

Introduction of Development Package (Anna)

The main objective of this facilitation packet is to create an informative workshop discussing Human Rights to women in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camps within the country of Lebanon. Not only will the programme provide information on basic human rights to women, but it will also promote an unders

tanding that they, as women, are equally as entitled to those rights as men. The women in the workshop will also learn about what resources are available to them within the IDP Camps to satisfy their rights and basic needs if they are not being met. The programme is also designed to grow in understanding, form bonds and produce confidence in the women's own abilities to bring about positive change, no matter their situation. It is with these goals of what we want to discuss that this facilitation packet is centered on. We were careful to consider the target audience we were preparing this workshop for and how to best relay the information while also providing a space for thought and discussion. Through the research we have done on Lebanon as a whole, the Human Rights we want to cover and general information on IDP Camps, this packet can be used to orchestrate a successful workshop.

Overview of Lebanon region, demographic, Government, religion (Anna)

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Lebanon is located in the Middle East on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea, bordered by Syria and Israel. Lebanon itself is a very rich cultural and religious history. It is known for its hospitality, cuisine and hosting five UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including the city of Byblos, an old Phoenician Port (Worldtravelguide.net/). In modern history, the Lebanese gained freedom from France in 1943 and lived in peace until 1975, when a civil war between Christians and Muslims, partially caused by a large number of Palestinian refugees, broke out in the capital (Worldtravelguide.net/). Its location makes Lebanon a prime location for Syrian and Palestinian

refugees to flee, which sometimes brings in more unrest and instability, as seen in the civil war. Since then there has been periodic political crisis and turmoil, but Lebanon is slowly making its way back to political stability.

Lebanon's location near the Mediterranean and its subtropical climate is both a blessing, in regards to its landscape, and a curse as it tends to be at risk for a higher number of natural disasters. These natural disasters include flooding, earthquakes, droughts, and associated tsunami issues, all of which are linked to displacing an average of 3,444 Lebanese people per year (gfdrr.org/). With the weather and climate being potentially tumultuous there is another danger in that most people live in urban settlements. Out of the approximate 4.5 million people in Lebanon 87% of the population lives in cities(gfdrr.org/). A significant issue facing the densely populated urban settlements is that they seem to be at an even higher risk from natural disasters because of low building code standards and lack of adequate space. This is not only structurally dangerous during disasters but also provides an increased possibility in spread of disease. In regards to the minority rural population, they are also likely to experience some displacement due to natural disasters. Most are farming communities that could easily be harmed by any intense drought or flood.

Of course one source of displacement comes from conflict which can stem from issues of social politics, religion, ethnic diversity and government. According to Commisceo Global, a cultural guide website, the ethnic makeup of Lebanon is around 95% Arab, 4% Armenian and 1% other. However, many Christian Lebanese do not identify themselves as Arab but rather as descendents of the ancient Canaanites and prefer to be called Phoenicians. Also important to note is that 1.2 million people, almost a quarter of the population, are Syrian refugees (gfdrr.org/). This means the cities in Lebanon are densely populated with a multitude of ethnic and religious groups that could create a tense environment. Though there is a variety of people coming from very different backgrounds and schooling, the illiteracy rate in Lebanon urban areas is only 6.1%, whereas in rural areas it is 16.1% (Galey, 2009). This is significant because it seems that there is a much more accessible education system available for those in urban areas where as rural communities, who tend to be the poorest and most affected by natural disasters, are not given the same resources for education.

There is also very diverse religious makeup in Lebanon, which is why the country tends to split itself in regards to religion instead of ethnicity. However, it is difficult to know all of the religions present in Lebanon as there has not been a recent census. This is probably because a shift in religious demographic could produce a switch-up in the way the government is set up between Muslim and Christian sects. Currently, Christians are guaranteed half of the seats in parliament along with the President always being Christian. Meanwhile, the Prime Minister and Speaker of the House are always Muslim (commisceo-global.com). The government defends that this set up of religious roles stops one major religion from ever gaining too much control over the other. It is important to not religion is also the key factor in how some everyday situations or local scenarios are lawed. For example, there are religious courts to handle all areas of life and

family laws, such as inheritance, divorce, child custody and more (commisceo-global.com). Therefore, there does not seem to be a select, uniform system in this regard, but instead institutions based on religious laws and local religious leaders.