Responding to sexual and gender-based violence through integrated sexual and reproductive health service delivery in Palestine

Palestine Country Context, Trends, and Types of Violence:

- Palestine is a conservative society.
- Although statistical evidence concerning Sexual Violence (SV) is limited, PCBS Violence survey in the Palestinian Society reported that in 2011:
  1. 11.8% of ever-married women had suffered some form of sexual abuse from their husbands.
  2. Over 65% of the women "preferred to remain silent regarding the act of violence practiced against them by their husbands" regardless of the type.
  3. Those seeking assistance from a women organization or center for counseling was a mere 0.7%.
- Palestinian laws are outdated or non-existent, such as Panel Law and Family Protection Law.
- Deteriorated political, economic, and security situation, stimulates further violent behavior.

Recent trends concerning GBV include the following:

- Electronics crimes had doubled in the year 2015 to reach 502 cases compared to 2014, and average age of women who are mostly exposed to electronic crimes is between 18-24 yrs.
- High prevalence of psychological GBV within the Palestinian society was reported, reaching almost 46% of all cases.
- Early marriage.
- Economic control over women.
- Husbands preventing their wives from using contraceptive methods.
- Risk of unsafe abortion due to unwanted pregnancies.
- Sexual abuse within marriage, as it is considered a husband's right according to society's norms.

Technical Assistance

Achievements / Numbers / Empowerment:

1. IPPFA is a member of Palestinian forum of Combating Violence Against Women "Al-Masrah", which advocates and works for passing new laws and modification of existing laws to that the are related to protecting women from violence in general and GBV; some of its achievements are:
   - Reviving and advocating for Family Protection Law draft, Panel Law Draft and Electronic Crimes Law draft.
   - Establishing an information bank system for all the NGOs working to register GBV cases.
   - Participating in preparing the 2016 Shadow report presented to CEDAW.
2. Establishing and maintaining 6 safe spaces for women to receive GBV-related services.
3. In 2016, IPPFA provided 760,000 GBV-related services reaching almost 21,000 beneficiaries, 45% of which were sexual GBV-related, and 72% were provided through the mobile team activities.
4. Economic empowerment training for GBV victims followed by economic empowerment projects.
5. During 2015 – 2016, 3 TV spots and 3 TV episodes were broadcast, in addition to 4 radio spots which were broadcasted 760 times, among at awareness raising and advocating for GBV.

PEPFAR's Service Delivery Channels:

Integrated package of essential services (IPES) through:
Service delivery Points (SDPs) in 6 areas: Ramallah, Hebron, Balhoul, Bethlehem, Gaza and Jerusalem.

Through mobile teams in outreach activities to marginalized areas.

The Referral System to and from PEPPA SDPs and other partner organizations.