



Expanding coverage of services to rural parts of AL-Hassake, northern Syria. Photo Credit: UNFPA Syria/2017

Restoring Hope to Pregnant Women in Crisis Zone

Sheima had never imagined that she would welcome her first newborn in a camp. The 24-year-old young Sheima and her family fled from Deir Ezzor countryside, near Al Hassake in north-eastern Syria, where hostilities have pushed an estimated 5,000 people to leave in the past year, according to the UN Refugee Agency.

Sheima has been living in uncertainty since then but hoping that one day she would go back to her peaceful village. Sheima had to live in different camps in Al Hassake governorate for internally displaced people (IDPs) and now she has ended up living in Al-Areesheh camp. The Al-Areesheh camp is a newly established camp for IDPs near Al Hassake city where the displaced population is estimated to be almost 8,000 and the number is expected to increase due to the continuous flight of people from the northeastern region of Deir-ez Zor.

Despite the tumult of the conflict, Sheima was able to receive skilled medical care at a UNFPA-supported hospital in the host community. The hospital is equipped to support everything from antenatal check-ups to emergency surgery; thanks to generous support from the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO). These services proved to be necessary in Sheima's case.

Sheima's baby was soon born and it was a joyous conclusion to her pregnancy. "I'm so excited to finally hold my first baby in my hands" Sheima told UNFPA staff who referred her from Al-Areesha camp to the city hospital.

Displacements continue to increase in northern Syria, with over 68,000 recorded as of the beginning of this year. Women and girls living in displacement require reproductive health care, including not only services during pregnancy and childbirth, but also treatment of infections, counseling on family planning and sexually transmitted infections, and referrals to specialized health care.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH DURING October 2017

Enhancing media coverage on reproductive health issues in Syria. Turkey cross border: supporting more safe spaces for women and girls

UNFPA has expanded the network of services to rural parts of Al-Hassake to cover 279 villages. The number of mobile teams visiting the surrounding rural towns and providing comprehensive health services increased from seven mobile teams at the beginning of the year to reach ten mobile teams and eight static clinics. This expansion helps out to improve the referral system.

After returning to Al Areeshe camp, UNFPA mobile medical team visited Sheima in the camp to check on her condition and her baby. Both mother and the newborn are doing well.

"It was like an adventure and a miracle" Sheima said. "Having a baby is a life-changing experience especially when you are away from home and you live in a camp."

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC (FROM ALL CHANNELS)

451,293 reproductive health services delivered to Syrians

13,855 deliveries supported, including **5,952** C-section deliveries

82,991 family planning services

17,770 gender-based violence response services provided to Syrians

24,024 women accessed women safe spaces

IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS

31,959 reproductive health services delivered to Syrian refugees

9,897 Syrians received family planning services and consultations

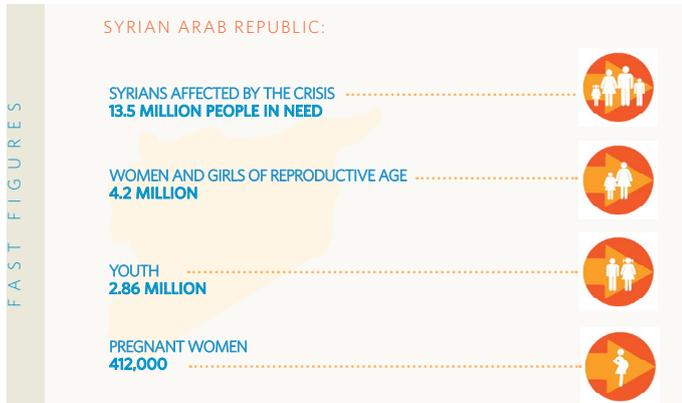
2,087 clients received gender-based violence services

19,514 Syrian refugees accessed women safe spaces and participated in activities in camps and host communities

10,884 Syrian refugees reached with gender-based violence related messages

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC FROM ALL CHANNELS



SOURCES: 2017 Humanitarian Needs Overview Syrian Arab Republic (OCHA), UNFPA

UNFPA RESPONSE IN SYRIA - SUPPORTED FROM DAMASCUS

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND SAFE MOTHERHOOD

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

401,001 reproductive health services that include:

- 6,045 normal deliveries
- 1,060 C- section deliveries
- 27,435 ante-natal care services
- 69,000 family planning services
- 1,291 pregnancies under 18

