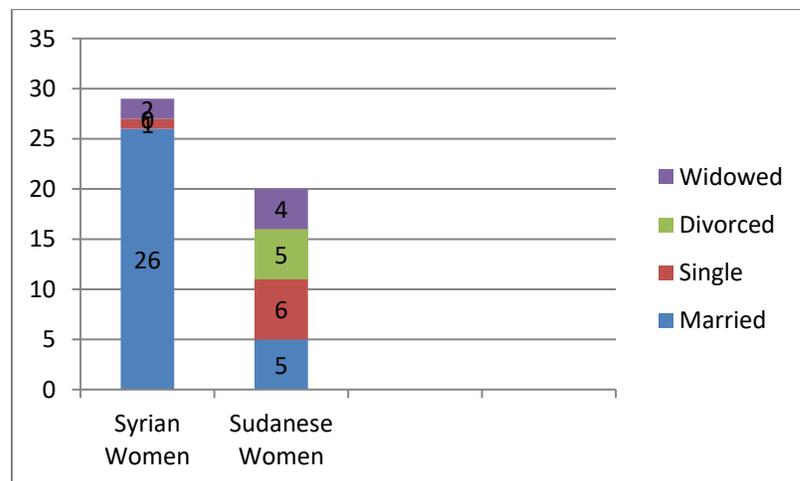


In order to determine whether beneficiaries reported a change in knowledge towards SGBV, we conducted a midline assessment in terms of focus groups. **Five focus groups** were held in Cairo and Alexandria during October 2016 to a total of **29 Syrian and 20 Sudanese women, 8 Syrian men, and 14 Syrian children (7 girls and 7 boys)**. In Cairo, 15 Syrian and 20 Sudanese women were interviewed in two focus groups, and a third mixed-gender focus group was conducted with 14 children aged between 8 and 12. In Alexandria, one focus group was conducted to 14 Syrian women and another to 8 Syrian men. Interviewees were a randomly picked sample of beneficiaries who attended the project’s activities throughout the first year.

Groups focused on beneficiaries’ knowledge on SGBV with specific regards to three aspects: violence within the household, violence on the streets, and violence at the workplace for adults and at school for children.

**Violence within the Household:**

Women: It is initially important to note that from the Syrian women, 26 of them were married, 2 were widows, and 1 was single, while out of the Sudanese women, only 5 were married, 5 were divorcees, 6 were single, and 4 were widows.



Both Syrian and Sudanese women **were in cognition of SGBV types that girls and women face** within the household including **domestic violence, marital rape, early marriage, and girls’ deprivation from education**. They stated that violence is often represented in a male figure whether it is a brother or a father before a girl gets married or a husband after she does, upon their belief that society obliges men to act in violent manners. In addition, they all agreed that violence within the household has increased since their arrival to Egypt with Syrian women specifically highlighting that this is caused by the fact that they lost the family support they had back home.

Men: Men’s focus group consisted of **three youth aged 20 and four older men between the ages of 30s and 50s**. Nonetheless, the opinions of 7 out of the 8 participants synchronized. The 8<sup>th</sup> 20-year-old youth was hesitant to openly share his thoughts. Upon my discussion with him

after the focus group, he communicated his fear to express himself because he believed that the rest would judge his family and his upbringing.

Regarding their relationships with their wives, all partakers were aware that **domestic violence is considered SGBV**, stating that *“physical assault is an act of violence against women.”* Nonetheless, seven of them (88%) believed that they have the right to ‘discipline’ their partners in other ways including **neglecting them for a while** *“as it is not a violent act and because the Quran indicates such.”*

In regards to **early marriage**, **88% did not see** marrying off their daughters or sisters before the age of 18 **as a form of SGBV** as long as the girl finishes her education.

Children: **86% of boys** did not perceive that **girls’ deprivation from higher education is a form of SGBV**. They **believed that girls should only finish high school** and then stay home to learn house chores **until they get married**, while they must obtain a university degree in order to land a job and earn money. That thought was **rejected by 86% of the girls**.

Regarding their mothers, **86% of the boys expressed that women’s denial from the right to work is not SGBV**, stating that they should take care of the households. As for the girls, **57% saw this as a type of SGBV and believed that their mothers have the right to work if they do not have infants**.

### **Violence on the Streets:**

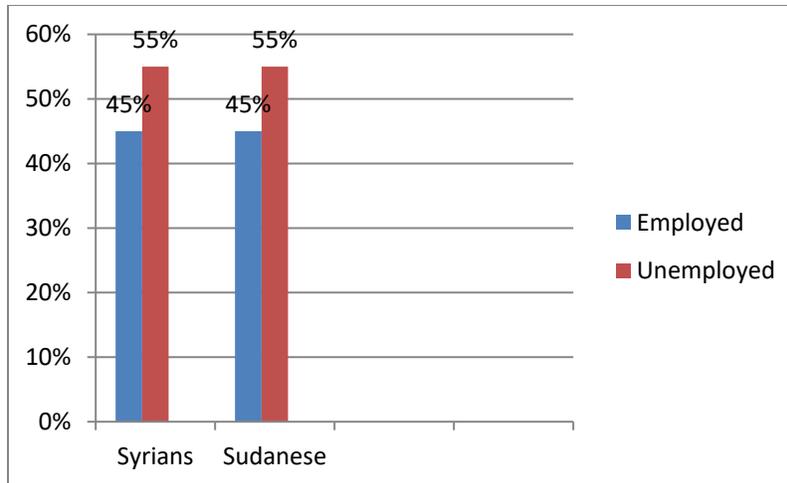
Women: When discussing violence on the streets, Syrian women only articulated **harassment** while Sudanese females additionally identified **rape**. **Both nationalities agreed that this is SGBV** and stated that they are exposed to more violence on the Egyptian streets than they did in their home countries with all Sudanese agreeing that they are subjected to more violence than Egyptians because perpetrators *“are aware that legal actions cannot be taken against them because police stations would not file a report on an incident.”*

Men: **88% of the men did not find harassment as a form of SGBV because they blamed it on girls’ attire**. They indicated that harassment is more widespread in Egypt because of four reasons: girls are less modest, Egyptians are less educated and less religious, and because the country is more populated.

Children: Through discussions with the children, they **seemed aware of violence on the streets including harassment and theft**.

### **Violence at the Workplace for Adults and at School for Children:**

Women:



Both Syrian and Sudanese female interviewees highlighted that there **is a prevalence of harassment at the workplace** and settled that it is a form of SGBV. They noted that as they **cannot obtain work permits**, they resort to the **informal sector**, which results in their exploitation. As Sudanese women often work as house cleaners, they additionally face rape.

Men: Only **37%** were aware of the violence that women are subjected to at the workplace while 63% commented that women **should not have the right to work in the first place and did not consider it a form of SGBV**.

Children: In regards to violence at school, children shared that every week, there is a ‘fun’ class where **boys play on the playground while girls learn how to cook**. As girls voiced their need to also play rather than cook, **boys agreed with them and saw the situation as a SGBV act**.

### **Conclusion:**

- **100% of women have gained knowledge on SGBV;**
- **Only 20% of men have a change in knowledge towards certain forms of SGBV;**
- **81% of children have become in cognition of SGBV; yet, they need awareness on violence within the household.**

\*Focus group discussions were conducted with only 71 beneficiaries. The sample size would need to be larger (300) in order to be representative of the 2,500 beneficiaries for the two years. Nevertheless, the results above reflect that the project is progressing towards its target, and that women’s change in knowledge has increased more than men’s knowledge.