm-review and external final evaluation***

A midterm-review will be carried out after the first 1,5 year of the project. The partners will prioritize the review, in order for the project to gain as much as possible from the learnings at this point and ensure the ability to be flexible, agile and respond to possible change in context and/or need for change in activities/approach according to the recommendations from the review. The review will be carried out by AFC and Danner. The review will be conducted based on DAC’s evaluation criteria (relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability), and will also explore the effect of the protection activities. Based on this, the review will give recommendations on how AFC may improve the impact of the activities as well as how they may be rolled out in other areas in Tunisia. This knowledge will be relevant to several stakeholders working in Tunisia, including the network of shelters and women’s rights organisations. Once final, the mid-term review will be made available on the websites of Danner and AFC. At the end of the project a final evaluation will be carried out to establish the relevance of the objective of the project; efficiency of resources in relation to results; effectiveness in relation to meeting goals; direct and indirect impact; and sustainability of the activities. The final evaluation will be carried out by a local external consultant in compliance with Danida’s minimum standards.

1. Intervention-related information work in Denmark

To ensure proper communication on the work of AFC and Danner, the situation in Tunisia and Denmark when it comes to Femicide and how to work with this issue and the progress as well as challenges faced, we will prioritize to ensure communication about the situation in Tunisia and the partners’ work as well as Danner’s work in Denmark and Tunisia. Danner will use our communication channels for most part, LinkedIn with more than 8.000 followers and Facebook with more than 19.000 followers as well as Instagram and the Danner website. There is a very big focus in the Danish media and political landscape on femicide and we believe there will be interest in how they tackle the issue in Tunisia.

