



The Executive Director viewing arts made by Syrian refugees at UNFPA-supported safe space in Zaatari. Photo credit/UNFPA Jordan

### First Official Visit of New UNFPA Executive Director to Jordan

Dr. Natalia Kanem, Executive Director of UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, paid a three-day visit to Jordan.

Dr. Kanem visited the UNFPA-supported Zaatari Maternity Centre, where over 8,000 babies were born in the past six years of crisis in Syria without a single maternal death. "This initiative clearly shows that where investments in quality reproductive health care, including family planning and safe delivery, are secured, maternal death is almost completely avoidable," said Dr. Kanem.

While in the field, Dr. Kanem toured the UNFPA-supported Sweileh Community Health Centre, which has continued providing reproductive health services to the most vulnerable in the country, including refugees. "Investment in sexual and reproductive health and rights as a fundamental human right is the cornerstone of delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled," said Dr. Kanem.

During her visit, Dr. Kanem also met with several Government officials and expressed gratitude for the Government's generous support for refugees and its pledge to fulfill the Sustainable Development Goals. She urged the Government to address such population issues, such as child marriage, high fertility and a large youth population, and to continue its commitment to reproductive health, family planning and gender equity.



The Executive Director with Jordan and Syria Regional Response teams. Photo credit:UNFPA Jordan/2017

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH DURING November 2017

### First Official Visit of UNFPA Executive Director to Jordan Launching strategy to address the needs of adolescent girls in Syria

This was Dr. Kanem's first official visit to Jordan and the Middle East, since becoming the fifth UNFPA Executive Director on 3 October.

#### Launching Strategy to Address the Needs of Syrian Adolescent Girls in Syria

The Strategy to Address the Needs of Syrian Adolescent Girls in Syria was launched in the presence of representatives from United Nations agencies, international and local organizations, donors, partners and media.

The strategy to address the needs of adolescent girls in Syria aims to generate more knowledge on the needs of and differential impact of programming on adolescent girls, improve access to both reproductive health and gender-based violence services as well as to engage the entire development and humanitarian community in considering the needs of adolescent girls.

The launch came within the context of the 16 days of activism to raise awareness of the global epidemic of violence against women and girls.

### SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC (FROM ALL CHANNELS) during November 2017

**436,190** reproductive health services delivered to Syrians

**21,578** deliveries supported, including **10,853** C-section deliveries

**83,941** family planning services

**31,067** gender-based violence services provided to Syrians

**22,463** women accessed women safe spaces

### IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS

**34,191** reproductive health services delivered to Syrian refugees

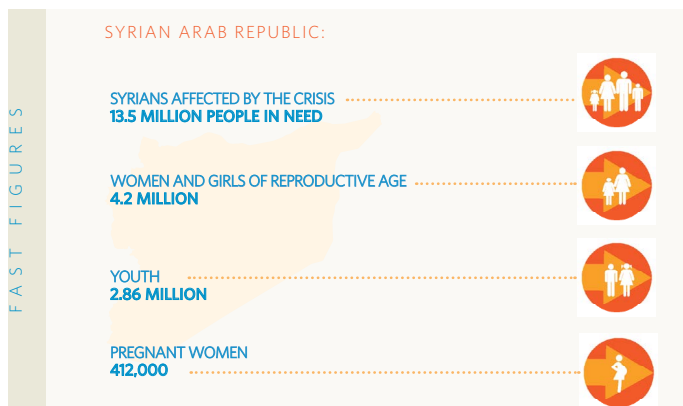
**11,367** Syrians received family planning services and consultations

**2,434** clients received gender-based violence services

**25,134** Syrian refugees accessed women safe spaces and participated in activities in camps and host communities

## 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

**382,166** reproductive health services that include:

- 9,061 normal deliveries
- 9,875 C- section deliveries
- 33,094 ante-natal care services
- 72,756 family planning services
- 1,880 pregnancies under 18

