

November 2016

## Iraq: Responding to the needs of women and girls fleeing Mosul

Since the start of the military operations to liberate Mosul from ISIL/ISIS on October 17, UNFPA's office in Iraq provided over **1,000 reproductive health consultations** mainly in **three health facilities** in Qayyarah, Hajj Ali and I'jhala.

**Six internally displaced women have delivered safely** their babies in the UNFPA-supported primary health centre in Qayyarah (the only child-birth facility there).



Working closely with its partners, UNFPA also positioned **25 reproductive health mobile teams** and established/strengthened 20 maternal health facilities including delivery rooms, with services such as gynecological consultations, family planning, antenatal care, delivery care and post-natal care services.

**23 mobile teams** are also mobilized to provide psycho-social support, emergency case management and referrals for women, adolescent girls and survivors of gender-based violence.



## Iraq: Collective efforts to protect women and girls from gender-based violence

The United Nations in cooperation with the government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) launched the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign. Public events were organized in Sulaymaniyah and Dohuk governorates with the participation of refugees including youth, governmental and non-governmental partners to raise public awareness around this issue.

On 26 November, the campaign was launched in Baghdad under the auspices of H.E. Haider Al-Abadi, the Prime Minister of Iraq, who stressed the importance of



collective efforts to protect women and girls especially amid the ongoing Mosul military operations.

The two-week campaign was also launched in Erbil on 27 November by the Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government, Mr. Nechirvan Barzani, who called for the inclusion of women's rights in the education system. The Prime Minister presented a prestigious award to the UNFPA-supported Women centre in Dohuk to acknowledge its outstanding efforts in delivering lifesaving services to gender-based violence survivors since its opening in 2015.



Group picture of UNFPA-supported Dohuk Women centre team with KRG Prime Minister and UNFPA Deputy Representative in Iraq. © UNFPA Iraq

## ASRO: Strengthening the culture of results based management



As part of ongoing efforts to improve the culture of results based management

(RBM) and monitoring in UNFPA's regional and country offices Arab States regional and country offices, **16 Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) officers and focal points** from different

**country offices (CO)** participated in a two-day workshop "RBM/SIS-MyResults" in Cairo. The workshop focused on giving participants technical skills and knowledge for results planning using key RBM concepts and practices to help improve the quality of planning, monitoring and reporting at the country level.

During the workshop, the **new Corporate Quality Assurance tool for MyResults** was introduced and a review of the 2016 Results Plan for all COs was conducted through a peer-review mechanism to ensure that all participants are able to use this tool.

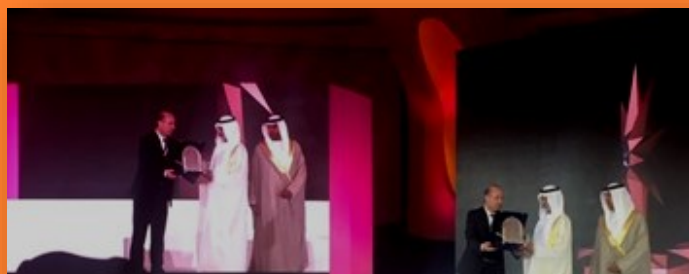
### ASRO: Launching of the UN essential package for women and girls

On 2 November, the UNFPA Arab States regional office, with the support of the Technical Division and the South-South Project, launched the “**UN Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence**” during a side event of the Global South/South Development Expo held in Dubai, UAE.

The package is the first set of inter-agency globally agreed guidelines dedicated to coordinating efforts among all parties to better respond to the needs of women and girls who have experienced gender-based violence. The package was designed based on lessons and evidence reflecting the reality of various countries from the global south.



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*Dr. Luay Shabaneh delivering UNFPA's prestigious award to Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, who heads the United Arab Emirates Ministry of Culture, Youth, and Social Development, and who received it on behalf of her Highness Sheikhha Fatima Bint Mubarak..*

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### ASRO: Award to HH Sheikhha Fatima

“The establishment of The Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood with Her Highness Sheikhha Fatima Bint Mubarak at its head was a true game changer for maternal and child health in the UAE,” said UNFPA’s director for the Arab region Luay Shabaneh during an award ceremony that took place on 20 November in Abu Dhabi to award Sheikhha Fatima Bint Mubarak, founder and president of the UAE’s Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, in appreciation of her role in the campaign of **Every Woman Every Child**, the global movement that mobilizes international and national actions by governments, the UN, the private sector and civil society to address major health issues facing women, children and adolescents.

