As of June 2022, Syrians and host communities throughout the region continue to face the escalating impact of a protracted humanitarian crisis, further complicated by a deteriorating economy, continuing hostilities, and an unrelenting pandemic.

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 the recurrent waves of COVID-19 infections that continue to exacerbate existing needs. A decade 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 impacts 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 in Amman, Jordan, and spans operations conducted by UNFPA offices in Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt, in addition to operations conducted inside Syria 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. The report also covers UNFPA’s efforts to ensure continuity of operations throughout the Syria crisis region during the COVID-19 pandemic.
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS HAS BECOME A SERIOUS PROBLEM AFTER THE WAR. WE SIMPLY DO NOT FEEL SAFE ANYMORE.

— YUSRA, a Syrian 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.

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

www.unfpa.org
www.unfpa.org
www.unfpa.org
http://syria.humanitarianresponse.info
The year 2022 marked another grim milestone for Syrians throughout the region as the crisis entered its 12th year. For women and girls, the cumulative impact has been catastrophic, upending decades of progress on women’s issues and bringing unprecedented risks that have fundamentally altered their realities.

Despite the continuing efforts of humanitarian actors, the situation in Syria remains dire, further complicated by a worsening economy, waves of hostilities and mass displacement, and the lingering aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. The crisis remains one of the world’s most complex humanitarian and protection emergencies, with 14.6 million estimated in need of assistance, among them 7.2 million women and girls. This reflects a steep increase from the number of people in need reported in 2021 (13.4 million) and in 2020 (11.7 million).

When the crisis passed the decade mark in 2021, the world was already a year into the COVID-19 pandemic, and an array of other humanitarian situations were emerging. Among the millions of Syrians who have spent the last 11 years surviving conflict, displacement, economic collapse, and mounting risks to their safety, many feel their calls for help have been increasingly drowned out.

Women and girls pay the steepest price

The crisis has created a daunting array of challenges for women and girls, who are paying the steepest price of ongoing hostilities, economic collapse, climate-related challenges, among others. The lives of Syrian women and girls are marked by mutually reinforcing forms of gender-based violence and gender discrimination. Highly unequal gender practices, often exacerbated by discriminatory attitudes based on age, displacement status, disability and/or marital status, create an environment in which women and girls are devalued, controlled, and blamed for the violence they face.

“Violence against women and girls has become so common after the crisis,” explains Shaza, an adolescent girl from Qamishli. “Many women in my family are struggling and cannot find the right support. I see more women being beaten by men in their families, and sometimes in public.”

Moreover, these risks are further compounded by the deteriorating economy and widespread poverty, lack and loss of livelihoods, destruction and loss of housing and property, protracted and multiple cycles of displacement, substandard living conditions (even for people in areas of relative stability), and shortage of natural resources. This is further increasing reliance on negative coping mechanisms such as early and forced marriage and sexual exploitation and abuse.

Even more alarming are the reports by women and girls stating that the violence against them has become normalised as a result of years of instabilities. 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 levied 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.

Between January and June 2022, as part of its regional response to the crisis, UNFPA delivered SRH services to more than 793,000 people, while around 390,000 were reached with services designed to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, including more than 134,000 adolescent girls. Around 104,000 women were provided with cash assistance, and more than 9,000 LGBTQI+ individuals were served.

In 2022, UNFPA is appealing for a total of USD 144.3 million to fund its regional Syria crisis response, which spans the Whole of Syria, Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt.

The Impact of this crisis stretches far beyond Syria to include Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt.
RESPONSES FROM ALL OPERATIONS

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

793,360 PEOPLE REACHED WITH REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES
92% FEMALE

13,591 PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REACHED WITH VARIOUS SERVICES
77% FEMALE

389,819 PEOPLE REACHED WITH GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SERVICES
92% FEMALE

134,707 ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES
92% FEMALE

30,822 YOUNG PEOPLE ENGAGED THROUGH VARIOUS ACTIVITIES
71% FEMALE

4,454 LGBTQI+ INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS SERVICES
77% FEMALE

104,087 PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH CASH & VOUCHER ASSISTANCE
99% FEMALE

9,083 PEOPLE TRAINED ON VARIOUS TOPICS
81% FEMALE

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9,083 PEOPLE TRAINED ON VARIOUS TOPICS
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AS THE CHALLENGES WORSEN, 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 become artists, activists, innovators, and other influential voices in their communities.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>% Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family planning consultations</td>
<td>551,605</td>
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<tr>
<td>Normal and assisted vaginal deliveries</td>
<td>13,748</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-Sections</td>
<td>7,141</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ante-natal care consultations</td>
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<td>Post-natal care consultations</td>
<td>60,463</td>
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<tr>
<td>People trained on SRH-related topics</td>
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GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>% Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People reached with dignity kits</td>
<td>50,646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People provided with GBV case management</td>
<td>17,682</td>
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<tr>
<td>People reached with GBV awareness messages</td>
<td>291,579</td>
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<tr>
<td>People trained on GBV-related topics</td>
<td>4,086</td>
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</table>

YOUTH SERVICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>% Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People trained on youth-related topics</td>
<td>1,502</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rejecting the normalisation of violence against women and girls

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 normalised, 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 normalisation is eroding their resilience, particularly for those living in humanitarian settings.

The normalisation 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 normalisation 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.

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 is normalised in some communities.

Featuring the voices of artists and influencers across the Arab region, such as Ghada Saba, Joanna Arida, Maya Ammar, and Aïla Hamdan, the campaign aims to counter this alarming trend, amplify the voices of women and girls survivors of gender-based violence, and reassert 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

Watch the launch video by UNFPA Executive Director, Natalia Kanem.