OTHER REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

**281,598** clients

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

RESPONSE SERVICES

**5,191** specialised GBV services provided

WOMEN ACCESSING SAFE SPACES

**18,211** women and girls

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

**13,384** clients

#### UNFPA-SUPPORTED FACILITIES IN SYRIA



Number of women's spaces

26



Number of field reproductive health clinics or mobile teams

55



Number of health facilities

912

#### RESPONSE THROUGH CROSS-BORDER MODALITY

##### REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND SAFE MOTHERHOOD

###### REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

**12,283** beneficiaries received services supported from cross-border operations managed from Jordan, including:

- 844 normal deliveries
- 493 C-sections
- 198 pregnancies under 18
- 3,815 ante-natal care services
- 983 post-natal care services
- 798 family planning services

**41,741** clients received services supported from cross-border operations managed from Turkey, including:

- 820 normal deliveries
- 485 C-section deliveries
- 120 pregnancies under 18
- 7,499 ante-natal care services
- 2,098 post-natal care services
- 10,387 family planning services

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

**12,769** RH services provided through outreach activities supported from cross-border operations managed from Turkey

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

GBV SERVICES

**4,252** gender-based violence services provided in women and girls safe spaces cross-border from Turkey

**21,624** gender-based violence services provided cross-border from Jordan

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

**6,410** Syrians reached through outreach activities supported cross-border from Turkey

**2,420** Syrians reached through outreach activities supported cross-border from Jordan

WOMEN ACCESSING SAFE SPACES

**4,252** 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

FAST FIGURES

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

 SYRIAN REFUGEES AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS  
**5,164,947**

 SYRIAN REFUGEE WOMEN AND GIRLS OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE  
**1,291,200**

 SYRIAN REFUGEE YOUTH  
**775,000**

 SYRIAN REFUGEE PREGNANT WOMEN  
**115,280**


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



### REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND SAFE MOTHERHOOD

#### TURKEY

SERVICES	<b>25,407</b> services for beneficiaries that include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7,915 family planning services</li> <li>• 1,611 ante-natal care services</li> <li>• 710 post-natal care services</li> <li>• 74 pregnancies under 18</li> </ul>
AWARENESS SESSIONS	<b>7,848</b> clients
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	<b>6,459</b> clients
SUPPLIES	<b>21,075</b> brochures distributed

#### LEBANON

SERVICES	<b>699</b> services for beneficiaries that include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 233 family planning services</li> <li>• 203 ante-natal care services</li> <li>• 21 post-natal care services</li> <li>• 28 pregnancies under 18</li> </ul>
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#### JORDAN

SERVICES	<b>8,085</b> reproductive health services that include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 155 normal deliveries</li> <li>• 37 pregnancies under 18</li> <li>• 1,410 family planning services</li> <li>• 2,357 ante-natal care services</li> <li>• 507 post-natal care services</li> </ul>
AWARENESS SESSIONS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	<b>3,963</b> clients
OTHER RH SERVICES	<b>1,253</b> services

#### IRAQ

SERVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,809 family planning services</li> <li>• 254 normal deliveries</li> <li>• 65 C-section deliveries</li> <li>• 373 ante-natal care services</li> <li>• 414 post-natal care services</li> </ul>
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### SUPPORTING ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH

#### JORDAN

YOUTH PROGRAMMING	<b>690</b> young people
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#### Egypt

YOUTH PROGRAMMING	<b>724</b> young people
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### GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

#### TURKEY

RESPONSE SERVICES	<b>1,533</b> services
WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	<b>20,686</b> women and girls
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	<b>4,202</b> clients
SUPPLIES	<b>13,670</b> clients

#### LEBANON

WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	<b>1,302</b> women and girls
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	<b>9,795</b> clients
RESPONSE SERVICES	<b>216</b> services

#### JORDAN

WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	<b>3,155</b> women and girls
RESPONSE SERVICES	<b>685</b> services
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	<b>776</b> clients

#### Egypt

AWARENESS ACTIVITIES	<b>68</b> clients
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	<b>1,133</b> clients

## HIGHLIGHTS

### SYRIA



Part of 16 days of activism activities; planting trees in Homs.

