



Credit: David Brunetti | UNFPA 2014

## Reem: a journey from nobody to somebody!

"As long as the sun is shining, there is hope!" maintained Reem, a mother of four who also tends to her ageing mother. She is a life-affirming person who wants to inculcate optimism and the spirit of charity in her children.

Reem remembered her life in Ghouta. "We were happy in Syria!" She talked about her parents and husband, and the love they all shared. "I married my husband because I fell in love with him when I was 24 years old," Reem's face brightened up as she chuckled, "old by Syrian standards! But my father never put any pressure on me to marry. We were very close. He supported me when I wanted to train as a hairdresser after school instead of getting married. Staying at home as a homemaker wasn't my cup of tea. Hence, I always worked and volunteered in the community. My last project before the war was to organize a recycling scheme in my neighbourhood."

Like many others, Reem kept telling herself the fighting would soon end. "Each night, I'd tell my children not to worry, and that tomorrow would be better. I wanted to take the children and leave because the fighting intensified and drew threateningly close to our neighbourhood but I couldn't do so owing to my fractured foot that kept me from walking. It wasn't before eight months that I did so," she said.

"Earlier on, my children, mother, and I lived with my brother and his family in a small house here in Lebanon. Then one day, he told me that there were too many people and that he couldn't provide for us all." Reem paused before continuing. "It was Ramadan and suddenly we were homeless overnight! We had nothing. We were hungry and all by ourselves. I shared my plight with a friend, and luckily, she knew of a social worker. In the morning, we went to the centre to see her." The staff at the centre helped Reem find affordable accommodation. Once she settled in and found work to provide for her family, regular visits to the centre became a routine with Reem. As a result, she eventually became a trainer and an outreach volunteer.

"I find such comfort in my work when I listen to and help resolve other people's problems," Reem said. She wants to contribute and be a beacon of light and hope for others. "Being a refugee doesn't mean confinement to your home. We can make a difference by helping each other. The centre is protecting us. It's a safe place where can give advice and offer support to each other, and best of all, lend a shoulder to cry on. We benefit from our shared experiences."

## HIGHLIGHTS

**SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC:** UNFPA-assisted partners deliver around 300,000 reproductive health service, 7,700 safe delivery services and 28,000 gender-based violence related service to people affected by the crisis.

**LEBANON:** UNFPA launches results of rapid assessment of 'Women's Socio-Economic Empowerment'; holds awareness sessions on different reproductive health related issues for 3,843 women; and conducts trainings for 95 social workers on issues related to gender-based violence.

**JORDAN:** UNFPA provides reproductive health services to 16,544 Syrian refugees and holds gender-based violence related recreational activities for 5,866 women, girls, men, and boys. A total of 3,600 youth participate in UNFPA's self-reliance and life skills sessions organized within camps.

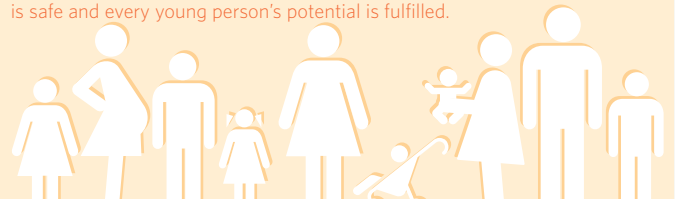
**IRAQ:** UNFPA provides 2,941 reproductive health services to women and girls, supports the delivery of 345 babies, and manages 122 Caesarean-section deliveries. As many as 395 refugees benefit from gender-based violence related sessions, 433 are reached with information on gender-based violence and reproductive health, and 739 participate in recreational activities.

**TURKEY:** UNFPA distributes 16,515 dignity kits and 344 hygiene kits to its implementing partners. The agency also prints 435,000 copies of a brochure on gender-based violence in Arabic language and 225,000 copies of the brochure in Turkish for distribution in the cities of Adana, Adiyaman, Kahramanmara, Kilis, Malatya, Mardin, Osmaniye, Hatay, Sanliurfa, Mersin, Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir, and Konya. Moreover, UNFPA provides gender-based violence related services to 332 Syrian refugees, and reproductive health services to 1,930 Syrian refugees.

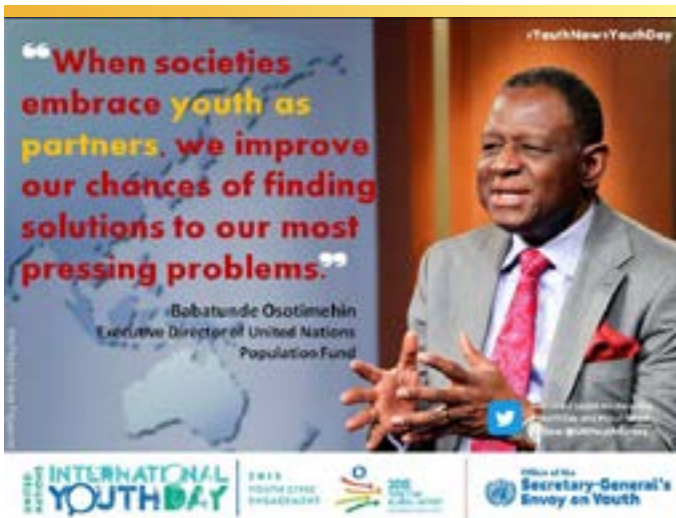
**EGYPT:** UNFPA conducts media training on 'Reporting on gender-based violence in humanitarian settings' for 12 journalists. It also celebrates World Humanitarian Day by organizing a series of field activities and participating in the inter-agency running event.

UNFPA believes that every Syrian woman and girl has the right to have access to affordable reproductive health care and be effectively protected from gender-based violence. UNFPA and partners are scaling up efforts to empower and improve the lives of Syrian women and youth and impacted communities in host countries, including by advocating for human rights and gender equality, to better cope with and recover from the crisis.

UNFPA: Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.



## HUMANITARIAN SITUATION



The Global Youth Forum on Youth, Peace and Security kicked off in Amman, Jordan. Meeting at King's Academy in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, over 500 participants joined young peacebuilders from 100 countries to urge the international community to recognise and use their full potential to build peace. The Forum has brought together a unique mix of young peacebuilders with high-level officials and technical experts. Youth participating in the Forum will contribute as speakers, moderators and rapporteurs at future events.

The first-of-its-kind Global Forum was held under the Patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Al Hussein bin Abdullah II in partnership with the United Nations and civil society organisations.

The Secretary-General's message to the Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security was delivered by Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), who said, "Sustainable development, peace and security are inextricably linked. Young people are essential to the establishment of lasting security. While media reports may portray youth, especially young men, as a threat, this is a gross distortion. Many combatants may be young but the vast majority of youth are not violent. They are often among conflict's first victims - and they can lead as champions of peace. With the right support, young people can build peace, foster reconciliation and achieve democratic governance. I invite the representatives of governments, donor organizations and civil society partners to support these valuable youth initiatives. Fine words are worthy, but actions and support drive progress."

