

## **ANNUAL REPORT FOR NCFUWI -2006**

The NCFUWI celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary for its establishment and completed ten years of serious work and struggle at the following levels:

- 1- Training and empowerment
- 2- Studies and research that constitutes a database on women's status and issues

The NCFUWI activities in all the Lebanese regions revolved about the following main axes:

- 1- Gender
- 2- Gender and school text books
- 3- Supporting women's participation in political life
- 4- Eliminating all forms of discrimination against women
- 5- Building women's capacities to face family violence
- 6- AIDS and women

The twelve members of the Executive Committee worked towards achieving the set goals of the Committee and implementing all its projects and programs through their bi-monthly meetings and the quarterly meetings of the General Assembly, In addition to the meetings of the various committees that were held as needed.

### **Accomplishments:**

Despite the critical and difficult conditions that occurred in the country, and the destructive Israeli war that lasted 33 days and destroyed the infrastructure of Lebanon leaving behind destruction, displacements and mental and physical suffering. The CFUWI was able to work and to implement all the planned projects in spite of destroyed bridges and roads that hampered movement and transportation. The Executive Committee organized a number of meetings with regional coordinators in their regions.

The regional coordinators and members were active during the time of war and organized meetings for the displaced women especially in "Nabatiyah" and South Lebanon

### **Major Implemented projects:**

#### **Enable women to participate in the decision making process and planning and designing national policies**

##### **I- Supporting women's participation in political life: Capacity building of women for elections:**

**Project's aims:** Capacity building of women for their participation in elections.

**Target group:** Women in the civil sector/ women's organizations, unions, syndicates and associations.

**Donors:** UNIFEM

**Budget:** \$ 23,840

**Duration:** One year

**Activities:** The project was implemented through the following activities:

- 1- A Round Table to discuss the electoral law that was followed by a series of meetings;
- 2- Planning and implementing training courses for trainers (TOT) from the Commission cadre and members of other concerned Non Government Organizations and Associations;
- 3- Organizing various meetings in all the regions;
- 4- Round table for female and male parliamentarians and specialized and concerned people;
- 5- Evaluation conference for the project after implementing all the planned activities and at the end of each activity;

**1-The “Round Table”:** This was organized for the discussion of the drafts of the electoral laws that were presented to National Panel that was asked to prepare a new electoral law. After the presentation of the laws and comparing the various available samples: the following recommendations were approved to encourage women to participate in elections:

- Exempt women from candidacy fees;
- Assigning a certain percentage of women in candidacy lists;
- To have closed candidacy lists in the majority electoral system;
- Setting an expenditure ceiling for the election process;
- Prohibiting pre-paid programs in information/communication channels and providing a minimal equal time for all candidates;
- Assigning a temporary quota for women equivalent to 30%;
- Bringing down election age to 18 years;
- Capacity building, empowerment and provision of women with special needed skills and knowledge;
- Continuing pressure for a new electoral law that will guarantee right and proper representation for all groups of society

### **Empowerment of women**

#### **2- Training courses:**

**a-** A training course was organized on February 4, 2006. 55 members from NCFUW and other concerned organizations attended. The NCFUWI prepared training files for the trainees. The training focused on the following subjects:

- The cultural and social definitions and determinants of the election process;
- The economical, legal and political definitions and determinants of the election process;

- Preparation of women for election work;
- The election campaign/concepts and mechanics of planning;

**b-** The second training course took place between 12-14 May 2006 and was attended by 25 previously trained members of the NCFUWI from all regions. Training parcels and files containing the lectures given and the training material were prepared and distributed to the participants.

