

OVERVIEW OF FUNDING NEEDS

REGIONAL SYRIA CRISIS RESPONSE

2024

OVERALL HUMANITARIAN APPEALS

145.6 million

35% FUNDED

“I DON’T THINK THE WORLD UNDERSTANDS WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A WOMAN LIVING IN SYRIA TODAY. IT IS A LIFE FILLED WITH DANGER, GRIEF, AND STRUGGLE, ESPECIALLY AFTER THE ECONOMIC CRISIS.”

— SHATHA, a woman from Deir-ez-Zor, Syria

UPDATED APRIL 2024



SITUATION OVERVIEW / 2024

In light of the extensive humanitarian needs in 2024, compounded by economic collapse and ongoing mass displacement, women and girls throughout Syria and refugee hosting countries are more reliant than ever on humanitarian assistance, making the consequences of underfunding both significant and far-reaching.

Despite the continuing efforts of humanitarian actors, the Syria crisis remains one of the world's most complex humanitarian and protection emergencies. In 2024, 16.7 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance – the highest number since the onset of the crisis in 2011. This includes 8.4 million women and girls, around 4.1 million of whom are of reproductive age. Meanwhile, more than 6.3 million Syrian refugees remain in five neighbouring countries – Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt, nearly half of whom are women and girls who face mounting risks of violence, exploitation, and lack of access to essential services.

Hostilities and health outbreaks continue to place lives at risk

As of year-end 2023, civilian life and humanitarian assistance are severely impacted by artillery shelling, air strikes, land mines, and unexploded ordnance, creating fear for millions of Syrians who have known nothing but conflict and displacement since 2011.

The basic service capacity in Syria continues to erode, with critical systems like water, sanitation, and public health under severe pressure due to minimal development investment. The region faces recurrent disease outbreaks, waterborne diseases, an extended drought and water crisis, vaccine-preventable illnesses, and food insecurity, leading to increased mortality and morbidity. This includes higher rates of malnutrition and a growing need for humanitarian assistance. Rural Damascus, Idleb, Ar-Raqqa, Quneitra, and Lattakia have reported alarming Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) levels, with Lattakia experiencing an emergency-level GAM prevalence of 10 percent. Over 12.9 million people in Syria require food assistance, and the cost of a food basket has dramatically increased, doubling since January 2023 and quadrupling over two years.

As Syrians face these challenges, the economy has further deteriorated, sparking some internal migration as families seek livelihoods and better access to services. High inflation, currency depreciation, and rising commodity prices have escalated humanitarian needs, increasing poverty and dependence on aid. Since February 2023, the Syrian pound has lost about half of its value against the US dollar.

This multifaceted crisis perpetuates vulnerability cycles, particularly affecting those most in need, including individuals with disabilities. The increasing reliance on unavailable basic services exacerbates vulnerability and strains social cohesion. Active conflict and military operations, including shelling and airstrikes, especially near frontlines, have hindered humanitarian access, impacting both aid delivery and the population's access to services.

In October 2023, the most significant escalation of hostilities since 2019 occurred in northern Syria and Deir-ez-Zor Governorate, displacing over 120,000 people in north-west Syria and affecting numerous health facilities, schools, and water systems.

Women & girls continue to pay the steepest price

In addition to many women and girls lacking access to quality sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, gender-based violence (GBV) continues to pervade the daily lives of Syrian women and girls impacted by the crisis, as shown by [assessments](#) and focus group discussions conducted by UNFPA. Their lives are marked by mutually reinforcing forms of violence and gender inequality, often exacerbated by discriminatory attitudes based on age, displacement status, disability, and/or marital status. This has created an environment in which the health and lives of women and girls are consistently at risk, and in which they're devalued, controlled, exploited, and then blamed for the violence they face.

"Things have gotten much worse in recent years," explains Sali, a young woman living in Areesha camp, who was forced into a child marriage when she was 14, shortly after the crisis erupted. Fortunately, she was able to access services at a UNFPA-supported Safe Space, which helped her overcome her trauma. "The situation is the same for so many girls around me, but many are not able to find support as I did."

