

HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH DURING OCTOBER 2016

UNFPA participated in two interagency convoys to Homs in Syria and four in Rural Damascus reaching a total of 12,250 persons in these hard-to-reach areas.



With high child marriage rates among Syrian refugees, one girl takes a stand

CHOUF, Lebanon - When Raneem Abras, 16, fled the devastation in Aleppo, Syria, three years ago, her family found safety in Lebanon's Chouf Mountains. But some dangers have followed them - in the form of marriage proposals.

Poverty and insecurity have pushed many Syrian refugee families in Lebanon to marry off their daughters. A recent study has revealed that 23 per cent of Syrian refugee women in Lebanon were married before reaching age 18.

Fortunately, Raneem's parents are staunchly opposed to child marriage.

"Several people approached me to ask about Raneem," Um Abdo, Raneem's mother, told UNFPA. "But my husband and I told them off."

Youth leader standing against child marriage

Um Abdo had herself been engaged at only 12 years old. She objected, and fought her parents to end the engagement. Eventually, they relented.

Even so, there were consequences. "When I broke off my engagement at age 16, people considered me divorced! It was awful," she said. "I swore I would not do that to my daughter."

Raneem's father, Abo Abdo, has also seen the costs of child marriage in his own family. "Three of my eight sisters got divorced," he said. "They all got married young and had no say. I will never do this to my daughters."

With her parent's encouragement, Raneem has become a youth leader in her community since arriving in Lebanon, encouraging other children to stand up for themselves against child marriage.

About a year ago, Raneem began attending a youth programme supported by UNFPA and the NGO INTERSOS.

The group uses peer-to-peer education to raise awareness about the harms of practices like child marriage. They also help one another combat gender-based violence, spread accurate information about reproductive health, and help one another access services.

"After every session I attend, I wish I could go around educating everyone I know," Raneem said.

Through the programme, Raneem learned that early marriage is often followed by an adolescent pregnancy, which puts girls' health at risk. "These long discussions about marriage and having babies were particularly useful" in discouraging her peers from considering early marriage, she said.

"I managed to convince two of my friends who were going to get married young to wait," she said.

"I tell my friends that getting married early will deprive them of their childhood."

One big family

"You should see Raneem explaining to them the consequences of early marriage on a woman's health," Um Abdo said proudly.

"Here, we have become one big family," Raneem said of the community in Chouf. "I know most of these young people because I reach out to them to explain to them what I myself have learned."

To date, the youth peer-to-peer programme has reached 1,700 young men and women in Mount Lebanon.

Source: <http://www.unfpa.org/news/child-marriage-rates-soar-among-syrian-refugees-one-girl-takes-stand>

Syrian Arab Republic from all channels

248,624 reproductive health services delivered to Syrians

19,832 deliveries supported, including 7,761 C-section deliveries

49,715 family planning services

7,862 gender-based violence response services provided to Syrians

4,539 women accessed women safe spaces

In neighbouring countries affected by the crisis

30,863 reproductive health services delivered to Syrian refugees

8,267 Syrian refugees benefited from family planning services and consultations

1,579 clients received gender-based violence services

9,780 Syrian refugees accessed women safe spaces and participated in activities in camps and host communities

8,429 Syrian refugees reached with gender-based violence related messages

2,486 dignity kits distributed

"I did not know that some behaviours, which are considered to be very normal in our culture, are in fact affecting my child in terms of harassment," said a woman who attended GBV awareness sessions in Lebanon.