The Forum is being hosted by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and co-organised, on behalf of the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD), by the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth (OSGEY), the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Search for Common Ground and the United Network of Young Peacebuilders.

Credit: <http://www.un.org/youthenvoy/2015/08/day-1-at-the-global-forum-on-youth-peace-and-security/>

## SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

The country's overall security situation remained tense due to the expanded military operations and mortar shelling in areas including Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Hasakah, Idlib, Homs, Lattakia, and Deir-ez-Zor. The volatile political and security situation triggered an increase in the number of conflict-affected people with limited access to life-saving reproductive health and gender-based violence services.

Continuous deterioration of the value of the Syrian pound has weakened the purchasing power of the Syrian people in addition to negatively impacting service providers. This, coupled with an increase in the prices of medicine and pharmaceutical supplies, has affected the ability of crisis-affected women to seek timely and quality reproductive health and gender-based violence related services including emergency obstetric care.

The depleted local market, which is an outcome of the tense security situation and imposition of sanctions, hampered the ability of reproductive health and gender-based violence service providers to deliver quality services to people in need. Moreover, the situation has affected the ability of humanitarian actors including UNFPA to deliver timely humanitarian aid.

During the reporting period, a joint UNFPA, SARC and Aoun (NGO) assessment was carried out in Homs to explore the possibility of programme expansion. The assessment identified the need to support a reproductive health clinic and two women safe spaces.

## LEBANON

Starting July 10, and in line with new measures instituted by the Government of Lebanon, all new-born Syrian babies in Lebanon were added to their registered parents' status at four registration centres through UNHCR and the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) staff. The overall number of registered Syrian refugees remained unchanged since the last reporting period. The same was true of the registration status of incoming refugees, which is marked by temporarily suspension since May 6, 2015, as per government instructions. Accordingly, all unregistered Syrians approaching UNHCR were counseled on the May 6 government policy on suspension of registration. UNHCR observed an increase in the number of Syrians crossing into Lebanon in transit to enter third countries.

According to the World Food Programme, cash-based transfers continued till end-August; the amount gradually decreased from \$39 in 2014 to \$19 in January 2015. The plan in September is to restrict the amount of assistance to a maximum of 5 members per household, while from October to December 2015 targeting and validation of beneficiaries will be accelerated. The current cash transfer is insufficient as refugees are increasingly getting into debt. Moreover, children, especially boys, are not attending school because they are working instead. Coping strategies in general have eroded, leading to an increase in the number of suicides, incidents of domestic violence, and households in debt.

**FINDINGS OF RAPID ASSESSMENT:** A rapid assessment of 'Women's Socio-economic Empowerment,' a project supported by UNFPA and implemented by INTERSOS, was finalized in August. The assessed project involved 58 women and girls from host and displaced communities in Mount Lebanon in a vocational training on beauty skills (hairdressing, makeup, manicure/pedicure, etc.), followed by a two-month internship. The training was also an opportunity for

women and girls to recreate their social network, receive awareness and information on topics related to gender-based violence, and access counseling and services.

The objective of the assessment was to determine the process and output of the initiative, retrieve lessons learnt, highlight best practices as well as challenges and constraints, and assess the relevance for expanding the intervention. The methodology included both face-to-face interviews with UNFPA, INTERSOS and trainers, as well as focus group discussions with women beneficiaries. The assessment confirmed the positive impact of the project on the lives of women and girls vis-à-vis empowerment. Some practical recommendations were made regarding training schedules, chosen topics, and selection criteria.

The following issues were faced during implementation of the project:

- Difficulties in involving Lebanese women and girls alongside Syrian women and girls.
- Problems for some women keen to access the market and find income-generating activities; this was largely due to lack of legal status.

Based on this successful project, and building upon the findings and recommendations of the assessment, UNFPA expanded the project through additional funding from MBC Group, which expressed considerable interest in the approach of the project.

## JORDAN

According to UNHCR, the situation outside of refugee camps is becoming increasingly daunting. A vulnerability survey found that 86 percent of these people live below the Jordanian poverty line of about \$95 per capita per month. Refugees living in Jordan have become increasingly vulnerable as their savings are depleted after years in exile. As a result, there has been a massive increase in the number of refugees seeking shelter in camps across the country.

The UNFPA-supported clinic in Zaatari camp, which is the only facility providing free reproductive health related services in the area of Mafraq near the Syrian border, is expected to face an increased load of women, necessitating expansion of UNFPA-supported operations inside the camp and in host communities, depending on availability of funds.

During the reporting period, UNHCR recorded Jordan as hosting 630,224 refugees. In Azraq camp, the total number of refugees stood at 21,885 (females: 49.8 percent, males: 50.2 percent). Likewise, Zaatari camp was hosting around 81,202 refugees (females: 50 percent, males: 50 percent).

## IRAQ

As of August 15 (according to UNHCR), Iraq is hosting 251,499 Syrian refugees; of these, 44.5 percent are living in Erbil, 39.5 percent in Dohuk, and 12,05 percent in Sulaymaniyah, while the rest are scattered in other governorates. About 62.37 percent of the refugees live in urban areas while 37.63 percent live inside camps. Most of the Syrian refugees in Iraq are from Hasakah (57 percent) and Damascus (25 percent) while the rest are from other places across Syria. During the month under review, UNHCR registered 1,483 new refugees in Iraq (0.7 percent more than in July).

A year has passed since the start of the internally displaced population crisis in Iraq. According to OCHA, there are now 2.8 million internally displaced persons, and of these, 1.5 million persons live in conflict-

## QUICK FIGURES

### SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC:

SYRIANS AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS	12.2 MILLION
WOMEN AND GIRLS OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE	3.1 MILLION
YOUTH	4 MILLION

### LEBANON:

SYRIANS AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS	1,172,750
SYRIAN WOMEN AND GIRLS OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE	293,188
SYRIAN PREGNANT WOMEN	20,757
SYRIAN YOUTH	209,907

### JORDAN:

SYRIANS AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS	630,224
SYRIAN WOMEN AND GIRLS OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE	153,096
SYRIAN PREGNANT WOMEN	11,154
SYRIAN YOUTH	130,907

### IRAQ:

SYRIANS AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS	251,499
SYRIAN WOMEN AND GIRLS OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE	57,466
SYRIAN PREGNANT WOMEN	4,419
SYRIAN YOUTH	65,144

### TURKEY:

SYRIANS AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS	1,938,999
SYRIAN WOMEN AND GIRLS OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE	484,750
SYRIAN PREGNANT WOMEN	34,320
SYRIAN YOUTH	290,850

### EGYPT:

SYRIANS AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS	132,375
SYRIAN WOMEN AND GIRLS OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE	33,312
SYRIAN PREGNANT WOMEN	2,343
SYRIAN YOUTH	27,243

SOURCES: Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), UNHCR MENA Bureau, OCHA, and UNFPA August, 2015

affected areas. The IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) team has verified that from May 15 to June 15, a total of 25,697 families or 154,182 individuals were displaced from Ramadi District as a result of ongoing clashes in Anbar governorate. Preliminary data show that out of the total number of displaced persons, around 900,000 were women of reproductive age (15-49 years), and around 350,000 were adolescent girls (aged 13-18 years). In addition, due to the nature of the armed conflict in Iraq, an estimated 10-15 percent of the displaced families were female-headed households.

