Danner, September 4th 2020

COVER-LETTER

Re-Application: Better support and increased legal rights to women survivors of domestic violence in Palestine.

Danner’s original application to the Civil Society Fund concerning funding of the intervention: *“Better support and increased legal rights to women survivors of domestic violence in Palestine”* (Journal no.:20-2551-UI-mar) was rejected by the Assessment Committee. **The following reason for rejection was given**:

*“Cost level: The budget notes are assessed as being too general, not specifying significant activity costs and calculating unit costs, number of units and total amount (cf. the budget Guideline p. 7). It has consequently not been possible to assess the relationship between expected outputs, scale of activities, size of target groups and the total budget.”*

In addition, the decision note revealed that outputs were considered potentially too few, the M&E plan insufficient and salary spending too high.

**Danner’s response**

We hereby re-apply for the project *Better support and increased legal rights to women survivors of domestic violence in Palestine.* To address the cause for rejection as well as additional comments, the budget has been revised to include much more detailed budget notes specifying major activity costs as well as unit costs and numbers. In addition, the project outputs have been scaled up, while both Danish project manager hours and local salaries have been reduced significantly. Furthermore, the M&E plan has been adjusted.

The following major **budget revisions** have been made:

* Local salaries have been reduced; number of local employees reduced, gradual phasing out of local salaries introduced and total cost of local salaries reduced from 1.946.230 DKK to 1.562.953 DKK[[1]](#footnote-2)
* Monitoring trips reduced from 5 to 3 trips, reducing monitoring hours from 360 to 126 hours
* Danish project manager hours reduced from 563 to 396 hours
* Total Danish salaries reduced from 424.050 DKK to 338.632 DKK1

Major **revisions to the intervention** include:

* The plan for M&E has been amended to more clearly involve evaluation of changes in behavior
* Outputs have been scaled up. More women will be reached for counseling and awareness raising, and more male social workers will receive training.

All changes in the application, LFA and budget have been highlighted in yellow

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**Re-application: Better support and increased legal rights to women survivors of domestic violence in Palestine**

1. **Objective and relevance**

**1.1. Summary**

Since 2017, Rural Women’s Development Society (RWDS) and Danner have partnered to support women survivors of domestic violence in Palestine and to address gender norms that reproduce and support violence against women (VAW). This project proposal will refine RWDS’ support to violence survivors and build bridge between strategic services and advocacy by collecting solid data on domestic violence in rural areas in order to advocate for the adoption of a family law, which protects survivors of VAW.

In the occupied Palestinian territories (here on referred to as Palestine), women and girls continue to experience various kinds of violence at home and within society. More than 25% of all Palestinian women experience domestic violence from family members and intimate partners.[[2]](#footnote-3) Current policies and legislation illustrate that combatting VAW is currently not on the agenda for Palestinian authorities. Today, there is no adopted law prohibiting intimate partner violence. This leaves the survivor unprotected and subject to further violence, which in some cases end in killing the victim under the so called “honour killing”. Simultaneously, there is a severe shortage of anti-violence and protection services, shelters and social support systems in the country.

The overarching conflict and occupation contribute to an extremely fragile context for all civil society actors, including RWDS, to operate in. Palestinian feminist scholars and international human rights organizations experience how the Israeli occupation contributes to and enables VAW as a widespread phenomenon.[[3]](#footnote-4) In addition, the geographic fragmentation of Palestine as a country is disrupting community-based support systems, restricting freedom of movement and social service delivery and thereby jeopardizes women’s access to justice in case of violence. At the same time this causes women’s issues and “the private sphere” to be pushed aside and considered of lower importance. In this light, there is a need to promote an understanding of the severity of domestic violence and to address those gender norms that reproduce such practices.

This can be done through a joint civil society, which provides solid data that outlines the extent and forms of domestic violence in Palestine. RWDS is a leading civil society actor in Palestine with substantial knowledge and experience with domestic violence in rural areas. RWDS has unique access to rural women in Palestine through its 58 women’s clubs in all governorates in the West Bank and Gaza. The clubs serve the communities (mainly women) with various protection and socio-economic support services, and many places constitute the only support mechanism for women in need.

The purpose of the intervention is A) to offer strategic services for all members of a family (mothers, fathers and school students) in 6 rural areas and to foster change in attitude and behaviour on VAW among these. B) to collect data from the strategic services. C) to scale up systematic advocacy efforts, which are founded in solid data from the rural area, in order to revitalise and boost the advocacy campaign for adopting a family protection law.

**1.2 Context**

***1.2.1. Violence against women and domestic violence***

Domestic violence is the main reported form of violence experienced by Palestinian women. According to most recent official survey[[4]](#footnote-5), 29 % of married women were exposed to at least one form of violence - e.g. psychological, economic, physical, sexual - by their husbands within the past year. 57 % stated that they had been subjected to psychological violence within the past year. Besides being widespread, domestic violence continues to be a major taboo: 61 % of women exposed to violence remained silent about the violence.

There is no family protection law in Palestine, which prohibits domestic violence or other violations against women and children, nor criminalizes the perpetrator. This means that a survivor of domestic violence remains unprotected. With only three shelters and 8-9 safe spaces[[5]](#footnote-6) in the whole country, rural Palestinian women, who are subject to violence at home only have few escape options. For a number of reasons, including shame, stigma, low awareness of or access to services, lack of protection and security, malfunctioning justice system and impunity, VAW is even often under-reported and available services under-utilized. Hence, only 1 % of women exposed to violence sought support or advice from a women’s institution or center[[6]](#footnote-7).

RWDS’ women’s clubs are therefore among the rare support services for women in the rural areas. Here they can share experiences, learn strategies, tools and guidance on how to deal with domestic violence. Adding to that there is lack of data and statistics on rural Palestinian women’s exposure to VAW. While a national survey on violence was released in 2019, it did not target rural women, even though rural communities represent 50% of the population and is known to be a vulnerable group when it comes to VAW.

The situation of violence against women[[7]](#footnote-8) in Palestine is complicated and exacerbated by the structures and policies of the Israeli military occupation that are directed against Palestinians. Research shows that the violence of Israeli military occupation promotes and strengthens patriarchal power within the Palestinian domestic sphere. The recent national study on VAW illustrates that the highest rates of VAW take place in the Gaza Governorate (28 %) and Hebron Governorate (25 %) – two of the most conflict torn areas in Palestine. Israeli violence perpetrated against Palestinian men thus often turns into acts of violence committed against women by those same men.[[8]](#footnote-9)

The global Covid-19 epidemic has not passed by Palestine. The country has been in lock-down, and this has had severe impact on the levels of violence in families. As families are forced to stay home in crowded quarters, frustrations and tensions build up, violence against women increases[[9]](#footnote-10). As such, the current global situation has indeed only exacerbated the need for a comprehensive and targeted effort to reduce and end VAW in Palestine.

***1.2.2. Norms and legal framework***

The conservative social norms and traditions serve as incubators for VAW in Palestine. Household, and communal structures are patriarchal, with males exercising dominant if not complete power in social settings and relationships. Women are expected to be subservient, with men making key decisions. In typical gender-relations in rural areas, men are expected to participate in the public sphere, such as working and earning wages, while women are confined to the private sphere and expected to be responsible for child-caring and domestic affairs.

The traditional norms are complemented with the violence and aggression from long established military occupation, which has caused economic depression, characterized by a lack of opportunities and the added pressures from a permanent humanitarian crisis. It has contributed to a behavioral dynamic of men being more frustrated, unable to fulfil their expected role in this patriarchal society, as their opportunities to *provide* and *protect* (two main elements of masculinity in a traditional patriarchal society) are very limited. A wide social agreement to maintain traditional family systems, as a way to reinforce needed unity and resilience in face of occupation, seem to have eroded the development of gender policies.[[10]](#footnote-11)

Due to centuries of foreign domination and national fragmentation, the Palestinian legal system comprises a patchwork of historical laws originating from several different legal systems, as well as new laws that were enacted by the Palestinian National Authority. In recent years, legislative reform has been impeded by the ongoing Israeli occupation, internal inter-factional conflict and a lack of consensus on the direction of reform. Consequently, in areas as important as criminal and family law, outdated British, Jordanian and Egyptian laws remain applicable. Moreover, due to inadequate capacities in the areas of legislative planning and legislative policy formulation, some of the new Palestinian laws lack internal coherence and have failed to achieve their intended objectives. Thus, in the Palestine there are no laws criminalizing marital, domestic or familial violence.[[11]](#footnote-12) For example, the perpetrators of murder who claim to have acted in order to ‘maintain family honor’ can be exempted from judicial sanction; marital rape has not been criminalized; and there are no specialized procedures for dealing with cases of suspected sexual abuse.

