



## “Peace Is Possible”: The imperative role of youth in building peace and ending violence

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Syria observed International Peace Day, celebrated annually on September 21, by supporting the engagement of youth in peace building. The Junior Chamber International (JCI), supported by UNFPA, organised a march in Damascus under the theme “Peace is Possible” to urge concerned actors to work for peace in Syria.

“It is the world’s young people who hold tremendous potential, if given the chance, to build more equitable societies and actively counter violence and extremism,” said Massimo Diana, UNFPA Syria Representative. He added: “It is imperative for us to invest in young people to fulfill their potential and help achieve peace and security.”

JCI National President Amr Al-Khiami said the march was inspired by the hope that peace is near.

“From the heart of Damascus, the capital of jasmine and peace, to the world. Damascus, among other cities in the country, Syria, is defeated by war. Believing that peace is close, we decided to walk in its streets. Damascus has been a gate for peace before and it will always remain regardless of the current situations. We are here to bring peace back to the world,” said Al-Khiami.

Over 200 people from various NGOs and organisations joined the march, which aimed to send messages of peace from the oldest inhabited capital in the world. Starting at Bab Touma Square, they passed by Bab Al Salam, Noufara, Maskie Square, Medhat Basha and the Maronite Church before reaching Bab Sharqi, spreading messages of peace around Damascus.



The theme “Peace is Possible” is a part of the international campaign to motivate people to make peace happen, especially after the dramatic rise in war and conflict around the globe.

Source: UNFPA Syria

## HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

DURING September 2016

**UNFPA Egypt opened a new women and girls safe space (WGSS) in Cairo, raising the total number of UNFPA-supported WGSS in Egypt to five.**

### Syrian Arab Republic from all channels

- 210,105** reproductive health services delivered to Syrians
- 11,677** deliveries supported, including 3,435 C-section deliveries
- 5,215** gender-based violence response services provided to Syrians
- 7,463** women accessed women safe spaces.

### In neighbouring countries affected by the crisis

- 23,210** reproductive health services delivered to Syrian refugees
- 4,803** Syrian refugees benefited from family planning services and consultations
- 2,450** Syrians received gender-based violence services
- 12,397** Syrian refugees accessed women safe spaces and participated in activities in camps and host communities
- 8,425** Syrian refugees reached with gender-based violence related messages
- 1,974** dignity kits distributed.

“Because of what I have learned and experienced, it is impossible for me to let my daughter to get married at an early age,” said one beneficiary who took part in the outreach program provided by NABAA, a UNFPA partner NGO in Lebanon.

#### UNFPA MISSION:

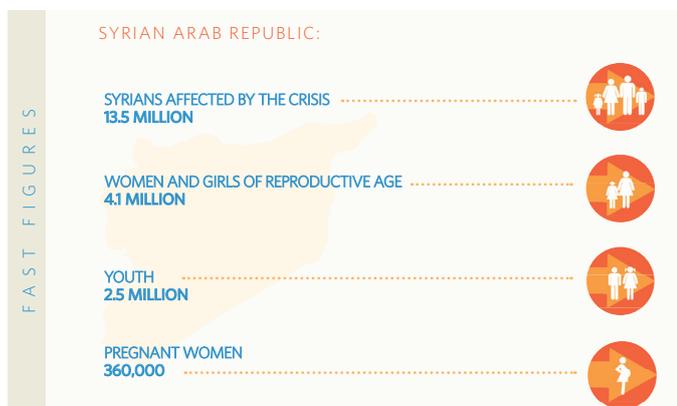
UNFPA believes that every Syrian woman and girl has the right to have access to affordable reproductive health care and be effectively protected from gender-based violence. UNFPA and partners are scaling up efforts to empower and improve the lives of Syrian women and youth and impacted communities inside 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.



## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

### SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC FROM ALL CHANNELS



### UNFPA RESPONSE IN SYRIA

#### REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND SAFE MOTHERHOOD

##### REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

**179,800** reproductive health services

- 6,100 normal deliveries
- 2,650 C- section deliveries
- 12,100 ante-natal care services
- 16,000 family planning clients

OTHER RH SERVICES **74,000** clients

RH KITS **52,000** clients

#### GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

RESPONSE SERVICES **4,180** women and girls

WOMEN ACCESSING SAFE SPACES **6,890** women and girls

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES **17,967** clients

### UNFPA-SUPPORTED FACILITIES IN SYRIA



Number of women's spaces

18



Number of field reproductive health clinics or mobile teams

50



Number of health facilities

912

### RESPONSE THROUGH CROSS-BORDER MODALITY

#### REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND SAFE MOTHERHOOD

##### REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

**22,809** clients received services in the northern part of Syria:

- 1,223 normal deliveries
- 384 C-section deliveries
- 120 pregnancies under 18
- 6,372 ante-natal care services
- 504 post-natal care services
- 5,449 family planning services

**7,496** clients received services in the southern part of Syria:

- 719 safe deliveries
- 437 C-sections
- 192 pregnancies under 18
- 1,854 ante-natal care services
- 878 post-natal care services
- 743 family planning services

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

**6,841** women reached through outreach activities in the northern part of Syria.

#### GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

RESPONSE SERVICES

**1,757** clients received gender-based violence services in the northern part of Syria

**1,038** clients received gender-based violence services in the southern part of Syria

GBV AWARENESS & OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

**1,325** Syrians benefited from the awareness and outreach activities in the northern part of Syria

**408** Syrians benefited from outreach activities in the southern part of Syria

DIGNITY KITS

**800** dignity kits distributed in the northern part of Syria

TRAINING

**77** participants in the southern part of Syria

The SGBV sub-working group co-chaired by UNFPA submitted a joint proposal (UNFPA, UNICEF, UNHCR) to the United Nations Trust Fund 'Stop Rape Now' to implement a project to address conflict related sexual violence and other forms of S-GBV in Jordan. The project has been approved by the Trust Fund and implementation activities are now beginning.

## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

### NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS



SOURCES: UNHCR, OCHA and UNFPA



### REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND SAFE MOTHERHOOD

#### TURKEY

SERVICES	<b>8,205</b> services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>290 ante-natal care services</li> <li>1,917 family planning services</li> <li>39 pregnancies of women under 18</li> </ul>
AWARENESS SESSIONS & OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	<b>4,772</b> Syrian clients
TRAINING	<b>45</b> participants
SUPPLIES	<b>225</b> Syrians benefited from reproductive health kits

#### LEBANON

SERVICES	<b>393</b> reproductive health services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>128 family planning services</li> <li>18 pregnancies for women under 18</li> <li>97 ante-natal care services</li> </ul>
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#### JORDAN

SERVICES	<b>14,612</b> reproductive health services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>263 normal deliveries</li> <li>22 C-section deliveries</li> <li>48 pregnancies under 18</li> <li>1,483 family planning services</li> <li>3,244 ante-natal care services</li> <li>773 post-natal care services</li> </ul>
AWARENESS SESSIONS	<b>3,517</b> clients in camps and in host communities
TRAINING	<b>101</b> participants

#### IRAQ

SERVICES	<b>1,448</b> reproductive health services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>67 normal deliveries</li> <li>22 C-sections</li> <li>1,275 family planning services</li> <li>84 ante-natal care services</li> </ul>
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### GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

#### TURKEY

SERVICES TO SURVIVORS	<b>548</b> services
WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	<b>5,202</b> Syrian women and girls
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	<b>659</b> Syrian clients
SUPPLIES	<b>1,921</b> dignity kits distributed <b>851</b> brochures on GBV distributed
TRAINING	<b>56</b> participants

#### LEBANON

RESPONSE SERVICES	<b>214</b> services
WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	<b>422</b> Syrian women and girls
TRAINING	<b>27</b> participants

