



END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN! #orangetheworld

Syrian women refugees are sometimes exposed to sexual harassment simply because of their status as refugees, which is often associated with economic vulnerability. Indeed, many of the Syrian women refugees mentioned that this stigmatisation and harassment are making their husbands and families overly protective, limiting their mobility. In some cases, ensuing family tensions appear to have led to domestic violence.

When Ameera, 26 years old, first came to the UNFPA-supported centre in Bakaa, Lebanon, she always worried about people knowing she was a widow. She asked her neighbours to warn her if they saw anyone hanging around. "Men often knock on our door and pretend they work with aid agencies," she says. She does not answer. Sometimes she calls out, 'Brother, please check who's at the door!' to trick visitors when she was alone. She lived in perpetual fear of harassment.

"It is difficult to be both the mother and the father at once," she explained, smiling modestly; her husband died almost two years ago in Syria. Ameera describes how loving and caring her relationship with her husband was. "My husband and I had been married for thirteen years and we were very much in love. But he's been taken away from me." Ameera and her three children now share a small flat in an unfinished building with her brother and his in-laws. Their house is small, cold, damp and overflowing with people. "There is no privacy at home."

After the loss of her husband and home, Ameera became depressed and increasingly withdrawn. At the women's centre, she received counselling to help her cope with her bereavement. Here, Ameera regained her confidence and attended therapy and drama therapy sessions. She learned to express herself and talk about her feelings of loss and anxiety. She says of herself that she feels like a new person. "Those close to me, my son and my friends, cannot believe how much I've changed. I used to wear black everyday, now I like to wear colours again. And I smile more."

"Before I came to the centre, I didn't know about the different forms of violence against women. I didn't know it could happen within a family, too. My husband and I were happy, though we got married when I was very young. But after he died I was unhappy, and my family was very controlling. Now, I stand up for myself. And I feel strong enough to talk about my experience. Here, I met my best friend. I learn new skills - I even take English classes - that will help me find work. It's my dream to have my own place just for my children and me."

Credit: UNFPA | David Brunetti. 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC: UNFPA delivers 298,272 services to Syrians affected by the conflict; these include safe delivery services for 5,674 women, reproductive health and gender-based violence related awareness services for 16,000 people, outreach services for 20,000 beneficiaries, and provision of 9,000 contraceptive and family planning counselings. UNFPA also distributes 27,824 packs of sanitary napkins, 8,380 female dignity kits, 4,122 male dignity kits, and carries out 6,420 gender-based violence awareness raising sessions.

LEBANON: UNFPA organizes reproductive health awareness sessions targeting 4,625 women, provides gender-based violence related services to 255 survivors, and distributes 4,410 dignity kits. Lebanon becomes the first country to pilot a capacity-building plan on Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) through a pool of trainers; this places Lebanon and UNFPA in the forefront of the global GBVIMS rollout.

JORDAN: UNFPA provides 13,306 reproductive health services, and reaches out to 1,364 gender-based violence survivors with relevant services and 1,300 Syrian refugees with gender-based violence related messages. Moreover, 7,317 women participate in recreational activities. UNFPA also establishes a new library book lending programme in Zaatari camp for youth.

IRAQ: UNFPA provides reproductive health services to 51,057 women; of these, 19,630 opted for Caesarian section. As many as 137,230 women receive gender-based violence related services and around 800 youth participate in various UNFPA-supported activities.

TURKEY: UNFPA provides 4,200 reproductive health services and 571 gender-based violence services. UNFPA also organizes two trainings on the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) in Ankara for 19 public health assistants and 24 members of the Turkish Medical Association, and carries out an emergency obstetric care training in Adana for 39 Turkish midwives and nurses in six provinces.

EGYPT: UNFPA supports the implementation of three new safe spaces for women and girls in Cairo, Giza, and Alexandria governorates. UNFPA also conducts outreach and health awareness activities, as well as art therapy and psychosocial support sessions in Maadi and Damietta safe spaces.

CROSS BORDER OPERATIONS: UNFPA dispatches 157 reproductive health kits to southern Syria, with enough supplies to serve 1.2 million beneficiaries for three months. UNFPA also establishes seven women and girls safe spaces in northern and southern Syria, and starts provision of comprehensive emergency obstetric care in seven centres in southern Syria. Moreover, the Fund distributes 5,500 dignity kits to southern Syria for pregnant women and women in need.

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 RESPONSE

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE INCLUDING FAMILY PLANNING

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES: A total of 298,272 reproductive services were delivered to 99,424 people affected by the conflict; these included safe delivery services for 5,674 women, of whom 165 opted for Caesarean section. Moreover, 490 women received reproductive health services through UNFPA vouchers in Damascus, Rural Damascus, and Aleppo.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SUPPLIES: In cooperation with the Syrian Family Planning Association (SFPA), contraceptives were delivered to SFPA clinics and mobile teams operating in eight governorates to cover the needs of around 9,000 people.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AWARENESS SESSIONS: UNFPA assisted the mobile teams of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) and SFPA for the delivery of 15,700 awareness raising services to violence-affected families in eight governorates. UNFPA, through the mobile teams of its partners, especially SFPA, supported the delivery of 20,000 reproductive health and gender-based violence services for crisis-affected families in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs, Aleppo, Lattakia, Tartous, and Hama.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH TRAINING: A total of 75 health professionals from all Syrian governorates were trained on reproductive health issues including family planning. The intervention will enable the provision of quality reproductive health services to around 18,000 people per month.

LEBANON

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES: UNFPA, through its partner Al-Mithaq, provided reproductive health services to 204 women.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SUPPLIES: UNFPA, through Al-Mithaq, provided reproductive health and supplementary supplies ranging from IUD insertion kits and STI medication to folic acid; these supplies are expected to benefit an estimated 350 women in the Bekaa region.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AWARENESS SESSIONS: UNFPA, in collaboration with its partners, organized awareness sessions and counseling on infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices targeting 4,625 women.

UNFPA, through the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), conducted awareness sessions in Bekaa/Baalbek-Hermel, Akkar, and Tripoli. As many as 1,079 Syrian, Lebanese, Palestinian, and Egyptian women received one-on-one counseling on IYCF and 1,391 Syrian, Palestinian, Lebanese, and Egyptian women attended an awareness session on IYCF.