Watch the launch video by UNFPA Executive Director, Natalia Kanem.
ACROSS THE WHOLE OF SYRIA

ENSURING THAT ALL COMMUNITIES INSIDE SYRIA HAVE ACCESS TO LIFE-SAVING ASSISTANCE AND QUALITY SERVICES, EVEN IN LOCATIONS THAT ARE HARD TO REACH.

505,264
PEOPLE REACHED WITH REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES
89% FEMALE

296,805
PEOPLE REACHED WITH GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SERVICES
94% FEMALE

14,483
YOUNG PEOPLE ENGAGED THROUGH VARIOUS ACTIVITIES
62% FEMALE

102,945
PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH CASH & VOUCHER ASSISTANCE
99% FEMALE

5,621
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REACHED WITH VARIOUS SERVICES
93% FEMALE

115,149
adolescent girls supported through various programmes
94% FEMALE

2,697
PEOPLE TRAINED ON VARIOUS TOPICS
80% FEMALE

100 PRIMARY HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

51 WOMEN AND GIRLS SAFE SPACES

26 EMERGENCY OBSTETRIC CARE FACILITIES

15 YOUTH CENTRES

100 MOBILE CLINICS

61 OTHER SERVICE DELIVERY POINTS

Reproductive Health

- Family planning consultations: 192,615 (99% female)
- Normal and assisted vaginal deliveries: 12,838 (100%)
- C-Sections: 7,067 (100%)
- Ante-natal care consultations: 247,948 (100%)
- Post-natal care consultations: 46,090 (100%)
- People trained on SRH-related topics: 1,082 (89%)

Gender-based Violence

- People reached with dignity kits: 15,889 (100%)
- People provided with GBV case management: 13,997 (97%)
- People reached with GBV awareness messages: 235,907 (94%)
- People trained on GBV-related topics: 1,533 (74%)

Youth Services

- People trained on youth-related topics: 82 (57%)

In 2014, the Whole of Syria (WoS) approach was introduced across the United Nations, authorised initially by UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2165 in 2014. This allowed cross-border humanitarian assistance from Iraq, Jordan, and Türkiye. Successive UNSCRs extended and adapted this, eventually reducing to cross-border assistance from Türkiye exclusively. On July 11, 2021, the resolution was extended for an additional six months, with the proposed extension of a further six months subject to the Secretary General’s report. The continuation of this large, UN-led humanitarian operation is vital to reach those most in need. In addition to the Whole of Syria approach under the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), there has been a succession of comprehensive Regional Refugee and Resilience Plans (3RPs) since 2014, which aim to coordinate and align responses to Syrian refugees and affected host communities across Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Türkiye.

When I finally found my way to the Safe Space, I was surprised at how quickly I began to feel a change. The kind people there gave me the hope I thought I’d never get back.

— Rula, a Syrian woman from Damascus
SYRIA COUNTRY OFFICE

DELIVERING EMERGENCY AND LONG-TERM ASSISTANCE TO SYRIAN COMMUNITIES IN NEED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, WITH A FOCUS ON WOMEN AND GIRLS.

445,293
PEOPLE REACHED WITH REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES
99% FEMALE

3,382
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REACHED WITH VARIOUS SERVICES
94% FEMALE

244,694
PEOPLE REACHED WITH GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SERVICES
98% FEMALE

92,653
ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

14,483
YOUNG PEOPLE ENGAGED THROUGH VARIOUS ACTIVITIES
62% FEMALE

1,493
PEOPLE TRAINED ON VARIOUS TOPICS
81% FEMALE

99,535
PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH CASH & VOUCHER ASSISTANCE
100% FEMALE

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>% Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family planning consultations</td>
<td>185,968</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal and assisted vaginal deliveries</td>
<td>5,140</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-Sections</td>
<td>4,656</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ante-natal care consultations</td>
<td>216,311</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post-natal care consultations</td>
<td>30,857</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People trained on SRH-related topics</td>
<td>908</td>
<td>90%</td>
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GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>% Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People reached with dignity kits</td>
<td>15,889</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People provided with GBV case management</td>
<td>12,881</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People reached with GBV awareness messages</td>
<td>198,770</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People trained on GBV-related topics</td>
<td>503</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

YOUTH SERVICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>% Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People trained on youth-related topics</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

— HANIN, a young woman from Deir-ez-Zor

WE HAVE TO SHOW COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION AND MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO KEEP LEARNING BECAUSE IT IS THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE OUR DREAMS COME TRUE.
Regional Situation Report for the Syria Crisis  June 2022

IN SYRIA, UNFPA CONTINUES TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO THOSE MOST MARGINALISED, WITH A FOCUS ON WOMEN AND GIRLS.

HALFWAY THROUGH 2022, THE SITUATION IN SYRIA REMAINS VOLATILE. WOMEN AND GIRLS ARE PAYING THE STEEPEST PRICE.

“The pleasure of seeing mothers and their babies in good health

On a daily basis, Dr. Alaa spends six hours helping women and girls to work hard and improve’

After such a long time in crisis, it becomes harder to cling to hope every year,” explains Samar, a young woman from Aleppo, Syria. “If I had the power, I would create a world without violence, where every woman and girl can have the freedom to live the life she wants.”

Like many other Syrians — particularly women and girls — living throughout the Arab region and beyond, Samar feels left alone as she faces her fate. When the crisis passed the decade mark in 2021, the world was already a year into the COVID-19 pandemic, and an array of other humanitarian situations were emerging. Among the millions of Syrians who have spent the last 11 years surviving conflict, displacement, economic collapse, and mounting risks to their safety, many feel their calls for help have increasingly been drowned out.

