



"I am a prey to all men": Refugee women endure poverty, harassment, isolation.

DUHOK, Iraq – When 28-year-old Muna* fled the turmoil in Syria three years ago, she did not imagine she would wind up alone, shouldering sole responsibility for her children's care, all while under constant threat of abuse and exploitation.

After **Muna**, her husband and three children escaped the war in Syria, they settled in the Domiz refugee camp in Duhok, Iraq. But life was difficult, with few opportunities, so they decided to follow the hundreds of thousands of refugees who had continued onward to Europe.

Muna's husband left first, eight months ago, hoping to reach Germany. Smugglers promised to bring Muna and the children soon after.

To raise the funds to pay them, she sold the caravan they were living in. She also notified the camp that they would be leaving.

"I spent the money I had... My children left school when we were preparing to follow their father," she said.

But the main route to Europe was shut down before they could depart. Muna found herself without a job or home – or protection.

Female-headed refugee households are extremely vulnerable. With little or no regular income, these women and their children often face crushing poverty. And without traditional community protections, the women endure relentless harassment in the streets, or worse.

As a "lone woman, even if I have children – with the oldest of them 10 – I am a prey to all men," Muna told UNFPA.

Even living with a cruel husband, she said, "is better than being harassed by men everywhere."

Making matters more complicated, Muna struggled to get a new shelter assigned to her family because she had formally indicated they would be leaving the camp.

The only people Muna could turn to were distant relatives of her husband.

"I had to move from one house to another, begging them to host us for some time until our housing issue is resolved," she said, tearing up as she spoke.

Muna sought help at the Yasmien Women's Social Centre, a UNFPA-supported safe space for women in Dohuk. The centre had previously provided counselling and other support to Muna after she arrived in the camp.

"We referred her [to the housing officials] and explained her situation to the camp management," said Sozdar Suliman, a social worker at the centre. "Fortunately, due to her circumstances as a lone woman, they decided to provide her with a shelter."

"They also helped me secure a job," Muna told UNFPA. "Though the payment is little, it helps me secure part of the basics I need for my children."

Sadly, many refugee women face similar insecurity and hostility, and it can drive them to take drastic action.

Yusra Abdo, another social worker at the centre, said most of the women who head their households in Domiz Camp are subject to harassment, and even violence.

Some women are pressured to marry off their daughters to any suitor, regardless of his age or marital status, just to have a man in the family, Ms. Suliman noted.

"We managed to stop several cases of early marriages, as mothers want their

daughters to get married for that purpose," Ms. Suliman recalled, adding that she and her colleagues explained the dangers of child marriage to the women and tried to assist them in other ways.

"We support them as much as we can," Ms. Abdo said.

**Name changed.*

-Source: <http://www.unfpa.org/news/%E2%80%99Ci-am-prey-all-men%E2%80%9D-refugee-women-endure-poverty-harassment-isolation#>

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

DURING NOVEMBER 2016

UNFPA expressed its concern over the attack on two of its supported maternity facilities in Syria.

The UNFPA-supported maternity hospital in Idlib was bombed on November 25, which is the day that marks the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

M2 hospital in East Aleppo was also bombed in November, leaving five casualties.

UNFPA Syria participated in three convoys to hard-to-reach areas, one in Madaya-Rural Damascus and two in Homs reaching a total of 1,900 women and girls.

Syrian Arab Republic from all channels

381,081 reproductive health services delivered to Syrians

18,350 deliveries supported, including 7,761 C-section deliveries

51,686 family planning services

7,842 gender-based violence response services provided to Syrians

7,778 women accessed women safe spaces

In neighbouring countries affected by the crisis

43,394 reproductive health services delivered to Syrian refugees

11,531 Syrian refugees benefited from family planning services and consultations

2,735 clients received gender-based violence services

9,639 Syrian refugees accessed women safe spaces and participated in activities in camps and host communities

6,583 Syrian refugees reached with gender-based violence related messages

18,078 dignity kits distributed

UNFPA MISSION:

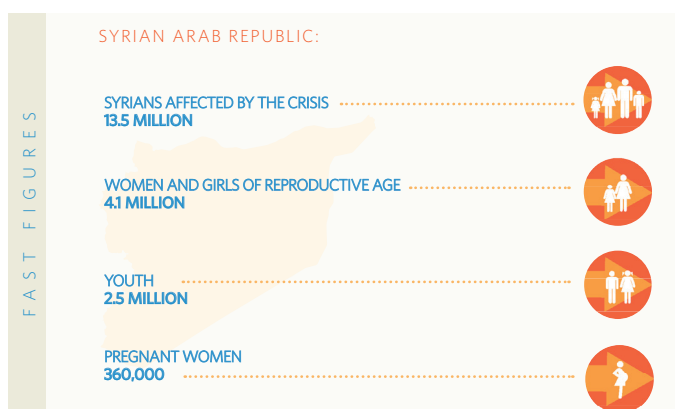
UNFPA believes that every Syrian woman and girl has the right to have access to affordable reproductive health care and be effectively protected from gender-based violence. UNFPA and partners are scaling up efforts to empower and improve the lives of Syrian women and youth and impacted communities inside 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: UNHCR, OCHA and UNFPA May 2016

UNFPA RESPONSE IN SYRIA

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND SAFE MOTHERHOOD

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

343,554 reproductive health services

- 9,005 normal deliveries
- 6,005 C- section deliveries
- 21,752 ante-natal care services
- 45,556 family planning beneficiaries
- 2,521 pregnancies under 18

OTHER RH SERVICES **69,669** clients

RH KITS **1,900** clients

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

RESPONSE SERVICES **3,891** women and girls

WOMEN ACCESSING SAFE SPACES **6,616** women and girls

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES **12,195** clients

TRAINING **90** participants

RESPONSE THROUGH CROSS-BORDER MODALITY

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND SAFE MOTHERHOOD

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

25,396 Syrians received services in the northern part of Syria:

- 1,428 normal deliveries
- 381 C-section deliveries
- 62 pregnancies under 18
- 6,565 ante-natal care services
- 586 post-natal care services
- 5,158 family planning services

12,131 Syrians received services in the southern part of Syria:

- 984 normal deliveries
- 547 C-sections
- 381 pregnancies under 18
- 3,612 ante-natal care services
- 937 post-natal care services
- 772 family planning services
- 70 persons trained

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

6,303 Syrians reached through outreach and awareness activities in the northern part of Syria.

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

RESPONSE SERVICES

2,646 clients received gender-based violence services in the northern part of Syria

1,305 clients received gender-based violence services in the southern part of Syria

GBV AWARENESS & OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

1,379 Syrians benefited from the awareness and outreach activities in the northern part of Syria

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

SUPPLIES

4,200 dignity kits distributed in the northern part of Syria

TRAINING

90 participants took part in GVB-related training in the northern part of Syria

UNFPA-SUPPORTED FACILITIES IN SYRIA



Number of women's spaces

15



Number of field reproductive health clinics or mobile teams

53



Number of health facilities

912

Despite the challenging situation in Aleppo and Idlib, UNFPA through its partners distributed 4,200 dignity kits to various locations in both cities in northern Syria. This was in addition to the 49 reproductive health (RH) kits that were previously distributed to UNFPA-supported primary health care units and mobile clinics in Aleppo and Idlib.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS

FAST FIGURES

NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS
(LEBANON, JORDAN, IRAQ, TURKEY, EGYPT):

SYRIAN REFUGEES AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS
4,812,131

SYRIAN REFUGEE WOMEN AND GIRLS OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE
1,203,000

SYRIAN REFUGEE YOUTH
800,000

SYRIAN REFUGEE PREGNANT WOMEN
80,200

SOURCES: UNHCR, OCHA and UNFPA



REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND SAFE MOTHERHOOD

TURKEY

SERVICES	20,199 services for Syrian beneficiaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 777 ante-natal care services 5,623 family planning services 87 pregnancies of women under 18
AWARENESS SESSIONS & OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	12,043 clients
TRAINING	60 participants
SUPPLIES	2,600 brochures distributed

LEBANON

SERVICES	1,003 reproductive health services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 185 family planning services 65 ante-natal care services
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	474 clients
TRAINING	102 participants

JORDAN

SERVICES	13,558 reproductive health services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 181 normal deliveries 28 pregnancies under 18 1,982 family planning services 3,176 ante-natal care services 825 post-natal care services
AWARENESS SESSIONS	3,008 clients
TRAINING	70 participants

IRAQ

SERVICES	4,317 reproductive health services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 150 normal deliveries 28 C-sections 3,741 family planning services 398 ante-natal care services
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EGYPT

TRAINING	100 participants
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GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

TURKEY

SERVICES TO SURVIVORS	672 services
WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	4,568 Syrian women and girls
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	1,442 Syrians
SUPPLIES	16,658 dignity kits distributed 1,000 brochures on GBV distributed
TRAINING	75 participants