UNFPA, through IMC, conducted 24 awareness sessions on safe motherhood for 175 women. These sessions covered topics such as antenatal and postnatal care, breastfeeding, newborn care, and vaccination promotion. The sessions were held in west and central Bekaa.

A total of 1,800 women attended 90 awareness sessions on family planning in Minnieh, Kwashera, and Ayrounieh-Akkar and Mashta Hammoud in Wadi Khaled; these sessions were organized by UNFPA through LFPAD.

QUICK FIGURES

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC:	
SYRIANS AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS	12.2 MILLION
WOMEN AND GIRLS OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE	4 MILLION
SYRIAN PREGNANT WOMEN	360,000
YOUTH	2.5 MILLION
LEBANON:	
SYRIANS AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS	1,078,338
SYRIAN WOMEN AND GIRLS OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE	269,585
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	245,585
SYRIAN WOMEN AND GIRLS OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE	63,646
SYRIAN PREGNANT WOMEN	4,419
SYRIAN YOUTH	65,144
TURKEY:	
SYRIANS AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS	2,154,826
SYRIAN WOMEN AND GIRLS OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE	538,707
SYRIAN PREGNANT WOMEN	34,320
SYRIAN YOUTH	323,224
EGYPT:	
SYRIANS AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS	128,019
SYRIAN WOMEN AND GIRLS OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE	34,142
SYRIAN PREGNANT WOMEN	2,343
SYRIAN YOUTH	30,689

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



Nahla desperately wants to go back home but, feels that she is not safe in Syria.

"There have been waves of people escaping to the rural areas around Raqqa. Everybody just wants to get away from ISIL fighters and the control they have over the city and the people," says Nahla a 20 year old. But this wave of flight exacerbates an appalling health situation in the city, where several of the hospitals are out of service. There is a lack of healthcare workers and of materials. The hospitals are unable to cope. Nahla says she hadn't been able to see a healthcare provider during her pregnancy while still in Raqqa. "I didn't know whether my baby was okay or not, thus my husband decided to go to Jordan to deliver the baby in safety" When they arrived in Jordan, Nahla was seven months pregnant but, sadly, lost the child due to complications.

It was a difficult time for Nahla. "I felt alone. And I isolated myself. I didn't want to leave the house. I just wanted to go back home." Having lost her child, her home, the support of family and friends and having experienced difficult events in Syria, Nahla suffered from postnatal depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress. Nahla says she was emotionally unstable — laughing one minute and moody the next. "I knew I wasn't myself and I couldn't reach out to my family. And I was worried how my behaviour was affecting my daughter, too." Leading up to her due day, Nahla regularly visited the UNFPA supported women's centre in Sweileh, Jordan for prenatal care. When she lost her child, social workers were worried about her well-being and visited Nahla at home to see how she was doing. The visit demonstrated that Nahla was managing all right despite her depression and that she had the support of her husband and neighbours. And her daughter was also well looked after. The social worker talked to her about the services available at the women's centre and recommended Nahla started seeing a counsellor.

"I'm glad the social worker came to see me at home. I was hesitant at first but I discussed it with my husband. He said that talking to someone couldn't do any harm." After the home visit, Nahla started attending workshops and individual counselling sessions at the women's centre to help her cope with the loss of her child. The counselling helped her realise that she was part of a community of women who can support each other. "It was then that I said to myself, 'I will not let this situation get the better of me. I will beat it. I will be stronger.'"

Credit: UNFPA | David Brunetti, 2015

Al-Mithaq conducted eight awareness raising sessions (on topics such as use of contraceptives, sexually transmitted diseases, early marriage, medical care during pregnancy, and postnatal care) targeting 180 Lebanese and Syrian women in Baalbek.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH TRAINING: UNFPA, in partnership with the Lebanese Society of Gynecologists and Obstetricians (LSOG), conducted half-day workshops on reproductive health service delivery guidelines in Beirut, Tripoli, Mount Lebanon, Bekaa, and Baalbek. A total of 246 participants from diverse backgrounds attended; they included medical staff (25), paramedical staff (98), Social Development Centres' staff (100), and Ministry of Health staff (23). The participants were mostly females (103), with males numbering 20.

UNFPA's international partner ABAAD conducted two-day sensitization workshops in Bekaa and the north. A total of 53 health care providers (40 females, 13 males) from various primary health care centres supported by different organizations participated in these workshops; 95 percent of the participants were Lebanese who serve both Syrian and Lebanese clients.

JORDAN

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES: During the reporting period, UNFPA provided 13,306 reproductive health services. In Zaatari camp, skilled personnel attended 164 deliveries, while 23 cases of miscarriage were reported and provided with post-abortion care and family planning counseling. As many as 1,446 women benefited from family planning services; of these, 69 percent of women were living in camps (Zaatari, Azraq, Cyber City, and King Abdullah Park).

UNFPA provided ante-natal care services to 3,106 beneficiaries and postnatal services to 428 women. Additionally, 1,870 women received management for genito-urinary tract infections (UTIs) and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), As many as 1,183 women



UNFPA dignity kits distributed to women who attended an awareness session on infant and young child feeding and family planning in an informal tented settlement in Sahel el Karak, Bekaa, in Lebanon.

Credit: IOCC, 2015

were screened for anemia, 1,589 women accessed gynaecological services, 927 women availed breast cancer screening services, and 253 women received tetanus toxoid vaccination services in camps. Of the total, 358 women were referred for emergency deliveries or other reproductive health related complications.

Moreover, 233 children under 5 years of age were examined and vaccinated in UNFPA/Jordan Health Aid Society (JHAS) supported clinics in Zaatari camp. Breast-feeding consultations were arranged for 195 mothers.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AWARENESS SESSION: UNFPA organized 59 reproductive health awareness sessions and one-to-one counseling sessions for 3,200 beneficiaries. A total of 705 individuals were reached through six awareness sessions conducted by primary health care workers, while 1,276 families were reached by community health volunteers in Azraq camp. In host communities, UNFPA, with the assistance of its partners, benefited 1,864 individuals by holding reproductive health awareness sessions on personal hygiene, safe behaviour, family planning, psychological changes in adulthood, and other topics related to reproductive health.

IRAQ

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES: UNFPA supported 51,057 deliveries during the reporting period; of these, 19,630 women opted for Caesarean section.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AWARENESS ACTIVITIES: UNFPA supported the women's centre at Domiz camp in Dohuk in organizing training sessions on danger signs during pregnancy for 115 women and girls. UNFPA also supported centres in Arbat refugee camp in Sulaymaniyah in organizing 17 awareness sessions on the use of contraception; these sessions targeted 158 women and girls.