Unsurprisingly, women and girls throughout Syria and the crisis region are telling UNFPA that the violence against them has become normalised. Harassment, intimate partner and family violence, child and forced marriage and subsequent pregnancies, and sexual violence and exploitation are consistently reported, while new trends, such as various forms of technology-facilitated gender-based violence, have also been observed in recent years.

Adolescent girls in particular face a wide range of challenges that usually accompany them throughout their lives. It usually begins with restrictions on movement and domestic violence, and progresses as the girl grows up to include child and forced marriages, domestic violence, early pregnancy, sexual violence, and sexual exploitation, among others. Girls are also being denied their right to an education, which further limits their life prospects and can entrap them in an unending cycle of violence and exploitation.

Syrians & host communities still face an uphill battle

Among the more than 6.3 million Syrian refugees dispersed across neighbouring countries, women and girls confront heightened vulnerabilities due to the prolonged crisis, with GBV posing an increasing threat. Many find themselves in densely populated and precarious environments where the danger of harassment, assault, and exploitation is ever-present. The deteriorating macroeconomic situation, exacerbated by the war in Ukraine, has pushed numerous families towards harmful survival strategies, including child and forced marriages.

Furthermore, Syrian refugees endure persistent challenges in their host countries, which hampers their efforts to heal from trauma and to rebuild their lives. These include language and cultural barriers, discriminatory attitudes, economic challenges, and many other challenges that can impede their access to work, education, healthcare, and essential services. For refugee women and girls, this often translates into an elevated risk of violence and exploitation and an obstructed path to legal redress. It also poses a key obstacle to their societal integration, leading to their marginalisation and social exclusion. This stark reality accentuates the critical need for interventions that are specifically designed to address the adversities faced by these women and girls and meet their distinct needs.

UNFPA stands with those impacted

And yet, despite the enormous challenges levelled against them, Syrians throughout the region refuse to give up. People of different ages and backgrounds, including women and girls who have survived gender-based violence, continue to demonstrate remarkable resilience and determination. Many rise above their challenges and traumas to provide better prospects and opportunities for their children and loved ones, while others defy circumstances to become artists, activists, innovators and influential voices in their communities.

In 2023, as part of its regional response to the crisis, UNFPA delivered sexual and reproductive health services to more than 1.9 million people, while more than 880,000 were reached with services designed to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. In addition to reaching more than 365,000 adolescent girls with vital services, more than 16,000 women were provided with cash and voucher assistance, and more than 10,000 LGBTQIA+ individuals were served.

“AFTER THE WAR,
THE SITUATION
FOR WOMEN AND
GIRLS HAS BECOME
UNBEARABLE IN MANY
PARTS OF SYRIA.”

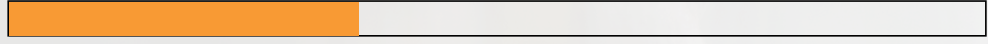
— YARA, a Syrian woman from Rural Damascus



REGIONAL APPEAL / 2024

\$145,618,976

TOTAL HUMANITARIAN APPEAL



35% FUNDED

The humanitarian landscape is increasingly complex, marked by a proliferation of global crises that compete for the attention and resources of the international community. This situation has led to significant underfunding of crucial humanitarian programmes, with dire consequences for the most vulnerable populations, particularly in conflict-affected regions like Syria.

UNFPA services are often irreplaceable

UNFPA-supported health facilities and safe spaces provide sanctuary and essential services to women and girls, including access to SRH care and protection from GBV. In Syria and similar contexts, these spaces are not just facilities for care but also hubs of hope and empowerment in otherwise bleak environments. However, with the growing number of global crises vying for limited funds, these safe havens are at risk of shutting down, leaving countless women and girls without critical support.

The closure of these spaces would have far-reaching and devastating effects. In many communities throughout Syria and the region, UNFPA-supported facilities are often the sole providers of quality, accessible SRH services and protection programmes. This care includes access to emergency obstetric and neonatal services, contraception, and clinical management of rape. The absence of such services could lead to a considerable increase in maternal and infant mortality as well complications from pregnancies. In areas where healthcare infrastructure is already decimated by conflict, the consequences of reduced or halted UNFPA operations could be catastrophic for millions of Syrian women and girls.

