

HERA2 NIHR Global Health Group on Health Systems Responses to Violence against Women

Study title

Palestinian health system response to VAW from within reproductive health care services



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Focus

- the response to VAW in Reproductive Health Services settings for 3 reasons:
 - The intensive and frequent follow-ups for women with this population particularly during antenatal and postnatal care.
 - The possibility of a woman getting support for violence in RHS clinic under the guise of health care
 - Extend the scope of our research on VAW beyond MOH primary health care clinics (e.g.: mobile clinics, gynaecological clinics)

Aim

- To develop and test the feasibility of intervention within RHS settings that can improve outcomes for women who experience domestic violence

Objectives

1. Evaluate the readiness of Palestinian RHS, to respond to the needs of women experiencing domestic violence.
2. Modify an intervention which was developed for primary health care clinics, and test its feasibility and acceptability in RHS.
3. Contribute to growing-up network of researchers and service providers who are committed to implementing and testing VAW interventions in reproductive health services to build research capacity and exchange knowledge.

Objectives

4. Run a need assessment study to identify service needs for disabled women who are victims of violence.
5. Secure additional funding for a further research program on medium-term outcomes of women who are identified and given support for violence in the context of RHS.

Methods

- Mixed method
 - In-depth interviews
 - General health facility observations
 - Quantitative and routine data

Study Phases

- **Phase 1: Qualitative study exploring the readiness of RHS to response to VAW (assessing health system readiness);**

Study Phases

- **Phase 2: Intervention development informed by phase 1 findings, and participatory planning workshops with key stakeholders**

Study Phases

- **Phase 3: Pilot of intervention models and mixed methods process evaluation**

Study settings

- We will conduct the pilot intervention in
 - two mobile clinics that served marginalized communities in the southern Hebron,
 - one outpatient gynaecology clinic at Rafidia hospital in Nablus
 - and two primary health clinics at Tulkarem area.

Evaluation

- (a) Measurement of identification of VAW by RHS staff and referrals to VAW services/safety planning in the year before and after the intervention.
- (b) Observations of 30 training and reinforcement sessions.
- (c) Monitoring staff attendance at initial training and reinforcement sessions.
- (d) In-depth interviews with survivors of VAW (aged 18+) who have or have not been referred to services, and with clinic managers, doctors, and nurses, after the intervention
- (e) Administration of a culturally adapted PIM

Collaboration with stakeholders

- Ministry of Health is the main partner of the project
- other stakeholders include
 - Ministry of women affairs,
 - Palestinian centre bureau of statistics UNFPA,
 - Palestinian family planning and protection association
 - UNRWA.