TURKEY

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES: A total of 2,667 Syrian and Turkish beneficiaries availed reproductive health and family planning services provided by counseling units.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AWARENESS SESSION: UNFPA organized awareness sessions on reproductive health for 1,545 Syrian and Turkish women in Gaziantep and Sanliurfa, Ankara, Mardin, and Urfa.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH TRAINING: A total of 82 health providers attended trainings organized by UNFPA. They included 19 public health assistants from Hacettepe University, who participated in a training on MISP in Ankara, 24 members of the Turkish Medical Association, who also participated in a training on MISP in Ankara, and 39 midwives and nurses, who attended an emergency obstetric care training in Adana.

EGYPT

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AWARENESS ACTIVITIES: In Damietta, nine sessions on sexual and reproductive health, first aid, and life skills training were organized for 196 women, and another nine sessions for 217 girls.

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT



Restoring lives, with courage and hope

Kidnapped and sexually abused for nine months, 26-year-old "Courage" is now leading training sessions at a UNFPA women support centre (WSC) in northern Iraq. During the difficult time she spent in captivity, Courage was sold and purchased by different people, like a slave. She is a real survivor.

Luckily, Courage managed to escape and returned back to northern Iraq, where she found shelter at one of the internally displaced camps. She was severely hurt, physically, emotionally, and mentally. She spent her first days in the camp depressed and helpless, before she learned about the UNFPA-supported WSC through outreach mobilizers.

The social workers at the WSC, which is fully funded by UNFPA, immediately offered counseling and healing sessions to Courage. Her condition improved noticeably and eventually she was enrolled in livelihoods training to upgrade her skills in sewing. Courage not only completed the courses successfully, but also was promoted to become a trainer! She is now leading classes for other women and girls, including survivors.

The support she received at the WSC enabled Courage to regain her emotional stability; it also restored her dignity within the community so that she can now proudly assist other women and girls to be strong.

UNFPA regularly funds and support WSCs in camp and non-camp areas in northern Iraq, which is home to a large internally displaced population. Many women and girls have benefited from the professional services provided at these WSCs, and have reclaimed their lives, like Courage.

By Husam Eldin Suliman, UNFPA Iraq

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SERVICES: During the reporting period, UNFPA-assisted SARC and SPPA clinics and mobile teams provided medical examination and psychosocial support to 2,758 women residing in the affected governorates.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AWARENESS SESSIONS: A total of 6,420 gender-based violence awareness services were provided in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs, Lattakia, Tartous, and Dar'a.

GENDER -BASED VIOLENCE TRAINING: A total of 19 service providers participated in a training on clinical management of rape (CMR) in Dar'a, Homs, Hama, Tartous, and Lattakia while 30 professionals from Syria and Lebanon participated in a training-of-trainers on gender-based violence programming and coordination in humanitarian settings.

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE SUPPLIES: A total of 27,824 packs of sanitary napkins, 8,380 female dignity kits, and 4,122 male dignity kits were delivered to affected people in Damascus, Rural Damascus, and Homs.

LEBANON

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SERVICES: UNFPA, through KAFA, provided the following services to women victims of gender-based violence at its Listening and Counseling Centre (LCC) in Beirut:

Social counseling: Forty-five new women victims of violence and exploitation were provided with listening services, and 60 women were followed up through counseling sessions.

Legal consultations and court representations: Fifty-five legal consultations were provided to 48 women, with the majority focusing on provision of needed information to women about their legal rights; three court representations also took place.

Psychosocial counseling: A total of 95 psychological sessions were organized for 47 women victims of violence. The psychological follow-up continued with the help of four psychotherapists contracted by KAFA. Regular meetings were convened for monitoring of each case.

Four women were referred to the forensic doctor for documentation of incidents of violence, especially cases involving legal procedures; three women were referred to various shelters; and two cases were followed-up at the medical, social, and legal levels. Two women benefiting from services were victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation.

Al-Mithaq also provided services to women victims of gender-based violence at its LCC in Bekas. A lawyer was recruited to offer both awareness sessions and legal advice for women at risk of or victims of gender-based violence; five such consultations were organized for women in Baalbek (4) and Hermel (1).

GENDER -BASED VIOLENCE AWARENESS SESSIONS: UNFPA, through INTERSOS, implemented six awareness sessions on early marriage in Aley Centre for 104 women and girls, three awareness sessions on domestic violence in Badaro Centre for 50 women and girls, and four awareness sessions on early marriage in Chouf Centre, reaching out to a total of 104 women and girls. Moreover, six awareness sessions on various topics related to gender-based violence took place in Chouf Centre, with 18 men participating in each session. In Bourj Hammoud Centre, an awareness session on early marriage was organized in the hall of a church, benefiting 15 women. Another 18 women acquired macramé techniques to be able to design trendy laptop cases that will be displayed in an exhibition by Badger Association in early 2016.



"Shells were raining on us everyday," says Rafeef, 37 years old from Ghouta. "So we fled, but my oldest son is still in Syria. He's stuck in Damascus, he can't leave and I can't even call him."

In Lebanon, she is faced with many challenges. Rats, heat, rain, mud, dust, hunger. It's what Rafeef's new life looks like. Her family lives in a tiny room in a slum that bakes in the heat and floods in the rain. The cost of rent is so high in some cities; it's not unusual to find more than 20 people sharing a two-bedroom apartment in the Bekaa valley.

"We feel sad that we have to live like this," says Rafeef, who shares a bare, small flat with fourteen relatives. "We don't have enough space or mattresses to sleep at night. We're sleeping in chairs, upright."

The overcrowding causes a rise in tensions within the family and may lead to an increase in domestic violence, particularly targeting women and girls. This kind of violence may be intensified by the fact that households are socially isolated, suffering from tremendous financial stress and lack of privacy due to overcrowding.

"We left our life behind in Syria. Whatever it was, it was better than here. I wish the war in Syria would stop so that we can go back. Before the conflict we had a good life."

"If parents were able to create more of a life for themselves - including better opportunities for employment and more permanent housing - it would ease the tensions within the home." Rafeef said.

Credit: UNFPA | David Brunetti. 2015

Three awareness raising sessions were conducted by KAFA, targeting 20 women, the majority being Lebanese. The topics include mechanisms of defense, risks of Internet, and STIs.