The course stressed the following topics:

- Laws and jurisdiction for the election process in Lebanon;
- Preparing women for elections as a candidate, elector and supporter;
- Education in the election process;
- Definition of the election campaign and elements that affect it including the nature of the political system and the social and cultural issues in the country;
- Building a working team for the candidate;
- Information campaign and communication skills;
- Building coalitions, supporting and building influence groups;
- Setting an expenditure ceiling for the election process;
- Preventing prepaid programs in the communication channels and provision of a minimum equal time for all candidates;
- Setting a temporary 30% quota for women's representation;
- Bringing down election age to 18 years;
- Capacity building of women, empowering them and providing them with the required skills and knowledge;
- Exerting pressure to get an electoral law that guarantees proper and correct representation for all social groups;

### **3- Regional meetings:**

The regional coordinators organized the following meetings:

- Beirut: six meetings;

-Mount Lebanon: two meetings;

-South- Lebanon and “Nabatiah”: three meetings;

-“Beqaa Valley”: three meetings;

#### **4- Round table:**

The NCFUWI organized a round table on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Three members of the parliament participated, in addition to representatives from various parliamentarian groups, the press syndicate and a former minister.

A number of members of the parliament apologized at the last minute due to an urgent un planned meeting.

The participants discussed the following issues:

- 1- Preparation of a new electoral law that guarantees 30% representation for women in the parliament;
- 2- Creating a pressure lobby from male and female parliamentarians, power groups and civil society to achieve the required adjustments;
- 3- Exerting pressure to remove reservations on item 9 (citizenship law) and item 16 from the CEDAW, in order to allow women to enjoy their right of citizenship.

Discussions ended with the following recommendations:

- a- Formulating a committee from civil society groups for contacting political groups and creating pressure inside the parliament;
- b- Suggestions to prepare one plan of action to exert pressure for the implementation of the quota;
- c- Involving the National information and communication Council in the campaign;
- d- Formulating a committee from organizations and specialists to prepare a practical plan to support women’s participation in elections.

This meeting was followed by a series of meetings that took place in the NCFUWI office in the following dates:

- June 6, 2006 to discuss the recommendation of the round table and the electoral law with its majority and minority systems;
- July 6, 2006 to prepare a plan of action at the political and information levels.

Follow up meetings stopped due to the July war.

#### **5- Evaluation Conference:**

This project concluded its activities in an evaluation conference that took place on October 6, 2006. The regional coordinators presented their achievements and their comments and suggestions. At the end, the following comments and recommendations were taken:

- The need for educating the public about the election process and the quota and the necessity to continue the program and to organize more educational meeting and discussion groups in the regions;
- Adopting the training material and basing the content of the regional meetings on the training material, in addition to the need for good preparation of the meetings;
- The necessity of linking political life to economical status during discussions
- Working towards attracting men to attend these meetings;
- Obtaining permits from concerned government offices that allows our members to enter schools, colleges and universities and organizing meetings for the students;
- Using individual houses and clubs to organize meetings if needed.

## **II- Capacity building of women to face violence in the family:**

### **Respect human rights including women's rights/ Abolish all forms of discrimination against women**

**Objective:** Providing women with the necessary knowledge, skills and experience to manage their family issues in a right way.

**Target group:** Youth from both sexes in marginal groups especially from low socio-economic groups.

**Donor:** UNIFEM

**Budget:** \$ 22,650

**Duration:** One year

**Activities:** NCFUWI organized a 6 days training course for trainers (TOT) from cadres and other concerned organizations.

1<sup>st</sup> stage: 6, 7 and 8 January 2006

2<sup>nd</sup> stage: 20, 21 and 22 January 2006

30 trainers (five from each Governorate) participated in the course. The training emphasized the following topics:

- Family violence in Lebanon;
- Definition and identification of violence;

- Documentary film about violence;
- Cultural aspects of violence in Lebanon;
- Violence and discrimination against women as it appears in the curricula and school textbooks;
- Violence at work;
- International accords concerning violence;
- How do Lebanese women face violence;
- Violence in communication/information systems and commercials.

The topics were introduced and followed by discussions and group work. The training course concluded with a lot of recommendations and was characterized by seriousness, vitality and cooperation. All agreed to continue work through the regional meetings. A training parcel was prepared before the course, and a final report containing all the given lectures discussions and recommendations was produced at the end.

