Hope amid the chaos

Two Syrian refugees in Turkey explain how they have found hope despite the upheaval.

Sahle, Syrian Health Mediator: “When I came to Turkey, I had no hope. I had lost everything. I was so miserable. Why bother going on? I felt destroyed. I was just a victim, and utterly useless. The more I thought about it, the more I got depressed. But when I start attending health education, everything started to change. I immediately felt more relaxed. A new period in my life had begun. Health education showed me how to communicate with people. Now I was talking to the Syrian people and the Arabs. I was giving them information about health. I was so happy to share. I love to learn information about health and psychology. Now, I feel like a useful and valued person. In the same way, my family’s self-esteem has improved. When people talk with me, my family is very happy and feel pride that I’m now a source of assurance to other people. That also makes me happy and has turned me into a more hopeful individual. It’s like I’m a different person. In particular, I am helping a lot of Syrians to improve their health and social wellbeing. I hope it will continue for a long time.”

Yasmine, widow, Gülveren: Yasmine was born in Damascus in 1966. Her marriage at the age of 19 was arranged but she grew to love her husband who was a painter. They had four children - a daughter and three sons.

Yasmine was living with her husband and children in Damascus before the war. When conflict began, they decided to leave their home and journey to Turkey in very difficult circumstances. Their migration was socially and economically very tough, both on the road and after settling down. Her husband did find a job and started to offer painting courses. This made the family’s life a little bit more comfortable but it didn’t last long. Her husband passed away recently. Yasmine now lives with her 15-year-old son, who is continuing his education.

After finishing an associate degree program for two years in university, Yasmine took courses on hairdressing and painting. By the time she graduated, she had worked in the healthcare sector for four years. She also gave painting courses to women and children and worked as hairdresser. Now she knits keyholders to earn extra income. After living through many ordeals, Yasmine is still struggling. But the hope burns as brightly as ever in her eyes. She refuses to give up despite the hardships.

UNFPA MISSION:

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 inside Syria and 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.
### Reproductive Health Services

#### Reproductive Health Services

186,920 reproductive health services

- 13,333 reproductive health services to hard-to-reach areas
- 5,000 deliveries supported by UNFPA for women above 18
- 3,000 deliveries for women under 18
- 9,496 ante-natal care services
- 13,300 family planning beneficiaries

#### Outreach Activities

- 15,000 services

#### Awareness

- 7,000 people

#### Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment

**Response Services**

- 3,800 women and girls

**Women Accessing Safe Spaces**

- 2,264 women and girls in hard-to-reach areas

**Outreach Activities**

- 18,999 services

**Training**

- 35 social workers

### UNFPA-Supported Facilities in Syria

- Number of women’s spaces: 25
- Number of field reproductive health clinics or mobile teams: 49
- Number of health facilities: 959

### UNFPA Response in Syria (March 2016)

**Reproductive Health and Safe Motherhood**

- **Response Through Cross-Border Modality**
  - **Syrian Arab Republic:/fast figures/**
    - **13.5 Million** Syrians affected by the crisis
    - **4.1 Million** youth
    - **2.5 Million** women and girls of reproductive age

**Response Services**

- **19,659** beneficiaries received services in the northern part of Syria
  - 1,341 safe deliveries
  - 370 Caesarean-section deliveries
  - 129 pregnancy under 18
  - 4,828 ante-natal care services
  - 3,152 family planning

- **8,367** beneficiaries received services in the southern part of Syria
  - 717 safe deliveries and 389 C-sections
  - 292 pregnancy under 18
  - 1,461 family planning services
  - 2,639 ante-natal care services

**Awareness Sessions**

- 79 women and girls participated in the northern part of Syria
- 46 women and girls participated in the southern part of Syria

**Supplies**

- 249 reproductive health kits distributed in the northern part of Syria
- 46 reproductive health kits distributed in the southern part of Syria

**Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment**

- **2,926** beneficiaries received gender-based violence services in the northern part of Syria
- **462** beneficiaries received gender-based violence services in the southern part of Syria

**Women Accessing Safe Spaces**

- **1,471** beneficiaries accessed women safe spaces in the northern part of Syria
- **309** beneficiaries accessed women safe spaces in the southern part of Syria
- **1,750** dignity kits distributed in the north

A new reproductive health clinic in rural Damascus started operating to help the affected populations in the area. Al Marj clinic was successfully able to serve about 500 people in April, Museifra clinic started operating in April, and provided reproductive health services to 340 beneficiaries during the month. This facility began operating after Saida clinic in Dar’a was destroyed in airstrikes in February 2016.

