

# REGIONAL SITUATION REPORT

FOR THE SYRIA CRISIS

January 2023

“ WE AS WOMEN SIMPLY DO NOT FEEL SAFE ANYMORE. MANY OF US DO NOT EVEN FEEL SAFE IN OUR OWN HOMES, WITH OUR OWN FAMILIES, WHILE OTHERS FEAR BEING KIDNAPPED, RAPED, OR KILLED.

— MARIAM, a woman from Aleppo

## SNAPSHOT

**As of early 2023, Syrians and host communities throughout the region prepare for one of the worst years of the crisis. People in need continue to face the escalating impact of a protracted conflict, further complicated by a collapsing economy, climate-related challenges, and chronic and emerging health threats, including an unrelenting pandemic and a worsening cholera outbreak.**

The crisis region, which spans the Whole of Syria, Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt, continues to face a multitude of challenges, particularly in light of widespread and ongoing humanitarian crises in multiple countries, far-reaching inflation and economic recession, as well as the wider impacts of the war in Ukraine. Twelve years into this protracted crisis, people in need continue to endure the cumulative effects of years of instability, the risks of which are even higher now due to the ramifications of a far-reaching economic meltdown.

The Regional Situation Report for the Syria Crisis offers a bird's eye view of UNFPA's operations within the context of the Syria crisis. The report is prepared by the UNFPA Regional Humanitarian Hub for Syria and the Arab States (The Hub) in Amman, and spans operations led by UNFPA offices in Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt, in addition to operations led inside Syria, both from Damascus and cross-border via Türkiye.

In addition to providing aggregated quantitative results for each country involved in UNFPA's regional Syria response, this report also brings stories from the field that highlight the plight of communities inside Syria and in host countries, underscoring the positive impact of the response delivered by UNFPA in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence, youth engagement, and others.



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VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS HAS BECOME A SERIOUS PROBLEM AFTER THE WAR. WE SIMPLY DO NOT FEEL SAFE ANYMORE.

– YUSRA, a woman from Qamishli

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All photos shown in this issue, unless otherwise stated, are courtesy of the UNFPA Regional Humanitarian Hub for Syria and the Arab States (The Hub). Moreover, unless otherwise stated, photos do not directly correlate to the stories next to which they appear. Real names of survivors have been changed for confidentiality.

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FOR SYRIA & THE ARAB STATES

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# SYRIANS THROUGHOUT THE REGION PREPARE FOR ONE OF THE WORST YEARS OF THE CRISIS.

**In 2023, the needs of Syrian refugees and host communities are higher than ever, particularly in light of widespread economic collapse, the cumulative impact of 12 years of conflict, climate-related challenges, and various other socio-political factors that have exacerbated pre-existing vulnerabilities.**

Despite the continuing efforts of humanitarian actors, the Syria crisis remains one of the world's most complex humanitarian and protection emergencies. As of early 2023, 15.3 million people were already in need of humanitarian assistance – the highest number since the onset of the crisis in 2011. This includes 7.7 million women and girls, 4.2 million of whom are of reproductive age. The country also has the largest number of internally displaced people in the world at 6.8 million people. Meanwhile, more than 6.8 million Syrian refugees remain as refugees in five neighbouring countries – Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt. Over 48 percent of whom are women and girls.

Conditions in displacement camps in the north-west of the country remain dire, with many left with little choice but to return to their homes in front-line areas where active hostilities and indiscriminate attacks against civilians have claimed countless lives and targeted food and water resources.

Localised hostilities and lasting impact from previous violence have continued throughout 2022. Civilian life and humanitarian assistance have been 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. Compounding the impact of this protracted crisis is the growing threat of climate-related shocks, with serious drought and flooding creating additional needs and threats.

Among the millions of Syrians who have spent the last 12 years surviving conflict, displacement, economic collapse, and mounting risks to their safety, many feel their calls for help have been increasingly drowned out. More than a decade

of conflict has resulted in large-scale destruction of the water and sanitation infrastructure, leaving significant numbers of Syrian families in overcrowded displacement sites and poor WASH conditions. Up to 47 percent of the population rely on often unsafe alternatives to piped water, which constitutes a major risk factor for disease outbreaks, including cholera.

## Women & girls are still paying the steepest price

Meanwhile, assessments and focus group discussions conducted by UNFPA show that gender-based violence continues to pervade the daily lives of Syrian women and girls, who are paying the steepest price of ongoing hostilities, economic collapse, climate-related challenges, and other growing risks. The lives of Syrian women and girls 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 women and girls are consistently devalued, controlled, exploited, and then blamed for the violence they face.

“Physical, emotional, and sexual violence continue to take place,” explains Mona, an adolescent girl living in Areesha camp, whose family forced her to leave school after learning that one of the teachers there had been sexually harassing female students. “Attending the UNFPA-supported Safe Space was an opportunity for me to live again, as I was considering suicide because of the pressure my family was putting on me.”

The lives of Syrian women and girls like Mona 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 women and girls are consistently devalued, controlled, exploited, and then blamed for the violence they face. Unsurprisingly,

women and girls are telling UNFPA that the violence against them has become normalized. 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 violence, have also been observed in recent years.

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.

## UNFPA continues to show up

UNFPA and humanitarian actors will continue to advocate for the rights and well-being of women and girls.