## TURKEY

The prolonged crisis in Syria, coupled with escalation of terrorist attacks and the existence of a temporary government in Turkey, has impacted all sectors, including humanitarian programmes like those of UNFPA.

There is a temporary government in Turkey till the early election scheduled for November 1. This situation affects routine work with line ministries. Moreover, a possible staff turnover might take place once a new government is sworn in. An unstable security environment also hampers implementation of humanitarian projects by United Nations agencies and implementing partners. Already, some modifications have been introduced with regard to responsibilities of line ministries; AFAD has transferred all health-related issues of Syrian refugees to MoH, while the Ministry of Finance will take over the budgetary aspects.

## EGYPT

The number of registered Syrians seeking refuge in Egypt reached 132,375 during the reporting period. Most of the refugees are scattered in rented households located in the outskirts of large urban centres such as Greater Cairo, Alexandria, and Damietta. Syrian refugees have been granted access to public services, including primary health care and education, at the same cost as Egyptians. However, issues related to quality and availability of these services remains a major challenge, given that the public sector is already struggling to meet the needs of Egyptians. With the prolongation of the crisis and decreased funding, vulnerabilities are escalating among Syrian refugees, particularly in terms of debts incurred due to healthcare costs, and there is increased risk of gender-based violence.

## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

### SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE INCLUDING FAMILY PLANNING



A UNFPA-supported clinic was officially inaugurated in collaboration with the Syrian Family Planning Association in Wadi al Nadara, in west Homs in Syria. At this clinic, reproductive health services will be delivered to women and young girls, including hundreds of internal displaced women from nearby villages.

Credit: UNFPA, 2015

## SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

**REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES:** During the reporting period, UNFPA continued to support its implementing partners in the delivery of lifesaving reproductive health services to the crisis-affected people in Syria. As such, around 300,000 services were delivered to 105,000 people; this included provision of safe delivery for 7,700 women, of whom 450 received reproductive health services through the UNFPA reproductive health voucher system, and 180 women opted for Caesarean- sections.

A total of 720 reproductive health vouchers were distributed in Damascus, Rural Damascus, and Aleppo.

**REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SUPPLIES:** UNFPA supported the Syria Family Planning Association (SFPA) in acquiring 11 ultrasound machines to enable UNFPA-supported clinics and mobile teams to deliver quality services to around 2,600 people per month. UNFPA delivered 25 reproductive health kits to health facilities and professionals in Homs and Aleppo with an aim to enable the delivery of quality reproductive health services to around 33,400 women in the two cities.

**REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AWARENESS SESSIONS:** The UNFPA-assisted Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) and SFPA mobile teams reached 18,500 violence affected persons with awareness messages on reproductive health related issues in 12 governorates.

UNFPA, through the mobile teams of SARC and SFPA, supported the delivery of 14,521 reproductive health and gender-based violence related services to crisis-affected families in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs, Aleppo, Latakia, Tartus, and Hama.

**REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH TRAINING:** In cooperation with the Ministry of Health, UNFPA organized a series of capacity building events targeting 87 professionals from Syrian governorates. These events focused on reproductive health related issues, including basic life support on obstetrics, HIV/AIDS prevention, and clinical management of rape.

**SUPPORTING HUMAN RESOURCES:** UNFPA supported mobile and static clinics of SFPA and SARC through deployment of health workers in 12 governorates.

**ACTIVITY:** On August 24, UNFPA and the Syrian Commission of Family Affairs and Population organized a workshop in Damascus to discuss the priorities for action on women's issues in accordance with recommendations of the Cairo conference on the ICPD beyond 2014. As many as 60 professionals, including members of the Syrian parliament and youth, participated in the workshop. The participants identified enhancement of community awareness, as well as women's participation at all levels of developmental and humanitarian response programmes, as key actions to minimize the risks facing women, including gender-based violence.

<http://tishreen.news.sy/tishreen/public/read/345640>

The Syrian Commission for Family Affairs and Population and UNFPA discussed Priorities for Action on women's issues in accordance with recommendations of the Cairo conference on the ICPD beyond 2014. The participants stressed the need to launch community awareness campaigns on the role of women in society. They discussed the increased social violence that has emerged during the crisis, protection mechanisms, and response to women victims of violence. The participants underlined the need to focus on social customs and traditions, especially in relation to women's rights and the need to enhance gender equality mechanisms.

**SUPPORTING HUMAN RESOURCES:** UNFPA continued to support the 28 mobile clinics, 27 static clinics, 13 medical points, and mobile teams of SFPA and SARC through deployment of 207 obstetricians, gynaecologists, midwives, nurses, and social workers in 12 governorates.

## LEBANON

**REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SUPPLIES:** UNFPA, through its partner ABAAD, provided post-exposure preventive kit number (3) to Baalbek Governmental Hospital, Rayan Hospital, Labwe primary health care centre, Tripoli Governmental Hospital, Machha primary health care centre, Chtoura Governmental Hospital, Bekaa Governmental Hospital, Hariri primary health care centre in Tannayel, and Hamed Farhat Hospital.

**REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AWARENESS SESSIONS:** As part of the UNFPA-funded project 'Safe Motherhood Campaign—Infant and Young Child Feeding and Reproductive Health,' the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) carried out a series of awareness sessions and one-on-one counselling sessions on infant and young child feeding (IYCF) and family planning. In Bekaa and Baalbek-Hermel, 355 women attended awareness sessions on IYCF and family planning while another 181 women received one-on-one counselling on IYCF. In Akkar-Minnieh, 209 women attended awareness sessions on IYCF and family planning while 289 women received one-on-one counselling on IYCF.

UNFPA, through the International Medical Corps, delivered 140 awareness sessions to 1,009 Syrian women in 50 informal tented settlements located in Central and West Bekaa, addressing topics such as antenatal care including pregnancy, nutrition, good hygiene, importance of seeking care at the primary health care centre level, importance of taking supplements, postnatal care, breastfeeding, newborn care, vaccination promotion, family planning, and birth spacing.

As many as 90 awareness sessions targeting 1,800 women were carried out by UNFPA's implementing partner, the Lebanon Family Planning Association for Development and Empowerment, in Minnieh, Kwashera, Ayrounieh-Akkar, and Mashta Hammoud in Wadi Khaled. These sessions, which were delivered by women leaders (trained in June 2015), focused on enhancing knowledge about family planning among women and young girls.

**REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH TRAINING:** UNFPA, through the Lebanese Society for Obstetrics and Gynecology, carried out three training workshops to develop the capacity of 22 physicians from Bekaa, and 23 para-medical staff each from Bekaa and the South. These sessions focused on reproductive health, the minimum initial service package (MISP), emergency obstetric care, and ethical issues, among other topics.