OTHER REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

240,275 clients

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

RESPONSE SERVICES

3,543 women and girls

WOMEN ACCESSING SAFE SPACES

21,706 women and girls

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

14,771 clients

UNFPA-SUPPORTED FACILITIES IN SYRIA



Number of women's spaces

21



Number of field reproductive health clinics or mobile teams

56



Number of health facilities

912

RESPONSE THROUGH CROSS-BORDER MODALITY

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND SAFE MOTHERHOOD

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

10,785 beneficiaries received services supported from cross-border operations managed from Jordan, including:

- 856 normal deliveries
- 451 C-sections
- 147 pregnancies under 18
- 3,230 ante-natal care services
- 952 post-natal care services
- 626 family planning services

39,507 clients received services supported from cross-border operations managed from Turkey, including:

- 952 normal deliveries
- 491 C-section deliveries
- 146 pregnancies under 18
- 8,589 ante-natal care services
- 2,150 post-natal care services
- 13,365 family planning services

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

15,708 women reached through outreach activities supported from cross-border operations managed from Turkey

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

RESPONSE SERVICES

266 clients received gender-based violence services supported cross-border from Turkey

13,961 clients received gender-based violence services supported cross-border from Jordan

GBV AWARENESS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

3,922 Syrians reached through outreach and awareness activities supported cross-border from Turkey

4,931 Syrians reached through outreach and awareness activities supported cross-border from Jordan

WOMEN ACCESSING SAFE SPACES

2,318 women and girls accessed safe spaces supported cross-border from Turkey

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

NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS



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



REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND SAFE MOTHERHOOD

TURKEY	
SERVICES	22,896 services for Syrian beneficiaries that include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7,904 family planning services • 1,560 ante-natal care services • 728 post-natal care services • 35 pregnancies under 18
AWARENESS SESSIONS	6,218 clients
OUTREACH	5,284
SUPPLIES	21,075 brochures distributed
LEBANON	
SERVICES	678 services for Syrian beneficiaries that include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 674 family planning services • 220 ante-natal care services • 93 post-natal care services • 21 pregnancies under 18
JORDAN	
SERVICES	4,784 reproductive health services that include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 160 normal deliveries • 26 pregnancies under 18 • 1,319 family planning services • 1,563 ante-natal care services • 509 post-natal care services
AWARENESS SESSIONS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	2,806 clients
OTHER RH SERVICES	1,366 services

IRAQ	
SERVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,995 family planning services • 257 normal deliveries • 69 C-section deliveries • 405 ante-natal care services • 503 post-natal care services



SUPPORTING ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH

JORDAN	
YOUTH PROGRAMMING	1,664 young people
Egypt	
YOUTH PROGRAMMING	429 young people



GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

TURKEY	
RESPONSE SERVICES	1,445 services
WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	14,592 women and girls
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	7,884 clients
SUPPLIES	13,319 beneficiaries

LEBANON	
WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	693 women and girls
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	217 clients
RESPONSE SERVICES	32 services

JORDAN	
WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	4,229 women and girls
RESPONSE SERVICES	637 services
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	2,671 clients

Egypt	
RESPONSE SERVICES	5 services
AWARENESS ACTIVITIES	112
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	895 clients
SUPPLIES	681 beneficiaries from recreational activities

HIGHLIGHTS

SYRIA



Women attending one of awareness sessions in Syria

Photo credit: AL Ihasan Charity Association, Syria

UNFPA supported organizing a workshop for media in Damascus aimed at promoting coverage of reproductive and sexual health. Emphasis was placed on the need to promote curricula for reproductive health, sexuality, social and psychological support and the role of media in raising awareness. The workshop included a film about breast cancer awareness and the prevention methods, as well as to help in early detection of the disease through self-examination.

Throughout October, UNFPA along with the government and local implementing partners organized various activities aimed to raise awareness about breast cancer that included a scout marathon, national seminar, and daily awareness raising aiming to raise women's awareness on the importance of early-detection of breast cancer. Over 200 people participated in the marathon. UNFPA will support offering free mammograms in the Cham complex center for 800 women for the next four months of 2017. Those activities took place in different areas in Damascus, including Damascus, bab-Musala, Shaghour, Jdediet Ar-

touz, Halbouni and Keswa, as well as other governorates, such as rural Damascus, Lattakia, Tartus, Sweida and Al-Hassake.