**Appendix: LFA**

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| **Development objective:**  **Women victims of violence have improved access to protection against violence through accelerated implementation of Law 58** | | | | | |
| **LFA INCL. M&E METHOD** | | | | | |
| **Objective** | **Outcome** | **Outcome indicator** | **Means of Verification** | **Outputs** | **Activities** |
| **1.****Key stakeholders are better equipped to support the implementation of Law 58 on the ground, particularly protection stipulations of the law.** | **Judges and other judiciary stakeholders have improved understanding of the mechanisms of violence against women and have new skills for fulfilling their own role in providing protection and implementing Law 58.** | Judges and other members of the judiciary report increased knowledge on violence against women, the provisions of Law 58 and their own role in ensuring protection and support to women victims of violence  Judges and other members of the judiciary have changed their attitude on violence against women, women victims of violence and how best to support these women  Judges and other members of the judiciary have implemented new practices for risk assessment, application and enforcement of protection orders and referral to shelters and other service providers. | Pre and post questionnaires  Pre and post questionnaires  Pre and post questionnaires | * Training programme developed based on needs of judiciary stakeholders * 12 judges and judiciary stakeholders have received training through 3 trainings | 1.1.1 Mapping and outreach to actors in need of training  1.1.2 Stakeholder meetings identifying needs, requirements, and procedural limitations  1.1.3 Development of tools, methods, and training sessions.  1.1.4 Training for judiciary stakeholders (basic and follow-up sessions)  1.1.5 Training of judges (basic and follow-up sessions) |
| **Police and other security stakeholders have improved understanding of the mechanisms of violence against women and have new skills for fulfilling their own role in providing protection and implementing Law 58.** | Police have increased knowledge on violence against women, the provisions of Law 58 and their own role in ensuring protection and support to women victims of violence  Police have changed their attitude on violence against women, women victims of violence and how best to support these women  Police have implemented new practices for risk assessment, application and enforcement of protection orders and referral to shelters and other service providers | Pre and post questionnaires  Pre and post questionnaires  Pre and post questionnaires | * Training programme developed based on needs of security stakeholders * 12 police and other security stakeholders have received training through 3 trainings | 1.2.1 Mapping and sensitization of actors in need of training  1.2.2 Stakeholder meetings identifying needs, requirements, and procedural limitations  1.2.3 Development of tools, methods, and training sessions.  1.2.4 Training for police and other security actors (core and follow-up sessions) |
| **Institutions charged with enforcing protection mechanisms of Law 58 have adopted improved practices for the enforcement of protective orders and the general support of women victims of violence based in professional knowledge on violence** | Learnings from the trainings have been integrated into the workplaces of participants and spread to other stakeholders | * Supervision matrices * Field visit reports | * Supervision matrices developed and used * Field visits conducted * 2 workshops held on results and recommendations | 1.3.1 Development of supervision matrices for security institutions and judiciary institutions  1.3.2 Conducting field visits to security institutions and judiciary institutions  1.3.3 results and recommendation workshops |
| **2. Relevant duty-bearers and policy makers are engaged in discussions on how to improve protection of women victims of violence in Kef** | **2.1**  **The knowledge base on use and enforcement of protective orders as a means of protecting women from violence and femicide has been enhanced, and duty bearers are engaged in conversations on how to improve the situation** | Relevant stakeholders have provided input and data to the comprehensive study  Relevant stakeholders have participated in the seminar  Relevant stakeholders have shown interest in AFC’s work and publications  Key stakeholders have shared statements about the need for improved implementation of Law 58, and referred to the recommendations in the comparative study | Study report  Participant lists  Seminar minutes  Seminar minutes  Communications | * Study report produced with input and data from relevant stakeholders * 1 seminar held with participation of 50 people * Outcome material shared with relevant stakeholders | 2.1.1 Stakeholder meetings with the Association of Magistrates and other potentially relevant stakeholders in order to establish partnership and secure access to information  2.1.2 Data collection and analysis. Data will be a mix of survey answers, interviews and document material  2.1.3 Production of study report  2.1.4 Mapping of and outreach to relevant stakeholders  2.1.5 Planning and holding the seminar  2.1.6 Production and dissemination of outcome material to stakeholders in order to keep the seminar agenda alive |
|  | **2.2**  **The Kef Regional body for coordination on Violence against women (IRC) have increased capacity to facilitate regional coordination and collaboration on practical and tactical aspects of the implementation of Law 58 and are keeping regional and national stakeholders updated on the situation on VAW in Kef** | IRC holds regular meetings, follow annual work plans and succeed in coordinating the stakeholders working on VAW in Kef  IRC has improved procedures for data management  Key stakeholders have participated in regional launch conferences. | Works plans  Annual reports  Data management guidelines  Questionnaires  Participant lists | * Annual workshops for the IRC held and workplans developed * 1 workshop held on data management * 3 Regional launch conferences (1 per year) planned and held with 50 participants * 1 national conference held | 2.2.1 Facilitation of quarterly meetings of the committee  2.2.2 Workshops on development of annual workplans  2.2.3 Training on data management to ensure sufficient and necessary data collection and the committee's ongoing capacity to use data in advocacy  2.2.4 Regional launch conferences for IRC annual reports  2.2.5 National conference sharing methods and results and discussing national efforts for the implementation of Law 58 |
| **3. Women victims of violence are seeking out and receiving qualified support from professionals** | **3.1**  **Shelter staff and management have professional knowledge on working with violence and managing shelter facilities, and are able to enact self-care and provide quality care to women victims of violence** | An increased number of women have received listening services and social and legal counselling as compared to numbers prior to the intervention period.  Staff and volunteers report an improved ability to work efficiently, provide competent counselling and take care of themselves in the process.  Procedure manuals are in place and are being followed | Shelter reports  Reports from *Manara Centre*  Pre and post questionnaires  Participants lists  Procedure manuals  interviews | * 12 staff and volunteers at the *Manara Centre* have received training through 3 trainings * 1 workshop on procedure manuals – and manuals developed and produced | 3.1.1 Training sessions on ‘working with violence’  3.1.2 Training sessions on shelter management  3.1.3 Training sessions on self-care strategies  3.1.4 Workshop for staff and management on development of procedure manual  3.1.5 Session on integration of manual into work processes |
| **3.2**  **Women victims of violence are knowledgeable on their rights and opportunities for protection, and they are better equipped to continue a life free from violence** | Women victims of violence have increased knowledge of their rights and opportunities for support and protection.  Women victims of violence who have received support at the *Manara Centre* feel safer and more comfortable than before, and report that they have received support to live a life without violence. | Interviews and questionnaires  Interviews and questionnaires | 500 women have received counselling and legal support services | 3.2.1 Listening and counselling services to support women in healing process  3.2.2 Legal counselling |

1. https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/05/tunisia-tragic-truth-about-domestic-violence/ [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/05/tunisia-tragic-truth-about-domestic-violence/ [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. https://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/-/media/files/un%20women/vaw/vaw%20survey/tunisia%20vaw%20survey.pdf?vs=2938 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. https://www.contre-violences-femmes-tunisie.com/ [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Law 58 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. https://www.contre-violences-femmes-tunisie.com/ [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/2/13/tunisia-president-tightens-grip-on-top-judicial-body [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/2/13/tunisia-president-tightens-grip-on-top-judicial-body [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. https://pomed.org/kais-saieds-next-target-in-tunisia-civil-society/ [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. https://pomed.org/kais-saieds-next-target-in-tunisia-civil-society/ [↑](#footnote-ref-11)