

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

REGIONAL SITUATION REPORT

FOR THE SYRIA CRISIS

ISSUE# 124
DECEMBER 2022

“ 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 the year 2022 comes to an end, Syrians and host communities throughout the region prepare for another difficult year. People in need continue to face the escalating impact of a protracted humanitarian crisis, further complicated by a deteriorating economy, continuing hostilities, 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 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 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 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.



ISSUE # 124

DECEMBER 2022



“ 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.

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

www.unfpa.org
www.ocha.org
www.unhcr.org
<http://syria.humanitarianresponse.info>

THE SITUATION / 2022

ANOTHER DIFFICULT YEAR LOOMS AHEAD.

At the end of 2022, the situation for Syrians and host communities throughout the region remains rife with far-reaching challenges, made worse by over a decade of instability and economic decline, the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the economic crises impacting Lebanon and Türkiye.

Despite the continuing efforts of humanitarian actors, the Syria 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). Staggering inflation, which has resulted in an 800 percent rise in food prices since 2020, has further limited the ability of humanitarian agencies to meet growing needs. 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.

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 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 continue to pay 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 risks facing women and girls like Mona are further compounded by the deteriorating economy and widespread poverty, lack 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 the shortage of natural resources. This is increasing reliance on negative coping mechanisms, such as early and forced marriages and sexual exploitation and abuse. Even more alarming are the reports by women and girls stating that the violence against them has become normalized 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.

"We have people that consider a girl to be a spinster if she reaches age 16 while unmarried," explains Raghda, a woman from Dara'a, in a statement that highlights the normalization of child marriage in her community. A similar statement is made by Nour from Qamishli, who notes that "girls growing up in these circumstances have become accustomed to the violence and now think it's normal."

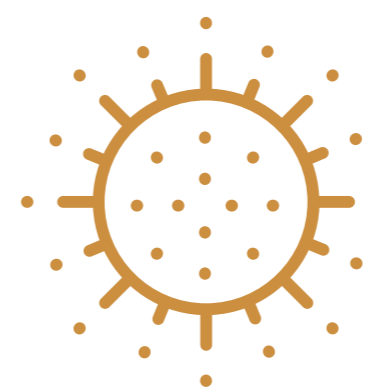
And yet, despite the enormous challenges levelled against them, Syrians throughout the region refuse to give up. People of different ages and backgrounds, including women and girls who have survived gender-based violence, continue to demonstrate remarkable resilience and determination. Many rise above 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.

Between January and November 2022, as part of its regional response to the crisis, UNFPA delivered sexual and reproductive health services to more than 2 million people, while more than 815,000 were reached with services designed to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, including around 290,000 adolescent girls. More than 142,000 women were provided with cash and voucher assistance, and more than 12,000 LGBTQI+ 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.



CONFIRMED CASES OF COVID-19 **

SINCE THE START OF THE PANDEMIC

SYRIA	TÜRKIYE	LEBANON
57,302	17,042,722	1,224,495
JORDAN	IRAQ	EGYPT
1,746,997	2,465,390	515,580



14.6 MILLION
Estimated people in need inside Syria



3.7 MILLION
Women and girls of reproductive age in need in Syria



500,000
Estimated pregnant women and girls in the crisis region



7.1 MILLION
Refugees, asylum seekers, or stateless people in the region

The impact of this crisis stretches far beyond Syria to include Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt.

** As of December 31, 2022

AN OVERVIEW OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN SYRIA

ADVOCACY BRIEF / 2023

Ongoing conflicts, a spiralling economic crisis, unprecedented food and staple shortages, and the continued effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have converged to exacerbate gender-based violence, affecting the coping strategies of women and girls and depleting their resilience, making humanitarian resources and programming both critical and life-saving.

This advocacy brief provides a snapshot of gender-based violence in Syria as the country prepares for yet another difficult year. The brief offers a closer look at affected populations, the types of gender-based violence taking place, and the risks of GBV in other sectors, in addition to a series of recommendations for donors, humanitarians, and GBV actors.

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AGAINST ALL ODDS

REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF UNFPA'S HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN SEVEN COUNTRIES IN THE ARAB REGION / 2022

Given the multitude of humanitarian crises impacting communities throughout the Arab region, UNFPA is consistently working to deliver quality sexual and reproductive health services and gender-based violence programming to refugees, displaced people, and host communities in need. In 2022, UNFPA conducted the sixth regional assessment of its humanitarian programmes spanning the Whole of Syria, Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Yemen, and Sudan, in order to gauge the impact its programmes have had on the well-being of women, girls, boys, and men. The assessment revealed that people served, particularly women and girls, continue to rely on UNFPA-supported facilities to access much-needed, high quality services that are delivered safely and confidentially.

UNFPA is grateful to all donors and partners whose support has enabled the delivery of a wide array of programmes geared toward women and girls region-wide. UNFPA's programmes are currently supported by Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, The European Commission, Finland, France, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, 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).

GO TO FACTSHEET

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



95%

of clients **described health facilities as 'absolutely essential' or 'very important'**



UNFPA supported facilities are consistently providing high-demanded high-quality services

86%

of women / adolescent girls **described Safe Spaces as 'absolutely essential' or 'very important'**



UNFPA programmes continue to improve the psychological wellbeing and empowerment of people reached

99%

of clients reported feeling **cared for / respected**



UNFPA programmes are increasingly socially inclusive and prioritise leaving no one behind



Women and girls are increasingly opting for gender transformative activities at Safe Spaces



High levels of trust, confidence, and respectfulness reported by people accessing UNFPA-supported facilities



Findings indicate sustained progress towards UNFPA's three [transformative results](#)

THE PEOPLE AT THE SAFE SPACE HAVE BECOME MY FAMILY. I FEEL RESPECTED AND WELCOME. IT HAS BECOME A PLACE WHERE I ARRIVE FEELING IMMENSE SADNESS AND LEAVE WITH HOPEFUL JOY.

— SARA, a Syrian refugee living in Jordan

ONE STEP CLOSER

THE ESSENTIAL ROLE OF TRANSPORTATION WHEN ACCESSING GBV AND SRH SERVICES IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS

UNFPA's programme data and assessments show that women and girls consistently identify transportation as one of the first barriers when it comes to accessing health facilities and Women and Girls Safe Spaces in humanitarian settings across Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Sudan, and Türkiye. As one adolescent girl from Ar-Raqqa explains, "we feel less safe than before. When we leave our homes, we are afraid of harassment, rape, and kidnapping."

This advocacy note is intended to provide key messages, best practices, and recommendations to establish, foster or ensure the sustainability of transportation as an integral part of GBV and SRH programming. It offers donors and practitioners a brief guide to analyse possible transportation approaches derived from the direct experience and lessons learned by UNFPA and its partners from operations in humanitarian contexts across the Arab region and UNFPA's regional response to the Syria crisis.