Women’s rights advocates in Palestine have been fighting for law reform since the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority in 1994. All Palestinian women’s organizations participated in drafting the family protection law through the network, Al-Muntada. In 2009 a final draft of the law was handed to the President’s office. However, the process was stalled, amongst others by a fierce campaign led by conservative/religious men (Al-Aashaer) in Hebron since end of 2017 demanding the Palestinian government to withdraw from the implementation of Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)[[12]](#footnote-13), claiming that that it is against the Islamic teachings and believes and thus ruins the morals and ethics of Palestinian women.[[13]](#footnote-14) This resulted in the president withdrawing his approval. However, since then the civil society has succeeded in adding pressure on the president with the result that Palestine now is in the final stage of the review of the Family Protection Bill, which is expected to be shortly submitted for consultations and to the President for endorsement.

The Family Protection Bill is expected to provide measures to prevent and combat violence, as well as due protection, reparation, and empowerment of survivors of violence, while holding perpetrators accountable for their acts. The endorsement of the Family Protection Bill will be a critical milestone in the journey towards ending violence against women and girls in Palestine. The real success, however, will come only with proper implementation and translation of the commitments embedded within the bill through responsive policies, services, and practices. To ensure that the Family Protection Bill passes with the full support of civil society, the civil society had been consulted on any amendments to the texts. And they had put comments on the Bill and return it to the ministry of women’s affairs. There are many parties such as the Islamic Parties and the Lawyers’ Union campaigning and demonstrating against the law blaming the government and the women’s organizations for standing against the Islamic religion and the traditions. It is important that national and international stakeholders continue and expand their financial commitment to combat violence against women and girls in Palestine.

International human rights law establishes minimum standards for the protection of women’s rights.[[14]](#footnote-15) The Palestinian National Authority has committed to abide by international human rights law. However, as it is not recognized as constituting a state, Palestine cannot be held accountable at international level. This enhances the fragility of the situation, where the absence of the rule of law pave the way for further violations of basic human rights.

***1.2.3. Shrinking civil society space***

Civil society in Palestine is under pressure. This is due to the occupation, decreased funding and increased geographical fragmentation. Since the beginning of the occupation, Palestinian civil society actively contribute to relief, development and promoting participatory engagement. They have coordinated action, with the intention of securing equal participation for vulnerable groups, stopping restrictions on public freedom and protecting women from both political exclusion and domestic violence.

The fragmentation of the areas and restricted mobility of the Palestinians from one area to the other by the Israeli checkpoints, require RWDS to allocate coordinators from each area to support the women clubs and women in the targeted areas, therefore increasing the number of staff for each area.

In general, Palestinian organizations have been facing a financial crisis since the Trump administration decreased humanitarian contributions to the United Nations Relief and Working Agency ([UNRWA](https://www.unrwa.org/)) and assistance to Palestinians in 2018 (total $65 million, contrasted with $359.3 million in 2017). Foreign aid remains essential for Palestinian civil society, community peacebuilding and the implementation of important programs. Like all other Palestinian NGOs, RWDS is affected by the shortage of funding, which puts pressure on its ability to maintain running its strategic services, including women clubs.

***1.2.4. Momentum for change and how that links to lessons learned***

While Palestine is a fragile context, there are a number of developments, which lead us to conclude that there is indeed momentum for change with regards to domestic violence:

*- Gender norms are moving* - A recent survey on masculinities in Palestine[[15]](#footnote-16) concludes that although patriarchy is still dominant in society, patriarchal structures, such as gender relations and gender attitudes are positively changing. This change can create space for further development within the patriarchal structures. This is also reflected in RWDS awareness raising activities among school students, women and fathers. E.g. as a result of the RWDS activities, male students indicated that now they understood VAW as a social problem, which needs to be addressed by all community members and that men must support their female peers. We see a similar change in attitude among women in women’s clubs and among men, who receive counselling.

*- The women’s movement can scale up its campaign for a new family law*. The women’s movement in Palestine is no longer the old led traditional women’s movement. The young women are taking leading roles and are in the front line on the streets, marching to demand rule of law and punishment of perpetrators of VAW. The killing of the 21-year-old Israa Ghareeb by her partner in September 2019 shocked the whole Palestinian society and lead to new forms of marches and protests, not only in Palestine but also around the Arab world, demanding government action against domestic violence.

*- The platform for women’s rights NGOs has taken a stronger stand against violence and patriarchal norms in the public debate*. The “Palestinian Non-Governmental Organization Against Domestic Violence Against Women”, Al-Muntada comprising 17 women organizations are leading the new protest against femicide and have scaled up their demand for the immediate implementation of the family protection law. In order to strengthen the platform further, there is a need for the knowledge and engagement, which RWDS possess. RWDS will be contributing as a strong alliance partner to Al-Muntada, offering network meetings and workshop for Al-Muntadas members, in which RWDS will share its data and knowledge on VAW in rural Palestinian areas.

In addition, the development of the current project proposal builds on the previous 3 years of cooperation between RWDS and Danner. The context and our experiences thus far, has led us to identify the following lessons learned:

* There is a **knowledge gap** on domestic violence in Palestine, especially when it comes to rural women, which constitute 50% of the Palestinian women population. There is also a gap in relation to qualitative data on domestic violence in Palestine.
* There is an **unfulfilled potential in working with (gender) norms to prevent domestic violence**.The current project has shown that domestic violence can potentially be prevented, when addressing gender norms in the entire family, including fathers and students.
* It is regarded as progressive, positive and innovative to involve fathers and children in efforts to combat violence. There is **great interest among other stakeholders** (In Palestine and in the MENA region) to explore and learn from this particular approach.

Based on this context and lessons learned, there is a need to upscale prevention of domestic violence while at the same time advocate for government action to prevent and combat domestic violence.

**1.3 Objective and theory of change**

In light of the context, previous results and lessons learned, the intervention objective is:

***Domestic violence is reduced and prevented in Hebron and Bethlehem and the rights of violence survivors are protected through a family law***

As indicated in the objective, the project takes a three-pronged approach: **a)** to continue RWDS prevention and protection work in six *new* rural areas (in the governorates of Bethlehem and Hebron, where RWSD is already making good progress). It is our experience that professional support to women and children exposed to violence will enable women to break the spiral of violence and recover from its effects. Other stakeholders such as NGOs and the Ministry of Education have shown interest in this holistic approach to preventing VAW not least due to the fact that access to protection is extremely limited. **b)** To establish a more systematic data collection system from these rural areas, in order to improve data on the extend and dynamics of domestic violence. **C)** To use the data from rural areas to scale up advocacy initiatives to push for the adoption of a family protection law in cooperation with Al-Muntada. It is our experience that women’s rights organisations can succeed in achieving political change, if they conduct advocacy work based on extensive data on violence against women and solid professional experience with supporting survivors.

The project objective is linked with SDG5 to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls and will particularly focus on **target 5.2.** by working to reduce violence against women and girls through prevention measures and counselling, which is the most efficient protection solution in the Palestinian context. In addition, the project will support the achievement of **target 5.1** by advocating for government action to ensure a legal framework, which will promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of gender.

