

UNFPA Arab States News

DELIVERING A WORLD WHERE EVERY PREGNANCY IS WANTED, EVERY CHILDBIRTH IS SAFE, AND EVERY YOUNG PERSON'S POTENTIAL IS FULFILLED

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Delegations Renew Commitment to Population and Development in Arab States



Nearly 20 years following the global adoption by consensus of the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action (ICPD PoA) held in Cairo in 1994, more than 350 participants from governments and civil society organizations across the Arab region returned to the Egyptian capital on 24-26 June 2013.

They gathered to take stock of what has been achieved over the past two decades and what remains to be done to deliver on the commitments made during this historic event.

Following in-depth discussions and consultations on the future population and development agenda in the region, the delegations reached a new consensus on the way forward, which was articulated in the [“Cairo Declaration on ICPD beyond 2014.”](#)

“The consensus in Cairo marked a new regional milestone and revived the importance of the ICPD PoA in the current contexts of the Arab region. It further underscored governments commitment to its implementation, said Mohamed Abdel-Ahad, the Regional Director of UNFPA Arab States Regional Office.

National delegations reviewed the implementation of the ICPD PoA in the region, examined the development challenges and population dynamics in

a changing Arab world, and renewed Arab countries’ commitment to development and population.

Tackling unmet needs of women and girls

“There are challenges related to the status of women and girls, and to ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, including addressing the unmet needs of some 20 million women for family planning,” said Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, UNFPA Executive Director, placing women and girls’ rights, empowerment and gender equality at the center of the development challenges and population dynamics facing the region.

“Tackling the gender inequalities and critical barriers that prevent women and girls from exercising their rights and empowering themselves must be at the heart of our efforts to create secure, sustainable, prosperous and resilient societies,” he added.



(continued from page 1) The Declaration stressed the need to address sociocultural and religious barriers, women and girls vulnerability, the state of maternal mortality in some Arab states, and discriminatory legislations.

Harnessing youth potential

Youth-related issues were also high on the Conference agenda, which recognized the urgent needs of young people aged 15-24, who make up one-fifth of the region's population – more than 70 million people.

"Youth can play a pivotal part in transforming our region," said Ahmad Alhendawi, the UN Secretary-General's

Envoy. "Young people are our opportunity, and we ought to invest in them and respond to their claims for rights.", he added.

The youth demands for right to civic engagement, participation and employment, and a pivotal role in shaping the future of the Arab region were duly reflected in the Declaration. The Declaration provides a historic opportunity to move forward on a number of priority issues, such as sexual reproductive health, gender equality, combating gender-based violence and discrimination, safeguarding human rights. It also presents opportunities for the empowerment of youth and addressing population dynamics. ■

Iraqi National Statistical System Modernization Moves Forward

UNFPA Iraq is supporting the Iraqi National Statistical System (NSS) Modernization Project to produce and disseminate accurate and credible statistics on population issues; including statistics on reproductive health, gender equality and youth empowerment.

The first phase of the NSS project was launched in early 2011 and by the end of the same year a functional review of the statistical system paved the way for the second phase, that was launched in September 2012.

To provide top-notch technical support to this project, UNFPA contracted GOPA Worldwide Consultants, a German Consulting Company to carry out the second phase of this project.

The technical assistance of the German Consulting Company included the experts' visits to statistical system bodies in Baghdad and Erbil in order to provide recommendations and plans for modernization, facilitate study tours to the best statistical systems experiences, and train the Iraqi NSS teams to improve their skills and capacities.

As of September 2013, UNFPA was able to organize more than 24 experts' missions in both Baghdad and Erbil. The project also launched the new Central Statistical Organization website (cosit.gov.iq) on 4 September 2013. The launching ceremony was attended by the Iraqi Minister of

Planning Mr. Ali Al-Shukri, and other top officials, including the Deputy Minister of Planning, the Head of Central Statistical Organization and general directors.

The CSO website meets the international standards in the area of disseminating official statistics, and electronic dissemination in particular.

Further, it was designed to respond to the needs of all potential users. Thus achieving the first outcome of this project with the full technical support from UNFPA.

The NSS project is part of the UN initiative in Iraq of "Iraq Public Sector Modernization Programme", one of the largest UN programmes in the country. ■

Pregnant Women in Syria have Choices

Oula lives in the Jouret Al Shayah neighborhood in the old Syrian city of Homs. A few months ago, Oula's husband left home, and she had to go through pregnancy alone.

