WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THE SYRIA CRISIS: UNFPA RESPONSE

FACTS AND FIGURES
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 its 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.
For the United Nations, Syria is the biggest humanitarian crisis today, with repercussions on the whole region, and more specifically on its neighbouring countries. As the crisis enters its fifth year, women, men, girls and boys in and from Syria face death, violence and displacement, and humanitarian organizations struggle to respond to the immense challenge of assisting and protecting peoples’ lives and dignity.

Among the affected population in Syria and refugees in the region, four million women and girls of reproductive age need special attention. This includes nearly half a million pregnant women in Syria alone in addition to the estimated 70,000 currently pregnant refugee women from Syria.

Conflicts often put women at increased risk of violence and vulnerability. Social, cultural and economic disempowerment, in addition to poverty, create contexts in which women are more susceptible to abuse and sexual exploitation. Syrian women and youth have shown great resilience in the face of loss and destitution, and humanitarian organizations have regularly adapted their response to the evolving nature of the crisis and needs.

UNFPA works closely with affected populations, community-based organizations, local and international NGOs, governments and United Nations agencies in Syria and countries where refugees from Syria have arrived, namely Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Turkey and Egypt. Along with its partners, UNFPA supports emergency obstetric care and psychosocial support, it engages in programs that seek to mitigate and prevent the occurrence of gender-based violence, and supports survivors of this violence overcome their trauma. The creation of “safe spaces” for women and girls has greatly contributed to the protection and empowerment of women and girls affected by the Syria crisis. UNFPA also distributes specialized reproductive health kits and UNFPA’s flagship dignity kits (containing various sanitary items), and deploys medical and specialized personnel to assist affected communities. It deploys trained personnel to support and encourage the participation of affected youth in society through the facilitation of recreational and educational programs, rehabilitation and psychosocial interventions, and life skills education.

In all settings, but particularly in emergencies, women and girls have the right to access affordable reproductive healthcare including ante and postnatal care, safe deliveries and family planning; they must be protected from all forms of gender-based violence, and must receive professional support to survive the physical and psychological effects of violence. Young people need to be engaged to participate fully and contribute towards their society. UNFPA and partners are scaling up efforts to empower and improve the lives of Syrian women and youth affected by the crisis in Syria and in host countries, including by advocating for human rights and gender equality, to better cope with and recover from the crisis.

In seeking funds to respond to these needs, UNFPA works on achieving its mandate to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person’s potential is fulfilled.
A Syrian refugee woman gave birth to healthy twins. She has received pre and post-natal services from the UNFPA reproductive health clinic in Domiz camp in Iraq.

**SITUATION OVERVIEW**

The humanitarian crisis in and around Syria remains overwhelming. It has affected all 14 governorates, placed 12.2 million people in need of humanitarian aid, internally displaced 7.6 million people and caused 3.9 million Syrians to flee to neighboring countries. The crisis also threatens social cohesion and stability in the affected host communities, and results in lack of adequate access of displaced and vulnerable people to quality services.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF UNFPA RESPONSE IN SYRIA (2013-2015)**

- Enabling 2.2 million people nationwide to receive reproductive health services including family planning, safe delivery and emergency obstetric care, through (a) the deployment of 207 reproductive health professionals in 27 static clinics, 13 medical points, and 28 mobile clinics, and (b) the provision of reproductive health equipment and supplies countrywide
- Of the women benefitting from UNFPA services on reproductive health, 810,000 went through safe deliveries, 93,000 internally displaced women benefited from the free of charge reproductive health vouchers
- Reaching out to 1,400,000 people to raise awareness on reproductive health and gender-based violence
- Partnering with 21 public and private hospitals in six governorates in conflict zones to help scale up the reproductive health voucher programme, which provided reproductive health services, including emergency obstetric care to 18,000 internally displaced people and women in need
- Setting up a third party monitoring system through a private company, to monitor the implementation of the reproductive health voucher programme
- Training of 310 reproductive health professionals on emergency obstetric care and the minimum initial service package, and of 962 health workers and social workers on prevention of and response to gender-based violence
- Providing psychological support to 210,000 women in the framework of preventing and responding to gender-based violence
- Providing 464,000 internally displaced men and women with UNFPA’s dignity kits, which contain basic hygiene and sanitary items
- Conducting five in-depth assessments of the effects of the crisis on professionals working in the field of reproductive health, and of the quality of emergency obstetric care, psychosocial support and first aid, and the services provided by UNFPA-assisted facilities and mobile teams
- UNFPA presence and outreach in two United Nations hubs in Homs and Tartous (Aleppo planned for 2015)