Photo credit: UNFPA Syria/2017

UNFPA along with its different local partners launched the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence. The campaign involved several activities such as raising awareness, art, paintings, open discussions on reproductive and sexual rights, and interactive theater plays on violence issues.

A first training of its kind in Homs was organized targeting 30 journalists from Lattakia, Tartous, Homs, Hama, and Al Sweida. The three-day workshop training aimed to train the journalists on sensitive and professional reporting on gender-based violence during the Syria crisis.

A training workshop was organized in Homs on data collection tools for UNFPA programmes including reproductive health, youth and gender-based violence. The workshop included 31 participants from the governorates of Hama, Tartous, Lattakia, Homs and Aleppo. UNFPA local partners shared the difficulties they encounter during data collection. The workshop provided an opportunity for refreshing data collection

tools for GBV, reproductive health and youth and reviewed most common issues in reporting as well as highlighted the best practices, gaps, challenges in 2017 data collection tools and recommendations for 2018.

A total of 75 young people received courses on entrepreneurship, financial operations and public relations. The training took place in Aleppo where 30 projects were developed during the training, from art and entertainment to education and small business. The training was supported by UNFPA under "Education4All" in partnership with the Japanese Government. Two additional training courses took place in Sahnaya and Sednaya. These courses targeted youth and adolescents to raise computer literacy and improve young people's cognitive skills on technology.

Under the umbrella of South-South cooperation, UNFPA organized a study tour to Iran for 16 professionals from the Ministry of Health. The purpose of the study tour was to exchange experiences between the two countries in the field of reproductive health including midwifery programmes.

### JORDAN

UNFPA Jordan received funding from the Friends of UNFPA to expand the maternity clinic in Zaatari camp. The expansion is being carried out to meet the increasing demand at the clinic as well as for providing more space for quality basic obstetric and newborn care services. It will also allow more psychological support by ensuring a close relative is present during labour and postpartum stay, thereby improving the quality of care. As part of the expansion, there will be an additional postpartum room to increase the capacity from eight to ten beds in addition to a family planning clinic and an examination room. Additional medical equipment is being procured. The expansion of the maternity clinic will be completed by December 2017.

## UNFPA-SUPPORTED FACILITIES



Number of women's spaces

82

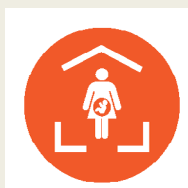
Jordan  
20

Iraq  
13

Turkey  
26

Lebanon  
15

Egypt  
8



Number of field reproductive health clinics or mobile teams

93

Jordan  
21

Iraq  
24

Turkey  
26

Lebanon  
10

Egypt  
12



Number of youth centres and safe spaces

35

Jordan  
11

Iraq  
11

Turkey  
3

Lebanon  
5

Egypt  
5

## HIGHLIGHTS

UNFPA, along with its implementing partner, supported and facilitated a four-day training sessions on family planning for 80 Syrian volunteers working with the NGO International Relief & Development as community health workers. Those community health workers provide health education messages and counseling through their daily home visits inside Zaatari camp.



Adolescent girls team building session. Photo credit: UNFPA Jordan

On the north eastern border of Jordan (berm), the number of patients receiving services at UNFPA-supported reproductive health clinic steadily increased. The number of patients significantly increased compared with previous months due to improvements in accessibility and the quality of services in the Rukban area on the berm. At Rukban clinic, a total of 1,085 patients benefited from the reproductive health services. The total number of referrals to Ruwashid hospital were 50, including one normal vaginal delivery, 32 Caesarean-sections and 17 for other reproductive health emergencies.

As part of the 16 days of activism 2017, the UNFPA Jordan country office in partnership with Seven Circles company launched an online cartoon competition to demonstrate negative effects of child marriage and domestic violence. The competition was carried out by the well-known caricaturist Mr. Omar Al Abdallat, who tackles sensitive subjects through cartoons. The winners were recognized and awarded in a public event that marked the progress of gender-based violence programming in Jordan during the seven years since the onset of Syrian crisis.