2. The partnership/collaborators

**2.1 The partnership**

The current project proposal builds on the results and lessons learned from the previous two CISU funded RWDS-Danner projects:

* *Strengthening the professional capacity, resilience and methods to combat violence against women in the occupied Palestinian Territory and Denmark* in 2017 (6 months)
* *Preventing Violence against Women in Occupied Palestinian Territories through resilient support communities* in 2019-20 (18 months)

In the first RWDS-Danner cooperation (2017) we focused our partnership on exchange of experiences in relation to working with survivors of domestic violence in Palestine and Denmark. We also strengthened RWDS’ resilience to work with the target group. In the current project (2019-20), our activities are targeted towards addressing rigid and patriarchal gender norms that legitimizes VAW. This is done though holistic outreach efforts, where all members of the household are targeted; mothers, fathers and children. We have applied new methods and approaches to involve fathers as an important part of the family and as a key to preventing VAW by, for example working with his self-esteem. Experiences from this engagement are shared with other stakeholders and have catalyzed the development of new interventions e.g. through the CISU funded exchange seminar in Tunis (January 2020)[[16]](#footnote-17). Thus far, the activities have shown good results such as women changing attitudes towards women’s roles and empowerment, children changing attitudes towards VAW and decision making in the household. In addition, fathers are being addressed in a more acknowledging way by the male social workers, and thereby being more open to adopting healthier (non-violent) family dynamics. The project has provided RWDS new experience with involving men and addressing norms, which reproduce VAW – all in a more holistic approach. This is something that we wish to build on further.

In relation to project design and implementation, we have identified important lessons learned:

* It takes time to achieve a lasting change in behavior and attitude among the target group, in particular in the fragile context of Palestine. Consequently, the future project will focus on working more strategically on advocacy and lobbying initiatives as an additional way to mobilize support to a family law and to change attitudes towards domestic violence.

* It is important to be ambitious but not unrealistic in relation to short term targets and outcomes. Therefore, the project will set up realistic, but ambitious objectives and impact measurement plans, according to what is relevant for RWDS and Danner to measure.
* It is important to work with the younger generation who are the agents of change. Therefore, the project will focus on creating sustainable mechanisms that reach out to more and more students by not only outreach efforts but also preparing extra curricula material and tools addressing VAW in coordination with the Ministry of Higher Education - to be promoted within the education system in Palestine.

**2.2 Rural Women’s Development Society**

Rural Women’s Development Society (RWDS) is a Palestinian non-governmental organization working in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. RWDS was founded in 1987 as the women’s branch for the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee to support women in rural areas, mainly those working in the agricultural and agribusiness sectors.

Today, RWDS is one of the leading women’s organizations in Palestine with a grassroot presence in rural communities with 3000+ women active members in a network of 58 women clubs across the West Bank and Gaza strip. RWDS’ women clubs constitute strong community structures through which all activities are provided to the community, primarily women. Through the women’s clubs, RWDS provides protection and prevention services by social workers and psychologists to women mainly those that are exposed to violence. Services include group and individual counseling and referral services to violated cases that needed specialized support.

The organization therefore has more than 30 years of knowledge from working with rural women and their particular challenges, including lack of awareness about rights as well as roles and responsibilities that limit participation in the decision-making processes at all levels.

RWDS advances the rights of rural women by fostering an empowering and supportive environment in their local communities through the women’s clubs, highlighting women’s contribution to building a supportive Palestinian society. RWDS’ work builds on three main strategic objectives:

1. Enhancing justice and equality between men and women and reduce violence against women and girls in the Palestinian Society.
2. Enhancing economic justice for women and girls in Rural Palestine
3. Improving RWDS’s performance and efficiency and increasing its representation and influence at the national, regional and international levels.

The future project will support RWDS’s objective 1 and 3 by promoting awareness on VAW and women’s rights within a wider target group in Palestine, and by building the capacity of RWDS on how to document and analyse data on VAW in Palestine and use in advocacy and lobbying to influence the adaptation of the new family protection law in coordination with Al-Muntada.

As a result of the RWDS-Danner partnership, RWDS has increased its efforts to involve both men and women, following the realization that prevention of VAW requires us to work with the community as a whole. Working with fathers has been one of the most important learnings for RWDS in this project. With this project proposal, RWDS will be able to continue this holistic approach, though in an even more comprehensive way: not only providing *new* women’s clubs in the 6 *new* targeted rural areas but also targeting women and men from the same families within these 6 areas.

RWDS’ mission facilitate and support a movement led by Palestinian women that is capable of advocating for and advancing the enjoyment of women’s social, economic and political rights, especially in rural areas. RWDS therefore cooperates with actors from all parts of society, including local councils, Ministry of Women Affairs, Ministry of Social Affairs, local NGOs, etc.

RWDS is an active member of Al-Muntada through which it works on influencing laws and policies that hinder women rights and lately enforcing the adaptation of the new family protection law through lobbying, advocacy and campaigning initiates. In addition, RWDS is a member of the steering committee of Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO), serves on the UN Women work team for the occupied Palestinian territories, and is a member of The Palestinian Environmental NGOs Network (PENGON).

RWDS consists of (see organizational chart below):

* A General Assembly, elected, with 57 women, including club members and community leaders from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
* A Board of Directors with nine members who are elected every second year. Administrative, field- and project staff (approximately 28 staff). The permanent and core staff of RWDS consists of a General Director, three seniors (Directors of Project/Programs, Organizational Development and Fundraising, Finance/Administrative Officer), Accountant, Administrative and HR Assistant, Women’s rights Coordinator, Communications Officer and 10+ Field Coordinators (one for each governorate where RWDS operates) who each follow 5-10 clubs.



**2.3 Danner**

Danner is a privately funded organization 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 violence against women 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 more actors contribute to holding authorities accountable. These are some of the experience which Danner willl draw on in the coming project with RWDS.

Since 2007 Danner has worked **internationally** in network alliances and through partnership, 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, and is in dialogue with potential partners in Rwanda and Burundi (previously, Danner has also worked in Greenland, Morocco and Egypt). In spring 2019, Danner adopted a new international strategy. The strategic approach to combatting violence against women 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 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 violence against women, including gender stereotypes and to promote equality at all levels.*
4. *Specialised effort for vulnarable groups, including migrant women and women in fragile contexts.*

In the current 2019-20 partnership, focus was especially on theme 1, 3 and 4. However, in this proposal we focus on thematic area 2 and 3, which is also in line with RWDS’ latest strategy. 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 survivors to violence, and promote social norms that render violence against women unacceptable. All Danners’ projects build on strong partnerships and investment in the mobilisation of civil society organizations from a bottum up-approach.

Danner consists of (see organizational chart):

* A General Assembly, where Danner’s +200 volunteers elect the Board.
* A Board with 9 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 center, Administration and *Resource Center*).

**2.4 Roles and responsibilities**

In relation to project implementation, RWDS will be responsible for implementing the project activities in Palestine as well as the everyday decision-making concerning implementation. Danner supports strategic planning and project implementation. While RWDS will monitor the implementation of individual activities, such as women’s clubs etc., Danner is responsible for monitoring of project progress in general. Coordination meetings and monitoring visits will ensure the continuous close dialogue on how RWDS can best achieve its goals.

Danner provides input to the organizational capacity building of RWDS through two trainings (systematic data collection and data-based advocacy strategies). The organizational capacity development builds on RWDS’ existing competencies and will introduce methods to systematic data collection on VAW as well as training on how to apply and incorporate this compiled data to strategic advocacy efforts. This transfer of know-how requires follow-up and close corporation in the wake of the trainings, as organizational changes takes time and effort to anchor in a sustainable way, especially considering the fragile context.

The fragile context, which RWDS operates in, concerns the fragile situation of Palestine as well as its marginalized and impoverished communities, where many are heavily affected by the consequences of the Israeli occupation, e.g. restrictions on access to land and water, but also restrictions regarding permits and confiscations of property and productive assets. RWDS and its affiliated women's clubs are widely respected for their ability to locally engage and include marginalized women in rural areas across the Palestine. This increases the workload of RWDS and requires more efforts from the staff to accommodate the changes that may occur as a result of the fragile context (risk of secondary trauma, stress and compassion fatigue). To implement lasting organizational changes in RWDS (systematic data collection and intensified advocacy efforts based in this data) within this fragile context, the partnership needs to focus on this anchoring of know-how.

***2.4.1. Decision-making and division of roles***

RWDS is responsible for the everyday decision-making concerning implementation of project activities in Palestine, but in cases concerning obstacles and/or deviations from the agreed budget, financial plan, activity time plan, Danner needs to be involved immediately. RWDS is responsible for providing input to financial and narrative reports to CISU through Danner.

RWDS is responsible for the activity related M&E, including collecting and analyzing evaluations after each training/group session/open days. Danner oversees the overall monitoring and evaluation of the project.