Like many Syrian pregnant women, Oula had good reasons to worry about delivering her baby amid violence and lack of access to obstetric services. She is one of the thousands of Syrian women who received UNFPA's reproductive health vouchers, that are helping save women's lives and those of their babies.

"After the hardship during my first pregnancy I never imagined I would hold my healthy and beautiful daughter Rinah in my arms", says Oula.



Oula with her newborn Rinah.

As the Syrian conflict continues to unfold, Syrian women like Oula, still face difficulties in accessing reproductive healthcare services. The military checkpoints and roadblocks impose extreme restrictions on their mobility, which put the lives of women, girls and their families at high risk. Many pregnant women were forced to deliver at home.

"Pregnant women just a few days away from giving birth may, in some areas, have no other options than to deliver at home with no skilled attendance or risk their lives by fleeing in the hope of delivering safely elsewhere", said Laila Baker, UNFPA Representative in Syria.

Since 2012, UNFPA Syria has been providing reproductive health vouchers, which are brought to women in the communities and shelters through community volunteers and mobile clinics.

Through its implementing partners, this UNFPA's innovative approach has reached over 30,000 Syrian women across Syria.

With the vouchers, women have free-of-charge access to maternal health, family planning, counseling and emergency obstetric care services.

These services are available at the obstetric university hospitals in Damascus and Aleppo, accredited referral hospitals in Homs, and the reproductive health clinics of Syrian Family Planning Association, as well as the Syrian Association Red Crescent clinics.

"I appreciated my opportunity to deliver my baby girl safely. Seeing my name on the voucher made me relieved," said Oula who delivered at a UNFPA-supported clinic. "The delivery cost is expensive here and since I experienced complications the voucher made a big difference for me."

"Through the vouchers we aim to provide women and girls made vulnerable by the prevailing crisis, from the shelter to the communities, with choices related to their reproductive health – it is their right, also in humanitarian contexts as in Syria," Laila Baker noted.

An estimated 6.8 million people have been affected by the crisis and in need of humanitarian support; of whom 1.7 million are women of reproductive age and 4.25 million internally displaced persons. ■

Crown Princess Mary of Denmark Visits UNFPA Women Center in Za'atri

Crown Princess Mary of Denmark, Patron of UNFPA, visited UNFPA Comprehensive Women Center in Za'atri refugee camp on 21 August.

The Princess was briefed by Ms. Muna Idris, UNFPA Jordan Assistant Representative, on the different services the office is providing for Syrian refugees in the camp through the Jordanian Health Aid Society and the Institute for Family Health, the two main partners.

The Princess explored the center and the health services provided in the clinics, including antenatal care, delivery, post natal care, advice and counseling on family planning and reproductive health issues. She also had a chance to interact with the doctors and midwives from the Jordan Health Aid Society.

Furthermore, the UNFPA Patron visited the women's activity area which was holding awareness raising activities and an interactive session.

The Crown Princess was also briefed on the services provided by the technical staff of the implementing partners from Noor Al Hussein Foundation.

This includes healthcare and prevention, ante and post-natal care, family planning, psychological, social and legal counseling services, in addition to health education activities for various target groups. ■

Empowering Internal Security Forces to respond to Gender-Based Violence

Since 2012, UNFPA Lebanon, in partnership with local NGO, KAFA Violence & Exploitation, has embarked on a groundbreaking initiative aiming at filling a capacity gap within the police academy by institutionalizing a curriculum to the Internal Security Forces (ISF). The initiative has been equipping ISF with the specialized knowledge and skills they need to adequately handle cases of violence against women (VAW) and girls.

The first phase of the project resulted in a number of concrete achievements such as the development and piloting of a curriculum on VAW targeting the ISF, the development of a training manual, and the development of a manual on communication skills for dealing with survivors of VAW.

The second phase of the project included a series of training workshops. By July 2013, a total of 175 ISF officers were trained on VAW curriculum, as well as on communication and counseling skills.

In parallel, women friendly spaces were established at 12 police stations across Lebanon through the provision of beds for forensic medical examination and office/IT equipment for the enhancement of VAW management information system.