In the UNFPA-supported youth centre in Zaatari camp, a variety of services continued to be provided for young people. Such services include capacity building, awareness sessions, as well as accessibility to different youth facilities such as music, art and sports. One off-site training session was conducted with the youth workers focusing on youth peace and security. Initiatives on enhancing youth's role in peace and security in the camp were developed. The workshop is based on the United Nations resolution 2250 and serve as a starting point for programmatic interventions around the resolution in the camp.

Additionally, the youth centre ensures engagement of the local community to guide the centre's work and provide insights from community leaders. The centre supports two community leader committees, one for men and another one for women. The purpose of the committees is to discuss different issues that impact youth in the camp and provide guidance on services provided in the centre and ways for improvement. The centre also supports a youth committee for both genders. They serve a similar

purpose to the community leaders' committee, providing a youth perspective, as well as a grassroots reflection on the services they benefit from.

## LEBANON



Men attending family planning awareness session. Photo credit: LF-PADE- Lebanon/2017

### Beneficiary accounts

"We should work with men and not only with women. The developing countries should start working on equality," a male peer educator after finalizing the peer-to-peer training.

"I was very happy during delivering the awareness sessions, I felt that I am doing a great job, I feel empowered spreading awareness, especially because I am a refugee from Syria," a male peer educator.

## JORDAN CROSS-BORDER

Rahma Mohammad, 32 years old, was pregnant with triplets. Rahma has previously had two children, 6 years and 4 years old. She had no major complications during her pregnancy, as it was closely monitored by the clinic medical team during her antenatal care visits and follow-ups by the reproductive health team through home visits. She was provided with all the support needed.



Rahma happy with her triplets in the camp. Photo credit: Jordan/2017

Rahma shared with the medical team her worries and concerns about her situation, and delivering in a clinic inside the camp. However, after she arrived at UNFPA's clinic she was put at ease and reassured about the availability and quality of services to help her deliver her triplets.

Rahma safely delivered three healthy babies (Yousef, Omar & Hamza). During a follow-up home visit to check on Rahma and her newborns, the team provided her with baby kits, and gave her counselling on family planning. Rahma is thankful for the services and care she had.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### TURKEY



A Syrian woman receives family planning services at UNFPA-supported health clinic. Photo credit: Turkey/2017

#### In her own voice: my journey to get family planning information

"I got married when I was 16 and had become a mother right before 17. Since I did not know about contraceptive method. I had another child and my third was a miscarriage. Before my marriage my family tried hard to deprive me from having information about sexual life and contraceptive methods. I even could not ask something about these matters.

However, I participated in a family planning awareness session and later asked for an individual consultation. After that, I knew the best method I should use. Now I do not want to have more babies but I do not know what the future will bring; I may decide to have more babies but then I will plan for every step before pregnancy. I have checked all of your leaflets and I feel I understand them. I am going to tell the truth and try to correct the misconceptions around pregnancy and sexual life as I have now concrete and reliable information.

I feel now more strong and confident.", a young woman who attended family planning awareness sessions in Diyarbakir youth-friendly health service unit run by the Turkish NGO TOG.

#### Making reproductive health services available for women refugees

Reem (name changed) is a young Syrian woman, who lives as a refugee in Turkey. Reem was six months pregnant. Because she did not have official identification documents, she was not able to go to the hospital for a regular check-up. She resorted to a clinic in a remote area where a midwife examined her and told her that the baby was dead inside her.

The midwife urged her to go to the hospital but Reem would not. worried about her lack of documentation and unable to speak Turkish, Reem just returned to her residence waiting to die along with her baby.

In a home visit, UNFPA-supported medical team found out about Reem's story and immediately referred her to a female obstetrician in the nearest

health centre. Surprisingly, the gynaecologist informed Reem that her baby was alive. Reem's happiness was inexpressible. Reem feels relieved that she can get the necessary health services till she gives birth.

