



Hope amid the chaos

Two Syrian refugees in Turkey explain how they have found hope despite the upheaval.

Sahle, Syrian Health Mediator “When I came to Turkey, I had no hope. I had lost everything. I was so miserable. Why bother going on? I felt destroyed. I was just a victim, and utterly useless. The more I thought it about it, the more I got depressed. But when I start attending health education, everything started to change. I immediately felt more relaxed. A new period in my life had begun. Health education showed me how to communicate with people. Now I was talking to the Syrian people and the Arabs. I was giving them information about health. I was so happy to share. I love to learn information about health and psychology. Now, I feel like a useful and valued person. In the same way, my family’s self-esteem has improved. When people talk with me, my family is very happy and feel pride that I’m now a source of assurance to other people. That also makes me happy and has turned me into a more hopeful individual. It’s like I’m a different person. In particular, I am helping a lot of Syrians to improve their health and social wellbeing. I hope it will continue for a long time.

Yasmine, widow, Gülveren. Yasmine was born in Damascus in 1966. Her marriage at the age of 19 was arranged but she grew to love her husband who was a painter. They had four children - a daughter and three sons.

Yasmine was living with her husband and children in Damascus before the war. When conflict began, they decided to leave their home and journey to Turkey in very difficult circumstances. Their migration was socially and economically very tough, both on the road and after settling down. Her husband did find a job and started to offer painting courses. This made the family’s life a little bit more comfortable but it didn’t last long. Her husband passed away recently. Yasmine now lives with her 15 year-old son, who is continuing his education.

After finishing an associate degree program for two years in university, Yasmine took courses on hairdressing and painting. By the time she graduated, she had worked in the healthcare sector for four years. She also gave painting courses to women and children and worked as hairdresser. Now she knits keyholders to earn extra income. After living through many ordeals, Yasmine is still struggling. But the hope burns as brightly as ever in her eyes. She refuses to give up despite the hardships.

HIGHLIGHTS OF UNFPA ACTIVITY

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC (FROM ALL CHANNELS)

- 214,946 reproductive health services delivered to Syrians.
- 10,085 deliveries supported, including 4,039 Caesarean-section deliveries.
- 7,751 gender-based violence response services provided to Syrians.
- 295 reproductive health kit distributed through cross border operations.
- 4,044 women accessed women safe spaces.
- 7,188 women received gender-based violence services
- 1,750 dignity kits distributed.
- 3 reproductive health clinics started operating to help affected populations in the southern part of Syria with the support of UNFPA through cross-border operations from Jordan.

IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS

- 19,994 reproductive health services delivered to Syrian refugees.
- 8,628 Syrian refugees benefited from reproductive health related messages through outreach and awareness activities.
- 28 reproductive health kits distributed.
- 1,154 gender-based violence services to survivors delivered.
- 9,239 Syrian refugees accessed women safe spaces and participated in activities in camps and host communities.
- 3,458 Syrian refugees reached with gender-based violence related messages.

“When you treat a disease, you might win or lose. But when you provide care for a person you will always win.”

A staff member at UNFPA-supported safe space

UNFPA MISSION:

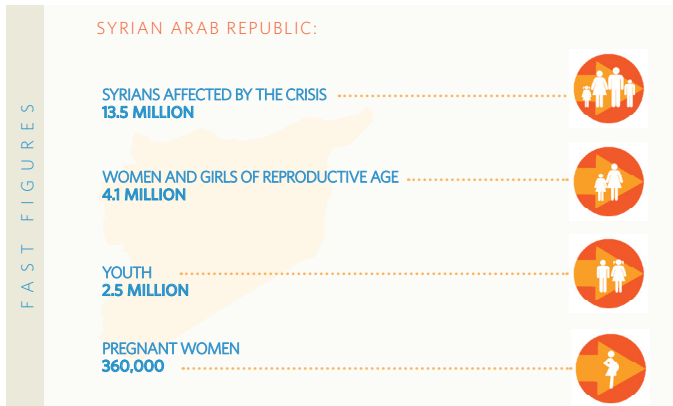
UNFPA believes that every Syrian woman and girl has the right to have access to affordable reproductive health care and be effectively protected from gender-based violence. UNFPA and partners are scaling up efforts to empower and improve the lives of Syrian women and youth and impacted communities inside Syria and in host countries, including by advocating for human rights and gender equality, to better cope with and recover from the crisis.

UNFPA: Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person’s potential is fulfilled.



HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC FROM ALL CHANNELS



SOURCES: Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), UNHCR, OCHA, and UNFPA April 2016

UNFPA RESPONSE IN SYRIA (MARCH 2016)

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND SAFE MOTHERHOOD

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

186,920 reproductive health services

- 13,333 reproductive health services to hard-to-reach areas
- 5,000 deliveries supported by UNFPA for women above 18
- 3,000 deliveries for women under 18
- 9,496 ante-natal care services
- 13,300 family planning beneficiaries

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES **15,000** services

AWARENESS **7,000** people

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

RESPONSE SERVICES **3,800** women and girls

WOMEN ACCESSING SAFE SPACES **2,264** women and girls
286 women and girls in hard-to-reach areas

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES **18,999** services

TRAINING **35** social workers

UNFPA-SUPPORTED FACILITIES IN SYRIA



Number of women's spaces

25



Number of field reproductive health clinics or mobile teams

49



Number of health facilities

959

RESPONSE THROUGH CROSS-BORDER MODALITY

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND SAFE MOTHERHOOD

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

19,659 beneficiaries received services in the northern part of Syria

- 1,341 safe deliveries
- 370 Caesarean-section deliveries
- 129 pregnancy under 18
- 4,828 ante-natal care services
- 3,152 family planning

8,367 beneficiaries received services in the southern part of Syria

- 717 safe deliveries and 389 C-sections
- 292 pregnancy under 18
- 1,461 family planning services
- 2,639 ante-natal care services
- 294 post-natal care services

AWARENESS SESSIONS

79 women and girls participated in the northern part of Syria and 2,788 women reached through outreach activities
46 women and girls participated in the southern part of Syria

SUPPLIES

249 reproductive health kits distributed in the northern part of Syria
46 reproductive health kits distributed in the southern part of Syria

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

RESPONSE SERVICES

2,926 beneficiaries received gender-based violence services in the northern part of Syria
462 beneficiaries received gender-based violence services in the southern part of Syria

WOMEN ACCESSING SAFE SPACES

1,471 beneficiaries accessed women safe spaces in the northern part of Syria
309 beneficiaries accessed women safe spaces in the southern part of Syria
1,750 dignity kits distributed in the north

A new reproductive health clinic in rural Damascus started operating to help the affected populations in the area. Al Marj clinic was successfully able to serve about 500 people in April. Museifra clinic started operating in April, and provided reproductive health services to 340 beneficiaries during the month. This facility began operating after Saida clinic in Dar'a was destroyed in airstrikes in February 2016.

UNFPA shipped 249 reproductive health kits into Syria through cross-border operations from Turkey. This vital support will be distributed to nine local and international organisations that support health facilities in Aleppo, Idlib, Hama, and Latakia.

Again through cross-border operations from Turkey, UNFPA finalised a new partnership to support four women and girls safe spaces. The partnership with a local NGO also includes provision of GBV-specialised response services in Aleppo city and surrounding areas.

STORIES FROM SYRIA



UNFPA: Supporting the crisis-affected mothers of Quneitra

Access to life-saving reproductive health services is a gender and human rights issue. A mother and midwife in Quneitra, Syria, share their experiences.

The UNFPA-supported maternal hospital run by an international charity is the only facility currently providing comprehensive reproductive health services in Quneitra, Syria. Based about 70km (40 miles) south-west of the capital Damascus, the centre aims at providing life saving services to more than 25,000 women and girls of reproductive age, and around 2,000 pregnant women who live in the area.

"Quneitra has frequently seen clashes between various groups," explains Batool, a 20 year old mother, who fully understands the emotional turmoil faced by pregnant women in their homes. "You can often hear gunfire and see smoke rising across the area. I have been forced to move from one village to another to seek safety and shelter. I gave birth to my first set of twins under the noise of a heavy bombardment, with the fear that I might get displaced again at any time. I struggled to breastfeed my babies, but neither did I have enough money to buy them milk."

After nine months, Batool got pregnant again, but this time she was reached by a midwife who introduced her to the maternal hospital, 15 kilometres away. The maternal unit consists of seven beds, staffed by 41 professionals, of whom 28 are health workers. "The team is great at the hospital. The high level of treatment and communication encouraged me to visit the facility frequently during my pregnancy," said Batool.

Due to a complication, she was advised to opt for a Caesarean-section instead of a normal delivery. "I received my services free of charge. On the top of that, I left hospital with a baby kit and I have been taught how to breast feed my child," she added.

