



Awareness Raising Session on Sexual and Reproductive Health at Kamer Gaziantep. Photo Credit: UNFPA-Turkey/2017

"You Made Me Realize My Strength"

At just 15 years old Haneen was married to the son of her father's friend. From Aleppo, her family was poor, and marrying the girls out of the house was seen as a way to reduce their economic burden. "Because of poverty, my father wanted all the girls to get married as soon as possible," Haneen said.

However, her husband did not have a job and struggled with addiction. He also turned out -very quickly- to be violent. "I started to be exposed to violence on the first day I got married," she said.

Even though she didn't want to have any children, she eventually had six. Her husband's violence also got worse, and he began directing it towards the children too. It was a situation that Haneen was resigned to, one that she felt powerless to change, and one that she didn't even think was unusual. "The violence increased as the days passed, and my children were also exposed to violence with me," she said. "Actually I was not aware what I was exposed to. This was what I considered normal. He was my husband and has all the rights on me. I thought he could do anything he wanted."

Haneen and her family spent the first years of the war internally displaced, moving from place to place within Syria in search of safety. Eventually, though, they fled to Turkey, where the violence in her domestic life continued. Now 27 years old, her neighbors told her about KAMER -a Turkish NGO and UNFPA implementing partner- and she visited their center in Gaziantep to register for a Turkish language course.

She also started going to different meetings, and it was during one of these meetings that she realized the violence she was living with was not normal, and that she needed to do something about it. "I was attending the meetings at KAMER center. One day they talked about

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH DURING August 2017

Youth initiatives and trainings held in Syria.
United States congressional delegation visits Zaatari.

the domestic violence and I realized that time what I was exposed to for years," she said. "I named what I was living with on that day and felt empowered knowing that I was not the only one. I am working to change my life since then."

The next day Haneen returned to the KAMER center determined to free herself from the violence that was dominating her life. She asked for -and received- safe shelter for herself and her children, started receiving psychological support, and began divorce proceedings. She started the process of registering to be able to work, and registered her children for school as well. She is taking steps to improve her life -and the lives of her children- where she can, and credits KAMER for giving her the initiative to do so. "You made me realize my strength," she said.

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC (FROM ALL CHANNELS)

457,221 reproductive health services delivered to Syrians

13,906 deliveries supported, including 5,960 C-section deliveries

69,228 family planning services

10,046 gender-based violence response services provided to Syrians

18,331 women accessed women safe spaces

IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS

20,169 reproductive health services delivered to Syrian refugees

6,585 Syrians received family planning services and consultations

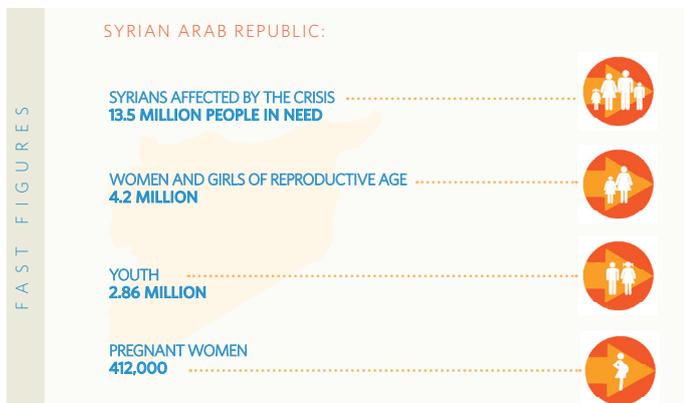
2,317 clients received gender-based violence services

22,040 Syrian refugees accessed women safe spaces and participated in activities in camps and host communities

6,233 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

395,836 reproductive health services

- 6,140 normal deliveries
- 5,035 C- section deliveries
- 30,798 ante-natal care services
- 49,429 family planning services
- 1,571 pregnancies under 18

OTHER REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

147,840 clients

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

RESPONSE SERVICES

3,293 women and girls

WOMEN ACCESSING SAFE SPACES

14,958 women and girls

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

15,216 clients

UNFPA-SUPPORTED FACILITIES IN SYRIA



Number of women's spaces

43



Number of field reproductive health clinics or mobile teams

62



Number of health facilities

947

RESPONSE THROUGH CROSS-BORDER MODALITY

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND SAFE MOTHERHOOD

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

12,362 beneficiaries received services supported from cross-border operations managed from Jordan:

- 771 normal deliveries
- 517 C-sections
- 155 pregnancies under 18
- 3,725 ante-natal care services
- 1,154 post-natal care services
- 609 family planning services

49,023 clients received services supported from cross-border operations managed from Turkey:

- 1,035 normal deliveries
- 408 C-section deliveries
- 185 pregnancies under 18
- 9,972 ante-natal care services
- 1,692 post-natal care services
- 19,190 family planning services

