

Update 2017

THE WAR ON WOMEN HAS NO BORDERS



GLOBAL FUND FOR
WOMEN
Champions for Equality.



RAJAA IASS

Domestic Violence Counselor

GRANTEE PARTNER: Tadamon

WHERE: Lebanon, Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

PRIORITY ISSUE AREA: Protecting Women in Conflict Areas

“Because of all the awareness workshops, now a woman knows what her rights are. Before I didn't know. Now we speak up.”

I'M HERE TO RAISE GENERATIONS

Rajaa Iass is a Palestinian refugee born in Shatila—one of Lebanon's most crowded camps. Though she has spent her entire life living in a refugee camp, her displacement does not define her. Combined with the work of raising her three children, Rajaa is leading an awareness-raising program with grantee partner Tadamon to help other refugee women learn about domestic violence.

Before encountering Tadamon, Rajaa was not able to articulate how trapped she felt by the high levels of violence she saw against women in the camp. She attended Tadamon's workshop on women's rights, and learned the importance of speaking up and participating in safe spaces created by and for women. Rajaa says, **“I should have my own existence as a**

woman...a role to play. I'm here to raise generations. I need to exist as a human being.”

Rajaa is just one of countless women in the camp who bring to life the value of investing in women to drive change. She has not only found her own voice but has also ensured the inclusion of the newly arrived population of Syrian refugees living in the camp.

“These workshops have benefited so many women, especially Syrians,” explains Rajaa. Through Rajaa's leadership, Syrian women are given the opportunity to speak up for the first time about the trauma they've experienced. Without an end in sight for the war in Syria, the grassroots work of women's groups like Tadamon are critical for building the leadership and voice of refugee women and girls.

I BECAME A STRONGER WOMAN

As a public school teacher for teenagers ages 11-17, Jacqueline Santana has seen so many young girls in Pernambuco, Brazil make unsafe decisions about their bodies. Before grantee Grupo Curumim came to her school to teach sex education, Jacqueline didn't know how to talk to her students about these personal issues.

“Grupo Curumin changed my way of observing these girls...how to teach these young people, especially on sexual and reproductive issues. I thought I was prepared and I was not,” says Jacqueline, about Grupo Curumin's impact on her life. **“I'm seeing things—our rights—differently and for the better.”**

Jacqueline mobilized her students and together they held an essay contest across three public schools in the city. The students themselves chose the theme of “Teenage Pregnancy” for the contest. The essay contest, says Jacqueline, **“is changing the way all of the teachers are dealing with the subject and the students are more open to ask questions, and feel more accepted.”**

For Jacqueline, Grupo Curumin has equipped her with the tools to be a better teacher. She now realizes how critical it is to share information about sexual health with her students—from how to access reliable contraception to dispelling myths about sexually-transmitted diseases—in order to empower them as the next generation of leaders.

With the return of the global gag rule, there is so much at stake. Teachers like Jacqueline would be prohibited from even mentioning family planning to young women in need of guidance, especially critical in those countries where sexual violence, teen pregnancy, and sexually transmitted diseases are common.



“I became a stronger woman. Before, I was very insecure in my personal life. Not today.”

JACQUELINE SANTANA
Public School Teacher

GRANTEE PARTNER: Grupo Curumim

WHERE: Brazil, Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)

PRIORITY ISSUE AREA: Defending Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

FROM OUTRAGE TO ACTION



The war on women is in full swing—and it has no borders. Even in the earliest days, it is clear that the current U.S. administration's policies are a **threat to women** everywhere. Women's movements around the world are already facing rollbacks of their rights, from fighting for **women's access to abortion** and family planning to **protecting women in conflict zones**. They will now be under even greater pressure in an increasingly hostile climate.

But we are hopeful. Global Fund for Women has supported our grantees to harness the **power of local action** that shifts culture and shapes policy. We turn to the stories of women's rights activists like Rajaa and Jacqueline for inspiration. We hope their journeys of transforming obstacles into opportunities will **move you to action**.

THE IMPACT WE SEEK

Global Fund for Women is a grantmaker and a megaphone for women who are fighting for equality. Women's groups globally are feeling the impact of increased conservatism. With U.S. leadership on women's issues eroding, the work of our partners has become more important than

ever. We must increase our support for women like Rajaa and Jacqueline—and with them the women and girls they help—who didn't have a voice in the U.S. election but will feel the profound impact of American policies. Now is the time to stand with the global women's movement.

Strategy for Action:

Global Fund for Women is scaling up its commitment to women and girls by investing in grassroots women's movements in the following priority areas:

Defending Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights



- Providing access to information and services, especially in light of the global gag rule in countries where there are high levels of teen pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, Zika virus, and maternal mortality
- Increasing public awareness about restrictive abortion laws and the adverse impact they have on women and families
- Securing adoption and implementation of anti-female genital mutilation and anti-early marriage laws

Protecting Women in Conflict Areas



- Increasing agency and capacity among Syrian women refugees to self-organize and lead conversations and reconstruction efforts for their future
- Eliminating violence against women in conflict and post-conflict areas
- Boosting the presence of women in negotiating peace agreements and peace accord implementation

Taking Action on Food Security & Land Rights



- Increasing investigation and punishment of attacks against women defending their land and water, particularly in light of climate change impacts
- Advancing systemic and legal changes that allow women to own and farm land on equal terms with men
- Increasing advocacy towards passing of ILO Convention 169 at national levels in Mesoamerica—the only international law designed to protect indigenous lands and rights

In solidarity across borders, we will rise.