[GO TO DOCUMENT](#)

IF I HAD TO CHOOSE BETWEEN
PAYING FOR TRANSPORTATION
OR FEEDING MY CHILDREN,
I WOULD DEFINITELY NOT
PRIORITISE MY HEALTH AND
WELL-BEING.

— MIRNA, a woman from Bekaa, Lebanon



SAFE + EMPOWERED

THE LIFE-SAVING FUNCTION OF WOMEN & GIRLS' SAFE SPACES IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS IN THE ARAB REGION

Women and girls' safe spaces (Safe Spaces) provide a secure, non-stigmatising environment for women and girls and their children to receive comprehensive care services. They constitute an integral, life-saving intervention when programming for gender-based violence (GBV) in emergencies, as outlined in the Inter-Agency Minimum Standards for GBV programming in emergencies.

Unfortunately, the larger humanitarian community, including donors, sometimes questions the need for and the life-saving function of Safe Spaces. The most common queries and concerns revolve around the standards applied at Safe Spaces, such as the female-only nature of Safe Spaces or the value they add to the provision of GBV prevention and response services.

Launched in December 2022, Safe + Empowered is an advocacy document that aims to answer the most frequently asked questions on Safe Spaces and to clarify the value of Safe Spaces within the framework of the GBV in emergency programming in the Arab region. It also aims to further illustrate how Safe Space activities and services are interlinked and complement each other to ensure lifesaving, empowering, and transformative interventions to support women and girls.

[GO TO PUBLICATION](#)

THE SAFE SPACE EMPOWERED
ME TO MOVE PAST THE VIOLENCE
I EXPERIENCED AND TO HELP
PREVENT IT FROM HAPPENING TO
OTHER WOMEN AND GIRLS.

– DOHA, a Syrian refugee living in Türkiye



INFORMED PROGRAMMING

GENERATING BETTER PROGRAMME DATA TO INFORM HUMANITARIAN RESPONSES

One of the key pillars of effective humanitarian response is the collection of quality data to improve decision making and support advocacy efforts. As needs grow and funding gaps widen, humanitarians are being called upon to strengthen the design, quality, and effectiveness of the programmes being implemented, and to establish knowledge-driven foundations upon which better and more coordinated responses can be developed.

Informed Programming tackles this increasingly central topic, providing a detailed overview of UNFPA's experience across multiple complex humanitarian settings in the region. This UNFPA Knowledge Series guide aims to support staff working in the fields of monitoring and evaluation, information management, and those overseeing programmes to gather and make use of humanitarian programme data to improve decision making and support advocacy efforts. It also provides a set of good practices and lessons learned in the collection, analysis, and presentation of UNFPA programme data with a focus on how this can help inform UNFPA's humanitarian responses and guarantee accountability to both the people we serve and the donors that fund UNFPA programmes.

[GO TO PUBLICATION](#)



ADAPTING TO THE NEW NORMAL

INSIGHTS AND LESSONS LEARNED FROM UNFPA'S RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN THE ARAB REGION

Nearly three years on, significant progress has been made in the global response to COVID-19. Successful vaccination campaigns and adaptation measures have helped transform a deadly pandemic into a much more manageable health crisis, allowing countries worldwide to begin seeing the light at the end of this dark tunnel. It is at this point in the evolution of the pandemic that humanitarians are encouraged to examine the wealth of knowledge produced throughout this unprecedented crisis – to entrench good practices, learn from missteps, and help communities build greater resilience to future health emergencies.

This Knowledge Series guide offers a retrospective overview of the approaches taken by UNFPA-supported teams in humanitarian settings throughout the Arab Region. In addition to providing updates and lessons learned from some of the initiatives reported during the first year of the pandemic, the guide also brings a series of insights from new programmes and adaptations introduced since. Together, these provide a framework for effective, gender-responsive action during a health crisis, even in the most complex humanitarian environments.

[GO TO PUBLICATION](#)

LIKE OTHER LARGE-SCALE CRISES,
THE PANDEMIC HAS REVEALED
MANY OF THE STRUCTURAL
INEQUALITIES THAT UNDERLIE
SOCIETIES, INCLUDING THOSE
BASED ON GENDER, RACE, SOCIO-
ECONOMIC STATUS, AND OTHERS.

– MIRNA, a woman from Bekaa, Lebanon



Menstrual Hygiene Management in Emergencies

GUIDANCE NOTE FOR INTEGRATED PROGRAMMING IN THE ARAB REGION

Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) refers to a range of interventions that enable women and girls to manage their monthly menstrual flow in a safe, dignified, and hygienic way. Menstrual health and hygiene interventions can not only support women's and girls' access to MHM, but also serve as a gateway for gender-transformative programming. MHM programming in emergencies requires an interdisciplinary and multi-faceted approach and involves adjustments and improvements to a range of sectoral interventions including GBV, SRH, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Education, Non Food Items (NFIs) and Emergency Shelter.

This guidance note aims to support UNFPA country offices in the Arab region in their efforts to improve the quality, broaden the scope, and scale up MHM programming in emergencies. It focuses on the process of designing and supporting programmes from the vantage point of UNFPA and its mandate, offering practical guidance and links to existing resources on MHM.

[GO TO PUBLICATION](#)



I AM A REBEL GIRL.

Empowering girls throughout the Arab region to express their thoughts without fear

"There are things I wanted to say and couldn't express, but the journal guided me through writing to express what is inside me," says Rawda, a girl from Egypt, who recently participated in an activity featuring the "I Am A Rebel Girl" journal in Arabic. Her words were echoed by Huda, a girl from north-western Syria, who has "never felt this safe" expressing her personal thoughts and feelings.

"I Am A Rebel Girl" in Arabic is the product of a unique partnership between UNFPA and the girl empowerment brand, [Rebel Girls](#). Through empowering messages and breathtaking artworks, the journal invites Arab girls to imagine and realise their full potential by expressing their inner voices freely, without fear or shame. It is the first product launched by Rebel Girls in the Arab region and, more importantly, was developed in close collaboration with adolescent girls throughout the region, many of whom are surviving conflicts and other humanitarian crises.

"UNFPA and Rebel Girls have a shared vision of empowering girls worldwide to stand up for their rights, express their thoughts freely, and find the support and inspiration they need to reach their full potential," explains Laila Baker, the Regional Director of UNFPA in the Arab States. "We also believe that girls have the right to lead on the initiatives that target them, which is why we made sure to incorporate the voices of Arab girls from around the region into the messaging and design of the journal."

This collaborative process also necessitated the creation of entirely new art that reflects the voices and realities of girls in the region while staying true to the Rebel Girls spirit, interspersed with powerful quotes by the girls themselves. The journal also features stories of inspiring women from the region adapted from Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls — a children's book packed with stories about the lives of extraordinary women from the past and the present, further encouraging girls to dream big. The result is a product that feels distinctly personal, motivational, and empowering.

