



Majd (pink hijab) and her friend Rawan during piano lessons at the UNFPA supported youth centre in the Zaatari refugee camp. Photo Credit: UNFPA-Jordan/2017

### “I Found the Nourishment I Had Been Looking For”

The UNFPA supported youth centre in the Zaatari refugee camp in northern Jordan is not just a place for youth to engage in various activities and meet other youth, as important as those pursuits are. It is also a place for education and inspiration.

Fifteen-year-old Majd personifies this outlook. A resident of the camp since she was eleven, she needed something to encourage her spirit amidst the difficulties of life there, something to help give her a sense of progress in her life. “I came to Za’atari almost five years ago, and in the midst of the pain of living in the camp, I was looking for some nourishment for my soul, and something to make me feel that I was still moving forward,” she said.

At some point Majd looked to the youth centre to fulfill her needs. Among other activities, the centre offers youth the opportunity to learn music theory and assorted instruments like guitar, oud and tabla. Majd, however, was drawn to the piano. “I heard about the youth centre from some family friends, and when I visited, I was most inspired by the music room,” she said. “I began learning how to play the keyboard.”

Despite living far from the youth centre and knowing nothing about music, Majd came and took classes almost daily. In time, she not only learned to play the piano, but she learned to play it well enough to lead the girls’ music team there in performances for various gatherings at the centre, for which they played various eastern and western selections.

In the process, she overcame her fear of playing music in front of others. She also attained the sense of progress in her life that she was seeking. “I have received many invitations to play music in other

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH DURING September 2017

Several youth initiatives held in Syria.  
Jordan Cross-Border works to localize reproductive health services.

organizations in the camp,” she said. “It makes me feel so special and valued. It makes me realize I have actually achieved something unique in the camp.”

Majd thanked her teacher “for all his efforts” with the piano. She had learned to play and had achieved something positive in the camp. And, just as important, she found that encouragement for her soul that brought her to the centre in the first place. “I was very committed to learning this beautiful instrument,” she said. “In playing music I found the nourishment I had been looking for.”

### SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC (FROM ALL CHANNELS)

**401,562** reproductive health services delivered to Syrians

**13,888** deliveries supported, including **5,993** C-section deliveries

**92,380** family planning services

**18,096** gender-based violence response services provided to Syrians

**24,739** women accessed women safe spaces

### IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS

**21,892** reproductive health services delivered to Syrian refugees

**6,930** Syrians received family planning services and consultations

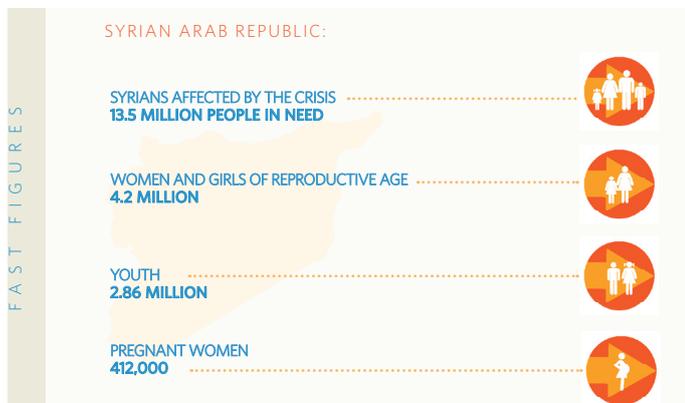
**1,816** clients received gender-based violence services

**21,894** Syrian refugees accessed women safe spaces and participated in activities in camps and host communities

**9,432** 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

**347,298** reproductive health services that include:

- 6,143 normal deliveries
- 5,101 C- section deliveries
- 30,430 ante-natal care services
- 76,197 family planning services
- 1,714 pregnancies under 18