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

19,200 women reached through outreach activities supported from cross-border operations managed from Turkey

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

RESPONSE SERVICES

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

6,522 clients received gender-based violence services supported cross-border from Jordan

GBV AWARENESS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

3,366 Syrians reached through outreach and awareness activities supported cross-border from Turkey

3,407 Syrians reached through outreach and awareness activities supported cross-border from Jordan

WOMEN ACCESSING SAFE SPACES

3,373 women and girls accessed safe spaces supported cross-border from Turkey

UNFPA MISSION:

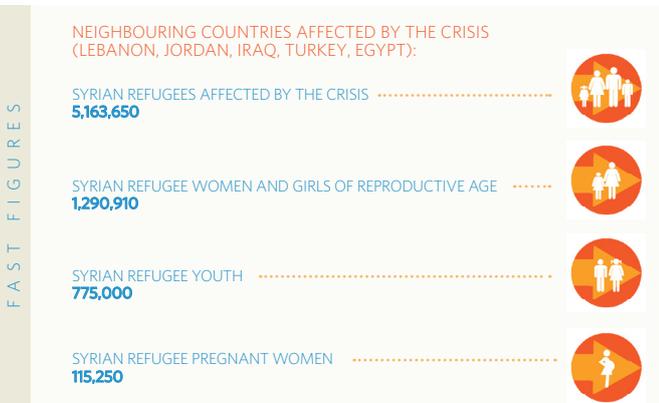
UNFPA believes that every Syrian woman and girl has the right to have access to affordable reproductive health care and be effectively protected from gender-based violence. UNFPA and partners are scaling up efforts to empower and improve the lives of Syrian women and youth and impacted communities inside 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	13,154 reproductive health services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3,868 family planning services • 1,108 ante-natal care services • 125 post-natal care services • 30 pregnancies under 18
AWARENESS SESSIONS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	2,979 clients
SUPPLIES	5,811 brochures distributed

LEBANON

SERVICES	406 reproductive health services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 123 family planning services • 157 ante-natal care services • 12 post-natal care services • 5 pregnancies under 18
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JORDAN

SERVICES	6,609 reproductive health services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 168 normal deliveries • 62 pregnancies under 18 • 1,215 family planning services • 1,556 ante-natal care services • 566 post-natal care services
AWARENESS SESSIONS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	2,811 clients
OTHER RH SERVICES	1,599 services

IRAQ

SERVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,379 family planning services • 234 normal deliveries • 109 C-section deliveries • 435 ante-natal care services
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SUPPORTING ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH

LEBANON

YOUTH PROGRAMMING	120 young people
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JORDAN

YOUTH PROGRAMMING	1,704 young people
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GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

TURKEY

RESPONSE SERVICES	1,428 services
WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	12,161 women and girls
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	7,467 clients
SUPPLIES	22,635 beneficiaries received dignity kits

LEBANON

WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	405 women and girls
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	421 clients
RESPONSE SERVICES	41 services

JORDAN

WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	3,997 women and girls
RESPONSE SERVICES	848 services
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	797 clients



Dignity kit distribution in Ankara, Turkey organized by Hacettepe University Women's Research and Implementation Center (HÜKSAM).

HIGHLIGHTS

SYRIA



Youth interactive theater organized by Masyaf Charitable Association in Hama. Photo Credit: UNFPA Syria/2017

Youth Initiatives and Trainings

Syrian NGO and UNFPA partner Misyyaf Charitable Association organized an event in rural Hama using "Interactive Theater" techniques as part of an awareness raising project. The event aimed to educate attendees about reproductive health and family planning issues. "It was such an interesting and interactive event where both the facilitator and the audience contributed ideas and solutions through asking questions and brainstorming answers", Ahmad, one of the participants, said.

The UNFPA supported Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch

(GOPA) organized workshops in Hama and Aleppo on small businesses and marketing. The workshops aimed to provide youth with the skills they will need to launch their own small businesses, including creating market plans, market analysis, entrepreneurship and budgeting. The opportunity to receive small grants enabling them to launch their businesses was provided as well. "Aleppo needs a spirit again and I'm looking forward to bring peace back through art", said Liliet, a workshop participant whose project is to open a dance training center in Aleppo.

Finally, a theater based Peer Education training was held in Damascus. The training was attended by 25 youth from al-Hasakeh and al-Qamishli in northeastern Syria, and organized by three trainers from the Youth Peer Education Network (Y-PEER) Syria team and the actor Hasan Douba from the Syrian Higher Institute of Dramatic Arts.

It aimed to introduce interactive theater techniques and interactive theater scenes while promoting knowledge of certain peer education topics, and resulted in five different interactive theater sketches - implemented by the participants- dealing with volunteer work, early marriage, gender-based violence, job opportunities for youth, and drugs.



