

# Youth and Women in Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Prevention in Conflict Zones



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# Welcome!

# الترحيب

As we wait for people to join, we invite you to introduce yourself in the chat.

بينما ننتظر انضمام المدعوين الآخرين، ندعوك لتقديم نفسك في الدردشة.

Please share your:

شاركونا :

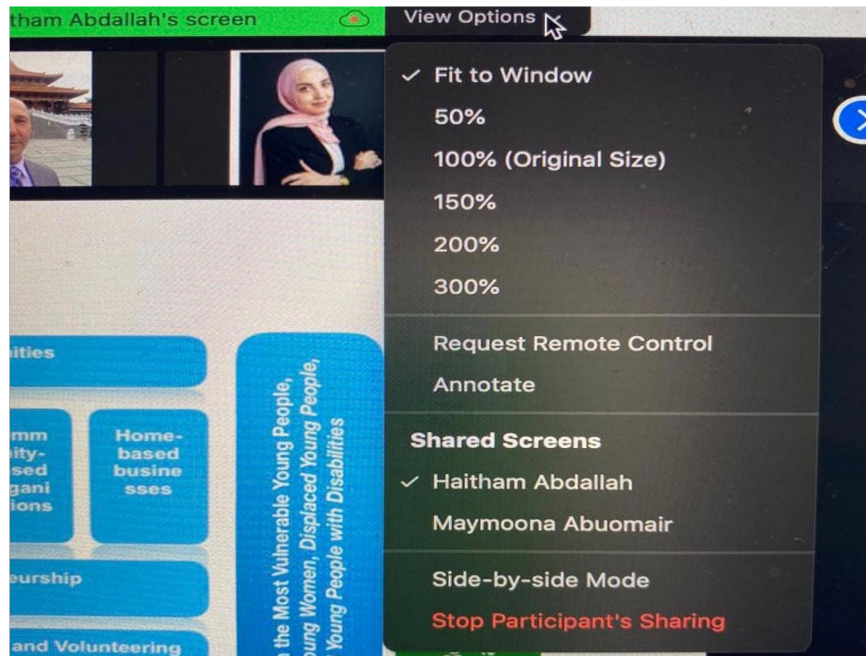
1. Name
2. Occupation
3. Country of origin
4. Why you joined today's event

1. الاسم
2. الوظيفة
3. الجنسية
4. لماذا انضممت إلى فعالية اليوم

# For English Presentation

## للعرض التقديمي باللغة الانجليزية

- Click on View Options
- Choose "Hanan's Screen"



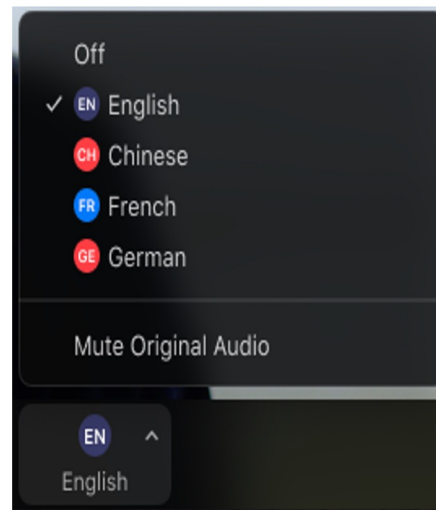
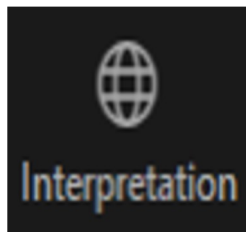
- الضغط على View Options
- اختيار Hanan's Screen



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# Interpretation Instructions



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# Agenda

Time	Topic	Speaker
4:30-4:40	Introduction	Haitham
4:40-5:00	Youth and Women in Technology-Facilitated Gender- Based Violence (GBV) Prevention in Conflict Zones	Nada Bader
5:00-5:25	Q&A	Hanan
5:25-5:30	Closing	Hanan Haitham



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# What are our goals for today?

- Learn about approaches to combating technology-facilitated gender-based violence (GBV)
- Learn about the SalamaTech project, the groups it targets, and the digital services it provides to women in Syria
- Learn about the best practices, lessons and challenges to combating technology-facilitated GBV

# Positive Youth Development



- Positive Youth Development programs recognize the inherent rights and gains of young people, the ability to benefit from those assets (the ability to act), and the ability to contribute to positive change for themselves and their communities, by surrounding them with an enabling and supportive environment.
- <http://www.youthpower.org/positive-youth-development>



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# Today's Speaker



**Nada Bader**  
**SalamaTech Project**  
**Syria**



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# SalamaTech

Raise awareness on technology –facilitated  
gender-based violence and its **prevention** in  
conflict areas



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# Key Issues and Challenges

SalamaTech team is deployed in Syria and covers the entire Syrian geography and neighboring countries with some challenges:

- International sanctions prevent Syrians from accessing most internet resources such as (Google and Microsoft)
- Economic and social challenges make digital safety a secondary matter
- Lack of electricity and internet service providers