UNFPA's international partner, the Lebanese Democratic Women's Gathering (RDFL), produced the first draft of a documentary featuring testimonials and messages from Syrian and Lebanese women and girls at risk of gender-based violence, as well as survivors who have overcome the cycle of violence. The documentary was part of a project titled 'Involving communities and local leadership in preventing violence against women. RDLF also drafted a media plan envisaging wide coverage of the 16 Days of Activism campaign through various media outlets, with a particular focus on social media.

Working with Al-Mithaq, a newly recruited lawyer conducted one awareness lecture in Mithaq centre, two sessions in Britel and Youneen, and another in Baalbek. Each session was attended by 30 women.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE OUTREACH: CONCERN enrolled 63 women in the Basmeh and Zeitooneh livelihood programme, following specific criteria including motivation, family composition, and degree of vulnerability. After a training phase of 15-20 days (depending on individual performance), during which they learned how to produce embroidery pieces, selected participants started producing specific pieces that will be sent to the sewing factory in Chatila to eventually reach the Basmeh and Zeitooneh market channels.

Nine group awareness sessions were conducted for 20 women. Each was delivered by CONCERN, B&Z, and the Lebanese Council to Resist Violence against Women (LECORVAW) on various topics such as relation to self, relation to others, adapting to a new environment, and positive parental skills.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE TRAINING: UNFPA conducted training sessions on core concepts of sexual gender-based violence for six frontline staff members from Basmeh and Zeitooneh, and organized a five-day field coaching session for each of the five UNFPA gender/gender-based violence partners (IRC, INTERSOS, CONCERN, KAFA, Al-Mithaq). These sessions were conducted as a follow-up of the two-day training on financial education delivered by Al Majmoua in end October.

UNFPA, through KAFA, implemented two sessions for midwives on clinical management of rape, gender-based violence communication and case management. The first one included 27 midwives from Beirut and Mount Lebanon, and the second had 16 midwives from Bekaa. A training workshop on 'CMR in Humanitarian Emergency Settings' for medical staff took place at the HNDP Centre in Kobbayat. A total of 21 participants (14 females, 7 males) attended the workshop.

Two training sessions on 'Law 293 on Family Violence' were conducted for humanitarian staff. The first one was held in Saida and was attended by 17 women representing INTERSOS, Solidarity, UNWRA, TDH, MAP Saida Midwives, DRC, and IMC. The second was held in Sin El Fil/Mount Lebanon and was attended by 24 participants (20 females, 4 males) representing INTERSOS, CLMC, Makhzoumi Foundation, MSF-Belgium, NWRA, Oxfam, WarChild Holland, Mercy Corps, Caritas, IMC, Heart Alliance, and CARE International.

UNFPA's partner, the Lebanese American University/Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World (LAU IWSAW), conducted a training as part of the basic living skills program (BLSP). The training was attended by 4,000 women. Each trainee was monitored by a trainer for one session. The trainers observed the trainees while they implemented BLSP in their respective communities.



Social workers attended a UNFPA-supported training session by KAFA on Law 293 concerning family violence in Saida, Lebanon
Credit: UNFPA, 2015

"The training offered us new and innovative educational methods that made approaching the beneficiaries much easier," said one of the BLSP trainers.

"Real change can only happen when our husbands, fathers, and brothers attend these sessions; once they join, they will understand us," agreed several Syrian and Lebanese women attending the BLSP sessions.

Al-Mithaq reported on the following trainings:

A collaboration with 'Sarah's Bag,' a pioneer in promoting artisanal work with underprivileged women. The project, which is aimed at reviving the art of Tareq in Baalbek, started with 15 women beneficiaries.

Twelve sessions of an English language course were conducted, with 15 women attending each session. A total of 180 women attended the course during the reporting period.

An interagency GBVIMS training for new users took place as part of a larger GBVIMS rollout plan in Lebanon. The training was led and supported by the National GBVIMS Coordinator and conducted by a pool of certified Lebanese trainers from various organizations across the country. The involvement of a countrywide pool of trainers is an innovative methodology that proved highly efficient and was widely appreciated by global actors. Lebanon is the first country to have piloted a plan of GBVIMS capacity-building through a pool of trainers; this places Lebanon and UNFPA in the forefront of the global GBVIMS rollout.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SUPPLIES: UNFPA, through CONCERN and IOCC, distributed 4,410 dignity kits to women and girls from Abou Samra, Tabbeneh, Jabal Mohsen, Qobbah in Bekaa and the north.

JORDAN

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SERVICES: During the reporting period, 310 survivors of gender-based violence benefited from case management services, 1,084 benefited from psychosocial counseling, 225 were referred for medical care, 95 were referred to other service

providers, and 152 survivors were referred to gender-based violence legal counseling services.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AWARENESS SESSION: A total of 1,380 women, girls, men, and boys were sensitized on gender-based violence related issues; 41 percent of these sessions were delivered in the hosting community and 59 percent in camps. Eighteen percent of the participants were women aged between 18-24 years, while 59 percent were women aged above 24 years.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE OUTREACH: A total of 7,317 beneficiaries were reached with gender-based violence prevention activities including self-reliance, vocational training, and life-skills; 777 women, girls, men, and boys were reached through outreach home visits.

IRAQ

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SERVICES: In Dohuk, 22 gender-based violence cases were reported at the Domiz and Gawilan women's centres. Of these, five pertained to sexual violence, nine to physical violence, and eight to emotional and psychosocial violence.

UNFPA provided a wide range of gender-based violence related services in camps. Basirma camp in Erbil provided counseling services to 21 women and made 16 referrals, as appropriate. Darashakran camp in Erbil provided psychosocial support and listening services to two women and made two referrals. Kawergosk camp in Erbil provided psychosocial support to 50 women. Qashtaba camp in Erbil provided psychosocial support to four women and made 2 referrals. Dohuk camps provided counseling, listening, psychosocial support and case management services to 22 persons, CMR-related health services to 9 persons, legal support to two persons, and follow-up support to 11 persons.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AWARENESS SESSIONS: UNFPA-supported centres in Basirma camp in Erbil organized awareness sessions on topics such as girls' rights, positive ideas for girls, ways to protect your children, participation in decision-making processes, and medical care for pregnant women for 45 women and girls. Darashakran camp in Erbil organized awareness sessions on topics such as economic violence, early marriage, respecting the family, family planning, as well as psychological sessions for 50 women and girls. Kawergosk camp in Erbil conducted awareness sessions on underage domestic violence and physical violence for 50 women and girls. Qushtapa camp in Erbil arranged awareness sessions on topics such as 'fighting is not the solution', failure to prevent girls from going to school, infidelity, the impact of divorce on children, family planning and family awareness for 55 women and girls. Dohuk arranged awareness sessions on gender-based violence prevention and response and reproductive health topics for 439 women.