During January 2023, as part of its regional response to the crisis, UNFPA delivered sexual and reproductive health services to more than 101,000 people, while almost 60,000 were reached with services designed to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, including more than 400 adolescent girls. More than 4,400 women were provided with cash and voucher assistance, and more than 550 LGBTQIA+ individuals were served.

**In 2023, UNFPA is appealing for a total of USD 141.9 million to fund its regional Syria crisis response, which spans the Whole of Syria, Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt.**



- 15.3 MILLION**  
Estimated people in need inside Syria
- 2.3 MILLION**  
Women and girls of reproductive age in need in Syria
- 500,000**  
Estimated pregnant women and girls in the crisis region
- 5.6 MILLION**  
Refugees, asylum seekers, or stateless people in the region

# #ThisIsNotNormal

## Disrupting the normalization of violence against women and girls

[Watch](#) the launch video by UNFPA Executive Director, Natalia Kanem.

The **#ThisIsNotNormal** campaign comes in response to increasing reports by women and girls that violence against them is becoming so widespread and unchecked, that it has been normalized in many communities.

Globally, women and girls continue to bear the brunt of the worst impacts of natural and human-made disasters, and this includes the escalating risks of multiple forms of gender-based violence and harmful practices.

In the Arab region, converging crises are affecting the lives and well-being of women and girls, including protracted humanitarian crises, armed conflicts, forced internal and external displacement, food insecurity and water scarcity, the worsening impacts of climate change, and countless other serious challenges. Meanwhile, the continuing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and high food and fuel prices driven by the ongoing war in Ukraine, are exacerbating the challenges women and girls face in communities across the region and beyond.

In the wake of these unprecedented challenges, more women and girls report to UNFPA that violence against them is becoming increasingly normalized, particularly in humanitarian settings.

Harassment, intimate partner and domestic violence, child and forced marriage, and sexual violence and exploitation are consistently reported, while new trends, such as various forms of cyber violence, have also been observed in recent years. Women and girls also report that this sense of normalization is eroding their resilience, particularly for those living in humanitarian settings.

The normalization of violence against women and girls poses a serious risk to sustainable peace and security and could derail progress towards the United Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The international community must act with urgency and in solidarity to reject the risk of the normalization of violence against women and girls, and ensure

that programmes designed to respond to this trend are at the front and centre of humanitarian responses.

Featuring the voices of [artists and influencers](#), across Arab region, such as Ghada Saba, Joanna Arida, Maya Ammar, and Alaa Hamdan, the campaign aims to counter this alarming trend, amplify the voices of women and girls survivors of gender-based violence, and reaffirm global commitment to ending gender-based violence, including sexual violence in conflict, and providing justice and support services to all those affected.

**#ThisIsNotNormal is an extended campaign that will continue over the coming months. UNFPA is inviting donor countries, UN and partner agencies, gender-based violence experts, journalists, and other opinion influencers to participate.**

“WOMEN AND GIRLS EXPERIENCE VIOLENCE AND OFTEN ACCEPT IT, NOT KNOWING THAT IT IS NOT NORMAL.

— SERENA, a young woman from Lebanon



# FROM ALL OPERATIONS\*

OPERATIONS IMPLEMENTED THROUGHOUT THE REGION, INCLUDING THE WHOLE OF SYRIA, TÜRKIYE, LEBANON, JORDAN, IRAQ, AND EGYPT.

**101,207**

PEOPLE REACHED WITH SRH SERVICES

98% FEMALE

**1,225**

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REACHED WITH VARIOUS SERVICES

83% FEMALE

**60,943**

PEOPLE REACHED WITH GBV PROGRAMMING

95% FEMALE

**556**

LGBTQIA+ INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS SERVICES

**1,520**

PEOPLE REACHED WITH YOUTH ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

84% FEMALE

**4,403**

PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH CASH & VOUCHER ASSISTANCE

98% FEMALE

**25,272**

ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

**570**

PEOPLE TRAINED ON VARIOUS TOPICS

76% FEMALE

## AS THE CHALLENGES DEEPEN, WOMEN AND GIRLS CONTINUE TO PAY THE PRICE.

The conflict in Syria has created one of the most severe and protracted humanitarian crises in the world today. Millions have been displaced both inside the country and outside as refugees, especially in Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt. The crisis has permanently altered the fabric of society in Syria itself, with far-reaching ramifications for its future resilience.

Assessments and interviews conducted by UNFPA since 2016 have also been able to illustrate the profound effect that years of instability have had on women and girls, particularly adolescent girls, who face a variety of unique risks. Lack of individual autonomy, movement restrictions, forced and early marriage, denial of resources and opportunities, and sexual and physical violence continue to be part of their daily reality, creating a web of violence that can transcend generations.