UNFPA MISSION:

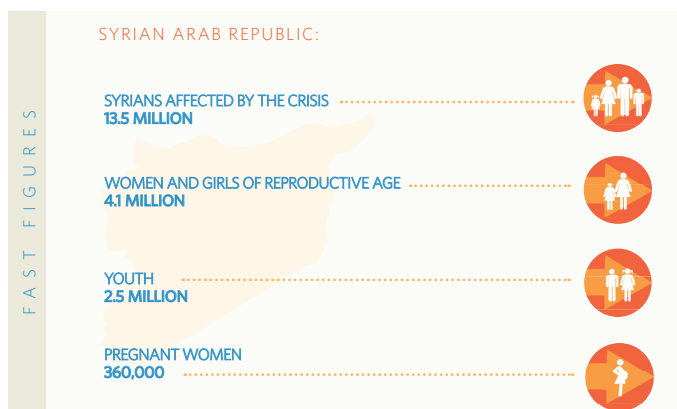
UNFPA believes that every Syrian woman and girl has the right to have access to affordable reproductive health care and be effectively protected from gender-based violence. UNFPA and partners are scaling up efforts to empower and improve the lives of Syrian women and youth and impacted communities inside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

214,023 reproductive health services

- 9,934 normal deliveries
- 6,991 C-section deliveries
- 14,794 ante-natal care services
- 44,288 family planning services

OTHER RH SERVICES **60,790** clients

RH KITS **3,200** clients

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

RESPONSE SERVICES **5,662** women and girls

WOMEN ACCESSING SAFE SPACES **4,539** women and girls

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES **16,850** clients

SUPPLIES **9,050** dignity kits distributed

TRAINING **116** participants

UNFPA-SUPPORTED FACILITIES IN SYRIA



Number of women's spaces

15



Number of field reproductive health clinics or mobile teams

53



Number of health facilities

912

RESPONSE THROUGH CROSS-BORDER MODALITY

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND SAFE MOTHERHOOD

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

22,892 clients received services in the northern part of Syria:

- 1,234 normal deliveries
- 337 C-section deliveries
- 126 pregnancies under 18
- 6,582 ante-natal care services
- 603 post-natal care services
- 4,718 family planning services

11,709 clients received services in the southern part of Syria:

- 903 normal deliveries
- 433 C-sections
- 385 pregnancies under 18
- 3,150 ante-natal care services
- 1,103 post-natal care services
- 709 family planning services

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

2,943 women reached through outreach activities in the northern part of Syria.

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

RESPONSE SERVICES

2,062 clients received gender-based violence services in the northern part of Syria

443 clients received gender-based violence services in the southern part of Syria

GBV AWARENESS & OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

1,243 Syrians benefited from awareness and outreach activities in the northern part of Syria

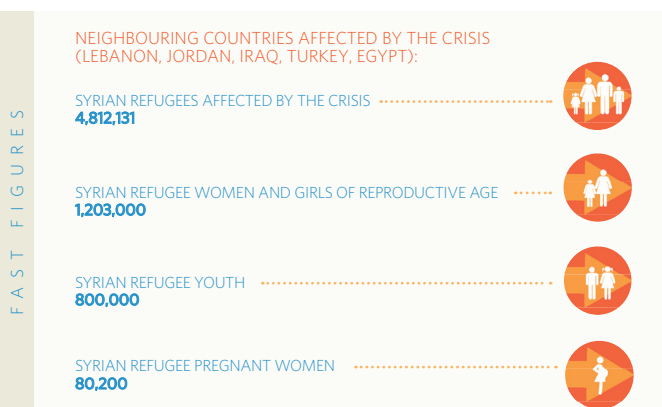
244 Syrians benefited from outreach activities in the southern part of Syria

"This activity was so useful; it improved our relationships and communication skills, helped us restore confidence. It allowed us to express our feelings in a safe and supportive environment", said one Syrian women who took part in psychodrama session in Cairo, Egypt.