Safe spaces save lives

Additionally, the risk of GBV escalates when funding shortfalls force the closure of safe spaces. These spaces not only offer refuge and medical care but also psychosocial support and a sense of community. Without them, more women and girls become more vulnerable to violence, exploitation, and abuse. The protective environment that these spaces create is crucial in areas where the rule of law is weak, and societal norms often fail to protect the rights and well-being of women and girls.

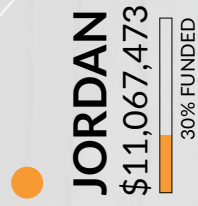
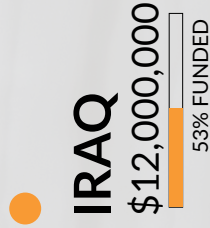
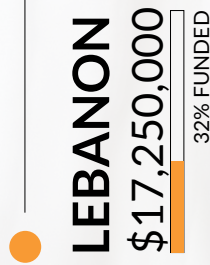
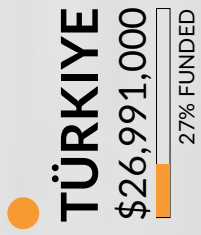
Underfunding not only hinders the implementation of innovative programmes and community outreach

initiatives aimed at fostering gender equality and women's empowerment, but it also risks undoing much of the progress made in combating harmful social norms and practices, particularly in areas where patriarchal attitudes are already deeply entrenched. This not only threatens the physical and mental health of women and girls but can also significantly hinder their educational and economic opportunities, trapping them in cycles of poverty, dependence, and oppression. Consequently, the potential of a whole generation of young women to contribute to the development and stabilisation of their communities remains unrealised, further perpetuating systemic gender inequalities.

The international community must recognise the urgency of adequately funding UNFPA programmes to prevent a worsening of the already dire situation for women and girls in the most impacted regions.

“I KNOW THE WORLD
I WANT TO LIVE IN.
HELP ME BUILD IT,
AND I WILL NEVER
STOP WORKING.”

– RUBA, a young Syrian woman living in Idlib



REGIONAL APPEAL / 2024

2023 ACHIEVEMENTS

1,930,940

PEOPLE REACHED WITH SRH SERVICES

98% FEMALE

880,743

PEOPLE REACHED WITH GBV PROGRAMMING

92% FEMALE

365,545

ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

17,940

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REACHED WITH VARIOUS SERVICES

90% FEMALE

10,777

LGBTQIA+ INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS SERVICES

16,136

PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH CASH & VOUCHER ASSISTANCE

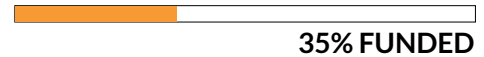
100% FEMALE

15,304

PEOPLE TRAINED ON VARIOUS TOPICS

79% FEMALE

	SYRIA APPEALS	OTHER APPEALS	TOTAL
SRH	\$ 51,442,189	\$ 11,650,000	\$ 63,092,189
GBV	\$ 45,899,446	\$ 9,850,000	\$ 55,749,446
SUPPLIES / COMMODITIES	\$ 15,777,341	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 16,777,341
OTHER	\$ 10,000,000	-	\$ 10,000,000
TOTAL	\$ 123,118,976	\$ 22,500,000	\$ 145,618,976



UNFPA's regional response to the Syria crisis encompasses a comprehensive approach tailored to address the multifaceted challenges faced by affected populations across the region. Central to this response is ensuring access to critical sexual and reproductive health services and robust mechanisms for protecting against and responding to gender-based violence, with a strong focus on vulnerable groups such as women, adolescents, and girls.

UNFPA's strategy, deeply embedded in SRH-GBV integration, focuses on capacity building within communities and healthcare systems, aiming to enhance service delivery in challenging environments while fostering resilience among affected populations. Central to this approach is empowering marginalised individuals, including women and girls with disabilities and LGBTQIA+ individuals, in addition to actively combating harmful gender norms. Through concerted advocacy and policy work, UNFPA ensures that gender issues are intricately woven into every aspect of the response.