The lack of security and access, acute shortage of staff and equipment, all led to reduced capacity at the maternity units of surrounding hospitals, forcing mothers-to-be to go elsewhere when they are already in labour. Sama, a midwife who works at the maternity hospital, outlined the high level of risk the women in Quneitra live with because of this shortage of reproductive health care.

"I recently received a 27 year-old, seven-month pregnant woman with heavy bleeding. She was moved, in this condition, between three health facilities, until she found the UNFPA-supported maternity hospital with its gynaecologist, paediatrician and incubator. Her baby was ultimately delivered by C-section.

"I will never ever forget her smile and the tears in her eyes, thanking us for saving her and her baby's lives. It is a reward and - as a woman - I am proud to serve other women and listen to their stories. I am proud to be part of this team which works day and night to provide reproductive health care to women in need."

Reproductive health issues are compounded during a crisis. About 60% of preventable maternal deaths take place in crises and fragile settings.

One thing often overlooked when a crisis strikes is a comprehensive and responsive approach to health. Sexual and reproductive health often gets little

attention, with devastating consequences. UNFPA, through its programme from Damascus and from cross-border operations from Jordan and Turkey, and in partnership with other United Nations agencies in Jordan, works to reach people in remote, besieged areas and hard-to-reach places throughout Syria, providing health facilities with reproductive health kits and medical supplies.



Rebuilding Syria through innovation: Empowering Syrian youth to become entrepreneurs

DAMASCUS, Syria - Despite the limited transportation, perpetual security threats and bombings ravaging her adopted city, Leen Darwish, an optimistic 23-year-old woman, stayed steadfastly determined to continue her education at the University of Damascus and graduate with a degree in computer science.

And later this year, four years after the conflict raging across the country forced her to leave behind her life in her home town of Harasta, Leen will achieve her goal and claim her diploma. She is also hard at work launching her new app and web-based platform, called Remmaz, designed to teach coding throughout Syria - and eventually the Arab world - started through support from the UNFPA Innovation Fund.

"To continue my education was a priority for me, and this new opportunity to develop online courses is the first step for me to achieve my dreams," she says, her sharply intelligent eyes twinkling with enthusiasm. "It is the best way to teach my fellow Arab youth about the new opportunities in the software coding business that they could all tap into."

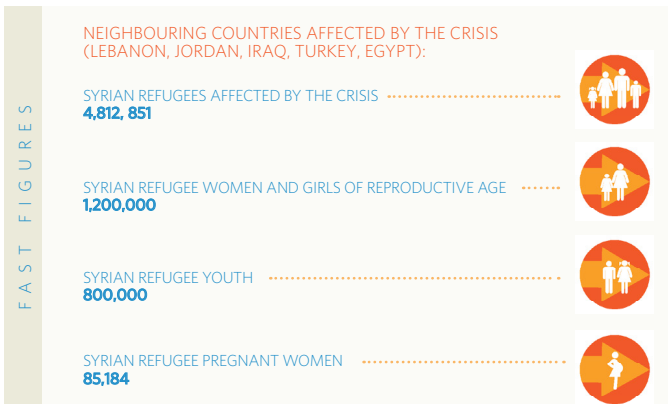
Her innovation is one of the first such platforms of its kind in the region. And Leen launched the endeavour after attending a three-week, UNFPA-supported training in Damascus on how to start and manage small businesses, along with 28 other techy-savvy young Syrians, ages 22-30, from multiple ethnic groups and regions, who were also displaced by the conflict. Today, just six months after the training concluded at the end of December, nine of their new businesses are already fully up and running.

"This programme is providing young people in Syria with critical business, leadership and entrepreneurship skills and directly linking them to opportunities to generate income," says Bruce Campbell, UNFPA Global Coordinator for the Data for Development Platform. "We are already seeing the impact of the programme, and we hope these businesses will continue to grow and thrive, supporting these young people and their communities."