### TURKEY CROSS-BORDER

During November, UNFPA Turkey cross-border operations supported ten women and girls safe spaces, 21 static health facilities and 11 mobile clinics in Idleb, Aleppo, Homs, Hama and Rural Damascus. The support entails staff salaries, operation costs, health supplies, capacity building, monitoring and evaluation and coordination.

A new women and girls safe space (WGSS) was established in the Ma'arrat An Nu'man community of Idleb in October. The WGSS is already providing crucial GBV response services for survivors such as specialised psychosocial support, case management and referrals to medical services with considerable numbers of survivors already receiving those services at the facility. A relatively large number of beneficiaries is also accessing prevention and risk mitigation activities such as awareness raising and vocational training.

A second WGSS was also opened in Al Bab in November on the occasion of International Day Against Violence Against Women. The opening of this WGSS had been delayed due to complications in receiving required paperwork and approvals from local authorities.

There has been a considerable increase in beneficiaries accessing gender-based violence (GBV) services and overall reproductive health services provided during the reporting period. The growth in GBV beneficiary numbers can be attributed to the newly-opened women and girls' safe space and the uptake in services in another recently opened safe space. It is also attributed to the relatively stable security situation in most areas of operation during the last month.

Third party monitoring (TPM) was conducted in six UNFPA-supported facilities including three comprehensive emergency obstetric and newborn care, one mobile clinic and one women and girls safe space. These will be the final TPM's assessments for 2017. UNFPA is reviewing the reports and preparing corresponding recommendations for the implementing partners to strengthen their service delivery points in 2018.



Capacity building workshop, Aleppo. Photo credit: UNFPA Syria 2017

### JORDAN

UNFPA chaired the reproductive health sub-working group meeting that was attended by members from the Ministry of Health, other United Nations agencies, as well as national and international NGOs. The meeting focused on how to use an innovative approach to provide quality sexual reproductive health services to women and neonates attending the health facilities during their routine visits.

The sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) sub-working group provided technical support to the National Council for Family Affairs to revise and finalize the national standard operating procedures (SOPs) in order to implement the recommendations of the National Framework for Family Protection at the national level. The finalization involved reviewing both the documents of the SOPs as well as a full-day validation meeting to discuss and agree on key comments.

UNFPA, jointly with other United Nations agencies (UN Women, WHO, UNODC, UNDP) prepared an essential services package designed to help national authorities to put in place essential services for survivors of gender-based violence. The essential services that are to be rolled-out soon include activities to be carried out in the areas of health, police, justice and social services. Therefore, a four-day mapping exercise of the existing services took place before the actual roll-out. In this regard, UNFPA invited the International Centre for Migration Health and Development in Geneva to assist in assessing what services are currently available.

Chaired by UNFPA, the youth task force (YTF) facilitated training on technology for young people in Zaatari camp as part of Refugee Code Week. Through this year, 260 adult refugees were trained on software solutions, programming, how to create applications, how to upload data, and on business and accounting. These refugees managed to train another 600 adolescents on similar software programs. The YTF is committed to providing young people in the camp with opportunities that build their skills sets in ways that are relevant to needs and aspirations of youth.

### Lebanon

UNFPA co-led a gender working group meeting to coordinate activities with other United Nations agencies in the frame of the 16 days of activism against GBV. The content and design of television programmes and key messages for the campaign were discussed and approved. UNFPA also presented an initiative co-led by UNDP, UNFPA and UN Women at the regional level to assess the gender justice system of 20 Arab countries. United Nations agencies were requested to contribute to the consolidation of the draft Lebanese chapter in coordination with UNFPA.

UNFPA co-led the monthly national SGBV Task Force meeting with UNHCR and the Ministry of Social Affairs. Feedback on the revised 2017-2020 Lebanon's Crisis Response Plan was given to the members and the new inter-agency standard operating procedures computer application for GBV frontliners was presented.