**CHALLENGES**

- Limited number of international NGOs working inside Syria
- Bureaucratic obstacles including in facilitating timely transportation of assistance across the country
- Difficulty of organizing services in the fields of reproductive health and gender-based violence in areas under opposition control especially due to the fragmentation of health structures and social networks
- Procure and distribute at least 300,000 dignity kits to vulnerable women
- Support the rehabilitation of five maternal health centres jointly with UNDP
- Provide, jointly with other partners, a Hospitaliser (standard medical structure for emergency obstetric services)
- Train staff of implementing partners on reproductive health protection, facing gender-based violence and other related areas
- Hire new staff to allow the expansion of UNFPA operations in the United Nations humanitarian hubs in Jordan and Turkey, especially to support cross-line operations
- Enhance UNFPA staff safety and security to better enable them to work in high-risk environments

**UNFPA PRIORITIES, 2015**

- Continue the delivery of lifesaving reproductive health services through 28 mobile clinics, 27 static clinics and 13 medical points operated by UNFPA partners
- Expand the number of mobile clinics, static clinics and medical points according to the needs on the ground and availability of funds
- Support reproductive health partners, such as NGOs and the Ministry of Health, through the procurement of essential medicines, equipment and supplies, including UNFPA reproductive health kits
- Continue supporting seven women’s safe spaces and add three new ones
- Continue supporting five specialized psychosocial support mobile teams and add two new ones
- Provide free-of-cost reproductive health vouchers to 25,000 vulnerable women to be used to obtain medical services at designated health centers and hospitals
- Enhance UNFPA staff safety and security to better enable them to work in high-risk environments
Refugees from Syria constitute up to 20 per cent of the overall population in Lebanon and spread across more than 1,500 localities. Tensions recently increased between refugees and Lebanese communities because of the abduction and killing of Lebanese police and the confiscation of property by armed groups. Providing reproductive health commodities such as drugs, contraception, medical equipment and supplies to benefit over 130,000 people to 206 primary care centres within the network of the Ministry of Public Health as well as 90 additional centres supported by different United Nations agencies and NGOs.

Providing five reproductive health kits benefitting up to 290 rape survivors to the health facilities offering clinical management of rape.

Training of trainers targeting 11 midwives and capacity development for 150 health care providers (midwives/nurses) on family planning counseling in humanitarian settings in partnership with the Order of Midwives.

Feminizing care and strengthening local capacity in partnering with health services to support over 350 vulnerable women and girls at risk.

Organizing vocational training on beauty-related services for 57 women (18 Lebanese, 44 Syrian), followed by internship in different salons in Mount Lebanon that enabled several to start working afterwards.

Distributing 7,000 dignity kits with personal hygiene items (various hygiene items) to women and girls through UNFPA's partners.

Raising awareness of gender-based violence among refugee communities through mobile medical units and support for reproductive health service providers from different national NGOs and the Ministry of Health on reproductive health protocols, family planning, emergency obstetrics, the minimum initial services packages and clinical management of rape.

Support to 19 women's centres in urban areas where refugees can seek a range of services.

Establishment of four women's centres in Za'atari camp and two in Azraq camp, to support survivors of gender-based violence, including through the organization of awareness-raising campaigns and the training of 330 service providers.

Provision of emergency reproductive health kits and contraceptives to all reproductive health service providers, including Ministry of Health.

Launching of a new ante-natal cards initiative for pregnant Syrian refugee women to improve coordination among health care providers and improve the quality of reproductive health services.

Capacity building for more than 500 health care providers from different national NGOs and the Ministry of Health on reproductive health services.

Extensive support to the joint national campaign by United Nations agencies to combat gender-based violence, and organizing various campaigns on sexual and gender-based violence among refugee communities in city- and city- or country-scale initiatives.

Trading of 65 Syrian young refugees and 150 Jordanian youth women from partner organizations on various skills, including within the global YPFER network.

Celebration of the birth of 2,000 babies in UNFPA-supported facilities at Za'atari camp.
WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THE SYRIA CRISIS: UNFPA RESPONSE

HIGHLIGHTS OF UNFPA RESPONSE IN EGYPT (2014-2015)

