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The Regional Civil Society Observatory
المركز الإقليمي لمؤسسات المجتمع المدني



EuroMed Feminist Initiative
المبادرة النسوية الأورومتوسطية
Initiative Féministe EuroMed

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THE SOUTH MEDITERRANEAN REGION REGIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY OBSERVATORY FACT SHEET

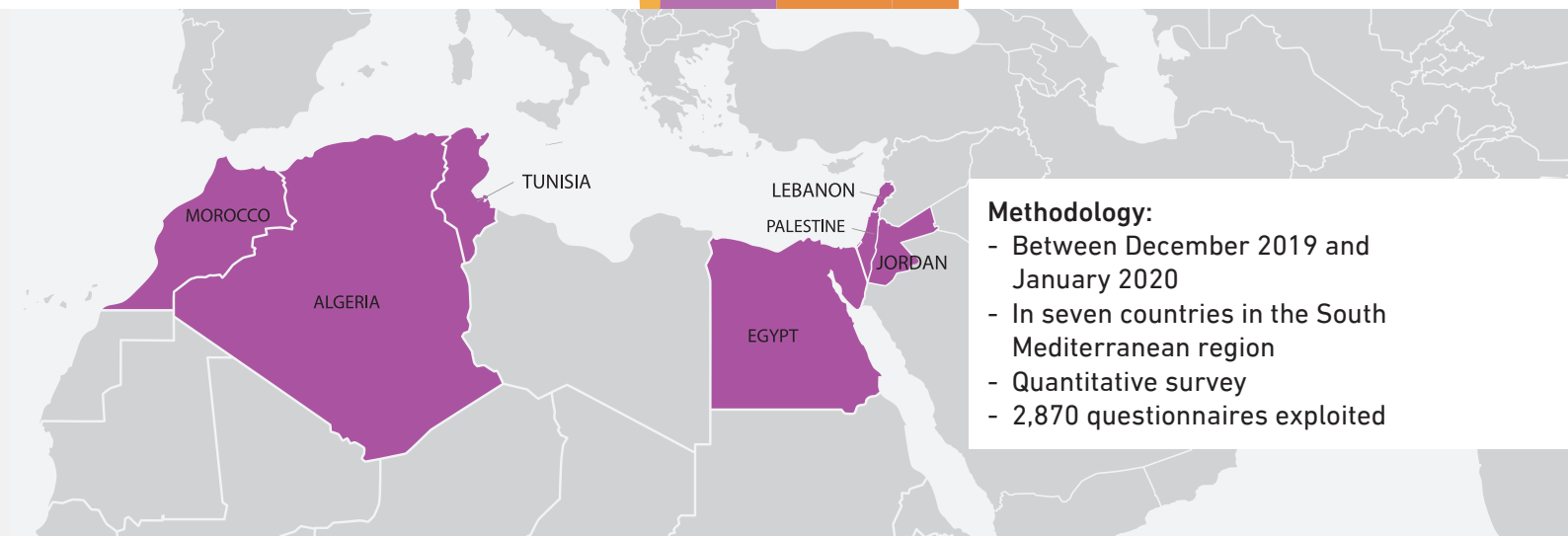
"The human rights of women and of the girl-child are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights"

The Vienna Declaration and Program of Action (VDPA), (part I, para. 18)



"Gender-based violence is a violation of human rights and main barrier to gender equality, it is detrimental first and most to women, and in particular for the victims themselves, but also it weakens the society as a whole".

Ministerial Declaration of the 4th Union of Mediterranean (UfM) Ministerial Conference on women's rights (November 2017, Cairo), (point 9)



FINDINGS FROM THE SURVEY:

EXPERIENCE, PERCEPTION AND AWARENESS OF WOMEN REGARDING VAWG

In the South Mediterranean region, there is little reliable information about the prevalence and trends in Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). However, some studies about the reality of women illustrate the magnitude of the problem and show alarming figures on VAWG. Advancing women's rights and combating all forms of VAWG are priorities for Euro Mediterranean countries as stated in the 4th Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Ministerial Declaration on "Strengthening the Role of Women in Society" (Cairo, 2017) and States are responsible for enacting and implementing laws and public policies to combat VAWG and ensure achieving gender equality.

