



115 people attended the TedxMimasStreet conference from different cities in Syria. Photo Credit: UNFPA

HOMS, Syria – Residents of Homs last month experienced their first-ever “TEDxMimasStreet” conference—a day long program organized locally with the help of 43 young Syrian volunteers—for which passionate people gathered to speak about their success stories in the face of conflict. Licensed by the TED organization—and organized around the theme, “Starting from Within”—115 people split almost evenly between males and females attended, coming from Homs itself, and from other cities in Syria such as Damascus and Aleppo.

“TEDx platform has a huge influence on people,” said Afaf Atasi, an attendee. “It represents ideas of many creative and innovative individuals and groups.”

The program featured presentations from 8 young people whose topics covered a wide range of issues from technical and educational subjects to social and human interest success stories. The program also featured networking activities, musical performances and social spaces where audience members, partners and team members had the opportunity to talk, discuss and exchange ideas.

One of the speakers was Hala Murad, a student from Homs in 11th grade. She spoke about changing the educational system in Syria, which she compared to a piece of paper—flat, one-dimensional, and not able to hold anything inside. She called instead for the educational system to become like a cube “This is a cube; I can put whatever I want inside it. It is three dimensional,” she said. “And this is paper; I can put nothing inside it. Our education is looking just like this paper.”

Hala lamented that the system in Syria hadn’t changed over time, saying the baccalaureate exams were the same as they were ten years ago. Other fields grow and change, she said, but education in Syria seemed to stay the same. “The world is in a continuous change, and science is in a continuous expanding phase, but education, it is standing still,” she said. “It has turned into a kind of traditions and habits that we inherit from a generation to another.”

At the end, she said that change was necessary for the rebuilding of her country. “Will education be a 3D force to make peace a sustainable future?” she said. “Will the future be like what we are planning for? Will we reach the change we are working for?”

UNFPA- Syria provided a strategic level of partnership, with Al-Barake Bank-Syria contributing as a golden partner, and the Syrian Computer Society (SCS)

HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH DURING APRIL 2017

New women and girls safe spaces have opened cross border in both northern and southern Syria.

contributing as the educational partner. “Starting from Within” was chosen as the theme in order to highlight the importance of rebuilding humans culturally, academically, intellectually and psychologically as a result of the crisis. The goal of the event was to capture hope and success stories from Homs, and to inspire and ignite ideas in youth in Homs and all over Syria.

“Empowering young people to be more influential is part of our responsibility in mobilizing young people,” said Massimo Diana, UNFPA-Syria representative.

The city of Homs has been severely damaged, with its infrastructure dramatically affected by the Syria Crisis. However, young people there with their passion, dedication, and love for what they are doing insisted on delivering a message of hope and peace. While the crisis has resulted in many human and cultural losses, the “TEDxMimasStreet” team believes that rebuilding humanity is much more than reconstructing tall buildings and rebuilding roads.

Further details on the conference can be found at: <http://tedxmimasstreet.com/>

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC (FROM ALL CHANNELS)

283,612 reproductive health services delivered to Syrians

9,299 deliveries supported, including 3,395 C-section deliveries

63,948 family planning services

15,797 gender-based violence response services provided to Syrians

14,276 women accessed women safe spaces

IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS

23,105 reproductive health services delivered to Syrian refugees

5,217 Syrians received family planning services and consultations

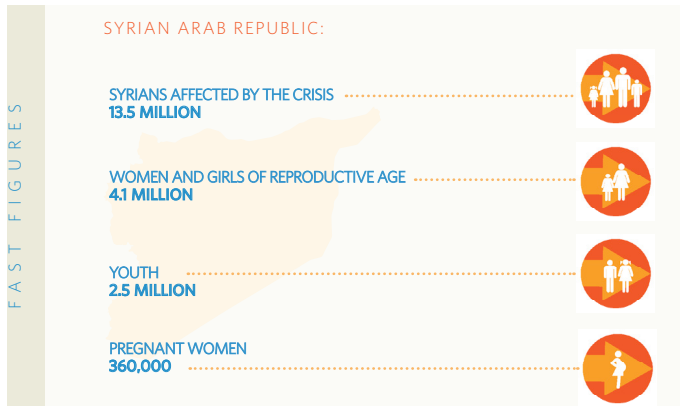
5,223 clients received gender-based violence services