"The moment I laid eyes on the Rebel Girls journal, I wanted to know what's inside and to use it to say what I've never said," said Lara, a girl from Iraq, who participated in the pilot launch of the journal on

International Day of the Girl Child. "I could see myself in many of the stories in the journal and I felt more comfortable writing down my own feelings and experiences."

In many communities in the region, girls — particularly adolescent girls — seldom have spaces or platforms where they can safely meet and share their thoughts, experiences, dreams, and realities. "I Am A Rebel Girl" builds on UNFPA's ongoing efforts to bridge this gap by supporting girl-led and girl-friendly initiatives.

Over the coming years, the Rebel Girls Journal in Arabic will play a central role in UNFPA's adolescent girl programming in the Arab region, particularly its humanitarian programming. As girls throughout the region continue to suffer the effects of ongoing conflicts, displacement, economic collapse, and escalating risks of gender-based violence, fostering empowerment and agency remains an essential priority for UNFPA.

"With a shared vision of building a more equal world, we have been delighted to work with UNFPA on this edition of I Am A Rebel Girl," said Michon Vanderpoel, Rebel Girls Head of Sales and Licensing. "As a brand dedicated to empowering girls around the world through stories of real-life extraordinary women, it was inspiring and rewarding to be guided by the ideas and feedback of girls throughout the Arab region to bring this project to life. With I Am A Rebel Girl, we are proud to offer girls a personal platform to express their thoughts freely, dream big and envision a brighter future."

“THERE ARE THINGS I WANTED TO SAY AND COULDN'T EXPRESS, BUT THE JOURNAL GUIDED ME THROUGH WRITING TO EXPRESS WHAT IS INSIDE ME.

— RAWDA, a girl from Egypt



#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



RESPONSES FROM ALL OPERATIONS

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

2,062,323

PEOPLE REACHED WITH REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

96% FEMALE

24,977

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REACHED WITH VARIOUS SERVICES

81% FEMALE

815,177

PEOPLE REACHED WITH GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SERVICES

91% FEMALE

289,920

ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

72,973

YOUNG PEOPLE ENGAGED THROUGH VARIOUS ACTIVITIES

70% FEMALE

12,099

LGBTQI+ INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS SERVICES

142,276

PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH CASH & VOUCHER ASSISTANCE

99% FEMALE

21,549

PEOPLE TRAINED ON VARIOUS TOPICS

81% FEMALE

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Family planning consultations	1,000,023	99%
Normal and assisted vaginal deliveries	31,102	100%
C-Sections	14,822	100%
Ante-natal care consultations	639,527	100%
Post-natal care consultations	128,133	100%
People trained on SRH-related topics	8,875	90%

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
People reached with dignity kits	87,794	98%
People provided with GBV case management	33,393	95%
People reached with GBV awareness messages	628,192	92%
People trained on GBV-related topics	9,507	73%

YOUTH SERVICES

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
People trained on youth-related topics	3,167	79%



147

PRIMARY HEALTHCARE FACILITIES*



103

WOMEN AND GIRLS SAFE SPACES



31

EMERGENCY OBSTETRIC CARE FACILITIES



20

YOUTH CENTRES



118

MOBILE CLINICS



86

OTHER SERVICE DELIVERY POINTS

* 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.

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.

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.

1,571,291

PEOPLE REACHED WITH REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

96% FEMALE

12,329

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REACHED WITH VARIOUS SERVICES

91% FEMALE

634,676

PEOPLE REACHED WITH GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SERVICES

93% FEMALE

248,150

ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

40,927

YOUNG PEOPLE ENGAGED THROUGH VARIOUS ACTIVITIES

65% FEMALE

10,371

PEOPLE TRAINED ON VARIOUS TOPICS

79% FEMALE

137,403

PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH CASH & VOUCHER ASSISTANCE

99% FEMALE

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Family planning consultations	564,410	99%
Normal and assisted vaginal deliveries	29,212	100%
C-Sections	14,708	100%
Ante-natal care consultations	570,625	100%
Post-natal care consultations	106,171	100%
People trained on SRH-related topics	4,221	91%

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
People reached with dignity kits	27,777	99%
People provided with GBV case management	26,922	98%
People reached with GBV awareness messages	510,000	94%
People trained on GBV-related topics	5,582	71%

YOUTH SERVICES

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
People trained on youth-related topics	568	74%



107

PRIMARY HEALTHCARE FACILITIES*



53

WOMEN AND GIRLS SAFE SPACES



29

EMERGENCY OBSTETRIC CARE FACILITIES



14

YOUTH CENTRES



102

MOBILE CLINICS



71

OTHER SERVICE DELIVERY POINTS

* 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.



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

1,434,819

PEOPLE REACHED WITH REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

99% FEMALE

6,878

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REACHED WITH VARIOUS SERVICES

95% FEMALE

504,619

PEOPLE REACHED WITH GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SERVICES

97% FEMALE

214,231

ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

53,000

YOUNG PEOPLE ENGAGED THROUGH VARIOUS ACTIVITIES

65% FEMALE

5,786

PEOPLE TRAINED ON VARIOUS TOPICS

86% FEMALE

128,820

PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH CASH & VOUCHER ASSISTANCE

100% FEMALE

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Family planning consultations	546,364	99%
Normal and assisted vaginal deliveries	10,622	100%
C-Sections	9,302	100%
Ante-natal care consultations	485,215	100%
Post-natal care consultations	60,579	100%
People trained on SRH-related topics	3,608	91%

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
People reached with dignity kits	22,999	99%
People provided with GBV case management	24,909	98%
People reached with GBV awareness messages	423,603	98%
People trained on GBV-related topics	1,610	79%

YOUTH SERVICES

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
People trained on youth-related topics	568	74%



97

PRIMARY HEALTHCARE FACILITIES*



37

WOMEN AND GIRLS SAFE SPACES



19

EMERGENCY OBSTETRIC CARE FACILITIES



14

YOUTH CENTRES



99

MOBILE CLINICS



71

OTHER SERVICE DELIVERY POINTS

* 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.

“ 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

TÜRKIYE CROSS-BORDER

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

145,026

PEOPLE REACHED WITH REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

96% FEMALE

5,484

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REACHED WITH VARIOUS SERVICES

91% FEMALE

131,797

PEOPLE REACHED WITH GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SERVICES

78% FEMALE

31,990

ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

8,583

PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH CASH & VOUCHER ASSISTANCE

84% FEMALE

4,754

PEOPLE TRAINED ON VARIOUS TOPICS

71% FEMALE

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Family planning consultations	18,718	99%
Normal and assisted vaginal deliveries	18,658	100%
C-Sections	5,406	100%
Ante-natal care consultations	86,464	100%
Post-natal care consultations	45,736	100%
People trained on SRH-related topics	644	90%

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
People reached with dignity kits	4,778	100%
People provided with GBV case management	1,995	97%
People reached with GBV awareness messages	88,580	72%
People trained on GBV-related topics	4,110	68%



10

PRIMARY HEALTHCARE FACILITIES*



16

WOMEN AND GIRLS SAFE SPACES



10

EMERGENCY OBSTETRIC CARE FACILITIES



3

MOBILE CLINIC



I CAN BE THERE FOR MANY HOURS AND ENJOY MY TIME SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE WHO LOVE AND SUPPORT ME. WHEN I AM THERE, I NO LONGER FEEL ALONE.