### ASRO: A stellar presence in the Global South/South Development Expo

The South/South Cooperation Office in coordination with UNFPA Arab states regional office participated in the Global South/South Development Expo (GSSD) hosted, 31 October- 3 November, by the Sheikh Zayed International Foundation for the Environment in Dubai, UAE.

The event brought together principals and representatives of UN agencies, developing countries, donor agencies, business and private-sector groups and civil society organizations to showcase evidence-based development solutions and identify concrete ways to scale up and adapt these solutions through South-South and triangular cooperation in people-centered investment promotion.

UNFPA contributed by hosting a Solution Forum on reaping the potentials of young people in the global south to realize the demographic dividend, and was highly visible through a booth which attracted **over 650 visitors**, starting with HH Sheikh Maktoum Bin Mohamed Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, and Her Highness Queen Noor of Jordan.



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## Yemen: New 5-year strategy for reproductive health

UNFPA's office in Yemen started supporting the Ministry of Health in developing a new reproductive, maternal and newborn health strategy for the coming five years through a participatory process involving extensive consultations with health officials, UN agencies, professional bodies and national and international NGOs.

The new strategy aims to ensure adequate response to urgent reproductive health needs during emergencies.



## Yemen: Meeting urgent needs in Sa'ada governorate

For the first time since the escalation of the violence in Yemen, UNFPA has visited the Sa'ada governorate to conduct an assessment of the reproductive health needs and the gender-based violence response.

Sa'ada has faced some of the heaviest fighting, which resulted in the displacement of nearly 200,000 people. Only one referral hospital currently exists to receive 600 to 700 deliveries daily with limited



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emergency obstetric care equipment and no ultrasound scanner or obstetric gynecologist.

Following the visit, UNFPA office in Yemen started providing emergency obstetric care to the referral hospital and is working on improving the coordination of reproductive health



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services and on scaling-up the ability of relevant actors to respond to gender-based violence through its office in the UN hub in Sa'ada governorate.

## Sudan: Youth against female genital mutilation (FGM)

UNFPA's office in Sudan has supported for the first time the State Council for Child Welfare and the Youth and Sport Department of the State Ministry of Social

affairs in holding a National Youth Conference to encourage the abandonment of female genital mutilation (FGM).

**100 young people**, 18-34 years old, coming from the 18 States participated in the two-day 'Youth against female genital cutting: Inspiring Positive Environment for Community Mobilization' conference.



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The aim of the conference was to bring together young activists in the area of gender-based violence, mainly FGM, in order to share experiences and step up their participation in the decision making process, including in mobilizing the community to end the harmful practice of FGM.

Various events involving youth such as theatre, sports and competitions were carried out in different areas reaching more than 6,000 girls and 200 teachers in six secondary schools.



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*The youth conference was an opportunity for the Women Union in North Kordofan to initiate declaration to abandon FGM and harmful practices , with signatures by 1000 women and 500 men.*



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### Libya: Scoring again against Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

To celebrate the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence campaign, UNFPA office in Libya has organized five **workshops** in Tripoli, Benghazi, Ghat, Jadu and Oubari to discuss: the Security Council Resolution (SCR) 1325 on women and peace and security, the women protection in



Opening event of the workshop in Tripoli © UNFPA Libya



Opening session of the Advanced Training for medical doctors. © UNFPA Libya

the international law and the Libyan constitution, and the women participation in the peace building.

On 6-10 November, UNFPA has also organized an **advanced training on GBV survivor identification and management** for medical doctors to reinforce the health sector response, in partnership with the National Office for Family and Population, Tunis, the Regional Center for Training, Cairo, the Libyan Ministry of Health, and the National Center for Diseases Control.

### Libya: Towards a reinforced reproductive health sector

UNFPA office in Libya supports the Ministry of Health in Libya to respond to the dire shortage in basic reproductive health medicines and supplies and in skilled workforce especially in the conflict-affected areas.

Over the last three



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months, UNFPA has supported **more than 12,000 women** (of the 35,000 targeted through the humanitarian response plan) by providing **access to basic reproductive health and safe delivery services**.

In addition to the distribution of essential drugs and medicines, UNFPA is also building the capacity of health workforce to provide basic obstetric care in Primary Healthcare centres (PHC). **An advanced Training of Trainers (ToT) on safe delivery** was organized, 29

### Palestine: Ishraqa, new Safe Space Centre for Women and Girls

UNFPA office in Palestine and the Health Work Committees (HWC) jointly celebrated the inauguration of Ishraqa Safe Space for Women and Girls in Qalqilya city on 23 November with the participation of the community and institutions' representatives.