UNFPA led the monthly national GBV information management system (GBVIMS) steering committee meeting with support from UNHCR and members of the sub-cluster. Following the endorsement in August, the information sharing protocol was signed by all members, disseminated and discussed widely in all field GBVIMS working groups throughout

the month of November. Furthermore, the sub-cluster will be producing an annual info-graphic snapshot, supporting the SGBV task force in an exhibition on 15th December.

### TURKEY

The national protection working group meeting was held on the 29th of November in Ankara where the monitoring and evaluation framework for protection for 2018 was discussed and the gender-based violence specific Inter-agency referral form was re-introduced by UNFPA. The sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) working group meeting took place in Ankara with the participation of the Ministry of Family and Social Policies, UNHCR, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women who provided updates on their current programs on GBV.

The southeast Turkey protection working group meeting was held and SGBV Sub-working Group meeting co-chaired by UNFPA in Gaziantep. The meeting discussed the 16 days of activism, SGBV specific inter agency referral form and the roll-outs of the GBV documents and trainings on GBV specific case management. Trainings on women and girls safe spaces (WGSS) standard operating procedures took place in Gaziantep and Sanliurfa to train service providers who work at WGSS in southeastern and Turkish provinces.

The inter-sector working group and the core protection meeting were held in Gaziantep. The core protection working group in Gaziantep was established to create an environment for further discussion of the key issues of protection and its sub-working groups (SGBV and child protection) and to accelerate the decision making of the monthly protection working group in Gaziantep.

A meeting for 2018 planning was held in Gaziantep where a discussion centred on the year-end review workshop in Gaziantep, right-sizing the workload for co-coordinators for SGBV, the child protection sub-working groups, and joint programming on child marriage.

### EGYPT

In November, 2017 UNFPA conducted an assessment visit to Qalyoubia governorate to set up a new safe space for women and girls in Obour City (fourth largest city of Syrian concentration). This visit came as part of UNFPA collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports on designing and implementing safe space and sexual and gender-based violence prevention and response activities for Syrian and Egyptian women in Egypt.

### JORDAN CROSS-BORDER

UNFPA took part in the health status and services task force led by WHO which will be launching a draft report in mid December 2017. In addition, some major gaps were identified in the new reporting tool that was submitted by nine southern Syria actors. One of the main issues that identified was the lack of an official medical referral system.

**TURKEY CROSS BORDER**

The gender-based violence sub-cluster, in coordination with the protection cluster and its other sub-clusters, led the 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for gender-based violence (GBV) cross-border projects managed from the Turkey hub. It also included the technical review and vetting of projects submitted by GBV sub-cluster members, United Nations agencies and other international organizations for protection programming. The GBV sub-cluster approved 16 GBV stand-alone projects and ten integrated projects that will then be part of the 2018 appeal. The GBV sub-cluster coordination team organized, as part of its previously defined capacity building initiative, a learning session on GBV supervisory structures that was attended by ten participants representing nine organizations.

The GBV sub cluster was represented at the GBV area of responsibility (AOR) global retreat. The meeting focused on the identification of key areas of support needed, sharing of experiences and initial development of the GBV AOR global strategy, which is planned to be finalized by the beginning of 2018.

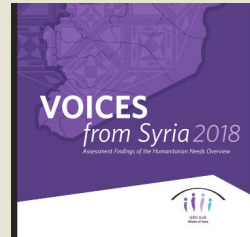
The GBV sub-cluster prevention taskforce developed a detailed plan for the 16 days of activism against GBV and guiding activities for inside Syria as well as in Turkey. During the ongoing 16 days campaign, the GBV sub-cluster was engaging in advocacy actions with the inter-cluster coordination group, raising awareness of the importance of a multi-sectoral response to GBV and launching the "Voices" publication.

The GBV sub cluster organized a survey on the implementation of GBV services, in particular clinical management of rape (CMR), in health facilities in Syria. The survey takes stock of progress made over the past few months, to check on what tools and training have been used and to better understand what kind of additional support should be provided to the health cluster. Based on the results and with the support of a CMR specialist in Amman, the GBV sub cluster developed a plan to support organizations to conduct CMR capacity building and to improve the CMR services in their facilities.

