



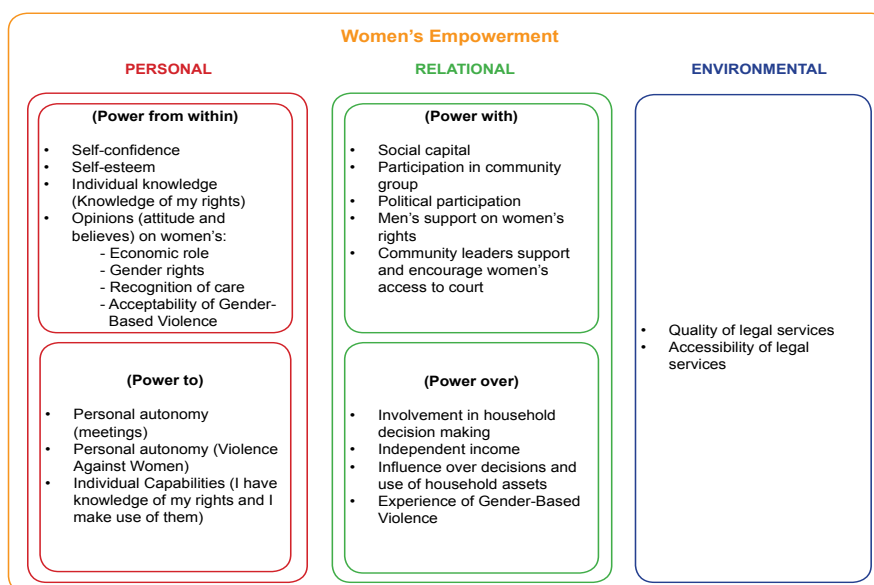
Lebanon

Women's Empowerment

2014/15

## Women's access to justice in the Middle East and North African (MENA) region

This project was carried out by Oxfam in partnership with the SIDA, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, in three countries: Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq. The main objective of this project was to contribute to improving the status and lives of women and girls in the Middle East and North Africa region by improving the quality of legal services for poor and vulnerable women. The project worked at four levels of intervention: individual, community, institutional, and policy. Key activities included providing awareness raising sessions for women and community leaders such as political parties, religion leaders, municipal employers; training and engaging women and men for raising awareness; offering free legal consultations to women; and raising awareness around women's rights amongst lawyers and judges. The evaluation focuses on the project component in Lebanon only, and specifically looks at the effect of project activities conducted at the individual and community level on women's empowerment.



This diagram presents the key dimensions of women's empowerment identified for this evaluation.

Project date: May 2011 - July 2014

Evaluation: December 2014

Publication: November 2015

# Evaluation Method

The review adopted a quasi-experimental impact evaluation design whereby data from a random sample of project participants including 225 women from El Metn, and a sample including 450 women from the regions of Deir El Ahmar, Zahle and Marjeyoun never involved in any Oxfam project, were analysed using the statistical method of propensity-score matching. This was used to control for baseline differences between the households in the project and comparison communities, to increase confidence when making estimates of the project's impact. See the 'How are effectiveness reviews carried out?' document for more information on evaluation design. Details about specific evaluation design used in this case are contained in the full report of the Effectiveness Review.

## Results

Project outcome	Linked to project logic	Evidence of positive impact	Commentary
Overall Women's Empowerment	Yes	Yes	Survey results provide compelling evidence that the project has been successful in improving overall women's empowerment.
Personal - Power from within	Yes	Yes	The project had a positive impact on attitudes and beliefs concerning gender rights, acceptability of gender based violence, and recognition of care. There is no evidence suggesting improved self-esteem and self-confidence as a result of the project as not originally part of the project intervention. Impact on knowledge remains unclear.
Personal - Power to	Yes	Yes	There is some evidence of improved personal autonomy. Willingness to take legal action is extremely high both among intervention and comparison group.
Relational - Power with	Yes	No	The project was successful in improving woman's social capital. The evaluation investigated attitudes toward community leaders and men. While community leaders' attitudes were not different between intervention and comparison group, estimates suggested that men in the comparison group were more supportive of women than men in the intervention group. This could be interpreted as a failure of the project. Alternatively, it could be due to differences in perception amongst interviewees of what it means for a man to be supportive.
Relational - Power over	No	No	The project did not intend to impact directly any of the indicators measured under Power-over; it therefore came to no surprise to find no evidence of change attributable in any of these areas.
Environmental	Yes	Yes	The project increased accessibility to legal services and decreased the emotional costs involved in filing a case.

## Going forward

The assessment has been useful to the Oxfam in Lebanon team in taking decisions to strengthen and improve programming. In order to intensify and improve work at a policy level, the Lebanon country team will invest in better planning, resourcing and support for influencing and policy work. This will prepare the team in Lebanon to achieve greater national influencing aims and capacity at country level. Dedicated technical capacity will support partners in campaigning and media (including social and digital media) work and wider educational and/or influencing strategy development. In addition, the team will also work with partners to develop an awareness-raising package that addresses the gender equality framework from a larger lense and link this to women's realities using a variety of methods to engage different audiences. Support will also be given to partners to build strong monitoring and evaluation systems and beneficiaries databases to embed monitoring into programme work. Learning from this review feeds into Oxfam's Country Strategy workstream development and wider programme development, applying a women's rights lens to all future work. Learning from the evaluation will also be applied to the second phase of the programme.

Photo credit: Justice Without Frontiers