



Photo: EA&E Discussion Group Series session taking place in Taj Dahab, Homs.
©FAO/Bayan Kseibi

PILOT PROJECTS

Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls

Focus

For the first time in the Near East and North Africa (NENA) region, FAO is implementing its pilot projects: ***the Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)*** in a select group of rural communities in the Syrian Arab Republic. These projects are an integration of FAO's '***Building Local Resilience in Syria (BLRS)***' project, funded by UK Aid. They integrate a pioneering series of complementary gender-transformative approaches (GTAs) within FAO's agriculture-oriented platforms. The pilots specifically seek to prevent economic violence and early marriage in the target communities to improve the safety, wellbeing, dignity and agency of women and girls through long-term empowerment.

Rationale

The prevention of VAWG pilots are designed and implemented by FAO to create impact at scale by implementing complementary activities that transform inequitable and discriminatory gender norms against women and girls, and empowering women economically to increase their ability to generate income, while also making sure to include men in this process. This rationale prevents any unintended adverse reactions to women's economic empowerment from their families or their communities, and complements the agriculture and livelihood activities that target them at the household and community levels.

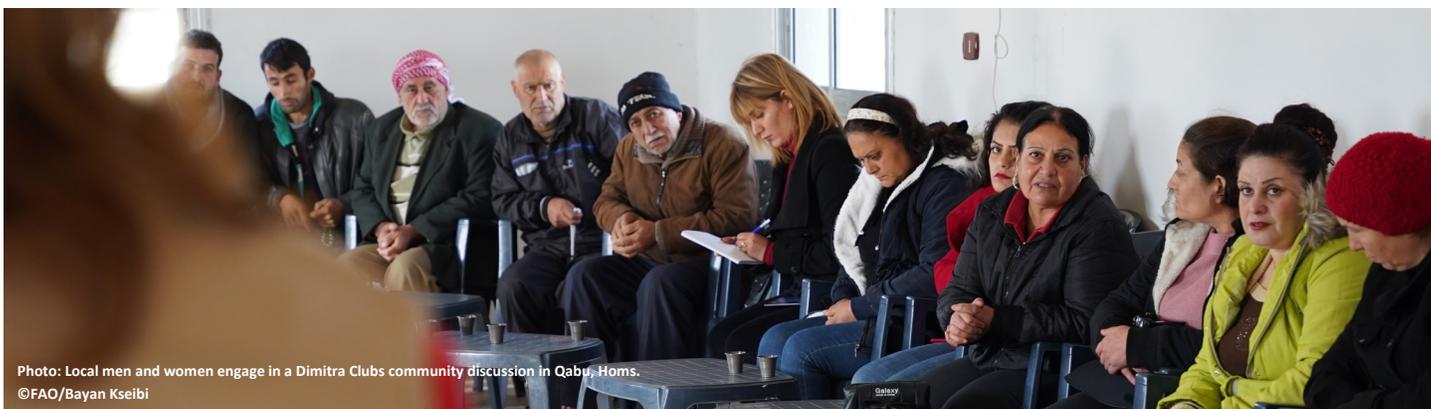


Photo: Local men and women engage in a Dimitra Clubs community discussion in Qabu, Homs.
©FAO/Bayan Kseibi

Activities

Dimitra Clubs:

Dimitra Clubs are a global FAO approach which has been adapted to the Syrian context to encourage the engagement of local communities, individuals, couples, local influencers and opinion leaders, as well as male household members in facilitated discussions at the **community level**, and promote collaboration to find community-led solutions for their common issues, among which are the issues of economic violence and early marriage. Dimitra Clubs have been implemented by FAO in a number of regions, empowering more than 7 000 women leaders, and benefitting more than six million people worldwide.

EAŞE Discussion Group Series (DGS):

At the **household level**, the **Discussion Group Series** uses the **Economic and Social Empowerment Framework (EAŞE)** approach and engages women and men in facilitated conversations about the value of women's contribution in household economics, decision-making, as well as effective communication and non-violent conflict resolution. Given the nature of the Syrian context, the **EAŞE** curriculum has been adapted to also include male household members with divorced and widowed women, as well as women whose spouse is not residing in the household. The gender **DGS** is complemented with **business skills training** through the adapted **farmer business schools (FBS)** and **Competency-based Economics, Formation of Enterprise (CEFE)** approaches.

Impact

- Reduced tolerance and acceptance of gender-based Violence (GBV) at the household and community levels.
- Greater support for gender equality and equality in rights, roles and responsibilities in the household, community and society.
- Greater agency and autonomy for women and girls over their lives through long-term empowerment.

Project facts



UK Aid contribution: GBP 1 468 421



Two pilot projects across 31 locations in Homs and Rural Damascus governorates.



Target: 3 000 individuals overall.



Project duration: June 2022—March 2025

Funded by



Photo: Local women engage in a Dimitra Clubs community discussion in Taldu, Homs.
©FAO/Bayan Kseibi

Contact

E-mail: FAO-SY@fao.org

Website: www.fao.org/Syria

X: @FAOSyria

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Damascus, The Syrian Arab Republic



Some rights reserved. This work is available under a CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO licence