### **Regional meetings:**

- 1- Mount Lebanon: Six meetings (6) were organized covering North and South “Metn”, “Chouf” and “Aley”. The meetings took place in different places including churches, clubs, women’s organizations, schools and others.  
  
Five hundred (500) people from different, cultural, geographic and economical backgrounds both male and female including youth, attended these meetings.
- 2- Beqaa-Valley: Five (5) meetings were organized and attended by 160 people most of whom are women.
- 3- Beirut: Five meetings were organized in schools, colleges, universities and organizations. Three hundred and fifteen (315) men and women, students, teachers and youth attended the meetings.
- 4- North Lebanon: Six (6) meetings were organized, one of them in a public coffee shop. 216 people from the target groups attended these meetings i.e young men and women.
- 5- South Lebanon and “Nabatiyah”: Eight (8) meetings were organized: 3 of them in high schools, 4 in associations and 1 was hosted in a house. 500 men and women attended these meetings, main were youth aging 15-20 years. 10% of the attendants were men.

## Evaluation conference:

The project culminated in an evaluation conference on 20 October 2006. Regional coordinators, lecturers and participants in the (TOT) as well as the Executive Committee members, attended the conference. The discussions resulted in the following recommendations:

- Identifying the concepts and types of violence;
- Identifying institutes that provide help;
- Adjusting family laws and personnel status;
- Consulting religious men on the issue and documenting their views and ideas in order to avoid contradiction and misinterpretation of certain texts;
- Highlighting the issue of variation that characterize the Lebanese society;
- Attracting men to attend these meetings and using new mechanism to involve institutes and municipalities by visiting them wherever they are;
- Empowering women with knowledge and encouraging them to achieve economical independence;
- Offering marital counseling to help solving problems and avoid violence;
- Promote equality in curricula and text books;
- Surveillance of violence against women;
- Obtaining new laws to protect women from violence;
- The necessity to organize visits of specialized consultants to institutes like orphanages to give a chance to their dwellers to talk about violence against them wherever it exists;
- The necessity to continue the project even without the availability of funds
- Training social workers in orphanages and prisons;
- Tightening government's supervisions and surveillance of the programs that promote violence against women and children.

### **Upgrade awareness about the concept of gender.**

### **III- Creating awareness among women about AIDS, its dangers and how to deal with it.**

**Objective:** Creating awareness about AIDS

**Target group:** Youth of both sexes, marginalized groups and low income groups

**Donors:** UNIFEM

**Budget:** \$ 17,550

**Duration:** One year

**1- Activities:** NCFUWI organized training courses for trainers (TOT) on 24-25 March 2006. 31 trainers from the NCFUWI cadres and other concerned organizations were trained on: definition of AIDS, ways of its prevention, treatments and how to empower women with knowledge about AIDS and how to deal with it.

The following topics were covered and discussed:

- Facts about AIDS, definition of the virus, the disease and how it spreads;
- Prevention of AIDS: Immunity system, where in the body the virus lives, stages and contamination the needed texts and ways of prevention;
- Available services for the patients of AIDS;
- The effects of AIDS on labor, its effects on institutions and on the health sector;
- The challenges of AIDS, the social value system;
- The Lebanese strategy for combating AIDS.

Training included group work, analysis of some of the topics and problems. The trainers received a training parcel to use as a reference and source of information when they prepare their regional meetings.

## **2- Regional meetings:**

Before the meetings, NCFUWI contacted MOE and obtained a letter allowing NCFUWI members to organize meetings for the students in schools and high schools.