**Despite testing their limits, however, the crisis has also revealed the remarkable resilience of women and girls, many of whom defy enormous odds to build brighter futures for themselves and their families.**

### REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Adolescent girls reached with SRH services	10,418	100%
Family planning consultations	26,772	99%
Normal / assisted vaginal deliveries	2,065	100%
C-sections	910	100%
Ante-natal care consultations	18,874	100%
Post-natal care consultations	4,265	100%
People trained on SRH-related topics	136	65%

### GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Adolescent girls reached with GBV programming	14,431	100%
People reached with dignity kits	3,670	99%
GBV case management consultations	2,916	97%
People reached with GBV awareness sessions	49,145	96%
People trained on GBV-related topics	317	72%

### YOUTH SERVICES

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Adolescent girls reached with youth activities	423	100%
People trained on youth-related topics	117	98%



**90**  
PRIMARY HEALTHCARE FACILITIES \*\*



**88**  
WOMEN AND GIRLS SAFE SPACES



**29**  
EMERGENCY OBSTETRIC CARE FACILITIES



**5**  
YOUTH CENTRES



**83**  
MOBILE CLINICS



**22**  
OTHER SERVICE DELIVERY POINTS

\* As a result of the devastating earthquake that struck north-west Syria in early February, data from Türkiye cross-border operations is still pending and will be provided in the February issue of this report.

\*\* Above figures reflect fully-supported service-delivery points. Inside Syria, an additional 638 primary healthcare facilities are being partially supported through the Ministry of Health.

# SYRIA COUNTRY OFFICE

**71,255**

PEOPLE REACHED WITH SRH SERVICES

99% FEMALE

**43,055**

PEOPLE REACHED WITH GBV PROGRAMMING

97% FEMALE

**16,698**

ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

**430**

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REACHED WITH VARIOUS SERVICES

84% FEMALE

**3,998**

PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH CASH & VOUCHER ASSISTANCE

100% FEMALE

**570**

PEOPLE TRAINED ON VARIOUS TOPICS

76% FEMALE

## REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Adolescent girls reached with SRH services	8,395	100%
Family planning consultations	20,026	100%
Normal / assisted vaginal deliveries	442	100%
C-sections	474	100%
Ante-natal care consultations	15,062	100%
Post-natal care consultations	1,023	100%

## GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Adolescent girls reached with GBV programming	8,303	100%
People reached with dignity kits	1,944	100%
GBV case management consultations	1,292	98%
People reached with GBV awareness sessions	38,111	98%



61

PRIMARY HEALTHCARE FACILITIES \*



37

WOMEN AND GIRLS SAFE SPACES



19

EMERGENCY OBSTETRIC CARE FACILITIES



14

YOUTH CENTRES



82

MOBILE CLINICS



8

OTHER SERVICE DELIVERY POINTS

## What women and girls in Syria need

1. Access to quality sexual and reproductive health services is a basic human right and not a nice-to-have. Women and girls' needs should be at the centre of the humanitarian response. Preventable maternal or newborn deaths and life-threatening violence are not acceptable.
2. With nearly 60 percent of the population being food insecure, pregnant and breastfeeding women are at particular risk of malnutrition, which impacts more than one in five women in north-western governorates. They need access to immediate assistance to meet their basic needs.
3. Female-headed households are consistently identified among the most vulnerable population segments in Syria, particularly in light of the dire economic conditions. They need immediate access to services, including cash assistance and protection.
4. There are major gaps in the quantity and quality of health care workers. They require training, equipment and supervision to implement integrated and essential health service packages, and provide gender-sensitive and comprehensive services. This contributes to poor reproductive health outcomes nationwide as well as overall maternal morbidity and mortality.
5. Women and girls need access to services to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. This includes supporting women and girls' safe spaces, even in the most impacted and/or hard-to-reach areas. There is a need for all humanitarian actors to mitigate the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse and GBV throughout the response.

“ THE MOST IMPORTANT SKILL IN THIS LINE OF WORK IS THE ABILITY TO LISTEN TO PEOPLE – TO ASSESS THEIR STRONG AND WEAK POINTS AND TO TAILOR YOUR APPROACH TO SUIT THEIR NEEDS.

– SAFA, a psychosocial support specialist working at a UNFPA-supported facility

\* Above figures reflect fully-supported service-delivery points. Inside Syria, an additional 638 primary healthcare facilities are being partially supported through the Ministry of Health.

# TÜRKIYE CROSS-BORDER

## CROSS-BORDER DATA PENDING DUE TO ONGOING EMERGENCY

As a result of the [devastating earthquake](#) that struck north-west Syria in early February, data from Türkiye cross-border operations is still pending and will be provided in the February issue of this report.

On 9 January 2023, the United Nations Security Council reauthorized cross-border humanitarian access from Türkiye until July 2023, which allows UNFPA Türkiye Cross-Border to continue providing essential services to women and girls living in north-west Syria. This decision was welcomed by UN leaders, including UNFPA's Executive Director, as a fundamental way to preserve this essential lifeline for the 4.1 million people in need in the north-west.

At present, millions of women and girls, including pregnant and breastfeeding women, are dependent on the humanitarian assistance provided through cross-border operations. As the sole provider of SRH medicines and supplies to the north-west, UNFPA continued to tranship essential goods and supplies through the Bab-Al-Hawa crossing-point. Over the course of 2022, UNFPA sent 30 trucks containing more than 30,000 SRH kits, 1.17 million bulk items, and 4,778 Dignity Kits.

UNFPA also continued to enhance the capacity of medical and non-medical staff to provide comprehensive services to women and girls, including GBV survivors. In January, 32 health staff were trained on GBV basics and safe referral and 25 midwives on clinical management of rape. Additionally, 40 supervision visits were conducted to enhance the quality and integration of services, evaluate staff attitudes towards GBV survivors, and ensure continuous protocol implementation and full adherence to GBV principles.