- Provision of reproductive health kits for post-rape treatment and training for 7 refugee medical service providers covering 10 governorates, aiming to enhance the services provided to survivors.
- Provision of support to some 200 female-headed households in neighborhoods which witnessed incidents of sexual and gender-based violence.
- Organization of two football tournaments as a means of carrying out interactive health promotion sessions for youth, reaching over 600 Syrian youths in Greater Cairo.
- Training on patients’ rights, refugee rights, family planning, gender-based violence and referral systems for 270 health workers in Damietta and Alexandria.
- Supplies of reproductive health medical equipment and commodities to 31 primary health care units in Cairo, Giza and Damietta.
- Organization of a marathon highlighting violence against women with the participation of 600 Syrian and Egyptian youth.
- Building the capacity of 30 service providers on the clinical management of survivors of gender-based violence.
- Organization of numerous awareness sessions and campaigns on the issue of sexual and gender-based violence, including advising on available health services for refugees.
- UNFPA support for the establishment of two safe spaces for Syrian girls in Greater Cairo.
- To contribute to mainstreaming refugees into public primary health care services in districts with high concentration of refugees from Syria, training 20 physicians in Greater Cairo and 60 primary health care physicians in Alexandria, Cairo and Damietta.

CHALLENGES
- Regular movement of Syrians in the country affects UNFPA and partners’ ability to provide services.
- Alarming living conditions of refugees from Syria, including sharing overcrowded quarters among several families and lack of privacy contribute to tensions and increased domestic violence.
- Difficulty to effectively reach refugees from Syria because they are scattered across a large number of urban locations.

UNFPA RESPONSE TO THE SYRIA CRISIS

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Large numbers of people who arrived to Egypt as a result of the crisis in Syria soon faced high costs of living, inflation, scarce employment opportunities, expensive health services, pervasive sexual and gender-based violence, negative perceptions, and the deterioration of the security environment. In addition, the trafficking of refugees from and to Egypt remains a serious protection challenge.

REFUGEES FROM SYRIA

136,717

WOMEN AND GIRLS OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE

34,091

PREGNANT WOMEN

2,420

YOUTH

47,571

FEMALE HEADS OF FAMILIES

60,992

UNFPA PRIORITIES, 2015

Resilience
- Support the Ministry of Health and community services organizations in order to better reach Syrian refugee communities and provide services.
- Increase the capacity of government and non-governmental actors and services in all sectors to effectively respond to gender-based violence.
- Enhance national policies and mechanisms that address the prevention of and response to gender-based violence to bring them in line with international frameworks and standards.
- Actively raise awareness about national laws and existing services and outlets available to survivors of gender-based violence.

Egypt

UNFPA PRIORITIES, 2015

Refugees
- Ensure comprehensive access to primary health care services for refugee mothers and children from Syria.
- Enhance access to effective emergency obstetric and neonatal intensive care.
- Increase access to protection services, including psycho-social support services, to the most vulnerable refugees through community-based structures such as safe spaces for women and girls.
- Support the Ministry of Health and community services organizations in order to better reach Syrian refugee communities and provide services.
- Increase the capacity of government and non-governmental actors and services in all sectors to effectively respond to gender-based violence.
- Enhance national policies and mechanisms that address the prevention of and response to gender-based violence to bring them in line with international frameworks and standards.
- Actively raise awareness about national laws and existing services and outlets available to survivors of gender-based violence.

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN IRAQ

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The deteriorating security situation in Iraq and ensuing displacement of thousands of people has put an immense burden on the Government of Kurdistan and threatens the ability of humanitarian agencies to adequately respond to the basic needs (shelter, water, food) of internally displaced people and refugees in the Kurdistan area of Iraq. United Nations agencies including UNFPA, believe that the prevailing insecurity puts women and girls of reproductive age at increased risk of sexual violence and abuse.

REFUGEES FROM SYRIA

246,298

WOMEN AND GIRLS OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE

56,279

PREGNANT WOMEN

4,359

YOUTH

65,596

FEMALE HEADS OF FAMILIES

9,317

UNFPA PRIORITIES, 2015

- Increase availability of basic and comprehensive emergency obstetric care services in 85 health facilities in the Kurdistan region.
- Ensure availability of maternal and other reproductive health services at 200 primary health care facilities in the Kurdistan region.
- Increase awareness and demand for reproductive health services through information, communication and educational campaigns among the affected population.
- Increase access of women and girls affected by the humanitarian crisis to psychological support.
- Establish community-based services to provide psychosocial counseling for survivors of gender-based violence and to address the needs of affected women.
- Strengthen mechanisms to protect women and girls from violence, exploitation, discrimination and other forms of human rights violations.

Iraq

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN IRAQ

- Since January 2014, some 1.8 million people, including 450,000 women and girls of reproductive age and 72,000 pregnant women have become internally displaced and dispersed across 1,500 locations in Iraq. Approximately 61 per cent (or 860,000) of the internally displaced persons in the country are in the Kurdistan region.
- In Kurdistan, Dohuk hosts the largest population of internally displaced persons with a total of 543,384 and has received the majority of refugees from Syria, thus putting pressure on health facilities in the governorate.