In 2022, around 14.6 million people are estimated to be in need throughout Syria, including 3.7 million women and girls of reproductive age. Meanwhile 7.1 million refugees, asylum seekers, or stateless people require humanitarian assistance, and a focus on women and girls safeguard their sexual and reproductive health and rights. A gynaecologist at a UNFPA-supported facility in Deir-ez-Zor city, the services she provides can often serve as the only available lifeline to women and girls in need in the area.

“This is why I agreed to join this project two years ago,” explains Dr. Alaa. “The large number of people seeking services doesn’t frustrate me. On the contrary; it motivates me to work hard and improve.”

Dr. Alaa’s high spirits don’t come from nothing. She attributes her positive attitude to being part of a dedicated, cohesive team of more than 20 people, all of whom bring a sense of dedication and purpose to the work they do. In addition to Dr. Alaa, the team includes a nurse and a professional midwife who provide immediate support, in addition to a case manager, a pharmacist, an outreach assistant, and a psychosocial support expert. Together, they provide an integrated service package that not only helps meet the sexual and reproductive health needs of those being served but also ensures that adequate referral pathways are always present when needed. The integrated structure also guarantees that awareness messages are consistently being delivered to women and girls being served.

“The large number of people seeking services doesn’t frustrate me. On the contrary; it motivates me to work hard and improve’

As she carries on with her work, Dr. Alaa recalls the experience of a woman who came to the facility a year ago asking for help — one of the many success stories at the facility: “She had received medical treatment for seven years trying to get pregnant but to no avail. We gave her a thorough examination and put together an active treatment plan for her that lasted a few months. The plan was quite effective; she is now in the fourth month of her pregnancy.”

“It brings me great joy and satisfaction to help guide these women through the various stages of pregnancy and to consistently follow up on their condition regularly,” explains Dr. Alaa with a smile. Her positive and self-assured attitude seems to pervade the entire facility, be it among her team or the many women coming and going to receive the services being offered free of charge. Given the dire economic situation in the country following the crisis, quality healthcare has become out of reach for many families in Syria, rendering facilities like this one all the more essential.

As she narrates the story, Dr. Alaa brims with joy. “These small victories mean a lot to Syrian families, particularly those who simply cannot afford this kind of treatment. They mean a lot to me as well, particularly when I see these women healthy, happy, and empowered.”

Since January 2022, UNFPA Syria has provided more than 445,000 individuals with vital SRH services such as antenatal and postnatal care, obstetric care, psychosocial support, and case management services through nine mobile teams, three static clinics, and three Safe Spaces throughout the governorate.

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The pleasure of seeing mothers and their babies in good health

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ENSURING THAT ALL COMMUNITIES INSIDE SYRIA HAVE ACCESS TO QUALITY SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SERVICES.

61,250
PEOPLE REACHED WITH REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES
96% FEMALE

53,854
PEOPLE REACHED WITH GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SERVICES
76% FEMALE

15,105
ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES
76% FEMALE

3,410
PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH CASH & VOUCHER ASSISTANCE
78% FEMALE

1,215
PEOPLE TRAINED ON VARIOUS TOPICS
77% FEMALE

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**REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH**

- Family planning consultations: 7,298 (100%)
- Normal and assisted vaginal deliveries: 7,766 (100%)
- C-Sections: 2,411 (100%)
- Ante-natal care consultations: 32,691 (100%)
- Post-natal care consultations: 15,377 (100%)
- People trained on SRH-related topics: 174 (86%)

**GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**

- People provided with GBV case management: 1,098 (97%)
- People reached with GBV awareness messages: 39,320 (70%)
- People trained on GBV-related topics: 1,041 (75%)

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“My life changed when my village was bombed ... That day, I lost everything — my home, my work, and hope for the future.”

— FATIMA, a woman from north-western Syria
IN NORTH-WESTERN SYRIA, UNFPA CONTINUES TO RESPOND TO ONGOING DISPLACEMENTS, HOSTILITIES, AND EXTREME CONDITIONS

HALFWAY INTO 2022, MASS DISPLACEMENTS CONTINUE TO PLACE LIVES AT RISK. UNFPA IS FOCUSING ON EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES DESIGNED TO COMBAT AND RESPOND TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE.

A far-reaching humanitarian crisis continues to unfold in north-western Syria. In June, UNFPA continued to advocate for the renewal of the UN Security Council Resolution, authorizing cross-border assistance to north-west Syria. UNFPA conducted a series of high-level missions and meetings, including one at Bab-Al-Hawa crossing point, to advocate for maintaining access through cross-border operations and continued provision of life-sustaining protection and health services to women and girls in the region.

Of the area’s population of 4.4 million, 4.1 million people are in urgent need of humanitarian aid, 2.8 million are internally displaced, 3.1 million are food insecure and 3.1 million are in need of health assistance. UNFPA estimates that 1,250,000 women in northwest Syria are of reproductive age and in need of lifesaving and life-sustaining protection and reproductive health services in addition to 1,770,257 that are in need of GBV services.

In north-western Syria, there are at least 47 “widows’ camps” that host widowed, divorced, and single women with children. The sites host an estimated population of 12,715 women and children (4,120 women, 4,449 girls, and 4,146 boys). Women and children living in these sites face aggravating risks, including family separation, restriction of movement, high risks of forced and child marriages, high incidents of exploitation, and others.

The GBV Sub Cluster will be leading on the implementation of an Inter-Cluster Action Plan to respond to the needs of widowed and divorced women and their families. Key features of the Action Plan include the systematic collection of information on protection and multisectoral needs at each of the known 47 widows’ camps to inform the plan’s priorities, in addition to scaling up GBV programming to focus on female-headed households and separated families. Moreover, in addition to prioritizing education services in widows’ camps as well as for children leaving the sites, the plan will also serve to deliver mobile health services, MHPSS support, and awareness raising on substance abuse and addiction, among other key services.