UNFPA also supported a study tour to Sweden for selected police officers and KAFA staff. The tour exposed the participants to the holistic approach model that Sweden enjoys, including its laws, police regulations and procedures for addressing VAW.

On the legislative front, UNFPA-supported in July 2013 a successful media campaign using billboards, unipoles, newspapers, TV ads and social media. The campaign advocated for the endorsement of the draft Law to Protect Women from Domestic Violence.

"Every change faces reluctance and resistance, but the decision to suppress crimes of domestic violence is taken at the level of the internal security forces in general and among the leadership of the

judicial police specifically," said Lt. Col. Elie Asmar President of the Office for the Protection of Morals in the Judicial Police - Internal Security Forces Member.

"The fact that we have established strategies and action plans offers the best evidence of our commitment," added Lt. Col. Asmar, who is also the Secretary of the Committee for Training Law Enforcement Members on Addressing and Investigating Domestic Violence Crimes. So far a number of founding stones are laid: the training curriculum on VAW is

institutionalized within the Police Academy and has become a part of the ISF mandatory training material; an internal ISF memorandum was issued on "the protocol for receiving and communicating with victims of family violence"; and a core team of trainers is in place and 175 ISF officers were trained to respond appropriately to the needs of women and girls.

UNFPA and partners will pursue these efforts by raising awareness on the new mandate of ISF, including through a media campaign. ■



Participants in UNFPA-supported training on VAW curriculum in Lebanon.

Jordan Holds First National Demographic Forum

The first National Demographic Opportunity Forum titled “Youth .. Our Opportunity and Future” took place on 3 September 2013 in Amman, Jordan. It was attended by Princess Basma Bint Talal, UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador, and jointly organized by the Higher Population Council and UNFPA Jordan Office.

Experts from across the kingdom met to discuss the mechanisms and ways to put the country on the right track to make the most of its current demographic trend. They engaged in reflections on means to capitalize on the demographic chance currently presented to the country: to become an opportunity rather than a burden.

The demographic opportunity, which will be reached in the year 2030, when the working population, constituting individuals aged between 15 and 64, starts to grow significantly higher compared to the growth of dependents.

Addressing the Forum, Princess Basma said: “The approaching phase of the demographic opportunity in Jordan coincides with the economic and social changes that have affected Jordan as a result of either globalization or the global financial crisis”.

Adding inspiration to the forum, a “Street Theater Group” also performed in an interactive and comic manner, highlighting the traditions that stand in the way of bringing about prosperity and development in Jordan. ■

Tackling Adolescent Pregnancy in Morocco

Recalling her adolescent pregnancy experience, Najat said: “My story began when I met a man when I was still 16. He was eight years older than me. I got pregnant and my family did not accept the situation. I went through the saddest days of my life. My mother took me to one of her friends in another city. I stayed there until I gave birth. Then I left my child with another woman and came back home. I felt I had lost all my life.”

Two other adolescents also came forward to share similar experiences at the World Population Day celebration, which was marked by UNFPA and partners on 11 July in the Moroccan capital, Rabat.

According to the Ministry of Health and High Commission for Planning, almost 50,000 girls aged between 15 and 19 gave birth in Morocco in 2011. From a regional perspective this fertility rate is six times higher than neighboring Algeria and Tunisia.

Surviving an adolescent pregnancy often needs specialized interventions. Abdelilah Hilali, a clinical psychologist, stressed that adolescent pregnancy is related to anxiety, sexual and mood disorders such as baby blues.

Dr Imane Khachani, gynecologist, explained that adolescent pregnancy can lead to unsafe abortions and serious injuries such as obstetric fistula.

In addition to being a major health matter, adolescent pregnancy is also a development issue.

Speaking at the event, Souad Taoussi, a social worker, pointed to the socio-economic factors related to adolescent pregnancy such as poverty, gender ine-

quality, violence, child marriage and lack of education.

In Morocco, 12 per cent of sexually active girls aged between 15 and 24 experienced an unplanned pregnancy, according to the Ministry of Health. To address the adolescent pregnancy issues, it has been noted that sexual and reproductive health information and services, adapted to Moroccan adolescents and youth, are needed.

Under the 2004 Family Code, the age of marriage is 18 years for both girls and boys (article 20). However, a court authorization may allow girls that are under 18 to marry. This “exception” *modus operandi* led to an increased number of child marriage, representing 11 per cent of marriages in 2011, according to the Ministry of Justice.