Danner is financially and administratively accountable to CISU in accordance with the agreement with CISU. Being the contract holder with CISU, Danner will manage all communication and reporting to CISU and will inform RWDS of any changes in CISU rules and regulations.

**2.5 The project’s catalyzing role**

The aim of the capacity development is to strengthen RWDS in its efforts to conduct advocacy based on data from own strategic services. These strengthened advocacy efforts will not only strengthen RWDS as a civil society actor but also raise the level of knowledge within the Al-Muntada network and other stakeholders working with VAW. This will have a catalyzing effect as **1)** Other stakeholders will acquire new knowledge (especially on VAW in rural areas in Palestine), and **2)** these stakeholders will apply and incorporate RWDS’ knowledge in future efforts, and **3)** Alliances will be made and/or strengthened with the purpose of adopting a family law in Palestine, e.g. with Al-Muntada.

3. Target groups, objectives, strategy, and expected results

Gender programs often target women, but frequently ignore men and their needs. Men are directly impacted by political violence, humiliation at checkpoints, imprisonment and unemployment, and are not given space to talk about their problems, concerns, frustrations and challenges. As men are often the ones engaging in violent behaviors toward women and children, they should be included in any project that addresses VAW.

**3.1 Primary target group (end beneficiaries)**

In order to break this cycle of violence, all members of the household will be part of the primary target group; targeting mothers, fathers and children in order to challenge rigid gender norms legitimizing VAW and offer new perspectives and tools to all family members.

* The primary target group is therefore women, men and children in six rural areas in Bethlehem and Hebron. These rural areas are new for RWDS to work in, and RWDS identified them as they have indications of particularly high rates of VAW here. The project directly targets at least 180 women for awareness workshops, 180 women for support groups, and 240 women seeking individual counseling in the six villages. The project will also target husbands and children of the abovementioned women in the six communities. 210 fathers will be reached through group sessions and dialogue meetings, while 960 children will be reached through activities at 12 schools (6 in Bethlehem and 6 in Hebron) from grades 9 and 10 (80 students from each school).
* Based on RWDS’ experiences, women exposed to domestic violence in rural areas are generally isolated with lack of access to necessary support. Patriarchal norms legitimizing domestic violence have been internalized, and many doubt their own (and women’s in general) abilities and rights within the household as well as in the community. The majority accepts domestic violence as part of family dynamic and marriage, and only a small number seeks help – if support mechanisms are available. Their biggest concern is often the shame and taboo regarding domestic violence. Many also worry what will happen to their children, if they break with the violent partner. Therefore, almost none report the violence to the police. These women need support and guidance in order to break the taboo of domestic violence and navigate in the violence. They also need a forum where they can vent their worries. In RWDS’ women’s clubs, they can get this support. On the other hand, the men (typically fathers and providers) often perceive themselves as head of household, and responsible for the order and dynamics of the family unit. A majority perceive corporal punishment to be a necessary tool in this regard. The fathers need new perspectives on family and marriage dynamics and gender roles as well as alternative tools for upbringing in order to adopt altered attitudes to domestic violence. These challenges are also evident among youth, where a large proportion are exposed to violence, either in their home, by parents or in schools, by teachers. Research shows that most perpetrators were exposed to violence themselves as children.
* In order to break this cycle, this project targets the youth, which in Palestine constitute 37 % of the population (15-19 years of age). It is estimated that the youth population will increase by a million in 2030, and more than double in 2050. This so-called youth bulge, is believed to be either a demographic threat or a great opportunity for the future, as drivers of positive change.[[17]](#footnote-18) Within educational institutions, physical and psychological violence against youth is on the rise, and rigid gender roles legitimizing VAW is overwhelming prevalent compared to the rest of the MENA region[[18]](#footnote-19).

***New targeted rural areas***

* Selection of the six rural communities were based on demography, prevalence of violence, how well organized the RWDS women’s clubs are in those communities, the relationships of the RWDS women’s clubs with the broader community and feedback & recommendations from RWDS field staff. The 6 chosen villages are Bait Fajjar, Nahaleen, Wad Rahhal in Bethlehem district; and Halhoul, Bait Aula, Tarqumia villages in Hebron district.
* All of the targeted communities are in rural areas, some of the most isolated of Palestinian communities who are frequently far from direct services specifically those for VAW/DV-services. Many of them are also located in Area C, which means that the Palestinian Authority is not able to provide any services and the Israeli authorities are providing them none. Many of these communities or individuals within these communities are considered poor compared to national averages. Women in these areas may face discrimination and marginalization as a result of their gender, and more so if they are, for example, poor, single or disabled, and RWDS will actively make sure to identify women who are considered marginalized to participate.

**3.2 Secondary target group**

The secondary target group is comprised of professionals working in the field of violence against women as well as duty bearers.

***Professionals***

* **Field staff and volunteers** in RWDS’ Women’s clubs are important stakeholders, not least due to their role in addressing power relations at village and community level. Strengthening the women’s clubs and working directly with their members is key in building the individual and collective strength of women in rural communities to claim their rights. RWDS staff will furthermore be a secondary target group in relation to organizational capacity building, where a wider range of **RWDS staff** will participate in the trainings. This will ensure anchoring the new knowledge in RWDS in a sustainable way and make the process of organizational and behavioral change easier.
* At least **30 male social workers** and/or school psychologists are reached. 20 of them were involved in the training conducted by Baba in 2019, and 10 of them are new ones added to the intervention. Their continuous work with fathers will constitute an important element in the effort to prevent domestic violence in the six rural areas. Possibly, more male social workers will join the network during the project.
* **The Al-Muntada network** will be provided with new statistical and qualitative knowledge on VAW in rural Palestinian areas as well as strengthened advocacy measures, which will strengthen its efforts to push for a family law. The project will contribute to ensuring a strong network of stakeholders with solid knowledge that via the network work towards the same goal.

***Duty bearers***

* **Ministry of Education (MoE)** will be an important alliance partner for RWDS: MoE has an interest in addressing VAW as it impacts how children learn, school environments and relations, behaviors, etc. Thus, MoE will be a key partner in RWDS’ school outreach efforts as well as in RWDS’ continued work with male school staff.
* **Decision makers** such as Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Women’s Affairs, Palestinian Authorities’ police force, shelter representatives, shelter staff and other women’s rights organisations and networks will be targeted as alliance partners in RWDS’ advocacy efforts focusing on data on WAV in rural Palestine. A vital part of the advocacy efforts is the national campaign, which will be organized with Al-Muntada members.

3.3 Strategy and expected results

This proposal is a result of the achievements and lessons learnt thus far as well as a new strategy and ambitions for our partnership.

As a result of the current project activities both students and teachers in the targeted areas state that they have changed their attitudes towards the role of women. As per their own testimony, they are more accepting towards gender equality and more prone to reject VAW. As a result of the awareness raising activities and educational meetings, students now believe that it is a social responsibility to protect women from violence and to ensure a safe environment, where reporting on violence cases is the norm.

The activities targeting women through RWDS’ women’s clubs have provided experience-based knowledge to RWDS and Danner, which should be developed and refined further. Following the support groups for women in some of Palestine’s most rural areas, 71.8% of the targeted women indicated that violence is a social problem, which a should be addressed on all levels, and 85.9% indicated that they feel more comfortable seeking support from women organizations if exposed to any form of violence.

Furthermore, the 2019-20 project included working actively with men as alliance partners to prevent VAW – introducing the Baba method for male social workers and school psychologists. As these male staff have gained tremendously from the trainings and have reached 300-400 fathers with their new tools and approaches, this way of working with prevention of VAW will be included, refined and expanded in the future project.

***3.3.1 What’s new?***

We will attempt to further develop the strategic services by aiming at offering awareness raising/training/counselling to members of the same families in the 6 targeted rural areas. The assumption is that if RWDS offer concrete violence reducing tools and new perspectives in different ways to members of the same families, the intervention will contribute to substantial decrease in VAW in the 6 targeted rural areas.

Besides this comprehensive holistic outreach, this intervention will include a new aspect of organizational capacity building, specifically systematic data collection and advocacy based on data. RWDS has already enhanced its capacity on collecting data through our current M&E system, but in order to use in-house knowledge effectively and externally, it must be compiled systematically. In this project, this will be done from (objective 1) the strategic services RWDS provides (outreach to schools, women’s clubs, further education and networking for male social workers). Data coming in from the 6 targeted areas will be systematically compiled and used for strategic advocacy work pushing for the adoption of a family law in Palestine (objective 2).