#### JORDAN

RESPONSE SERVICES	<b>1,688</b> services
WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	<b>5,295</b> Syrian women and girls
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	<b>3,383</b> Syrian clients
TRAINING	<b>53</b> participants

#### EGYPT

WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	<b>1,202</b> Syrian women and girls
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	<b>918</b> Syrian clients

#### IRAQ

WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	<b>276</b> Syrian women and girls
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	<b>2,750</b> Syrian clients



## SUPPORTING ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH

JORDAN	
ACTIVITIES	<b>1,603</b> Syrian and Jordanian young people

LEBANON	
ACTIVITIES	<b>364</b> Syrian young people

TURKEY	
ACTIVITIES	<b>2,189</b> Syrian young people

IRAQ	
ACTIVITIES	<b>1,276</b> Syrian young people

EGYPT	
ACTIVITIES	<b>22</b> Syrian young people

**"I didn't only learn new skills in this training, I have also learned a lot about my fellow Syrian women. We have been through the same painful experience of the war,"** said one of the beneficiaries of those who took part in the recreational activities provided by RET LIBAN, a UNFPA partner NGO.

## STORIES FROM SYRIAN REFUGEES | JORDAN CROSS BORDER



Two babies of the triplets delivered by the medical team receive neo-natal care in an incubator at Al Noor Hospital. While incubators are normally reserved for a single newborn, increased case load since the bombing of Jasim hospital have stretched the resources at Al Noor. UNFPA is supporting an NGO to expand the capacity of Al Noor hospital.

### Suaad

"This is my third pregnancy; in the first and second ones I lost the fetus in the sixth month.

As a result, I was really afraid of losing the fetus in my third pregnancy, so I decided to go to a special doctor from the very beginning of this pregnancy, especially when I learned I that I was pregnant with triplets. I decided to do so to avoid losing the pregnancy, because if that happened I would feel very upset and hopeless about being pregnant again. Because of the conflict we are living in poor conditions, especially as my husband lost his leg in the bombings, leaving my family without a breadwinner. I went to Al Noor hospital, which was accessible to me and has a good reputation for providing a high level of care, especially for poor people.

In the hospital, they followed up on my case and helped me with transport. After a while, I came to the hospital in labour, and the staff examined me and then helped me to deliver.

I delivered two girls and a boy. The pediatrician examined them and they were in good health. They spent 24 hours in the incubator here at Al Noor Hospital and then they were sent to the incubators department in the city centre. The following day, they did some tests and examinations for me and found I was in good health too. Then they sent me home after giving me my delivery present and urging me to come back to the hospital after two weeks for a checkup."

## UNFPA-SUPPORTED FACILITIES



Number of women's spaces

**58**

Lebanon  
5  
Jordan  
15  
Iraq  
10  
Egypt  
5  
Turkey  
23



Number of field reproductive health clinics or mobile teams

**80**

Jordan  
18  
(8 in host communities, 10 in camps)  
Iraq  
25  
(12 in camps, 13 in host communities)  
Egypt  
12  
Turkey  
23  
Lebanon  
2



Number of youth centres and safe spaces

**25**

Lebanon  
5  
Jordan  
11  
Iraq  
3  
Egypt  
4  
Turkey  
2

## STORIES FROM SYRIAN REFUGGEES

## JORDAN

## Nemaa

"I was doing household work when I felt contractions and my water broke. My husband took me to the UNFPA supported clinic in Zaatari Camp. My labour was difficult, I did not deliver easily; after hours and hours, I gave birth to a baby girl, but my baby was not well. The midwives said that the baby had breathing problems. That was when the pediatrician there took the baby promptly and began treating her. After the baby was stabilised, the doctor referred her to Mafraq hospital where we were taken in an ambulance." Nemaa ended by saying: "I am so grateful at how well the team at the Zaatari clinic took care of me and my baby. Due to their prompt action my baby is healthy now."