- a- North Lebanon: The coordinator organized 5 meetings: 3 of them in high schools and 2 in universities. 360 people attended these meetings that were characterized by vitality and action. The audience expressed interest translated by asking questions. Computers and power point presentations were used, both of which created interest.
- b- Mount Lebanon: The coordinator organized four meetings, 3 in high schools and 1 for women in a women's organization. 213 people attended these meetings most of whom were students of both sexes, in addition to teachers and members of NCFUWI. The meetings generated discussions, questions and comments about the concerns of students and married women.
- c- South Lebanon and "Nabatiyah": The coordinator organized seven (7) meetings: 6 in high schools and one in a women's organization. 674 people attended the meetings most of whom were students of both sexes aging 15-18 years. They could not go into technical schools due to the lack of authorizations.
- d- Beqaa-Valley: The coordinators organized five meetings. 220 people mostly students attended these meetings. The meetings were able to clarify some incorrect information about the disease and breaking the social taboo connected to AIDS and the "shame stigma". It was clear that fear, worry and shame were attached to the topic and limited questions.
- e- Beirut: The coordinators organized four (4) meetings in high schools, universities, houses and organizations. 366 people attended the meetings.

## **3- Evaluation conference:**

NCFUWI organized an evaluation conference on October 13 for the regional coordinators, the Executive Committee members, the participants of the training courses and the lecturers. After discussing the activities, the comments of the lecturers following observations, were recorded:



- Ignorance of the disease and its effect on society;
- Fear from the disease especially among students;
- The wish expressed by students to get the addresses and phone numbers of the National Program of AIDS.

Recommendations of the Conference:

- a- The necessity and need to continue the project and organize more meetings throughout the next year regardless of the availability of funds;
- b- Earmarking a budget to prepare, print and distribute the necessary preventive guidelines;
- c- To increase the target group in order to include all youth from both sexes;
- d- To increase the scope of meeting places to include schools, high schools, clubs and associations;
- e- To include sex education in school programs;
- f- Organizing training courses for youth;
- g- Preparation and use of educational media;
- h- Include AIDS in other women related issues and subjects;
- i- Communication with universities to encourage students to do researches and surveys about AIDS;
- j- Empower women and provide them with knowledge and encourage them to discuss the problem with their husbands;
- k- Communication with concerned organizations to provide information.

**Encouraging intercommunication and cooperation among women at local , regional and international levels**

**Cooperation With Other NGO'S And Organizations:**

The CFUWI cooperated with a wide number of organizations, schools, municipalities and coffee shops in the various Lebanese areas. The regional coordinators played an active and innovative role in establishing cooperation and Relationships with a great number of working groups in all regions. They were very creative in making use of all available chances to reach target groups including public coffee shops, municipalities and displacements centers.

**Lebanese Women Network.**

NCFUWI continued its serious activities with the rest of the member organizations and individuals to activate the network and to implement its plan of action through the members assigned to the network and through its representatives in the planning, organizing and training committees. NCFUWI participated in the "Evaluation Conference" of the network activities with emphasis on the "National Campaign to Abolish Discrimination Against Women in the Lebanese Penal Code". Implementation of the planned activities was affected by the Israeli war.

## **CRTD**

NCFUWI cooperated closely with CRTDA and especially with the citizenship campaign “My citizenship is my right and the right of my family” and participated in the marathon under this title. Together, they produced one issue of the newsletter “Qadaya”.

### **Detailed List of Organizations That We Cooperated With:**

-A **public coffee** shop in Tripoli

-**Churches:** Mar Takla in Qartaboun and El- Saydeh in Salim;a

-**Houses:** Al-Makari, Mrs Salam, Mrs Mariam El Shemali, Mrs Samiha El Khou, Mrs Hala El Hajj In the Southern Dhahya of Beirut

-**High Schools:** Lebanese University, Saida public high school, Zahya Qadoora high school, El –Qubba public high school, Tripoli, El-Makased Nursing School, El-Dwair high school, Al-odaba’e high school, Mar Elias school, El Ghaziyah high school, El Zahra high school, Al Aba’e high school, the Art College, Beit El Yateem Al dirzi in Abey, Rishee’in high school, Nazih El Bizri high school, Mayfadoun high school, Zgharta high school, El Qubba Technical school in Tripoli, Batroun public high school, Ain Zhelta public high school, Ali El Nahri public high school, Qarnayal public high school, Hammana public high school, Al Manar high school in Ras El Metn, Kfar Matta high school.