GENDER-BASED OUTREACH ACTIVITIES: UNFPA-supported outreach volunteers in Erbil conducted awareness activities for 75 women and girls in Basirma camp, 200 women and girls in Darashakran camp, 50 women and girls in Kawergosk camp, and 60 women and girls in Qushtapa camp. Similarly, UNFPA-supported outreach volunteers in Dohuk arranged awareness activities on gender-based violence, reproductive health, topics of interest to youth, and available services for 2,336 women and girls.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN WOMEN CENTRES: UNFPA-supported women centres in Basirma camp in Erbil arranged English classes, as well as hairstyling and sewing sessions for 254 women and girls. Darashakran camp in Erbil organized sewing, hairstyling, and knitting sessions for 54 women and girls. Kawergosk camp in Erbil conducted English and Turkish language classes, as well as

makeup and sewing sessions for 190 women and girls. Domiz 1 and Gawilan camps in Dohuk hosted sewing and hair dressing sessions for 125 women and girls.

TURKEY

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SERVICES: According to UNFPA-supported counseling units, 571 Syrians benefited from gender-based violence services; of these, 17 were gender-based violence survivors.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AWARENESS SESSIONS: As many as 554 people benefited from gender-based violence awareness sessions in Gaziantep, Mardin, Ankara, and Sanliurfa.

GENDER-BASED OUTREACH ACTIVITIES: A total of 825 people benefited from language and vocational activities in Mardin, Urfa, and Gaziantep.



Syrian women participating in Turkish language course supported by UNFPA in Harran University, Turkey.

Credit: Harran University in Sanliurfa, 2015

"I got married at an early age. I have five children; it is difficult to have a big family in Turkey. We are thankful to Turkey but it is not our land. There was a time when I did not know where to buy contraceptive pills; but now, after visiting the women centre, I know where I can get the pills for free. The centre is helping us solve our problems; they check on us if we miss two consecutive activities without informing them. My husband is not working so we started to have problems. I found the centre as the only exit where I could take advice from doctors and relieve my stress with the help of a psychologist. I started participating in activities organized by the centre, leaving my children in the centre's nursery while I enjoyed learning something new. My relationship with my husband has improved and our smiles have returned." Syrian refugee in Turkey

"I am attending the sewing class at the centre. In Syria, we used to do sewing as a hobby; almost every house had a sewing machine. We would often have a competition to see who did a better job, but here, sewing has become a source of income rather than a hobby. IMPR provides materials and machines for us so that we can sell stitched items. At times, we also make clothes for our friends who are in need." Syrian refugee in Turkey

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE MATERIALS DEVELOPED: The following gender-based violence related materials were developed: IMPR brochure on child marriage; Harran University brochures on trauma and adolescents, RET brochure on communication within the family, and KAMER brochures on gender-based violence (1,000 brochures on gender-based violence were printed and their distribution had begun).

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SUPPLIES: UNFPA distributed 500 female dignity kits and 500 buckets in Viransehir refugee camp, and 10 family hygiene kits in Gaziantep.

WOMEN AND GIRLS SAFE SPACES: UNFPA continued to provide services at its six WGSS (Women Health Counseling Units) located in IMPR Sanliurfa, RET Gul neighbourhood, RET Istasyon neighbourhood, Mardin, KAMER Gaziantep, Harran University, Sanliurfa, and Hacettepe/ULubey, Ankara.

violence from a medical standpoint, 35 participants benefited from self-defense sessions, 49 women attended sessions on child abuse, and 58 women attended sessions on psychosocial support. Moreover, recreational activities were arranged for 352 women and 162 girls.

WOMEN AND GIRLS SAFE SPACES: UNFPA supported the establishment of three new safe spaces in Alexandria, Cairo, and Giza governorates.

REGIONAL ACTIVITY

UNFPA organised a four day Syria regional training on the Clinical Management of Rape. The participants were from Ministries of Health, local and international NGOs, United Nations agencies coming from Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Turkey and Egypt.

EGYPT

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE TRAINING: In the Maadi Care International safe space, 27 women attended two initial sessions on art therapy, 31 women attended two sessions on gender-based

UNFPA-SUPPORTED FACILITIES



Number of women's spaces

SYRIAN ARABIC REPUBLIC

21

LEBANON

5

JORDAN

19

9 in camps and 10 in communities

IRAQ

7

EGYPT

5

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 primary health centres and 2 mobile team



Number of youth centres

LEBANON

5

JORDAN

8

7 in communities and 1 in camps

IRAQ

2

EGYPT

1

TURKEY

1



Number of health facilities

SYRIAN ARABIC REPUBLIC

200

4 hospitals

JORDAN

Ministry of Health facilities and NGO facilities providing reproductive health services

IRAQ

8

district hospitals and primary health centres

EGYPT

5

TURKEY

3

UNFPA CROSS-BORDER OPERATIONS OCTOBER- NOVEMBER 2015

(*Due to logistic and security challenges, implementing partners share their data a month late).



REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Reproductive health services: A total number of 9,422 beneficiaries benefited from reproductive health services in northern Syria, of which 134 were cases of early pregnancy, 929 deliveries and 292 Caesarean-section deliveries

Through three partners, UNFPA continued to support reproductive health services provision in Idlib, Hama, Homs and Aleppo governorates through ten health facilities. According to the key informant interviews that were conducted by UNFPA in November, the UNFPA-supported health facilities are the often only service providers for women, girls and children in their areas of operation.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Gender-based violence training course: Three medical doctors from two UNFPA partners collaborated in conducting a clinical management of rape (CMR) training session in Idlib. The training, which lasted two days, targeted 25 beneficiaries mainly doctors and midwives. The main purpose of the training was to build the partners' staff capacity inside Syria on providing guidance to medical personnel on how to manage GBV cases, how to interact with survivors, and how and when to refer survivors to psychosocial services. The training was based on the standard CMR protocol and the materials developed in the context of the GBV/health strategy.