OTHER REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

**227,013** clients

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

RESPONSE SERVICES

**5,377** women and girls

WOMEN ACCESSING SAFE SPACES

**21,419** women and girls

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

**17,983** clients

#### UNFPA-SUPPORTED FACILITIES IN SYRIA



Number of women's spaces

45



Number of field reproductive health clinics or mobile teams

64



Number of health facilities

947

#### RESPONSE THROUGH CROSS-BORDER MODALITY

##### REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND SAFE MOTHERHOOD

###### REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

**12,062** beneficiaries received services supported from cross-border operations managed from Jordan, including:

- 865 normal deliveries
- 530 C-sections
- 150 pregnancies under 18
- 3,453 ante-natal care services
- 782 post-natal care services
- 837 family planning services

**42,202** clients received services supported from cross-border operations managed from Turkey, including:

- 887 normal deliveries
- 362 C-section deliveries
- 169 pregnancies under 18
- 8,492 ante-natal care services
- 1,984 post-natal care services
- 15,346 family planning services

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

**17,383** women reached through outreach activities supported from cross-border operations managed from Turkey

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

RESPONSE SERVICES

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

**12,372** clients received gender-based violence services supported cross-border from Jordan

GBV AWARENESS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

**1,493** Syrians reached through outreach and awareness activities supported cross-border from Turkey

**5,357** Syrians reached through outreach and awareness activities supported cross-border from Jordan

WOMEN ACCESSING SAFE SPACES

**3,320** women and girls accessed safe spaces supported cross-border from Turkey

#### UNFPA MISSION:

UNFPA believes that every Syrian woman and girl has the right to have access to affordable reproductive health care and be effectively protected from gender-based violence. UNFPA and partners are scaling up efforts to empower and improve the lives of Syrian women and youth and impacted communities inside Syria and in host countries, including by advocating for human rights and gender equality, to better cope with and recover from the crisis.

UNFPA: Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.



## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

### NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS



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



### REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND SAFE MOTHERHOOD

#### TURKEY

SERVICES	<b>11,663</b> services for Syrian beneficiaries that include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4,058 family planning services</li> <li>• 1,228 ante-natal care services</li> <li>• 254 post-natal care services</li> <li>• 44 pregnancies under 18</li> </ul>
AWARENESS SESSIONS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	<b>2,735</b> clients
SUPPLIES	<b>7,022</b> brochures distributed

#### LEBANON

SERVICES	<b>1,844</b> services for Syrian beneficiaries that include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 108 family planning services</li> <li>• 90 ante-natal care services</li> <li>• 35 post-natal care services</li> <li>• 16 pregnancies under 18</li> </ul>
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#### JORDAN

SERVICES	<b>8,385</b> reproductive health services that include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 184 normal deliveries</li> <li>• 22 pregnancies under 18</li> <li>• 1,299 family planning services</li> <li>• 2,497 ante-natal care services</li> <li>• 419 post-natal care services</li> </ul>
AWARENESS SESSIONS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	<b>3,664</b> clients
OTHER RH SERVICES	<b>1,433</b> services

#### IRAQ

SERVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,465 family planning services</li> <li>• 246 normal deliveries</li> <li>• 54 C-section deliveries</li> <li>• 382 ante-natal care services</li> <li>• 359 post-natal care services</li> </ul>
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### SUPPORTING ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH

#### JORDAN

YOUTH PROGRAMMING	<b>1,666</b> young people
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### GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

#### TURKEY

RESPONSE SERVICES	<b>967</b> services
WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	<b>12,188</b> women and girls
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	<b>5,396</b> clients
SUPPLIES	<b>3,915</b> dignity kits distributed

#### LEBANON

WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	<b>386</b> women and girls
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	<b>2,748</b> clients
RESPONSE SERVICES	<b>28</b> services

#### JORDAN

WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	<b>3,859</b> women and girls
RESPONSE SERVICES	<b>821</b> services
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	<b>1,288</b> clients



Adolescent girls session at the Nergiz Women's Center in the Qush-tapa refugee camp, northern Iraq. Photo credit: UNFPA-Iraq/2017

## HIGHLIGHTS

### SYRIA



The Syrian Computer Society in Damascus concluded the second phase of the UNFPA supported entrepreneurial boot camp with a graduation ceremony. Photo credit: UNFPA-Syria/2017

#### Supporting Youth Initiatives

The Syrian Computer Society (SCS) in Damascus ended the second phase of its UNFPA supported entrepreneurial boot camp with a graduation ceremony. Six graduates with projects deemed especially innovative were awarded grants and the incubation of their projects was facilitated. The boot camp-held in partnership with Middle East based consulting and training firm Venture International-focused on financial operations in startups and marketing, and on idea pitching to investors.