***3.3.2 Project strategy***

The project consists of three pillars: Strategic services, Data on VAW in rural areas and Advocacy activities. This will strengthen RWDS as a knowledgeable civil society actor and thereby making RWDS more equipped to enter into partnerships and alliances such as the Al-Muntada network, where RWDS will push for the adoption of a family law. As shown below, the proposed intervention builds on the development triangle, where strategic services, capacity building and advocacy are interlinked:

RWDS will continue its interventions for families (women, fathers and school students) (***strategic services***), in an even more comprehensive, holistic way (targeting members of the same families). In the coming project we wish to expand to other schools and families in the 6 newly identified rural areas in Hebron and Bethlehem, in addition to strengthening the cooperation with the Ministry of Education, establishing the Ministry as an alliance partner. During the current project phase, the Ministry has shown increasing interest in RWDS’ approach to preventing domestic violence, which is why RWDS assess that there will be an interest in developing training material and tools about VAW that can be offered to schools across Palestine.

Enhancing advocacy efforts at national level is a natural next step for the project (***advocacy***). Firstly, it has become evident that RWDS has access to a large group of rural women (and their families), which are not reached by other organisations. RWDS thus has specific knowledge about and access to a specific group of women, which is not yet utilised, and which could potentially contribute to influencing change in laws and policies to protect women from violence. Therefore, the coming project has a specific objective focusing on lobbying and advocacy work to influence the enforcement of the new family law that protects women and criminalize femicide. Yet, in order to do that statistics and information needs to be available regarding VAW. To this end, this project will guide and train a group of social workers and other relevant RWSD staff on data collection, analysis and strategic advocacy (***capacity building***).

**3.4 Activities[[19]](#footnote-20)**

**Objective 1. Reducing and preventing domestic violence in 6 rural areas in Hebron and Bethlehem governorates by targeting women, men and children**

The strategic services include support to women survivors of VAW and prevention work among mothers, fathers and children. The method is well-known and tested, as it is used in the current project. However, in this proposal we wish to reach new rural areas and more beneficiaries (see target group). In addition, these strategic services will focus on a) ensuring that both women, men *and* children from the same families are reached in order to maximize the likelihood that we will actually prevent or reduce violence in the family. b) collecting quantitative and qualitative data from the targeted women, men and children, which will be used for advocacy activities (see objective 2). Objective 1 in particular strengthens the strategic deliveries and provides RWDS with additional experience with involving men and addressing norms on the acceptance of VAW in a comprehensive holistic approach.

***Activity 1.1 – Support services for violated women in RWDS women’s clubs***

The women’s clubs are key to supporting women who are exposed to domestic violence. Because escape options are scarce, the RWDS women’s clubs are the most appropriate and safest place for women to get support from social workers and their peers. Support activities include group therapy (Activity 1.1.1) and individual counselling (Activity 1.1.2) of women that are exposed to domestic violence. In addition, social workers will arrange awareness raising sessions (Activity 1.1.3), where the main focus is on changing attitudes to domestic violence. From women’s clubs activities in our current project we know that more than half of women believe that domestic violence is a private matter belonging to the private sphere of the home, so changing the mindset of the women is important if we want to accomplish behavioral changes, as we know that only 1 % of violated women in Palestine seek help from public authorities.[[20]](#footnote-21) RWDS field staff (two social workers and two field officers) will be implementing the group counselling, individual counselling and aware raising activities. All field staff received secondary trauma and experience based learned training in the 2019-2020 project.

***Activity 1.2 – Support fathers through counselling***

In the current project, 20 social workers and school psychologists were trained in the Baba approach, which focuses on the role of the father as the key stakeholder to prevent VAW and to create healthy family dynamics. This project will support the continuation of this approach by facilitating a professional *network* for these 20 social workers, who were trained in the Baba approach, as well as 10 new social workers (2 annual meetings) (Activity 1.2.1). The purpose of the network is to ensure the continued application of the Baba approach and to further qualify the work with men. One Baba volunteer (Danish with Palestinian heritage) will participate in two follow-up sessions (Activity 1.2.2), providing guidance and feed-back on the use of the Baba methods. The volunteer also trained the social workers in October and November 2019 and has continuous dialogue with the group via Social media. At the same time, the network meetings will be an opportunity to expand the number of social workers using this approach. RWDS will also gather data from the fathers reached through the social workers, and when relevant use qualitative cases to underpin a positive story about the family law. In addition to this network, RWDS staff (who participated in the Baba trainings) will host and facilitate two types of activities for fathers needing counselling identified by school staff in the network: A) Group sessions (Activity 1.2.3) where fathers meet for 5 sessions with the purpose of receiving new methods to and perspectives on upbringing and domestic conflicts as well as deescalating domestic conflicts and decreasing violence. B) Dialogue meetings (Activity 1.2.4) for fathers, focusing on upbringing, domestic conflicts and violence.

***Activity 1.3 – Changing norms on VAW among school students***

RWDS will carry out awareness raising sessions among school children at 12 schools in the 6 rural areas within the Hebron and Bethlehem governorates (Activities 1.3.1 and 1.3.2). There are separate schools for boys and girls. Focus will be on awareness raising sessions among 9th and 10th grades, where students learn about violence, gender roles, norms and equality. The school activities will draw on lessons learned from the current project as well as inspiration from the exchange seminar in Tunis on gender norms (2020). The purpose is to break the taboo related to VAW and human rights, and to raise awareness of the need for a family law. The sessions are followed by an Open Day at each school (Activity 1.3.3), which is organized by the students themselves. Here students will use various means to demonstrate what they have learned, including films, drama / role play, music, paintings etc. RWDS tested this approach in the current project with great results, and several new schools have been asking for it. In this project, we will develop the approach with outreach to more students, intensified focus on participatory approach as well as a pilot activity of support groups for mothers and children (Activity 1.3.4) where violence is detected by RWDS field staff through school activities. RWDS has seen a great need of this kind of on-the-spot counselling in previous school activities, and therefore this pilot activity will be tested. At the end of the project period, a closing conference (Activity 1.3.5) will be held, sharing the lessons learned from the school activities. Participants invited will be teachers from around Palestine and other relevant frontline staff working with children with the purpose of inspiring other schools to do similar prevention activities and draw on best practices.

***Activity 1.4 – Develop extra curriculum in alliance with the Ministry of Education***

The Ministry of Education is a strong alliance partner in relation to RWDS’ school activities, and, particularly, it has showed great interest in the inclusion of men/fathers. Representatives from the ministry attended the second workshop for male social workers, taking place in November, where they endorsed RWDS’ work with fathers and encouraged RWDS to expands its efforts to other schools. The continued partnership with the Ministry is important for the sustainability of RWDS’ future prevention efforts. In this project, we wish to bring the partnership further by exploring together how we might develop extra school curriculum / school material (Activity 1.4.1), which can raise awareness of violence and basic human rights. Steps to achieve this include dialogue meetings with the ministry, The Ministry’s endorsement of RWDS’ curriculum development, work meetings with relevant civil servants from Ministry of Education, development of extra curricula material and tools. As a result of this strengthened alliance with the Ministry of Education, the extra curricula materials, including concrete tools and exercises for teachers, will be printed and distributed to schools in Palestine.

**Objective 2: Adoption of a family law by Palestinian Authorities, which protects the rights of VAW survivors**

Experience from other countries (Denmark, Tunisia etc.) show that women’s rights organisations can succeed in achieving political change, if they conduct advocacy work, where political arguments and messages are based on extensive data on violence against women, solid professional experience with supporting survivors, together with a sound advocacy strategy. As mentioned in the context, Al-Muntada (and RWDS) has already reached important milestones towards a family law, such as submitting a first draft of this law to the President of Palestine. However, the process was stalled in 2017 and now needs to be revitalized with new alliance partners and joint efforts.