UNFPA together with UN-Habitat in Damascus held training on resilience and social cohesion. The training aimed at building capacity of United Nations workers including UNFPA, and implementing partners who work under difficult conditions. The attendees were seven from UN Habitat, two from Prmiere Urgence and 15 from UNFPA. The training explored concepts and definitions of resilience and social cohesion and shared practice tools for analysis of local context.

A new women and girls safe space was opened in Mesyyaf, rural Hama. More than 400 women registered at the center, which aims to provide them with consultancy services on health, legal issues and case management services. The safe space also provides women with vocational training.

JORDAN CROSS-BORDER

UNFPA's implementing partner in Quneitra recently completed the rehabilitation of the outpatient department of a hospital in southern Syria that provides basic emergency obstetric care services.

During the month, 2100 women and girls visited UNFPA-supported safe spaces inside Syria. Embroidery courses were recently launched at safe spaces and proven to very popular among women and girls.

"I like the sessions that discuss early marriage, especially when my mom is around. It really helps me that she knows it's wrong for me to get married at a young age," a 15- year- old girl attending a safe space in Quneitra.

UNFPA-SUPPORTED FACILITIES



Number of women's spaces

81

Jordan

20

Iraq

13

Turkey

25

Lebanon

15

Egypt

8



Number of field reproductive health clinics or mobile teams

92

Jordan

21

Iraq

24

Turkey

25

Lebanon

10

Egypt

12



Number of youth centres and safe spaces

35

Jordan

11

Iraq

11

Turkey

3

Lebanon

5

Egypt

5

HIGHLIGHTS

LEBANON



Post-partum visits at Hrewi Hospital in Zahleh, in Lebanon
Photo credit: Lebanese order of Midwives

Beneficiary accounts

"I will go to the reproductive health clinic to have a PAP smear test. It is the first time I have heard of this screening test." a woman attending a reproductive health outreach session.

"At the end of this session I am convinced that spacing children helps improve the finances of the family." a woman after attending a family planning outreach session.

TURKEY



First aid training for women refugees in Turkey
Photo credit: UNFPA-Turkey/2017

Women refugee: accessing reproductive health services

Hanan, (not her real name) a 23 years old woman from Idleb, was six months pregnant when she fled the conflict in Syria. "When we arrived to Turkey, we couldn't get the ID numbers immediately. This prevented us to get any service from hospitals. I didn't have a chance to see a doctor for any medical examination. So I gave birth to my first born in my house. Thank God he was healthy", said Hanan.

Hanan was not lucky in her second pregnancy. She lost it while she was six months pregnant.

"There was a Syrian doctor who lived in our neighbourhood, who helped me during that time, otherwise I could have died from severe bleeding. After a while I had two different miscarriages in my house. I couldn't learn why because I was not able to go to hospital." recalled Hanan.

A UNFPA medical team reached out to Hanan and helped her to go to the hospital where she learned why she kept having miscarriages. "It is due to incompatibility in blood groups between me and my husband. This is why I was losing my babies. But we feel more happy right now because at least we know what to do. We'll take our vaccines in hospitals.

EGYPT

The safe spaces in Haram, Damietta and 10th of Ramadan continued and launched a new set of activities for their clients that meet more needs of the targeted group.

Word of mouth helped in reaching out to more beneficiaries who came from distant places to attend the activities. They were satisfied as they felt these activities make a big difference to them. The Haram safe space started to receive refugees from 6th of October, Mokattam, Madiet Nasr, and New Cairo.

TURKEY CROSS BORDER

UNFPA Turkey cross -border operations provided support for nine women and girls safe spaces, and health facilities in Idleb, Aleppo, Homs, Hama and Rural Damascus. Support to the facilities continued largely unhindered and as a result there have not been any major irregularities in the number of beneficiaries accessing services.

One new safe space in Idleb became operational while another one is in the final stages of starting off. It is expected that facility will begin providing services next month.

Overall beneficiaries of reproductive health services dropped slightly from the last month; this is mainly due to a reduction in the number of people accessing family planning services. Nevertheless, there has been an increase in the number of normal deliveries, C-sections, post-natal care, ante-natal care and treatment of infections, from the previous month.

UNFPA implementing partners conducted GBV trainings in Idleb and Aleppo for 34 female service providers who were trained on GBV core concepts and counselling skills.

A total of 1,936 dignity kits were distributed to IDPs in Idleb and Aleppo by implementing partners outreach teams. This was complemented with psychological first aid and awareness raising for the recipients of the kits and their communities.

