



Four new United Nations Volunteers joined UNFPA - Syria during June 2017. Photo Credit: UNFPA-Syria/2017

After six years of inactivity, UNFPA Syria has revived the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) program in the country with the addition of four new volunteers. The program had been on hiatus in the country since 2011 due to the crisis.

"It was in 2015 when I heard Mr. Diana (Massimo Diana, UNFPA Representative in Syria) mentioning UNV," said Salam Al-Nukta, a 23 year old student and one of the new volunteers. "He walked the talk and made it a reality."

UNV contributes to peace and development through volunteerism worldwide. It promotes local and national involvement in the issues and initiatives of a given society, and collaborates with partners to recruit qualified and highly motivated volunteers. According to the UNV website, "UNV champions environments in which volunteerism can flourish. It pushes for the ability and right of people to participate in their own development. By integrating volunteers into the objectives and activities of partner organizations, local and national ownership of growth and transformation processes are fortified."

"At UNFPA, we don't only work to empower women and youth, we ensure actively involving them in the planning and implementation process," said Diana. The four volunteers have already been active in their communities. Al-Nukta has volunteered with TedX and helps lead the ChangeMakers program highlighted in the previous report. Eyad Al-Khayat co-organized the first TedX event in Syria that was recently highlighted and helps lead ChangeMakers as well. Alaa Al-Khachi helped reactivate YPEER in 2015 after it stopped functioning due to the security situation, and Lubna Al-Kallas works at UNDP as an administrative assistant.

"Youth can do a lot. They can change the world but we have to give them the opportunity first," said Diana.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH DURING June 2017

Important and successful services continue to be provided at UNFPA supported facilities around the region.

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC (FROM ALL CHANNELS)

- 409,290** reproductive health services delivered to Syrians
- 9,570** deliveries supported, including 3,966 C-section deliveries
- 44,574** family planning services
- 12,418** gender-based violence response services provided to Syrians
- 32,826** women accessed women safe spaces

IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS

- 21,376** reproductive health services delivered to Syrian refugees
- 5,813** Syrians received family planning services and consultations
- 3,504** clients received gender-based violence services
- 13,793** Syrian refugees accessed women safe spaces and participated in activities in camps and host communities
- 5,511** Syrian refugees reached with gender-based violence related messages

UNFPA MISSION:

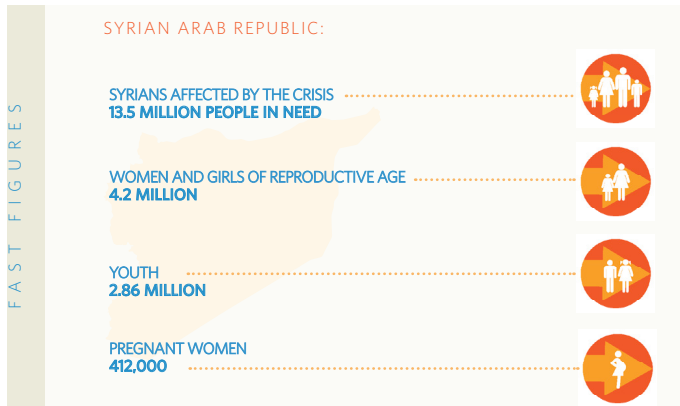
UNFPA believes that every Syrian woman and girl has the right to have access to affordable reproductive health care and be effectively protected from gender-based violence. UNFPA and partners are scaling up efforts to empower and improve the lives of Syrian women and youth and impacted communities inside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



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

377,310 reproductive health services

- 3,672 normal deliveries
- 3,055 C- section deliveries
- 25,826 ante-natal care services
- 42,041 family planning services
- 2,047 pregnancies under 18

OTHER REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES SUPPLIES

144,598 clients

2,890 reproductive health kits

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

RESPONSE SERVICES

6,433 women and girls

WOMEN ACCESSING SAFE SPACES

26,278 women and girls

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

14,047 clients

UNFPA-SUPPORTED FACILITIES IN SYRIA



Number of women's spaces

41



Number of field reproductive health clinics or mobile teams

47



Number of health facilities

938

RESPONSE THROUGH CROSS-BORDER MODALITY

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND SAFE MOTHERHOOD

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

12,893 beneficiaries received services supported from cross-border operations managed from Jordan:

- 1036 normal deliveries
- 513 C-sections
- 74 pregnancies under 18
- 3,836 ante-natal care services
- 1,094 post-natal care services
- 857 family planning services

