

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

EMPOWERED *to* CHOOSE

UNFPA CASH & VOUCHER ASSISTANCE (CVA)

Highlights from 2023/ Arab region and Turkiye (Syria Crisis and Earthquake Response)

9

HUMANITARIAN
OPERATIONS

ACROSS EGYPT, JORDAN, LEBANON, PALESTINE,
THE WHOLE OF SYRIA, YEMEN, SOMALIA, & TÜRKIYE

42,835

PEOPLE REACHED WITH CASH
AND VOUCHER ASSISTANCE

INCLUDING WOMEN, GIRLS & OTHER KEY POPULATION
GROUPS

72%

OF PEOPLE REACHED
WITH CASH

18%

WITH VOUCHERS FOR
SERVICES AND SUPPLIES

\$4M

IN ASSISTANCE TRANSFERRED
THROUGH CVA PROGRAMMES,

73% DELIVERED THROUGH IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS,
14% THROUGH UN TO UN AGREEMENTS AND
13% BY UNFPA

91%

OF THE ASSISTANCE WAS
PROVIDED AS UNCONDITIONAL

9%

PROVIDED CONDITIONAL TO
SERVICE UPTAKE

15,573

INDIVIDUALS RECEIVED CASH
ASSISTANCE IN GBV CASE
MANAGEMENT

\$1,581,215

DISBURSED AS ONE-OFF OR
RECURRENT SUPPORT in
8 COUNTRIES

1,792

VULNERABLE WOMEN,

INCLUDING PREGNANT AND LACTATING WOMEN,
GBV SURVIVORS AND WOMEN AT RISK, REACHED WITH
CASH ASSISTANCE IN RESPONSE TO THE GAZA CRISIS TO
HELP THEM ACCESS ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

6,139

INDIVIDUALS RECEIVED CASH
ASSISTANCE

TO MEET PROTECTION NEEDS FOLLOWING THE FEBRUARY
EARTHQUAKES in SYRIA & TÜRKIYE

\$890,000

DISBURSED AS ONE-OFF &
UNCONDITIONAL CASH SUPPORT

8,342

WOMEN & GIRLS RECEIVED CVA
TO IMPROVE SRH OUTCOMES

\$342,500

DISBURSED in JORDAN, YEMEN,
SYRIA and TÜRKIYE

TO FACILITATE ACCESS TO PHARMACEUTICALS, TRANSPORT,
FACILITY BASED DELIVERY, PNC, ANC & OTHER SRH SERVICES.

2,243

WOMEN & GIRLS RECEIVED CVA
TO START INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES

\$88,000

DISBURSED AS CASH GRANTS TO
SUPPORT WOMEN-LED, MICRO, & SMALL ENTERPRISES IN
NORTH-WEST SYRIA and YEMEN



WE ARE GRATEFUL TO OUR DONORS

OUR CVA PROGRAMMES HAVE BEEN SUPPORTED BY

Canada, Denmark, the European Commission, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland,, the United Kingdom, USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), the US Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), UN OCHA, the UNFPA Arab States Regional Office & the UNFPA Emergency Fund.

PUBLICATIONS

- **Empowered to Choose:** commitments, considerations, and lessons learned surrounding CVA operations in the region and evidence from the field to reinforce main conclusions.
- Cash and Menstrual Health and Hygiene Management in **Lebanon** and **Jordan**
- Cash in GBV case management monitoring results in **Lebanon** (Q1 and Q2 2023) and **Jordan**

WHAT'S NEXT

- Continue evidence generation and dissemination
- Monitoring indicators dashboard
- Links with multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) and social protection systems
- Innovative solutions for supplies provision through CVA
- Capacity building of staff and partners on UNFPA approaches in CVA

AMBITION

- To make cash assistance available to all GBV survivors under case management when appropriate and relevant to their action plan
- To provide access to menstrual hygiene products through local markets to women and girls of reproductive age experiencing acute and chronic period poverty
- To overcome demand related barriers to access SRH services and life-saving emergency obstetric care



COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

EGYPT

In response to the Sudan crisis which escalated in April 2023 and subsequent influx of refugees in the country, UNFPA has launched cash assistance for refugee GBV survivors and those at risk of GBV. UNFPA has negotiated an agreement with the World Food Programme (WFP) to make use of their cash delivery system and established a fruitful partnership that leveraged the expertise of both organizations.

LEBANON

The office is positioned as the lead in providing cash in GBV case management in Lebanon. UNFPA continues to refine and expand the provision of cash assistance in GBV case management to survivors who are referred by implementing partners and GBVIMS organizations. UNFPA trains all referring agencies, provides them with the needed tools that ensures full adherence to the UNFPA approach and provides technical assistance as required.

JORDAN

To ensure the continued provision of essential medicines to people accessing UNFPA supported health clinics, Jordan office expanded the pilot medical voucher system to additional clinics. This system involves distributing vouchers for pharmaceuticals, as prescribed by medical staff at health facilities, which are then redeemed at contracted local pharmacies. UNFPA also continues to integrate cash in GBV Case Management, expanding its reach through collaboration with local CBOs as well as making specific efforts to include LGBTQI+ individuals and survivors with disabilities.

NORTHWEST SYRIA

The office completed an exercise to map GBV AoR partners providing cash assistance identifying emerging challenges in the use of cash assistance modality in the context of GBV case management in North West Syria and kick started a plan for capacity building and harmonization of the approach. The focus resulted in the engagement of Women Lead Organisations as key partners in the process.

PALESTINE

In response to the dire humanitarian needs resulting from the escalation of hostilities in Gaza following October 7th, UNFPA Palestine swiftly started the transfer of cash assistance to affected women and girls to improve access to essential and urgent supplies and services. UNFPA, building on an existing agreement with WFP, continues using their payment platform to distribute cash in a timely manner. The monitoring survey showed so far that for the vast majority cash helped to access urgent/basic items and services needed and all interviewed participants reported being able to spend the cash received despite the extremely challenging circumstances and market disruptions.

SOMALIA

During the drought scaleup response, CVA enabled vulnerable women and adolescent girls to cover menstrual and hygiene needs. Furthermore, CVA was used as a mechanism for connecting vulnerable women, and more specifically, GBV survivors to women and girls safe spaces.





SYRIA

In response to the devastating earthquakes in February 2023, UNFPA has leveraged the agreement with the WFP to use their existing voucher system to reach earthquake-affected pregnant and lactating women (PLW) with hygiene items. UNFPA also launched a transport voucher program to support pregnant women residing in temporary settlements to reach health facilities at the critical moment of delivery. Following the positive experience, UNFPA Syria expanded and adapted the modality to reach pregnant women living in underserved and remote areas with cash assistance to facilitate their access to health facilities located at great distances.

TURKIYE

Following the February earthquakes, needs assessments by UNFPA and its IPs showed that affected key Syrian refugee groups did not access humanitarian assistance due to stigma and discrimination. To respond to this gap, UNFPA provided individual protection cash assistance to key refugee groups (LGBTQI+, sex workers and people living with HIV) already involved in UNFPA support activities prior to the earthquake.

YEMEN

UNFPA designed and implemented an SRH Voucher Project to increase pregnant and lactating women uptake of services and improve the quality of health services provided in government facilities in remote and underserved areas of Yemen by increasing the facility budget and monitoring the quality of the services provided through the vouchers. The project hired local midwives to support outreach and community mobilization for identifying women and girls in need, distributing the vouchers and referral to the identified and contracted public healthcare facilities.