

In addition to providing reproductive health services, UNFPA partner KAMER, organises many activities for Syrian women. Photo courtesy: UNFPA Turkey

#### Providing Access to Needed Family Planning Services

"B" is 31 years old. She was married at age 14 and gave birth to her first child a year later. She now has five children.

B and her family left Syria four years ago and settled in Diyarbakir in eastern Turkey. Their life in Turkey has not been easy because of the difficulty her husband has had in finding employment. He finds work as an occasional laborer, and their 16-year-old son sells packets of paper tissues on the street.

KAMER, a Turkish NGO that is a UNFPA implementing partner, conducts home visits to Syrian refugees like B. Informed about the services that KAMER offered, B decided to visit the NGO's local center. There she met with the center's doctor and confided her desire not to become pregnant given the family's difficult situation. The doctor explained the advantages of different family planning methods. With this information, B was able to make an informed choice that a long-lasting method, an intrauterine device (IUD), would make most sense for her.

A staff member from the KAMER center went with B to the local Turkish family planning health center. Because of the language barrier, Syrian refugees sometimes have difficulty in accessing the services available to them, such as family planning. With the KAMER worker there to help her, B had an IUD inserted free of charge.

During the home visit, the KAMER outreach worker also found that the children in the family were suffering from a skin disease. The worker accompanied the family to the public hospital and helped them to access the treatment they needed. As a result of the outreach, B and her family now regularly use the KAMER center where they have access to psychosocial support services, medical support and social activities.

#### HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

A new health facility and new women and girls safe spaces started providing services in two hard to reach communities in Idlib, Syria.

#### Syrian Arab Republic (from all operational modalities)

**304,771** reproductive health services delivered to Syrians

**8,050** deliveries supported, including 3,015 C-section deliveries

**56,406** family planning services

**12,934** gender-based violence response services provided to Syrians

**14,385** women accessed women safe spaces

#### In neighbouring countries affected by the crisis

**23,105** reproductive health services delivered to Syrian refugees

**5,261** Syrians received family planning services and consultations

**2,647** clients received gender-based violence services

**8,752** Syrian refugees accessed women safe spaces and participated in activities in camps and host communities

**4,284** Syrian refugees reached with gender-based violence related messages

**1,654** dignity kits distributed

#### UNFPA MISSION:

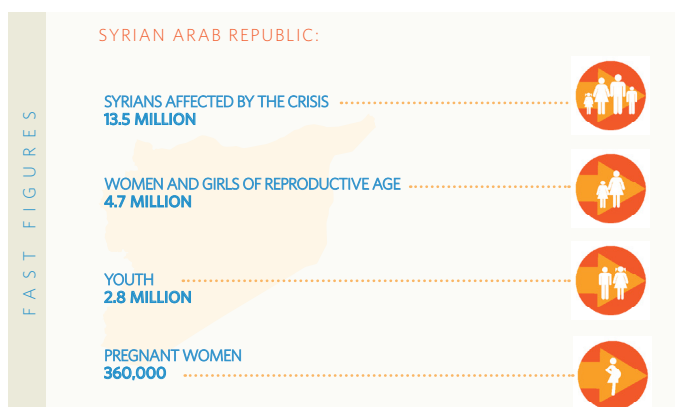
UNFPA believes that every Syrian woman and girl has the right to have access to affordable reproductive health care and be effectively protected from gender-based violence. UNFPA and partners are scaling up efforts to empower and improve the lives of Syrian women and youth and impacted communities inside 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: Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), UNHCR, OCHA, and UNFPA April 2016

### UNFPA RESPONSE IN SYRIA (MARCH 2016)

#### REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND SAFE MOTHERHOOD

##### REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

**266,219** reproductive health services

- 3,053 normal deliveries
- 2,149 C- section deliveries
- 25,338 ante-natal care services
- 47,967 family planning services
- 1,386 pregnancies under 18

Other RH Services **158,825** clients

Supplies **3,780** reproductive health kits distributed

#### GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

|                             |                                     |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| RESPONSE SERVICES           | <b>5,966</b> women and girls        |
| WOMEN ACCESSING SAFE SPACES | <b>14,385</b> women and girls       |
| OUTREACH ACTIVITIES         | <b>8,538</b> clients                |
| SUPPLIES                    | <b>750</b> dignity kits distributed |

