



The graduation ceremony of the first batch of the coding boot camp that was fully supported by UNFPA - Syria at Damascus University. Photo Credit: UNFPA

Eighteen Syrian youth graduated in May at a ceremony held at Damascus University from the first coding and communications skills boot camp sponsored by the locally based “ChangeMakers” programme and fully supported by UNFPA Syria. This is one among several UNFPA programs empowering youth affected by the Syria crisis.

UNFPA supported the launching of the boot camp in October 2016 and continued its support for the 15 weeks of the course. The program focused on introducing coding skills to young participants between the ages of 15 and 18, and on providing them with other skills that they had not learned because of the absence of technology education in their schools. The program also aimed to reduce the gender gap in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) by introducing female role models to the participants.

“It was such a remarkable experience where we were exposed to a new science [that] we didn’t know exist[ed] or at least had known it was available,” said Loulia Hilal, one of the boot camp graduates. According to Hilal, none of her female friends knew what programming was. At the boot camp, though, she learned Java Script and HTML, and learned how to design a game as well. The coding, she said, was helpful in other areas of her life too. “Additionally, coding taught me other life skills, like how to organize my life,” she said. “I also learned to see my mistakes, because that makes it possible to fix them.”

In addition, the program also used TED-Education curriculum that focused on improving the presentation and communication skills of participants, as ChangeMakers believes such skills are necessary to help young people gain the confidence they need to be active citizens in their communities and bring about positive change.

“Eighteen young people went through a life-changing experience with ChangeMakers,” said Massimo Diana, UNFPA Syria Representative. “They didn’t only gain knowledge but also transformed their potential

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH DURING MAY 2017

Three new women and girls safe spaces have opened in Egypt.

Beneficiary survey in Jordan has produced positive results.

into trained skills to spread hope in the midst of pain, and they will, no doubt, pave the way to a future full of passion and achievements.”

ChangeMakers is a Syrian youth-to-youth initiative that runs programs aiming to encourage and support youth by providing them with skills, tools, opportunities, and a youth friendly environment of young innovators. It was launched in 2016 by a group of young people based in Damascus with the aim of stimulating the innovation of young people to catalyze positive social change, and runs free of charge programs fully funded by UNFPA Syria.

“[The] ChangeMakers program helped me to explore my passion and generate new ideas,” said Baraa Al Salem, one of the program participants. He said he signed up for the program to learn about programming, and to try something more enjoyable and different from “the usual academic life.” He said that everyone his age should learn coding because it is the language of today and the future “I had a dream to share my ideas and it became true,” he said.

### SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC (FROM ALL CHANNELS)

**359,433** reproductive health services delivered to Syrians

**9,218** deliveries supported, including 3,504 C-section deliveries

**66,307** family planning services

**19,307** gender-based violence response services provided to Syrians

**16,072** women accessed women safe spaces

### IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS

**22,538** reproductive health services delivered to Syrian refugees

**6,942** Syrians received family planning services and consultations

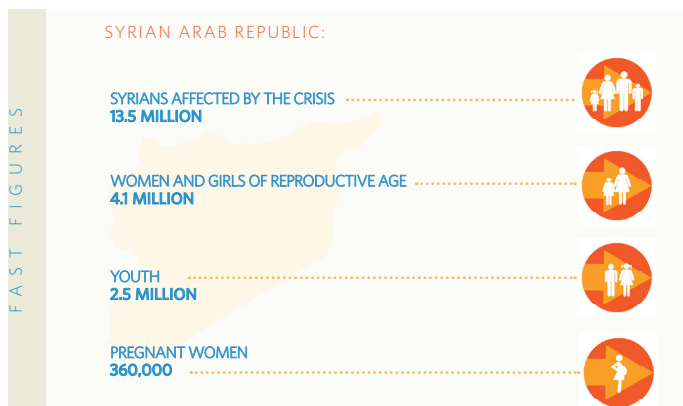
**3,983** clients received gender-based violence services