TEDxYouth@Jahez-in cooperation with the TED Translation community and with the support of UNFPA-organized a translation marathon for youth. TEDxYouth@Jahez holds annual conferences and monthly salons for youth to discuss innovation, and the aim of this event was to engage participants with a global network of young people working with the TED translation community and build their English learning

capabilities. Organizers also aimed to encourage youth to launch their own translation projects. After the event, participants added to the Arabic content of TED videos on the internet. Fifteen young people from Damascus, Hama and Aleppo participated in the marathon.

ChangeMakers closed the innovation boot camp after 15 sessions on coding. Sixteen young people participated in the workshop, which aimed not only to teach coding skills but to expand the perspectives of participants on technology and how it is used in today's world. ChangeMakers is a Syrian youth-to-youth initiative that runs programmes that encourage and support youth by providing them with skills, tools, opportunities, and a youth friendly environment of young innovators. It also aims to reduce the gender gap in the technology field, and 9 of the 16 participants in the boot camp were girls.

### JORDAN CROSS-BORDER

#### Localizing Reproductive Health Services

UNFPA's implementing partner in Quneitra on Syria's southern border with Jordan launched an intensive immersion program at the maternity hospital it supports. The program allows nurses from nearby primary health clinics to receive in-depth training on reproductive health services, which will enable them to provide these services locally.

To reduce patient overload at the maternity hospital, UNFPA's implementing partner also initiated a promotional campaign to encourage women to receive reproductive health primary care services at their local clinics, rather than at the hospital. After several months, these efforts have produced significant growth in utilization at the clinic level with increases in overall patients of 19 percent, ante-natal care of 63 percent, and family planning services of 26 percent.

## UNFPA-SUPPORTED FACILITIES



Number of women's spaces

73

Jordan

15

Iraq

13

Turkey

22

Egypt

8

Lebanon

15



Number of field reproductive health clinics or mobile teams

89

Jordan

21

Iraq

24

Turkey

22

Lebanon

10

Egypt

12



Number of youth centres and safe spaces

33

Jordan

11

Iraq

11

Turkey

2

Lebanon

5

Egypt

4

## HIGHLIGHTS

### LEBANON



Awareness session on family planning. Photo credit: Lebanon Family Planning Association for Development and Family Empowerment (LF-PADE)/2017

#### Beneficiary Comments

"This session has corrected a lot of information on safe motherhood that we perceived wrongly," said one woman attending an awareness session on safe motherhood.

"My husband wants to marry off my daughter. That is why it is so important for me that he participates in this project," said another woman attending a focus group discussion on combatting early marriage.

"If we want to see change, we should start as men to change our behavior with our women," agreed a male peer-to-peer training participant.

### TURKEY



KAMER household visit in Batman. Photo credit: UNFPA-Turkey/2017

#### Providing Basic Needs

Fatima is 65 years old and lives with her son and daughter-in-law in Batman, in southeastern Turkey near the Syrian and Iraqi borders. She collects a monthly salary assistance of 100 Turkish Lira, but had not received it for three months. She went to the relevant institutions to solve the problem, but could not get it resolved. The biggest obstacle was

her inability to speak Turkish. Representatives from KAMER-a Turkish NGO and UNFPA implementing partner met Fatima during their work in her neighborhood, and arranged for their health intermediary to accompany her to the necessary institutions which enabled her to receive her salary assistance again. "I am so glad that I met KAMER," she said.