### **CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS:**

The Lebanese Democratic Coalition of Women, Beirut Organization for Social Development, Coalition of Beirut People, Makhzoumi Institute, Batloun Cultural Club, Sayidat Salima Organization, The working Women Association in Qebbay’e, Al-Houda organization in El-Abadeyah, Children’s Library Association in Saida, Sour Cultural Club, Women’s Progressive Center in Nabatiyah, Al Najda El Chaabiyah Centre, Tareek El- Jdeedeh Association, the Progressive Women Association in Tripoli, Union of Beirut Organizations, Majd El- Ba’ana Organization. In addition to organizations in Tripoli, Koura, and municipalities of Sheikh Mohammad in Akkar and the Progressive Democratic Party in Sh Heem and the Middle East Hospital that was used as a Center for displaced people during the Israeli war.

The NCFUWI had also a close cooperation with the Lebanese Women Council, CRTD and the Christian Organization for blind.

### **PROJECT PROPOSALS FOR 2007:**

The success of the projects that were implemented in 2005 encouraged NCFUWI to prepare more proposals for funding and implementation in 2007-04-29

### 1- **Abolishing discrimination against women in the Lebanese laws:**

**Goals:** Mobilizing the community and encouraging civil organizations to call for women's rights and forming pressure groups aiming to change.

**Target groups:** Women, youth of both sexes and the whole community

**Activities:** Creating a network, training cadres and establishing pressure groups

**Budget:** \$ 50,000

**Donors:** AMIDEAST

**Duration:** One year

**P.S** The project was successfully funded and is in progress

### 2- **Political Education for women:**

**Objectives:**

- Adopting the concepts of human rights;
- Improving women education of gender and increasing self confidence;
- Encouraging women for logical dialogues and discussions.

**Target group:** Women, men and youth of both sexes from different social groups, cultural clubs, universities and civil organizations

**Budget:** \$ 17,800 or 5,000 Euros

**Donors:** The Dutch Embassy in Lebanon through Small Embassy Project (MATRA/KAP)

**Duration:** One year (2007)

**Activities:** The project will be implemented in Beirut through a series of ten lectures on ten basic political subjects given at the American University of Beirut (AUB) and Saint-Joseph University (USJ), for 80 students.

### 3- **Including gender into Curricula and Textbooks of Public and in teacher training programs:**

**Objectives:** Continue the enhancement of women's role in society and emphasizing gender to encourage equality between sexes through school programs and text books for the elementary and intermediate levels

**Activities:**

- Reading intermediate text books from a gender perspective;
- Training elementary school teachers based on material proposal (AFKAR-I);
- Training intermediary teachers of Public schools;
- Training textbooks writing committees who will write the new curriculae.

**Duration:** 2 years

**Budget:** \$ 100,000

**Donors:** European Union – AFKAR II, under the supervision of the Ministry of Administrative development

N.B The project was listed for discussion

**4- Capacity building of women to face family violence:**

**Target group:** Women

**Activities:**

- A research and study on visual information channels and their role in regenerating a violent atmosphere in Lebanon with a gender perspective;
- Producing a booklet on violence based on the results of the project implemented in 2006;
- Organizing 4 training courses in the regions;
- Organizing 30 meetings in the regions.

**Budget:** \$ 59,250

**Donor:** UNIFEM

**Duration:** One year

**5- Political participation:**

**Objectives:** Capacity building of women and providing them with the necessary skills and knowledge to support her political participation in elections

**Activities:**

- Continue the follow up with parliamentarians of both sexes and organizing discussion groups, meetings and round tables;
- Capacity building and women through training
- Training of trainers- TOT-;
- Organizing regional meetings.

**Budget:** \$ 54,700

**Donor:** UNIFEM

**Duration:** One year

## **6- Raising women's awareness about AIDS:**

**Objective:** Raising awareness and promoting knowledge about the disease, its causes, results and preventive measures

### **Activities:**

- Training of trainers;
- Organizing meetings in the Lebanese regions;
- Preparation of educational materials.

