

COUNTRY EXPERIENCES

Jordan

Securing Supplies for Syrian Refugees while Building Resilience in Jordan's Health System



© UNFPA Jordan/Elspeth Dehnert

Objectives

- Support the Government of Jordan to assist internally displaced persons and refugees fleeing conflict from neighbouring countries.
- Identify and address the sexual and reproductive health needs of women and girls in camp and non-camp settings in Jordan.
- Ensure the quality and accessibility of sexual and reproductive health supplies and services available to refugees and host communities.
- Strengthen the Jordanian health system by mainstreaming accessible, affordable and high quality sexual and reproductive health to support national development and build institutional resilience.

The Government of Jordan estimates 1 in 3 inhabitants in Jordan is non-Jordanian. Jordan hosts more than 650,000 registered Syrian refugees and 2.2 million Palestine refugees, as well as other nationalities and migrant workers. UNFPA achieved zero preventable maternal death in Jordan's largest refugee camp by mobilizing resources, procuring reproductive health supplies, and making services available and accessible to the affected population. As displacement becomes protracted, the risk of gender-based violence (GBV) persists and may even intensify. UNFPA has provided support during this crisis since 2012. From January 2017 to June 2018, UNFPA supported GBV and sexual and reproductive health services that reached 274,233 women, girls and young people.

A severe and protracted humanitarian crisis

The conflict in Syria has created one of the most severe and protracted humanitarian crises in the world. Millions of people have been displaced both inside and outside the country, especially in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Even under these circumstances, UNFPA believes that every woman, adolescent girl and child has the right to reproductive health and protection from GBV.

Jordan hosts more than 650,000 registered Syrian refugees and 2.2 million Palestine refugees, along with numerous other nationalities who are refugees from Iraq, Sudan, Somali and Yemen in addition to nearly 1.6 million migrant workers. While most refugees live within host communities, 20 per cent live in camps, including Za'atari refugee camp, which has nearly 80,000 residents.

Child and early marriage among Syrian refugees aged 15 to 18 reached 43.7 per cent in 2016, compared with 11.6 per cent among Jordanian women and girls. The estimated number of young people aged 10 to 24 years among Syrian refugees in Jordan is 483,000. Preliminary results from the 2017 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) show a high unmet need for family planning of around 14 per cent.

With the economy on the decline, inflation in the double digits and unemployment at over 20 percent for young people in Jordan, sexual and reproductive health services are often not prioritized as an essential part of the humanitarian package.

Strategy and interventions

In Jordan, UNFPA supports the provision of basic and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence services in both camp and non-camp settings. UNFPA's strategy focuses on building the capacity of healthcare providers and ensuring free access to contraceptives and other supplies, while maintaining a cost-effective procurement process.

Reproductive health commodity security initiative

UNFPA conducted a study in 2014 to identify good practices and determine where support was most needed, then launched an initiative to improve the capacity and resilience of the national health system, focusing on reproductive, maternal, neonatal, adolescent and child health (RMNACH) and the prevention of unintended pregnancies. The initiative helped UNFPA design cost-effective interventions to address the availability of skilled staff, supply chain management and safe access to services.

UNFPA undertook a number of operational steps to improve cost-effectiveness and reduce delays, including bulk procurement of family planning methods and post-rape treatment kits, procurement from the local market and collaboration with local implementing partners for distribution of supplies. UNFPA assigned a reproductive health commodity security focal point in the Jordan office to oversee critical areas: verify that partners' procurement requests and distribution plans cover at least six months of buffer stock, improve communication for customs clearance and certificates, develop implementing partner capacity, provide technical expertise to strengthen supply chain management, develop a procurement plan with fast-tracking procedures and improve the emergency reproductive health forecasting tool.

Za'atari refugee camp

Inspired by the achievement of zero preventable maternal deaths at Za'atari camp and more than 10,000 births, Jordan has worked with UNFPA to mainstream this successful approach into the national health system. UNFPA, in coordination with other stakeholders, has contributed to strengthening the system for Maternal Death Surveillance and Response, and developing protocols for preventing the main causes of maternal death. UNFPA also coordinates the Reproductive Health Sub-Working Group (RH SWG) at national level and at Za'atari camp.