**21,813** Syrian refugees accessed women safe spaces and participated in activities in camps and host communities

**9,526** 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

**322,344** reproductive health services

- 3,637 normal deliveries
- 2,578 C- section deliveries
- 74,522 ante-natal care services
- 58,485 family planning services
- 5,202 pregnancies under 18

OTHER REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES **169,705** clients

SUPPLIES **980** reproductive health kits

##### GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

RESPONSE SERVICES **10,509** women and girls

WOMEN ACCESSING SAFE SPACES **11,412** women and girls

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES **11,022** clients

#### UNFPA-SUPPORTED FACILITIES IN SYRIA



Number of women's spaces

32



Number of field reproductive health clinics or mobile teams

44



Number of health facilities

927

#### RESPONSE THROUGH CROSS-BORDER MODALITY

##### REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND SAFE MOTHERHOOD

###### REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

**12,478** beneficiaries received services supported from cross-border operations managed from Jordan:

- 933 normal deliveries
- 544 C-sections
- 103 pregnancies under 18
- 3,668 ante-natal care services
- 932 post-natal care services
- 712 family planning services

**24,611** clients received services supported from cross-border operations managed Turkey:

- 1,144 normal deliveries
- 382 C-section deliveries
- 148 pregnancies under 18
- 4,869 ante-natal care services
- 866 post-natal care services
- 7,110 family planning services

###### OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

**1,528** women reached through outreach activities supported from cross-border operations managed from Jordan

**7,221** women reached through outreach activities supported from cross-border operations managed from Turkey

##### GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

###### RESPONSE SERVICES

**5,682** clients received gender-based violence services supported cross-border from Turkey

**3,116** clients received gender-based violence services supported cross-border from Jordan

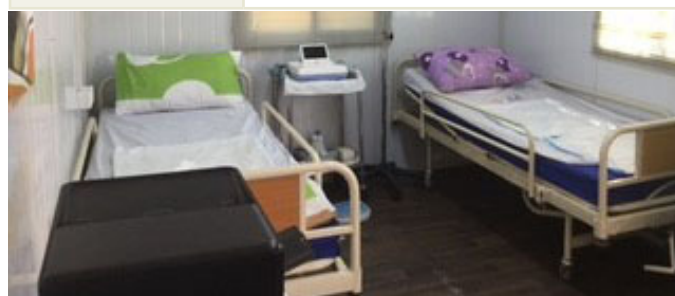
###### GBV AWARENESS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

**620** Syrians reached through outreach and awareness activities supported cross-border from Turkey

**4,487** Syrians reached through outreach and awareness activities supported cross-border from Jordan

###### TRAINING

**22** persons trained supported cross-border from Turkey



UNFPA supported clinic at the "berm" on the Syrian border with Jordan.

Photo credit: UNFPA

## 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	<b>9,477</b> services for Syrian beneficiaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•3,793 family planning services</li> <li>•473 ante-natal care services</li> <li>•64 post-natal care services</li> <li>•8 pregnancies of women under 18</li> </ul>
AWARENESS SESSIONS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	<b>2,060</b> clients
SUPPLIES	<b>2,520</b> brochures distributed

LEBANON	
SERVICES	<b>369</b> services for Syrian beneficiaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•45 family planning services</li> <li>•131 ante-natal care services</li> <li>•5 pregnancies of women under 18</li> </ul>

JORDAN	
SERVICES	<b>12,692</b> reproductive health services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 178 normal deliveries</li> <li>• 18 pregnancies under 18</li> <li>• 1,465 family planning services</li> <li>• 2,904 ante-natal care services</li> <li>• 551 post-natal care services</li> </ul>
AWARENESS SESSIONS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	<b>3,068</b> clients
OTHER RH SERVICES	<b>1,788</b> services

IRAQ	
SERVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•1,639 family planning services</li> <li>•219 normal deliveries</li> <li>•60 C-section deliveries</li> <li>•341 ante-natal care services</li> </ul>