## JORDAN

**REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES:** During the reporting period, UNFPA provided 16,544 reproductive health services to beneficiaries living in camps and in hosting community; 78.4 percent of these services were delivered inside camps, while 21.6 per cent covered beneficiaries in the hosting community. Of the total, 3,757 women benefited from ante-natal care services; 37 percent of the total services were provided to women aged 18-24 years. A total of 1,368 women benefited from family planning services; 67 percent delivered in Zaatari camp, 9 percent in Azraq camp, and the rest in host communities. As many as 227 safe deliveries were supported in the UNFPA reproductive health clinic in Zaatari camp. Moreover, 507 women were screened for anemia, with 149 cases being confirmed as anemic.

In Cyber City refugee camp, 253 reproductive health services were provided at UNFPA facilities. Moreover, 27 women utilized ante-natal care services while 16 benefited from family planning services.

In King Abdullah Park refugee camp, 60 health services were provided; 8 women utilized ante-natal care services while 14 benefited from family planning services.

UNFPA organized a round table discussion on prevention and control of Hepatitis A, B and C for healthcare providers offering reproductive health services in Zaatari camp. It also organized an orientation session on the syndromic approach to sexually transmitted diseases and hospital information system reporting in Azraq camp for doctors and nurses working at the IMC primary health care centre and the Jordan National Red Crescent Society hospital.

**REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AWARENESS:** As many as 9,174 beneficiaries were reached with reproductive health awareness messages; of these, 77 percent were residing in camps. In Cyber City refugee camp, 216 individuals attended an awareness session on reproductive health related topics.

## IRAQ

**REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES:** During August, the total number of reproductive health services provided to Syrian women and girls of reproductive age reached 2,941; of these, 78 each pertained to postnatal care and family planning related services. UNFPA supported the safe delivery of 345 babies and managed the Caesarean-section deliveries for 122 women.

**REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AWARENESS SESSIONS:** During the reporting period, 17 awareness sessions on contraception and reproductive health were conducted in Arbat, Domiz, and Gawilan camps, with 147 women and girls benefiting from these activities.

**SUPPORTING HUMAN RESOURCES:** UNFPA supports seven reproductive health clinics in Domiz 1, Domiz 2, Gawilan, Darashakran, Kawergosk, Qushtapa, and Basirma camps, and an internally displaced reproductive health clinic in Bahirka. It also supports the salaries of five gynecologists, 13 midwives, and six paramedics in the reproductive health clinics located in camps.

## TURKEY

**REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES:** Data were acquired from three NGOs, the International Middle-East Peace Research Centre (IMPR), and the Harran University Department of Public Health, both in Sanliurfa and Hacettepe counseling units. As many as 330 Syrians benefited from different reproductive health and gender-based violence related services and awareness sessions. Moreover, 1,390 Syrian beneficiaries received reproductive health and family planning services from the counseling units.

**REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AWARENESS SESSIONS:** UNFPA, in collaboration with Harran University, IMPR, and Hacettepe, organized 36 reproductive health sessions on early pregnancy and reproductive health at UNFPA-supported health clinics. Sessions were also arranged on dysmenorrhea, infection of mammary glands, AIDS, anemia, toxoplasmosis, antenatal care for teenagers, early puberty, and personal hygiene for 609 beneficiaries in Sanliurfa and 170 beneficiaries in Ankara.

**REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH MATERIAL DEVELOPED:** The Hacettepe counseling unit distributed 300 brochures on antenatal care and family planning. Harran University in Sanliurfa published research on the general health situation of married Syrian women refugees residing in Sanliurfa city centre. The objective of the research was to identify the reproductive health needs of people aged 15-49 years.

The university also developed booklets on baby nutrition, breast cancer, and cervical cancer. The booklets will be distributed to both host communities and Syrians in order to enhance their awareness of these issues.

A total of 15,300 health brochures were distributed to different NGOs -- IMPR, Support to Life, AAR Japan, and DRC in Sanliurfa and Yuva Association in Hatay.



**Displaced Iraqi grandmother symbolizes resilience and conviction**

Fifty-year-old Basma Hamadi is a mother of six girls and a boy and a grandmother of two. She escaped the Iraq conflict from her hometown Anbar in June 2014, abandoning her old but beautiful family house and the comforts that came with it. She used to live with her 70 year-old husband, her children, and grandchildren to an almost empty house in the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) settlement in Erbil, north of Iraq.

“What can a grandmother do to help her family! Everyday, I asked this question to myself while helplessly looking to my husband, who could barely move or work due to his illness, and while looking at my children as they struggled to cope with the shocking situation that we were suddenly confronted with,” Basma said.

In December, 2014 Basma and her daughters were approached by a social worker working at UNFPA-supported women centre Razhan (Ashti) in Erbil, and were introduced to services provided by the centre. “I decided to opt for the sewing training course as a step to encourage my daughters, as well as to instill positive energy in our empty and gloomy house.” “The centre gave me more than I perhaps expected. I made many new friends, shared my thoughts and fears with them, and gained a lot of vigor and strength. Immediately after graduating, I managed to buy a small sewing machine and started working from home. I earned money, furnished my house with basic amenities, and managed to stitch the clothes of my children,” said a contented Basma.

In due course of time, two of Basma's daughters got themselves registered for the beauty salon session in the centre while Basma made the best of her strong connections and started holding morning assemblies for women whenever she required help. This way, she not only expanded her own business but also empowered other women. “Where there is a will, there is a way—regardless of age and regardless of what you have and own. This is what I learnt from my experience of being a displaced woman, and this is what I always try to teach my daughters and friends.”

More than 8.2 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in Iraq, and their needs are projected to mount sharply in 2015 as a consequence of widespread intensive fighting and conflict. Since January 2014, nearly 3 million people have been displaced as a result of the conflict between the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and the government counter-offensive, prompting a protection crisis impacting millions.

The Iraq crisis is characterized by extreme violence, with reports of more than 17,000 people killed. Sexual violence perpetrated by ISIL against women and girls is becoming rampant. The situation has overstretched existing services, and many of the displaced population is without proper shelter; they are dispersed in cities and surrounding areas.

Credit: Diana Kako | Al Mesalla, 2015

## GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT



### Rohala now has a mission, not merely a dream!

"Wearing a dazzling white dress at a grand wedding party and being a university graduate is one of the most cherished dreams of any teenage Syrian girl. Sadly, I lost the same in a split second one night—a turning point in my life," shared Rohalat Abdi, a 21 year-old Syrian refugee woman.

In 2013, when Rohalat was in the first year of her university studies in Syria, her family decided to leave their home and move to a camp in Erbil, Iraq. "I walked out of my home, carrying a small bag and fond memories, but overwhelmed with grief, loneliness, and fear of the future," Rohalat recalled.

In Erbil, Rohalat got married to a Syrian man who, she said, is a great support. Together, they desperately searched for a suitable job to tend for their basic needs. All of Rohalat's priorities and dreams have undergone a drastic change, but she is determined to brave out this phase of her life.