Through this system-wide approach, UNFPA is helping to address critical barriers that prevent GBV survivors from accessing essential services available in their own communities, including lack of awareness about available services, lack of privacy, stigma, interference from family members, in addition to the lack of transportation services or the inability to afford the transportation fees.



# TÜRKIYE COUNTRY OFFICE

**7,326**

PEOPLE REACHED WITH SRH SERVICES

91% FEMALE

**6,953**

PEOPLE REACHED WITH GBV PROGRAMMING

77% FEMALE

**1,146**

PEOPLE REACHED WITH YOUTH ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

89% FEMALE

**1,992**

ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

**130**

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REACHED WITH VARIOUS SERVICES

52% FEMALE

**556**

LGBTQIA+ INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS SERVICES

**129**

PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH CASH & VOUCHER ASSISTANCE

33% FEMALE

**519**

PEOPLE TRAINED ON VARIOUS TOPICS

97% FEMALE

## REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Adolescent girls reached with SRH services	853	100%
Family planning consultations	2,923	95%
Ante-natal care consultations	727	100%
Post-natal care consultations	221	100%
People trained on SRH-related topics	91	54%

## GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Adolescent girls reached with GBV programming	911	100%
People reached with dignity kits	1,425	97%
GBV case management consultations	283	82%
People reached with GBV awareness sessions	5,254	82%
People trained on GBV-related topics	317	72%

## YOUTH SERVICES

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Adolescent girls reached with youth activities	228	100%
People trained on youth-related topics	111	98%



4

WOMEN AND GIRLS SAFE SPACES \*



4

YOUTH CENTRES



14

OTHER SERVICE DELIVERY POINTS

\* Safe Spaces in Türkiye are providing an integrated response to refugees in need, including both gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health services in the same facility.

“ THESE PAST FEW YEARS HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT, ESPECIALLY AS LIVING COSTS CONTINUE TO RISE. AS A WIDOW WITH CHILDREN TO FEED, IT HAS FELT ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE.

– JUDE, a Syrian woman living in Türkiye



# IN TÜRKIYE, UNFPA IS FOCUSING ON HELPING THE MOST MARGINALISED

The annual inflation rate in Türkiye fell for a third consecutive month to 57.7 percent in January of 2023 – the lowest since February of 2022 but still higher than market forecasts of 53.5 percent. Higher prices and limited opportunities on the labour market have meant that the refugee population continues to experience high levels of anxiety and stress as they struggle to access basic needs. Moreover, the lower purchasing power is contributing to the deterioration of overall living conditions and an increase in GBV cases, including child and forced marriage.

UNFPA continues to provide sexual and reproductive health and protection services, including prevention and response to GBV offered through 22 service units. In addition, supported service units provide awareness-raising on GBV and SRH, in addition to activities designed to empower people served and foster social cohesion. UNFPA also provides one-off support and cash support to beneficiaries suffering high protection risks.

In January, UNFPA continued to strengthen the capacity of its implementing partners and conducted orientation training for service providers and outreach workers operating supported service units to ensure a harmonised, quality response. A training on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) was also given to staff members of the Ankara Metropolitan Municipality's Children Services Unit.

## Mira's journey towards healing: how basic support changes lives

Before Mira received assistance at a UNFPA-supported service unit in Sanliurfa, she was enduring a life of constant anxiety and violence. The 28 year-old old Syrian woman fled her hometown nine years ago to take refuge in Türkiye, where she settled with her husband and four children.

### *'Because of his abuse, I lost the ability to sleep and the joy of living'*

Like many women and girls in her situation, Mira lived with an abusive husband who abused her physically and verbally throughout their marriage. Given the immense responsibilities that came with caring for four children,

Mira could not work, leaving the family to scrape by on what little income her husband managed to provide.

"Because of his abuse, I lost the ability to sleep and the joy of living," explains Mira. "I felt as though life was constantly punishing me."

### *'I can now go for walks and spend time outside with my children'*

Mira's husband also exercised control over her every move, which prevented her from accessing the support she needed. Fortunately, she was able to seek legal assistance from a UNFPA-supported Safe Space in her area, which allowed her to file for a divorce and escape the cycle of violence. The years of abuse, however, had come with a toll; the collective trauma had rendered Mira constantly anxious and distrustful of others, causing her to become increasingly isolated and people-averse.

After an initial consultation, Mira was referred to the psychologist working in the supported service unit. The psychologist diagnosed her with depression and created a treatment plan that included one session of tailored therapy per week. In addition, Mira was referred to the psychiatry department of the state hospital and was prescribed medication to aid her treatment. By the fourth session in her treatment plan, Mira reported experiencing positive changes on multiple levels.

### *'I'm also happy to know that there is a place where I can come to ask for support and make new friends'*

"I can now go for walks and spend time outside with my children," reflected Mira. "My sleeping disorder is gone and it only took eight sessions of therapy. I actually feel happy; I've started trusting people I'm no longer tormented by insecurity. I'm also happy to know that there is a place where I can come to ask for support and make new friends."