#### UNFPA-SUPPORTED FACILITIES IN SYRIA



Number of women's spaces

16



Number of field reproductive health clinics or mobile teams

52



Number of health facilities

912

#### RESPONSE THROUGH CROSS-BORDER MODALITY

##### REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND SAFE MOTHERHOOD

##### REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

**25,106** clients received services supported from cross-border operations managed Turkey:

- 1,011 normal deliveries
- 280 C-section deliveries
- 108 pregnancies under 18
- 4,540 ante-natal care services
- 222 post-natal care services
- 7,372 family planning services

**13,446** beneficiaries received services supported from cross-border operations managed from Jordan:

- 1,223 normal deliveries
- 586 C-sections
- 456 pregnancies under 18
- 786 ante-natal care services
- 4,118 post-natal care services
- 1,067 family planning services

##### OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

**1,011** women reached through outreach activities supported from cross-border operations managed from Turkey

**876** women reached through outreach activities supported from cross-border operations managed from Jordan

#### GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

##### RESPONSE SERVICES

**3,464** clients received gender-based violence services supported cross-border from Turkey

**3,504** clients received gender-based violence services supported cross-border from Jordan

##### GBV AWARENESS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

**3,045** Syrians reached through outreach and awareness activities supported cross-border from Turkey

**1,396** Syrians reached through outreach and awareness activities supported cross-border from Jordan

##### TRAINING

**24** persons trained supported cross-border from Turkey

**9** persons trained supported cross-border from Jordan

## 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: Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD),  
UNHCR, OCHA, and UNFPA March 2016



### REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND SAFE MOTHERHOOD

#### TURKEY

##### SERVICES

**9,443** services for Syrian beneficiaries

- 2,699 family planning services
- 717 ante-natal care services
- 434 post-natal care services
- 62 pregnancies of women under

#### TURKEY

##### AWARENESS SESSIONS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

**2,203** clients

##### TRAINING

**83** participants

##### SUPPLIES

**3,400** brochures distributed



A UNFPA training on pre and post natal health in Adana. Photo credit: UNFPA Turkey

#### IRAQ

##### SERVICES

**1,944** reproductive health services

- 865 family planning services
- 111 normal deliveries
- 50 C-section deliveries
- 520 ante-natal care services

#### JORDAN

##### SERVICES

**11,598** reproductive health services

- 156 normal deliveries
- 29 pregnancies under 18
- 1,672 family planning services
- 2,702 ante-natal care services
- 462 post-natal care services

#### JORDAN

##### OTHER RH SERVICES

**3,583** clients  
**3,877** services



Kits distribution in Mamak WGSS. Photo credit: UNFPA Turkey.



During an awareness session on Women's rights on international Women's Day. Photo credit: International Medical Corps



## GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

| TURKEY                                |                                       |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| SERVICES TO SURVIVORS                 | <b>1,499</b> services                 |
| WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES | <b>3,270</b> Syrian women and girls   |
| OUTREACH ACTIVITIES                   | <b>1,831</b> clients                  |
| SUPPLIES                              | <b>1,326</b> dignity kits distributed |

| LEBANON                               |                            |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| SERVICES TO SURVIVORS                 |                            |
| WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES | <b>161</b> women and girls |
| OUTREACH ACTIVITIES                   | <b>445</b> clients         |
| TRAINING                              | <b>59</b> participants     |

| JORDAN                                |                              |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES | <b>3,365</b> women and girls |
| RESPONSE SERVICES                     | <b>956</b> services          |
| OUTREACH ACTIVITIES                   | <b>3,563</b> clients         |

| EGYPT                       |                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| WOMEN ACCESSING SAFE SPACES | <b>676</b> women and girls |
| TRAINING                    | <b>815</b> participants    |
| RESPONSE SERVICES           | <b>192</b> services        |



## SUPPORTING ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH

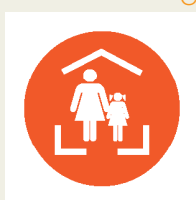
| TURKEY     |                           |
|------------|---------------------------|
| ACTIVITIES | <b>1,299</b> young people |

| EGYPT      |                        |
|------------|------------------------|
| ACTIVITIES | <b>51</b> young people |

| JORDAN     |                           |
|------------|---------------------------|
| ACTIVITIES | <b>1,504</b> young people |

| IRAQ       |                         |
|------------|-------------------------|
| ACTIVITIES | <b>237</b> young people |