"I now feel more self-confident and I can face my problems and talk about them frankly", said one Syrian woman who took part in an activity organised in one of the UNFPA-supported women safe spaces.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS



SOURCES: UNHCR, OCHA and UNFPA



REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND SAFE MOTHERHOOD

TURKEY	
SERVICES	13,842 services provided to Syrian refugees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 432 ante-natal care services ▪ 2,567 family planning services ▪ 13 pregnancies of women under 18
AWARENESS SESSIONS & OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	9,610 clients
TRAINING	47 participants
SUPPLIES	213 Syrians benefited from RH kits

JORDAN	
SERVICES	10,886 reproductive health services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 268 normal deliveries ▪ 21 C-section deliveries ▪ 53 pregnancies under 18 ▪ 1,069 family planning services ▪ 3,309 ante-natal care services ▪ 779 post-natal care services
AWARENESS SESSIONS	2,017 clients in camps and in host communities
TRAINING	55 participants

IRAQ	
SERVICES	4,932 reproductive health services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 99 normal deliveries ▪ 17 C-sections ▪ 4,454 family planning services ▪ 362 ante-natal care services

LEBANON	
SERVICES	1,203 reproductive health services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 177 family planning services ▪ 112 ante-natal care services
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	601 clients
TRAINING	47 participants



GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

TURKEY	
SERVICES TO SURVIVORS	236 services
WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	2,582 Syrian women and girls
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	424 clients
SUPPLIES	682 dignity kits distributed 750 brochures on GBV distributed
TRAINING	49 participants

LEBANON	
RESPONSE SERVICES	121 services
WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	440 Syrian women and girls
SUPPLIES	1,200 dignity kits distributed 500 brochures on GBV distributed
TRAINING	32 participants

JORDAN	
RESPONSE SERVICES	728 services
WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	3,633 Syrian women and girls
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	1,803 clients

EGYPT	
RESPONSE SERVICES	494 services
WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	897 Syrian women and girls
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	450 clients



GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

IRAQ	
WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	2,228 Syrian women and girls
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	4,651 clients
SUPPLIES	604 dignity kits distributed
TRAINING	204 participants



SUPPORTING ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH

JORDAN	
ACTIVITIES	955 Syrian and Jordanian young people

LEBANON	
ACTIVITIES	1,379 Syrian young people

TURKEY	
ACTIVITIES	2,703 Syrian young people

IRAQ	
ACTIVITIES	3,189 Syrian young people

STORIES FROM SYRIAN REFUGEES | JORDAN



Syrian refugee Nadine (left) with the UN Special Envoy on Youth in New York. Photo credit: UNFPA

Nadine, a Syrian refugee in Jordan represents Y-PEER in a meeting in New York

Nadine Hraki, a Syrian refugee and member of UNFPA's youth Y-PEER network, was sponsored by UNFPA to travel to New York and represented Y-PEER, UNFPA and the NGO Questscope at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

Nadine traveled with UNFPA staff member Sarah Gazou to New York City and returned to Zaatri Camp after her participation. On 20 September, Nadine attended a UN Envoy office breakfast where she spoke about her experience after leaving Syria and living in a refugee camp in Jordan. She also met with the UN Special Envoy on Youth, Ahmad Hindawi, where she discussed with him ideas on working with youth on issues related to the sustainable development goals (SDGs). She also took part in "Adolescents and Youth: the Driving Force" for the SDGs event and spoke about her life. The event was intended to bring together youth and adolescents working across the world on the SDGs. Nadine also attended two group discussions, one about health and the other was about gender equality.

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 REFUGEES

JORDAN

Farah speaks highly about using family planning tools

Farah (name changed for protection), a 26 year old mother who has been living in Zaatari camp in Jordan for the last four years visits a UNFPA-supported reproductive health clinic regularly to receive counseling and information on family planning methods. Farah and her husband have been using family planning methods provided by UNFPA-supported clinic for the last three years. Her youngest child is three years old now. She says: "I am thankful to God for blessing us with two daughters and one son. My husband and I have decided not to extend our family. Thus, I come to the UNFPA supported clinic every month to receive family planning methods and I am grateful for the support provided to me by the staff at the clinic."