Dr. Hasan narrates: "The midwives called me to the delivery room when the mother was in the late stage. I made sure that the resuscitation table and all the equipment was ready as usual. When examining the baby, it became apparent that she had a low Apgar score and she was diagnosed as a case of respiratory distress which needs urgent referral." The doctor continued: "We directly arranged for her referral. I am glad the baby is healthy now."



Activities organised at the UNFPA-supported centres in Azraq camp to observe International Youth Day. Photo credit: IMC

## Raed

"Seventeen-year-old Raed (name changed for protection) lives with his parents and sisters in Za'atari Camp. He dropped out of school four years ago and has not wanted to return. He found out about the Youth Centre from some of his friends who regularly participate in activities. Raed came to visit one day, and loved the space and the wide range of activities that the centre offers. After completing basic orientation, Raed started taking part in arts activities, which were what most interested him. Raed had a particular interest in Arabic calligraphy. The calligraphy trainer quickly noticed that Raed had an incredible eye and talent for calligraphy and a creative spirit. In the space of 15 days of training, Raed became highly skilled in line calligraphy.

**Raed** connects with calligraphy because he feels it is a beautiful way of expressing language. For him, it is a unique intersection of art and language. He hopes to continue to study calligraphy, and to introduce his friends to some of the concepts he has learned.

## TURKEY



Syrian women take part in one of the recreational activities conducted by IMPR, a UNFPA partner organisation in Turkey. Photo credit: IMPR

## Huda

**Huda** arrived to IMPR (UNFPA partner NGO) Humanitarian's Women's Community Centre in Sanliurfa Turkey, seeking assistance as she was sick and had suffered previously from a medical condition.

Huda had suffered while crossing the border illegally to enter Turkey from the city of Aleppo. She was newly married, feeling frustrated and in a difficult psychological state of mind, but she was delighted when, after a couple of months, she became pregnant.

Sadly, this joy turned to sadness, depression and a severe nervous breakdown when she learned that her baby suffered from defects, including microcephaly.

**Huda** visited several doctors, who confirmed the problems, and her pregnancy lasted only five months: she experienced pain in her stomach and bleeding and went to the Dogum Hospital, where she lost her baby.

After this, Huda heard about the Women's Community Centre in Sanliurfa, and she received a warm welcome when she visited. She decided to share her story with us, talking about her problems and experiences and her interest in regularly visiting the centre. At the time, she was suffering from menstrual disorders, so she underwent tests at the centre and received all the treatment she needed.

**Huda** left the centre after her first day feeling comfortable, and she became a regular visitor. After two visits, the staff in the centre worked with Huda to regulate her menstrual period and eventually she became pregnant again.

Although Huda was very happy, she was also afraid and nervous that her previous experience would be repeated. Service providers at the Women's Community Centre reassured her that with regular checkups and medication, she would have a safe pregnancy.

Now, she is in her sixth month of pregnancy, and she and her baby are in very good health, which has encouraged her to feel better. She refused to go for checkups anywhere except the centre in Sanliurfa, as it is the only place where she feels comfortable and safe. She regularly attends the centre and expressed her gratitude for the centre's work.

## COORDINATION & CAPACITY BUILDING

### LEBANON



Youth peers participating in a team bonding exercise during peer-to-peer training, Lebanon. Photo credit: SAWA Association for Development.

UNFPA with the Ministry of Social Affairs co-chaired the national monthly SGBV task force meeting where priorities for the sectorial development of the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) 2017-2020 were discussed.

UNFPA supported a three-day regional training on the IASC guidelines for integrating gender-based violence (GBV) interventions, which was attended by 15 participants from different sectors. This initiative is expected to enhance GBV mainstreaming into strategies, including the 2017-2020 LCRP response and implementation in the concerned sectors.

An inter-agency GBV information management system national coordinator hosted by UNFPA started her assignment in September to support the evidence-based LCRP SGBV sector chapter development, roll-out of the new information-sharing protocol and closing of the inter-agency Canadian project managed by UNFPA.