17,594 Syrian refugees accessed women safe spaces and participated in activities in camps and host communities

6,650 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

239,830 reproductive health services

- 3,666 normal deliveries
- 2,630 C- section deliveries
- 21,840 ante-natal care services
- 55,838 family planning services
- 8,194 pregnancies under 18

OTHER RH SERVICES	148,141 clients
SUPPLIES	1,600 reproductive health kits

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

RESPONSE SERVICES	10,450 women and girls
-------------------	-------------------------------

WOMEN ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	10,171 women and girls
-----------------------------	-------------------------------

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	9,417 clients
---------------------	----------------------

SUPPLIES	155 dignity kits distributed
----------	-------------------------------------

UNFPA-SUPPORTED FACILITIES IN SYRIA



Number of women's spaces

31



Number of field reproductive health clinics or mobile teams

44



Number of health facilities

929

RESPONSE THROUGH CROSS-BORDER MODALITY

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND SAFE MOTHERHOOD

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

13,630 beneficiaries received services supported from cross-border operations managed from Jordan:

- 1,011 normal deliveries
- 586 C-sections
- 88 pregnancies under 18
- 4,122 ante-natal care services
- 1,084 post-natal care services
- 973 family planning services

30,152 clients received services supported from cross-border operations managed Turkey:

- 1,227 normal deliveries
- 179 C-section deliveries
- 124 pregnancies under 18
- 4,139 ante-natal care services
- 1,105 post-natal care services
- 7,137 family planning services

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

831 women reached through outreach activities supported from cross-border operations managed from Jordan

7,937 women reached through outreach activities supported from cross-border operations managed from Turkey

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

RESPONSE SERVICES

1,784 clients received gender-based violence services supported cross-border from Turkey

3,563 clients received gender-based violence services supported cross-border from Jordan

GBV AWARENESS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

1,646 Syrians reached through outreach and awareness activities supported cross-border from Turkey

1,360 Syrians reached through outreach and awareness activities supported cross-border from Jordan

TRAINING

67 persons trained supported cross-border from Turkey

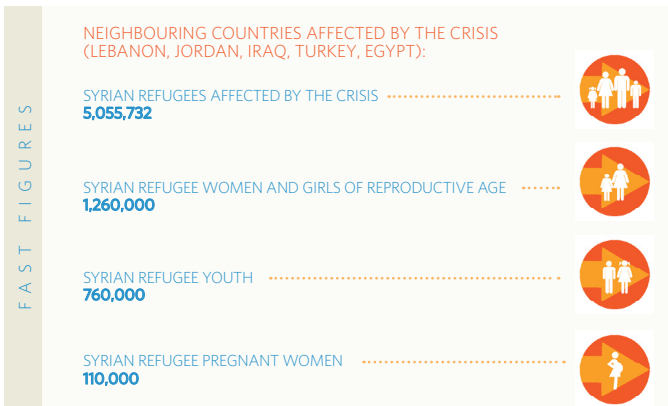
24 persons trained supported cross-border from Jordan



Incubator Unit at Al Noor Hospital, a SAMS-operated CeMONC facility in Kahil, Daraa. Photo Credit: SAMS

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	15,397 services for Syrian beneficiaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •2,806 family planning services •1,008 ante-natal care services •281 post-natal care services •112 pregnancies of women under 18
AWARENESS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	2,733 clients
SUPPLIES	3,580 brochures distributed
TRAINING	168 participants

LEBANON	
SERVICES	295 services for Syrian beneficiaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •18 family planning services •104 ante-natal care services •1 pregnancy of women under 18



Community sensitization meeting on Gender and GBV in Majdle Anjar Bekaa, Lebanon. Photo credit: RDFL

IRAQ	
SERVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •897 family planning services •83 normal deliveries •64 C-section deliveries •392 ante-natal care services