**In the words of Fatima, a woman from north-western Syria, who is among the millions currently displaced**

My life changed when my village was bombed, and I had to flee to a camp with my husband and my three children. That day, I lost everything — my home, my work, and hope for the future.

In retrospect, my life has never been easy. My grandfather forced me to get married when I was 15-year-old — a marriage during which I experienced all manner of violence, from psychological torment to physical abuse. But everything became worse after the bombing.

Before coming to this space I felt hopeless and I could not even imagine how to get out of this terrible situation. Now, I feel empowered, and I can earn my own income again. This year’s Eid celebration was uniquely cheerful for my family. Our life has changed and the smile has returned to my children’s faces.

---

**Before coming to this space I felt hopeless and I could not even imagine how to get out of this terrible situation**

— FatiMA, a displaced person from north-western Syria
TÜRKİYE COUNTRY OFFICE

WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF SYRIAN REFUGEES IN THE CRISIS REGION, TÜRKEIYE CONTINUES TO PROVIDE MUCH-NEEDED ASSISTANCE TO DISPLACED SYRIANS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

57,237
PEOPLE REACHED WITH REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES
78% FEMALE

5,996
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REACHED WITH VARIOUS SERVICES
55% FEMALE

35,199
PEOPLE REACHED WITH GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SERVICES
78% FEMALE

7,260
ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

11,852
YOUNG PEOPLE ENGAGED THROUGH VARIOUS ACTIVITIES
84% FEMALE

3,558
LGBTQI+ INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS SERVICES

3,500
PEOPLE TRAINED ON VARIOUS TOPICS
71% FEMALE

550
PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH CASH & VOUCHER ASSISTANCE
49% FEMALE

57,237
PEOPLE REACHED WITH REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES
78% FEMALE

5,996
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REACHED WITH VARIOUS SERVICES
55% FEMALE

35,199
PEOPLE REACHED WITH GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SERVICES
78% FEMALE

7,260
A DOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

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49% FEMALE

THESE DAYS WHEN I FEEL THE LOSS OF MY MOTHER, I FEEL THE SUPPORT OF THE WOMEN HERE, AND I FEEL BETTER.

— RIMA, a Syrian woman from Raqqa, who accessed services at a UNFPA-supported Safe Space in Türkiye
TÜRKİYE, UNFPA CONTINUES TO CHAMPION THE RIGHTS AND WELL-BEING OF THOSE MOST MARGINALISED.

AS TÜRKEI CONTINUES TO FACE A MOUNTING ECONOMIC CRISIS, UNFPA IS COMMITTED TO WORKING WITH GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL PARTNERS TO ENSURE THAT WOMEN AND GIRLS ARE NOT LEFT BEHIND.

In Turkey, UNFPA continues to champion the rights and well-being of those most marginalised.

Mohammed experienced severe trauma during his military service in Syria in 2011. To this day, he often experiences many sleepless nights as he recalls some of those experiences.

A former resident of Daraa, Syria, Mohammed's story reveals the scars of war and discrimination. Then there was the violence that inevitably accompanies armed conflicts. Mohammed experienced serious discrimination in the army due to his religious background, and his years of service at the military were marked by consistent abuse and marginalisation.

Mohammed initially asked to receive legal counselling to address some of the civil and legal issues he was dealing with. He then asked to see the health counsellor and the psychologist at the facility and began receiving psychosocial support. He says that he feels more relaxed now and is able to see things better.

Mohammed, who migrated to Türkiye in 2012, is 30 years old today. Even after leaving his old life behind, he could never share these experiences with anyone, including his spouse and father. The weight of these experiences had nearly broken him by the time he crossed paths with a UNFPA-supported facility in İzmir.

Mohammed experienced severe trauma during his military service in Syria in 2011. To this day, he often experiences many sleepless nights as he recalls some of those experiences.

In June, in order to strengthen the capacity of implementing partner staff on provision of SRH and GBV services, UNFPA conducted a series of self-care training sessions for health service providers and outreach workers; supervision and monitoring visits were conducted to the service units on GBV case management and protection service provision. In addition, the Istanbul Shelter staff benefited from capacity building training on standard operating procedures and the Key Refuge Group service units staff attended the Hotline training to strengthen their capacity in providing services via the Hotline, that can be freely accessed by refugees around the clock.

UNFPA also continues to expand partnerships with local municipalities. In June, a new memorandum of understanding was signed with Çankaya Municipality from Ankara. The MoU includes activities on the empowerment (vocational) of refugee women. The agreement brings a series of capacity building training sessions for staff were planned on refugee rights, working with the vulnerable groups, gender equality and gender based violence. More sessions will be provided in the coming months.

Lastly, to strengthen referral pathways, UNFPA provided a training for the İzmir Bar Association on key refugee groups (i.e. LGBTQI+, refugees living with HIV, and sex workers) to raise awareness of service providers on the group specific needs and gaps in accessing legal services.

The lasting scars of war and discrimination

Mohammed experienced severe trauma during his military service in Syria in 2011. To this day, he often experiences many sleepless nights as he recalls some of those experiences.

A former resident of Daraa, Syria, Mohammed’s story reveals the scars of war and discrimination. Then there was the violence that inevitably accompanies armed conflicts. Mohammed experienced serious discrimination in the army due to his religious background, and his years of service at the military were marked by consistent abuse and marginalisation.

'I still relive that experience over and over in my nightmares’

They would often force us to go outside and crawl on our knees wearing nothing but shorts in sub-zero temperatures,” recalls Mohammed. “I was once forced to stay in a prison cell without a toilet for nine days. I still relive that experience over and over in my nightmares.”