During the month of November 2017, the reproductive health working group maintained its focus on technical guidance and inter-groups coordination. Two additional protocols were finalized and validated by the SRH working group; infection, prevention and control (IPC), pre-eclampsia, and eclampsia. Translation and layout of the previous batch of protocols were also carried out.

During November, the preparatory work of the first face-to-face training for midwives who had been selected for the tutor programme took place. It included an intense reverse teaching work, including reflective exercises and take-home exams on family planning, partograph and GBV and a final selection of the future tutors, based on performance in distance learning, motivation and persistence in the programme's activities.

**Voices from Syria, GBV Humanitarian Needs Overview 2018**



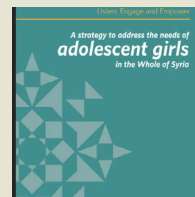
"Voices from Syria" represents the most comprehensive and up-date overview of the gender-based violence landscape in Syria. The report is first and foremost a tool to inform programming and planning for GBV organisations working on GBV response in Syria but also serves as a guidance for all sectors since as addressing GBV is a collective responsibility.

The information in this report represents the voices of over 1,200 Syrians who were consulted through focus group discussions at the community level, two thirds of which were for women and girls. Half of all those consulted were also adolescents- an important achievement since adolescent girls were often invisible in previous assessments. The report also includes information gathered from expert focus group discussions, multi-sectoral needs assessment and the Syria hub protection assessment.

The findings confirmed that the overall GBV situation in Syria has not improved. Child marriage, sexual violence, domestic violence, sexual harassment and exploitation continue to be a reality for many women and girls.

This report has informed the GBV strategy for Syria, which focuses on expanding the quality and reach of GBV services throughout Syria and on preventing and trying to mitigate the risks of GBV throughout the response.

**Strategy to Address the Needs of Adolescent Girls in Syria**



In 2016, the Syria Humanitarian Needs Overview found that adolescent girls were particularly vulnerable to sexual violence and child marriages. The Syria 2018 humanitarian needs assessments confirmed that gender-based violence, particularly verbal harassment, domestic violence (including family violence against women and girls), child marriage and the fear of sexual violence including sexual harassment continue to pervade the lives of women and girls in Syria inside and outside the home.

This strategy to address the needs of adolescent girls in Syria aims to generate greater knowledge on the needs of and differential impact of programming on adolescent girls, improve access to both sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence services as well as engage other actors to consider the needs of adolescent girls.



## CHALLENGES

### TURKEY CROSS-BORDER

There were delays in delivery of health commodities for family planning services which temporarily slowed down corresponding services in the affected facilities. Kits were delivered soon afterwards and services resumed to their normal levels. Supported facilities in besieged areas continue to suffer from a lack of available medical staff, shortages of medication as well as increased prices of those supplies, and lack of a safe means of transportation to and from the facilities for beneficiaries and staff alike. Implementing partners also reported difficulties caused by costly maintenance of old equipment as well as a lack of supporting equipment and supplies for medical procedures such as IUD insertion and inspection. UNFPA is following up with the implementing partners to establish what is required and how the necessary procurements can be made.

### TURKEY

The closure of international NGOs working in Turkey is believed to create gaps in providing services to beneficiaries in the field.

### JORDAN CROSS-BORDER

Air strikes continue in besieged East Ghouta affecting the implementation in Duma and leading to a reduction in number of women and girls visiting the safe space. The deteriorating security situation in Jbata Elkhashah interrupted training sessions and activities in the WGSS which led to postponing the activities, especially after the trainer injured. The training progress for the community health workers was interrupted for the same reason.

### SYRIA

The implications of bilateral sanctions along with the depleted local markets contribute to delaying the process of the procurement of reproductive health commodities. This affects the ability of UNFPA to deliver quality reproductive health and gender-based violence services and contributes to delays in effective program implementation. Lengthy administrative procedures to endorse and approve annual work plans as well as difficulties in getting entry visas for experts contribute to delays in program implementation.

## DONORS & PARTNERS

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