19,087 clients received services supported from cross-border operations managed from Turkey:

- 896 normal deliveries
- 398 C-section deliveries
- 230 pregnancies under 18
- 4,842 ante-natal care services
- 1,280 post-natal care services
- 1,676 family planning services

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

2,253 women reached through outreach activities supported from cross-border operations managed from Jordan

741 women reached through outreach activities supported from cross-border operations managed from Turkey

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

RESPONSE SERVICES

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

5,827 clients received gender-based violence services supported cross-border from Jordan

GBV AWARENESS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

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

2,865 Syrians reached through outreach and awareness activities supported cross-border from Jordan

WOMEN ACCESSING SAFE SPACES

6,548 women and girls accessed safe spaces supported cross-border from Turkey

Leadership course in Egypt.
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	9,665 services for Syrian beneficiaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3,372 family planning services • 426 ante-natal care services • 52 post-natal care services • 3 pregnancies of women under 18
AWARENESS SESSIONS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	2,163 clients
SUPPLIES	4,905 brochures distributed

LEBANON	
SERVICES	284 services for Syrian beneficiaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 34 family planning services • 101 ante-natal care services • 13 pregnancies of women under 18

JORDAN	
SERVICES	11,427 reproductive health services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 151 normal deliveries • 28 pregnancies under 18 • 1,436 family planning services • 3,098 ante-natal care services • 596 post-natal care services
AWARENESS SESSIONS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	4,140 clients
OTHER RH SERVICES	1,574 services

IRAQ	
SERVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 971 family planning services • 246 normal deliveries • 66 C-section deliveries • 478 ante-natal care services



SUPPORTING ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH

TURKEY	
YOUTH PROGRAMMING	4,131 young people
JORDAN	
YOUTH PROGRAMMING	1,591 young people
IRAQ	
YOUTH PROGRAMMING	1,232 young people
EGYPT	
YOUTH PROGRAMMING	149 young people



GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

TURKEY	
RESPONSE SERVICES	2,420 services
WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	8,473 women and girls
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	2,645 clients
SUPPLIES	19,609 dignity kits distributed

LEBANON	
WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	42 women and girls
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	265 clients
SUPPLIES	225 dignity kits distributed

JORDAN	
WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	3,216 women and girls
RESPONSE SERVICES	1,084 services
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	2,601 clients

EGYPT	
WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	787 women and girls
TRAINING	43 persons trained

HIGHLIGHTS

LEBANON



Activity on team building and communication targeting adolescents.
Photo Credit: Amel Association

"Every day we face many problems; if we don't overcome them, we will be destroyed and hopelessness will kill us. We have to be strong; if women didn't shout and say 'No,' nothing will change." Beneficiary participating in emotional support group sessions.

"Four months after delivering my first child, I became pregnant with the second one. I didn't know that I could get pregnant while breast feeding; I wish I new better, I wasn't ready for another baby. That's why these sessions are so important for each woman." Beneficiary attending an awareness session on family planning methods.

JORDAN

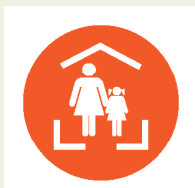
Three Success Stories

Asma, an 18 year old girl who lives in Zaatari camp, has given birth to two children at the UNFPA-supported clinic there. After her second child was born in May she experienced cervical tears, which led to postpartum bleeding. This complication was controlled skillfully by her doctor, as he stabilized the bleeding without the need for referral outside the camp. Asma stayed in the clinic for 24 hours post-delivery, and was able to breastfeed her baby while recovering. Later, a home visit was conducted to check on Asma and her newborn baby. "I am very thankful for the care you gave me, especially the doctor and the midwives who were present," she said. "I was also happy to receive my 'diayara'" (a baby kit given to mothers after delivery).

Tala, an 18 day old baby girl, was brought to the UNFPA supported clinic In Zaatari camp by her mother. The baby was asphyxiated, barely breathing, and bluish colored. According to her mother, Tala swallowed water and soap while being given a bath. The pediatrician urgently cleared her airways and monitored the amount of oxygen in her blood. Tala was stabilized shortly after and did not need an outside referral. She was observed for six hours and then discharged after her mother was provided with education on the correct positioning of babies during bathing. "You have saved my daughter's life," she said.

