

# JORDAN

## Preventing intimate partner violence (IPV) among newly-weds in Jordan

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### BACKGROUND

Jordanian women have high levels of education. This high level of education has not translated into increased gender equality or female participation in the economy, politics, public life activities of Jordanian society. International and national reports are very disturbing and negative when it comes to indicators relating to gender equality; Jordan ranked 134 out of 144 in the latest report of the World Economic Forum – Gender Gap Report 2016. Gender inequality between men and women fuel gender based violence in Jordan. Although the Jordanian Government has adopted measures to inform and encourage behaviour change towards gender norms and IPV much remains to be done. In this context, the goal of this project is to evaluate the effectiveness of a government funded primary prevention intervention for intimate partner violence among newly married couples in Jordan.

### THE INTERVENTION

The intervention involves two programs: the ‘Supreme Judge Department (SJD) Awareness Program’ (sponsored by SJD) and the ‘Complementary Preventive Health Reproductive Awareness Program’ (funded by this project).

- a) The ‘Supreme Judge Department (SJD) Awareness Program’ is a pre-marriage course. This program, implemented at the national level, targets would-be married couples to help them understand the relation between gender norms and violence. In collaboration with the Family Reform Department, couples are trained in violence prevention, reproductive health, communication skills, and rights.
- b) This is followed by the ‘Complementary Preventive Health Reproductive Awareness Program.’ Through a nine-month mentoring program, married couples are mentored on the importance of family life, status of women, spousal rights, sexual and reproductive health, and ways of resisting psychological pressure.

### OBJECTIVES

This proposal aims to measure the effectiveness of this primary IPV prevention intervention put in place to tackle violence among newly-weds in Jordan.

In so doing this project will:

- Measure effectiveness of the intervention using pre-test and post-test surveys on 9 selected sample of newly-weds.
- Build capacity of clinicians to run the intervention in specific regions of Jordan— Amman, Irbid, Zarqa, Balqa, and Mafraq.
- Identify effective delivery strategies for the intervention.

### METHODS

In collaboration with the Family Health Institutes’ health centers, the research team will:

1. Use a pre-test and post-test survey method, using structured questionnaires customized by gender. Many of the scales used will include validation and reliability to assess key outcome dimensions, such as experiences of violence, related psychopathology, and reproductive health issues. The questionnaires will be distributed to 2000 couples before undergoing any of the segments of the program in 5 areas in Jordan—Amman, Irbid, Zarqa, Balqa and Mafraq. The research team will also use participant observation method to monitor couples in the pre-marriage training and on the program’s social media site.
2. After a year of marriage, the team will administer the same questionnaire to a random sample of 500 married people who took the pre-marriage SJD awareness course. Data will be collected through home visits.
3. A second random sample of 500 newly-weds that went through the primary prevention intervention program will also be administered the survey. Data from this set will be collected through home visits and clinics visits.
4. Additionally, four focus groups will be conducted, disaggregated by sex.

### POLICY AND ADVOCACY IMPLICATIONS

This project will look at the many forms of violence that women face in Jordan due to economic and social pressures, prevalent negative values and stereotypes around the concepts of marriage and guardianship ‘Qwamh’ that legitimizes violence towards a wife. This project will build a body of evidence to inform and strengthen intimate partner violence prevention efforts in Jordan.