TURKEY



Youth participants in one of the Y-PEER activities in Turkey.

Taghreed, a true example of Syrian refugees quest for hope, better life

Like many others in Syria, Tahreed is not the only young person in the war-torn country hoping to leave the ongoing violence and achieve a better life, where peace and dreams are possible.

Taghreed, a 33 year-old Palestinian woman who was born in the Syrian province of Daraa, where she was brought up and educated, faced many challenges and Syria, which, not her motherland, was the only country she knew.

She managed to get a degree in agricultural engineering and after graduation she was employed at the directorate of agriculture in Daraa, in Southern Syria.

All was okay until the start of the unrest in the country in 2011, when the rest of the family were scattered in different countries, which put more pressure on Taghreed and made her life more difficult.

She stayed with her parents, but after a while she realised that it was time to follow in her brothers' foot steps and immigrate to another country in search for stability.

She thought of going to Turkey where her eldest sister lives.

The journey to Turkey was full of risks, especially for a woman who was travelling alone.

Each time she passed through an area controlled by terrorist groups, she was forced to comply with their demands and pay a sum of money to smugglers in order to lead her through.

After reaching Turkey's Sanliurfa where her sister lives, she was relieved but did not find peace there.

After six consecutive months of depression and hopelessness in Sanliurfa her sister advised her to seek out the IMPR women center, which is near the place where they lived, to see the activities, spend some time there, and search for a job.

That advice completely changed Taghreed's life.

After visiting the centre, she was so happy to see all the services provided there, and what she liked the most was the familial atmosphere that linked the beneficiaries with the staff members.

Taghreed registered for the Turkish class so that she could mingle with the host community and find a job. She even joined the hairdressing class to spend more time at the women center and meet new friends.

After a period of time her emotional status improved and she began to view life from a different and more optimistic perspective. After 4 months of attending activities. Taghreed had a job opportunity when she always dreamed of, and she was even happier because she would work at the IMPR women center and be with the staff members which she considered as her family.

This job opportunity was not only a job, but it was a new hope for her after a long time of agony.

"I was so glad to join the IMPR family and to restore hope of a better tomorrow in spite of the current conditions and challenges we all face," Taghreed said. "Thank you IMPR, and I wish you progress and success," she said.

SYRIA

UNFPA Syria supports "TEDxJahezWomen" in Damascus

UNFPA Syria supported the first one-day "TEDxJahezWomen" conference in Damascus, which was held with the participation of innovative and influential women who spoke about their experiences and stories.

The activity took place at Damascus University under the theme: "Women in STEM (sciences, technology, engineering and math)." The main aim of the activity was to shed light on successful women and reduce the gender gap in computer sciences, engineering and math. "Everyone counts. UNFPA is always looking for new and innovative ways to support women and young people to reach their full potentials", said Massimo Diana, UNFPA Syria Representative.

Marah AlSharief, a pioneer software developer who is now preparing to launch her project that aims at helping students learn interactively said: "technology is not a boy-thing. It is for everybody".

The event was held in coordination with the Syrian Family Planning Association and in partnership with the NGO Sanad, Startup Solutions and Direct Group.

COORDINATION & CAPACITY BUILDING

TURKEY



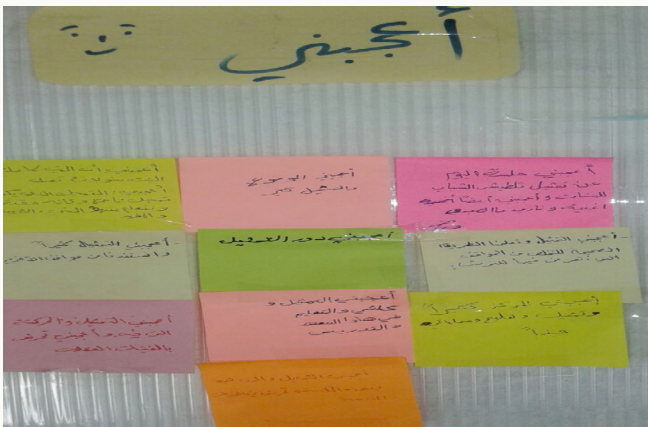
Participants in one of the awareness sessions in one of the UNFPA-supported women safe spaces in Turkey.