The centre established by HWC with financial support from UNFPA and the Danish government, will serve women and



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girls of Qalqilya who are in real need for gender-based violence prevention and response services as well as socio-economic and protection interventions.

### Tunisia: More strategized GBV indicators

UNFPA office in Tunisia and the European Union supported a **workshop on gender-based violence (GBV) indicators** organized by the Center for Research, Studies, Documentation and Information on Women (CREDIF) on 14-15 November.

The workshop gathered institutional actors involved in the collection, analysis and dissemination of GBV



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data. Participants worked on GBV indicators, the required tools to institutionalize and produce them and the constraints faced during this exercise.

Building on the outcomes of the workshop, the CREDIF with its partners support will conduct advocacy campaigns involving public decision makers to develop a national strategy for the production of GBV indicators.



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*"It is necessary to bring together the concerned actors to measure and put figures on violence against women, which provides the necessary evidence to strengthen the policies of prevention, assistance and compensation."* Alejandra Valdès – the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (CEPAL)



## ASRO: Advancing international human rights standards on sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR)

UNFPA and OHCHR regional offices for the Arab States, organized, for the first time, a workshop, on 7-9 November in Amman, Jordan, addressing tools and mechanisms for tracking, monitoring and reporting on SRHR. Participants from National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI) in Bahrain, Qatar, Jordan, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Saudi Arabia and Tunisia attended the workshop addressed by the Arab Institute for Human Rights based in Tunisia.



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The main aim the workshop was to strengthen the capacities of NHRIs to fulfil, promote and protect the internationally agreed human rights related to SRHRs including gender-based violence, and to stimulate the development of national strategies for the protection of SRHR.



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## Lebanon: NO to early marriage!

On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, UNFPA office in Lebanon along with its partners launched the 16 Days of Activism

Against Gender-Based Violence campaign nationwide. The focus on this year was on the shared accountability to protect and empower women and girls with a special attention to protecting girls from early marriage.

Various events took place to raise public awareness such as: signing petitions, community based recreational activities, street performances and painting exhibitions, community march against GBV and early marriage, a nationwide campaign advocating to raise the minimum legal age at marriage to 18 years old through billboards and TV spot aired on all channels, and viral dissemination on [social media](#) platforms.

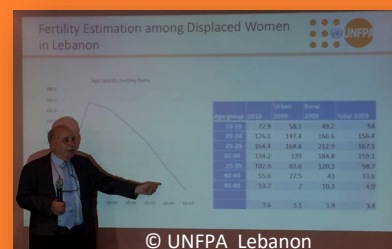
## Lebanon: Assessment of unmet family planning (FP) needs among refugees from Syria

UNFPA office in Lebanon supported a comprehensive assessment, conducted by Hafedh Chekir, of contraceptives' use, access, costing and of the projections for family planning (FP) needs among refugees from Syria.

The two-month assessment concluded with a national meeting held on 3 November in partnership with the Ministry of Public Health where the key findings were disseminated and discussed with representatives from 30 different entities including World Bank, EU, Ministry of Social Affairs, UN agencies, academic institutions, INGO/NGOs and experts.

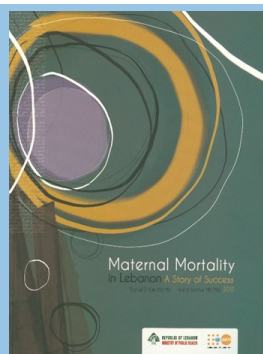
**Key findings** showed that: the **fertility rate** among Syrian ref-

ugees is **3.6 birth per woman** whereas the **contraceptive prevalence** is estimated to be **40%**. **Husbands' refusal to use contraceptive methods** as well as social cultural norms seem to be the main barrier for women's use of FP commodities.



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The **main strategic recommendations** were: improving the quality of FP counselling at primary and secondary care, reinforcing outreach programmes targeting men and youth through peer to peer approach, enhancing health information system at primary health care, strengthening the role of midwives in order to reduce the financial barriers that refugee women in particular face.



## Lebanon: Maternal mortality - a success story

More than 150 health, medical and para medical professionals from public and private sectors participated in the launch of the successful documentation of reducing maternal mortality on 30 November in Lebanon.

UNFPA partnered with the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) since 2015 to document detailed efforts and investments made by Lebanon with the support of UNFPA to successfully reduce the maternal mortality ratio by more than three quarters over the past fifteen years (MMR 23/100,000 in 2015) to reach Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 5.