JORDAN	
SERVICES	10,592 reproductive health services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 155 normal deliveries • 44 pregnancies under 18 • 1,496 family planning services • 3,011 ante-natal care services • 442 post-natal care services
AWARENESS SESSIONS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	4,713 clients
OTHER RH SERVICES	1,481 services



GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

TURKEY	
RESPONSE SERVICES	3,861 services
WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	8,234 women and girls
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	4,917 clients
SUPPLIES	959 dignity kits distributed

LEBANON	
RESPONSE SERVICES	5 services
WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	272 women and girls
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	837 clients
TRAINING	176 participants

JORDAN	
WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	3,470 women and girls
RESPONSE SERVICES	935 services
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	896 clients

EGYPT	
WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	324 women and girls



SUPPORTING ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH

TURKEY

YOUTH PROGRAMMING **2,232** young people

JORDAN

YOUTH PROGRAMMING **1,613** young people



Batman museum visit. Photo credit: UNFPA

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.



HIGHLIGHTS

EGYPT

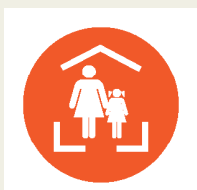
Humanitarian networking meeting with Ministry of Youth and NGO partners

UNFPA formalized its initiative with the Ministry of Youth and Sports to integrate women and girls safe space interventions at youth centers in Sharkia governorate. This project was approved by the ministry as part of the UNFPA adolescents and youth work plan to engage both Syrian and Egyptian women and youth on GBV prevention and response, as well as to empower both communities with skills trainings. As part of this process, UNFPA, MoY staff and Y-PEER visited the identified youth centers in April to assess their location, accessibility to the Syrian community and human resource capacity. In addition, a humanitarian and safe space management meeting was conducted at UNFPA Co to introduce MoY staff to UNFPA humanitarian partners (i.e. AMU and Care) and to share their experience on safe space social empowerment activities and best practices in safe space management. The meeting also gathered Y-PEER members from the Syrian community, as well as medical students who spoke about their experience using peer education and theatre technique with Syrian and Egyptian youth.

A variety of continuing activities

UNFPA supported programs continued to operate at centers in El Maadi, Alexandria, and Naser City. The programs included courses in first aid, English and cooking, as well as classes in ceramics, handicrafts, and accessories design. Other programs included an educational session on issues related to hepatitis C, colon and breast cancer, early marriage, child exploitation and autism, as well as aerobics classes, group therapy sessions and a training on project management and marketing. "I come here to meet my friends and to feel freedom," said one of the beneficiaries.

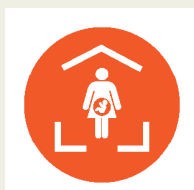
UNFPA-SUPPORTED FACILITIES



Number of women's spaces

61

Jordan
15
Lebanon
3
Iraq
13
Turkey
30
Egypt
5



Number of field reproductive health clinics or mobile teams

74

Jordan
18
Iraq
24
Lebanon
2
Turkey
30



Number of youth centres and safe spaces

25

Jordan
11
Iraq
11
Turkey
3

HIGHLIGHTS

JORDAN



US Senator Michael Bennet visiting a maternal health clinic in Zaatari camp. Photo credit: UNFPA

US senator highlights success of Zaatari Camp maternal health clinic

Michael Bennet, United States Senator from Colorado, visited a maternal health clinic in Zaatari camp for refugees in Jordan that UNFPA has been supporting since 2012. To date, a total of 7,381 babies have been born safely in the clinic, which is the only one available in the camp where almost 80,000 people live, including 19,000 women of reproductive age. Senator Bennet visited several other UNFPA-supported projects during his time in Zaatari, such as a special centre for youth, supported by UNFPA and managed by US NGO Questscope. He gained a close view of the kind and the quality of services that are available to women and young girls at the various reproductive health facilities in the camp. "Babies continue to be born even when conflict and displacement hit their families," he said. "To be able to sustain a maternal clinic for nearly five years with zero maternal deaths means this is a model of best practice."