# LEBANON COUNTRY OFFICE

UNFPA CONTINUES TO ADAPT ITS PROGRAMMES TO PROVIDE LIFE-SAVING SERVICES TO PEOPLE IN NEED, WITH A FOCUS ON WOMEN AND GIRLS.

**5,067**

PEOPLE REACHED WITH SRH SERVICES

91% FEMALE

**276**

PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH CASH & VOUCHER ASSISTANCE

100% FEMALE

**4,289**

PEOPLE REACHED WITH GBV PROGRAMMING

77% FEMALE

**223**

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REACHED WITH VARIOUS SERVICES

100% FEMALE

**1,288**

ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

## REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Adolescent girls reached with SRH services	192	100%
Family planning consultations	1,032	100%
Ante-natal care consultations	119	100%
Post-natal care consultations	51	100%

## GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Adolescent girls reached with GBV programming	1,096	100%
GBV case management consultations	1,032	100%
People reached with GBV awareness sessions	3,053	100%



5  
PRIMARY HEALTHCARE FACILITIES \*



3  
WOMEN AND GIRLS SAFE SPACES

## LEBANON IN 2023: A COUNTRY IN CRISIS

As of early 2023, Lebanon is facing multiple challenges, including political instability, a spiralling economic crisis, high unemployment and inflation, and a surge in COVID-19 cases.

The second half of January 2023 saw a significant drop in the value of the Lebanese pound (LBP), which led to a significant increase in fuel prices nationwide and caused demonstrations and road closures. The record-high prices have added to the financial strain on individuals and households, particularly with regards to transportation and electricity expenses.

Following a decline in their salaries' purchasing power and a lack of further financial aid, public sector workers have consistently gone on strike.

On January 7, public school teachers began a week-long strike protesting the devaluation of their salaries and the government's failure to provide assistance. The collapse of state services, removal of subsidies on almost all goods, and an increase in poverty have impacted numerous Lebanese and refugee communities.

In response, UNFPA continues to support the provision of sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence integrated services through its various partners, including civil society and academic and government institutions. Programmes are targeting vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian communities, particularly women and girls in need in Beirut, Bekaa, Mount Lebanon, and in the south and the north of Lebanon, with partners providing specialised GBV

services such as case management (including legal support), psychosocial support, awareness-raising sessions, recreational activities, and specialist referrals as needed. In addition, partners are reaching out to target communities with awareness-raising sessions on GBV-related issues and providing life skills and vocational sessions.

Additionally, to ensure an inclusive response that is conscious of the unique risks facing marginalised communities, UNFPA also continues to support programmes targeting the LGBTQIA+ community and persons with disabilities.

UNFPA also continues to support women and girls at risk by providing cash assistance that

helps them meet their basic needs such as food, housing, and healthcare, in addition to serving as an essential tool for economic empowerment and mitigating the risks of gender-based violence.

During January, various challenges were reported by partners. The deterioration of socio-economic situation is leading to social malaise and redefining the priorities of people served. The worsening absence of state services due to recurrent strikes creates gaps in key areas of the response, including legal assistance for women and girls surviving gender-based violence. Increases in transportation costs also means that fewer women and girls are able to find their way to support.

# AWARENESS AND THE JOY OF SERVING THOSE IN NEED

Mohamad had always felt a strong sense of duty to help others. Today, he volunteers as a nurse at a clinic in Bekaa, which is run by Salama in partnership with UNFPA Lebanon, and supported by ECHO. "I knew it was the perfect opportunity to apply my skills and passion," said the 22-year-old Mohamad.

"I was young, but eager to learn and make a difference, so I was assigned to work at the clinic," said Mohamad, who has been providing healthcare services to those in need in Bekaa. "Despite the challenges and difficulties we are facing in the country, it is rewarding to see the positive impact that our work is making," he added.

***'In the last few months, we have seen a surge in the number of women visiting our clinic'***

Thanks to the outreach sessions organised by Salama's team, people from the surrounding communities are coming to the clinic for healthcare services. "In the last few months, we have seen a surge in the number of women visiting our clinic," said Mohamad. "Our integrated SRH/GBV model has encouraged more women to seek care. We conducted outreach sessions on family planning, the importance of contraceptives to prevent STIs, the benefits of breastfeeding in tough economic times, the urgency of personal hygiene during the cholera outbreak, and the impact of mental health on people's lives."

“ I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT WOMEN IN THIS AREA ARE UNFAIRLY TREATED, WHICH IS WHY I THINK OUR WORK IS EXTREMELY CRUCIAL.

— MOHAMAD, a volunteer at a UNFPA-supported facility in Lebanon

Mohamad recounted a GBV case that they dealt with at the clinic. "With the support of the dedicated and specialised case management team led by ABAAD, we were able to help her. The patient was also provided with sexual and reproductive health services at Salama clinic."

***'These changes have affected the dynamic and mentality of my family, especially my father'***

"I firmly believe that women in this area are unfairly treated, which is why I think our work is extremely crucial and, in some cases, life-saving," said Mohamad.

Mohamad's work has also had a positive impact on his personal and familial values and beliefs. "These changes have affected the dynamic and mentality of my family, especially my father, who has become more positive, empowering, and supportive. This has made me even more dedicated to making a positive impact on the lives of those I serve," he concluded.



