



# EVALUATION

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION IN TIMES OF FLIGHT AND WAR –  
DEVELOPING COMMON GROUNDS FOR RESEARCH IN/ON SYRIA (KNOWWAR)

ADA PROJECT NUMBER: 2781-00/2018

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AUGUST 14, 2022

## Executive Summary

There were three core aims of the KnowWar project, all of which were successfully achieved. The three objectives were:

- 1) To establish a clear understanding of transformative field research approaches and methodologies for conflict and war zones; practically apply these, and evaluate outcomes;
- 2) To establish an international and regional team of transdisciplinary, gender and class sensitive knowledge producers as core group of the network TransKnow;
- 3) To produce and disseminate critical knowledge on the power nexus of war, flight, humanitarian programmes, repatriation, and reconstruction from gender and class sensitive perspectives.

Furthermore, the project aimed to develop a more comprehensive understanding of conflict and war zones and thus reorient interventions by donors, NGOs, and governmental bodies by carrying out research activities in Lebanon and (context depending), in Syria.

This evaluation was conducted to assess effectiveness, relevance, and sustainability of the KnowWar project. A mixed methodology was followed to answer the evaluation questions including desk reviews, semi-structured interviews, an online survey and focus group discussions with stakeholders.

The Evaluation's Key findings are:

- Despite the challenging and complex situation, the project succeeded in achieving its main objectives;
- The project succeeded in achieving major objectives beyond its planned/ written objectives;
- The project itself was a manifestation of solidarity among the research team;
- The complex and changing implementing environment required constant adaptations from the project partners to find creative solutions;
- The pandemic and multiple crises in Lebanon had a huge negative impact and delayed the implementation and caused cancellation of some activities;  
It was possible to approach the power nexus between war, warfare, flight, humanitarian programs, (forced) repatriation, and reconstruction in Syria and its repercussions in Lebanon, and critical knowledge was produced which was relevant to the target group. The project approached the power nexus to a large extent, however, there was no pre-defined criteria for the level of comprehensiveness of power nexus approach, which made it difficult to assess.
- A gender-balanced research team comprising the PPs, NGO activists, and academics from Syria based in Lebanon was established at the end of the inception phase. The team was able to adopt transformative strategies to produce a critical mass of knowledge and

research on epistemologies, solidarities in marginalised communities in Lebanon as well as on reconstructions and solidarity economy in Syria;

- The dissemination strategy comprised of virtual communication activities through the various project channels, including the KnowWar project website, social media channels of the project partners, (online) lectures, university courses, several actors' dialogues as discussion forums beside the project final conference. Furthermore, different publication channels (websites, radio shows, interviews, academic journals) have already been and will be used to further disseminate the project's knowledge production.;
- Project partners were satisfied with the level of knowledge production, academic support and the involvement of NGOs in the design and implementation of the project, while it was felt that there were areas for improvement in the communication within the project and the administrative management of the project;
- Project partners benefited largely from the KnowWar project at personal, professional and institutional level.
- The benefits of the KnowWar project are likely to sustain in the long term beyond the project cycle due to several factors, including the commitment of partners to the objectives of KnowWar project, the capacity building conducted, the critical knowledge produced as an excellent base for future studies, and the formal and informal networks established.
- The sustainability of the project concepts and objectives can be ensured with the future joint research project, KnowWar II, which has already secured due to the successful submission to another funding body.