‘The thing that I resent most was that my hands were tied while all this was happening’

Mohammed initially asked to receive legal counselling to address some of the civil and legal issues he was dealing with. He then asked to see the health counsellor and the psychologist at the facility and began receiving psychosocial support. He says that he feels more relaxed now and is able to see things better.

‘It feels good to be finally able to share the things that I have not been able to talk about with anyone," reflects Mohammed. “Before coming to this facility, I would always question the value of talking to someone about these things. Here, I experienced a different kind of care, and I have noticed that talking about these things makes me feel better. My message to survivors is never lose hope.”

Halfway through 2022, the well-being of the Syrian refugees in Türkiye continues to deteriorate. A report published by the Community-Based Protection and Social Cohesion Task Force revealed a number of stark findings, including the fact that Syrian nationals are increasingly feeling a shift in the local community’s perception of them following the economic downturn and marked inflation Türkiye is experiencing. Many participants shared their hesitation of speaking Arabic in public due to hostile reactions by the host community, indicating that the negative discourse on Turkish media does not only affect their psychological well-being but is increasingly reinforcing their fears due to discriminatory statements and attitudes. Peer bullying cases are also contributing barriers and geographical divisions due to economic downturn and marked inflation Türkiye is experiencing. Many refugees (i.e. LGBTQI+, refugees living with HIV, and sex workers) are marked by consistent abuse and marginalisation.

Moreover, findings from other studies on social cohesion, highlighted that these tensions are being fuelled by a multitude of factors which, in addition to economics, include the growing politicisation of refugees, misinformation, and poor planning by service providers (such as aid programmes that exclusively target groups (i.e. LGBTQI+, refugees living with HIV, and sex workers)). Meanwhile, language barriers and geographical divisions due to “Ghettoization” are also contributing to the divide, further exacerbated by an overall lack of interest by members of both communities to take part in joint events.

In an effort to respond to these alarming challenges, UNFPA continues to provide SRH and protection services, including those designed to prevent and respond to GBV, accompanied by dignity kits and reproductive health materials. In addition, UNFPA provides social cohesion activities and economic and social empowerment activities, including literacy courses, language courses, vocational training, outdoor sport activities, visits to historical sites and museums, and other socio-cultural events.

In June, to prevent and respond to GBV, UNFPA provided social reproductive health materials. In addition, UNFPA provides social reproductive health materials. In addition, UNFPA provides social reproductive health materials.
UNFPA CONTINUES TO ADAPT ITS PROGRAMMES TO PROVIDE LIFE-SAVING SERVICES TO PEOPLE IN NEED, WITH A FOCUS ON WOMEN AND GIRLS.

**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.

- **37,965** people reached with reproductive health services
  - 100% female
- **22,159** people reached with gender-based violence services
  - 90% female
- **516** people provided with cash & voucher assistance
  - 100% female
- **1,138** people with disabilities reached with various services
  - 100% female
- **6,535** adolescent girls supported through various programmes
  - 100% female
- **894** LGBTQI+ individuals supported through various services
  - 90% female
- **1,731** people trained on various topics
  - 99% female

### REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

- People reached with reproductive health services
  - Total: 5,007
  - % Female: 100%
- Ante-natal care consultations
  - Total: 273
  - % Female: 100%
- Post-natal care consultations
  - Total: 2,902
  - % Female: 100%
- People trained on SRH-related topics
  - Total: 637
  - % Female: 100%

### GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

- People provided with GBV case management
  - Total: 235
  - % Female: 97%
- People reached with GBV awareness messages
  - Total: 4,928
  - % Female: 77%
- People trained on GBV-related topics
  - Total: 1,072
  - % Female: 98%

### YOUTH SERVICES

- People trained on youth-related topics
  - Total: 22
  - % Female: 100%

"MANY COMMUNITIES DO NOT REALISE THAT WAY THEY TREAT US WOMEN IS UNFAIR AND HARMFUL. THIS IS WHY I AM COMMITTED TO THESE AWARENESS SESSIONS. THEY ARE HELPING WOMEN UNDERSTAND THEIR RIGHTS."

— NARJIS, a Syrian refugee living in Lebanon
UNFPA is targeting marginalised communities as Lebanon experiences another difficult year.

Lebanon continues to be assailed by compounding crises that span ongoing economic collapse, recurrent waves of COVID-19, and a growing food security crisis exacerbated by the ongoing war in Ukraine and the lingering effects of the 2020 Beirut Port blast. The Lebanese Lira continues to deteriorate massively accompanied with a disastrous inflation. The deleterious situation is worsening the hardships faced by all population groups, but women and girls continue to face greater risks of gender-based violence and discrimination. The Lebanese Lira continues to deteriorate massively accompanied with a disastrous inflation. The deleterious situation is worsening the hardships faced by all population groups, but women and girls continue to face greater risks of gender-based violence and discrimination.

According to OCHA, around 2.5 million people are currently in need of humanitarian assistance in Lebanon, including vulnerable Lebanese, migrants, and Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. In addition to 1.3 million Syrian refugees. During meetings with the Lebanese Government, the Humanitarian Coordinator for Lebanon Najat Rochdi announced that Lebanon’s Humanitarian Fund (LHF) has allocated US$16 million to scale up humanitarian response in the country through a collaborative, inclusive, and transparent approach to address the most urgent needs. Around 65 per cent of the allocated funding is targeting Lebanese, 31 per cent for Syrian refugees, and the remaining amount for migrants and Palestinian refugees.

During June, Interior Minister Bassam Mawlawi ordered a joint statement condemning this act which violates the Lebanese Lira continues to deteriorate massively accompanied with a disastrous inflation. The deleterious situation is worsening the hardships faced by all population groups, but women and girls continue to face greater risks of gender-based violence and discrimination.