***Activity 2.1. Data collection and analysis from strategic services***

As the only Palestinian NGO working with women in the rural areas, RWDS has substantial knowledge and experience with this target group, including the character of domestic violence in rural areas and the family dynamics rural women navigate in. This knowledge can and must be utilized in advocacy, if systematic data is available. First step is to develop a simple data collection design (Activity 2.1.3), which focuses on collecting quantitative and qualitative data on VAW in the rural areas. Danner will share its experience in collecting data through a training workshop for RWDS staff (Activity 2.1.1). A data analyst will be recruited to undertake analysis tasks (Activity 2.1.2) Once the first data set is compiled and analysed, RWDS will prepare a report and policy papers (Activity 2.1.4) on domestic violence to share with Al-Muntada. In addition, Danner will facilitate the preparation of an advocacy strategy and action plan for all members of Al-Muntada (Activity 2.1.5) with focus on how to use data and experiences from strategic services to achieve political change, in this context the adoption of a new family law.

***Activity 2.2. Advocacy with Al-Muntada to push for a family law (incl. national campaign)***

RWDS will host one annual meetings in the Al-Muntada network (Activity 2.2.1), sharing RWDS’ compiled data and analyses on VAW, in order to strengthen Al-Muntada’s advocacy efforts. In addition, RWDS will take lead on joint advocacy work. Advocacy efforts will include meetings and roundtables (Activity 2.2.3) that bring together Al-Muntada and key stakeholders working for a family law (including key ministries and representatives from local authorities). The network will draw on RWDS data and will also use qualitative cases from RWDS’ work. In addition to these advocacy efforts, RWDS will take lead in developing a national campaign with Al-Muntada (Activity 2.2.2), which will focus on mobilizing the general public as well as key stakeholders in support of the adoption of a family law. In 2019, an unprecedented number of people demonstrated against the killing of the young Palestinian girl, Israa.[[21]](#footnote-22) A major goal for this project is to build on this movement by engaging rural women and men in Palestine in the realization of a long-term vision of social change, where VAW is perceived as unacceptable by the various stakeholders in the family, community and national levels.

**3.5 Time plan**

The project activities related to object one will be continual, throughout the three years of the project period. The same can be said for objective two, which will draw on compiled data from activities related to object 1. Establishing a methodology and practice of systematic data collection is a comprehensive process which will be initiated in year one of the project and continued/ improved throughout the project period.

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| **Year** | **Activity** | **Activity no. in LFA** |
| Year 1 | Group counselling to 90 women | 1.1.1 |
| Individual counselling to 80 women | 1.1.2 |
| Awareness raising sessions to 90 women | 1.1.3 |
| School training of 480 students in 6 schools | 1.3.1 + 1.3.2 |
| Open days at 6 schools | 1.3.3 |
| Network meetings for male social workers  | 1.2.1 |
| Group session program for 30 fathers  | 1.2.3 |
| Dialogue meeting for 50 fathers  | 1.2.4 |
| Coordination meetings with the Ministry of Education | 1.4.1 |
| Recruitment of data analyst | 2.1.2 |
| Systematic data collection training  | 2.1.2 + 2.1.3 |
| Starting collection and analysis of data | 2.1.4 |
| First Al-Muntada meeting/workshop | 2.2.1 |
| Advocacy training incl. strategy and action plan in Al-Muntada | 2.1.5 |
| Advocacy activities & president letter | 2.2.3 |
| Year 2 | Group counselling to 90 women | 1.1.1 |
| Individual counselling to 80 women | 1.1.2 |
| Awareness raising sessions to 90 women | 1.1.3 |
| School training of 480 students in 6 schools | 1.3.2 |
| Open days at 6 schools | 1.3.3 |
| Continued data gathering and analysis | 2.1.4 |
| Support group for 40 people (20 students, 20 mothers). Pilot activity | 1.3.1 |
| Continual network meetings for male social workers | 1.2.1 |
| Group session program for 30 fathers  | 1.2.3 |
| Dialogue meeting for 40 fathers  | 1.2.4 |
| First Baba follow-up training | 1.2.2 |
| Second Al-Muntada meeting/workshop | 2.2.1 |
| Year 3 | Individual counselling to 80 women | 1.1.2 |
| Group session program for 30 fathers  | 1.2.3 |
| Dialogue meeting for 40 fathers  | 1.2.4 |
| Second Baba follow-up training | 1.2.2 |
| Third Al-Muntada meeting/workshop | 2.2.1 |
| Continued data analysis | 2.1.4 |
| Lobbying and advocacy activities  | 2.2.3 |
| Closing conference | 1.3.5 |
| National campaign | 2.2.2 |

**3.6 Risks**

***Contextual risks***

The occupation is a constant and unpredictable threat for all project activities in Palestine. It can take the form of cancellation or postponement of day-to-day activities due to increased control from Israeli authorities, which will hinder free movement on the West Bank. It can also take the form of an upscaling of the conflict, especially in light of the latest political acknowledgement of Israeli settlements from the Trump administration. The ongoing conflict is always a priority on the political agenda in Palestine, leaving other challenges such as combatting domestic violence underprioritized. A risk is therefore that obtaining the necessary political awareness regarding the adoption of a family law will not be prioritized by Palestinian Authorities due to pressuring aspects of the ongoing conflict. Despite having identified these risks, RWDS and Danner has chosen to maintain the objective of working for the adoption of a family law in Palestine.

***Organizational risks***

The shrinking in funding is becoming a challenge for all civil society organizations in Palestine, especially after the American financial cut to the Palestinian Authority and the UNRWA agencies. Finances are very crucial for the sustainability of the organizations and their programs, and RWDS is working intensively in diversifying its pool of funding in order to maintain continuation of its operations and programs.

***Project related risks***

The above-mentioned challenges will have an impact on project timely implementation especially when it comes to commuting between the targeted areas for data gathering and documentation of cases. RWDS will design flexible plans and time duration to ensure effective implementation of activities. Accuracy in information gathered may be a challenge given that violence is a taboo in the conservative targeted areas. RWDS will ensure the design of questionnaires that include indirect questions to identify cases of violence.

For Danner, the main risk is that the political situation might escalate, putting Palestine in an increased fragile state, hindering Danner staff from participating in training and monitoring activities. In that case, Danner and RWDS project manager are prepared to make short-notice changes to the planned project as well as alternative plans that make the project activities possible.

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, internal travel restrictions in Palestine could complicate the implementation of activities in terms of securing access for participants. Fear of the virus may also affect participation. Finally, locally imposed restrictions on event size may affect implementation of some activities. In terms of mitigation efforts, RWDS 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. RWDS will be in continuous contact with project participants to ensure safe participation in activities.

Regarding the women participating in RWDS’ women’s clubs, training and counselling, there may be a smaller risk for them in relation to their participation, in light of the new movement in Hebron led by Al-Ashaer (to withdraw from the implementation of CEDAW[[22]](#footnote-23)). This risk, however, is estimated by RWDS to be very small. Under any circumstances, RWDS has longstanding experience working with the do no harm principle and will continue to be careful on how to approach the women clubs in Hebron; on how to present the project, avoiding the usage of terms that may be perceived negatively by the community. This minor risk can be overcome given that RWDS women clubs are well rooted and respected by the community who have been supporting their services since their establishment 30 years ago.

**3.7 Phase-out and sustainability**

From the RWDS-Danner partnership both organisations have good experiences with the *training of trainers* approach. By applying this method of work, we have succeeded in transferring skills, knowledge and concrete tools to organisational key staff, such as social workers, field coordinators and project managers as well as other involved, such as RWDS volunteers (RWDS women club members), male social workers and school teachers. In various ways, these key staff and volunteers will promote lasting improvement for RWDS as an organisation and with the target group.

Based on these experiences, we will continue to mitigate dependency by:

1. **Building the capacity of RWDS** with regards to
	1. **Focusing on systematic data collection**, which will be an integral part of this project. RWDS will be trained by Danner analytical staff. The training will use the *training of trainers* approachto ensure that tools and knowledge can better be integrated among all relevant staff in RWDS. The aim is also to enable RWDS to compile data from all its women’s clubs, so that data collection becomes an integral part of all activities in the rural areas, hence contributing to organisational sustainability.
	2. **Anchoring knowledge of systematic data collection** as a means to becoming a knowledge hub on VAW in rural areas will ultimately promote RWDS’ position among actors (national and international) working with VAW in Palestine.
	3. Establishing RWDS as a knowledge hub on VAW in rural areas will enable **RWDS to enter into partnerships and alliances with others strong actors** in the field. In the long run this will **strengthen RWDS as an advocacy organisation** in a fragile political landscape, in relation to both boundary partners and duty bearers at the civic and political level.

