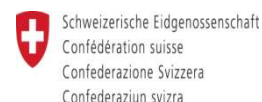




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Fact Sheet: Action Programme for Protecting the Rights of Women Migrant Domestic Workers (PROWD) in Lebanon 2011-2014

I. WHAT IS THE PROWD PROJECT?

The European Union and Swiss Development and Cooperation-funded Action Programme for Protecting the Rights of Women Migrant Domestic Workers in Lebanon (PROWD) constitutes the extension and consolidation of an initial phase that fits into a long-term intervention planned by the International Labour Organization (ILO) at the regional level. The pilot phase was led by the Ministry of Labour in cooperation with ILO, other United Nations agencies, government institutions and non-governmental organizations in the context of the National Steering Committee on Women Migrant Domestic Workers.

II. OBJECTIVE

The PROWD project aims to improve the situation of women migrant domestic workers (WMDWs) in Lebanon by ensuring favourable working conditions and a regulated environment that protects their rights.

III. TARGET GROUPS & PARTNERS

- o Relevant Lebanese ministries (e.g., Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Education, Central Administration for Statistics ...)
- o The community of women migrant domestic workers in Lebanon
- o The syndicate of placement agencies
- o Workers' unions
- o Civil society organizations (e.g., NGOs, Media institutions, Schools and universities...)
- o The Lebanese society at large (e.g., employers, children, businesses...)
- o Agencies of the United Nations (e.g., Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN Women...)
- o Embassies and consulates of the countries of origin

IV. INTERVENTION DESIGN

PROWD builds on a three-pronged approach to effect the desired change; (a) revising laws that apply to domestic workers in order to bring them further in line with international labour standards, (b) building the capacity of stakeholders so that they are in a better position to monitor the working terms and conditions of WMDWs, and (c) raising the awareness of domestic workers and of the Lebanese public to the rights and obligations of domestic workers.

A Project Advisory Committee (PAC), consisting of Project partners, was established to provide overall guidance, support, and monitoring for the Project, while continuing to coordinate with the National Steering Committee on women migrant domestic workers. The PAC is chaired by ILO and the Project team acts as its secretariat.

V. PROGRAMME COMPONENTS

- o Improving the knowledge of Ministry of Labour employees of international labour standards, especially Convention No. 189.
- o Providing technical assistance to the Legal Department of the Ministry of Labour in the drafting of specific legislation for domestic workers in Lebanon - in line with international labour and human rights standards.
- o Supporting the Syndicate of the Owners of Recruitment Agencies in Lebanon by facilitating the adoption of a code of conduct. Training inspectors from the Ministry of Labour to monitor private placement agencies.
- o Collaborating with the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Interior (through the General Directorate for General Security), and the Central Administration over the development of a data sharing mechanism on women migrant domestic workers in Lebanon.
- o Engaging with the embassies and labour offices of countries of origin to optimize the support provided to WMDWs.
- o Conducting and disseminating policy-relevant and operational research on related labour migration issues.
- o Organizing sub regional and regional workshops on good practices and lessons learned from the experience of Lebanon on WMDWs.
- o Publishing and disseminating a workers' information guide on human and labour rights of migrant domestic workers in the languages of the countries of origin.
- o Developing a capacity building strategy targeting NGOs, teachers, lawyers, social workers etc...
- o Producing media and communication tools about women migrant domestic workers.
- o Developing a teachers' orientation kit to target elementary and high schools children in private and public schools.

VI. WHAT HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED?

(PROWD) has launched a number of activities with relevant stakeholders to improve the working terms and conditions of women migrant domestic workers in Lebanon. For example,

- ☑ A draft standard unified contract, was developed by the Ministry of Labour with ILO's assistance, to ensure better working terms and conditions for domestic workers. The draft contract was discussed during a tripartite roundtable. The Ministry of Labour is reviewing the final version..

- ☑ The conditions and procedures for acquiring work and residence permits for women migrant domestic workers, changing employers, and inspecting households were revised by ILO upon the request of the Ministry of Labour
- ☑ A code of conduct for private placement agencies was developed by the Syndicate of the Owners of Recruitment Agencies in Lebanon (SORAL), with ILO's assistance.
- ☑ Workshops for media and communication specialists were convened to widen and improve reporting on working and living conditions of women migrant domestic workers
- ☑ Series of short stories for children, titled "Adam around the Globe," were published to introduce Lebanese children to the culture of migrant domestic workers
- ☑ An in-depth mapping of the services delivered by NGOs to WMDWs was conducted in view of establishing an efficient referral mechanism for WMDWs in Lebanon
- ☑ A teachers' orientation kit about domestic workers is being developed for KG and secondary school students
- ☑ An "Information guide for Migrant Domestic Workers in Lebanon" was published in three languages (French, Arabic, and English). The guide will soon become available in the languages of the domestic workers (i.e., Amharic, Tagalog, Madagascan, Sinhala, Tamil, Bengla, and Nepalese). An online version of the guide is available at: www.mdwguide.com
- ☑ A workshop for the labor attachés of the countries of origin was convened

VII. CONTACT PERSONS

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