— REEM, a Syrian girl from Idleb, on accessing a UNFPA-supported Safe Space

IN NORTH-WESTERN SYRIA, UNFPA CONTINUES TO RESPOND TO ONGOING DISPLACEMENTS, HOSTILITIES, AND EXTREME CONDITIONS

AS COLDER WINTER MONTHS SET IN, UNFPA IS FOCUSING ON PREPAREDNESS, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF THE ONGOING CHOLERA OUTBREAK IN SYRIA.

The United Nations Security Council resolution 2642, which authorises cross-border humanitarian aid to be delivered to north-western Syria across the Turkish border, was set to expire in January 2023. To preserve this essential lifeline for 4.6 people in north-western Syria, UN humanitarian leaders, including UNFPA's Executive Director, continued to jointly advocate for the Security Council to maintain access to north-western Syria through the last remaining corridor in Bab-Al-Hawa.

'In 2023, it is anticipated that at least 18 Safe spaces (half of those in north-western Syria) will have to shut down due to a lack of funds'

Ahead of the vote, UN Agencies and other humanitarian actors continued to transship essential life-saving goods and supplies in north-western Syria. In December, 1,154 trucks containing food, cholera kits, hygiene, and shelter items were sent from Türkiye, reaching 2.7 million people on average. Overall, UNFPA sent 30 trucks containing 160 SRH kits, 52,860 SRH bulk items, and 90,847 Dignity Kits.

At the end of the year, many clusters recorded severe funding gaps. One major challenge facing GBV service providers in north-western Syria is the lack of funding to sustain existing Safe Spaces, which provide the needed environment for GBV disclosures to take place and for

GBV survivors to come forward and access life-saving specialised services. The Safe Space model constitutes one of the key strategic interventions of the inter-agency GBV Coordination in north-western Syria, and is recognized as one of the core elements of the GBV in emergencies programming by the Inter-Agency Minimum Standards.

In 2023, it is anticipated that at least 18 Safe spaces (half of those in north-western Syria) will have to shut down due to a lack of funds. Unfortunately, in those communities, there is currently no alternative for GBV survivors who need to access lifesaving GBV specialised services. It is also estimated that 33 additional spaces in the area are required to cover the basic needs.

Typically, one Safe Space is needed for a population of 20,000 women and girls, with an average cost of 100K annually. In such a complex, volatile context, it is vital to fund Safe Spaces and related GBV interventions; to ensure multi-year/predictable funding for supporting existing Safe Spaces in north-western Syria; to increase support to allow additional Safe Spaces to be established; and to enhance support to provide income-generating activities, vocational training, and small grants for women at the Safe Spaces.

In the words of Reem, a 17 year-old girl who is among the millions displaced in north-western Syria

When I was a younger child, I used to live in a house full of love and tenderness, surrounded by family and friends. I was only eight years old when our home was destroyed by the war and we were forced to leave everything we knew behind.

I kept asking myself: "When will all of this end?" In time, things became worse; my father decided to marry again and he had children with his new wife. After his second marriage, I started being emotionally abused by my stepmother and treated with less respect compared to my stepbrothers. I started feeling depressed, isolated, and introverted.

'I was only eight years old when our home was destroyed by the war and we were forced to leave everything we knew behind'

One day, the outreach team of a Safe Space in my area approached me and informed me about the services provided there. Thanks to the secure and free transportation services provided, I was able to join a life skills program of the space.

During one of the sessions, a case worker gave me greater insight into the other services provided at the center. She also told me that all personal information I provide would be kept confidential, which made me want to share my story. We developed an action plan, with activities to relieve some of the pain and build my self-confidence.

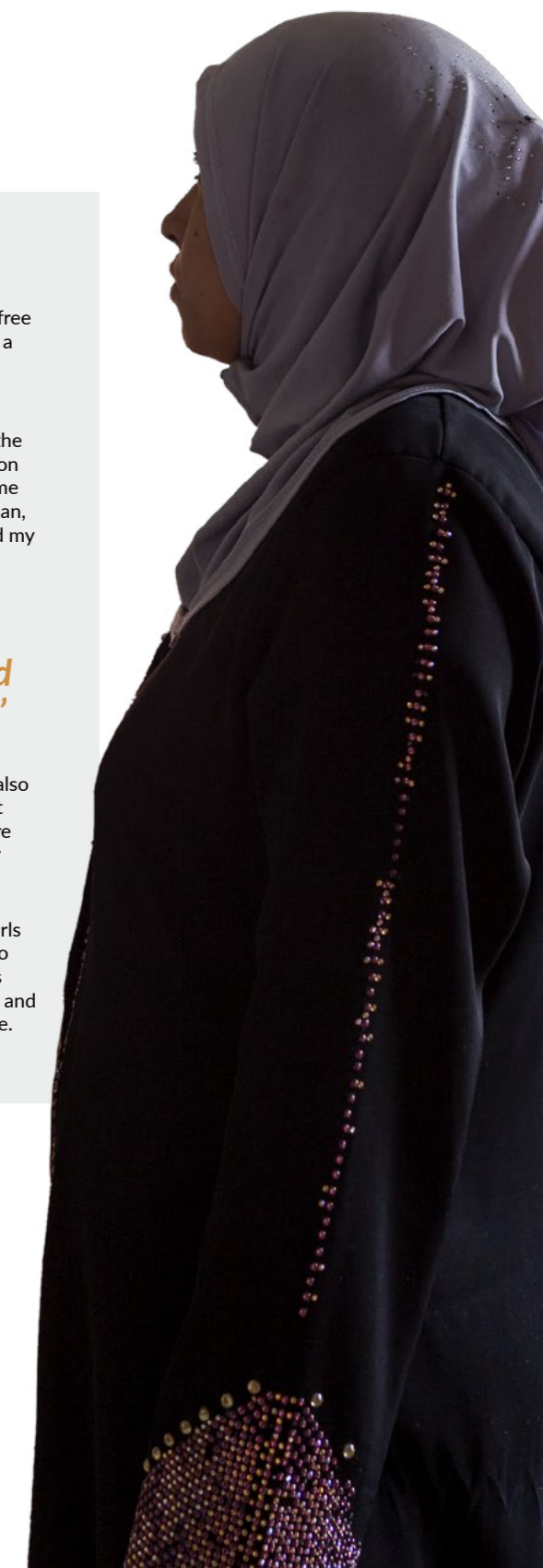
'At the Safe Space, I became part of a network of girls and built meaningful friendships'

Since my economic situation was also quite dire, I also received a small sum of money to buy some decent clothes. This really helped ease the mental pressure and the social stigma I was experiencing due to my worn-out clothes.