"There was suddenly a ray of of hope when I heard about the services that UNFPA-supported women centre Razhan (Ashti) provides to Syrian women and girls in Erbil. I grabbed the opportunity and enrolled in the hair-dressing and beauty salon training course, where I also acquired information about safety and protection measures for women refugees. Upon graduation, I found myself a job as an assistant with a private beauty salon, where I draw a very good salary which helps me support my family. We are very happy now," Rohalat related.

"With hindsight, I discovered that being a refugee with no university certificate is not the end of the world, and can never limits one's ambitions. Plus, all this has made me stronger and realistic; I now have a mission, a goal, and not merely a dream. In my job, I have referred many Syrian women to the Ashti women centre. I think support is all we need; someone to pull us out of the darkness we are plunged into as a result of war. I am so happy over now being capable enough to help other Syrian women find their way," said a beaming Rohalat.

Razhan (Ashti) women space is financed by UNFPA to provide safety and protection information to displaced women, as well as to provide psychosocial support and referral services to women survivors of gender-based violence. Iraq is struggling to meet the needs of over 3 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 250,000 Syrian refugees.

Credit: Diana Kako | Al Mesalla, 2015

## SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

**GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SERVICES:** During the reporting period, the UNFPA-assisted SARC and SFPA clinics and mobile teams provided 28,000 gender-based violence services, including medical examination and psychosocial support related services, to around 5,100 women residing in contested areas.

**GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AWARENESS SESSIONS:** The UNFPA-assisted clinics and mobile teams of SFPA and SARC in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs, Lattakia, Tartous and Dar'a approached 12,400 people with gender-based violence related awareness messages.

**GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE TRAINING COURSE:** A total of 19 medical doctors working in six governorates in Syria completed a UNFPA-supported five-day training-of-trainers course on clinical management of sexual assault survivors.

During an event arranged in connection with World Humanitarian Day 2015, UNFPA supported theatre groups to showcase the impact of early marriages and unwanted pregnancies on women and families, as part of a whole festival organized by OCHA and SARC.

**GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SUPPLIES:** UNFPA distributed hygiene kits to 1,500 people residing in Homs.

**WOMEN AND GIRLS SAFE SPACES:** UNFPA continued to support 11 centres that provide gender-based violence screening and services for women in Damascus, Aleppo, Sweida, Lattakia, Tartous, Hasakah, and Hama through deployment of gynecologists, midwives, psychosocial support counselors, and nurses.



On World Humanitarian Day, UNFPA organized an exhibition of the work of ten women NGOs based in Damascus. The exhibition showcased handcraft products created to supplement their family income.

"Accessories, processed food, embroideries, and other items were sold; the sales helped women and their respective families to supplement their family incomes in these times of acute economic distress," Issam Habbal, head of Sae'd NGO noted.

Credit: OCHA/UNFPA, 2015

## LEBANON

**GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE ACTIVITIES:** UNFPA, through INTERSOS, is working on a programme to promote positive coping mechanisms for women and girls at risk of gender-based violence, and for survivors of gender-based violence by strengthening their self-esteem and self-reliance. Accordingly, focus group discussions were organized with 88 women in Chouf, Shoueifat, Shiah, and Burj Hammoud, to assess the level of vulnerability and availability to participate in the livelihood programme, in addition to identification of preferred locations for training centres.

Four cases, which had previously received training in makeup skills by INTERSOS, were referred to the International Rescue Committee (IRC) Livelihood Center in Dekwaneh for employment and internship.

Collaboration was established with the Ministry of Social Affairs' Social Development Centres (SDCs), as well as municipalities in the four targeted areas (Chouf, Shoueifat, Shiah, and Burj Hammoud) to support the selection of Lebanese beneficiaries.

The responses of some of the women beneficiaries who participated in the livelihood programme are listed below:

*I was happy with it. I was happy to leave the house: woman beneficiary from Mazboud.*

*I made a lot of friends: woman beneficiary from Mazboud.*

*I have no one here. The women with whom I was trained became my family: woman beneficiary from Choueifat.*

*This is a lifetime opportunity. It's the best thing that happened to me. In Syria, when I was a little girl, I was very good at school but my parents wouldn't let me continue my education. They had me leave school to get married. Now, I see this training as away to make up for that: woman beneficiary from Chiyah.*

*I never left home before. I wouldn't dare leave the house. The training made me stronger. I can now ride the bus on my own: woman beneficiary from Chiyah.*

*My husband and I are separated. Because of this training, I became stronger and more confident. I fought for my kids and they are now with me: woman beneficiary from Choueifat.*

UNFPA, in partnership with INTERSOS, is working to promote male engagement in support of gender-based violence prevention and response mechanisms at a community level. Accordingly, 38 boys and girls from Chouf, Shiah, and Shoueifat were selected for weekly meetings with peers. The aim was to decide on topics of interest for discussion, and major activities they may want to perform. In addition, three meetings were organized with SDCs and municipalities to involve more peers.

UNFPA and INTERSOS are also working to sensitize community members on gender-based violence related issues, and to share information about the referral pathway. Accordingly, awareness sessions on sexual health were delivered by INTERSOS staff.

**GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE OUTREACH SERVICES:** Raising awareness on environmental issues has become imperative in



A community health worker conducting an awareness session in an informal tented settlement in West Bekaa, Lebanon.

Credit: IMC, 2015

view of the current waste management crisis in Lebanon. UNFPA, in partnership with Al Mithaq in Baalbek, developed a community intervention that not only aims at raising awareness but is also directed towards achieving sustainability with socio-economic and environmental benefits. The intervention started in one neighbourhood, targeting more than 30 families in Bekaa, and comprised different activities such as an awareness session and placement of garbage cans (of different colours) in selected sites.

**GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE TRAINING:** UNFPA, in partnership with KAFA, organized two training sessions for healthcare providers on gender-based violence case management and communication. The sessions targeted 56 midwives in Tripoli and the South.

In partnership with Al Mithaq, UNFPA organized a training programme on problem-solving skills, and sessions aiming at reducing common mental health disorders such as depression and anxiety. These sessions targeted 15 social workers affiliated with various NGOs in Baalbek. The two organizations also arranged a month-long makeup and hair dressing workshop for 24 participants, who were supported with make-up products to help them to continue practicing the skills they had gained.

**GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE WOMEN CENTRES:** UNFPA, in partnership with Al Mithaq, initiated rehabilitation of its women centre in Baalbek. The objective is to provide a comprehensive gender-based violence and reproductive health services package to Lebanese and Syrian women around the vicinity of the centre.

**GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE WOMEN'S CENTRES:** UNFPA in partnership with Al Mithaq initiated rehabilitation of its women center in Baalbek with the aim to provide a comprehensive gender-based violence and reproductive health service package to Lebanese and Syrian women around the vicinity of the center.