UNFPA dispatched 157 reproductive health kits to southern Syria. These kits can provide comprehensive reproductive health services to 1.2 million beneficiaries for three months.

UNFPA also distributed 5,500 dignity kits in southern Syria for pregnant and women in need. In collaboration with its partners, UNFPA initiated the provision of comprehensive emergency obstetric care in seven centres, and established two women and girls safe spaces inside southern Syria.

Women and girls safe spaces: UNFPA is currently supporting five grantees to manage and strengthen eight women and girls safe spaces in Lattakia, Idlib and Aleppo.

"The safe spaces came at a time when we are at most need for them, I find them as safe resorts where I can learn and improve my skills," a women says.

"Lack in understanding of GBV concepts is a potential problem in our society; we learned a lot from this session and we need to involve more people in these discussions," 40 year old woman says.

The impact and implementation of the safe spaces have however been negatively impacted by the intensified security situation and subsequent population displacements. In Lattakia and Idlib, two women and girls safe spaces were relocated to other areas, and all services were put on hold.

COORDINATION

The gender-based violence sub-cluster worked with member organizations to conduct activities on the occasion of the 16 days of activism to end gender-based violence..

Two partners collaborated to conduct a clinical management of rape training inside Syria; 25 medical staff participated.

Monitoring and evaluation workshop: UNFPA held a workshop in Gaziantep that included 12 participants representing eight organizations, all UNFPA partners and grantees. The main purposes of the workshop were to provide a briefing on the UNFPA monitoring and evaluation approach and introduction to third party monitoring practices.

CHALLENGES

The security situation in north Syria continues to present the biggest challenge in programme implementation. Shifting power dynamics within the conflict have also had a great impact on women and girls.



A training conducted for volunteers by one of UNFPA's partners, northern Syria, 2015

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE

The year 2015 marks the 20-year anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the most progressive road map to gender equality. World leaders met in March at the United Nations for the 59th Commission on the Status of Women and in September at the 70th General Assembly to take stock of the progress made and commit to take action to close the gaps that are holding women and girls back. This year a new Sustainable Development agenda was adopted; for the first time it includes specific targets and indicators

UNFPA, through KAFA, implemented a media campaign against gender-based violence during the 16 days of activism campaign. This year's campaign focused on the religious personal status law and consisted of billboards and three videos featuring the character 'Zalfa.'

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Coinciding with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, November 25th, UNFPA in cooperation with the Ministry of Information kicked off the national comprehensive campaign for eliminating violence against women under the motto 'educating women generates peace'.

The campaign started on November 25th and ends on December 10th which coincides with the International Human Rights Day. The campaign sheds light on the positive effects of teaching women in Syria. Asserting that educating women is one of UNFPA's main goals. the campaign was held with participation of seven local partners with 180 cultural activities in Damascus, its countryside, Aleppo, Homs, Hama, Lattakia and Tartous provinces. The activities include theatrical and music shows and screening films in addition to awareness workshops.

JORDAN

In Jordan, the campaign focused on engagement of men and boys in interventions related to eradication of violence against women.

UNFPA Jordan distributed 70 posters and 65 stickers to its implementing partners. Through the NGO UPP, it conducted two radio episodes on gender-based violence prevention and response in Irbid and Amman in the third week of November. UNFPA also organized a public event in Amman that involved screening of a cartoon on child marriage, followed by an interactive dialogue with legal experts and participants in the event.

IRAQ

This year, UNFPA Iraq emphasized the importance of education as a powerful tool to protect women and girls from violence and exploitation. Many activities took place in camp and non-camp locations around the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I) during the 16 Days of Activism. A big event was arranged under the patronage of the KR-I prime minister. A large audience representing the media, donors, partners, civil society, and academic institutions participated in the event.



Syria team in Damascus commemorating the 16 days campaign of activism against violence against women and girls.

Credit: UNFPA, 2015



A Kurdish girl performing ballet at the launching ceremony of the 16 days of activism campaign in Erbil governorate, northern Iraq

Credit: UNFPA | David Brunetti. 2015

LEBANON

'Protecting and Empowering Women and Girls: A Collective Accountability,' was the interagency theme of this year's 16 Days Campaign of Activism against Violence against Women and Girls in Lebanon. An opening event was held at the INTERSOS centre, with UNFPA co-funding and co-organizing the ceremony. All UNFPA gender partners were actively involved in the campaign, organizing daily events where key messages and information were disseminated both at the national and field levels. The events included a photo exhibition, theater and role plays, video projections, debates and round tables, drawings and billboards. All these initiatives were coordinated by the National SGBV Task Force, and co-led by UNFPA, which ensured provision of necessary support throughout the campaign.

TURKEY

UNFPA Turkey participated in an event organized in connection with the 'International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.' The event was organized by the NGO MALUMAT on November 25. On the same date and venue, a photography exhibition was also launched, with many participants taking keen interest in the display. The photographs were subsequently moved to KAMER Community Centre, where they will remain on display for the following two weeks as part of the Orange the World campaign.

SUPPORTING ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH



Credit: UNFPA/Questscope youth retreat in Aqaba, Jordan, 2015

Syrian trainer Ala'a Ghazawi

"I see it as a golden opportunity. It is such a major change for me to get outside of the camp and train. Giving a training for so many days in one go is a really huge thing for me. It was also a reflection of what I had learned at the 'Training of Trainers (TOT) in Humanitarian Settings' held at the Dead Sea only two months ago. I never expected to be training so soon thereafter, and I never thought I would get to train outside the camp. It is a new space for me and I am so happy about it. I am trying to share all my knowledge and experiences, including those acquired from the ToT training. I am so thankful to the Y-PEER network because they do not look at Syrian refugees differently from Jordanians. They treat all Y-PEERians equally and distribute opportunities equally."

Basel Nuseerat, another Syrian Y-PEER trainer from Zaatari camp, was equally touched by the experience. Basel with two other Syrian Y-PEERs in Zaatari at the Questscope/UNFPA Youth Centre, had this to say about the experience:

"It is a great training. I even posted a thank you note on Facebook to Questscope and Y-PEER for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. My love and experience in Y-PEER have grown out of this. When I went outside and started to train, I did not feel like a refugee but rather as a Y-PEER member. I felt like I am Y-PEER, regardless of who I am in reality. Where I come from just didn't matter."