At the Safe Space, I became part of a network of girls and built meaningful friendships. Now, when I go to the space, I feel safe. I can be there for many hours and enjoy my time surrounded by people who love and support me. When I am there, I no longer feel alone.

“ TODAY, I FEEL STRONG ENOUGH TO BRING JOY AND HOPE TO MY CHILDREN'S LIVES.

— FATIMA, a woman from north-western Syria



TÜRKIYE COUNTRY OFFICE

UNFPA TÜRKIYE CONTINUES TO PROVIDE MUCH-NEEDED ASSISTANCE TO DISPLACED SYRIANS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

96,134

PEOPLE REACHED WITH REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES
83% FEMALE

8,310

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REACHED WITH VARIOUS SERVICES
56% FEMALE

71,614

PEOPLE REACHED WITH GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SERVICES
77% FEMALE

14,698

ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

21,069

YOUNG PEOPLE ENGAGED THROUGH VARIOUS ACTIVITIES
84% FEMALE

7,645

LGBTQI+ INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS SERVICES

1,110

PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH CASH & VOUCHER ASSISTANCE
48% FEMALE

5,897

PEOPLE TRAINED ON VARIOUS TOPICS
71% FEMALE

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Family planning consultations	32,099	90%
Ante-natal care consultations	15,130	100%
Post-natal care consultations	8,826	100%
People trained on SRH-related topics	1,093	64%

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
People reached with dignity kits	22,427	94%
People provided with GBV case management	2,562	68%
People reached with GBV awareness messages	49,475	82%
People trained on GBV-related topics	2,487	63%

YOUTH SERVICES

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
People trained on youth-related topics	2,317	83%



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.”

– JUDE, a Syrian woman living in Türkiye

IN TÜRKIYE, UNFPA CONTINUES TO CHAMPION THE RIGHTS AND WELL-BEING OF MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES.

The deterioration of the economic situation in Türkiye has contributed to the increased level of stress and anxiety among the refugees and migrant population. As recent assessments show, the expenditure at the household level increased by 63 percent in late 2022 compared to the beginning of the year. The most difficult to manage costs remained food, rent/housing, and utilities.

Moreover, a significant percentage of refugees and migrants cannot afford to pay the high costs of transportation, further hindering their access to health and protection services. Meanwhile, only 15 percent of the refugee and migrant population in Türkiye speaks fluent Turkish, creating a language barrier for the vast majority.

UNFPA continues to provide sexual and reproductive health and protection services, including prevention and response to GBV services through 22 service units. In addition, supported service units provide awareness-raising sessions on GBV and SRH topics, empowerment and social cohesion activities, and language courses

(namely Turkish and English language). In certain facilities, UNFPA provides one-off support and cash support to individuals exposed to high protection risks.

In December, UNFPA continued to build the capacities of partner staff. In addition to orientation sessions provided to new staff members, outreach workers and psychologists benefitted from self-care sessions to cope with daily stress and develop their ability to avoid situations of unacceptable risk. A workshop was also conducted for all partner staff on the various challenges posed by climate change and the possible ways of integrating existing knowledge on the topic into future work plans.



AT THE SAFE SPACE, THINGS SUDDENLY BECAME MUCH CLEARER AND I BECAME SURPRISINGLY AWARE OF WHAT I NEEDED TO DO.

– ROYA, a Syrian woman living in Türkiye

Helping girls in need take charge of their reproductive health and rights

Alma is a 15-year old adolescent girl who lives in Ankara together with her family. In December, she attended a “Sports and Health Workshop” conducted within the scope of the 16 Days of Activism campaign. During the workshop, participants received an awareness raising session on menstrual health, including female genital organs, menstrual materials and self hygiene during menstruation among others. After the workshop, participants were able to receive individual consultancy sessions to address any needs or issues they might be experiencing.

At the time, Alma had been experiencing some physical discomfort and requested to have an individual health counselling session, during which she reported extremely painful periods that are accompanied by anxiety and mood swings, and that only worsen with time. She also reported that, since her first period at age 14, her cycles have been largely irregular, which in and of itself can cause

stress and anxiety, particularly as she had never felt comfortable talking to anyone about it or seeking professional help.

‘What I learned after speaking to the support staff made me feel at ease, and I felt even better after visiting the doctor at the hospital’

The health mediators gave Alma a brochure on puberty and menstruation and invited her to a UNFPA-supported facility to meet with a psychologist. She was also referred to the hospital for a routine medical check-up.

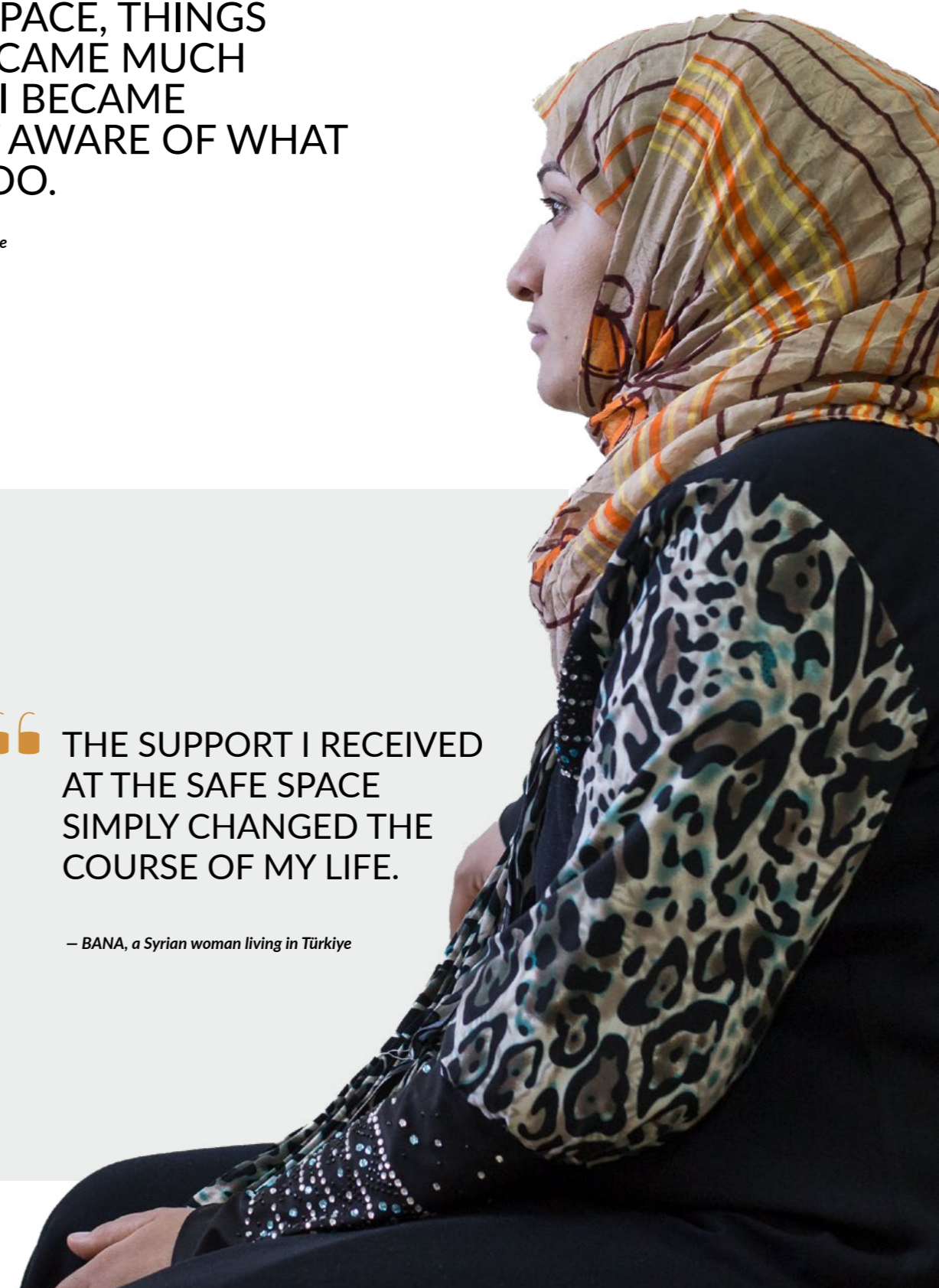
Shortly after, Alma came to meet the psychologist. She was informed about the changes in her body during puberty and during her period, and she was quite relieved to learn that what was happening to her was rather normal – that she was not the only one going through such changes.