UNFPA supports vaccination campaign

UNFPA supported the inter-agency work on the Emergency Vaccination Campaign (EVC) at the Berm on Jordan's northeastern border with Syria. The focus of UNFPA's work in the campaign there will be on identifying pregnant women that need to be vaccinated (Tetanus Toxoid (TT)), identifying high risk pregnancies which might need urgent interventions by the RH team, and providing dignity kits to pregnant women. UNFPA will also provide technical support and monitoring for the above mentioned activities.

TURKEY

Gaining strength through assistance

F. is a 38-year-old mother with 4 children. She first married at 14 years old, to a boy of 15. However, this marriage ended after 6 months due to violence, which she sought psychiatric treatment afterwards as a result of. She married again at age 19, but experienced violence in this marriage as well. In fact, she says that she does not even remember a single positive moment about her life during this time. "The only thing I remember about my husband is that he wanted to make me suffer," she said. "He cut my long hair to punish me. Be assured that he beat

me every day, but cutting my hair was so painful."

When the war broke out in Syria, F. lost her eldest son, and she was severely wounded. After she healed, she became pregnant to fill the void from losing her son. However, in the first months of her pregnancy, her husband found a new woman. And, despite her pregnancy, she said, her husband practiced violence against her and even against her children. He even tried to kill her son with a gun, she said. He also did not allow anyone in the family to leave the house. In the last months of the pregnancy, her city experienced intense bombardment and conflict. Finally, she gave birth alone in the house because she was afraid of both her husband's repression and the conflict in the city. After this, though, F. escaped from her husband and his relatives, and took refuge in Turkey, bringing her children with her.

We met with F. when she came to our Turkish language course. First, F. met with our social workers to start the registration process and then they gave various information to her. We were also in contact with other non-governmental organizations to work together to give her rent and family assistance.

F. has now been working as a healthcare agent for about 3 months in our institution. F., a woman who had never worked before, was very upset when her 13-year-old son began earning money by collecting garbage when she first came to Turkey. But, she says, the difficult times are a little further behind her now because she is working on her own.

She says our institution has had a great impact on her life. "I was afraid to talk to even a little boy before. I was afraid my husband or relatives would find me," she said. "But now I'm strong like a door. Now I get the right without fear, I feel strong enough to protect myself and my children."



Girls activity at Huksam: Photo credit: UNFPA

TURKEY-CROSS BORDER

Increased ability to serve women and girls

UNFPA supported health facilities and women and girls safe spaces continued to implement integrated RH and GBV services in under served areas of Aleppo, Idleb, Hama, Homs and Damascus. Significantly--following three months of preparations--one women and girls safe space in Idleb that had been out of service for several months resumed activities at full scale, and beneficiaries as a result began to benefit from the various services. Furthermore, a new women and girls safe space has opened in Suran, in an effort to serve under served communities that will possibly receive IDPs from Raqqa.

HIGHLIGHTS

UNFPA strategy to deploy technical expertise in both Gaziantep and at field level has been a major success so far. Thanks to newly deployed case managers, a number of UNFPA supported health facilities in Aleppo have for the first time become capable of dealing with complicated GBV issues.

With regard to the IP management and monitoring, UNFPA continued to hold regular monitoring and coaching meetings with partners in order to oversee the progress of the projects inside Syria. At the same time, UNFPA--with support of the regional Hub--is in the final stages of circulating the modified data collection tools to partners.

Finally, in response to the recent four villages agreement in Syria--which included displacements of population from the south to the north, and vice versa, UNFPA through partners has been playing a major role in responding to the protection and reproductive health needs of IDPs. Dignity kits and PFA have been provided in response to each evacuation from besieged areas to Idlib or Aleppo.



A recreational activity in a UNFPA supported women and girls center in Idleb. Photo credit: UNFPA

LEBANON

"A person should always seek knowledge and enlightenment and never be afraid of speaking out about his or her problems." Beneficiary

"This meeting has broken my fear of silence and has allowed me to express myself." Beneficiary receiving emotional support group sessions

"My wife was 14 years old when we got married. I loved her and asked her parents for her hand. My wife is now 15 and we have a baby. My mother has to show her through everything, such as housework and raising children. She could never do this on her own." FGD participant in the group of fathers .