UNFPA shipped 249 reproductive health kits into Syria through cross-border operations from Turkey. This vital support will be distributed to nine local and international organisations that support health facilities in Aleppo, Idleb, Hama, and Lattakia.

Again through cross-border operations from Turkey, UNFPA finalised a new partnership to support four women and girls safe spaces. The partnership with a local NGO also includes provision of GBV-specialised response services in Aleppo city and surrounding areas.
STORIES FROM SYRIA

UNFPA: Supporting the crisis-affected mothers of Quneitra

Access to life-saving reproductive health services is a gender and human rights issue. A mother and midwife in Quneitra, Syria, share their experiences.

The UNFPA-supported maternal hospital run by an international charity is the only facility currently providing comprehensive reproductive health services in Quneitra, Syria. Based about 70km (40 miles) south-west of the capital Damascus, the centre aims at providing life-saving services to more than 25,000 women and girls of reproductive age, and around 2,000 pregnant women who live in the area.

Quneitra has frequently seen clashes between various groups,” explains Batool, a 20 year old mother, who fully understands the emotional turmoil faced by pregnant women in their homes. “You can often hear gunfire and see smoke rising across the area. I have been forced to move from one village to another to seek safety and shelter. I gave birth to my first set of twins under the noise of a heavy bombardment, with the fear that I might get displaced again at any time. I struggled to breastfeed my babies, but neither did I have enough money to buy them milk.”

After nine months, Batool got pregnant again, but this time she was reached by a midwife who introduced her to the maternal hospital, 15 kilometres away. The maternal unit consists of seven beds, staffed by 41 professionals, of whom 28 are health workers. “The team is great at the hospital. The high level of treatment and communication encouraged me to visit the facility frequently during my pregnancy,” said Batool.

Due to a complication, she was advised to opt for a Caesarean-section instead of a normal delivery. “I received my services free of charge. On the top of that, I left hospital with a baby kit and I have been taught how to breastfeed my child,” she added.

The lack of security and access, acute shortage of staff and equipment, all led to reduced capacity at the maternity units of surrounding hospitals, forcing mothers-to-be to go elsewhere when they are already in labour. Sama, a midwife who works at the maternity hospital, outlined the high level of risk the women in Quneitra live with because of this shortage of reproductive health care.

“I recently received a 27-year-old, seven-month pregnant woman with heavy bleeding. She was moved, in this condition, between three health facilities, until she found the UNFPA-supported maternity hospital with its gynaecologist, paediatrician and incubator. Her baby was ultimately delivered by C-section.”

Rebuilding Syria through innovation: Empowering Syrian youth to become entrepreneurs

DAMASCUS, Syria – Despite the limited transportation, perpetual security threats and bombings ravaging her adopted city, Leen Darwish, an optimistic 23-year-old woman, stayed steadfastly determined to continue her education at the University of Damascus and graduate with a degree in computer science.

And later this year, four years after the conflict raging across the country forced her to leave behind her life in her home town of Harasta, Leen will achieve her goal and claim her diploma. She is also hard at work launching her new app and web-based platform, called Remmaz, designed to teach coding throughout Syria – and eventually the Arab world - started through support from the UNFPA innovation Fund.

“To continue my education was a priority for me, and this new opportunity to develop online courses is the first step for me to achieve my dreams,” she says, her sharply intelligent eyes twinkling with enthusiasm. “It is the best way to teach my fellow Arab youth about the new opportunities in the software coding business that they could all tap into.”

Her innovation is one of the first such platforms of its kind in the region. And Leen launched the endeavour after attending a three-week, UNFPA-supported training in Damascus on how to start and manage small businesses, along with 28 other techy-savvy young Syrians, ages 22-30, from multiple ethnic groups and regions, who were also displaced by the conflict. Today, just six months after the training concluded at the end of December, nine of their new businesses are already fully up and running.

“This programme is providing young people in Syria with critical business, leadership and entrepreneurship skills and directly linking them to opportunities to generate income,” says Bruce Campbell, UNFPA Global Coordinator for the Data for Development Platform. “We are already seeing the impact of the programme, and we hope these businesses will continue to grow and thrive, supporting these young people and their communities.”