See more at: <http://www.unfpa.org/news/rebuilding-syria-through-innovation-empowering-syrian-youth-become-entrepreneurs#sthash.aLv8lfvW.dpuf>

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS



SOURCES: Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), UNHCR, OCHA, and UNFPA March 2016



REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND SAFE MOTHERHOOD

TURKEY	
SERVICES	1,731 services for Syrian and Turkish beneficiaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 330 ante-natal care services • 707 family planning services • 110 pregnancies for women under 18
AWARENESS SESSIONS	288 Syrian and Turkish beneficiaries
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	5,330 Syrian and Turkish beneficiaries
SUPPLIES	19 reproductive health kits 900 copies of brochure on breast feeding, ante-natal care and family planning
LEBANON	
OUTREACH	195 beneficiaries
SUPPLIES	3 reproductive health delivery kits
JORDAN	
SERVICES	15,024 reproductive health services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 239 safe deliveries and 16 C-sections • 26 pregnancy under 18 • 1,689 family planning services • 3,500 ante-natal care services • 878 post-natal care services • 1,282 infections treated
AWARENESS SESSIONS	2,905 beneficiaries in camp and in host communities
SUPPLIES	3 reproductive health delivery kits



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE MIDWIFE

UNFPA celebrated the International Day of the Midwife at the Zaatari camp, acknowledging and saluting the contribution of midwives in saving the lives of women, adolescent girls and newborns. As part of the event, organisers arranged an interactive session with midwives and mothers to discuss key health issues, including ante- and pre-natal care, breastfeeding and caring for newborn babies. At the end of the event, gifts were distributed to midwives and nurses as a token of appreciation for their life saving interventions with Syrian refugees in the Zaatari camp in Jordan.

Credit: JHAS, 2016

Scaling up efforts to support women

The Ministry of Health approved UNFPA's plans to support and upgrade the Ruwayshid hospital, which serves as the nearest referral facility for 60,000+ asylum seekers waiting at the eastern border of Jordan, the so-called "berm". UNFPA is planning to provide key medical equipment and medical consumables in the labour and delivery unit, including the neonatal unit at the Ruwayshid hospital and provision of additional staff through an implementing partner.

IRAQ	
SERVICES	3,044 beneficiaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 67 safe deliveries • 2,776 family planning services • 465 ante-natal care services • 133 post-natal care services
AWARENESS SESSIONS	1,051 beneficiaries
SUPPLIES	3 reproductive health delivery kits



GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

TURKEY	
SERVICES TO SURVIVORS	83 services
WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	980 Syrian beneficiaries
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	1,120 Syrian beneficiaries
SUPPLIES	1,100 dignity kits
LEBANON	
SERVICES TO SURVIVORS	140 services
WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	97 Syrian beneficiaries
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	36 women, girls, men, and boys
DIGNITY KITS	105 dignity kits
JORDAN	
WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	7,658 Syrian beneficiaries
RESPONSE SERVICES	913 Syrian beneficiaries
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	1,955 women, girls, men, and boys
TRAINING	94 social workers and staff
JORDAN	
WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	424 Syrian beneficiaries



UNFPA: A regional road map to enhance the quality of reporting on gender-based violence in Syria crisis

A regional 'training of trainers' workshop, on reporting on gender-based violence in the Syria crisis, was held in Lebanon to improve the skills of participants and help them train peers to create informed and ethical coverage of gender-based violence. A total of 29 media professionals and communication officers from the six countries took part in the initiative in Lebanon and developed a road map to enhance the quality of reporting.

A panel discussion organised by the inter-agency GBV sub-working group, headed by senior journalists, lawyers and academics in Lebanon to support the initiative and increase awareness.

"I want to tell people, however I can, about the bad consequences of early marriage."- Ghosoun, Lebanon

"I learned to see the difference between illusion and reality, and how to respect my inner child. I also learned how to set my boundaries." Nada, Egypt

We want to make a change. We need to capture people's hearts and minds."-Ahmad, Lebanon

x

IRAQ	
WOMEN ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	504 women and girls
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	347 women and girls
SERVICES TO SURVIVORS	18 women and girls, of which 9 new



SUPPORTING ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH

SYRIA	
ACTIVITIES	55 Syrian young people
LEBANON	
ACTIVITIES	40 Syrian young people
JORDAN	
ACTIVITIES	1,235 Syrian and Jordanian youth in camps and host communities
IRAQ	
ACTIVITIES	88 Syrian young people



A graduation ceremony for youth beneficiaries who completed life skills, Y-PEER, and gender-based violence trainings at the UNFPA-supported youth centre in Zaatar camp in Jordan.

Credit: Questscope, 2016

STORIES FROM SYRIAN REFUGEES | JORDAN

Haya, Zaatari camp, Jordan

Haya got married when she was 15 years old, to a man 18 years older than her. She had wanted to continue her education, but was instead forced into her marriage, and has faced several hardships as a result.