## JORDAN

**GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SERVICES:** UNFPA, in cooperation with its partner organizations, continued to provide survivor-centred



gender-based violence services through its 19 safe spaces within refugee camps as well as in host communities. During the reporting period, 5,866 women, girls, men, and boys participated in self-reliance, vocational training, and life skills; of these, 18 percent were males and 82 percent were female. Additionally, 2,043 women, girls, men, and boys were reached through outreach visits; of these, 96 percent reported in camps.

**GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE TRAINING:** During the reporting period, UNFPA, in partnership with the Institution of Family Health (IFH), supported a two-day training course for 25 women on reproductive health and gender-based violence, code of conduct, and referral system. Moreover, 26 doctors, nurses and midwives working in health centres inside and outside camps were trained on clinical management of rape.

UNFPA, in partnership with UPP, conducted a two-day training session on gender-based violence terminology and reporting. The training was attended by 40 frontline staff (female: 35, males: 15) in the Dead Sea.

**GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE MATERIAL DEVELOPED:** In the framework of the Global Gender-Based Violence Capacity Building project implemented by UNHCR, UNFPA, UNICEF, and the IRC, a capacity assessment on gender-based violence case management provision was conducted to identify gaps in specific areas of the knowledge and attitudes of case workers and supervisors providing or overseeing gender-based violence case management. The results of this assessment will be used for the development of a capacity-building plan. It is pertinent to mention that Jordan is one of the pilot countries to assess the quality of gender-based violence services.

## IRAQ

**GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SERVICES:** During the reporting period, UNFPA provided 10 counseling, listening, psychosocial support and case management services, one clinical management of rape service, and six follow-up services.

**GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AWARENESS SESSIONS:** In Dohuk, 187 women and girls benefited from awareness sessions on gender-based violence prevention and response and on reproductive health related issues. In Basirma camp, 68 women and girls participated in sessions on protection of children, decision-making processes, and medical care for pregnant women. In Darashakran camp, 25 women and girls attended awareness sessions on family planning, and social and psychological issues. In Kawergosk, 36 women and girls benefitted from sessions on child marriage and prevention and treatment of scabies. In Qushtapa, 79 women and girls participated in sessions on domestic violence, family planning, and on how to raise teenagers in camps.

**GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE OUTREACH:** As many as 149 women and girls were reached by outreach volunteers with information on gender-based violence, reproductive health, and youth-related issues and available services. Volunteers reached 69 women and girls in Basirma, 65 in Kawergosk, and 150 in Qushtapa camps.

**GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE TRAINING:** A total of 25 social workers were trained on the use of the gender-based violence information management system (GBVIMS).

In collaboration with the Directorate of Violence Against Women, UNFPA organized a training on 'Reporting on gender-based violence in conflict' for 21 journalists and communication focal points working in Erbil, Dohuk, and Sulaymaniyah. UNFPA initiated the first gender-

based violence specialized reporters network, which will work to build the capacities of other journalists in the three governorates on the same issue.



Journalists participating in a training on 'Reporting on gender-based violence in conflict, Erbil, Iraq.

Credit: VeroniKa Kamanga-Njikko | UNFPA, 2015.

*"The media can amplify the Syrian refugee and Iraq IDP women's voices, counteract myths, and stimulate dialogue and action. I hope this media training on 'Reporting on gender-based violence' will help to shine a stronger light on these human rights violations, and lead to greater support and services for survivors. It is important to ensure that perpetrators are not just brought to justice, but are also seen to be brought to justice by the wider community. There is also the need to highlight the immense courage of the survivors, their ability to stand up, and re-build a silent but resolute defiance in the face of the perpetrators."—Mr. Ramanathan Balakrishnan, UNFPA Iraq Representative.*

**RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN WOMEN CENTRES:** During the reporting period, 117 women and girls attended UNFPA-supported recreational activities such as sewing and hair dressing in Domiz 1, 2 and Gawilan camps in Dohuk, and 622 women and girls benefited from recreational activities in Basirma, Darashakran, Kawergosk, and Qushtapa camps in Erbil.

## TURKEY

**GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SERVICES:** According to counseling units supported by UNFPA, 332 Syrians benefited from gender-based related services in Urfa and Ankara.

**GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SUPPLIES:** The Hacettepe counseling unit distributed 344 hygiene kits to Syrians residing in Ulubay district in Ankara. The activity helped promote the mandate and services of the new UNFPA-supported unit.

**GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE OUTREACH:** UNFPA, in collaboration with its implementing partners, organized eight gender-based violence related sessions, English and Turkish language courses, and hairdressing and makeup activities targeting 279 beneficiaries.

## EGYPT

**GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE TRAINING:** UNFPA organized a training course on 'Reporting on gender-based violence in the Syria crisis' for

12 media professionals working for international and national media in Egypt. The workshop featured discussions on the relationship between media and law, and the consequences of negative reporting on Syrian women and their community. The first gender-based violence specialized reporter network was established in Egypt.

**WOMEN AND GIRLS SAFE SPACES:** UNFPA's support for two safe spaces continued in 6th October and Damietta. The spaces provide several services including psychosocial support, training, recreational activities, awareness campaigns, and sport activities. UNFPA supported establishment of a safe space in Maadi-Cairo in collaboration with Care International, and signed a grant for another safe space in Obour with the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights. The safe space is expected to become functional next month.

## UNFPA CROSS-BORDER OPERATIONS JULY- AUGUST 2015

### RESPONSE

**REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES:** UNFPA-supported hospitals continued to provide services to women in need in the northern part of Syria. One of the hospitals interrupted provision of services during August as it had to be shifted to another location due to its proximity to the fighting line and an ISIS-controlled area.

During July,\* 6,854 individuals benefited from reproductive health services. Of the total, 563 women under 18 years of age received services from UNFPA-supported health facilities, while 579 women received safe delivery services, and 156 women opted for Caesarean-section deliveries. (\*Due to logistic and security challenges, implementing partners share their data a month late).

**REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH MATERIAL DEVELOPED:** Information, education and communication material (in Arabic language) on promotion of family planning, antenatal care, emergency obstetric care, and other reproductive health related topics were received from Jordan and distributed to UNFPA's partners in Turkey providing support inside Syria.

**REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH TRAINING:** UNFPA organized a three-day MISP coordination training for 22 humanitarian teams working for six different organizations. The teams were based in Ankara and Gaziantep. The training incorporated numerous topics such as description of tools, resources and coordination mechanisms at the global, regional and national level to implement MISP; clarification of roles and responsibilities for implementation of MISP in crisis; identification of key components of maternal and newborn health services needed in crisis with reference to the Syrian context; and identification of strategies for setting up referral mechanisms (transportation, communication, support of referral hospitals).

**GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE TRAINING:** In order to enhance the implementation of gender equality throughout the humanitarian response, a Cluster Gender Focal Point Network has been established within the active IASC clusters. This network

has been created under the leadership of the "GenCap" and in close collaboration with the gender-based violence sub-cluster.

UNFPA, in collaboration with the Cluster Gender Focal Point Network for cross-border programming for Syria in Turkey, organised the first gender equality in humanitarian action workshop. The participants learned practical skills for incorporation of gender equality into their work as humanitarian aid workers. A strong component on gender-based violence programming in emergencies was also included in the workshop.