“I can’t ask anyone about such things,” said Alma, who was immensely grateful to the staff at the facility for their support. “In our family, it’s taboo to talk about these issues. What I learned after speaking to the support staff made me feel at ease, and I felt even better after visiting the doctor at the hospital. Thank you so much for your great work!”



THE SUPPORT I RECEIVED AT THE SAFE SPACE SIMPLY CHANGED THE COURSE OF MY LIFE.

– BANA, a Syrian woman living in Türkiye



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.

96,109

PEOPLE REACHED WITH REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

100% FEMALE

13,170

ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

30,821

PEOPLE REACHED WITH GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SERVICES

91% FEMALE

4,449

LGBTQI+ INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS SERVICES

3,486

PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH CASH & VOUCHER ASSISTANCE

100% FEMALE

3,304

PEOPLE TRAINED ON VARIOUS TOPICS

98% FEMALE

2,220

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REACHED WITH VARIOUS SERVICES

99% FEMALE

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Family planning consultations	10,290	100%
Ante-natal care consultations	1,530	100%
Post-natal care consultations	4,465	100%
People trained on SRH-related topics	1,999	100%

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
People reached with dignity kits	35,376	100%
People provided with GBV case management	365	96%
People reached with GBV awareness messages	10,048	85%
People trained on GBV-related topics	1,283	96%

YOUTH SERVICES

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
People trained on youth-related topics	22	100%



15

PRIMARY HEALTHCARE FACILITIES



8

WOMEN AND GIRLS SAFE SPACES



7

MOBILE CLINICS

“ AFTER I TOLD [MY BROTHER] ABOUT MY HUSBAND’S ABUSE, INSTEAD OF OFFERING TO SUPPORT ME, HE THREATENED TO KILL ME IF I EVEN THOUGHT OF UTTERING THE WORD ‘DIVORCE.’

– HASNA, a Syrian girl living in Lebanon

IN LEBANON, CONVERGING CHALLENGES CONTINUE TO PLACE THE LIVES OF WOMEN AND GIRLS AT RISK.

AS PEOPLE IN LEBANON CONTINUE TO SUFFER SEVERE INFLATION AND POLITICAL DEADLOCK, UNFPA IS COMMITTED TO SAFEGUARDING THE LIVES AND WELL-BEING OF THOSE MOST VULNERABLE.

Lebanon continues to face a mounting economic crisis that has been more than a decade in the making. In December, the situation in the country was marked by ongoing economic and political turmoil, exacerbated by high inflation and increased levels of poverty and unemployment. Over the course of 2022, the Lebanese pound lost a significant portion of its value against the US dollar, leading to a rise in the cost of living for both host and refugee communities in Lebanon.

Along with the currency devaluation, banks have imposed unofficial capital controls, freezing accounts and only releasing a limited amount of dollars at a higher exchange rate. State services have all but collapsed, with subsidies on nearly all products eliminated and thousands of Lebanese and refugee families falling under the poverty line. Marginalised groups,

particularly women and girls in need, are severely affected by these economic challenges amid political instabilities.

As a response, UNFPA continues its support for the provision of SRH/GBV integrated services and information through its partners, academic institutions, and ministries, targeting vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian communities namely women and girls in need in Beirut, Bekaa, Mount Lebanon, and in the south and the north of Lebanon. UNFPA is collaborating with partners to enhance the skills and abilities of service providers, including midwives, nurses, social workers, and other health workers.

Moreover, UNFPA continued to advocate for the integration of sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence,

making sure that safe and confidential referral systems are consistently employed. The response consists of providing of sexual reproductive health services that include medical consultations, midwifery care, family planning counselling, lab tests, ultrasound, imagery tests and RH interventions such as IUD insertion/removal, PAP Smear test, mammography, and referral to GBV services, in addition to the distribution of dignity kits.

Along the same lines, the services entail case management and psychosocial support for gender-based violence issues. Partners also continued to engage communities with awareness sessions on GBV and distributed dignity kits to women and girls. The interventions were designed to be inclusive and sensitive to the needs of vulnerable groups,

such as LGBTQI+ individuals and people with disabilities. In addition, UNFPA also aimed at promoting social and behavioural change through networking with municipalities, community, and religious leaders, and engaging men and boys in order to support gender equality, empower women, and prevent gender-based violence.

Lastly, UNFPA also continued to support cash and voucher assistance to help women at risk access basic needs such as food, housing, and healthcare, in addition to helping them achieve economic independence to escape abusive environments and adapt to changing circumstances.

As families turn to harmful coping mechanisms, UNFPA is working with local partners to empower women and girls at risk.

Hasna was only 15 years old when she was forced to marry her cousin. Her family, who had fled the violence in Syria to take refuge in Lebanon, saw the marriage as a way to secure her future, particularly in light of their dire economic situation.

'I see death every day. He's abusive and violent and rapes me on an almost daily basis'

"I really did not want to get married," said Hasna. "I wanted to continue my education and focus on myself, but when times are tough, we don't get the opportunity to choose — we just abide. And that's what I did."

Today, Hasna is 28 years old and a mother of two boys. "I'm still with my husband, but I see death every day. He's abusive and violent and rapes me on an

almost daily basis. The physical and emotional abuse have only worsened as the years went by."