# JORDAN COUNTRY OFFICE

WITH 1.3 MILLION SYRIANS NATIONWIDE, UNFPA IN JORDAN CONTINUES TO PROVIDE ESSENTIAL SERVICES TO REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES NATIONWIDE.

**6,129**

PEOPLE REACHED WITH SRH SERVICES

100% FEMALE

**1,067**

PEOPLE REACHED WITH GBV PROGRAMMING

99% FEMALE

**1,204**

ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

**39**

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REACHED WITH VARIOUS SERVICES

100% FEMALE

**6**

PEOPLE TRAINED ON VARIOUS TOPICS

100% FEMALE

## REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Adolescent girls reached with SRH services	576	100%
Family planning consultations	1,360	100%
Normal / assisted vaginal deliveries	127	100%
Ante-natal care consultations	2,456	100%
Post-natal care consultations	397	100%

## GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Adolescent girls reached with GBV programming	433	100%
GBV case management consultations	55	100%
People reached with GBV awareness sessions	704	100%

## YOUTH SERVICES

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Adolescent girls reached with youth activities	195	100%
People trained on youth-related topics	6	100%



**11**  
PRIMARY HEALTHCARE FACILITIES



**17**  
WOMEN AND GIRLS SAFE SPACES



**1**  
EMERGENCY OBSTETRIC CARE FACILITY



**1**  
YOUTH CENTRE

## JORDAN IN 2023: THE NEEDS REMAIN HIGH

UNFPA Jordan will continue supporting and strengthening the resilience of the national systems for delivering quality, comprehensive, integrated sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning, for all vulnerable women, youth, and adolescents, especially girls, using a health systems-building approach.

This will be implemented through a) Coordinating and strengthening partnerships with relevant agencies to promote access to SRH services; b) Ensuring the availability and accessibility of integrated, high-quality SRH information, services, and supplies; (c) Improving preparedness, readiness, and functionality of PHC systems, and scaling up operationalization of the comprehensive SRHR package, including EmONC; (d) Improving SRH referral pathways and network of services available; and (e) Advancing emergency preparedness to respond to future shocks or crises.

Meanwhile, UNFPA will consolidate national partnerships, boosting sustainability and the development/humanitarian nexus but also promoting innovation and quality of survivor centered services. In 2023, a key objective is boosting reach while applying consistent standards, measurable behavioral change, using better data, and sustainably investing in national capacities. UNFPA will continue to support GBV service delivery points in three main refugee camps and urban areas across the country, building on achievements in disability inclusion and adolescent girls target programming. This will include investments in innovative approaches and a shift toward behavioral change programming to challenge gender norms and harmful practices.

# IRAQ COUNTRY OFFICE

IN IRAQ, UNFPA CONTINUES TO PROVIDE ESSENTIAL SUPPORT TO MORE THAN 290,000 REFUGEES AS 1.2 MILLION PEOPLE REMAIN DISPLACED NATIONWIDE.

**566**

PEOPLE REACHED WITH SRH SERVICES

99% FEMALE

**762**

ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

**130**

PEOPLE REACHED WITH GBV PROGRAMMING

100% FEMALE

**11**

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REACHED WITH VARIOUS SERVICES

100% FEMALE

## REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Adolescent girls reached with SRH services	402	100%
Family planning consultations	230	97%
Normal / assisted vaginal deliveries	40	100%
Ante-natal care consultations	510	100%
Post-natal care consultations	97	100%



5  
PRIMARY HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

## GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Adolescent girls reached with GBV programming	360	100%
People reached with dignity kits	275	100%
GBV case management consultations	5	100%
People reached with GBV awareness sessions	1,136	88%



1  
EMERGENCY OBSTETRIC CARE FACILITY

## IRAQ IN 2023: AN EVOLVING CONTEXT

Iraq remains a country with a very high risk of a humanitarian crisis, currently ranked 18 out of 191 on the INFORM Risk Index, and is grappling with three main crises that overlap. Years of violent conflict have resulted in protracted displacement and significant humanitarian challenges. Political instability and unrest, compounded by regional tensions, including those related to natural resources, have heightened fragility and the risk of backsliding into conflict. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated these challenges, acting as a threat multiplier.

It is expected that the humanitarian and recovery context in Iraq will continue to evolve in 2023, following the trends observed during 2021 and 2022. Displaced populations face prolonged displacement, and many are unable or prevented from returning due to conditions that are unsuitable for safe and dignified living, such as lack of safety, blockage of returns by groups in control of an area, resistance from other community members, or inadequate resources to support sustainable solutions. The

decision by the Government of Iraq (GoI) to close or reclassify IDP camps as informal sites in all affected governorates, except for the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), combined with the recent announcement to close the IDP file by the end of 2023, has resulted in the premature departure of many households from the camps or situations of secondary displacement, especially to informal displacement sites where IDPs have limited access to public services or other forms of assistance.

UNFPA Iraq continues to provide reproductive health services in five refugee camps, staffed by experienced and professional medical personnel. These services include antenatal care, family planning consultation, postnatal care, gynecological consultations, and referral pathways to secondary hospitals for normal delivery, caesarian sections, and complication cases.