And we will focus on making lasting changes by:

1. **Focusing on prevention through working with norms.** In Palestine and in the MENA region, challenging gender norms can be one of the only ways of fighting GBV, as women often do not have any real opportunities available to leave the violent partner, due to lack of legislation, lack of an effective & supportive referral system and lack of shelter services. Challenging gender norms implies targeting stakeholders within the same family; students, their mothers and their fathers will all be targeted in the selected focus areas in two governorates. By targeting members within the same family, 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; a family law may also have a preventive effect in a longer-term perspective.
3. Working closely with the Ministry of Education in developing extra circular training material and tools about VAW to be integrated within the education system of the MoE and promoted within other schools. Establishing the Ministry of Education as an alliance partner of RWDS will ensure a long-lasting impact of the first and second phases of the project.

**3.8 Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)**

The log frame and implementation plan will be the main tool to monitor and measure the realization of the planned outcomes, and we will build on the M&E plan developed for the current project, whilst adding a stronger focus on not solely change in knowledge and attitude but a strong emphasis on actual changes in behavior. The pre- and post-questionnaires have proved to be the most efficient tool for RWDS to measure change in attitude among target beneficiaries and will include questions to measure change in both knowledge, attitude and behavior, which will be possible due to the duration of the project. RWDS will carry out pre and post questionnaires to measure the following changes in knowledge, attitude and behavior before and after the awareness raising sessions.

* Knowledge, attitude and behavior towards the different types of violence
* Knowledge, attitude and behavior towards protection measurements
* Knowledge, attitude and behavior towards the available shelters
* Knowledge, attitude and behavior towards the location of the services that provide counseling support to violated women
* Knowledge, attitude and behavior in terms of her rights to seek support and protection.

Furthermore, observations and meetings with the support groups to observe and analyze the number of women victims of violence who gets the courage to talk about their problems and seek help will be organized and will be measured using the criteria’s below focusing on behavioral change:

* Number of women talking about their experience with violence
* Number of women who seek support from the groups
* Number of women who asks for a divorce from their violent husbands
* Number of women who are referred to shelters and support organizations for legal and social counseling.
* Measuring % of decreased violence in the targeted areas mainly among the targeted groups. RWDS will distribute questionnaires among the women at the beginning to reflect the percentages of violence in their areas before and after the project interventions.

Individual interviews have also proved efficient in highlighting change stories and to document change through the project cycle. Documentation of change stories will be used to measure the change on the targeted school students, teachers and parents. The change stories serve as important testimonies in regard to what it takes to change behavior and practice and can be used as inspiration for others, including women survivors of violence.

Focus group meetings and interviews will be made with targeted school students, teachers, parents and women by end of the project to get their feedback, recommendations and cases handled. The social workers will facilitate focus group meetings, attended by the RWDS project manager to record the change.

It will take beyond the project cycle to measure a decrease in violence percentages among the targeted school students and women, whereas behavioral and practice changed will be measured within the lifespan of the project. Hence, RWDS will design a follow up mechanism integrated within RWDS women clubs in the targeted areas. The follow-up will be managed by the trained social workers who run the women’s clubs.

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

A midterm-review will be carried out after the first 1,5 year of the project. We 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 RWDS and Danner. The review will be conducted based on DACs evaluation criteria (relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability), and will also explore the effect of the prevention activities with women, men and children. Based on this the review will give recommendations on how RWDS may improve the impact of the activities as well as how they may be rolled out in other areas in Palestine. This knowledge will be relevant to many stakeholders working in the Palestine.

Once final, the mid-term review will be made available (in English and Arabic) on the websites of Danner and RWDS.

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 an external consultant in compliance with Danida’s minimum standards.

4. Intervention-related information work in Denmark

Throughout the project period, Danner will produce articles / blogs on the Palestinian women’s movement, offering new perspectives on human rights, women’s rights as well as how we can fight VAW by challenging rigid gender norms. These topics will be relevant to the Danish population and will serve to raise awareness on the Palestinian women’s movement and Palestinian human rights in general. In these communication efforts, Danner will also draw on the data produced by RWDS and inform about RWDS’ experiences from prevention efforts through a holistic approach, where we work with women, men and children simultaneously. This will be of relevance for NGOs and other professionals working internationally and nationally to prevent domestic violence and other social problems.

Communication means are Danner’s platforms; website (Danner blog), LinkedIn (4.400 followers), Facebook (16.000 followers) and Danish media, such as chronicles/feature articles in Danish newspapers.