Feeling trapped and alone, Hasna turned to her family for help. "My father passed away a few years ago and my brother has been taking the decisions for the family. After I told him about my husband's abuse, instead of offering to support me, he threatened to kill me if I even thought of uttering the word 'divorce.' I believed him, because when my cousin got divorced, she was tortured and killed, and they justified it by claiming she brought dishonour to her family.

Hasna came across a primary healthcare clinic run by a UNFPA partner in Bekaa. Desperate for help, she decided to inquire about the services, hoping that her much-needed lifeline waited inside. "When I arrived, I was greeted with kindness, and they listened to my story," recalls Hasna.

Souha, a case worker at the facility, was the first to greet Hasna. "I saw how helpless she was, so

I immediately referred her to a gynaecologist for an initial examination," said Souha. As expected, the tests showed that Hasna had been subjected to severe physical violence. "After the exam, we immediately provided her with case management and psychosocial support to begin addressing her traumas."

'He threatened to kill me if I even thought of uttering the word 'divorce.' I believed him, because when my cousin got divorced, she was tortured and killed'

The case management team at the facility is currently assessing Hasna's situation in order to provide her with the adequate care and options to empower her and support her in rebuilding her life in a safe environment. Fortunately, she is beginning to feel the impact of the support she is receiving.

"This is the first time in my life where I truly feel that I deserve to live in peace and dignity," explains Hasna. "I deserve to be free of violence."



JORDAN COUNTRY OFFICE

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

105,759

PEOPLE REACHED WITH REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

99% FEMALE

1,708

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REACHED WITH VARIOUS SERVICES

98% FEMALE

64,512

PEOPLE REACHED WITH GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SERVICES

87% FEMALE

10,533

ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

10,435

YOUNG PEOPLE ENGAGED THROUGH VARIOUS ACTIVITIES

62% FEMALE

461

PEOPLE TRAINED ON VARIOUS TOPICS

76% FEMALE

273

PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH CASH & VOUCHER ASSISTANCE

100% FEMALE

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Family planning consultations	18,842	100%
Normal and assisted vaginal deliveries	1,437	100%
Ante-natal care consultations	36,498	100%
Post-natal care consultations	4,966	100%
People trained on SRH-related topics	156	99%

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
People provided with GBV case management	2,433	92%
People reached with GBV awareness messages	36,412	83%
People trained on GBV-related topics	129	91%

YOUTH SERVICES

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
People trained on youth-related topics	176	44%



16

PRIMARY HEALTHCARE FACILITIES



19

WOMEN AND GIRLS SAFE SPACES



1

EMERGENCY OBSTETRIC CARE FACILITY



1

YOUTH CENTRE



1

MOBILE CLINIC

“ 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

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.

14,114

PEOPLE REACHED WITH REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

100% FEMALE

389

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REACHED WITH VARIOUS SERVICES

99% FEMALE

3,646

PEOPLE REACHED WITH GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SERVICES

92% FEMALE

1,567

ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

461

YOUNG PEOPLE ENGAGED THROUGH VARIOUS ACTIVITIES

49% FEMALE

86

PEOPLE TRAINED ON VARIOUS TOPICS

65% FEMALE

Although Iraq is experiencing relative stability and an expansion in its fiscal space, the country continues to face protracted humanitarian and development needs, a complex political environment, and a volatile security situation.

Iraq generously hosts over 290,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, mostly Kurdish Syrians (over 260,000) residing in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). They face limited immediate return prospects, particularly in view of the deteriorating security situation in north-eastern Syria, where most of the refugees originate from. Some 65 percent of Syrian refugees live in urban areas, while the rest reside in nine refugee camps and one transit facility.

Moreover, Iraq has an IDP population of 1.2 million, some of whom face significant barriers to return or to effective local integration. Most of the five million IDPs that have already returned exercise similar rights to the rest of the Iraqi population, but also face similar challenges. IDPs reported insecurity, lack of livelihood opportunities and financial resources, as well as damaged housing in areas of origin as the main reasons for not wanting to return.

Given that significant protection concerns and harmful coping mechanisms affecting displaced populations are largely driven by socio-economic factors, human rights deficits, and the absence of the rule of law, UNFPA is scaling up its efforts to empower displaced and host communities to become

more resilient and better equipped to mitigate protection risks and access solutions. Such efforts include promoting social protection systems, promoting refugee and IDP access to public services as well as improving access to the labour.

UNFPA Iraq also continues to provide SRH services in refugee camps through experienced and professional medical staff. The 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. Service providers also conducted awareness sessions on family planning in Basirma and a menstrual cycle awareness session in Kawergosik for women and girls.

Meanwhile, under the gender equality and women's empowerment programme, UNFPA continued the provision of GBV Prevention and response services to women and girls in all refugee camps in KRI (Kawrgosk, Qushtapa, Basirma, Darashakran, Domiz 1, Domiz 2, Gawilan,

Bardarash, and Yassmin). In Erbil, GBV services were provided, including awareness raising sessions, types of violence, female genital mutilation (FGM), sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) women's rights, so-called honor killing, early marriage, among others. Individual and group sessions, case management, and referrals to health, legal, and livelihood services were also part of GBV service provision.



9

PRIMARY HEALTHCARE FACILITIES



9

WOMEN AND GIRLS SAFE SPACES



1

EMERGENCY OBSTETRIC CARE FACILITY



1

YOUTH CENTRE



1

GBV MOBILE TEAM

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Family planning consultations	16,743	100%
Normal and assisted vaginal deliveries	453	100%
C-Sections	114	100%
Ante-natal care consultations	15,035	100%
Post-natal care consultations	3,705	100%

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
People reached with dignity kits	530	100%
People provided with GBV case management	131	100%
People reached with GBV awareness messages	19,111	84%
People trained on GBV-related topics	2	100%

YOUTH SERVICES

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
People trained on youth-related topics	176	44%

Additionally, Recreational and adolescent girls' programming continued to be provided. During the first ten days of December, awareness-raising activities and campaigns continued as part of 16 Days of Activism. In Erbil and Duhok, GBV services targeting refugees continued to be provided, including a comprehensive package of GBV case management, livelihood courses, sessions for adolescent girls, vocational training, and others.

EGYPT COUNTRY OFFICE

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

178,916

PEOPLE REACHED WITH REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

100% FEMALE

1,430

PEOPLE TRAINED ON VARIOUS TOPICS

93% FEMALE

9,908

PEOPLE REACHED WITH GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SERVICES

94% FEMALE



10

WOMEN AND GIRLS SAFE SPACES

81

YOUNG PEOPLE ENGAGED THROUGH VARIOUS ACTIVITIES

100% FEMALE



8

MOBILE CLINIC

21

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REACHED WITH SPECIALISED SERVICES

90% FEMALE

1,802

ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Family planning consultations	357,639	100%
Ante-natal care consultations	709	100%
People trained on SRH-related topics	1,406	92%

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
People reached with dignity kits	199	100%
People provided with GBV case management	980	95%
People reached with GBV awareness messages	3,146	94%

“ 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 UPDATES

Whole of Syria

The Whole of Syria GBV AoR published [an overview of gender-based violence in Syria](#), available in English and Arabic, which presents the key GBV trends extracted from the larger *Voices from Syria 2023* report. The full Voices report is currently in its final draft and is being edited, translated and designed and will be published in Q1 of 2023.