Khalid is 18 years old and lives in Zaatari camp with his parents and siblings. He is quiet and withdrawn, and has loved art and drawing all his life. He heard about the UNFPA supported Youth Center at Zaatari camp through one of the outreach campaigns conducted by Syrian volunteers. After taking Arabic calligraphy courses there, he received a great deal of support from his tutor, who followed up with him daily

UNFPA-SUPPORTED FACILITIES



Number of women's spaces

56

Jordan

15

Iraq

13

Turkey

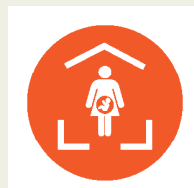
20

Egypt

8

Lebanon

5



Number of field reproductive health clinics or mobile teams

74

Jordan

18

Iraq

24

Turkey

20

Egypt

12

Lebanon

6



Number of youth centres and safe spaces

28

Jordan

11

Iraq

11

Turkey

2

Egypt

4

HIGHLIGHTS

and encouraged him to develop his skills and interact with the other participants. This encouragement helped break the barriers of shyness in Khalid between him and the other youth.

After some time he began to help his peers with their art, and took drawing courses as well. Through these shared activities he began to develop close friendships with other youth in the courses.

Now Khalid is one of the most talented calligraphers at the center. He wanted to practice outside of the center as well, so he was allowed to borrow some supplies to continue developing his talent in his own time. "I participated in activities at many NGOs in the camp, but nowhere did I find the same level of support and encouragement that I found here at the youth center," said Khalid.



Women participating in an awareness session at UNFPA-supported women and girl's safe space in East Amman. Photo credit: IFH

TURKEY

Legal Counseling

Maysoon is a 37 year old Syrian woman. She was married at 15 and adopted a child at the age of 21, after having no children of her own. Seven years later, she became pregnant. From the beginning of her marriage, she was subjected to violence from her husband, who was violent towards her children too. "Because of the social pressure, I have put up with this violence," said Maysoon. "Otherwise, I hate my husband".

Maysoon came to the Centre after she was told by a Syrian midwife that she was pregnant. "I was worried about being pregnant because my husband can damage the baby and myself," she said.

First, the psychologist at the Centre interviewed Maysoon. Then, the social worker informed her about her legal rights and the protection system in Turkey. She was told about the NGO SONIM and women's shelters, and given a brochure with emergency phone numbers. She was also referred to a doctor from the Migrant Health Centre, who informed her she was misdiagnosed and was not pregnant. Finally, she was invited to attend the Centre's awareness raising activities.

Early Marriage Counseling

Abeer is a 15 year old Syrian girl who came to Turkey with her family one year ago. Abeer and her mother, Farah, first came to the Centre for the Turkish language lessons. At some point, the social worker there learned that Abeer had become engaged. As a result, the social worker had an interview with Abeer and her mother, and they discussed the Civil Code and the legal marriage age in Turkey. They also discussed the negative effects of child marriage--both mentally and physically. After the interview, the social worker invited Abeer to awareness raising group activities organized by adolescents. Abeer and her mother were encouraged to participate in a child marriage panel organized by UNFPA partners in Ankara as well. After the Panel, Abeer came to the Centre and said that she had decided to put off her engagement.



Kamer Diyarbakır awareness raising session. Photo Credit: UNFPA

JORDAN CROSS-BORDER



Exhibition of children's art at women and girls safe space in western Dara'a. Photo credit: Relief International

"I love the idea of the art exhibition you organized for children." 35 year old beneficiary in the Nassriyeh WGSS.

"I'm an IDP and have no relatives here. I'm very happy about your center because now I have a place to go." 21 year old woman in Qseibeh WGSS.

TURKEY CROSS-BORDER



Vocational training at women and girls safe space. Photo credit: UNFPA

Important Services Endure

UNFPA continues to provide support to health facilities and women and girls safe spaces (WGSS) to deliver reproductive health and gender-based violence services in Idlib, Aleppo, Homs and Hama governorates. This includes a new WGSS in Suran; two more in Al Bab and Jarablus are in the final stages of preparations.

"The center is in the middle of the camp and it is easily accessible; I visit the center every four weeks to monitor my pregnancy." A patient from Bab Al-Nour center.

"We have benefited greatly from psychosocial support sessions where we have been able to solve our problems that we face in our daily lives," says a WGSS beneficiary.