**Budget:** \$ 56,000

**Donor:** UNIFEM

**Duration:** One year

## **Press Conferences**

NCFUWI organized a number of press conferences to announce and inaugurate its programs and to present the results of researches, activities and studies to explain and express its stand from sensitive national issues i.e. electoral laws.

A press conference was held under the sponsorship of the Minister of Education Dr. Khaled Kabbani on 26 January 2006 in the Press Syndicate, to inaugurate the study prepared by NCFUWI about Discrimination Against Women in the Arabic and Civil Education Text Books of the elementary stage.

### **Books:**

- 1- "Qadaya" news letter issue # 8
- 2- Discrimination in the elementary text books of Arabic and civil education by Dr, Aman Chaarani

- 3- Training parcel on 2 training courses (TOT) about capacity building of candidates, organizations and women associations that support the candidates
- 4- Training parcel on “building women’s capacities to face family violence”
- 5- Training parcel about “creating awareness in women about AIDS, its dangers and dealing with it
- 6- The second Lebanese document on “abolishing all forms of discrimination against women in Lebanese law” printed in “Briel” in cooperation with the Christian Organization for blind

### **Empowerment of women and training of NCFUWI members**

### **Participation in Conferences, Meetings and Workshops:**

NCFWUI participated in a number of regional and national conferences and workshops through selected and qualified members of its Executive Committee and members.

- Arab College – Abla Kadi
- Lebanese Council of Development– Widad Chakhtoura
- ESCWA -Participation in Planning - Dr. Aman Chaarani and Nayla Masri
- Arab Organizations Network: funding for equality and development
- Lebanese Women Council: “Women and their Role in the Lebanese Elections” on march 7, 2006
- The Euro- Mediterranean Partnership Conference – Dr. Charaf Eddine
- 10 years After Istanbul – Mrs. Thuraya Hashem
- National Workshop on Mechanism for the Follow up of Development Goals and Identifications of the problems – Nayla Masri
- Inauguration of the 24<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Session – 10 May 2006
- Women’s Rights Committee – 18 May 2006
- The National Lebanese Committee for UNESCO “Information and Youth”
- The Lebanese Forum for Development – 12,13 May 2006, Arlette Khoury
- AIDS Awareness for the Most Vulnerable Groups, May 9, 2006 – Samira Badr
- Family Planning Organization:” the Role and Responsibilities of Civil Organizations in Dealing with the Results of Family Health Surveythat was done in Lebanon. 12 May 2006 – Layla El Maamari
- CRTDA” Citizenship, Gender and Social Entitlements”, 12, 13 May 2006 – Hind Masri and Abla Kadi
- “Justice With no Borders” – Membership of Lebanon in the Penal Court 19, 20 May 2006 – Badria El Kibbah
- Euro Med, 26 and 27 May 2006 – Hind Masri, Thuraya Hachem and Nayla Masri
- UNIFEM, the Arab Female Parliamentarians in Jordan: 26-29 November 2006 – Dr. Aman Chaarani
- The First Arab Communication Conference, 10-14 December 2006 in Jordan
- CRTDA: “Gender and Commerce” 22-24 June 2006 – Hind Masri and Abla Kadi
- Lebanese Center for Studies
- The National Meeting for Abolishing Discrimination (electoral law) 23 June 2006 Dr.Aman Chaarani, Hind Masri, Widad Chakhtoura and Mona Ibrahim

- “Enough Violence” Making Laws to Protect from Family Violence 22-23 June 2006 – Hind Masri
- Honoring Dr. Hanan Sharawi Open invitation – Dr. Chaarani
- Civil Organizations Meeting about AIDS Awareness – Hind Masri
- Invitation from Egypt about Peace 25-26 November 2006 – Dr. Chaarani and Dr. Charafeddine
- Invitation from Alexandria Library in Egypt – Dr. Chaarani
- UNIFEM Personnel Status of Family Laws 26-29 November 2006 in Jordan – Dr. Chaarani.