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| **Development objective:**Domestic violence is reduced and prevented in Hebron and Bethlehem and the rights of violence survivors are protected through a family law |
| **LFA INCL. M&E METHOD** |
| **Objective** | **Outcome** | **Outcome indicator** | **M&E method** | **Output** | **Activities** |
| **1.** **Contribute to reducing and preventing domestic violence in 6 rural areas in Hebron and Bethlehem governorates by targeting women, men and children** | **1.1** A supportive and empowering environment is fostered for women exposed to domestic violence through the RWDS women’s clubs in 6 new rural areas in Hebron and Bethlehem, and the targeted women acknowledge that domestic violence is unacceptable and have proven change in knowledge, attitude and behavior towards violence.  | **1.1** Women have developed strategies to deal with domestic violence in their family and community, and their understanding of gender roles, rights and norms is enhanced whilst their attitude and behavior towards violence have changed towards enabling women to break free of the violence.  | Pre and post questionnaires will be carried out to measure changes in knowledge, attitudes and behavior. Focus groups and questionnaires will be used to capture behavioral change, including the number of women who:* Seek support from groups
* Ask for divorce from violent partners
* Are referred for further legal or social counselling.
 | Group and individual counseling exercises by social workers are provided to 420 women exposed to domestic violence and knowledge is provided to women on existing referral systems.  | **1.1.1** Providegroup counselling services to 180 women[[23]](#footnote-24) from the targeted areas throughout the project period. **1.1.2** Offer individual counseling services to 240 women[[24]](#footnote-25) exposed to domestic violence at RWDS women’s clubs by the trained social workers and make available a referral system to violated cases  |
| 180 trained women have gained knowledge and tools on how to handle domestic violence and contribute to promoting a safer environment that rejects domestic violence norms and practices. | **1.1.3** Offer awareness raising sessions to additional 180 women[[25]](#footnote-26) about VAW and how to identify and handle domestic violence. |
| **1.2.** Fathers in the 6 rural areas in Bethlehem and Hebron governorates adopt new non-violent strategies to tackle problems in the family, in accordance with the Baba method[[26]](#footnote-27).  | **1.2.** Fathers, who received counselling from male social workers are more involved in their children’s lives and have changed attitudes towards domestic violence.  | Qualitative reporting from male social workers, based on interviews and observations during network meetings. | 30 male social workers, who were trained in the Baba method (2019), continue to use the Baba approach to support fathers in the new targeted areas.Follow up sessions are organized with the 30 social workers to discuss their actions plans for reaching out to other fathers. | **1.2.1.** RWDS hosts and facilitates regularprofessional network meetings for male social workers and school phycologists with particular focus on how to use the Baba approach. **1.2.2.** Organize follow-up sessions for 30 male social workers and school psychologist on the Baba method, with participation of Baba volunteer, and prepare an action plan on how to approach fathers. |
| 90 fathers participate in groups session program hosted and facilitated by RWDS with the purpose of continuing the Baba method, deescalating domestic conflicts and violence and offering alternative methods and perspectives on tools for conflicts resolution. 120 fathers participate in dialogue meetings on upbringing, domestic conflicts and violence. | **1.2.3.** RWDS hosts and facilitates group sessions for fathers identified by school staff as needing counselling. 6 groups of 15 fathers meet 5 times. **1.2.4.** RWDS hosts and facilitates dialogue meetings for fathers on upbringing, domestic conflicts and violence in a selection of the targeted schools. One dialogue meeting per year, 30 fathers attending each dialogue meeting. |
| **1.3**. Students/children in the 6 rural areas in Hebron and Bethlehem adopt norms that are supportive and understanding towards survivors of VAW and do not accept domestic violence.  | **1.3.** Children acknowledge that domestic violence is unacceptable and feel more comfortable breaking the taboo of domestic violence   | Pre and post questionnairesPhotos, video and other types of documentation from creative events | 960[[27]](#footnote-28) trained school students are able to express domestic violence norms and practices through creative initiatives such as drama, art, music, etc. which are presented in an open day at the schools. | **1.3.1.** 12 schools, 6 in the Bethlehem governorate and 6 in Hebron are identified for the project period**1.3.2.** Provide awareness raising sessions to960 students from grades 9th and 10th grade from the 12 targeted schools on reducing violence and promoting gender equality using the experienced learning approach.  |
| 12 open days are organized in the targeted schools to present students understanding of VAW.  | **1.3.3.** Organize 12 open days, one in each of the targeted schools, to present the initiatives designed by the trained students, inviting the Ministry of Education and other stakeholders.  |
| Support groups of 20 mothers and 20 students are created to enhance family communication and discussion about VAW | **1.3.4** Establish support groups of 20 students and 20 mothers to enhance family discussions and communication about VAW and how to prevent (as a pilot initiative) |
| 100 people participate in the conference to present the findings and lessons learnt from the project that focuses on changing violence norms and practices.  | **1.3.5.**  Organize a conference to present the findings and lessons learnt from the school activities to be shared with teachers and other frontline personal. |
| **1.4.** The Ministry of Education is an active alliance partner for RWDS on reducing domestic violence in Palestine through adopting extra curricula material and tools. | **1.4.**  The Ministry of Education introduced new teaching approaches to teachers/schools, which contribute to changing norms on domestic violence through extra curricula material and tools. | Comparison of teaching methods and school curriculum before and after the project period. | The Ministry of Higher Education has endorsed RWDS’ activities at schools. Extra curricula material and tools are developed by RWDS and MoE addressing domestic violence and gender roles within families, schools and communities. | **1.4.1.** Design, print and plan dissemination of extra curricula material and tools addressing domestic violence and gender roles in the family, schools and communities.  |
| **Objective** | **Outcome** | **Outcome indicator** | **M&E method** | **Output** | **Activities** |
| **2.** **Adoption of family law by Palestinian Authorities, which protects the rights of survivors of VAW.**  | **2.1** RWDS is a knowledge hub on VAW in rural areas and raises the level of knowledge related to VAW in the women’s right network, Al-Muntada, with data from rural areas.  | **2.1.** RWDS collects and analyses data through its strategic services in rural areas (women’s clubs, male counselling and children activities) for the use of advocacy.  | Comparison of RWDS’ data collection procedures before and after project period  | RWDS staff has the analytical capacity to collect and analyze data from beneficiaries in rural areas.  | **2.1.1.** Train 15 RWDS staff, community coordinators and social workers on documentation and analysis techniques, when collecting data on domestic violence**2.1.2.** Recruitment of data analyst |
| RWDS has compiled quantitative and qualitative data in the 6 targeted rural areas on VAW (extend, forms of violence, socio-economic status etc.) | **2.1.3.** Design and plan a systematic data collection modality to include data on violence types, numbers etc. in the targeted areas. |
| Data on VAW in rural areas is shared with Al-Muntada through a report to establish stronger alliance on presenting VAW.Advocacy strategy for family law.  | **2.1.4.** Analyze collected data and prepare report on domestic violence in rural areas. **2.1.5.** Train RWDS & Al-Muntada on how to use data and experiences from strategic services to achieve political change. The training will include preparation of advocacy strategy and action plan for Al-Muntada.  |
| **2.2** Together with Al-Muntada, RWDS has succeeded in changing attitudes among key stakeholders on the need for a family law with its data on VAW in rural areas. | **2.2.** Key stakeholders (Ministry of Women’s Affairs, Ministry of Social Affairs legislatives, Prime Minister, etc.) are supporting the adoption of the new family law.  | Intensified public debate about a family law in Palestine (social media, media etc.)Statements from key stakeholders about the need for a family law.  | RWDS report on VAW in rural areas is used in advocacy activities by Al Muntada.  | **2.2.1.** Organize 3 meeting / workshops for Al -Muntada (one per year) on domestic violence in rural areas based on findings by RWDS to be used in the advocacy and lobbying initiatives and the national campaign. |
| A national campaign that pushes for a family law is organized by RWDS through Al-Muntada. | **2.2.2.** Organize a national campaign to mobilize public support towards the adoption of the new family law |
| A letter issued to the president calling for him to adopt the newly amended family law as proposed by the women movement in Palestine | **2.2.3.** Organize 10 advocacy activities (meetings, round tables, formal letter to the president etc.) with/for relevant duty bearers (including Ministry of Women’s Affairs, Ministry of Social Affairs, legislatives, Prime Minister, etc.), representatives from police, shelters and Al-Muntada (civil society). |

1. Incl. Revised exhange rate (from 6,5 to 6,8) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics: *Preliminary Results of the Violence Survey in the Palestinian Society*, 2019 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. EuroMed Rights: *Palestine. Report on violence Against Women in the context of Violence*, 2015 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics: *Preliminary Results of the Violence Survey in the Palestinian Society*, 2019 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Safe spaces established and run by local NGO’s are closed off areas connected to hospitals where survivors of domestic violence can access confidential counselling, case management, psycho-social support and receive support regarding referral to services available – although these are extremely limited (UNFPA: Palestine Humanitarian Response Plan 2020) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics: *Preliminary Results of the Violence Survey in the Palestinian Society*, 2019 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. The UN [Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Declaration_on_the_Elimination_of_Violence_Against_Women) states, "violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women" and "violence against women is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men” [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. Amnesty International: *Israel and the Occupied territories. Conflict, the Occupation and patriarchy Women carry the burden*, 2005 [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/04/policy-brief-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-women#view> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. UNFPA: *Evaluation of UNFPA support to the prevention, response to and elimination of gender-based violence, and harmful practices,* 2017 [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
11. UNFPA: *Evaluation of UNFPA support to the prevention, response to and elimination of gender-based violence, and harmful practices,* 2017 [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
12. <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/> [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
13. <https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/News/2019/12/22/Palestinian-tribal-leaders-stand-against-womens-equality-treaty> [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
14. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICSECR), the International Covenant on Civil and

Political Rights (ICCPR), and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

establishes these standards. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
15. El Feki, S., Heilman, B. and Barker, G., Eds.: *Understanding Masculinities: Results from the International Men and gender equality survey (images) – Middle East and North Africa*, 2017 [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
16. The seminar in Tunis in January 2020 concentrated on sharing of regional (MENA) experiences and/or aspirations of fighting gender-based violence by addressing gender norms. As RWDS shared the organisation’s experiences of working with engagement men/fathers in their outreach efforts of addressing gender norms, other regional actors felt inspired by the results, and new partnerships were thought of and will be worked further with in this regard. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
17. UNFPA: *Evaluation of UNFPA support to the prevention, response to and elimination of gender-based violence, and harmful practices,* 2017 [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
18. El Feki, S., Heilman, B. and Barker, G., Eds.: *Understanding Masculinities: Results from the International Men and gender equality survey (images) – Middle East and North Africa*, 2017 [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
19. Activity numbers correspond to activity numbers in LFA (please notice different numbering in the budget, in accordance with the CISU format. This implies that no. 2.1 in activity plan/LFA refers to no. 1.5 and no. 2.2 refers to no. 1.6 in the CISU budget). [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
20. Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics: *Preliminary Results of the Violence Survey in the Palestinian Society*, 2019 [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
21. <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20190901-palestinians-protest-for-legal-protection-of-women-after-killing-of-israa-gharib/> [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
22. <https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/News/2019/12/22/Palestinian-tribal-leaders-stand-against-womens-equality-treaty> [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
23. 15 women \* 6 locations \* 2 groups [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
24. 40 women \* 2 social workers \* 3 years [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
25. 15 women \* 6 locations \* 2 groups [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
26. Baba method is an approach focusing on the value and role of the father in the family as the key stakeholder to prevent VAW and creating healthy family dynamics. 20 social workers were trained in the Baba method in 2019. [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
27. 80 students \* 12 schools [↑](#footnote-ref-28)