LEBANON

RESPONSE SERVICES	278 services
WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	710 women and girls
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	2,248 Syrians
SUPPLIES	1,420 dignity kits distributed 300 brochures on GBV distributed
TRAINING	47 participants

JORDAN

RESPONSE SERVICES	1,125 services
WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	3,466 Syrian women and girls
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	1,660 clients
TRAINING	64 participants

EGYPT

WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	895 women and girls
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	281 Syrians



GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

IRAQ	
RESPONSE SERVICES	660 services
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	952 clients
TRAINING	19 participants



SUPPORTING ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH

JORDAN	
ACTIVITIES	877 Syrian and Jordanian young people

LEBANON	
ACTIVITIES	560 Syrian young people

TURKEY	
ACTIVITIES	3,089 Syrian young people

EGYPT	
ACTIVITIES	32 Syrian young people

STORIES FROM SYRIAN REFUGEES | JORDAN

Safe delivery even after 40

Salwa Khateeb, a 43-year old Syrian refugee, had never thought that she would become pregnant again once she gave birth to her younger baby 12 years ago.

One day in 2015, the resident of Zaatari camp near Mafraq, 80 kilometres north of Amman, felt an abdominal pain and immediately went to the UNFPA-supported maternal clinic in the camp. Salwa had mixed feelings when a gynecologist in the clinic told her she is pregnant. She felt happy but was afraid of the possibility of losing her baby as she had previous miscarriages due to her age. "The doctor has advised me to visit the clinic regularly and the baby's and my health would be fine".

Salwa gave birth recently to a baby girl at the UNFPA-supported clinic. "I never thought that things would go as smoothly as I am a little old, but the midwives were extremely kind and the delivery went smoothly," Salwa said.



A Syrian woman visiting Buhasder clinic in Izmir, Turkey. Photo credit: UNFPA Turkey

UNFPA-SUPPORTED FACILITIES



Number of women's spaces

58

Lebanon

5

Jordan

15

Iraq

10

Egypt

5

Turkey

23



Number of field reproductive health clinics or mobile teams

80

Jordan

18

(8 in host communities, 10 in camps)

Iraq

25

(12 in camps, 13 in host communities)

Egypt

12

Turkey

23

Lebanon

2



Number of youth centres and safe spaces

25

Lebanon

5

Jordan

11

Iraq

3

Egypt

4

Turkey

2

STORIES FROM SYRIAN REFUGEES

JORDAN-CROSS BORDER

Al Noor Hospital saves lives

One Syrian woman faced many challenges after moving from her original village of Barqa in Syria to Qarqas due to fear of detainment and because of the repeated bombing of her village.

In Qarqas, the 29-year old woman was facing many challenges including poor living conditions, unemployment of her husband and insufficient food for the family.

The woman who got pregnant after fleeing her hometown underwent a previous C-section in Damascus, but this year she could not travel there and went to al Noor hospital. Doctors followed her progression and she received several antenatal care visits in the hospital. In her 41st week of pregnancy doctors rushed her to surgery during which time they discovered she had uterine adhesions. After a complicated surgery, she delivered a baby girl.

However, one hour after the surgery, doctors at Al Noor hospital detected bleeding and increased levels of fluid in the chest tube. They provided her with blood transfusions and performed another emergency surgery. They discovered bleeding at the sites where they had removed the uterine adhesions. They were able to successfully stop the bleeding and admitted the patient to the intensive care unit after the surgery.

She spent three days in the hospital and was released in good health. In consideration of the patient's vulnerable condition, the hospital management provided her with food support and a new mother's kit and discharged her via ambulance.



Newborn in incubator at Al Noor Hospital in Syria. Photo credit: Relief International

Eight UNFPA/QS Youth Center participants were named by ASPIRE Academy among the top 50 football players in the camp. Also, a team from the Youth Center participated in a camp-wide football tournament held by ASPIRE on 18 October and won second place (silver medal) for the 15-17 age group. One player was named MVP by ASPIRE.

A 60-year old Syrian woman in Egypt said that prior to attending activities at one of the UNFPA-supported women and girls safe spaces, "I was depressed and isolated. I did not interact with people as a result of the events I had experienced. Every one of my children lives in a different country and my husband passed away in Syria. After starting attending activities in the safe space, the situation has changed. I felt that many women were undergoing similar experiences, so this supported me. I also managed to express myself and share my struggles in front of others. Overall, it provided me with a non-judgmental and supporting environment."



Youth participating in art activities at the UNFPA-supported youth centre in Zaatari camp. Photo credit: QuestScope.

