

planning services, ante- and post-natal care, and health education, serving the population in the camp as well as the host communities. On average, the camp doctor treats 35 women per day, and the medical assistants see up to 50 patients per day. UNFPA provides all necessary medical equipment, as well as delivery and post-rape kits, to ensure adequate services to these women and their newborn babies. The rate of maternal mortality among IDPs at the camp has dropped considerably since these interventions started.

A short walk from the clinic stands UNFPA’s women’s centre, which is helping displaced women to develop their technical skills to generate much-needed income. Many of the women have been trained in making pottery and are selling it to help support their families. The centre offers literacy classes and gender-based violence awareness in addition to training and skills development.

At the camp, eight religious leaders—seven men and a woman—known as the Sheikhs and the Sheikha, have been working closely with CARE and UNFPA to raise awareness on health issues and services available to the IDPs at the clinic and women’s centre. They praised the centre’s achievements and expressed their desire to receive additional training. Sheikh Ibrahim, one of the leaders, said, “We believe that if we receive more training in HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections, family planning, and gender-based violence, this will assist us in increasing the awareness among our fellow men and women in the camp, and will lower everyone’s risk and make the medical team’s work easier.”

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Read the full press releases: <http://www.unfpa.org/news/news.cfm?ID=652> and <http://www.unfpa.org/news/news.cfm?ID=653>

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## COLOMBIA



An innovative, arts-based project in Colombia is helping displaced adolescents to protect their health.

### **Protecting the health of displaced youth through the arts**

In Colombia, where at least 2 million people have been displaced by the 30-year internal conflict, UNFPA, with Belgian government assistance, is supporting one of the most vulnerable groups: adolescents and youth. The objective of the program is to guarantee that reproductive healthcare is an integrated component of humanitarian support and that the needs of adolescents, in particular, are prioritized.

In areas along the Caribbean coast, sexual violence is rampant and impunity is the norm. Displaced girls there are three times more likely than their peers to become pregnant before age 15.<sup>1</sup> UNFPA and its partners have adopted an innovative approach to reaching these young people: projects that draw on artistic expression by adolescents as a release and remedy for the violence in their lives. The programme uses drama, role-playing, music and dance to encourage adolescents to recount the trauma they have experienced. Health providers visit twice a week to talk about reproductive health and prevention and offer services.

Participants in the programme have acquired the tools to challenge harmful aspects of gender relations, resist peer pressure and address sexual violence. They have received information and services to prevent disease and ensure maternal safety. The project has raised the self-esteem of displaced adolescents and given them a sense of control over their lives.

The project has been featured on CNN World Report (link below).

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Watch a short video about the project: <http://www.unfpa.org/video/2004.htm>

View project details (Spanish only): <http://colombia.unfpa.org/proyectos/belgianproj.htm>

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## NIGER



UNFPA is providing emergency assistance to pregnant and lactating women affected by famine in Niger.

### **Fighting maternal and infant mortality in Niger**