**WOMEN AND GIRLS SAFE SPACES:** UNFPA is supporting two local organizations to manage and strengthen women and girls safe spaces in Latakia, Idlib, and Aleppo. As per UNFPA guidance, the grantees conducted a consultation with the community and specifically with women and girls to identify spaces and activities.

In July 2015, 740 women, girls, men, and boys took part in a variety of activities such as awareness raising on gender-based violence, recreation, and life skills. The number of beneficiaries in July was higher than usual due to Eid celebrations, which involved a larger spectrum of the community. All centres hold dedicated activities including life skills for adolescent girls. Such services continued in August, but the data reported here refer to July only.

Feedback of women and girls on the safe spaces were very positive, and many women have offered to volunteer to support other women with their knowledge and skills.

### COORDINATION

UNFPA, together with the gender-based violence sub-cluster group, is developing the following materials: prevention and response standard operation procedures, clinical management of rape protocols and related training material, and guidance note on dignity kits.

## SUPPORTING ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH



Early marriage and unwanted pregnancy, issues that have witnessed a significant increase in Syria since the outbreak of the crisis in the country, were the theme of two interactive plays performed by a group of 12 Syrian volunteers to mark World Humanitarian Day 2015.

The plays were part of a special commemorative event supported by UNFPA in Damascus, Opera House, in cooperation with the Syrian Family Planning Association.

Credit: OCHA/UNFPA, 2015

### JORDAN

**YOUTH ACTIVITIES:** Thirteen Questscope volunteers and four participants from other organizations attended a two-week video production and film-making workshop organized by UNFPA's implementing partner, Questscope, in Zaatari camp.

Twenty-one youth volunteers participated in a two-day basic psychosocial counseling training course, and a participatory reflection and action appraisals training.

Four youth volunteers led a training on different topics related to youth in camps setting for five ACTED Syrian volunteers at the UNFPA-supported youth centre in Zaatari camp.

A group of youth volunteers that had been recruited and trained through a UNFPA project reached 286 caravans covering most of the locations in Zaatari camp with awareness messages.

During the reporting period and as a first step, 243 youth expressed interest to participate in the youth volunteer initiative. Of these, 91 had already decided to register while another 83 (females: 39, males: 44) participated in a communication skills training course.

A total of 21 Syrian refugee youth (females: 9, males: 12) participated in Y-Peer basic training in Zaatari camp at the UNFPA-supported youth centre.

UNFPA, in partnership with the Institute of Family Planning, conducted 109 youth activities in urban and camp settings for refugee youth. In the host community, 87 Syrian refugee girls and 35 Jordanian girls under 18 years of age participated in self-reliance and life skills sessions. In the 18-24 age group, 63 Syrian and 28 Jordanian women benefited from these sessions. For boys in the host community, 27 Syrian and 15 Jordanians under 18 years of age participated in these sessions. Twenty-eight Syrian refugee men and 35 Jordanian men in

the host community (aged 18-24 years) also took part in self-reliance and life skills sessions.

In the camps, UNFPA, through its partners, conducted self-reliance and life skills sessions for 2,274 Syrian refugee girls (aged under 18 years) and 554 women (aged 18-24 years). They also reached 674 boys under 18 years and 100 men aged 18-24 years.

UNFPA staff and Y-Peer youth, as well as Zaatari refugee youth, attended a two-day Global Youth Forum on Peace and Security held at the Kings Academy in Madaba on August 21-22. The Forum delivered the historic Amman Youth Declaration, which will be used to advocate for a Security Council resolution on youth, peace, and security. Products made by Zaatari youth were displayed on the occasion.

UNFPA coordinated the Zaatari-based Youth Task Force (YTF) and compiled a list of events scheduled to mark International Youth Day in Zaatari. YTF chairs facilitated contact between a Swiss Charity wishing to make a \$3,000 donation to youth in Zaatari and YTF members, and shared scholarship opportunities with YTF members for Syrian refugee youth.

### IRAQ

**YOUTH RELATED TRAINING:** During the reporting period, 89 youth in Domiz 1 and Gawilan camps in Dohuk, six youth in Darashakran camp, and five in Kawergosk camp attended basic peer education training.

**YOUTH ACTIVITIES:** UNFPA supported a range of activities through its youth centres: these included peer education training, drawing, music, basketball, volleyball, soccer, handicrafts, computer, and theater. The centres organized weekly awareness sessions on reproductive health, child marriage, and family planning targeting 178 girls and boys during the reporting period.

**YOUTH AWARENESS SESSIONS:** A total of 469 youth were reached through outreach sessions.



UNFPA participating in a running event, along with eight United Nations agencies, the League of Arab States, and Cairo runners to commemorate World Humanitarian Day.

Credit: UNFPA, 2015



UNFPA supported a musical performance by a band of young Syrians who presented popular Syrian songs emphasizing the seminal role of youth in rebuilding Syria and their attachment to their homeland despite all the sufferings and hardships they had endured.

To thunderous applause, the band played a song that described the beauty of Syria and how the war had torn a once-unified nation into pieces.

“While the two guitarists were playing music on stage, my inner self was shaking with exhilaration, and I felt captivated by the inspiring example set by Syrian youth”, a UN international staff who attended the event commented after the performance.

Credit: OCHA/UNFPA, 2015

## UNFPA-SUPPORTED FACILITIES



Number of women's spaces

SYRIAN ARABIC REPUBLIC

11

LEBANON

5

JORDAN

19

9 in camps and 10 in communities

IRAQ

3

EGYPT

3

TURKEY

6



Number of field reproductive health clinics or mobile teams

SYRIAN ARABIC REPUBLIC

30 static clinic, 35 mobile clinic and 16 medical points

JORDAN

19

10 static and 9 in camps

IRAQ

19

17 public health centres and 2 mobile teams



Number of youth centres

LEBANON

5

JORDAN

8

7 in communities and 1 in camps

IRAQ

1

EGYPT

1



Number of health facilities

SYRIAN ARABIC REPUBLIC

200

4 hospitals

JORDAN

Ministry of Health facilities and NGOs facilities providing reproductive health services

IRAQ

8

EGYPT

5

TURKEY

6

Referral hospitals

## COORDINATION & CAPACITY BUILDING

### SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

The newly-appointed Representative for UNFPA Syria Mr. Massimo Diana presented his credentials to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of Syria. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Massimo expressed UNFPA's appreciation for the commitment of the Government of Syria to support UNFPA programmes, and briefed the Deputy Minister on UNFPA's focus areas. Mr. Massimo emphasized the need to pay close attention to most vulnerable groups of the population, who are targeted through UNFPA's support.

UNFPA participated in the access working group meeting, the United Nations sector group meetings on health, protection, and logistics, as well as meetings of the United Nations Humanitarian Country Team and the United Nations Security Cell.



The Representative for UNFPA Syria Mr. Massimo Diana presenting his credentials to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of Syria.