UNFPA has facilitated discussions between service providers on the ground to improve referral pathways and collaboration for GBV related services.

Third party monitors have conducted site visits to two UNFPA- supported health facilities in October and a third one is ongoing. Reports from these site visits will be reviewed by UNFPA and recommendations will be added before being distributed to the relevant partners.

COORDINATION & CAPACITY BUILDING

LEBANON

UNFPA co-led the national sexual and gender-based violence task force meeting with UNHCR and the Ministry of Social Affairs. The meeting was dedicated to the coming revision of the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2017-2020.

UNFPA and UNDP presented a joint initiative with UNWOMEN aiming at mapping the legal provisions in Lebanon and the region and request- ed organizations with a legal mandate to support the validation.

JORDAN

UNFPA chaired the reproductive health sub working group meeting that was attended by reproductive health members from the Ministry of Health, other United Nations agencies, as well as national and inter- national NGOs. The meeting focused on how to use an innovative ap- proach to provide quality sexual reproductive health services to women and neonates attending the health facilities during their routine visits.

The sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) sub-working group pro- vided technical support to the National Council for Family Affairs to re- vise and finalize the national standard operating procedures (SOPs) in order to implement the recommendations of the National Framework for Family Protection at the national level. The finalization involved re- viewing both the documents of the SOPs as well as a full day validation meeting to discuss and agree on key comments.

In its role as chair of the Youth Task Force (YTF) in Zaatari camp, UNFPA, with its co-chair NRC, held a taxonomy workshop to agree among all members on the terminology, definitions and guidelines to be used for the youth mapping that is being conducted with collabora- tion of a team of Syrian refugees and UNHCR/ International Relief and Development staff in the camp.

TURKEY CROSS-BORDER

The GBV sub cluster participated in the strategic and technical review for the second standard allocation of the humanitarian fund. Seven proj- ects with GBV components have passed final review with specific focus on continuity of services and integration of GBV services into existing service delivery points.

The GBV capacity building initiative is continuing as per plan. A second self-care training was conducted with 11 female and three male partici- pants. Furthermore, the monthly learning sessions were held for GBV service providers part of the second group of the GBV capacity building initiative, which focused on case discussion methodologies

The GBV sub cluster also launched the GBV prevention task force focus- ing on prevention and risk mitigation work. The task force developed a work plan and is currently focusing on organising activities for 16 days of activism against violence against women.

The sub-cluster dedicated a large proportion of its time in October to the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Syria. Work was done in conjunction with the protection cluster and Whole of Syria to finalize the HRP framework as well as supporting partners to work on their sub-

missions. As a result, development of the HRP was finalized and part- ners were consulted during this process and trained on how to develop GBV project sheet for HRP.

The sexual and reproductive health working group focused on guide- lines validation, training and coordination. The reproductive health coordinators based in Turkey, along with the Health Directorates rep- resentatives, attended the "Making Midwives - Midwifery Proficiency Strategy Compliance and Standard Setting for Syria Consultative Par- ticipatory Workshop". The main goals of the workshop were to review the implementation steps of the midwifery strategy for operations being conducted cross-border from Turkey, focused on building mid- wifery educational capacity, to gain consensus on steps toward the establishment of midwifery education programs and to build capacity to provide maternal health technical assistance.

A total of 11 midwives from northern Syria participated in a techni- cal training on new-born resuscitation and post-partum haemorrhage. From the group, 7 participants were selected to enter in the midwifery tutors training program. In total, there will be 19 'master midwives', taught through face-to- face training and distance learning.

JORDAN CROSS BORDER

In a meeting of the Cross Border Task Force, the discussion was around the uncertainty surrounding the renewal of the UN Security Council resolution 2165 which authorizes cross-border work. The key mes- sage from the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator was for partners to think well beyond tomorrow and plan for real transition.

UNFPA also took part in the revision of the contingency and prepared- ness scenarios. Key take aways were the need to pre-position stocks and also the unknown impact of a re-opening of the Nasib border crossing point.

TURKEY

The national protection working group meeting was held in Ankara and preliminary analysis of the protection sector of the 3RP was pre- sented. The inter-agency referral form was introduced by UNFPA. SGBV working group meeting provided updates on their current pro- grams on GBV. The GBV standard operation procedures was reviewed and finalized. It will be shared with Ministry of Family and Social Poli- cies for their endorsement.