### SUPPORTING ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH

TURKEY	
YOUTH PROGRAMMING	<b>4,120</b> young people
JORDAN	
YOUTH PROGRAMMING	<b>1,684</b> young people
IRAQ	
YOUTH PROGRAMMING	<b>1,755</b> young people
EGYPT	
YOUTH PROGRAMMING	<b>30</b> young people



### GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

TURKEY	
RESPONSE SERVICES	<b>2,815</b> services
WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	<b>9,850</b> women and girls
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	<b>5,950</b> clients
SUPPLIES	<b>9240</b> dignity and hygiene kits distributed

LEBANON	
RESPONSE SERVICES	<b>3</b> services
WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	<b>32</b> women and girls
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	<b>406</b> clients
TRAINING	<b>73</b> participants

JORDAN	
WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	<b>3,885</b> women and girls
RESPONSE SERVICES	<b>1,164</b> services
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	<b>3,170</b> clients

EGYPT	
WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	<b>775</b> women and girls
SUPPLIES	<b>509</b> dignity kits distributed

## HIGHLIGHTS

### EGYPT



Syrian and Egyptian women attending a social empowerment/income generating skills workshop at 10 of Ramadan City Youth Center. Photo credit: UNFPA

### Three new safe spaces inaugurated

The Ministry of Youth and Sports launched three new safe spaces for Syrian and Egyptian Women and Youth in Sharkia Governorate. The agreement formalizing this initiative between the Ministry and UNFPA was approved in April and resulted in eight workshops being conducted in May attended by 72 Syrians and 96 Egyptians. These workshops emphasized social empowerment activities and skills trainings to enhance the spirit of social cohesion between both communities. The workshops were also an entry point to discuss gender-based violence and reproductive health issues, as well as an opportunity to introduce the women to the social workers at each youth center.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports also dedicated resources to co-fund the safe space activities program in youth centers. The contribution of

the ministry included renting halls for trainings, providing trainers at no cost--especially in the field of income generating skills--supplying some of the training material, and providing for the use of ministry facilities at a subsidized cost.

### LEBANON



A group of women attending a focus group discussion on reproductive health and family planning. Photo credit: Makkased Philanthropic Association of Beirut

"In the past I was afraid of change, but now I realize the importance of the positive change I passed through." Beneficiary participating in emotional support group sessions.

"I'm stronger than before. Now I'm a person who faces life difficulties with courage." Beneficiary receiving individual counseling.

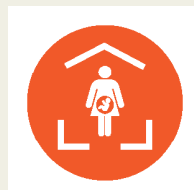
## UNFPA-SUPPORTED FACILITIES



Number of women's spaces

59

Jordan  
15  
Lebanon  
3  
Iraq  
13  
Turkey  
20  
Egypt  
8



Number of field reproductive health clinics or mobile teams

76

Jordan  
18  
Lebanon  
2  
Iraq  
24  
Turkey  
20  
Egypt  
12



Number of youth centres and safe spaces

25

Jordan  
11  
Iraq  
11  
Turkey  
2  
Egypt  
4

## HIGHLIGHTS

### JORDAN



A view of Reproductive Health service delivery in a UNFPA-supported clinic in Zaatari camp. Photo credit: JHAS

#### Beneficiary survey produces positive results

UNFPA conducted a beneficiary satisfaction survey in April consisting of qualitative and quantitative modules. The study aimed at capturing the level of beneficiary satisfaction with services provided at UNFPA-supported sites in the areas of sexual reproductive health (SRH), and Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV). Ten focus group discussions and 80 structured interviews were conducted. The selected sites were Za'atari Camp/Mafraq Governorate, Sweilieh City/Amman Governorate and Deir Ala district/Al-Balqa' Governorate. This was an internal assessment led by UNFPA's Monitoring and Evaluation Officer and supported by UNFPA program staff. These sites have been funded by the European Union.