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Jaime Nadal Roig, Representative of UNFPA Egypt country office | nadal@unfpa.org | www.unfpa.org
SITUATION OVERVIEW

The armed conflict in Syria and tensions between sectarian groups inside Iraq have brought thousands of Syrians and Iraqi Yazidis to Turkey through the south-east borders, thus raising tensions between host communities and the refugees. Turkish citizens held demonstrations against the refugees from Syria in Gaziantep and Sanliurfa, affecting the delivery of humanitarian services in the border regions.

HIGHLIGHTS OF UNFPA RESPONSE IN TURKEY (2013-2015)

- Training 202 staff members from UNFPA’s partners, including 47 Syrians on sexual and reproductive health and responding to gender-based violence
- Cooperating with national and international NGOs providing psycho-social programs to refugees from Syria in Sanliurfa, Mersin, and Gaziantep provinces
- Organization of 12 training courses on gender-based violence with special focus on trauma-informed approaches and secondary trauma prevention
- Distribution of hygiene kits to Syrian and Iraqi refugees in south-east Turkey
- Distribution of $35,000 brochures on “the protection of family in Turkey” in Arabic and $27,500 in Turkish to all refugees from Syria inside the camps and to host communities.
- Establishment of reproductive health counseling units for refugees from Syria

CHALLENGES

- Dramatic displacement of populations and ensuing humanitarian needs as a result of escalating regional conflict with ISIS attacks and additional fighting in Iraq and northern Syria (Kobane)
- Cross-border operations increase the need for efficient cooperation with humanitarian partners on issues related to reproductive health and gender-based violence
- Increased tensions, including protests and violence in communities hosting refugees

UNFPA PRIORITIES, 2015

- Refugees
  - Continue to provide dignity kits in and outside refugee camps
  - Expand counseling for reproductive health and gender-based violence in and outside refugee camps
  - Ensure availability of reproductive health services, including essential obstetric care to all refugees from Syria
  - Support the provision of services to survivors of gender-based violence
  - Improve identification of, reporting on and referral of survivors of gender-based violence to adequate services
  - Expand women-friendly spaces and counseling services in and out of camps
  - Carry out awareness-raising campaigns about gender-based violence

- Resilience
  - Strengthen the capacity of service providers in the field of reproductive health within the primary health care system
  - Work with concerned ministries on strengthening their own programs on prevention and protection against gender-based violence, in particular to help refugees from Syria
  - Continuously improve the quality of services responding to gender-based violence through efficient monitoring and evaluation mechanisms

“Trust is the foundation of our success,” says Iman, a social worker working with vulnerable Syrian refugee women at the women’s centre in Deir Alla, Jordan. “To see the people who come to the centre happy is our reward. I do everything I can to provide the best possible support to Syrian women. They went through a hard time and are still struggling. My work can be exhausting at times because these women have been through a lot of sorrow. I work hard to offer protection and give them strength for the future. But a smile is my reward.”

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### UNFPA Financial Requirements for 2015

#### Summary of UNFPA Financial Requirements for SYRIA 2015 under Whole of Syria Strategic Response Plan (3RP)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
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<th>Grand Total $</th>
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<td>Reproductive health vouchers</td>
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<td>Comprehensive response</td>
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<td>Coordination</td>
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<td>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dignity kits</td>
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<td>Warehousing / logistics</td>
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#### Summary of UNFPA Financial Requirements for 2015 under the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP)

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<td>Dignity Kits</td>
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DONORS AND PARTNERS

UNFPA IS GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING DONORS IN THE SYRIA CRISIS:
Australia, Canada, European Commission, Germany, Italy, Kuwait, Netherlands, Norway, OCHA/CERF, Qatar, United States, United Kingdom, UNDP.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

UNFPA IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS IN THE 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).


UNFPA IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS IN JORDAN: Ministry of Health (MOH), Institute for Family Health (IFH), International Medical Corps (IMC), International Rescue Committee (IRC), 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).

UNFPA IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS IN IRAQ: Ministry of Culture, Sport and Youth (MCSP), Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MLSA) and local NGOs.

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

UNFPA IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS IN TURKEY: The Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) of the Prime Ministry of Turkey, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Family and Social Policies (MoFSP), Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS), universities including Harran in Sanliurfa, NGOs including the International Middle East Peace Research Center (IMPR), Syrian Social Gathering, Syrian and American Medical Society (SAMS), International Medical Corps (IMC), Support to Life (STL) and Relief International.