Meanwhile, public administration employees in Lebanon called for an open strike as of June 13 to protest the impact of the economic crisis and called for adjusting their salaries and compensation to match escalating prices. Public administration employees and retired police officers also held a sit-in, blocking the road outside the Serail in Tripoli to demand similar adjustments to their salaries and retirement pensions. Protesters denounced the sharp decrease in the purchasing power of most Lebanese as the local currency (LBP) has lost more than 90 per cent of its value since the beginning of the economic crisis in October 2019.

Hundreds of people and several lawmakers protested during the same week in southern Lebanon against Israel moving a gas production vessel into an offshore field partly claimed by Beirut, signalling an escalating tension against Israel moving a gas production vessel into an offshore field partly claimed by Beirut.

Amidst the ongoing economic collapse and health crises, awareness sessions on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) measures through awareness sessions. Around 30 percent of women reached were not convinced to take the COVID19 vaccine, citing fears of complications experienced by their relatives/ neighbours as well as the increasing number of COVID-19 infections. Outreach and awareness sessions along with home visits are conducted to address and reverse the high percentage.

Also on the occasion of the Midwifery Day, the LOM with the support of UNFPA conducted a workshop for midwives about the challenges in midwifery practice and the opportunities for midwife’s empowerment. Among the key recommendations were the need for continuous education to support the professional development of midwives and the adoption of the midwifery-led model to enhance access to care for the most vulnerable women. UNFPA also continues its support for the provision of RH services and awareness sessions through its partners, offering medical consultations, family planning counselling, and various RH interventions such as IUD insertion/removal, PAP smear test, mammography and lab tests, ultrasound, and imagery tests. Dignity kits are being distributed to vulnerable women and girls during the awareness sessions.

Meanwhile, UNFPA continues to provide comprehensive GBV services in Akkar, North, Bekaa, Mount-Lebanon, and Beirut. UNFPA managed to reach people with specialised services such as case management and referrals, in addition to implementing empowerment, prevention, and risk-mitigation activities, including community psychosocial support activities, vocational training, life-skills sessions, and counselling to vulnerable populations. It is worth noting that UNFPA has been providing a range of GBV services to the LGBTQI+ community through a partnership with a local NGO.

Lastly, UNFPA continues to provide cash and voucher assistance to those most in need. CVA has proven to be a powerful instrument that can save lives, alleviate risks, and help women and girls escape abusive environments. UNFPA has also observed that CVA is directly contributing to the realisation of UNFPA’s Three Transformative Results of zero unmet need for contraception, zero preventable maternal deaths, and zero gender-based violence and harmful practices, which UNFPA is committed to achieving by the year 2030.

This interaction, adds Amal, is vital for healthcare workers and humanitarian actors to understand the struggles of the people. “How are we supposed to know what’s wrong with them? Sometimes they just need someone to talk to.”

As part of the collaboration between Caritas and UNFPA Lebanon, Amal provides medical consultations and diagnostic tests, in addition to awareness sessions on reproductive health related topics such as family planning. The team also distributes dignity kits to both women and adolescent girls who need them.

“The support is provided by a team of specialists, including gynaecologists and nurses,” says Amal. “Everyone here, including both host and refugee communities, has the right to benefit from a wide range of reproductive services. The interaction we have with people is also allowing us to identify new issues that we’re not necessarily aware of.”

The same goes for early marriages, explains Amal. “Everyone must be aware of the repercussions, and this is why we try our best to reach out to more women and adolescent girls to prevent early marriages and thus pregnancies that might contribute to maternal mortalities.”

For Amal, the work being done has proven personally fulfilling, particularly when she is able to make a difference in the lives of a woman or girl in need. “There is no greater sense of reward than when someone tells you that you have changed their lives for the better.”

‘Sometimes they just need someone to talk to’

Over the past two years, 30-year-old Amal has been working as a nurse at the primary healthcare centre at Caritas, one of UNFPA Lebanon’s implementing partners.

“I used to work at a private hospital, but my job primarily consisted of technical tasks; there was no room for further humanitarian interaction,” explains Amal. “This is what I like about my current work. I get to talk to people, to interact with the community.”

‘Everyone here, including both host and refugee communities, has the right to benefit from a wide range of reproductive services’

Regional Situation Report for the Syria Crisis June 2022
WITH 1.3 MILLION SYRIANS NATIONWIDE, UNFPA IN JORDAN CONTINUES TO PROVIDE ESSENTIAL SERVICES TO REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES NATIONWIDE.

52,259
PEOPLE REACHED WITH REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES
100% FEMALE

28,422
PEOPLE REACHED WITH GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SERVICES
86% FEMALE

4,532
ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES
63% FEMALE

4,139
YOUNG PEOPLE ENGAGED THROUGH VARIOUS ACTIVITIES
63% FEMALE

76
PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH CASH & VOUCHER ASSISTANCE
100% FEMALE

648
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REACHED WITH VARIOUS SERVICES
96% FEMALE

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>% Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family planning consultations</td>
<td>9,292</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal and assisted vaginal deliveries</td>
<td>677</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ante-natal care consultations</td>
<td>17,934</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-natal care consultations</td>
<td>2,311</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People trained on SRH-related topics</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>% Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People provided with GBV case management</td>
<td>1,170</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People reached with GBV awareness messages</td>
<td>15,089</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People trained on GBV-related topics</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

YOUTH SERVICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>% Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People trained on youth-related topics</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“I FELL TO THE FLOOR AND BURST INTO TEARS, AND I SIMPLY RECALL MYSELF PLEADING FOR PROTECTION. THE ANXIETY HAD REACHED SUCH DEEP LEVELS THAT IT MADE ME FEEL OVERWHELMED.”