Progress and results

- In Za'atari, UNFPA has provided access to safe delivery services for some 10,000 births (all attended by skilled birth attendants), with no maternal deaths.
- UNFPA provides humanitarian assistance to displaced Syrians in an arid and remote demilitarized area Rukban, known as "the berm" between Jordan and Syria where 45,000 people, mostly women and children, are stranded with limited access to food, water and humanitarian aid.
- UNFPA supports 21 health clinics throughout the country, including four clinics in Za'atari camp, three clinics in Azraq camp, and one clinic at the berm (Rukban). In addition, one mobile health team is located at Rukban with a mobile clinic equipped to provide comprehensive emergency obstetric and newborn care services.
- UNFPA has established Safe Spaces for women and girls in several locations in Jordan to address GBV and sexual and reproductive health needs in refugee camps and Jordanian host communities.

January 2017 to June 2018



274,233
Total people
reached with GBV
and SRH services



46,225
Young people
reached with SRH
services



16,700
People who directly
benefitted from
reproductive health kits



23,260
Women and girls
reached with dignity kits



9,438
Youth facilitators
trained on SRH and
GBV services

Source: Information is updated on a rolling basis. See the UNFPA Transparency Portal at www.unfpa.org/data/transparency-portal/unfpa-jordan and UNFPA Humanitarian Emergencies at www.unfpa.org/data/emergencies/jordan-humanitarian-emergency

Lessons and conclusions

- As demonstrated in Za'atari, the best outcomes are due to three factors: affordability, quality services and access to maternal health, family planning and other sexual and reproductive health services by the population in need.
- Coordination at the camp level between all implementing partners – local and international – is another important factor in the successful delivery of supplies and services. For example, timely referral of complicated deliveries to affiliated public or private hospitals outside the camps makes childbirth safer.
- Community trust was fostered by access to services that are reliable and high quality, both in UNFPA-supported facilities in the camps and in host communities.
- Partnerships between UNFPA and local organizations, such as the Jordan Health Aid Society and Institute for Family Health, aided in the delivery of reproductive health supplies and services in the camps and host communities; such partnerships are recognized as good models for localizing humanitarian assistance.
- UNFPA continues to lead the Reproductive Health Sub Working Group, thereby ensuring coordination at the national level and within refugee camps. Through the RH SWG, UNFPA has identified agencies in need of capacity building, harmonized efforts and developed training resources.



© UNFPA Jordan

Partners

CARE International

Institute for Family Health (IFH)

International Medical Corps (IMC)

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

International Relief and Development (IRD)

International Rescue Committee (IRC)

Jordan Food and Drug Association (JFDA)

Jordan Health Aid Society (JHAS)

Jordanian Women's Union (JWU)

Ministry of Health

Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC)

Questscope

Relief International (RI)

Royal Health Awareness Society (RHAS)

Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS)

Terre des hommes (TDH)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)

World Health Organization (WHO)

World Vision International

UNFPA would like to thank key supporters of humanitarian response and UNFPA Supplies: Australia, Belgium, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Canada, Children's Investment Fund Foundation, Denmark, European Union, Finland, France, Friends of UNFPA, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, The RMNCH Trust Fund, Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Spain, Spain-Cataluña, Sweden, Treehouse Investments, United Kingdom, United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, UNDP, UNOCHA, UNOPS, Winslow Foundation and private individuals (online).

Acknowledgments: Produced by UNFPA's Humanitarian and Fragile Contexts Branch, Commodity Security Branch and UNFPA Supplies, with support from Bouchta Mourabit, Faeza Abu Al-Jalo, Dima Hamasha and Laila Baker.



Ensuring rights and choices for all

United Nations Population Fund
605 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10158
Tel. +1 212 297 5000
www.unfpa.org