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS

Fast Figures

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND SAFE MOTHERHOOD

Turkey

Services
1,731 services for Syrian and Turkish beneficiaries
- 330 ante-natal care services
- 707 family planning services
- 110 pregnancies for women under 18

Awareness Sessions
288 Syrian and Turkish beneficiaries

Outreach Activities
5,330 Syrian and Turkish beneficiaries

Supplies
19 reproductive health kits
900 copies of brochure on breast feeding, ante-natal care and family planning

Lebanon

Outreach
195 beneficiaries

Supplies
3 reproductive health delivery kits

Iraq

Services
3,044 beneficiaries
- 67 safe deliveries
- 2,776 family planning services
- 465 ante-natal care services
- 133 post-natal care services

Awareness Sessions
1,051 beneficiaries

Supplies
3 reproductive health delivery kits

International Day of the Midwife

UNFPA celebrated the International Day of the Midwife at the Zaatari camp, acknowledging and saluting the contribution of midwives in saving the lives of women, adolescent girls and newborns. As part of the event, organisers arranged an interactive session with midwives and mothers to discuss key health issues, including ante- and pre-natal care, breastfeeding and caring for newborn babies. At the end of the event, gifts were distributed to midwives and nurses as a token of appreciation for their life saving interventions with Syrian refugees in the Zaatari camp in Jordan.

Credit: IHAS, 2016

Scaling up efforts to support women

The Ministry of Health approved UNFPA’s plans to support and upgrade the Ruwayshid hospital, which serves as the nearest referral facility for 60,000+ asylum seekers waiting at the eastern border of Jordan, the so-called “berm”. UNFPA is planning to provide key medical equipment and medical consumables in the labour and delivery unit, including the neonatal unit at the Ruwayshid hospital and provision of additional staff through an implementing partner.
## GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT

### TURKEY
- **SERVICES TO SURVIVORS**: 83 services
- **WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES**: 980 Syrian beneficiaries
- **OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**: 1,120 Syrian beneficiaries
- **SUPPLIES**: 1,100 dignity kits

### LEBANON
- **SERVICES TO SURVIVORS**: 140 services
- **WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES**: 97 Syrian beneficiaries
- **OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**: 36 women, girls, men, and boys
- **DIGNITY KITS**: 105 dignity kits

### IRAQ
- **WOMEN ACCESSING SAFE SPACES**: 504 women and girls
- **OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**: 347 women and girls
- **SERVICES TO SURVIVORS**: 18 women and girls, of which 9 new

### JORDAN
- **WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES**: 7,658 Syrian beneficiaries
- **RESPONSE SERVICES**: 913 Syrian beneficiaries
- **OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**: 1,955 women, girls, men, and boys
- **TRAINING**: 94 social workers and staff

### SYRIA
- **ACTIVITIES**: 55 Syrian young people

### SUPPORTING ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH

#### SYRIA
- **ACTIVITIES**: 55 Syrian young people

#### LEBANON
- **ACTIVITIES**: 40 Syrian young people

#### JORDAN
- **ACTIVITIES**: 1,235 Syrian and Jordanian youth in camps and host communities

#### IRAQ
- **ACTIVITIES**: 88 Syrian young people

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UNFPA: A regional road map to enhance the quality of reporting on gender-based violence in Syria crisis

A regional ‘training of trainers’ workshop, on reporting on gender-based violence in the Syria crisis, was held in Lebanon to improve the skills of participants and help them train peers to create informed and ethical coverage of gender-based violence. A total of 29 media professionals and communication officers from the six countries took part in the initiative in Lebanon and developed a road map to enhance the quality of reporting.

A panel discussion organised by the inter-agency GBV sub-working group, headed by senior journalists, lawyers and academics in Lebanon to support the initiative and increase awareness.

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“I want to tell people, however I can, about the bad consequences of early marriage.” - Ghosoun, Lebanon

“I learned to see the difference between illusion and reality, and how to respect my inner child. I also learned how to set my boundaries.” - Nada, Egypt

“We want to make a change. We need to capture people’s hearts and minds.” - Ahmad, Lebanon

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A graduation ceremony for youth beneficiaries who completed life skills, Y-PEER, and gender-based violence trainings at the UNFPA-supported youth centre in Zaatari camp in Jordan.

Credit: Questscope, 2016
**Regional Situation Report for Syria Crisis**

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**Regional Situation Report for Syria Crisis**

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**Stories from Syrian Refugees | Jordan**

**Haya, Zaatari camp, Jordan**

Haya got married when she was 15 years old, to a man 18 years older than her. She had wanted to continue her education, but was instead forced into her marriage, and has faced several hardships as a result.