According to the findings of the survey, 94.61 percent of the beneficiaries are satisfied with the reproductive health services provided to them at the UNFPA supported reproductive health clinics. Of this total, 93.88 percent of the camp beneficiaries reported satisfaction, while 99.38 percent of the beneficiaries in the host communities reported satisfaction. Some beneficiaries in Zaatari camp commented on the evolution of services there and stated that they had witnessed a continuous improvement in the quality of services provided over the years.

"Sometimes, when we can't go to the clinic on the scheduled appointments, the staff call us to follow up and sometimes even visit us at home," said a female respondent from Zaatari.

Almost all clients in Zaatari camp stated that the service providers (doctors, nurses, midwives and receptionists) are friendly, polite and welcoming, and are willing to help and treat them with respect.

"Sometimes it feels as if the staff at the clinic care for us more than we care for ourselves," said another female respondent from Zaatari.

Moreover, respondents stated that the service providers respect their

confidentiality and do not give any information about their health issues to other people.

"What I particularly like about this clinic is that no one can guess the reason we are coming," said a female respondent from Deir Alla. "We can come for health services, or psychosocial support, or awareness raising sessions, or even for art."

### TURKEY



Kamer early marriage panel in Gaziantep. Photo credit: UNFPA

#### Economic intervention

"R" is a 29 year old Syrian woman with four children who was engaged at 14. Her married life became one of violence perpetrated by her husband. When the war began, R came to Qamishli in eastern Syria from Aleppo without her family, as her husband refused to go. After one year and a half living alone, her husband came with the children. However, the violence started again. After some time, they went to Ceylanpinar in Turkey on foot, but were taken by the authorities to camp.

Some time after this, they moved to Adana because of the difficult conditions in the camp. In Adana, R moved in with her mother-in-law, who had fled Syria. One day, however, after a family discussion, she and her children were forced out of the house. She and her husband then decided to move to Ankara. After some time, R began working part time in an NGO as a translator, and eventually came to our center because of her job. She asked to see the social worker first, then she had an interview with the psychologist to help her address the violence in her marriage. The social worker assessed her economic difficulties and was able to intervene with the NGO to provide her with full time work.

#### Psychosocial intervention

"S" is a 15 year old Syrian girl who married her cousin--who is 13 years her senior--when she was 13. She was exposed to violence from

her husband and his family, and was also forbidden by her husband from seeing her own family. Moreover, after some time, her husband wanted to marry a second woman. When S did not accept this, her husband brought her to her family's house and left her. UNFPA's implementing partner NGO met S for the first time through another beneficiary. First, she came to the center to apply for Turkish language lessons. Then, the social worker realized S could benefit from interventions and began interviews with her. In these interviews S said that people find her strange because she is a divorced 15-year-old-girl. She also, she said, has many fears related to this issue.

Initially, our social worker informed S about her rights in Turkey and also informed her about issues surrounding early marriage. After this, S began seeing the psychologist at the centre. Both the social worker and psychologist informed her about the adolescent training and activity program in the centre and invited her to join. S has joined the program and has also continued seeing the psychologist.

## JORDAN-CROSS BORDER

### Women and girls safe spaces meeting needs

The rehabilitation of the women and girls safe space (WGSS) in north-western Quneitra is finished, and activities have resumed.

UNFPA's implementing partner Relief International completed a round of 14 focus group discussions--with separate sessions for women and girls--in the WGSS in seven locations. The discussions were held to gather information on GBV and general protection risks including challenges faced by women and girls, and to get feedback from the respondents regarding the types of activities they expect to find in the safe spaces. Some of the feedback included these responses from beneficiaries in unspecified safe spaces in Quneitra:

"The most important thing is to give us courses, like sewing and beauty," 18 year old woman.

"We are extremely happy that you're organizing courses for us, and that we'll get to learn something new," 24 year old woman.

"Your center is a salvation for us to actually enjoy some of our time," 21 year old woman.