The mother of three came to Jordan for safety reasons after the Syrian war started. Her husband and son were shot and wounded in Syria, and they came to Jordan seeking medical help. Haya's parents also accompanied her, but they were sent back to Syria. Haya is very worried about them because she is not able to communicate with them due to the situation in Syria.

Haya's son is in a bad psychological state due to his injury. He lives in constant terror, which intensifies his mother's anxiety. This constant fear has turned into depression and isolation for Haya. The staff of UNFPA-supported JWU women and girls' comprehensive centre visited Haya at her home and started conducting one-on-one counseling sessions with her and her family members. After multiple visits, the staff asked Haya to bring her children and join the activities being conducted at the women and girls centre. At the centre, the staff noticed that Haya and her kids preferred not to communicate and interact with the rest of the beneficiaries. They stayed isolated. Consequently each member of Haya's family was provided with one-on-one counselling and psychological sessions at the centre as well as in multiple group therapy sessions, where the staff talked to them about their fears and how to overcome them. The staff also talked to Haya about the importance of interacting with other beneficiaries and how it could help her cope with her fears.

Haya and her children continue to attend activities at the centre and the staff have gradually noticed positive changes in their behaviour. Haya and her children have begun communicating with other beneficiaries and Haya has even started visiting them in their homes.

Ahmad, Zaatari camp, Jordan

Ahmad has benefited from services at the UNFPA-supported youth centre since it opened in August 2015. He lives in the Zaatari Camp with his two brothers, while his parents remain in Syria. Ahmad was studying at university when he was forced to flee the war. He hopes to be able to finish his Bachelor's degree in Jordan or elsewhere. Over many months, Ahmad was searching for NGO work in Zaatari camp without success. In his spare time, he showed great commitment to the sports activities at the centre. It became evident to Questscope staff and volunteers that he is highly capable, responsible and driven. He especially loves basketball, football, and volleyball. Due to his commitment, daily attendance and strong relationships with the other youth beneficiaries, he was often put in charge of sports activities and often played the role of referee. He enjoyed being referee and was also involved in the UEFA referee training. During April the team was in need of a new activity coach for the sports department, and Ahmad was hired for the position. Since May 1 this year, he has become a valuable member of the volunteer team working at the centre.



Syrian refugees and Lebanese women proudly show off their certificates after graduating from hairdressing vocational training. Credit INTERSOS, 2016

UNFPA-SUPPORTED FACILITIES



Number of women's spaces
56

LEBANON
5
JORDAN
19
IRAQ
10
EGYPT
2
TURKEY
20



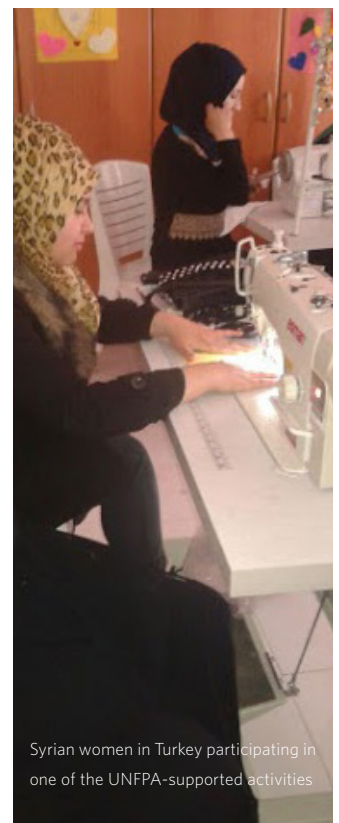
Number of field reproductive health clinics or mobile teams
74

JORDAN
24
(14 in host communities, 10 in camps)
IRAQ
20
(11 in host communities, 9 in camps)
EGYPT
12
TURKEY
17



Number of youth centres and safe spaces
25

LEBANON
5
JORDAN
11
IRAQ
3
EGYPT
4
TURKEY
2



Syrian women in Turkey participating in one of the UNFPA-supported activities

STORIES FROM SYRIAN REFUGEES | TURKEY

WITH COMPASSION AT THE CENTRE

The IMPR Humanitarian Women Community Centre in Sanliurfa helps change the prospects of displaced Syrians from despair to optimism.