UNFPA collaborates with a range of partners, including local NGOs and women-led organisations, international organisations and INGOs, and government bodies, ensuring a coordinated and effective response to the ongoing humanitarian needs arising from the Syria crisis.

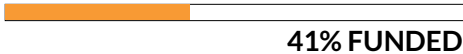
“WITHOUT THE URGENT CARE I RECEIVED FROM THE UNFPA-SUPPORTED TEAM, I WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO HAVE A HEALTHY BABY. THEY MADE ALL THE DIFFERENCE.”

– NOUR, a woman from north-West Syria

ACROSS THE WHOLE OF SYRIA

2023 ACHIEVEMENTS

	SYRIA APPEALS	OTHER APPEALS	TOTAL
SRH	\$ 29,737,907	-	\$29,737,907
GBV	\$ 18,512,596	-	\$18,512,596
YOUTH	\$ 1,500,000	-	\$1,500,000
SUPPLIES / COMMODITIES	\$ 11,560,000	-	\$11,560,000
OTHER	\$ 6,000,000	-	\$6,000,000
TOTAL	\$ 67,310,503	-	\$67,310,503



1,333,017

PEOPLE REACHED WITH
SRH SERVICES
98% FEMALE

682,785

PEOPLE REACHED WITH
GBV PROGRAMMING
93% FEMALE

42,370

PEOPLE REACHED WITH
YOUTH ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES
70% FEMALE

285,767

ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED
THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

13,027

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REACHED
WITH VARIOUS SERVICES
91% FEMALE

8,531

PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH
CASH & VOUCHER ASSISTANCE
100% FEMALE

10,027

PEOPLE TRAINED ON
VARIOUS TOPICS
77% FEMALE

UNFPA in Syria is adopting a nexus approach that integrates humanitarian interventions within long-term development initiatives. The 2024 strategy focuses on building institutional capacity and supporting static facilities to sustain impactful interventions. Focus will be given to the integration of SRH and GBV services and improving overall access for vulnerable women and girls. Efforts will be made to advance SRH services, including emergency obstetric care, family planning, and clinical management of rape. Furthermore, building the capacities of technical experts and partner personnel will be a priority, with a focus on resilience building and development response.

UNFPA Cross-Border Operations will strengthen SRH and GBV service integration in north-west Syria. This includes prioritising social inclusion by tailoring services to reach all groups in need, including persons with disabilities, older persons, and adolescent girls. Outreach teams and mobile service delivery points will also be supported to access hard-to-reach areas. Through its interventions, UNFPA will also promote a protective environment for women and girls through positive community engagement, challenging harmful behaviors and unequal social norms. Localisation will be supported by engaging local NGOs, particularly women-led and grassroots organisations, to build local capacity, promote ownership, and sustain transformative change.

“THIS IS A DANGEROUS PLACE. WE DON'T LEAVE OUR TENTS AT NIGHT BECAUSE THERE HAVE BEEN MANY PEOPLE KILLED.”

– SARA, a young Syrian woman living in Al Hol IDP camp in Syria

TÜRKIYE COUNTRY OFFICE

2023 ACHIEVEMENTS

120,959

PEOPLE REACHED WITH SRH SERVICES

94% FEMALE

122,181

PEOPLE REACHED WITH GBV PROGRAMMING

88% FEMALE

31,207

ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

750

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REACHED WITH VARIOUS SERVICES

62% FEMALE

9,171

LGBTQIA+ INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS SERVICES

1,409

PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH CASH & VOUCHER ASSISTANCE

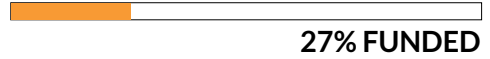
52% FEMALE

3,784

PEOPLE TRAINED ON VARIOUS TOPICS

77% FEMALE

	SYRIA APPEALS	EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY	TOTAL
SRH	\$ 2,163,150	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 12,163,150
GBV	\$ 7,527,850	\$ 6,000,000	\$ 13,527,850
SUPPLIES / COMMODITIES	\$ 300,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,300,000
TOTAL	\$ 9,991,000	\$ 17,000,000	\$ 26,991,000