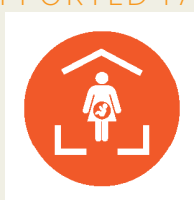
## UNFPA-SUPPORTED FACILITIES



Number of women's spaces

**56**

Lebanon  
5  
Jordan  
15  
Iraq  
7  
Egypt  
5  
Turkey  
24



Number of field reproductive health clinics or mobile teams

**74**

Jordan  
18  
Iraq  
18  
Egypt  
12  
Turkey  
24  
Lebanon  
2



Number of youth centres and safe spaces

**27**

Lebanon  
5  
Jordan  
11  
Iraq  
5  
Egypt  
4  
Turkey  
2



## Coordination and Capacity Building

### JORDAN

In order to mark the successful completion of the Phase 2 of inter-agency Hemayati project, UNFPA hosted a round table meeting on 22/03/2017. As key stakeholders in this project, the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD), the Jordan Women's Union, the Norwegian Embassy, UN Women, UNFPA and UNICEF participated in the meeting. The Round Table identified key programme and advocacy areas for 2018.

On 6th March, 2017 UNFPA participated in the Gender Theme Group (GTG) meeting and agreed on key inputs of UNFPA in the GTG AWP 2017 to be shared in UNCT Annual Retreat.

The Reproductive Health Sub Working Group (SWG) meeting chaired by UNFPA was held on 23rd March, and attended by 22 reproductive health members from Ministry of Health, other UN and humanitarian agencies and National and international NGOs. Main issues discussed included male involvement in supporting available SRH services in camps and urban settings, focus on neonatal care, strengthening postnatal visits and ensuring neonatal examination visits during postpartum period. In addition an invitation was shared with all members to attend the Interagency working group meeting organized by MENA IAWG, UNFPA/ASRO and IPPF to be held in Amman during the first week of April 2017.

The Youth Task Force (YTF) in Zaatar camp, chaired by UNFPA and co-chaired by NRC, conducted a field exchange visit to International Relief and Development (IRD) and Fundacion Promocion Social de la Cultura (FPSC) to attend an event on inclusivity of youth with disabilities at the community center. The YTF also completed the 2017 Work Plan for Zaatar camp with strong youth participation.

UNFPA Youth Staff participated in the two day Regional EdTech Event in Amman as part of the No Lost Generation platform and supported organisations applying for seed funds in developing their proposals, with a particular lens on adolescent girls.

### TURKEY

The SGBV Working Group meeting took place in Ankara on the 30th of March with the participation of the Ministry of Family and Social Policies, UNHCR, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNW and AFAD (The Disaster and Emergency Management Authority). UNFPA also attend the Protection Working Group meeting in Ankara on the 21st of March, where the updates on the activity info were provided and the priority areas for harmonization of activities were discussed.

UNFPA attended the Protection and Health Working Group meetings. UNFPA co-chairs the SGBV Sub-working Group meeting in Gaziantep, where the 2017 final sectoral objectives and outputs were reviewed and activities to be conducted were discussed. The health Working Group Meeting and the Inter-Sector Working Group Meeting were held on the 14th of March in Gaziantep.

In the Health Working Group Meeting, the head of migration health department from Ministry of Health provided updates on the current health campaigns and the role of I/NGOs in the Health sector for the 2017. The Inter-Sector Working Group finalized the 2017 operational priorities and the operational work-plan for South East Turkey. The Protection Core Group meeting was held in Gaziantep on the 15th of March, composed of the lead of the Protection Sector (UNHCR) and the co-leads of the SGBV (UNFPA) and Child Protection (UNICEF) Sub-Sectors and 4 elected members from the field, where the activities for the Protection and SGBV work plans were discussed and defined.



Listening to women's needs while visiting UNFPA supported shelter in Homs on International Women's Day. Phot Credit UNFPA 2017/IWD

### SYRIA

#### Highlights of International Women's Days & Mother's Day Activities

On the occasion of International Women's day, UNFPA in partnerships with local partners, i.e. Relief & Development center (RDC), AL Batoul and Aoun NGOs conducted a wide range of activities. These activities aimed at empowering women and raising awareness through life skills such as decision making and self-confidence as well as gender equality in the governorates of Homs, Hama, Tartous and Aleppo.

In cooperation with Aoun NGO internal and outreach activities targeting around 200 women were conducted for ten consecutive days in Homs, including focus group discussions and raising awareness sessions on gender equality, youth roles during the Syria crisis and the problems that citizens in Homs are facing. In addition to that, recreational activities for approximately 100 women and youth in the women's safe spaces and the collective shelters took place as well.