— SALMA, who recently received gender-based violence support at a UNFPA-supported facility in Jordan
In Iraq, UNFPA continues to provide essential support to more than 316,000 Syrian refugees as 1.2 million people remain displaced nationwide.

9,321 People reached with reproductive health services
100% female

173 People with disabilities reached with various services
98% female

1,810 People reached with gender-based violence services
93% female

472 Adolescent girls supported through various programmes
98% female

332 Young people engaged through various activities
49% female

62 People trained on various topics
52% female

Reproductive Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family planning consultations</td>
<td>9,850</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal and assisted vaginal deliveries</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-Sections</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ante-natal care consultations</td>
<td>7,197</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-natal care consultations</td>
<td>1,847</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Gender-Based Violence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>% Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People reached with dignity kits</td>
<td>343</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People provided with GBV case management</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People reached with GBV awareness messages</td>
<td>9,633</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People trained on GBV-related topics</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

As Iraq transitions to focus on development programming, UNFPA continues to serve those marginalised

Nearly 1.2 million Iraqis continue to live in protracted situations of internal displacement and the country hosts over one-quarter of a million refugees. These displaced populations are often more vulnerable to protection risks—such as arbitrary arrest and detention, trauma and psychological stress, the threat of eviction from their homes, and lack of access to essential services than the population at large. Nearly one-in-five Syrian refugees rely on charity and cash assistance for food, and more than half report experiencing difficulties accessing healthcare services.

While significant humanitarian support is still crucial for many, efforts in the country are gradually transitioning from humanitarian interventions and placing more focus on development interventions to support public institutions to deliver basic services and ensure their socio-economic integration. At the same time, Iraq’s overall political, economic, and security environment remains unpredictable.

Iraq’s Health Ministry has said that more than 4,000 people received medical help for breathing problems amidst a new severe sandstorm that engulfed large parts of Iraq. The storm shut down government offices, grounded flights, and closed Iraq’s seaports in Basra.

UNFPA Iraq continues to provide SRH services in nine refugee camps throughout the country. These include antenatal care, family planning consultation, postnatal care, gynaecological consultations and referral pathways to secondary hospitals for the purpose of normal delivery, caesarian sections and complication cases.

In May, the SRH team in refugee camps started an awareness campaign that saw teams going tent-to-tent, reaching more than 2,300 women with vital information on the importance of family planning. UNFPA also partnered with the Ministry of Youth and Culture to conduct activities to raise awareness on peace-building, reproductive health and gender-based violence at its youth centre and also through its three-day sports tournament for girls.
EGYPT COUNTRY OFFICE

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

131,314
PEOPLE REACHED WITH REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES
100% FEMALE

5,424
PEOPLE REACHED WITH GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SERVICES
96% FEMALE

15
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REACHED WITH SPECIALISED SERVICES
87% FEMALE

759
ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

842
PEOPLE TRAINED ON VARIOUS TOPICS
91% FEMALE

10
WOMEN AND GIRLS’ SAFE SPACES

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>% Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family planning consultations</td>
<td>315,100</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ante-natal care consultations</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People trained on SRH-related topics</td>
<td>842</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>% Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People provided with GBV case management</td>
<td>738</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People reached with GBV awareness messages</td>
<td>1,714</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

UNFPA continues to tailor its programmes in Egypt to respond to the needs of women and girls caught in the crisis.

More than 280,000 refugees and asylum seekers from 66 countries of origin are currently living in Egypt, around half of whom are Syrians. Most refugees and asylum seekers are located in urban areas of Greater Cairo and on the northern coast. During June, UNFPA continued to support 10 Safe Spaces in six governorates, delivering vital services to survivors or those at risk of gender-based violence. UNFPA is particularly focusing on mental health and well-being, with more than 460 women and girls attending multiple MHPSS sessions that span sound therapy, yoga, psychological balance workshop, identity crisis and psychological support, group therapy, and others. GBV awareness raising activities were also delivered with a focus on the types of GBV, sexual harassment, and prevention using sports for GBV. Reproductive health awareness sessions were delivered to women and girls with topics including puberty, menstrual health, and Hepatitis prevention.

Celebrating World Refugee Day

UNFPA, along with UNHCR and WHO, marked World Refugee Day on June 19, 2022 with a joint community event under the theme “Whoever. Wherever. Whenever. Everyone has the right to seek safety.” The event included several activities targeting refugee communities such as live music performances, an art therapy workshop focused on upcycling tools, awareness sessions on gender-based violence and mental health for women and girls, a Wendo self-defense workshop, a sports activity for youth, and an interactive theater performance.

“When I first came to the safe space, I felt like I was being welcomed as part of a family,” said one woman refugee who participated in the event. “That encouraged me to attend the World Refugees Day event as well, and there I learned even more about my rights, needs, and how to protect myself, not just as a refugee but also as a woman. I felt like I could finally catch my breath.

The theme for World Refugee Day 2022 underscores that every person in the world has a right to seek safety, whoever they are, wherever they come from and whenever they are forced to flee. Seeking asylum is a human right. Anyone fleeing persecution, conflict, or human rights abuses has a right to seek protection in another country. People forced to flee should be treated with respect and dignity. Among other things, this means keeping families together, protecting people from traffickers, and avoiding arbitrary detention.

“This safe space has allowed me to find my own worth and community. I feel stronger and ready to start living.”

— YOSRA, a Syrian woman from Rural Damascus
COORDINATION UPDATES

UNFPA CONTINUES TO LEAD THE GBV AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY, ENSURING THAT MINIMUM STANDARDS ARE IN PLACE TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN EMERGENCIES.