**Digital safety is a necessity, not a luxury**

# Key Issues and Challenges

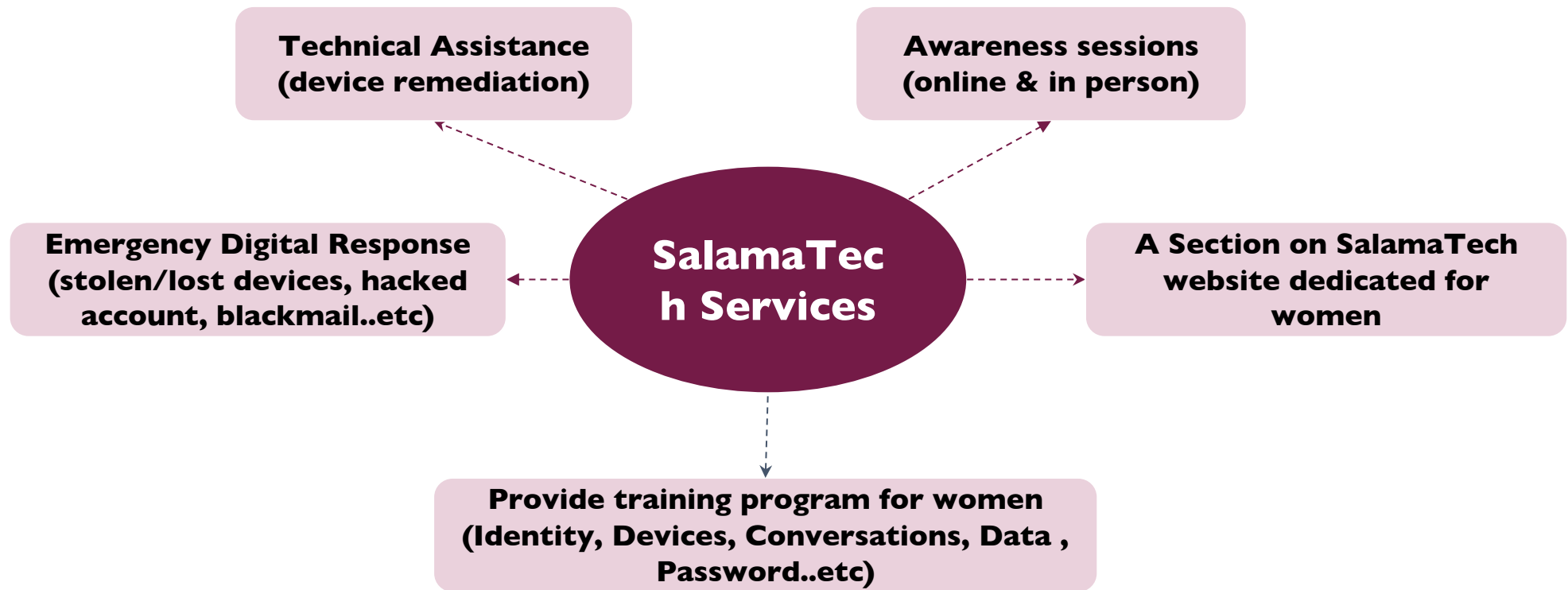
The four-woman SalamaTech team is trying to bridge this gap and focus on digital safety and combating misinformation in general. But the matter is more sensitive when it comes to women, because:

- Social challenges and sensitivity towards women's issues, especially in conflict areas.
- The sensitivity of the situation when talking about gender issues
- Customs and traditions that place women within a specific framework within which they are governed by societal view and custom.
- Women are often targeted for digital violence and are often subjected to sexual blackmail.

# Key Issues and Challenges

- Growth of digital violence against women and the exploitation of their needs, especially in the difficult economic situation, which increases the incidence of material blackmail.
- The existence of technological knowledge gap among women and the lack of knowledge on how to protect their information and data from electronic violation.