The mother of three came to Jordan for safety reasons after the Syrian war started. Her husband and son were shot and wounded in Syria, and they came to Jordan seeking medical help. Haya’s parents also accompanied her, but they were sent back to Syria. Haya is very worried about them because she is not able to communicate with them due to the situation in Syria.

Haya’s son is in a bad psychological state due to his injury. He lives in constant terror, which intensifies his mother’s anxiety. This constant fear has turned into depression and isolation for Haya. The staff of UNFPA-supported JWU women and girls’ comprehensive centre visited Haya at her home and started conducting one-on-one counseling sessions with her and her family members. After multiple visits, the staff asked Haya to bring her children and join the activities being conducted at the women and girls centre. At the centre, the staff noticed that Haya and her kids preferred not to communicate and interact with the rest of the beneficiaries. They stayed isolated. Consequently each member of Haya’s family was provided with one-on-one counselling and psychological sessions at the centre as well as in multiple group therapy sessions, where the staff talked to them about their fears and how to overcome them. The staff also talked to Haya about the importance of interacting with other beneficiaries and how it could help her cope with her fears.

Haya and her children continue to attend activities at the centre and the staff have gradually noticed positive changes in their behaviour. Haya and her children have begun communicating with other beneficiaries and Haya has even started visiting them in their homes.

**Ahmad, Zaatari camp, Jordan**

Ahmad has benefited from services at the UNFPA-supported youth centre since it opened in August 2015. He lives in the Zaatari Camp with his two brothers, while his parents remain in Syria. Ahmad was studying at university when he was forced to flee the war. He hopes to be able to finish his Bachelor’s degree in Jordan or elsewhere. Over many months, Ahmad was searching for NGO work in Zaatari camp without success. In his spare time, he showed great commitment to the sports activities at the centre. It became evident to Questscope staff and volunteers that he is highly capable, responsible and driven. He especially loves basketball, football, and volleyball. Due to his commitment, daily attendance and strong relationships with the other youth beneficiaries, he was often put in charge of sports activities and often played the role of referee. He enjoyed being referee and was also involved in the UEFA referee training. During April the team was in need of a new activity coach for the sports department, and Ahmad was hired for the position. Since May 1 this year, he has become a valuable member of the volunteer team working at the centre.

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**UNFPA-Supported Facilities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number of Women’s Spaces</th>
<th>Number of Field Reproductive Health Clinics or Mobile Teams</th>
<th>Number of Youth Centres and Safe Spaces</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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[Syrian refugees and Lebanese women proudly show off their certificates after graduating from hairdressing vocational training. Credit INTERSOS, 2016](#)

[Syrian women in Turkey participating in one of the UNFPA-supported activities](#)
STORIES FROM SYRIAN REFUGEES | TURKEY

WITH COMPASSION AT THE CENTRE

The IMPR Humanitarian Women Community Centre in Sanlıurfa helps change the prospects of displaced Syrians from despair to optimism.

Misyara is a mother of six. Her life in Syria was calm and stable. Her husband was a farmer and they wanted for little. When war struck, death reached out, touching everyone in its path. Misyara and her family were no exception. Her husband was killed. Then a fresh danger pursued her family, with her children targeted by Da’esh. Misyara fled to Turkey. Eventually, she managed to cross the border and threw herself at the sympathy of relatives in Sanlıurfa. But misery stayed close, as her youngest child soon fell ill. One of her new neighbours told her to visit the IMPR Humanitarian Women Community Centre. The doctor prescribed the appropriate medicine and her child was saved. Both Misyara and her children are now involved in the centre’s activities.

Nada is a 7-year old girl, who has only ever known suffering. The impact of war and displacement is more than most can endure, but Nada was also forced to witness the bitterness of divorce. Her father took her to live with him and his new wife. Then the war arrived and they fled to Turkey to find a better life. For Nada, things only got worse, as her stepmother was struggling to cope with the girl’s disruptive behaviour. At the IMPR Humanitarian Women Community Centre, Nada eventually found some hope. Her stepmother told carers about Nada’s condition. The resident psychologist conducted eight 45-minute sessions. After several weeks and follow-ups, Nada was showing positive signs of recovery. Today, she lives a calm and stable life with her family members.