NGOs in Morocco are advocating for legal restrictions to marriage under 18, in line with international agreements. A coalition of NGOs was established aiming to advocate for youth friendly sexual reproductive health information and services, towards long lasting change in the area of gender-based violence and child marriage in the country. ■



Launch of first YPEER Network in Palestine.

First Y-PEER Palestine Network launched

UNFPA Palestine and national partners celebrated the launch of the first Y-PEER network in Palestine on 27 August 2013.

Some 15 young women and men from different parts of Palestine joined forces and formed a network committed to promoting youth healthy lifestyles, raising awareness of sexual and reproductive rights and contributing to the prevention and protection of their young peers from HIV/AIDS and gender-based violence.

“The Network serves as a platform allowing youth to voice and promote youth sexual and reproductive health issues in the society through effective national and regional partnerships and strategic youth development,” said Mr. Bader Zamameh, Executive Director of “

Sharek Youth Forum”, one of the leading youth NGOs in the country.

“YPEER Palestine will be one of the leading youth networks, qualified to use the peer-to-peer approach aiming at improving youths’ attitudes and behaviors and help them fulfill their potentials,” said Ziad Yaish, UNFPA Palestine Assistant Representative.

The event featured the projection of an illustrative introductory [documentary on Y-PEER Palestine](#), accompanied by a rap song and a play showcasing elements of the gender roles present across the Palestinian society. ■

Census in Yemen: Beyond Population Counting

Preparations for the 2014 Census for Population, Housing and Establishments in Yemen are in full swing. This major event is taking place in a challenging context as the country is going through a critical transition.

To discuss the 2014 Census questionnaires, the Central Statistics Organization organized a workshop, facilitated by UNFPA on 24-26th of August, 2013 in Sana'a. The event brought together 30 demographic experts, five of whom were from Egypt, Jordan and Mauritania as well as from UNFPA Regional Office.

The experts applied their technical lenses to ensure that the questionnaires follow UN and international standards. Further, they exchanged views on how to utilize the latest technology in the country's census effort.

"The Government of Yemen represented by Ministry of Finance, is committed to cover 87 per cent of Census budget which is estimated at USD 59 million. The donors

are committed to cover the rest of 13 per cent and they have already pledged USD 3 million out of 9," said Dr. Farhan Hassan Thabet, the Head of CSO, affirming the Yemeni government's political will to implement the 2014 Census and acknowledging donors' generous support.

The meeting stressed the importance of capitalizing on the experiences across the Arab countries; building the capacity of the national cadre to implement the census on the ground, and engaging women, civil society and private sector in the entire process.

"The Moroccan and Egyptian experience have been very useful in preparing the current Census questionnaire," Dr. Thabet noted.



Participants in the workshop paving the way for 2014 Census in Yemen.

The workshop formulated a number of recommendations to the Census Technical Committee and the Supreme Committee, and is part of UNFPA's support to the Central Statistics Organization of Yemen.

The 2014 Census is expected to constitute a major shift from a people counting exercise to a more rights-based one. ■



Midwives gathered in one session during the IUCD training in Oman.

UNFPA Empowers Midwives to Master the Application of IUCD

UNFPA Sub-Regional Office for the Gulf Council Countries supported a six-day training programme on Intrauterine Contraceptive Device (ICD) for four midwives, nominated by the Department of Family and Community Health of the Ministry of Health in Oman. The training was conducted by the Regional Center for Training on 1-6 June in Cairo, Egypt.

To enhance birth spacing in Oman, the training focused on practical exercises, including Implanon technology.

The midwives were trained to become master trainers in the IUCD insertion and removal. Embarking on a participatory approach, the training included illustrated lectures, group discussions, simulating skills practice, analysis of case studies, and role plays.

The midwives were provided with training tests, trainer's tools and compe-

tency-based training. It also evaluated and certified the midwives based on their skills and knowledge.

The training was the first collaboration between the Regional Center for Training and the Ministry of Health and population in Egypt, in addition to other international organizations that support the national family planning and reproductive health training programmes in the country and the region. ■

Maternity Waiting Homes in Somalia

Somalia's maternal mortality ratio stands at 1,044 deaths per 100,000 live births, making it one of the highest in the world.

