



Special Session 3

The inter-generational effects of violence: the intersection of violence against women and violence against children in the Arab region

Monday, 14 March 2023, 4.15–5.45 p.m. Beirut time

Background and objective

Violence against children (VAC) and violence against women (VAW) are critical global human rights and public health problems that impede development. Violence and its consequences affect children, adolescents, and women across their lifetimes and comes at a personal, societal, and economic cost. The intersectionality between VAW and VAC and overlapping forms of oppression and discrimination - based on gender, ethnicity, class, migratory or disability status - amplify vulnerabilities to violence, impact agency, education, and economic empowerment.

Although the fields of violence against children (VAC) and violence against women (VAW) developed separately, evidence highlights multiple intersections between the two including shared risk factors, common underlying social norms, co-occurrence, intergenerational effects, common and compounding consequences, and adolescence as a vulnerable period and opportunity for prevention of both VAC and VAW.

The objectives of this Special Session include:

1. Examining the impact of VAC/VAW on advancement of the SDGs.
2. To introduce why understanding the co-occurrence of VAC/VAW and the risks and protective factors associated with each / both forms of violence, is necessary to breaking the intergenerational cycle.
3. Identify possible entry points for coordination, integration, and joint investment in VAW/VAC to strengthen the response services for both children and women.
4. Review and discuss the existing evidence in the Arab region (on the interaction and what is policy response) and the implication for policy interventions.
5. Provide a platform for experts, civil society representatives, and practitioners to discuss what works with individuals, families, and communities to prevent violence and break the intergenerational VAC-VAW cycle.

Questions to be addressed

- What are the intersections between VAC and VAW?
- Do we have evidence of what works with individuals, families, and communities to break the cycle of violence? What are the best practices?
- What is the impact of violence on education, both in terms of access and within schools? Is the experience different for boys and girls, and what are the long-term consequences for women?
- What is the impact of violence on women's economic empowerment?
- What are the opportunities for collaboration?
- What is the cost of inaction for sustainable development?

Moderator

- **Ghida Anani**, Director & Founder of ABAAD, Lebanon

Opening Remarks

- **Dr. Najat Maalla M'jid** – United Nations Special Representative to the Secretary General on Violence Against Children
- **Reem Alsalem** - United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and Girls

Presentation

- **Alessandra Guedes** - UNICEF Innocenti – Global Office of Research and Foresight

Panelists

- **Dr. Mohammed Meqdady** - Secretary General of the National Council for Family Affairs (NCFA), Jordan
- **Raed Ataya** – MANARA Network Coordinator/Nabaa Programme Coordinator
- **Meryem Bhija** – Head of the Women and Children's Department, Directorate of Planning, Morocco

This Special Session will be organized as a hybrid event. To participate over Zoom, please [register here](#). Those physically present at the UN House can attend the session in Committee Room II (B1 floor).



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