Qatanna, 37, is from Raqqa. She is married with six children. When war began, her family fled to Turkey, crossing the border illegally to escape the murders and bombing. Eventually, they arrived in Sanlıurfa. Qatanna came to the IMPR Humanitarian Women Community Centre for a health check, as she was suffering from sudden drops in blood pressure. The doctors quickly saw that Qatanna needed additional help. She was diagnosed with extreme fatigue, malnutrition and also depression caused by the death of her brothers and displacement. The medical team gave her psychological support and advised on the necessity of taking care of herself and her health for the sake of her children. Now, Qatanna, alongside her daughter, is involved in activities such as learning English and cookery. She is taking better care of herself, and her health is improving as a result.

Samira is a 27-year-old Syrian women from Raqqa, where she lived with her husband and their three children. Her husband was a carpenter in a private workshop, and their financial situation was healthy. So, it was not easy to leave their country. But then Da’esh came to Raqqa. Samira and her husband immediately headed for Turkey. They crossed the border illegally and after much suffering, they arrived in Sanlıurfa, where they have lots of relatives.

SUPPORTING WOMEN IN CRISIS: SYRIAN REFUGEES FIND SERVICES AND HOPE IN TURKEY’S SAFE SPACES

With conflict and climate-related destruction surging around the world, 125 million people are currently in need of humanitarian aid and 60 million refugees have been forced to flee their homes. From 23-24 May, leaders from around the world convened in Istanbul for the first-ever World Humanitarian Summit to try to map a path to manage and stop this unprecedented upheaval and its human cost.

Today, over half of the world’s women and girl refugees live in cities, not in refugee camps, and over 3 million refugees – including 750,000 women of reproductive age, are currently living in Turkey. And so just outside the Summit’s walls, the streets of Istanbul are filled with the struggles and suffering that the participants inside are working to assuage.

Like Fatma, many refugee women in cities find themselves impoverished, isolated by language barriers and discriminated against, which increases their vulnerability to gender-based violence, trafficking and survival sex.

To aid them, UNFPA is supporting 20 women and girls safe spaces in the country’s urban areas, where women and girls can receive primary and sexual and reproductive health services – including family planning, counselling, income-generation training, language classes, legal guidance and the opportunity to rebuild the community and networks they lost when they were forced to flee their homes. It’s also a place where their children can safely play and learn.

“Many of the refugees here have already had the chance to access a lot of UNFPA services, and their lives are showing benefits and the resilience that is inevitable when women can access sexual and reproductive health services and gender-based violence counselling and have a place for their kids to go,” says UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador Ashley Judd, during a visit to an Istanbul Safe Space, before she headed to the Summit.


By chance, Samira found the IMPR Humanitarian Women Community Centre, where she registered for the hairdressing courses. She continued to attend these activities on a regular basis, never missing a session. She made friends and soon became an extremely capable hairdresser. Now, she runs a hairdressing salon from inside her new home, and remains a regular visitor at the centre.
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.

The GBV sub-cluster in Gaziantep, in collaboration with the Protection Cluster, is in the process of preparing for the 2016 Humanitarian Needs Overview, which includes the rollout of focus group discussions in the field, as well as key informant interviews.

The sexual and reproductive health sub-group in Gaziantep finalised the minimum package of services at all levels including more information for the primary health care level (in terms of staff, material and drugs).

UNFPA, in collaboration with the health cluster in Gaziantep, conducted a ‘training of trainers’ that aimed to train community reproductive health workers in Syria, as essential reproductive health promoters, educators and referrers. A total of 21 people were trained (most of them midwives - 12 women and 9 men) for working with NGOs in Syria. The cascade trainings will take place in Syria after Ramadan. The aim is to train 100 community health workers by the end of July 2016. A follow-up of the trainers is planned in 3 months.

TURKEY

UNFPA co-chaired a health working group meeting, protection working group meeting and SGBV subworking group meeting in Gaziantep. Members discussed and updated on issues, and the KAMER Antep Office, the implementing partner, provided a presentation on women and girls safe spaces in Gaziantep.

UNFPA attended the workshop organised by the Southeastern Anatolian Project (GAP) regional development administration and UNICEF on the identification of the areas for the empowerment of Syrian youth and children, specifically on education, NGO cooperation and youth in Sanliurfa. Representatives also attended the SGBV working group meeting in Ankara and visited the newly established women and girls safe spaces. UNFPA then attended meetings of Migration Network in Europe and Turkey Project lead by ANCE (Athens Network of Collaborating Experts) partnered with IKV (Human Resource Development Foundation) and SGDD/ASAM (Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants) in Sanliurfa and in Gaziantep.