In Der al Se'eneh, a Syrian youth who lost his leg during the war insisted on participating in football trainings. Now, he is a member of the team and has developed friendships with all team members. "I won't let the loss of my leg become a barrier to continuing and enjoying my life; on the contrary, it has further motivated me to do whatever I want."

Credit: UNFPA., 2015

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

YOUTH TRAINING: An orientation on the Sustainable Development Goals and the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and related population issues was organized for 30 university students.

LEBANON

YOUTH ACTIVITIES: UNFPA, through Ricerca e Cooperazione (RC), is currently implementing a youth project in Bekaa titled 'Youth - The Messengers of Peace and Non-Violent Communication.' As part of the project, sports activities were organized to provide an alternative space for Syrian and Lebanese youth to engage in a new form of non-violent expression, participation, cooperation, tolerance, and acceptance. The activity organized in Bekaa was attended by 80 young participants (45 males and 35 females; 50 Syrians and 30 Lebanese; aged 13-22 years).

YOUTH AWARENESS SESSIONS: UNFPA's international partner RC implemented several awareness sessions. As many as 41 young participants benefited from four awareness sessions on reproductive health and gender-based violence in two villages in Bekaa; specific topics included early marriage, HIV/AIDS, and gender roles. Another 30 participants benefited from an awareness session on gender-based violence in Bekaa, Baalbek. A total of 65 young participants benefited from three awareness sessions on 'Peace and non-violent communication' in Bekaa; specific topics included non-violent communication and conflict resolution strategies. The objective was to encourage Lebanese and Syrian youth to know more about each other and to ultimately reduce tensions between the two communities.

JORDAN

YOUTH ACTIVITIES: Two case managers from the UNFPA/IMC team conducted nine sessions as part of the life skills activity titled 'My Safety, My Wellbeing.' The aim was to equip 12 girls with the knowledge and skills required to mitigate, prevent, and respond to gender-based violence.

UNFPA, in collaboration with partners reached 7,317 beneficiaries, of which IFH conducted 146 youth activities, including open sessions and handicrafts to relieve stress and increase community cohesion. In addition, awareness sessions on reproductive health and gender-based violence were also arranged.

UNFPA reached 2,563 youth through self-reliance, vocational training, and life skills activities. It also facilitated Y-PEER training for 20 active youth at IFH in Deir Alla. UNFPA, through the Princess Basma Youth Resource Centre of the Jordan Hashemite Fund for Human Development, of the started a social cohesion initiative through implementation of a sport project in Irbid. The activity targeted 300 young men and women (50 percent are Syrians living in Irbid governorate).

UNFPA targeted 195 youth in 'A Space for Change' youth centre in Zaatari camp. The activities included football, table tennis, fitness, cosmetics, origami, painting/glass art, and trainings on Y-PEER, life skills, and photoshop. A new library book lending programme was



Syrian youth participating in peer-to-peer activities on communication at Aley Centre, Lebanon.

Credit: INTERSOS, 2015.

Four Y-PEERians in Zaatari camp, along with two Jordanian Y-PEERians, conducted basic Y-PEER trainings for Palestinian youth at two UNRWA schools in Zarqa and Wehdat. The trainings, each of which lasted six days, were attended by 25 boys and girls.

Eight football teams (six male and two female) were formed; these teams are currently participating in training activities in different localities in Irbid. Four martial arts teams (two male and two female) were formed in Irbid, University Street. The training of male teams had started in the beginning of November.

IRAQ

YOUTH TRAINING: UNFPA supported youth training on peer education for 35 beneficiaries in Domiz 1 and Gawilan camp in Dohuk.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES: UNFPA supported youth activities related to computers, drawing, music, and peer education for 131 participants in Darashakran camp in Erbil, 104 participants in Kawergosk camp in Erbil, and 588 youth (131 girls and 457 boys) in Dohuk.

YOUTH AWARENESS SESSIONS: UNFPA supported youth awareness sessions on early marriage and its disadvantages, and issues concerning violence for 204 beneficiaries in Darashakran camp in Erbil. UNFPA also supported youth awareness sessions on addiction, youth day, sexually transmitted diseases, planning and square life, stigma and discrimination, as well as domestic violence for 65 beneficiaries in Kawergosk camp.

TURKEY

YOUTH TRAINING: A total of 12 youth in Antakya trained on reproductive health in humanitarian settings.

I was in fear. I was afraid of being misunderstood, and of hurting someone unintentionally and being isolated. I gave up when I was there. The training was performed well and in a good environment. I was sad when our friends from the war zone talked about various issues. I even cried. I never wanted the training to end. I look at our pictures every day.

Mustafa Yigit (Peer Educator): "I never wanted the training to end."

I had no idea about sexual and reproductive health and infections, as well as the needs of young people in situations requiring humanitarian aid. I did not know what gender-based violence meant. I got married at an early age, and even though I had heard of condoms, I had never seen and used them. Now I am aware of all these issues and can even explain to my peers.
 Anonymous: "I did not know what gender-based violence meant."



UNFPA supported the 12th Regional Arab Media Women Centre Conference that took place this year in Jordan under the theme of "No to hatred, racism and violence, Yes to responsible media and citizenship" with the presence of 55 journalists from Syria, Iraq, Libya, Palestine, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman and Algeria as well as donors, academicians and parliamentarians in addition to decision-makers in the Government of Jordan. A panel discussion on the reporting on gender-based violence in humanitarian setting (Syria crisis), following UNFPA's ethical principles and international ethical protocols.

The following messages were conveyed during the session:

- * UNFPA's role in enhancing the quality of reporting on GBV in the Syria crisis
- * The definition of refugees and the international law related to refugees and IDPs (human rights, media and gender-based violence)
- * The ethical principles on reporting on gender-based violence and the consequences of unethical reporting
- * The law, religion and culture and its impact on the quality of reporting.
- * Selecting terminology and ways of reporting on GBV
- * Skills of interviewing vulnerable women and children
- * Case studies (honour killing, the power of media to change law and public opinion).

COORDINATION & CAPACITY BUILDING

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

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.

LEBANON

The clinical management of rape task force meeting was held, with discussions focusing on ongoing CMR training updates, CMR training plans 2016 (UNHCR, IMC, UNICEF, ABAAD, KAFA), and CMR task force work plan 2016.

UNFPA co-chaired the meeting of the national SGBV task force where a Q&A session on the SGBV context and interagency response was organized between the task force members and ECHO.