Misyara is a mother of six. Her life in Syria was calm and stable. Her husband was a farmer and they wanted for little. When war struck, death reached out, touching everyone in its path. Misyara and her family were no exception. Her husband was killed. Then a fresh danger pursued her family, with her children targeted by Da'esh. Misyara fled to Turkey. Eventually, she managed to cross the border and threw herself at the sympathy of relatives in Sanliurfa. But misery stayed close, as her youngest child soon fell ill. One of her new neighbours told her to visit the IMPR Humanitarian Women Community Centre. The doctor prescribed the appropriate medicine and her child was saved. Both Misyara and her children are now involved in the centre's activities.

Nada is a 7-year old girl, who has only ever known suffering. The impact of war and displacement is more than most can endure, but Nada was also forced to witness the bitterness of divorce. Her father took her to live with him and his new wife. Then the war arrived and they fled to Turkey to find a better life. For Nada, things only got worse, as her stepmother was struggling to cope with the girl's disruptive behaviour. At the IMPR Humanitarian Women Community Centre, Nada eventually found some hope. Her stepmother told carers about Nada's condition. The resident psychologist conducted eight 45-minute sessions. After several weeks and follow-ups, Nada was showing positive signs of recovery. Today, she lives a calm and stable life with her family members.



SUPPORTING WOMEN IN CRISIS: SYRIAN REFUGEES FIND SERVICES AND HOPE IN TURKEY'S SAFE SPACES

With conflict and climate-related destruction surging around the world, 125 million people are currently in need of humanitarian aid and 60 million refugees have been forced to flee their homes. From 23-24 May, leaders from around the world convened in Istanbul for the first-ever [World Humanitarian Summit](#) to try to map a path to manage and stop this unprecedented upheaval and its human cost.

Today, over half of the world's women and girl refugees live in cities, not in refugee camps, and over 3 million refugees – including 750,000 women of reproductive age, are currently living in Turkey. And so just outside the Summit's walls, the streets of Istanbul are filled with the struggles and suffering that the participants inside are working to assuage.

Like Fatma, many refugee women in cities find themselves impoverished, isolated by language barriers and discriminated against, which increases their vulnerability to gender-based violence, trafficking and survival sex.

To aid them, UNFPA is supporting 20 women and girls safe spaces in the country's urban areas, where women and girls can receive primary and sexual and reproductive health services – including family planning, counselling, income-generation training, language classes, legal guidance and the opportunity to rebuild the community and networks they lost when they were forced to flee their homes. It's also a place where their children can safely play and learn.

"Many of the refugees here have already had the chance to access a lot of UNFPA services, and their lives are showing benefits and the resilience that is inevitable when women can access sexual and reproductive health services and gender-based violence counselling and have a place for their kids to go," says [UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador Ashley Judd](#), during a visit to an Istanbul Safe Space, before she headed to the Summit.

- See more at: <http://www.unfpa.org/news/supporting-women-crisis-syrian-refugees-find-services-and-hope-turkeys-safe-spaces#sthash.Ms3xJCyb.dpuf>



Qatanna, 37, is from Raqqa. She is married with six children. When war began, her family fled to Turkey, crossing the border illegally to escape the murders and bombing. Eventually, they arrived in Sanliurfa. Qatanna came to the IMPR Humanitarian Women Community Centre for a healthcheck, as she was suffering from sudden drops in blood pressure. The doctors quickly saw that Qatanna needed additional help. She was diagnosed with extreme fatigue, malnutrition and also depression caused by the death of her brothers and nephew. The medical team gave her psychological support and advised on the necessity of taking care of herself and her health for the sake of her children. Now, Qatanna, alongside her daughter, is involved in activities such as learning English and cookery. She is taking better care of herself, and her health is improving as a result.

Samira is a 27-year-old Syrian women from Raqqa, where she lived with her husband and their three children. Her husband was a carpenter in a private workshop, and their financial situation was healthy. So, it was not easy to leave their country. But then Da'esh came to Raqqa. Samira and her husband immediately headed for Turkey. They crossed the border illegally and after much suffering, they arrived in Sanliurfa, where they have lots of relatives.

By chance, Samira found the IMPR Humanitarian Women Community Centre, where she registered for the hairdressing courses. She continued to attend these activities on a regular basis, never missing a session. She made friends and soon became an extremely capable hairdresser. Now, she runs a hairdressing salon from inside her new home, and remains a regular visitor at the centre.

COORDINATION & CAPACITY BUILDING

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

UNFPA participated in the access working group meeting, the United Nations sector group meetings on health, protection, and logistics, as well as meetings of the United Nations Humanitarian Country Team and the United Nations Security Cell.