# SalamaTech Services in Awareness and Preventing Technology-Facilitated GBV



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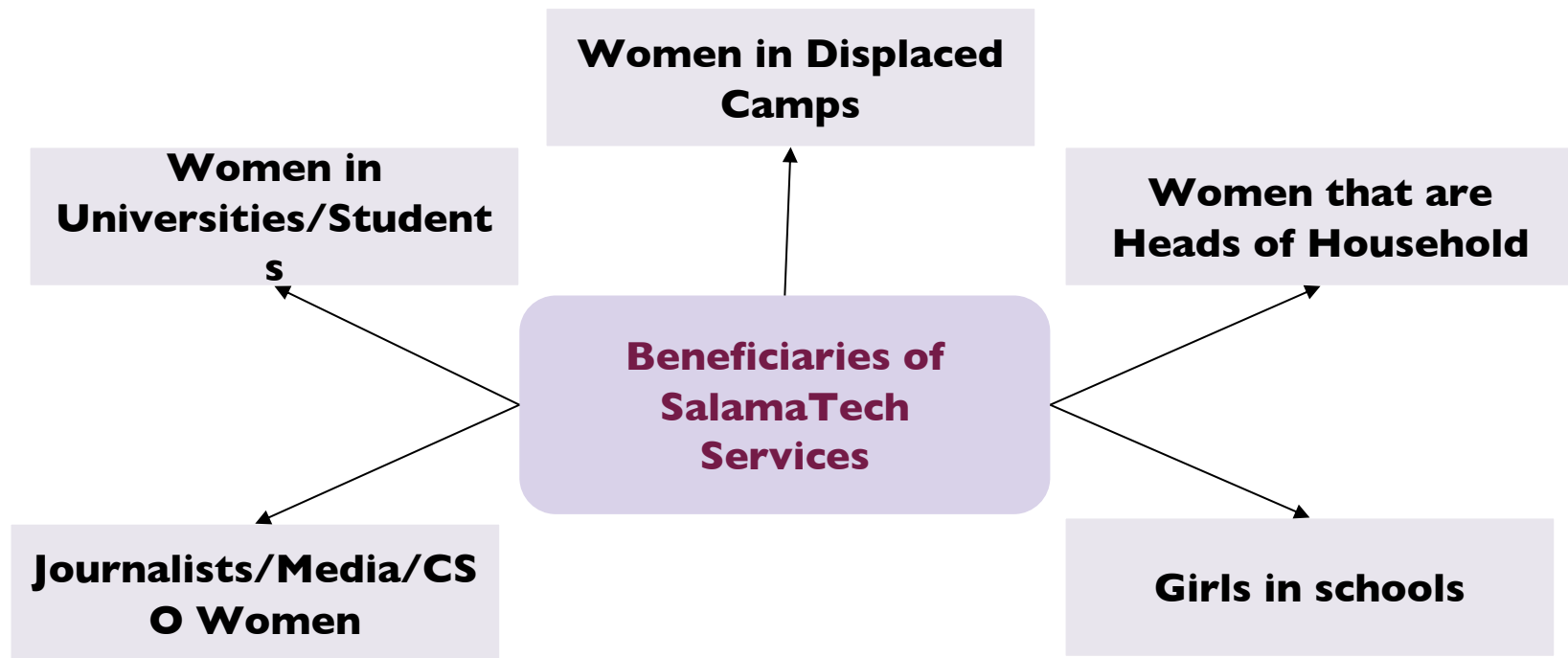
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# SalamaTech's Approaches

- Understand and study the situation in the area where women are present and identify the sources and media of digital risks.
- We work on prevention and then protection by raising digital awareness.

**Digital safety is a personal responsibility.**

# SalamaTech Services Beneficiaries



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# Observations from our work

Despite the different categories that SalamaTech works with in conflict areas, the risk is often double for women:

- 1 The dangers of the Internet for women increase in the case of internal displacement and living in camps
- 2 There are women who cannot solve their technical problems and turn to others to solve the problem
- 3 When women are threatened and blackmailed, they may provide more information out of fear



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# Observations from our work

- 4 There are phishing posts targeting women to exploit their needs for work, travel, scholarships, and financial aid
- 5 Targeting women through mis/disinformation (especially female journalists and activists)
- 6 Targeting women through local Facebook groups by posting links or using digital violence against them
- 7 Organized digital blackmail targeting women, especially widows, wives, mothers, and daughters

In Jisir ashogoor in  
Syria, a grocery shop  
offering Facebook  
accounts, WhatsApp  
and applications



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# **But what about direct risks associated with natural disasters, displacement or conflict?**

**The first is related to digital assets**

**The third is related to mis/disinformation news**

**We identify three types of risks for women during disasters**

**The second is related to the use of social media**

# Digital Assets

- As a result of the devastating earthquake and women leaving in a hurry, they left behind all their digital devices, which caused them to be lost after the earthquake and during the search, many rescue teams found unencrypted phones, laptops and hard drives, which facilitated obtaining information inside those devices and in light of the disaster, the women were unable to recover their property.
- Most of the women lost access to their accounts due to the loss of their devices and the lack of any means of accessing the internet.

# Social Media

- Some women, in an attempt to search for their missing family members, used the devices of other individuals and left their personal accounts open with them in case they received a call from them. We cannot assess the subsequent dangers of this act if the person does not possess full trust.
- Pictures of some of the missing individuals were also published to search for them, and thus their pictures, personal information, places of residence and ages were published, which may be used against them later.
- Many people transmitted pictures of people we thought were missing, which caused panic to their families in other areas.

# Verify the reliability of the online information

- As a result of the earthquake, mis/disinformation news spread about the imminence of a second and third more serious earthquake, which caused panic among the afflicted and the people, and hindered rescue operations.
- As a result of the earthquake, a lot of fake links spread claiming immediate assistance in case the personal data of the afflicted and the injured were filled out.



# What's the solution?

SalamaTech addresses digital risks in the target area through:

- Implementing trainings for workers in humanitarian organizations and women in general, which include the most important topics related to digital safety, namely:

Digital Risks

Digital Identity

Passwords

Devices

Information

Conversations



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# What's the solution?

- Rapid reception, response and follow-up of cases exposed to digital violence
- Raising awareness of women in general through awareness sessions
- Safety website services and the creation of a new section dedicated to women
- Be careful group that aims to raise digital awareness for women
- The existence of a team specialized in disinformation

# Q&A

المخاطر الرقمية



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# Thank you!!

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