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Suha is a 50 year-old mother of two girls and two boys. Four years ago she immigrated with her family to Istanbul, where her husband died of a brain hemorrhage during their first year. After his death, she moved to her daughter and son-in-law's house. However, her son-in-law did not want her there so she moved to her brother's house in the south-eastern city of Mardin. Representatives from KAMER met Suha while working in her new neighborhood, and she told them that she was experiencing violence from both her brother and his wife. The team gave her KAMER's contact details and later she contacted the office, asking for help finding a job. A job was found for her. She has also received psychological, as well as reproductive and sexual health counselling, and was helped to find a new home, where she now lives by herself. Suha visits the local KAMER office occasionally to chat and drink coffee. "I feel stronger when I come to KAMER," she said.

### EGYPT



Women at a Wen-do self-defense training at the 10th of Ramadan Youth Center in Sharkia, Egypt. Photo credit: UNFPA-Egypt/2017

#### Self-Defense Education

UNFPA in partnership with local NGO Etijah launched a series of Wen-do self-defense workshops for Syrian women and girls at the youth centre in 10th of Ramadan City. Each workshop included 12 to 15 participants who were trained in the Wen-do method, which includes some physical self-defense techniques and also self-defense movements which are not physical and which do not require specific physical strength. Such movements rely on verbal self defense strategies and eye contact to boost the confidence of women to face challenges, most notably sexual harassment in the street. Besides learning self defense strategies and skills the women tried to analyze the drivers of sexual harassment they are exposed to on the streets.

## COORDINATION & CAPACITY BUILDING

### LEBANON

UNFPA led with UNHCR and the Ministry of Social Affairs the monthly national Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) task force meeting where the timeline for the revision of the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) for 2018 was discussed.

UNFPA also led with UNHCR the Case Management Working Group meeting. This meeting focused on two topics: livelihood referrals (referring beneficiaries to the appropriate employment opportunity) and the launching of a new Monitoring and Evaluation tool called "Sense Maker", a mobile application designed to collect information from beneficiaries to assess the quality of SGBV services being provided.

### JORDAN

The Reproductive Health Sub Working Group (SWG) meeting chaired by UNFPA was attended by 15 reproductive health members from the Ministry of Health, national and international NGOs, and other UN agencies. The main issue discussed had to do with the implementation of the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) versus comprehensive reproductive health services in humanitarian settings. The UNFPA reproductive health advisor also presented an analysis of 2016 data on miscarriages among Syrian refugees in the Zaatari and Azraq camps.

Under the patronage of the Ministry of Planning and Interior Cooperation (MoPIC), UNFPA held a stakeholder consultation meeting to present the 9th Jordan Country Programme of Cooperation (2018-2022) document, which outlines proposed areas of focus for development in Jordan from 2018 to 2022. Participants included national and international NGOs, line ministries, semi-government organizations, and various private sector entities. The programme focuses on development in the areas of sexual and reproductive health (SRH), gender equality, women empowerment, and population and development. The salient features of the outcomes and outputs were shared with the stakeholders, whose recommendations will be incorporated in the final version of the document.

### TURKEY CROSS-BORDER

The Gender Based Violence Sub-Cluster (GBV-SC) launched a distance learning module on how to make Women and Girls Safe Spaces (WGSS) more adolescent friendly. The initiative was the outcome of broader work that was done to craft an adolescent girls strategy as a whole. The sub-cluster supported the delivery of trainings-organized by the International Organization for Migration (IOM)-on community based complaint mechanisms. The main role of the sub-cluster during this training was to provide expertise on service delivery to GBV survivors. The sub-cluster also organized two learning sessions. The first dealt with case management of early marriage cases by more experienced organizations and the second dealt with utilizing quality assurance checklists while establishing GBV response services. Finally, key members of the GBV sub-cluster were invited by the GBV Area of Responsibility (AoR) to present work that has been conducted by the Turkey hub with local partners as successful examples of the localization of GBV programs and coordination.

### SYRIA

UNFPA organized a training workshop on GBV for staff members of the different organizations working closely with UNFPA in Qamishli, near the northeastern border with Turkey. The workshop lasted ten days and was designed to explain GBV concepts, raise awareness of the impact of GBV on survivors and those around them, and describe the measures taken to prevent it.

UNFPA-Syria representative Massimo Diana visited Hosain Diab, the governor of Aleppo. They reached consensus regarding the importance of alleviating the suffering of those affected by the crisis in the area, and discussed the opening of an office in Aleppo, as well as UNFPA activities and partnerships.