UNFPA chaired the national GBVIMS steering committee meeting where an inclusion plan of two newly-trained organizations in 2016 as well as priorities in terms of data analysis, were agreed upon. The committee will produce, by the end of the year, a document on 2015 trends identified in the country.

Under UNFPA's partnership with UNICEF, a meeting on 'Mapping Youth Interventions, Actors and Resources within the Humanitarian Response in Lebanon' took place on November 25 in Beirut. The meeting promoted better understanding of the findings of the mapping report, and delivered a set of recommendations for the development of a youth-specific toolkit/package, based on which UNFPA and UNICEF will proceed with implementation of activities envisaged within the partnership.

JORDAN

UNFPA chaired the reproductive health sub-working group to discuss provision of cash for antenatal care assistance that is planned to be implemented by Medair.

UNFPA co-chaired the biweekly reproductive health coordination meetings at Zaatari camp to discuss issues related to implementation of reproductive health services by NGOs and United Nations agencies.

UNFPA co-chaired the gender-based violence sub-working group to discuss the preparations and launch of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence in Jordan, and participated in the GBVIMS task force meeting.

IRAQ

UNFPA participated in meetings of the gender-based violence sub-working group, health cluster sub-working group, protection working group, non-food items and distribution sub-working group, and refugee coordination and child protection sub-working group in Dohuk.

UNFPA played a leadership on behalf of The United Nations in Iraq in preparation and launch of the 16 days of Activism in Kurdistan Region.

Gender-based violence sub-cluster completed updating the location specific gender-based violence referral pathways for all camps and non camp locations. Including mapping and identifications of areas where there are gaps in service provision to inform 2016 programming, this was possible under UNFPA leadership as chair of sub-cluster.

Under Leadership of UNFPA the Iraq gender-based violence subcluster has developed a new gender-based violence strategy which is an operational plan for 2016 humanitarian response plan and the 3RP.

TURKEY

UNFPA attended the United Nations Agencies' Syria Task Force monthly meetings and 3RP meetings, SGBV sub-group and health sector coordination meetings in Gaziantep, monthly SGBV meetings at the Ministry of Family and Social Policies General Directorate of Woman's Status, and protection working group meetings, both in Ankara and Gaziantep.

UNFPA attended a one-day workshop on the 'Vulnerability Assessment Framework' (VAF) organized by UNHCR and WFP. VAF is a tool used for assessing different vulnerabilities of Syrian refugees and has so far been successfully piloted in Jordan, Lebanon, and Egypt. Among the main aims of this workshop, facilitators stressed the need to design a roadmap on next steps in conjunction with partners.

UNFPA attended the SGBV working group meeting in Ankara and protection working group and SGBV sub-working group meeting in Gaziantep. The protection working group meeting featured a presentation on women and girls safe spaces.

UNFPA attended a training on 'capacity building on case management and early marriages' by UNHCR in Gaziantep. The aim was to mobilize the community to understand the reasons behind early marriage and to establish policies to mitigate the practice.

EGYPT

UNFPA participated in the protection working group and gender-based violence sub-working group, where members discussed priorities, advocacy and funding, upcoming activities and priorities, referral pathways, and activities pertaining to the 16 Days of Activism campaign.

CHALLENGES

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

The depleted local market of reproductive equipment and supplies due to the unilateral financial and economic measures imposed on the country continue to undermine the economic power of Syrian families.

The deterioration of the value of the Syrian pound continues to affect the ability of people to afford reproductive health services, exposing women and girls to more threats and obstetric complications.

Shortage of fuel in the rainy and cold session is affecting the health of families on the one hand and the ability of international partners to run clinics during electricity shutdowns, on the other. Power breakdowns are common nowadays in all Syrian cities and villages.

Limited donor resources and their preference to support local NGOs versus government institutions is affecting the ability of UNFPA to expand the humanitarian response programmes.

Monitoring of the humanitarian response is a challenge where the movement of humanitarian workers is subject to evolving security conditions on the ground.

LEBANON

Involving communities and local leadership in violence against women prevention efforts face challenges in convincing women subjected to violence to speak openly about their suffering. It is difficult to get facts and figures from humanitarian organizations involved in gender-based violence prevention and response.

IRAQ

Lack of food and distribution shortages remain a challenge for most refugees in Erbil.

TURKEY

Some of the key challenges encountered during the period under review revolved around issues such as the current situation of the Government, rising incidence of terrorist attacks, insecure environment for programme implementation, language barriers, lack of employment opportunities, non-availability of qualified service providers, tension between refugees and host communities, funding problems, and management of programme activities according to donors' fiscal years.

In view of the recent situation, United Nations agencies including UNPA are involved with refugees who are trying to migrate to Europe or any other country. This attempt also forces the Government as well as all other international agencies to take more precautions and expand the humanitarian programmes to save lives and to provide a variety of services to the refugee population besides the host community.

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.



Rukaye was a housewife in Syria. Her son, who was married with two children, disappeared four years ago, and she has not heard from him again. "We waited for three years, expecting him to return. We were afraid to enquire about him. Their house was destroyed as the war intensified, so they moved to Aleppo and tried to gather some money. They paid traffickers to take them across the border to Turkey one and a half years ago. They waited at the border for a day and were treated well by Turkish soldiers, who offered them water, etc.

Seven months ago, Rukaye's daughter-in-law protested: "I want my husband back or I will no longer stay in this house," and left her 9 year-old daughter and 4 year-old son to live with her family in another city. Rukaye found it very strange that her daughter-in-law never called to ask about her children after she had left. Rukaye is in ill health and wonders how she will look after the children. They have a 17-member household; her husband tries to feed the family by selling rosary beads. They pay 300TL as rent, as well as utility bills as demanded by the landlord so that they are not evicted. Being in a foreign country, she is afraid to leave home. She does not know what to expect from life in Turkey and thinks it is difficult being a woman in this country. Her biggest hope is for the war to end soon so that she can return to her homeland.

Credit: UNFPA | David Brunetti. 2015



A visit by the Danish Ambassador to the UNFPA-supported delivery clinic, women's centre in Zaatari camp, Jordan.

Credit: UNFPA, 2015



UNFPA participated in the Regional Resilience Development Forum 2015 and presented the Hemayati programme in the innovation forum marketplace. The programme is joint effort between UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women and provides multi-sectoral services to Syrian and Jordanian gender-based violence survivors in host communities in Jordan.

Credit: UNFPA, 2015

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

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