In Türkiye, UNFPA will continue to provide SRH and GBV services to refugees, host communities, and earthquake survivors. Services will be delivered through women and girls' safe spaces, youth centers, municipal service centers, and key refugee group service units. The program will encompass reproductive health counseling, GBV case management, social cohesion activities, and empowerment programs. Efforts will focus on enhancing the capacities of health service providers and protection officers to address the urgent reproductive health needs of refugee women and girls. Lastly, UNFPA will continue supporting static and mobile service delivery units impacted by the earthquakes that struck south-east Türkiye on 6 February 2023.

“THE UNFPA-SUPPORTED TEAM MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO ACCESS THE HEALTHCARE WE NEED. BEFORE WE MET THEM, IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO EXPLAIN WHAT WE NEED DUE TO THE LANGUAGE BARRIER.”

– HILAL, a young Syrian woman living in Türkiye

LEBANON COUNTRY OFFICE

2023 ACHIEVEMENTS

104,643

PEOPLE REACHED WITH SRH SERVICES

96% FEMALE

53,886

PEOPLE REACHED WITH GBV PROGRAMMING

92% FEMALE

28,546

ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

2,702

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REACHED WITH VARIOUS SERVICES

91% FEMALE

1,605

LGBTQIA+ INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS SERVICES

1,889

PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH CASH & VOUCHER ASSISTANCE

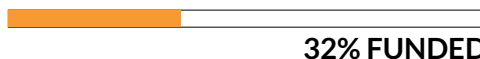
100% FEMALE

903

PEOPLE TRAINED ON VARIOUS TOPICS

77% FEMALE

	SYRIA APPEALS	OTHER APPEALS	TOTAL
SRH	\$ 6,750,000	-	\$ 6,750,000
GBV	\$ 4,500,000	-	\$ 4,500,000
SUPPLIES / COMMODITIES	\$ 3,500,000	-	\$ 3,500,000
OTHER	\$ 2,500,000	-	\$ 2,500,000
TOTAL	\$ 17,250,000	-	\$ 17,250,000



UNFPA Lebanon will continue providing essential SRH and GBV services to Syrian refugees, vulnerable Lebanese, Palestinians, and migrant workers. The program will subsidise SRH service delivery for marginalised populations and scale up GBV integration within primary healthcare centers. The strategy includes strengthening networking and community-based interventions, expanding cash and voucher assistance programs, and investing in working with municipalities and youth to enhance social stability.

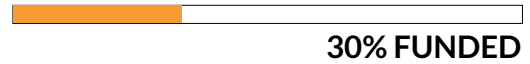
“MY PARENTS PUSHED FOR EARLY MARRIAGE, BUT THIS SPACE TAUGHT ME ABOUT THE CHALLENGES I MIGHT ENCOUNTER IF I GET MARRIED. IT EMPOWERED ME TO SAY NO, ASSERTING MY RIGHT TO CHOOSE MY OWN PATH.”

– SANA, a young Syrian woman living in Lebanon

JORDAN COUNTRY OFFICE

2023 ACHIEVEMENTS

	SYRIA APPEALS	OTHER APPEALS	TOTAL
SRH	\$5,141,132	-	\$5,141,132
GBV	\$5,509,000	-	\$5,509,000
SUPPLIES / COMMODITIES	\$417,341	-	\$417,341
TOTAL	\$11,067,473	-	\$11,067,473



93,979

PEOPLE REACHED WITH SRH SERVICES

99% FEMALE

8,820

PEOPLE REACHED WITH GBV PROGRAMMING

96% FEMALE

7,053

PEOPLE REACHED WITH YOUTH ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

74% FEMALE

12,860

ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

1,248

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REACHED WITH VARIOUS SERVICES

99% FEMALE

207

PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH CASH & VOUCHER ASSISTANCE