SYRIA

UNFPA organises a workshop for journalists on reporting about gender-based violence

UNFPA-Syria organised a three-day workshop for journalists on reporting about gender-based violence (GBV). Organised in cooperation with the Ministry of Information, the training included an introduction about GBV concepts and other related terminologies.

"The media's role in covering GBV related issues is very important because it helps in protecting lives", said Marta Pulgar, UNFPA-Syria Deputy Representative.

Arabi Al Masri, a lecturer at the workshop, stressed the importance of word choice in reporting and the impact that words have on the audience. The workshop also introduced ethics that journalists should follow while reporting, in addition to the importance of accuracy and the use of figures.

"This workshop was distinguished by its new interactive style, although it provided intensive information it went smoothly due to the involving discussions", said Rana Mawaldi, working at the developmental media department at the Ministry of Information.

Rahaf Al Rizzah, a worker at an FM radio station said: "the workshop inspired me to bring up new topics to raise awareness on women-related issues".



At a workshop organised for journalists on reporting about GBV issues. Photo credit: UNFPA Syria

COORDINATION & CAPACITY BUILDING

TURKEY

UNFPA took part in the sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) working group meeting that took place in Ankara, Turkey. A session was held on the standard operating procedures that are scheduled to be finalised in December.

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

UNFPA attended the health and inter-agency working group meetings in Gaziantep.

UNFPA attended the mental health and psychosocial support strategy development workshop in Gaziantep to establish strategies and goals for the year 2017.

UNFPA attended the preparatory meeting for participatory assessment meeting organised by UNHCR.

TURKEY- Cross border



UNFPA-supported health facility in Idlib was hit by an air strike resulting in the injury of a number of health workers and a complete shut-down of the services.

The UNFPA cross-border team is expanding its capacity: the office finalised the recruitment process of a local programme associate and the incumbent joined the team as of the first of December. In the meantime, the recruitment process of a finance analyst is ongoing.

JORDAN

UNFPA participated in a training workshop organised by WHO on strengthening family planning services through evidence-based guidelines and best practices in Tunis, Tunisia.

UNFPA chaired the reproductive health sub-working group and finalised the reproductive health core messages (based on the women's life cycle approach) which are related to health education and counseling.

UNFPA with the support of the Ministry of Health organised a training of trainers on the National Framework for Family Protection, Accreditation and Quality Standards for Service Providers and the interagency standard operating procedures for GBV in Jordan.

UNFPA participated in a two-day regional knowledge-sharing workshop organised and hosted by UNFPA Lebanon on developing field-level GBV capacity for improved service delivery,

information management and inter-agency coordination.

A basic Y-PEER training was conducted in the Emirati-Jordanian camp in collaboration with the NGO Institute for Family Health and in the youth centre in Zaatari camp in Mafraq in collaboration with Questscope, UNFPA's implementing partner.

LEBANON



Syrian women during one of the psychosocial support sessions in a women's centre in Lebanon. Photo Credit: Concern World Wide.

UNFPA co-chaired with the Ministry of Social Affairs the monthly national SGBV task force meeting where the indicators and targets of the 2017-2020 Lebanon crisis response plan framework were discussed.

UNFPA chaired the clinical management of rape (CMR) task force meeting and discussed preparations for the CMR national consultation workshop to be conducted in December.

UNFPA co-chaired the reproductive health sub-group meeting and discussed challenges related to referrals of premature births to the neonatal intensive care units in certain hospitals.

UNFPA chaired, with support from UNICEF and UNHCR, the monthly meeting of the gender-based violence information management system steering committee and discussed updates related to training, capacity building initiatives, challenges and data analysis reports.

"I am visiting my gynecologist once per month after the last awareness session I had," said one Syrian woman in Lebanon.

JORDAN- cross border

The UNFPA cross-border team participated in two health sector working group meetings for southern Syria. Key issues discussed included continued closure of the border for training of Syrian personnel, piloting of referral systems in southern Syria, standardisation of the community health worker package, rehabilitation of Jasim hospital after being attacked in July and the administrative formalities in dealing with cross-border shipments.

UNFPA Jordan office hosted a "Whole of Syria 2017" planning meeting with reproductive health and GBV counterparts.

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

16 DAYS

"Last year alone, the Fund invested more than \$93 million in the prevention of and response to gender-based violence and harmful practices in developing countries and in humanitarian crisis situations," Babatunde Osotimehin, UNFPA Executive Director.



Women football teams in Syria participate in the 16 Days of Activism campaign in Syria. Photo credit: UNFPA Syria.