Gender equality and women's empowerment initiatives continue to provide life-saving, essential GBV services to the refugee

population, especially women and girls in camps and those outside camps in the Kurdistan Region. Services such as case management, life skills/vocational training, PSS, awareness-raising sessions, and outreach activities are still being offered through the women's community centres. UNFPA unveiled a new logo and branding for 37 Women Community Centres and mobile teams, which were established with support from Canada, Norway, and Sweden. The re-branding aims to reflect a new phase for women's community centres, transitioning from a humanitarian to a development context, and create a unifying brand for these centres across the country. This will contribute to raising awareness about the services provided by these centres and encourage women and girls to use them as safe spaces.

Women and girls were involved in the re-branding process from the outset, and their experiences and memories of spaces were vital in reflecting the purpose of these facilities and women's hopes for the future.

# EGYPT COUNTRY OFFICE

UNFPA EGYPT CONTINUES TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO SYRIAN REFUGEES IN THE COUNTRY, WITH A FOCUS ON WOMEN AND GIRLS.

**48**  
PEOPLE REACHED WITH  
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES  
**100% FEMALE**



**GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Adolescent girls reached with GBV programming	35	100%
GBV case management consultations	232	96%
People reached with GBV awareness sessions	34	100%

As of 31 January 2023, Egypt is providing refuge to 289,812 individuals who are seeking asylum from 57 different countries of origin. It is worth noting that half of the refugees are Syrian while the other half are from a range of different nationalities. During January, 3,588 individuals were registered as refugees, with 35% of them being Syrians (source: UNHCR Monthly Statistical Report, January 2023).

Ten safe spaces in Egypt are being supported by UNFPA to provide vital assistance to refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers, with a particular focus on those who are at risk or survivors of GBV. Two of these safe spaces offer a full range of services related to GBV case management, including psychological counseling, legal support, safe relocation, and medical referrals.

In addition to these services, all of the safe spaces offer support in the form of group mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), vocational skills training, and awareness sessions on GBV, reproductive health, and harmful practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM). One of the safe spaces also provides emergency support to survivors of rape through the provision of PEP kits, which are procured by UNFPA. UNFPA also works closely with its partners, including MSF and UNHCR, to ensure that PEP kits are available and distributed throughout the country as needed.

**Marwa’s journey towards healing: how basic support changes lives**

Marwa’s life was not an easy one. She was forced to leave school at a young age by her family, which was the first form of violence she experienced in her life. Later, her mother forced her to marry despite her rejection. From the beginning, her husband treated her badly - he was abusive, both physically and mentally. He insulted her, beat her, and even ghosted her, leaving her without any form of support. Marwa had children, but even then, she was unable to leave her husband due to her controlling mother.

*‘I learned to say no when needed, whereas before I feared how people would react if I said that’*

When the war broke out in Syria, Marwa knew that she needed to get herself and her children out of harm’s way. However, her husband refused to leave with them. So, in 2013, Marwa took matters into her own hands and traveled to Egypt on her own. Once there, she registered with the UNHCR as a refugee and started sewing to earn enough money to support her children. They, in turn, worked as day laborers to support their mother. Marwa’s

husband made no attempt to contact her or his children, leaving them on their own.

For years, Marwa struggled to cope with the stress and isolation that came with being a refugee in a foreign country. But in 2019, she discovered the “Sanad” safe space on the internet. At first, she was too afraid to talk about her problems. However, through participating in activities such as psychodrama, yoga, art therapy, and reproductive health sessions, Marwa started to feel more comfortable expressing herself.

Marwa’s breakthrough came during a psychodrama workshop when she spoke about her problems for the first time. From that moment on, she felt more confident and started having sessions with the case manager.

“I learned to say no when needed, whereas before I feared how people would react if I said that,” reflects Marwa. “With the help of art therapy and a supportive trainer, I overcame my fear of being ridiculed and found a way to express myself creatively. Vocational training in origami proved particularly beneficial, as it taught me patience and persistence while also easing my sadness. This newfound awareness inspired me to prioritize my children’s education and ensure that they have opportunities that I never had. Additionally, I gained valuable insights into other cultures and traditions from around the world.”

“SINCE I STARTED PARTICIPATING IN THE ACTIVITIES, ESPECIALLY THE SUPPORT GROUP, MY VOICE WENT UP AND I WAS ABLE TO TALK TO PEOPLE. I USED TO BE ISOLATED AND MY HUSBAND PUT ME DOWN, BUT I GOT MYSELF BACK UP AND LEARNED TO SAY ‘NO.’

– FARAH, who recently accessed GBV programming at a UNFPA-supported facility in Egypt

# COORDINATION

## Whole of Syria

In January, the Whole of Syria GBV AoR projects were finalised and approved. The Whole of Syria GBV AoR total appeal for the 2023 HRP is 90.7 M USD, with 72 projects. The total target is 1.9 million people, out of a total of 8.5 M people in need of GBV interventions.

Meanwhile, the Whole of Syria GBV AoR team held a retreat in Amman that was attended by GBV coordinators and IMOs from the three hubs and Whole of Syria and the Regional Emergency GBV Advisor. The agenda of the retreat allowed time for discussion on priorities and strategic collaborations for 2023, initial brainstorming on the HRP hybrid costing methodology, information management issues, GBV risk mitigation priorities, and new learning products. The retreat also served as an opportunity to share new knowledge and challenges of GBV work in different parts of Syria. Action points proceeding from the retreat were shared during the following Whole of Syria GBV regular meeting for endorsement.