During a focus group discussion on early marriage for young men. Photo credit RET Liban

JORDAN-CROSS BORDER



Activities for children at WGSS in Breiqa Camp, Quneitra, operated by Relief International. Photo Credit: RI

New women and girls centers established

UNFPA's implementing partner Relief International has established 6 new safe spaces. A team of volunteers for new WGSS have been recruited and trained in GBV, general protection, PFA and communication skills, and outreach teams have started activities in all 6 new locations. Regarding other WGSS facilities operated by Relief International, a 12 year old girl who goes to the center at Al Noor Maternity Hospital in Nasriyeh, Dara'a, said, "I heard about the center from my friends at school and wanted to see its activities." Of the center at Al Amal Camp, located in Al Rafid, Quneitra, a 52 year old woman said, "I love to come to the center and chat and laugh with the other women."

Cross border convoy reactivated

On March 7, UNFPA participated in the reactivated cross border convoy and sent one truck to Tal Shehab containing 154 RH kits as well as essential RH medicines and supplies procured by UNFPA's partner, Relief International. Part of the ERH kits were then moved to UNFPA's warehouse in eastern Dara'a to pre-position supplies there.

Remote training held

On March 2, consultant to UNFPA Dr. Manal Tahtamouni conducted a remote training on Clinical Management of Rape (CMR) for Jabata al Khashab PHC, which was attended by 4 medical staff. This facility is located in a hard-to-reach area, and access from this area to Relief International's training facility in Quneitra--as well as the main CMR-provider in Nasriyeh, Dara'a--is often militarily obstructed. Therefore, UNFPA and Relief International worked together to ensure that staff from this PHC were provided with basic training on CMR to enable them to provide services to patients in this area.

COORDINATION & CAPACITY BUILDING

LEBANON

UNFPA has co-led with UNHCR and the Ministry of Social Affairs the monthly National SGBV Task Force meeting, where the way forward on the IASC Guidelines roll-out has been endorsed, and the national plan to develop a strategy on early marriage was discussed with the Higher Council of Childhood.

UNFPA has led the CMR Monthly Task Force meeting, where CMR training updates were shared and the joint CMR advocacy document intended for the nationalizing of CMR services in Lebanon was reviewed and endorsed by the members before submission to the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH).

JORDAN

The Child Marriage Task Force has been re-activated under the umbrella of the SGBV-SWG. The task force consists of about 15 member organizations including the National Council for Family Affairs (NCFA) and will remain active for six months. The task force will do the mapping of services and identify best practices to address the issue of Child Marriage among Syrian refugees in Jordan.

WHOLE OF SYRIA GBV COORDINATION

UNFPA leads the Whole of Syria GBV coordination system. Preparation for protection and GBV assessment for the Whole of Syria Humanitarian Needs Overview has begun. Whole of Syria Adolescent girl strategy development has also

begun. The adolescent girl strategy will address the needs of adolescent girls in a holistic way, with a specific focus on gender based violence and reproductive health. The strategy will be final by end of July.

CHALLENGES

TURKEY

Previously mentioned challenges continue. Economic problems make it hard for beneficiaries to reach the programs. Security threats within and outside the borders of Turkey have some indirect negative impact on the programming. Language barriers limit access to some services, especially in the field of health (lack of Arabic speaking psychologists, social workers, doctors, etc.). Other challenges faced include limited access to justice, unemployment, and increased tension between the refugee population and the host community.

JORDAN - CROSS BORDER

The siege of eastern Ghouta in rural Damascus, where UNFPA supports two facilities, has worsened in March with Syrian government forces launching further attacks on health facilities and also destroying tunnels that were serving as critical supply routes for essential food and medicines for the people there.

Due to territorial advances in West Dara'a of ISIL-affiliated Jaysh Khalid bin Walid in February, access to the UNFPA supported facility in Tseel remains blocked.

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, 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 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, Mazloum Hospital and International Organization for Migration (IOM).

IN JORDAN: Ministry of Health (MOH), Institute for Family Health (IFH), International Medical Corps (IMC), Jordanian Health Aid Society (JHAS), Family Protection Department (FPD), 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 (MOH), CARE International Arab Medical Union and Regional Centre for Training.

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