During the launch of the campaign in Erbil, Kurdistan region of Iraq. Photo credit: UNFPA Iraq

UNFPA and other UN agencies launched a campaign to combat gender-based violence in Iraq

Under the theme "From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Step Up for Freedom and Equality", the United Nations in cooperation with the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government launched the 16 days of Activism campaign against gender-based violence in Iraq. The campaign was launched in Baghdad on 26 November 2016.

Ramanathan Balakrishnan, UNFPA Representative in Iraq, highlighted the contribution of the international community in improving the country's capacity, building community resilience and strengthening coordination and advocacy for gender-based violence prevention and response.

The two-week campaign was also launched in Erbil on 27 November 2016 by the Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government, Mr. Nechirvan Barzani, who pledged continued support of the Kurdistan Regional Government to fight violence against women and urged the inclusion of women rights in the education system. Speaking on behalf of the UN System, Nestor Owomuhangi, the UNFPA Deputy Representative in Iraq, highlighted the efforts that have been made by the United

Nations to support the Governments of Iraq and Kurdistan region in increasing access to lifesaving services to those who suffer gender-based violence. He commended the collaboration between the Kurdistan Government and the UNFPA in the establishment of a women's centre in Dohuk Governorate that provides comprehensive medical and mental health and psycho-social support to women and girls that suffered sexual violence from ISIL.



"One in three women will be subject to physical or sexual abuse in her lifetime".

UNFPA country offices observed the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence through organising different activities to increase awareness on the impact of violence on women and girls.



UNFPA Iraq provided 660 GBV services to Syrian refugees in November. photo credit: UNFPA Iraq



IMPR Humanitarian Kecioren Women's Community Center held raising awareness sessions with the support of UNFPA Turkey. #16DaysOfActivism. Photo credit: UNFPA Turkey.

"I attempted to commit suicide four times as I do not see a purpose for my life and do not want my daughter to see me as her role model. Upon accessing the safe space, I witnessed people interacting with each other and striving towards success, and this is when I realised that I can do the same thing," said a Syrian woman in Maadi women safe space in Egypt.

CHALLENGES

TURKEY



One of the SGBV awareness sessions in a youth centre in Diyarbakir, Turkey.
Photo credit: UNFPA Turkey.

Economic problems faced by Syrian refugees still hinder them from reaching or participating in activities.

The security threat outside the borders of Turkey has had an indirect negative impact on the on-going programme.

The language barrier is still limiting access to some of the services especially in the field of health (lack of Arabic speaking psychologists, social workers, doctors, etc.).

TURKEY- Cross border

Insecurity remains the top challenge that hinders proper project implementation and beneficiary accessibility.

UNFPA-supported facilities in Idlib and Aleppo were hit with bombs resulting in suspension of services. The facilities are currently out of service while UNFPA is working with partners to explore ways to ensure service continuity.

EGYPT

Some men do not encourage their wives or daughters to attend activities at women safe spaces.

There is a lack of sustainable funding to ensure continuity of the on-going programmes.

IRAQ

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

JORDAN- Cross border

There is an increase in the number of clients at Al Noor Hospital, where the occupancy rate exceeds 130 per cent.

With the onset of winter there is a need to upgrade the tents in women and girls safe spaces.

DONORS & PARTNERS

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

UNFPA IS GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING DONORS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE SYRIA CRISIS: Australia, Canada, Denmark, European Commission, Germany, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Netherlands, Norway, OCHA/CERF, Saudi Fund for Development, United States, United Kingdom, UNDP.

Private sector: MBC

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

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 (SFP),

Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) IN LEBANON: Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Social Affairs, Lebanese Family Planning Association, Palestinian Red Crescent Society, Humedica, Makhzoumi Foundation, Amel Association, International Medical Corps and Caritas Lebanon, KAFA ("Enough Violence and Exploitation"), Akkarouna, INTERSOS, SHEILD, LOST, Heartland Alliance, Makassed Primary Health Care Centres, Mazloun Hospital and International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

IN JORDAN: Ministry of Health (MOH), Institute for Family Health (IFH), International Medical Corps (IMC), Jordanian Health Aid Society (JHAS), Family Protection Department (FPD), Jordanian Women's Union (JWU), Youth Peer Education Network (YPE), NCFA (National Council for Family Affairs), Questscope. 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 Policies (MoFSP), Harran University in Sanliurfa, NGOs including the International Middle East Peace Research Centre (IMPR), KAMER, TOG, RET International, HÜKSAM, ASAM, BUHASDER.

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RELEVANT RESOURCES

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