Group counselling session at WGSS in Western Dara'a. Photo Credit: Relief International

## COORDINATION & CAPACITY BUILDING

### JORDAN

Four training workshops--2 covering the north, 1 covering central Jordan and one covering the south--were conducted to build the capacity of the Family Protection Committees (FPCs) of the Ministry of Health (MoH) and preventing and addressing gender-based violence. There are a total of 30 FPC's in Jordan--each consisting of a gynecologist, nurse, pediatrician, family medicine physician, midwife and nurse/social worker--and they serve as the first point of contact for GBV cases. However, some of the committees do not have the capacity to evaluate or refer cases of GBV, as only 13 are trained. The workshops--which trained 82 members of these committees--were part of UNFPA's plans to conduct trainings this year for those FPCs that have not received training.

### TURKEY

UNFPA co-chaired the SGBV sub-working group at the Protection Working Group meeting held in Gaziantep, where the terms of references (ToR) on Gateway Organizations was reviewed and the roll out plan for the "Clinical Management of Rape" ToR was introduced. At the Inter-Sector Working Group meeting--also in Gaziantep--the South-East Turkey quarterly operational update with narratives was reviewed and finalized. At the Protection Core Group meeting in Gaziantep UNFPA met with representatives from UNHCR and UNICEF--along with four elected members from the field--where the plan for the information session series that will take place in 3 provinces of southeast Turkey was discussed. Finally, UNFPA attended the Istanbul Protection Working Group meeting, where the SOPs on SGBV and the roll out plan for the "clinical management of rape" ToR were introduced.

### LEBANON

UNFPA led the bimonthly reproductive health sub-working group, where the annual work plan was reviewed and endorsed, and the SRH quarterly reports were reviewed, and challenges and ways forward were discussed.

### TURKEY-CROSS BORDER

The Syria Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) of 2017 identified adolescent girls as particularly at risk of sexual violence and child marriage in Syria. Based on these findings and consultations held by the GBV Area of Responsibility and the Reproductive Health Groups of the Whole of Syria, it was agreed to develop a strategy that would address their specific needs.

#### 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.

## CHALLENGES

### IRAQ

The Mosul conflict and consequent flow of IDP's from Mosul have placed a strain on both human and financial resources.

### JORDAN

The referral system from the clinic in the "berm" to outside services is weak due to security restrictions. The border security situation is also weak, as is patient accessibility to clinics. The working environment is harsh, and involves long travel on the road.

### SYRIA

Staff availability and lack of supplies--especially medication and consumables for new health facilities remain a challenge in the south.

The depreciation of the Syrian currency--coupled with increased prices, especially during the holy month of Ramadan--is affecting the ability of needy families to cope with the every day demands related to food, shelter and education. At the same time, due to financial pressure women can be exposed to different risks, such as GBV and limited access to reproductive health services.

Administrative hurdles and bureaucratic procedures imposed by the

local partners are delaying the endorsement of the AWP's, which may reflect negatively on the ability of UNFPA to timely reach out to crisis affected people.

### JORDAN-CROSS BORDER

Shelling and airstrikes continued throughout the month with Khail and Mseifra receiving multiple attacks.

### TURKEY

In addition to previously mentioned challenges, through an executive order released on 29 April, one of UNFPA Turkey's implementing partners--International Middle East Peace (IMPR)--was closed and their field activities suspended. As a result, ten centres that were being managed by IMPR did not provide services in May, which had a significant negative impact on the availability of SRH and GBV services, as well as on ongoing actions including outreach activities and empowerment activities like language courses. These centres were expected to provide more than 10.000 services in May, reflecting the needs to be met. As a result, efforts are ongoing to make up for these lost services in order to reach the most vulnerable.

## 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, 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).

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.



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### RELEVANT RESOURCES

[www.unfpa.org](http://www.unfpa.org)  
[www.ocha.org](http://www.ocha.org)  
[www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org)  
<http://syria.humanitarianresponse.info>