Over the years, Somali women have had to undergo life threatening complications during their pregnancy, mainly due to the lack of basic follow-up and equipment inadequacies in their rural areas.

Many pregnant women in Somalia die as a result of inaccessibility to reproductive health services.

Mogadishu, Galkayo, Lower Shabelle and Middle Shabelle in particular are hosting about 960,000 Internally Displaced Persons living in precarious conditions coupled with a significant lack of reproductive health services.

Three main influencing factors, in cases obstetric emergencies remain at stake: lack of dependable transport services to a health facility, inability of family members to decide on life or death matters, and an acute shortage of skilled birth attendants.

In response, UNFPA Somalia has established 24 maternity waiting homes in Somalia with seven in Mogadishu, nine in Galkayo, six in Lower Shabelle and two in Middle Shabelle.

It has also facilitated and funded the training of health professionals who will be serving pregnant mothers at the MWHs.

Through these efforts, UNFPA attempt to equitably cater for the general populations as well as those living in settlements. ■

Commitment to the health of Sudan's mothers and children

The Government of Sudan expressed its commitment to reduce the country's maternal mortality ratio from 216 deaths per 100,000 live births to 152/100,000 and under-5 child mortality from 83 deaths per 1000 Live births to 53/1000.

Government of Sudan, launched the Acceleration Plan for Maternal and Child Health (2013-2015) under the Dubai Declaration in late September with the participation of Government representatives, civil society, Embassies, and UN agencies including UNFPA.

"Sudan is today demonstrating its strong leadership to move the maternal and child health agenda forward, and UNFPA and partners will stand by the Government in their efforts to implement the plan and improve the life of Sudanese mothers", says Mohamed Abdel-Ahad, UNFPA Arab States Regional Director.

The plans includes an ambitious package of MCH services to be scaled up; such as anti-natal care, delivery, skilled birth attendance, strengthening maternal mortality surveillance, emergency obstetric care, post natal care and family planning and emergency new born care. ■

Youth to rescue as flooding paralyzes Sudan

Thousands of Sudanese households were destroyed when heavy rains caused severe flooding during the first week of August, with Sudan capital Khartoum being hit the hardest.

After the second round of flash flooding on 9 August, the death total in Khartoum rose from an estimated 8 to 38 people.

More than 14,000 homes housing some 72,500 people were flooded, according to the *Nafeer* youth initiative, a volunteer group established in Khartoum to support flood response operations. The group is playing a dynamic role in the relief effort, and using social media to identify those in need of food, shelter and water. [Read more.](#) ■



Youth at the forefront of response to Sudan flooding.

Y-PEER Egypt: 48 Hours Fest in Cairo



With support from UNFPA Egypt, Y-PEER conducted a 48 hours fest for short films on 26-29 June 2013. A total of 22 young people teamed up to produce four short films on HIV/AIDS prevention and relat-

More than 250 young people applied to participate in the fest. The selected participants received training on HIV/AIDS modes of transmission and related stigma, using the Y-PEER methodology in peer education. They also received training in script writing, directing, lighting, editing and camera use.

This activity was supported by H&M foundation and several Egyptian Y-Peer celebrities, including Karim Kamel and Sammy Sheik.

During the first day of this event, both Karim Kamel and Sammy Sheik mentored the participants to improve their acting skills prior to the contest. They also took part of the jury panel. The trained participants were divided into four teams and had 48 hours to produce a short film. The winning film "[Amount Ana](#)" was selected by the Jury panel members. ■

Helping Oman Review its Birth Spacing Programme

The total fertility rate in Oman dropped from 8.32 children per woman in 1980-1985 to 2.52 in 2005-2010. Such a dramatic decrease is linked to the family planning strategy adopted by Oman's government in 1994, which included the Birth Spacing Programme that allowed couples to choose an appropriate method of contraception.

The birth spacing services have been provided through clinics and are an integral part of the programme of Family Planning and Community Health Department in the Ministry of Health.

Years following its successful implementation, the Birth Spacing Programme started facing some stagnation. In order to reenergize the Programme, the Ministry of Health, represented by the Family and Community Health Department, requested technical assistance from UNFPA.

UNFPA Sub-Regional Office for the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries, jointly with WHO Oman, conducted a nationwide desk review and analysis of the Birth Spacing Programme of Oman on 5-16 May 2013.