88% FEMALE

319

PEOPLE TRAINED ON VARIOUS TOPICS

70% FEMALE

UNFPA Jordan will build on the progress made in 2023 to integrate SRH services across different health platforms, focusing on system resilience and adaptability to changing needs. The strategy will emphasise multi-sectoral partnerships and coordination to ensure a holistic approach to SRH access and education. Quality assurance and accessibility of SRH services will be a significant focus, with special attention given to vulnerable groups like refugees and displaced persons. The GBV protection strategy will shift towards creating sustainable national partnerships, innovative behavioral change strategies, enhanced service delivery, strengthened coordination and response, and data utilisation for capacity building. Both the SRH and GBV components will enable a catalytic process towards resilience and development-oriented programmes.

“SPENDING TIME AT THE SAFE SPACE MAKES ME FEEL SUPPORTED AND MOTIVATED. IT BRINGS OUT THE BEST IN ME AND MAKES ME FEEL MORE EMPOWERED TO PURSUE MY OWN DREAMS.”

— SALAM, a young Syrian woman living in Jordan

IRAQ COUNTRY OFFICE

2023 ACHIEVEMENTS

5,412
 PEOPLE REACHED WITH
 SRH SERVICES
 100% FEMALE

2,324
 PEOPLE REACHED WITH
 GBV PROGRAMMING
 90% FEMALE

2,542
 ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED
 THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

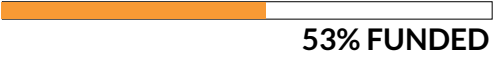
205
 PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REACHED
 WITH VARIOUS SERVICES
 99% FEMALE

5
 PRIMARY HEALTHCARE FACILITIES
 SUPPORTED

8
 WOMEN & GIRLS' SAFE
 SPACES SUPPORTED

In Iraq, UNFPA's 2024 strategy centers on a comprehensive approach to address critical challenges, emphasising GBV mitigation and response. The plan includes community engagement, survivor support services, and policy development. SRH services will be enhanced through improved access to quality care and education. Youth empowerment initiatives will involve young people in decision-making processes, equipping them with skills and opportunities for development.

	SYRIA APPEALS	OTHER APPEALS	TOTAL
SRH	\$6,000,000	-	\$6,000,000
GBV	\$6,000,000	-	\$6,000,000
TOTAL	\$12,000,000	-	\$12,000,000



“I USED TO THINK THAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN WAS NORMAL BECAUSE PEOPLE AROUND ME TREATED IT AS NORMAL. THANKS TO THE AWARENESS SESSIONS, PROVIDED AT THE SAFE SPACE, I NOW KNOW BETTER.

– YUMNA, a young Syrian woman living in Erbil, Kurdistan Region of Iraq

EGYPT COUNTRY OFFICE

2023 ACHIEVEMENTS

272,930
PEOPLE REACHED WITH SRH SERVICES
100% FEMALE

10,747
PEOPLE REACHED WITH GBV PROGRAMMING
94% FEMALE

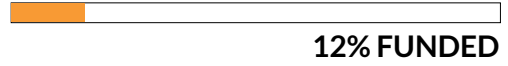
94
PEOPLE REACHED WITH YOUTH ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES
86% FEMALE

4,623
ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

271
PEOPLE TRAINED ON VARIOUS TOPICS
76% FEMALE

12
WOMEN & GIRLS' SAFE SPACES SUPPORTED

	SYRIA APPEALS	SUDAN EMERGENCY RESPONSE APPEAL	TOTAL
SRH	\$1,650,000	\$1,650,000	\$3,685,500
GBV	\$3,850,000	\$3,850,000	\$7,700,000
TOTAL	\$5,500,000	\$5,500,000	\$11,000,000



In Egypt, the focus of UNFPA's strategy in 2024 will address the growing humanitarian needs arising from the influx of Sudanese refugees since April 2023 and the ongoing Gaza crisis. UNFPA Egypt plays a critical role in the Inter-Agency Coordination team for the Refugee Response, collaborating with the Government of Egypt to develop a comprehensive '2024 Egypt Regional Refugee Response Plan.' This plan adopts a one-refugee approach, collectively targeting all nationalities of refugees with essential SRH and protection services, including Syrians, Sudanese, host communities, and others.