Y-PEER interactive theater training. Photo Credit: UNFPA Syria/2017

UNFPA-SUPPORTED FACILITIES



Number of women's spaces

67

Jordan

15

Iraq

13

Turkey

20

Egypt

8

Lebanon

11



Number of field reproductive health clinics or mobile teams

72

Jordan

18

Iraq

24

Turkey

20

Lebanon

10



Number of youth centres and safe spaces

29

Jordan

11

Iraq

11

Turkey

2

Lebanon

5

HIGHLIGHTS

JORDAN

Developing Skills

Dania is 15 years old and has lived in the Zaatari Refugee Camp for the last 4 years. She came to the UNFPA sponsored Youth Center in the camp one year ago and felt drawn to the activities there. "I loved how the facilitators were working with the youth, and how clean and organized the Youth Center was," she said.

After taking some basic trainings, Dania took classes in English, sports and mosaic making, and then asked and advocated for calligraphy classes, as calligraphy was her passion. Youth Center volunteers responded to her request, as her talent for calligraphy was apparent. She enrolled in calligraphy classes for 6 months, developed her skills, and then started helping to facilitate calligraphy classes for other girls.

Others in the camp have recognized her talent, and she feels the classes she has taken have brought her closer to her dream of pursuing art as a profession. "I'm really proud that I have become recognized in my school for my skill, and other NGO's sometimes ask me to use my skills to write on boards for them," she said.

It is a skill she has worked hard to develop despite the potential disapproval of some in her community. "I know it's culturally not acceptable for girls to practice calligraphy as a profession in the camp, but I'll keep learning all kinds of Arabic fonts," she said. "It's my real passion."

United States Congressional Delegation Visits Zaatari



Members of a United States congressional delegation to Zaatari Refugee Camp. Photo Credit: UNFPA Jordan/2017

A delegation of United States policy makers and leaders from the public and private sectors visited the UNFPA-supported maternity clinic in Zaatari refugee camp to see the scope of U.S. investments and partnerships in Jordan. Of particular interest to the group was the impact of humanitarian assistance programs and the long-term efforts designed to protect and empower displaced women and girls.

Following a panel discussion during which Laila Baker, UNFPA Representative in Jordan, briefed the delegation regarding reproductive health concerns in Jordan, the group was given a tour of the maternity clinic. There, they spoke with a 27 year old mother who had undergone ten miscarriages after fleeing the war in Syria before receiving from the clinic the care she needed to carry a baby to term. The delegation also asked questions of two other mothers who had benefited from the services of the clinic.

"It was important to see the positive impacts that U.S. foreign assistance has on the health and well-being of families in refugee camps," said Rep. Ami Bera (CA-07), one member of the delegation. "Zaatari's maternity clinic alone has safely delivered thousands of healthy babies, despite very difficult circumstances. This trip has reinforced my belief that the United States plays a vital role in assisting refugees and women around the world."

JORDAN CROSS-BORDER



Recreational activity for adolescent girls in a Women and Girls Safe Space in Quneitra. Photo Credit: Relief International

Women and Girls Safe Spaces Meeting Needs

"We are really pleased with the center because it's easing some of our stress." 33 year old beneficiary at the WGSS in the IDP camp in Al Kashniyyeh Subdistrict of Quneitra.

"We are really benefitting from the sessions, especially those that target my age group." 19 year old beneficiary at the WGSS in the IDP camp in Al Kashniyyeh Subdistrict of Quneitra.

"I really like the center's sessions because they address our reality." 22 year old beneficiary at the WGSS in the town of Al Kashniyyeh.

"I have developed a lot thanks to your center and have started to take better care of my husband and children. I used to be fed up with life." 32 year old beneficiary at the WGSS in the town of Al Kashniyyeh.

LEBANON



Women at a recreational activity at the Aley Community Center. Photo Credit: DORCAS

Early Marriage Education

"My mother got married at the age of 14, and I don't want to make the same mistake. I want to become a lawyer". Youth attending Psychosocial activities at a Women and Girls Safe Space.

"I would love to communicate this kind of crucial information to others and to raise awareness about early marriage." Male participant in Peer to Peer training on Gender Based Violence.

IRAQ



Awareness raising session at Sardam Youth Center in Kurgusk Refugee Camp in northern Iraq. Some of the topics of awareness raising sessions at the various camps in Iraq include women's rights, family planning, the role of women in society, the role of youth in society, early marriage, children's diseases, violence, sexual harassment, healthy nutrition, and issues related to adolescence, and physical and psychological changes. Photo Credit: UNFPA Iraq/2017

COORDINATION & CAPACITY BUILDING

TURKEY CROSS-BORDER

The Gender Based Violence Sub-Cluster (GBV-SC) conducted a Training of Trainers (ToT) for Women and Girls Safe Spaces (WGSS) with around 30 participants. The training focused on practical considerations such as how to run a WGSS as well as how to implement the

minimum standards required. The GBV SC also conducted consultations with partners on GBV minimum standards to gauge their interest regarding the need to develop global minimum standards for service providers. Discussions confirmed the interest of partners in this and highlighted the importance of having shared standards across emergencies and agencies. Finally, the GBV SC, together with the Protection Cluster, supported emergency response efforts in response to new displacement occurring in Idlib by promoting the implementation of the GBV SC emergency support package.