In the framework of the Whole of Syria Humanitarian programme cycle, humanitarian actors submitted their HRP projects and the vetting process took place in each hub by assigned HRP review committees, including the vetting for GBV-related projects, with final project approvals to be completed in January. It is worth noting that the Whole of Syria GBV AoR saw an increase in the overall budget and targets compared to the 2022 HRP; however, final figures will be shared once all the projects are finalised. The Whole of Syria GBV AoR also began preparations for a Whole of Syria GBV retreat that will take place in January 2023 in Amman with hub GBV coordinators and IMOs. Finally, the Whole of Syria GBV AoR, in collaboration with Hub GBV coordinators, contributed to the 2022 annual report of the Secretary General on conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV). The AoR's contribution focused mainly on qualitative data, patterns and trends related to CRSV, challenges and good practices in preventing and addressing CRSV, as well as major developments that impacted the delivery of GBV specialised services.

Meanwhile, the Hub supported the development of the first draft of the Iraq GBV Awareness Raising Toolkit, shared with GBV Sub Cluster members at the beginning of December to gather their inputs. Select Sub Cluster members were invited to participate in a training programme organised in Erbil between the 11 and the 15 December. At the conclusion of the training, participants agreed to establish a dedicated task team to work together on the rollout and testing of the toolkit. The GBV Awareness Raising Toolkit remains a living document and its content and structure will be further developed based on feedback collected through field testing with communities.

Meanwhile, The Hub continued to develop knowledge products on various key thematic areas. [Safe + Empowered](#) is a new advocacy brief that underlines the life-saving aspect and the importance of WGSS in humanitarian settings and to answer some of the most frequently asked questions. Similarly, One Step Closer – another advocacy brief currently in development – outlines the importance of transportation in facilitating women and girls' access to GBV and SRH services.

Syria Country Office

UNFPA and its partners, including government actors, launched a 16 Days of Activism campaign in Deir-Ez-Zor to combat the various forms of gender-based violence impacting women and girls in local communities. The campaign brought different activities and aimed at raising awareness, mobilising efforts, and inspiring action to end gender-based violence at all its forms. Meanwhile, in cooperation with UNHCR, legal services are being offered in Safe Spaces on specific days to complement other services. At present, this applies to two locations in Deir-ez-Zour and Mayadin, with expansion to other sites possible based on the evaluation of the first phase.

Türkiye Cross-Border

Following the outbreak of cholera, the SRH TWS is developing a service mapping of the health facilities equipped to safely receive women and girls going into labour with suspected or confirmed cholera cases. Trained community health workers continued to share targeted messages on sanitation, rehydration, and the importance of promptly seeking treatment at the designed health facilities.

With the objective of reducing GBV risks and enhancing resilience, UNFPA's partners continued to roll out income-generating activities both within and outside case management. These were critical to enhancing the level of economic independence and empowerment of right-holders while contributing to preventing and mitigating GBV risks, in addition to increasing right-holders' resilience within the framework of a broader early recovery strategy reducing existing barriers to livelihood opportunities exacerbated by the accelerating economic crisis. Moreover, to systemise and expand existing knowledge, UNFPA, the GBV AoR, and the Early Recovery and Livelihood Cluster jointly developed standard operating procedures for income-generating activities, which are available both in English and Arabic. These focus on analysing how to safely and ethically design, implement and monitor IGAs within GBV programmes and should help establish collective standards to guide these critical interventions.

In December, the GBV AoR, in partnership with UNICEF, continued to prepare for the launch of the Digital Referral Pathways (eRPWs). North-western Syria will be the third global context after Bangladesh and Zimbabwe to introduce the eRPWs app, which was developed by UNICEF in partnership with the GBV AoR to enable remote (digital) and timely updates of referral pathways and services available. After an initial assessment and consultation carried out with the global team and the partners, the app will be customised to suit the Türkiye XB response and tested by members of the GBV AoR before being officially launched towards the end of Q1 2023.

Türkiye Country Office

UNFPA has an active contribution to the Inter-agency coordination mechanism and continued to co-chair the GBV sub-working groups at the national and subnational level, the KRG Thematic Coordination Groups at regional level, and contributed to the National Protection Working Group along with other partners.

During the National GBV sub-Working Group meeting, partners were presented with the GBV quarterly analysis for 2022. The analysis was based on the GBV interventions data reported by sector partners in the context of the 3RP response. During the meeting, members were reminded to enter the GBV data on the Services Advisor platform. Moreover, the results of the GBV sector consultation meeting formerly held in Ankara were also shared.

During the Izmir Sub-Working Group meeting, UNFPA provided a session on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) to all members, who in turn contributed to the most prominent components to be discussed within the scope of the work plan for 2023. Moreover, as a consequence of the war in Ukraine, the number

of Ukrainian refugees is steadily increasing in Türkiye, which will require incorporating their needs and risks into the planning process. UNFPA also co-chaired Marmara Region KRG Thematic Coordination Group Meeting, which included an evaluation of the activities of thematic coordination carried out in 2022, planning for 2023, and a review of the applications for the 2023-2025 3RP.

Jordan Country Office

During the 16 Days of Activism campaign, UNFPA led the efforts of the GBV Sub Working Group – including 16 organisations – to mark the campaign under the theme "UNITE to End Violence." This included the development of key messages for the campaign in consultation with the community, in addition to the development of a joint calendar of events and organising joint events across Amman, Zaatar camp, Azraq camp, Irbid, and Mafraq.

Meanwhile, building on the findings of the GBVIMS 2021 report and the recommendation to organise an interagency workshop on referral pathways for GBV, the GBV Sub Working Group conducted a review of practice and discussion of gaps and opportunities with partners and GBV actors.

Lastly, UNFPA Jordan continued its coaching initiative with the objective of improving the quality of case management. In response to gap areas identified through an interagency survey, a series of two-hour GBV coaching sessions were conducted, each targeting 30 case managers from the GBVIMS task force. Topics covered included child and early marriage, suicide, mental health and safety planning, and PSEA guidelines.



AFTER LOSING YEARS OF MY LIFE AND EVERYTHING THAT WAS PRECIOUS TO ME, FINDING THIS SAFE SPACE ALLOWED ME TO FIND HOPE AGAIN.

– RIMA, a Syrian refugee who accessed gender-based violence programming at a UNFPA-supported Safe Space



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

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, (ASSLS) 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 (NCFA), 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).

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