“BEFORE COMING TO THIS SAFE SPACE, I WAS AFRAID OF EVERYTHING, INCLUDING MY OWN SELF-EXPRESSION. THANKS TO THE SUPPORT AND EXCELLENT ACTIVITIES, I FEEL LIKE A CHANGED WOMAN. I FEEL MORE ABLE TO PLAN FOR MY FUTURE.”

– ZEINA, a young Syrian woman living in Egypt

THE CONSEQUENCES OF UNDERFUNDING

Underfunding UNFPA's crisis response jeopardises essential health and protection services for women, girls, and infants, increasing mortality risks and leaving many without access to vital gender-based violence programming. Throughout Syria, at least 42 health facilities, 52 mobile teams, 36 safe spaces, and 8 youth centres are at risk of closure due to funding shortfalls, resulting in unmet needs for over one million women and girls. Similar risks face neighbouring host countries, where more than 700,000 people will face challenges accessing the care they need.

As the world navigates an era marked by escalating global conflicts, the pressing challenges of climate change, and a stagnating global economy, the plight of those in humanitarian settings grows increasingly precarious. This is particularly evident in the case of the Syria crisis, whose protracted nature starkly illustrates the consequences of placing politics before humanity.

For 13 years, this particular crisis has not only caused widespread devastation but also set a precedent for the neglect of urgent humanitarian needs amidst political stalemates and shifting global priorities. As other parts in the region head in a similar direction, drawing attention and resources away, Syrians throughout the region – already grappling with the long-term impacts of their crisis – risk being forgotten. This situation underscores a worrying trend where those most in need are continually sidelined by the world's ever-changing focus and the complex interplay of global events.

Underfunding UNFPA's regional response to the crisis will significantly impact health facilities that provide sexual and reproductive health services. These services are vital for pregnant women, new mothers, and their infants. Maternal health services, including prenatal and postnatal care, family planning, and safe childbirth, are crucial for preventing maternal and infant morbidity and mortality. It also deprives them of a crucial entry point for survivors of sexual violence in conflict and other forms of gender-based violence to access specialised support and services.

Another dire consequence of underfunding is the inevitable closure of women and girls' safe spaces, which have proven to be unparalleled tools for safeguarding the health and well-being of women and girls in need. The gap left behind by such closures leave women and girls without essential protection and support services, often in areas where no alternatives exist, putting them at further risk of gender-based violence, exploitation, and abuse. The situation is further exacerbated for the millions of displaced and refugee women and girls throughout the region, whose access to such services is even more critical.

Most importantly, the loss of funding will have a ripple effect on communities and societies at large. It threatens to reverse vital progress in gender equality and women's empowerment, as programmes supporting these areas are often the first to face budget cuts. This not only hampers individual advancement but also stymies broader societal progress toward gender parity, which is crucial for community development and regional stability.





“LIFE HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY INTOLERABLE IN RECENT YEARS, AND THIS HAS BEEN THE SAME FOR ALL THE WOMEN IN MY FAMILY. THE CONSTANT THREAT OF VIOLENCE AND THE ECONOMIC CRISIS HAS PUSHED US ALL TO OUR LIMITS.”

– SANA, a young woman from north-west Syria

WE'RE GRATEFUL.

UNFPA is grateful to the following donors for supporting our regional Syria crisis response

Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, The European Commission, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom, USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), and the US Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM).

United Nations: The UN Central Emergency Response Fund, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund, the Syria Humanitarian Fund, and UNFPA core resources and Humanitarian Thematic Fund.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Sherin Saadallah

Senior Resource Mobilization and Partnership Adviser
UNFPA Arab States Regional Office (ASRO)
Cairo, Egypt
Email: saadallah@unfpa.org
Tel: +20 1093 942 725

Diana Garde

Head of the Regional Humanitarian Hub
for Syria and the Arab States
Amman, Jordan
Email: garde@unfpa.org
Tel: +962 79 5756755

Updated April 2024

Developed by the UNFPA Regional
Humanitarian Hub for Syria and the Arab States