SYRIA



Thirty young people participated in an interactive theater workshop in Misyaf, in Hama city. Two plays were included; one about GBV and forced marriage, and another about youth and social media. The focus was on introducing GBV concepts and types, the reasons and features of forced marriage, the concept of being single from social perspectives, and the link between youth and social media. Photo credit: UNFPA

COORDINATION & CAPACITY BUILDING

TURKEY

The SGBV Working Group met in Ankara with the participation of UNFPA, the Ministry of Family and Social Policies, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNW and AFAD (The Disaster and Emergency Management Authority).

LEBANON

UNFPA co-led with UNHCR the monthly case management meeting to finalize a new "Guidance on Supervision for GBV Case Management", which includes a section on staff welfare. The document has been produced in consultation with the 14 case management agencies in country, with the inputs of the GBV Global Team.

UNFPA led the CMR Monthly Task Force meeting, where CMR training updates were shared, and a two training action plan was agreed upon.

SYRIA

UNFPA-Homs led a meeting to introduce the concept of GBV mainstreaming to all active sectors, and to assess the needs of sectors and IPs regarding issues related to GBV mainstreaming. Twenty-two participants attended, including the head offices of the active sectors, focal points, and program officers from OCHA, UNHCR, WFP, UN Habitat, WHO, Unicef, IOM, and UNDP.

JORDAN

UNFPA chaired the Reproductive Health Sub Working Group (SWG) meeting, attended by 22 reproductive health members from the Ministry of Health, other UN agencies, and national and international NGOs. Main issues discussed related to the involvement of men in provision of sexual and reproductive health services in camps and urban settings. Special focus was also given to issues related to maternal nutrition during pregnancy and its effect on foetal outcome.

TURKEY CROSS-BORDER

As part of the first GBV sub-cluster capacity building initiative (GBV CBI), a learning session on integrating people with disabilities was held. Key principles on making GBV services more accessible for people with disabilities were introduced. Five of the seven active organizations took part. A learning corner on the topic was also held during the GBV sub-cluster meeting. The second phase of the GBV capacity building initiative is ongoing, and includes the launching of an initial capacity assessment. Twenty-nine people completed the survey, from 11 organizations. Overall, managers, supervisors, and psychosocial support service (PSS) workers showed a basic level of knowledge and skills. Some gaps, however, were noted in the understanding of GBV and PSS, and in attitudes. Supervisory structures were also reported as needing strengthening.

The GBV sub-cluster and the SRH sub-group organized an adolescent girl strategy consultation with partners from the sub-cluster and reproductive health working group and GBV coordinators from Amman and Damascus. This meeting provided an overview of the importance of addressing the needs of adolescent girls in humanitarian crises like in Syria. An outline of a strategy on how best to address the needs of adolescent girls was introduced, and partners provided feedback.

CHALLENGES

SYRIA

Electricity cuts coupled with hot weather may affect the health status of women, exposing them to various risks including exploitation and sexual abuse while seeking cold water or fuel to operate generators. Administrative hurdles related to the delay in getting the annual work plans signed is affecting the ability to reach all the targeted people with timely reproductive health and GBV services. Finally, the ability to monitor the humanitarian response in areas of active military operations is limited.

JORDAN CROSS-BORDER

The trilateral agreement between Turkey, Iran and Russia regarding a series of de-escalation zones inside Syria has added an element of ambiguity to cross-border operations. The boundaries of these zones are still undefined as are mechanisms for ensuring the safety and security of inhabitants. Also, conflict between the Government of Syria and opposition forces intensified during the month of May in southern Syria and rural Damascus. Increased air strikes and shelling have increased the security risk to United Nations convoys and interrupted the normal delivery of services. Additionally, key smuggling tunnels that were used to supply vital goods such as medicines and fuel into Eastern Ghouta and rural Damascus were destroyed in February and March, which has

led to dramatic increases in the price of fuel which is essential for the operation of the emergency obstetric facilities that UNFPA supports in that area.

TURKEY CROSS-BORDER

One of the major challenges is the limited understanding within local communities of the scope of available services at each facility. This often leads to unrealistic expectations from both beneficiaries and staff regarding what the respective facility can deliver. In response, UNFPA has agreed on measures to be taken to improve understanding among staff of the scope of services available at the various facilities and the staff member responsible for each service. Additional measures have been agreed upon to increase the awareness of local communities as well.

EGYPT

It was challenging during Ramadan to attract women to participate in activities during the day--as they would be busy with work in their homes--and there was limited time after the breaking of the fast for participation in activities, when spending time with family would take precedence.

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 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 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 Policies (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
www.ocha.org
www.unhcr.org
http://syria.humanitarianresponse.info