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### Syria: Training on media reporting about gender-based violence (GBV)



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UNFPA office in Syria organized, for the first time, a three-day workshop on how to report on gender-based violence (GBV) in cooperation with Ministry of

Information. The workshop was a breakthrough in introducing GBV concepts and other related terminologies. The aim of the workshop was to clarify the different types of violence and its wider impact not only on women but also on men, children and the community.



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### GCC: Information and Communication technology (ICT) as a way to empower young entrepreneurs

UNFPA office in the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries (GCC) sponsored a flagship event on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) entrepreneurship, in co-operation with Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) and Youth for Change (YFC) Programme of the Bibliotheca Alexandria, on 28 November attended



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by approximately 400 female and male students from several universities in Oman. The aim of the event was to strengthen the linkage between youth empowerment and social entrepreneurship, create synergies while adopting teamwork spirit and focusing on demand-driven projects.

The event hosted an exhibition where 12 ICT projects developed by students using innovative and creative thinking were showcased. At the end, the best three ICT innovative projects were awarded.



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### Algeria: Investing in women and young people

In collaboration with the government of Algeria, UNFPA organized the first regional forum on the concept of the demographic dividend, gathering representatives from governments, academia, regional and international organizations, development partners, civil society, individual young people and the private sector. Participants discussed how national policies and investment decisions should meet the needs of the people. They also shared their experiences and aim to take benefit from the de-



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mographic dividend by investing in the population of the working age group.



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### Algeria: United to end Gender-based Violence (GBV)

In collaboration with the Ministry of National Solidarity, UNFPA office in Algeria celebrated the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women with "United to end GBV" as a theme.

The celebration focused on the vital role men can play to support protection of women rights.



### Somalia: One midwifery strategy across the country

UNFPA office in Somalia supports the Ministry of Health (MOH) of the federal government in its initiative to develop a Midwifery Strategy across the Somali states and Somaliland as part of the overall Health Sector Strategic Plan (HSSP) in cooperation with midwifery associations, the National Health professionals Council (NHPC) in Somaliland, and midwifery training institute and university focal points.

Midwifery is a priority for the federal government serving in achieving the biggest goal: put an end to preventable maternal and newborn deaths. The HSSP (2017-2021) will help develop the different areas of midwifery in alignment with the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) strategic plan.

*"Through the strategy development, there is a need to ensure consensus on the adoption of integrated and multi-sectoral approaches by involving all concerned parties, across health, education, the legal systems, professional bodies and associations, and most importantly Somali midwives themselves," said Emily Denness, Midwifery Specialist with UNFPA Somalia.*



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### Somalia: Moving CARMMA forward

The Ministry of Health in the Puntland State of Somalia and UNFPA have jointly celebrated the second anniversary of the Puntland Campaign of Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA) on November 30, 2016. The aim of the celebration was to mobilize political commitment and leadership, increase public awareness about the status of young mothers and the seriousness of the problem of maternal and neonatal deaths.

The commemorative ceremony was attended by the Vice-



President of Puntland State of Somalia, Abdihakim Haji Omar, the Honorary CARMMA Ambassador for Puntland, Anisa Haji Mumin, key UN partner agencies, women groups and activists, students, health professionals, NGOs and local civil society including the media.

*"It is encouraging, at the anniversary of CARMMA, to witness that 4625 deliveries were assisted by skilled attendants just in 2016 and normal deliveries were assisted by more than 80 health centers, 72 obstetric fistula repair cases were performed, and six midwifery schools continued functioning in Puntland with 40 midwifery students graduating. A performance-based incentive pilot project was launched, and 2,600 beneficiaries received reproductive health counseling and services through the reproductive health outreach campaigns in drought affected regions," said Nikolai Botev, UNFPA representative to Somalia .*



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### Somalia: Pioneering a law against sexual offences in Puntland

The Puntland State of Somalia national authorities,

led by the Ministry of Justice and Religious Affairs



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(MoJRAR), in collaboration with UNFPA, UNDP and other development partners such as Swedish Embassy to Somalia launched the first ever Sexual Offences Act in Somalia on 29 November 2016.

This high level event brought together government officials including the Vice President, Abdihakim Haji Omar; Parliament speaker, Ahmed Ali Hashi; Chief of Justice; Commanders of Peace Corps; Puntland Police Forces; and various cabinet ministers, which demonstrated the commitment of both policy makers and partners to the implementation of sexual offences act.

UNFPA office in Somalia supported a gender-based violence one stop centre 'Maatokaal' that provides comprehensive services to survivors of sexual violence including medical, legal and psychosocial support.