In cooperation with Relief & Development center (RDC) two days of first aid training--including theoretical and practical exercises for first aid--were organized for 330 women in Homs, Rural Homs, Rural Hama, Rural Damascus and Aleppo. The training was followed by honoring the most active participants.

## Coordination and Capacity Building



Recreational activities for women and children in Homs collective shelter.

Photo Credit UNFPA/2017/IWD

In cooperation with AL Batoul in Tartous internal and outreach activities were organized to include Recreational activities and awareness session regarding gender equality with in women safe spaces targeting around 160 women. AL Batoul Mobile team has also reached several collective shelters in Tartous & Rural Tartous to conduct gender equality sessions.

On the occasion of Mother's Day, AL Bir & Social Welfare NGO in Hama visited the Elderly Home and presented some gifts to them.

AL Bir & Social Welfare NGO in Hama honored women who have distinguished roles in their local communities and participated in a forum discussion sessions on the importance of women's role in society.

The Reproductive Health team of the Pan-Armenian Charitable Society in Al Hassake visited the committee "My friend" for people with special needs. They celebrated with them on the occasion of Mother's Day where they presented some gifts to the children and their mothers in recognition of their efforts and contributions to their local communities.



Two days of first aid training to women in Homs. Photo Credit UNFPA/2017/IWD

## TURKEY - CROSS BORDER

The GBV sub-cluster finalized and endorsed the 2017 work plan and strategy after thorough consultation with members. Additional focus on monitoring and evaluation, mapping and providing guidance on mobile service provision, and

providing guidance on programme closure was added.

UNFPA in collaboration with the GBV sub-cluster coordinated a training on Case Management for PSS Providers in Emergencies, the training involved 9 participants (7F,2M). Key topics included GBV case management, phases of emergencies, GBV case management system, GBV case management steps in emergencies, GBV case management forms, working with families of child survivors, IPV, the cycle of IPV, and survivor documentation. The training, took place from 20 to 22 March 2017. 100% of the attendees showed improvement in knowledge and all reported positive feedback about the training.

Also as a part of the capacity building initiative, UNFPA and GBV sub-cluster arranged a one-day workshop on GBV referral on 23 March 2017 for health and PSS workers. The topics included GBV referral terms and information, informed consent, roles and responsibilities, the referral pathway, and procedures for making referrals. A total of 11) 24F, 13M) participants attended including 1) 2F, 1M) based inside Syria and 2 men based in both Syria and Turkey. According to the pre and post scores, 87% of participants improved knowledge, while 100% reported positive feedback about the training.

The month of March marks the conclusion of this phase of the capacity building initiative that started in 2016, which included a number of trainings on RH and GBV and targeted both PSS providers and Health Workers from both Turkey and Syria. UNFPA with the GBV Sub-Cluster arranged a one day conclusion day to mark the event.

The RH working group worked on the essential drug list and medical material for secondary care services. The list was shared with the focal points of the health cluster to be integrated in the common health cluster document.

A training for midwives was organized in Gaziantep and 23 midwives from Syria attended the training. The content focused on Newborn care including resuscitation (3 days), Postpartum care including prevention and management of post-partum hemorrhage (3 days), IYCF (1 day), assessment of midwives practice and needs through FGD (1 day). After 8 months of collaborative work with professional in and out of Syria, the Midwifery Training Strategy was launched.

## LEBANON

UNFPA co-leads, with UNHCR and the Ministry of Social Affairs, the monthly National SGBV Task Force meeting. At the most recent meeting, the 2017 work plan was reviewed and endorsed and the UNFPA-UNDP led desk review on involving men and boys was approved.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### JORDAN

Basima [name changed for protection], is a 16 year old girl living in Zaatari camp who joined the UNFPA supported Youth Center five months ago. After she completed basic trainings, she enrolled in sports activities and was very committed to attending daily fitness activities. In the beginning, the female sports coaches noted that Basima was very shy and isolated from other girls. They monitored and supervised her situation carefully, gently encouraging her to embrace the group spirit. After much attention and encouragement from the sports coaches, she began to make new friends and seemed to change her perspective on the people around her. The sports coaches believe that Basima was not interested or comfortable mixing with the new group of people when she first came because she was very overweight. She had not been attending school for some time, due to verbal abuse she faced there because of her weight. After joining sports activities at the Youth Center, not only did she lose 14kg in less than 3 months due to her daily attendance and diligence, but also the team noted that her self-confidence and self-esteem had increased and she was able to become more involved with the group of girls, and to joke and enjoy with them. Happily, Basima is back in school after regaining a more positive sense of body image through sports.