Moreover, in partner with other AoRs, the GBV AoR worked on a new 5Ws template to monitor partners' interventions. The template developed is the result of extensive collaboration between Whole of Syria and hub protection, GBV, child protection, and mine action coordinators and IMOs. The 5Ws template comes with a new guide to help organisations using the template.

Meanwhile, The Hub supported an advocacy effort led by OHCHR with the Special Procedures, in particular the Special Rapporteur on the right to Health, Ms. Mofokeng, ahead of the vote of the Security Council Resolution on cross-border humanitarian assistance to Syria. The advocacy brought to a [joint statement](#) of UN human rights experts.

## Syria Country Office

UNFPA attended the Area Humanitarian Country Team meeting in Dier-ez-Zour to discuss programming for 2023 with other United Nations agencies and provide a brief on related challenges.

## Türkiye Cross-Border

In January, UNFPA's partners distributed 4.631 dignity kits to women and girls in north-west Syria. The kits contain critical hygiene and safety items which are needed to address basic protection needs of women and girls and enhance access to information and service provision. Preserving dignity is essential to maintaining resilience while coping with the challenges of a protracted humanitarian crisis. Kits were tailored in partnership with affected communities to make sure that the most needed items are included, with distribution carried out in a manner that minimises protection risks and potential backlashes.

Additionally, in an attempt to address poverty and economic vulnerability, UNFPA helped finalise SoPs on income generating activities, which establish clear criteria for this type of interventions and help ensure effective coordination.

## Türkiye Country Office

UNFPA continued to co-chair the GBV sub-working groups at the national and subnational levels and the KRG thematic coordination groups at the regional level. In January, UNFPA conducted a session on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse targeting 3RP inter-sector partners. The objective of the training was to strengthen PSEA mechanisms among all partners and develop knowledge on the topic, including a solid understanding of the differences between sexual exploitation, sexual abuse, and sexual harassment.



# DONORS & PARTNERS

THE ESSENTIAL SERVICES BEING DELIVERED TO SYRIANS REGION-WIDE WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF OUR DONORS AND PARTNERS.

## IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

**In Syria:** (MOH) Ministry of Health, (MOHE) Ministry of Higher Education, (Mosaic) for Human Relief & Dev., (ICDA) Ihsan Charity Development Association, (NFRD) Nour Foundation for Relief and Development, (SSSD) Syrian Society for Social Development, (Al Tamayouz) Altamayouz for Orphan Sponsorship, (SFPA) Syrian Family Planning Association, (Yamama) Syria Al-Yamama, (Agha Khan) Agha Khan Foundation, (ASLS) Amelioration of Sanitary and Social Level Society, (CCA) Circassian Charity Association, (Ghiras) Ghiras Ass. for Development, (PACA) Pan Arminian Charity Association, (Sham) Al-Sham Association for Health, (BSWH) Al Bir & Social Welfare Hama, (SARC) Syrian Arab Red Crescent, (SCFAP) Syrian Commission for Family Affairs and Population, (MAC) Mar Asia, (PRCS) The Palestine Red Crescent Society, (IECD) European Institute of Cooperation and Development, (Sanad) Sanad team for development, UNDP, UNICEF, FAO, and WFP.

**In Lebanon:** Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Social Affairs, Amel Association, Al Mithaq, Akkarouna, and ABAAD.

**In Jordan:** Institute for Family Health (IFH), Ministry of Health (MOH), Society Aid Health Jordanian (JHAS), Jordanian Women's Union (JWU), the National Council for Family Affairs (NCF), National Women's Health Care Centre (NWHCC), Questscope, Higher Population Council (HPC), Generations for Peace (GFP), Health Care Accreditation Counsel (HCAC), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Royal Health Awareness Society (RHAS), the Jordanian National Commission for Women (JNCW), and Save the Children Jordan.

**In Iraq:** AL Massela, Harika, Zhian and Civil Development Organisation.

**In Egypt:** UNHCR, Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP), Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS), Etijah, and CARE Egypt Foundation.

**In Türkiye:** ASAM (Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants); KAMER (Women's Centre Foundation); Eskisehir Osmangazi University; Harran University; YAHA (Youth Approaches to Health Association); PLA (Positive Living Association); Red Umbrella Sexual Health and Human Rights Association. For the service units that are under direct implementation, UNFPA is collaborating with Ankara Municipality, Sanliurfa Municipality and RASAS (Refugees and Asylum Seekers Assistance and Solidarity Association).

**Türkiye Cross-Border:** International Rescue Committee (IRC), Relief International (RI), Shafak, Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS), Ihsan for Relief and Development (IhsanRD), and their sub-implementing partners Women Support Association (IhsanRD), Hope Revival Organization (IRC), Relief Experts Association- UDER (IRC) and Syria Relief and Development (Relief International).

DEVELOPED BY THE UNFPA  
REGIONAL HUMANITARIAN HUB  
FOR SYRIA & THE ARAB STATES

## CURRENT DONORS

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

**United Nations:** OCHA/CERF, UNDP, SCHF, and UNFPA Emergency Funds.

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## RELEVANT RESOURCES

[www.unfpa.org](http://www.unfpa.org)  
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[www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org)  
<http://Syria.humanitarianresponse.info>