### TURKEY



Taking part in one of the youth activities organised by the CVF NGO, Turkey. Photo credit: CVF

UNFPA attended UNHCR protection committee and the health sector working group meetings in Gaziantep.

UNFPA attended the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) coordination meeting in Şanlıurfa and

presented the agency's activities to the participants.

UNFPA took part in a training on the protection framework and referral mechanisms organised by UNHCR in Izmir, Turkey. A SGBV sectorial presentation was provided and the activities, success, challenges and way forward were discussed.

### TURKEY- Cross Border

The GBV sub-cluster conducted a training on GBV psychosocial support (PSS) and a training of trainers on the standard operating procedures.

The GBV sub-cluster conducted the third learning session in Gaziantep, where six persons participated. In addition, the sub-cluster conducted a training on GBV psychosocial support (PSS) and a training of trainers on the standard operating procedures (SOPs).

UNFPA contributed to a guidance paper for the key protection considerations in the provision of humanitarian assistance for the Syrian city of Manbij.

The GBV sub-cluster concluded the first phase of the capacity building initiative and launched the second phase targeting health service providers.

### JORDAN



Silent play on early marriage performed at the UNFPA-supported women and girls comprehensive centre in Zaatar camp. Photo credit: IFH

The reproductive health sub working group (SWG) chaired by UNFPA discussed the planning process for the third response plan in Jordan in coordination with the health task force that is chaired by the Ministry of Health and in coordination with UNHCR and WHO. The reproductive health SWG also discussed the finalisation of reproductive health core messages, the revised terms of reference and the mapping template for reproductive health services in host communities.

In its capacity as youth task force co-chair, UNFPA contributed to the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)/REACH youth assessment planning process by facilitating coordination of a small group to support NRC/REACH.

UNFPA also facilitated an ad-hoc visit for Shiekha Hissa from Qatar with members of the youth task force in Zaatar camp.

## CHALLENGES

### TURKEY

Economic problems faced by Syrian refugees still hinder them from reaching or participating in activities.

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

The language barrier is still limiting access to some of the services especially in the field of health (lack of Arabic speaking psychologists, social workers, doctors, etc.).

### SYRIA

The escalating fight has left between 250,000 to 275,000 people, including women and youth, in eastern Aleppo in urgent need of protection and humanitarian assistance including reproductive health services.

Limited ability to monitor the developmental and humanitarian response programs in hard-to-reach and besieged areas due to deteriorated security conditions

*“Whenever I come to the centre, I feel like a flying butterfly,” said a girl who benefits from services in a UNFPA-supported women and girl safe space in Aleppo.*

Deteriorated security conditions do not allow the humanitarian actors to transport humanitarian aid to hard-to-reach and besieged areas

Depleted local markets of reproductive health supplies is a key challenge that hinders the delivery of quality lifesaving reproductive health services, including safe delivery, especially in unsafe and hard-to-reach areas.

### IRAQ

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

### EGYPT

Some Syrian women are unable to attend the activities offered at the women safe space due to lack of financial resources to pay for the transportation needed to reach these places.

*“The safe space has become my second home,” said one Syrian woman who benefits from one of the UNFPA women safe spaces in Greater Cairo.*

## DONORS & PARTNERS

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

Australia, Canada, Denmark, European Commission, Germany, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Netherlands, Norway, OCHA/CERF, Saudi Fund for Development, 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, Lebanese Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology (LSOG), Lebanese Order of Midwives (LOM), Makkased Philanthropic Islamic Association in Beirut, Development without Borders-Nabaa, KAFA (“Enough Violence and Exploitation”), INTERSOS, RET Liban, SAWA Association for Development, Concern Worldwide, ABAAD, American University of Beirut, Al Mithaq.

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

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), Harran University in Sanliurfa, NGOs including the International Middle East Peace Research Center (IMPR), KAMER, TOG, RET International, HÜKSAM, ASAM, BUHASDER.



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### RELEVANT RESOURCES

www.unfpa.org  
www.ocha.org  
www.unhcr.org  
http://syria.humanitarianresponse.info