LEBANON

From May 23-31, as part of a Canadian sponsored project, UNFPA, IRC, UNHCR and UNICEF Lebanon held “Survivor-Centered Case Management Workshops: Serving Beneficiaries with Specific Needs”. These workshops aim to strengthen case workers’ skills in providing survivor-centred care to survivors of early marriage, survivors of intimate partner violence, survivors at risk of committing suicide and LGBTI survivors.

UNFPA teamed up with UNHCR and the Ministry of Social Affairs to co-lead the SGBV task force meeting. UNHCR presented their new pilot project called PCAT, which aims to provide temporary emergency cash as an additional tool for case managers, including those on GBV cases.

UNFPA and UNHCR co-led the National information management system (GBV IMS) steering committee meeting, focusing on enhancing the data analysis on 2016 data in order to generate recommendations and advocacy points.

UNFPA led the clinical management of the rape (CMR) coordination task force meeting.

JORDAN

UNFPA held an inter-country meeting of national maternal, neonatal and child health program managers addressing the main causes of maternal, neonatal and child mortality in the eastern Mediterranean region. The meeting was jointly organised by the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Regional Office for the Arab States and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa. It was attended by 130 participants from 19 countries, together with experts from national and international organisations, and WHO, UNFPA and UNICEF staff members from headquarters, regional and country offices.

The meeting provided an excellent platform to update evidence-based guidelines and exchange experiences on how best to improve maternal and child health in the region. The participants reviewed and identified country policy and programme gaps in order to facilitate the implementation of evidence-based interventions to prevent the main causes of maternal, neonatal and child deaths, along with identifying strategic directions for the post-2015 agenda.

The reproductive health subworking group (SWG) formed an interagency committee to review and standardise a training package for community health workers and medical service providers along with reviewing IEC (Information, education and communication) material for reproductive health services.

A five-day multi-faceted GBV SWG regional training was jointly conducted by UNFPA, with the technical support of UNFPA’s regional office in Jordan, focused on both coordination and programming of GBV in humanitarian settings and fragile contexts. This training is a key component of the UNFPA regional GBV prevention and response strategic plan in Jordan and Iraq. As Jordan is one of the target countries for the rollout of the guidelines for integrating GBV interventions in humanitarian action in 2016, this training was conducted to improve the knowledge, understanding and communication skills of the participants. The aim is to effectively prevent and respond to GBV, building capacity to coordinate multi-sectoral responses to GBV in humanitarian settings.

Meanwhile, in the Youth Task Force in the Zaatari camp, which UNFPA co-chairs with NRC, the group worked on a youth mapping exercise and contributed to the protection working group’s 3Ws. As part of the initiative for better information sharing, referrals and youth participation, the Youth Task Force held another field exchange visit at Save the Children International in the Zaatari camp.

The YPEER Network held its annual retreat in Madaba to plan for the year’s activities. Eleven Syrian refugee YPEERs attended the meeting as well.

CHALLENGES

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

The dramatic depreciation of the value of the Syrian Pound is affecting the ability of the people to cope with the increased cost of living. As such, women can be exposed to different risks including gender-based violence.

Limited financial resources are affecting the ability of UNFPA to expand the humanitarian response programmes.

Beneficiaries’ access to services is still a challenge in many areas due to the deteriorating security situation, restriction of movement, lack of transportation and border-crossing constraints.

The poor security situation in eastern Ghouta has been the main barrier in preventing the direct communication and coordination process between
UNFPA’s implementing partner and Duma clinic. As this clinic is in a besieged area, access was totally unavailable. As a result, staff were forced to use mobile communications to provide the needed help and support.

TURKEY

Economic problems hinder people from reaching or participating in activities.

The poor security situation outside the borders of Turkey has an indirect negative impact on the on-going programme.

Language barriers limit access to some of the services, especially in the field of health.

Lack of funds shut down many of women’s empowerment and recreational activities, and affect the sustainability of outreach activities.

There is lots of demand to organise computer and ICT courses, however no computer-equipped room is available to conduct the course.

High turnover of health staff, with minimum support or incentives.

JORDAN

The influx of new refugees at the Azraq camp (between 300-500 a day) has led to a pressing need to scale up services. The average number of beneficiaries at the Azraq hospital and UNFPA supported clinics has steadily increased to around 200-300, compared to 100-150 beneficiaries at the start of the year.

UNFPA’s implementing partner IMC is stretching its capacity to the maximum by providing services to new arrivals hosted in Village 5 - the reception and public areas. Similarly the pressure on the ambulances has been doubled due to the increased number of emergencies related to growing numbers in Village 5.

IRAQ

There is a continuing lack of resources to sustain the on-going programmes.