### TURKEY

UNFPA attended the Ad-hoc Protection Working Group meeting where the 3RP Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan for 2018-2019 was discussed and needed revisions were made. UNFPA co-chaired the SGBV Sub-working Group meeting where protection monitoring was discussed, activities undertaken in 2017 reviewed, and priorities for the remainder of 2017 identified. Also, UNFPA attended the Protection Core Group meeting, where protection monitoring was again discussed, along with how to implement activities dealing with protection monitoring. Finally, the English version of the Women and Girls Safe Spaces Standard Operating Procedures (SoP) was received and sent for Arabic translation. The roll out plan for SOP training for implementing partners was discussed, and it was decided the trainings would begin in November.

### JORDAN CROSS-BORDER

UNFPA took part in the Cross Border Task Force Meeting. One key discussion point was the impact of de-escalation areas (DEAs) on internal movements and a recent increase in persons returning to their communities of origin. Another discussion point centered around strengthening collaboration with Damascus colleagues, particularly around issues of cross line versus cross border collaboration and capacity. A final discussion point related to the continued challenges in cross-border work, including the inability to bring Syrian staff to Jordan for training and restrictions on the inclusion of certain items in the convoys going across the border.

UNFPA also joined the health working group meeting. The rise in diesel prices across southern Syria was discussed. This increase is due to the recapture of the border crossing area of Tanf by the Syrian government and the blockage of other unofficial trade routes. Also discussed were the plans of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the health sector to launch a full health information system for northern and southern Syria. Finally, a subworking group on quality and remote management was launched at this meeting.

## CHALLENGES

### JORDAN CROSS-BORDER

With the prolonged siege in Eastern Ghouta, prices of commodities including medication and fuel continue to soar. High temperatures towards the end of the summer caused a drop in the number of women who utilized the women and girls safe spaces (WGSS) in Dara'a, as the spaces were without air conditioning or fans. Also, learning materials for women and girls safe spaces were prevented from crossing the border into Syria due to questions regarding their origin as well as applicability to the humanitarian context. UNFPA is coordinating with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to resolve the issue. Finally, some of the beneficiaries at the women and girls safe spaces are expressing concerns about continuity of services if a change takes place in the area of service from opposition control to regime control. UNFPA is currently working with its implementing partners to plan for such transition.

### JORDAN

Turnover of trained general practitioners in the reproductive health component is high. In addition, while several initiatives have been un-

dertaken to target and teach men and boys about sexual and reproductive health (SRH) issues, engaging men and boys on this topic still remains a challenge at the country level.

### TURKEY CROSS-BORDER

A large influx of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to Aleppo and Idlib districts created numerous challenges in ensuring that basic emergency needs were provided. Partners on the ground responded with ambulances, mobile clinics, and mobile protection teams. Some of the communities in the besieged areas of Homs and Idlib where UNFPA supported facilities are located experienced heavy shelling, which inhibited the ability of beneficiaries to access services at those sites. Extreme heat and a lack of water locally made life difficult for beneficiaries at the UNFPA supported WGSS in Idlib. This issue was dealt with by adding more fans and water tanks at the centres.

### TURKEY

The closure of various international NGOs in Turkey is still believed to have created gaps in the provision of services to beneficiaries.

## DONORS & PARTNERS

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

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

Private sector: MBC and Samsung Electronics.

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

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

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

IN JORDAN: Ministry of Health (MOH), Institute for Family Health (IFH), International Medical Corps (IMC), Jordanian Health Aid Society (JHAS), Family Protection Department (FPD), Jordanian Women's Union (JWU), Youth Peer Education Network (YPE), NCFA (National Council for Family Affairs), Questscope. JORDAN Cross-border: Relief International and Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS).

IN IRAQ: Ministry of Culture, Sport and Youth (MCSP), Ministry of Labor & Social Affairs (MLSA), AL Massela, START NGO and Harikar.

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

IN TURKEY: The Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) of the Prime Ministry of Turkey, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), and Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Family and Social 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  
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