TURKEY

The Inter-Sector Working Group meeting was held in Gaziantep where the cash-protection matrix was presented, cash-gaps workshop findings reviewed and the next steps were agreed upon. The service advisor and Refugee Help online tools were viewed and their initial roll-out discussed. The Protection Core Group meeting was also held in Gaziantep. Composed of the sector leads from Protection, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and Child Protection and four elected members of the Protection Working Group, the Protection Core Group was established to create an environment for further discussion of key protection issues and those of the SGBV and Child Protection sub-groups, and to accelerate the decision making of the monthly protection working group. Items The discussion included a briefing on the good practices utilized by the cross border team in Turkey and how to extend those practices to Turkey.

LEBANON

UNFPA co-led the National SGBV Task Force meeting with UNHCR and the Ministry of Social Affairs. The mid-year review of funding, inter-agency GBV reporting and workplan status was carried out, and plans for inter-agency initiatives such as the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Guidelines roll-out in Lebanon were discussed and agreed upon.

JORDAN CROSS-BORDER

UNFPA participated in the cross-border task force. The related issues of the de-escalation areas, possible reopening of Nassib border crossing and proposal by the Russian Federation forces to begin substituting cross border work with cross-line work from Damascus were discussed. The cross-border GBV reference group, led by UNFPA and Relief International, met to finalise Standard Operating Procedures and referral pathways.

JORDAN

The SGBV Sub-Working Group (SWG) conducted a workshop to analyze existing gaps in the SGBV programming in Jordan. About 40 participants from national and international NGOs and key UN agencies participated. Key gaps identified were the limited targeted programming for engaging men and boys, inaccessibility of safe spaces for the disabled population, and limited availability of legal aid services for SGBV survivors. The gaps analysis will be used to define new strategy for the SGBV-SWG in 2018. The Social Protection Task Force started preparing for the Jordan Response Platform (JRP) 2018. Two key meetings were conducted by the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) to agree on the Sector Vulnerability Assessment (SVA), Sector Impact

of Syria Crisis, and Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment (CVA). Following UNFPA's advocacy, GBV was identified as one of the key vulnerabilities in these documents and an indicator on violence by current and former husbands was added.

WHOLE OF SYRIA GBV COORDINATION

UNFPA leads the Whole of Syria GBV coordination system. In July and August protection and GBV assessments for the Whole of Syria Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) were conducted. In this context, the GBV Area of Responsibility (leading the qualitative assessment of the Protection Sector) obtained qualitative data from three Whole of Syria hubs, across 13 governorates in Syria. Around 140 Focus Group Discussions were conducted by 21 organisations, five GBV Expert Focus Groups Discussions at Whole of Syria-level and hub-level (Syria and Turkey hubs) took place and GBV experts from North-Eastern Syria were also consulted. The GBV Area of Responsibility will be producing an analysis of the GBV data to inform the 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan.

CHALLENGES

SYRIA

As before, the ability to monitor the humanitarian response in areas of active military operations remains limited. UNFPA is initiating a process of third party monitoring to address this. The stock of medical supplies and equipment available locally is depleted, and international procurement of supplies takes a long time. Also, there is stigma associated with youth programs in some areas, especially regarding topics related

to integration and reproductive health awareness. Finally, adjustments to program activities are necessary when new cities and districts become accessible.

JORDAN CROSS-BORDER

The besiegement of eastern Ghouta continues to threaten UNFPA's operations in two facilities there. The price of fuel has recently been hovering around \$5.20 per liter, and the prices of medicines and medical commodities have similarly increased. Also, a UNFPA implementing partner attempted to send reading and literacy materials to their women and girls safe spaces in July via the UN cross-border convoys. Unfortunately, these items were rejected at the border under the premise that they were not life-saving interventions. UNFPA is working with OCHA to resolve this issue. Finally, due to disruption in service access across much of western Dara, UNFPA's supported comprehensive emergency obstetric and newborn care (CeMONC) facility continues to run at maximum capacity despite earlier improvements in 2017 to expand the number of beds and service providers. The loss of any other facility in the area would likely exceed the CeMONC's ability to care for all women.

LEBANON

Due to military operations against ISIS the security situation has become increasingly tenuous in the northwestern areas of Hermel and Aarsal near the Syrian border, which hinders the implementation of program activities.

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), NCF (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

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