Credit: UNFPA, 2015

### LEBANON

Close coordination with the Ministry of Public Health and the syndicate of midwives took place for implementation of training sessions on gender-based violence case management and communication.

The United Nations system initiated preparation for the development of the upcoming United Nations framework (2017 and beyond), which is expected to reflect the development/stabilization dimension as well as the humanitarian component. UNFPA is proactively participating in this process.

The clinical management of rape task force had been coordinating with the Ministry of Public Health on the issue of mandatory reporting without the consent of gender-based violence survivors by health service providers at the hospital level. As a result, a circular was issued by the Ministry in August 2015 that reiterates the necessity of acquiring an informed consent from a gender-based violence survivor ahead of reporting about the case to concerned authorities.

### JORDAN

UNFPA Jordan, which is actively involved in development of the Jordan Response Plan (JRP) 2016-2018, participated in the JRP workshop conducted at the Dead Sea.

UNFPA chaired the reproductive health sub-working group, and discussed with members of the JRP planning team the best interventions to improve maternal, neonatal and child health interventions, as well as a list of home care massages to be advocated through community health workers to women in need.

### IRAQ

UNFPA, together with its partners, developed a guidance note for gender-based violence indicators. The guidance note is a user-friendly tool to support gender-based violence implementing partners to report uniformly on gender-based violence interventions.

UNFPA trained 25 health workers from primary health care centres, both in and out of camps, on caring for survivors and on psychosocial support, advocating for increased linkages between psychosocial support activities and mental health services.

UNFPA chaired the first gender-based violence information management working group meeting.

### EGYPT

UNFPA participated in a coordination meeting with the Ministry of Health to discuss qualitative indicators, satisfaction surveys, and automation of reporting.

## CHALLENGES

### SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

The monitoring of the humanitarian response continued to pose a challenge due to the limited capacity of implementing partners, as well as limited access to affected areas due to security conditions.

Availability of only a limited number of implementing partners (especially in the besieged and hot spot areas) that are qualified to provide comprehensive gender-based violence prevention and response continued to affect the ability to deliver a timely humanitarian response.

### LEBANON

Overloaded physician schedules made it difficult to set training schedules for doctors. During the reporting period, two training sessions for midwives had to be postponed due to their inability to attend.

Difficulties were encountered in finding beneficiaries of Lebanese nationality to participate in different components of gender-based violence activities with INTERSOS.

Infrastructural problems led to a delay in executing the rehabilitation work planned for the Al-Mithaq Centre in Baalbek.

### JORDAN

Tension between Syrian refugee and citizens remains a challenge.

Families moving to camps are facing difficulties including adaptation to the camp atmosphere and crowded living conditions, which cause psychological stress and an increase in domestic violence.

There is a lack of knowledge among Syrian refugees about the importance of antenatal, post-natal and post-abortion care, breastfeeding, children's vaccination, and periodic follow-up visits.

Lack of electricity in some parts of the Zaatari and Azraq camps has been creating major issues, not only in the provision of services but also in relation to the level of frustration among refugees, affecting responsiveness to services.

### IRAQ

The ongoing conflict in the country that resulted in internal displacement is affecting the overall delivery of services and negatively impacting funding opportunities for refugees.

Refugees in urban settings represent more than 67 percent compared to those in camps; this entails development of strategies to respond to the needs of these populations.

### TURKEY

Recent terrorist attacks on civilians, police, and gendarmerie have drawn serious concerns towards the future of both Turkey's own national security and the security of Syrians residing in Turkey. These incidents led to restrictions of travelling to some of the provinces in

the southeast region, thus hindering implementation.

Challenges like language barrier, lack of qualified and motivated humanitarian aid workers, and long bureaucratic procedures continued to impede delivery of services and/or implementation of programmes.

Accessibility and out-reach to of the Syrian population remained extremely intermittent due to recent attacks and political conflicts. As such, the transportation of groups (women, children, youth, or men) remained a main challenge when it came to reaching groups that were most in need. Turkey is expected to host more refugees if the situation continues to deteriorate at its current pace.

The current government situation, terrorist attacks, insecure environment for implementing the program, language barriers, employment, having qualified service providers, tension between refugees and host communities, fund raising and run the program activities according to donors' fiscal years.

With the recent security situation, almost all UN agencies either have to drop out activities or slow down for a temporary period.

### EGYPT

Refugees are scattered over large urban areas in Egypt, making it challenging for most aid agencies to extend support to them. Moreover, since the population is still on the move, the allocation and provision of services continues to be difficult.

Birth registration of Syrian newborns in the absence of the father or marriage certificate remains an issue that requires advocacy, although several legal and human rights organizations are currently providing aid for registration of these cases.

Although the Government of Egypt has allowed access to medical and educational public services for Syrians, the issue of improving accessibility and quality of services remains a challenge and necessitates continual support and capacity-building of sectors in areas marked by a high concentration of Syrians.

The living conditions of refugees are alarming; they often live in crowded quarters with multiple family households. Lack of privacy contributes to tensions and increased domestic violence.

## FUNDING

The MBC Group, a media company, approved a contribution of \$119,626 towards replication and expansion of the women's livelihood project in Lebanon.



## DONORS & PARTNERS

### UNFPA IS GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING DONORS IN THE SYRIA CRISIS:

Australia, Canada, Denmark, European Commission, Germany, Italy, Kuwait, Netherlands, Norway, OCHA/CERF, United States, United Kingdom, UNDP.

Private sector: MBC

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

IN SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC: Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MOSA), Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE), Syrian Family Planning Association (SFPA), Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) and International Medical Corps (IMC).

IN LEBANON: Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Social Affairs, Lebanese Family Planning Association, Palestinian Red Crescent Society, Humedica, Makhzoumi Foundation, Amel Association, International Medical Corps and Caritas Lebanon, KAFA ("Enough Violence and Exploitation"), Akkarouna, INTERSOS, SHEILD, LOST, Heartland Alliance, Makassed Primary Health Care Centers, Mazloum Hospital and International Organization for Migration (IOM).

IN JORDAN: Ministry of Health (MOH), Institute for Family Health (IFH), International Medical Corps (IMC), Jordanian Health Aid Society (JHAS), Family Protection Department (FPD), Un Ponte Per (UPP), Jordanian Women's Union (JWU), Youth Peer Education Network (YPE), NCFA (National Council for Family Affairs).

IN IRAQ: Ministry of Culture, Sport and Youth (MCSP), Ministry of Labor & Social Affairs (MLSA), AL Massela, START NGO and Harikar.

IN EGYPT: Ministry of Health (MOH), Resala and FARD Foundation.

IN TURKEY: The Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) of the Prime Ministry of Turkey, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), and Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Family and Social Policies (MoFSP), Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS), universities including Harran in Sanliurfa and Hacettepe University in Ankara, NGOs including the International Middle East Peace Research Center (IMPR), Syrian Social Gathering.



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### RELEVANT RESOURCES

[www.unfpa.org](http://www.unfpa.org)  
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[www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org)  
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