In 2019, the Regional Civil Society Observatory (RCSO) on VAWG was established to follow up on the implementation of the 4th UfM Ministerial

Declaration, particularly in the area of VAWG, Women, the Peace and Security Agenda (WPSA) and Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE). The RCSO was established under a three-year (2019-2021) regional project "Combating Violence against Women in the Southern Mediterranean Region", funded by the EU and implemented by EuroMed Feminist Initiative (EFI) and a consortium of nine member organizations in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia.

In December 2019, the RCSO launched a survey in these seven countries to assess the level of awareness of women towards the laws and services provided for victims of VAWG, as well as to know the personal experience, perception and values related to VAWG.

OVERVIEW OF THE MAIN RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

VAWG

IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN:



19%

of women reported that they have received death threats from their husbands, or other family members during the 12 months preceding the survey



46%

of women declared they can not apply for a passport or other identification papers for themselves or their children on the same basis as their husbands



83%

of women reported that it is unacceptable for a husband to hit his wife regardless of the reason.



87%

of women were against child marriage.



85%

of women declared that VAWG is common in their country. While 63% believe that it is increasing.

Yet, some women stated that domestic violence is acceptable under certain circumstances



20%

of women declared domestic violence is acceptable if a wife leaves the house without informing her husband.



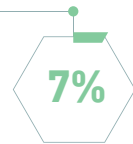
15%

of women declared domestic violence is acceptable if a wife neglects her kids.



11%

of women declared domestic violence is acceptable if a wife refuses sex.



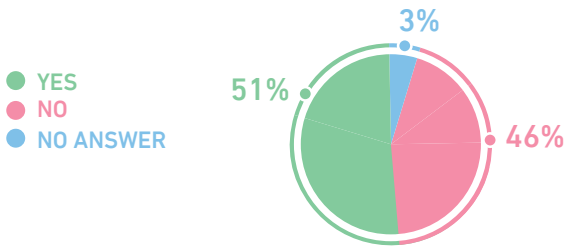
7%

of women declared domestic violence is acceptable if a wife argues with her husband.

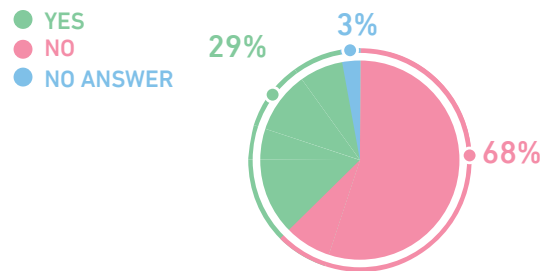
SURVEY BREAKDOWN

A- Legal Framework:

Women can apply for a passport or any identification papers for her or her children in the same way as men

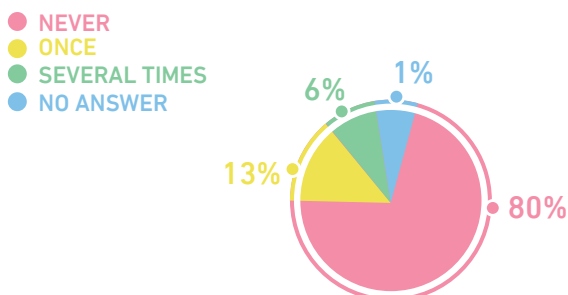


B2. Women who complained after receiving death threats

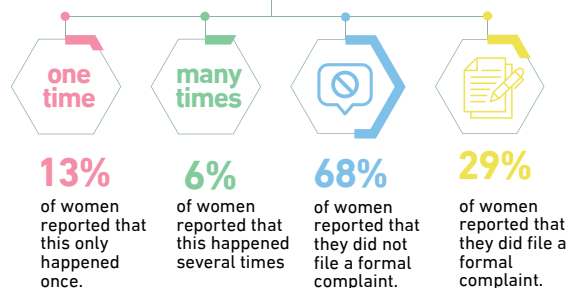


B- Personal Experience Towards VAWG:

B1. Women who received a death threat from their husband, or other family members

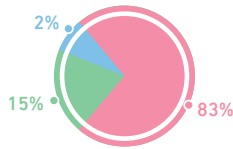


Amongst the 19% of women who received death threats from their husbands, or other family members during the last 12 months:



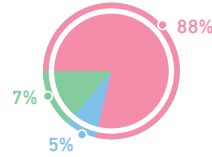
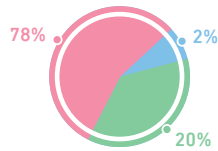
C- Attitude and Values Towards VAWG:

● YES ● NO ● NO ANSWER

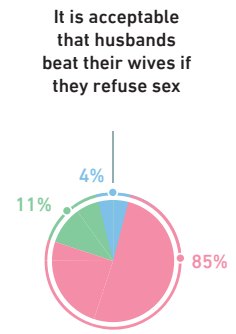


It is acceptable that husbands beat their wives if they neglect their children

It is acceptable that husbands beat their wives if they go out home without telling them



It is acceptable that husbands beat their wives if they argue with them

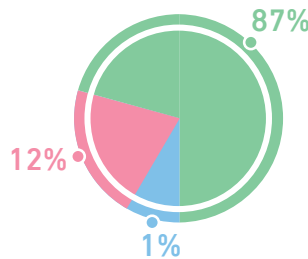


It is acceptable that husbands beat their wives if they refuse sex

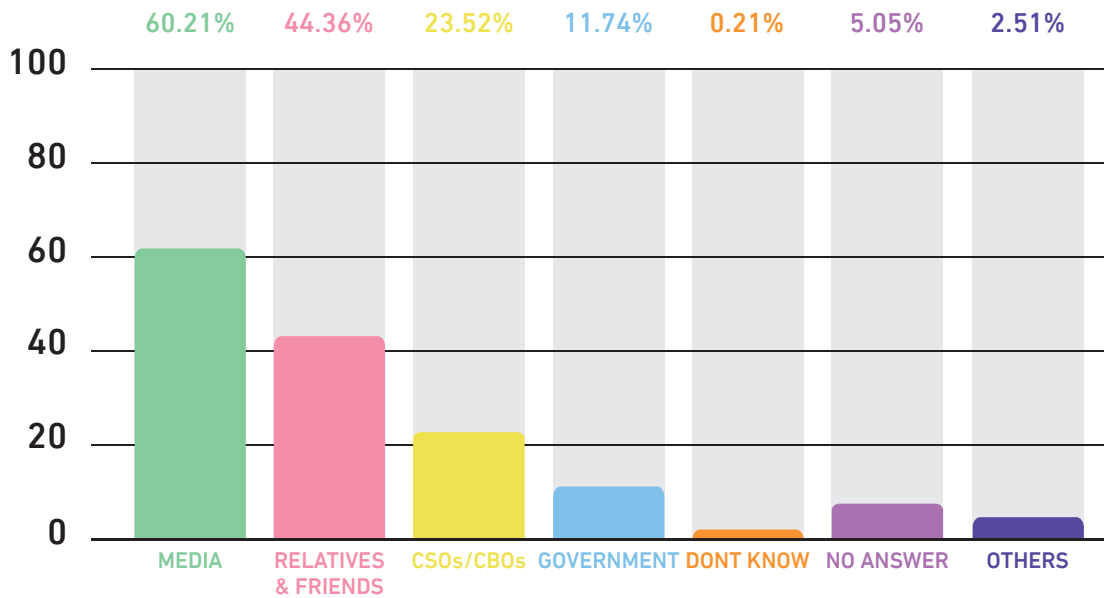
D- Awareness Towards VAWG:

Women's perception that child marriage should be stopped

● YES ● NO ● NO ANSWER

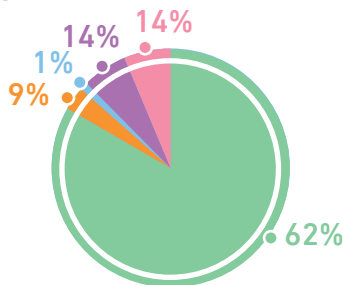


Sources of information on VAWG

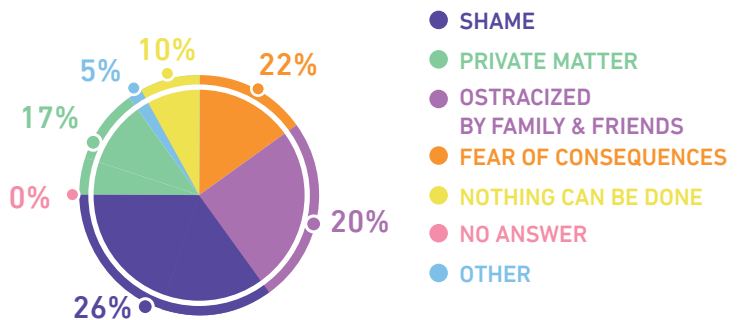


Women's perception of VAWG level

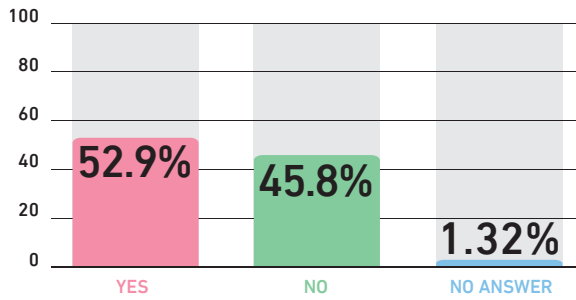
● STAYING THE SAME ● DECREASING ● INCREASING ● NO ANSWER ● DON'T KNOW



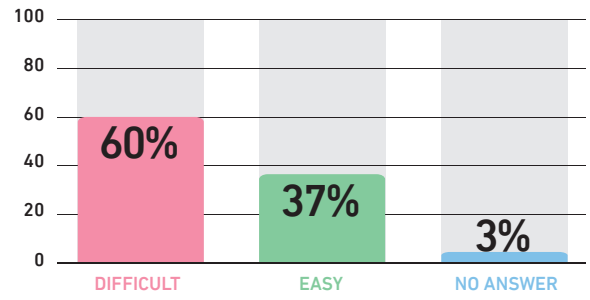
Barriers that hinder women from reporting violence



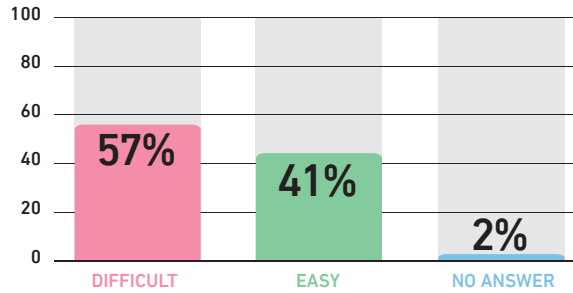
E- Knowledge of Existing Support Services:



Women are aware of existence of government institutions that address VAWG



Women perception of accessing legal aid services in the community



Women perception of accessing police services in the community



About the EuroMed Feminist Initiative EFI:

EuroMed Feminist Initiative is a policy network encompassing women's rights organization from both shores of the Mediterranean and advocates for **gender equality and women's rights as inseparable from democracy** building and citizenship, political solutions to all conflicts, and for the right of people to self-determination. EuroMed Feminist Initiative seeks to improve and promote women's rights as **universal human rights, the value of gender equality, and the use of non-violent means to solve conflicts**. Our criterion and position align with the international resolutions and conventions and regional instruments promoting the universality of women's rights and strengthening women's impact and voices in conflict resolution.

About the Regional Civil Society Observatory on VAWG:

The Regional Civil Society Observatory (RCSO) is an independent civil society mechanism that follows up on measures and actions to combat VAWG, in particular the implementation of the **Ministerial Declaration of the 4th UfM Ministerial Conference on women's rights (November 27th 2017, Cairo)** in the area of combatting all forms of VAWG, **Women, Peace and Security Agenda (WPSA)** and **Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE)**.

The RCSO is hosted by the **EuroMed Feminist Initiative (EFI)** in Amman, Jordan. It aims to develop regional tools to follow up on the implementation of the **4th UfM Ministerial Declaration**. These include evaluating and highlighting gaps between international women's rights mechanisms and national legislations, providing evidence-based recommendations to policymakers aiming to improve the efficiency of policies and measures in this field and preparing guidelines for **developing WPSA, and support the adoption and implementation of further instruments on UNSCR 1325**.

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