UNFPA attended the protection working group meeting and co-chaired the SGBV sub-working group meeting in Gaziantep.

UNFPA attended protection and health working group meetings for the West Coast coordination in Izmir, Turkey in order to work collectively, identify and fill the gaps and avoid duplications in providing services.

UNFPA attended the preparatory meeting for the participatory assessment organised by UNHCR with participation of the Syrian population in urban Gaziantep. Assessments will continue until the end of 2016.

TURKEY- cross border



An Arabic written collection of notes, which were posted by women and girls to express their opinion about services provided at one of the UNFPA-supported centers in Idleb governorate in Syria.

Tentative agenda for the roll out of the GBV guidelines was discussed at the GBV sub-cluster meeting.

The GBV sub-cluster discussed second capacity building initiative that targets health providers.

"I feel more confident. I started to sing here in the center, and women are asking me to sing every day. I have never been asked to sing before," said a woman in one of the sessions at a UNFPA-supported centre in Idleb governorate in Syria.

JORDAN

The reproductive health sub-working group chaired by UNFPA discussed the quality of sexual and reproductive health services available to Syrian refugees in camps and host communities.

JORDAN- cross border



A nurse provides medical care for a new born baby in Al Noor Hospital in Kahil, Daraa, Syria. Photo credit: INGO

During the reporting period, UNFPA and its cross-border implementing partners attended the southern Syria health sector working group meeting. The meeting discussed community health interventions in Syria and the standardisation of the package of services at the community level.

UNFPA's cross border reproductive health focal point attended the cross border task force meeting and logistics cluster meeting. Key issues discussed included continued advocacy by OCHA with the Government of Jordan to allow Syrian staff to cross into Jordan for training as well as medical evacuation for war-wounded persons.

UNFPA cross border reproductive health and GBV focal points held an in-depth program review meeting with its implementing partner to review the progress of the project to date and plan for improvement and expansion. Key Issues discussed included, quality improvement in service provision, data collection corrections, expansion of GBV programming in four new sites and overall strategy for the remainder of 2016 and into 2017.

LEBANON



Syrian and Lebanese women at one of the literacy classes conducted in Baalbek women safe space. Photo Credit: KAFA, a UNFPA partner NGO.

UNFPA chaired the clinical management of rape (CMR) task force meeting and reviewed the list of CMR trained facilities.

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.).

TURKEY cross border

Insecurity remains the top challenge that hinders proper project implementation and beneficiary accessibility. A number of UNFPA-supported health facilities and women and girls safe spaces encountered temporary service interruption due to the increased military activities in Aleppo.

LEBANON

Some Syrian women are unable to attend the activities offered due to lack of financial resources to pay for the transportation needed to reach training venues.

Difficulties in identifying male youth to take part in planned activities as most of them have fulltime jobs.

EGYPT



An educational orientation session held in Haram Women Safe Space in Cairo. Photo credit: UNFPA Egypt

Due to the start of the new school year that kept mothers busy, some activities targeting women were not implemented.

IRAQ

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

DONORS & PARTNERS

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

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, Sweden, United States, United Kingdom, UNDP.

Private sector: MBC, Samsung Electronics.

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)

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 Centres, Mazloun Hospital and International Organisation 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), Jordanian Women's Union (JWU), Youth Peer Education Network (YPE), NCFA (National Council for Family Affairs), Questscope.

IN JORDAN Cross border: Relief International and Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS).

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 Polices (MoFSP), Harran University in Sanliurfa, NGOs including the International Middle East Peace Research Centre (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