The protection core group meeting was held in Gaziantep. This work- ing group was established to create an environment for further dis- cussion of the key issues of protection and its sub-working groups (SGBV and child protection) and to accelerate the decision making of the monthly protection working group.

EGYPT

UNFPA participated at Egypt's inter-agency standard operating pro- cedures (SOPs) workshop as part of the SGBV working group. This exercise aimed at finalizing the work on endorsing unified and stan- dard guidelines for SGBV services with emphasis on UNFPA- provided services for prevention and response. These SOPs included a section on community engagement to better address the prevention of SGBV among refugee and host communities.

CHALLENGES

JORDAN CROSS-BORDER

In the besieged area of Eastern Ghouta, fuel shortages remain dire. Recently, a new type of substitute fuel derived from plastics has been contaminating the market. If used mistakenly, it could damage or destroy key machinery such as hospital generators for which there are little-to-no replacement parts on the market.

The security situation in Jbata Elkhashab in Northern Quneitra has recently deteriorated again. This has hindered the movement of patients and also a midwife who was scheduled to undergo intensive 6-week training at a regional maternity hospital to improve the range and quality of services she is able to provide in this conflict-prone area.

SYRIA

Staff availability and lack of supplies, especially medication and consumables, for new health facilities remain a challenge in southern areas of Syria.

TURKEY CROSS-BORDER

Aerial bombardment took place in several areas in Idlib Governorate: Almaara; Kafr Nobol, Jarjanaz, Tramala, Telmennes, Maarzita, and Khansheikhun, which affected operations in those areas.

There was a significant movement of IDPs from Aqirbat (in the eastern rural areas of Hama) to Aleppo and then to Idlib districts, which increased the burden of health facilities in those areas. IPs responded through ambulances, mobile clinics and community protection teams.

EGYPT

Organizing mental support activities has been a challenge given the lack of awareness of the Syrian community. The team has slowly built the trust of the beneficiaries and demonstrated the importance of seeking psychological support when needed. Employing different types of activities like music, plastic art and storytelling has encouraged them to join these workshops, which are a form of a group therapy. These workshops have contributed to create a safe space for them where they can talk freely.

DONORS & PARTNERS

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

Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, European Commission, Finland, Germany, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Netherlands, Norway, OCHA/CERF, Saudi Fund for Development, Sweden, United States, United Kingdom, UNDP.

Private sector: MBC and Samsung Electronics.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

IN SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC: Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE), Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), Syrian Family Planning Association (SFPA), Agha Khan Foundation, Masyaf Charitable Association, Al Bir and Social Welfare Hama, Al Bir Charitable and Sociable Qamishly, Pan Armenian Charity Association, Al-Ihsan Charity Association, Al Bir and Al-Ihsan Charitable Association in Ras Alain, Albatoul Charity for Humanitarian Services, Islamic Charity Association - Aoun for Relief and Developments (AOUN), Monastery of Saint James the Mutilated (MSJM), Nour Foundation for Relief and Development, Syrian Catholic Archbishopric - Relief and Development Center (RDC), Syrian Commission for Family Affairs and Population, SCS, SEBC.

IN LEBANON: Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Social Affairs, Lebanon Family Planning Association for Development & Family Empowerment (LFPAD), Amel Association, International Medical Corps, KAFA ("Enough Violence and Exploitation"), INTERSOS, Makkased Philanthropic Association of Beirut, Development Action without Borders-Naba'a, RET Liban, The Lebanese Democratic Women's Gathering-RDFL, Akkar Network for Development (AND), NABAD, Heartland Alliance, Tabitha/Dorcas Lebanon | Relief & Development, Maarouf Saad Social and Cultural Foundation.

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. 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 and Population (MOHP), Ministry of Youth and Sport (MoYS), Arab Medical Union (AMU), Care International.

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), ASAM (Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants), BUHASDER (The Association for the Prevention of Infectious Diseases), HÜKSAM (Hacettepe University Women's Research and Implementation Center), IMPR (International Middle East Peace Research Centre), KAMER (Women's Center Foundation), CVF (Community Volunteers Foundation), Osmangazi University, PYD (Positive Life Association), SPoD (Social Policies, Gender Identity, and Sexual Orientation Studies Association), Bilgi University.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Daniel Baker,
UNFPA Syria Regional
Response Advisor
baker@unfpa.org
+962797225829

RELEVANT RESOURCES

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