Girls's centre in Azraq camp (credit: IMC )

### JORDAN-CROSS BORDER

"I am really enjoying my time at the center and have met the women of the Camp". (woman, 19, IDP camp in Quneitra governorate.

"I am asking in my name and in the name of all the women of AlAmal Camp that you extend the knitting course; there are many things that we still want to learn". (woman, 32, IDP camp in Quneitra governorate).

"Thank you so much for the Dignity Kits. I liked the Abaya the most because it is expensive and we cannot afford it". (Woman, 27, IDP camp in Quneitra governorate)

"The place is nice for women get-togethers and casual chatting; we really feel comfortable. The activities are entertaining and beneficial". (Woman, 18, IDP camp in Quneitra governorate)

### LEBANON

"Now I feel I'm different as if I'm not the old me I had been- Beneficiary receiving individual counseling".

"I now know what is self-esteem, thanks to your help.- Beneficiary receiving individual counseling".

"I couldn't afford the transportation costs to go to the gynecologist at the clinic every month, bringing the MMU to us every week have saved time and money for us".



Women receiving Reproductive health consultations for free in an MMU supported by UNFPA. Photo credit: Makkased Philanthropic Association

### EGYPT

"We didn't attend another mother day ceremony since we have been in Syria, thank you to make us feel home".

"I don't go out of my home since I am in Egypt, except for going to Sanad safe space."

### TURKEY-CROSS BORDER

Finally, the center opened again! I have been waiting for it.» a women commented on re-opening a womens center in northern Aleppo. The center was closed due to lack of funds, UNFPA supported the IP to re-launch the services under the commitment of services continuity assurance.

## CHALLENGES

### TURKEY - cross border program into Syria

In addition to the security situation and continued instability, other challenges include difficulties of conducting training session for field staff and lack of specialized human resource.

### EGYPT

The return of Syrian women again after the period of cut-off activities requires an extraordinary effort from the team. This month the number of new refugees has increased due to new Syrian arrivals from Sudan.

### JORDAN- cross border programme into Syria

In mid-February, fighting erupted in Dara'a City which caused displacement of families in the region and a suspension of cross-border convoys - UNFPA's shipment of emergency RH kits was delayed until March when the border reopened. The Dara'a City battle was then followed by large advance and territorial gain by ISIL-affiliate Jayesh Khalid bin Walid (JKBW) in Western Dara'a in late February. One of UNFPA's supported facilities in Tassil has been taken over by JKBW forces and is currently unreachable at this time. The security situation mentioned above also impacted service delivery with fewer beneficiaries attending PHCs and WGSSs in the surrounding areas of Quneitra and Western Dara'a.

## CHALLENGES

### 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.).

Ineffective access to justice, unemployment and the increased tension between the refugee population and the host community are some of the other major challenges faced in Turkey.

### SYRIA

The timely delivery of humanitarian assistance, is challenging due to evolving security conditions especially in Hama; Deir-Ez-Zor, Hasakeh, Dara'a and Idleb.

Bureaucratic hurdles for approving joint UN convoys and AWP's are also affecting the ability of UN agencies to deliver humanitarian response to the affected governorates including the besieged areas.

Humanitarian actors and aid workers, who are trying to gather and verify information of the needs and progress of the humanitarian response, face multiple barriers, including limited access, bombardments, and kidnappings.

## 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, Germany, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Netherlands, Norway, OCHA/CERF, Saudi Fund for Development, Sweden, United States, United Kingdom, UNDP.

Private sector: MBC

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

IN SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC: Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MOSA), Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE), Syrian Family Planning Association (SFPA), Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC).

IN LEBANON: Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Social Affairs, 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, Mazloum 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), ASAM (Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants), BUHASDER (The Association for the Prevention of Infectious Diseases), HÜKSAM (Hacettepe University Women's Research and Implementation Center), IMPR (International Middle East Peace Research Centre), KAMER (Women's Center Foundation), CVF (Community Volunteers Foundation), Osmangazi University, PYD (Positive Life Association), SPoD (Social Policies, Gender Identity, and Sexual Orientation Studies Association), Bilgi University.



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### RELEVANT RESOURCES

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