This exercise included an assessment undertaken by an international expert of the country's situation in this area and

the possible challenges. Upon completion a detailed analytical report was presented to the Minister and the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health on 9 May 2013.

The mission was successfully completed, with the submission of the final report and a proposal for the way forward was concluded by May 16 2013.

UNFPA supports the family planning programmes aimed at enabling couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children. Complementarily,

UNFPA also works to ensure access to information and services on family planning as well as ensuring that people are able to make informed choices, through making available a full range of safe and effective methods. ■

News Briefs: Snapshots of UNFPA in Action

Women build peace in Gaza communities

To help women become community leaders “Mokhtarar” and play an active role in family conflict resolution and in raising their awareness on women issues, gender equality and human rights. UNFPA supported a training conducted by WISAL Women coalition in Gaza for 20 women.

“The training provided me with practical knowledge and skills that I can apply immediately in my mediation with fellow women”, says the 45 year Fatan Harb, who embarked on women and social mediation on her own initiative.

The training contributes to the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325, working towards making women active players in peace-building and women protection. ■

Preventing and responding to gender-based violence in emergencies in Jordan

Refugees’ rights in international conventions and treaties, and the identification of gender-based violence (GBV) cases were the focus of the workshop on the “Prevention and Response to GBV cases especially in Emergencies” held in Jordan.

The three-day workshop was organized by the Family Protection Department/ Public security and UNFPA Jordan. It was part of UNFPA’s support to the national and international response in providing protection services for the vulnerable populations in Jordan, including the Syrian refugees. ■

Responding to gender based violence in Palestine

Gender-based violence is a serious human rights violation and a public health issue in Palestine. One woman in three is a victim of domestic violence in Palestine, according to the most recent data of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics.

The protracted crisis along with the displacement have exacerbated girls’ and

women’s exposure to violence, especially sexual violence, domestic violence, and early marriage.

The protection system is increasingly overstretched and disrupted, and consequently forced displacement, demolitions, evictions, separation of families and communities expose women and girls to an increased risk of multiple forms of gender based violence

In an effort to respond to this serious situation, UNFPA Palestine supported a three-day intensive training. The training aimed at strengthening the pool of skilled professionals in design and management of prevention and response to gender based violence, as well strengthening the inter-agency coordination to respond strategically to the pressing situation. ■

Preventing maternal mortality in conflict-affected communities in Syria

To help prevent maternal mortality and morbidity caused by delays in accessing emergency obstetric care services in the conflict-affected areas in Syria,

UNFPA Syria entered into an agreement with the Ministry of Health to support nationwide capacity building sessions for midwives. The emergency obstetric care training sessions are to be conducted at the community level.

The training programme commenced on 3 September 2013 targeting a group of 27 midwives who serve women in Damascus, Rural Damascus, and Qunaitra - which is an area that host around 1 million people, including 250,000 women of reproductive age.

The midwives were trained on emergency obstetric care, including normal and dysfunctional labor, fetal monitoring, severe hypertension and eclampsia, postpartum hemorrhage and uterine inversion as well as maternal and neonatal resuscitation.

“It is our hope that the impact of the session will come into effect immediately”, said Laila Baker, UNFPA Representative, reflecting on the initiative. ■

A question of numbers as the crisis in Syria goes on

As the Syria conflict unfolds, these are some of the questions that continue to challenge UNFPA and its partners: How many women have been displaced? And how many people have UNFPA and its partners been able to reach through its humanitarian assistance programme?

The monitoring process of UNFPA humanitarian response in Syria faces several challenges due to the limited access to the field in light of security constraints, the uncertainty of the data collected for outcome indicators, discrepancies of monitoring tools adopted by implementing partners, different interpretations and analysis of collected data, as well as inadequate coordination and sharing information among them.

To improve the monitoring of its humanitarian response in the country, UNFPA Syria organized, in collaboration with its implementing local and international partners, a workshop on 21 August, 2013.



Participants at the M&E workshop in Damascus, Syria.

“This important and timely workshop is vital to data collection needed for programme planning and monitoring of our work in Syria, to identify the gaps and to ensure that our assistance reaches the targeted beneficiaries more effectively,” said Omar Ballan, UNFPA Assistant Representative in Syria. ■



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