In June, the Whole of Syria GBV AoR continued the preparation of both sectoral and multi-sectoral needs assessments to inform both the 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and the Whole of Syria GBV annual Voices from Syria report. The GBV AoR coordinated with other humanitarian sectors to mainstream GBV risk mitigation and gender throughout different humanitarian sectors’ questionnaires and assessment tools. This is of crucial importance in a situation where the Multi-sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) data gathering exercise does not allow collecting in depth GBV and Protection information due to the sensitivity of the topic. Additionally, the AoR contributed to the finalization of the sampling for the protection key informant interviews (KIIs) and the selection of the communities and facilitators for community focus group discussions. The AoR also finalized the community FGD tools and organized two training programmes for FGD facilitators discussing the communities and facilitators for community focus group discussions. The AoR also contributed to the finalization of the sampling for the protection key informant interviews (KIIs) and the selection of the communities and facilitators for community focus group discussions.

In Syria, the UNFPA team in Deir-ez-Zor has updated all documents related to GBV coordination, such as referral pathways and service mapping. The UNFPA referral pathway guidance was the cornerstone for similar documents developed by other UN agencies, and UNFPA is in the process of developing joint guidance with support from UNDP and FAO.

Through Türkiye cross-border, the GBV Sub-Cluster and the Sexual and Reproductive the Technical Working Group (SRH TWG) have launched a joint initiative aimed at fostering the level of integration of gender-based violence services into facilities providing responsive health services in northwest Syria. In June, a detailed outline of the initiative was developed and disseminated. The initiative targets SRH facilities in northwest Syria and it is implemented in three geographical areas, namely Idlib, Afrin, and Northern Aleppo. As of today, the level of provision of integrated quality services has been assessed in 50 facilities and 2,140 medical staff, and 1,248 non-medical staff that have been interviewed. An interagency coordination team composed of 64 technical members (30 from the SRH TWG, and 34 from the GBV AoR) representing 45 different organizations has been established to lead the implementation of the initiative.

In Turkey, the Protection Working Group informed member organizations that the registration process for Syrian refugees in Türkiye has changed. The registration will take place at referral / temporary accommodation centres (TAC). Newcomers or unregistered Syrians will be referred to TACs where they will be required to stay until their security checks are completed. Temporary protection ID cards will be issued only for those whose security checks are completed positively. Registration by PDRMs (as per previous practice) will be possible only for the exceptional categories.

UNFPA, as the co-chair for the GBV sub-working group from Southeast Türkiye, presented the activities provided to men and boys survivors of sexual violence. It was noted that the men and boys service units, which are operated by UNFPA Türkiye in collaboration with Positive Living Association, provide SRH services, GBV prevention, and response services for refugee men and boys who have been subjected to sexual violence and/or at risk of sexual violence. In addition, the service units cover the cost of HIV medications for up to three months. UNFPA also marked International Day for Elimination of Sexual Violence by inviting participants to attend a capacity building training on the topic.

Meanwhile, as the Chair of PSEA-Networks, UNFPA invited Ghulam Ghous, the Lebanon PSEA Network Coordinator, to share her experience and the perceptions and the barriers in front of reporting sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) cases faced by refugees in Lebanon. UNFPA informed members that an online training package (developed by UNHCR Türkiye on SEA Investigation) is available on the disaggregated.org platform. In addition, UNFPA drew members’ attention to the need for localizing investigation procedures for SEA cases and announced that the PSEA Network is looking for an organization to volunteer for coordinating this action.

Moreover, for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic, UNFPA organised an in-person GBV coordination meeting in İzmir, with a key agenda item being the situation of Ukrainian refugees in Türkiye. Experts from the Social Services Centre of the Ministry of Family and Social Services attended the meeting and shared experiences on protecting the most vulnerable Ukrainian refugees in Antalya.

In Lebanon, GBV coordination meetings took place between GBV and SRH partners, supported through SIDA funding. These were conducted to ensure adequate referrals, service provision, and attendance at Safe Spaces. UNFPA also finalised the agreement with a financial service provider to implement disbursements of cash assistance.

I’VE SPENT MY LIFE TRYING TO FIND THE KIND OF SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING THAT I FOUND IN THIS SAFE SPACE, AMONG THESE REMARKABLE WOMEN WHO REFUSE TO SURRENDER TO CIRCUMSTANCE.

RAYA, who received protection services at a UNFPA supported facility
CURRENT DONORS

Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, The European Commission, Finland, France, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Nemory, 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, SCfH, and UNFPA Emergency Funds.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS


In Lebanon: Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Social Affairs, Amal Association, Al Mithaq, Alkarmouz, and ABAD.

In Jordan: Institute for Family Health (IFH), Ministry of Health (MOH), Society Aid Health Jordanian (JHAS), Jordanian Women’s Union (JWAS), the National Council for Family Affairs (NCFA), National Women’s Health Care Centre- (NWHCC), Quiescope, Higher Population Council (HPC), Generations for Peace (GFP), Health Care Accreditation Council (HCAC), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Royal Health Awareness Society (RHAS), the Jordanian National Commission for Women (UNCW), 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 (Mysv), Etijah, and Care International.

In Türkiye: ASAM (Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants) KAMER (Women’s Centre Foundation), Eskişehir Osmanaglı University: Hacettepe University; YAHAT (Youth-Agencies 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).

In Türkiye Cross-Border: International Rescue Committee (IRC), Relief International (RI), Shafak, Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS), Isham for Relief and Development (IshamRD), and their sub-implementing partners Women Support Association (IshamRD), Hope Revival Organization (IRC) and Relief Experts Association – UDIER (IRC).

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

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RELEVANT RESOURCES

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