The GBV sub-cluster in Gaziantep, in collaboration with the Protection Cluster, is in the process of preparing for the 2016 Humanitarian Needs Overview, which includes the rollout of focus group discussions in the field, as well as key informant interviews.

The sexual and reproductive health sub-group in Gaziantep finalised the minimum package of services at all levels including more information for the primary health care level (in terms of staff, material and drugs).

UNFPA, in collaboration with the health cluster in Gaziantep, conducted a 'training of trainers' that aimed to train community reproductive health workers in Syria, as essential reproductive health promoters, educators and referees. A total of 21 people were trained (most of them midwives - 12 women and 9 men) for working with NGOs in Syria. The cascade trainings will take place in Syria after Ramadan. The aim is to train 100 community health workers by the end of July 2016. A follow-up of the trainers is planned in 3 months.

TURKEY

UNFPA co-chaired a health working group meeting, protection working group meeting and SGBV subworking group meeting in Gaziantep. Members discussed and updated on issues, and the KAMER Antep Office, the implementing partner, provided a presentation on women and girls safe spaces in Gaziantep.

UNFPA attended the workshop organised by the Southeastern Anatolian Project (GAP) regional development administration and UNICEF on the identification of the areas for the empowerment of Syrian youth and children, specifically on education, NGO cooperation and youth in Sanliurfa. Representatives also attended the SGBV working group meeting in Ankara and visited the newly established women and girls safe spaces. UNFPA then attended meetings of Migration Network in Europe and Turkey Project lead by ANCE (Athens Network of Collaborating Experts) partnered with IKGV (Human Resource Development Foundation) and SGDD/ASAM (Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants) in Sanliurfa and in Gaziantep.

LEBANON

From May 23-31, as part of a Canadian sponsored project, UNFPA, IRC, UNHCR and UNICEF Lebanon held "Survivor-Centered Case Management Workshops: Serving Beneficiaries with Specific Needs". These workshops aim to strengthen case workers' skills in providing survivor-centred care to survivors of early marriage, survivors of intimate partner violence, survivors at risk of committing suicide and LGBTI survivors.

UNFPA teamed up with UNHCR and the Ministry of Social Affairs to co-lead the SGBV task force meeting. UNHCR presented their new pilot project called PCAT, which aims to provide temporary emergency cash as an additional tool for case managers, including those on GBV cases.

UNFPA and UNHCR co-led the National information management system (GBV IMS) steering committee meeting, focusing on enhancing the data analysis on 2016 data in order to generate recommendations and advocacy points.

UNFPA led the clinical management of the rape (CMR) coordination task force meeting.

JORDAN

UNFPA held an inter-country meeting of national maternal, neonatal and child health program managers addressing the main causes of maternal, neonatal and child mortality in the eastern Mediterranean region. The meeting was jointly organised by the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Regional Office for the Arab States and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa. It was attended by 130 participants from 19 countries, together with experts from national and international organisations, and WHO, UNFPA and UNICEF staff members from headquarters, regional and country offices.

The meeting provided an excellent platform to update evidence-based guidelines and exchange experiences on how best to improve maternal and child health in the region. The participants reviewed and identified country policy and programme gaps in order to facilitate the implementation of evidence-based interventions to prevent the main causes of maternal, neonatal and child deaths, along with identifying strategic directions for the post-2015 agenda.

The reproductive health subworking group (SWG) formed an interagency committee to review and standardise a training package for community health workers and medical service providers along with reviewing IEC (Information, education and communication) material for reproductive health services.

A five-day multi-faceted GBV SWG regional training was jointly conducted by UNFPA, with the technical support of UNFPA's regional office in Jordan, focused on both coordination and programming of GBV in humanitarian settings and fragile contexts. This training is a key component of the UNFPA regional GBV prevention and response strategic plan in Jordan and Iraq. As Jordan is one of the target countries for the rollout of the guidelines for integrating GBV interventions in humanitarian action in 2016, this training was conducted to improve the knowledge, understanding and communication skills of the participants. The aim is to effectively prevent and respond to GBV, building capacity to coordinate multi-sectorial responses to GBV in humanitarian settings.

Meanwhile, in the Youth Task Force in the Zaatari camp, which UNFPA co-chairs with NRC, the group worked on a youth mapping exercise and contributed to the protection working group's 3Ws. As part of the initiative for better information sharing, referrals and youth participation, the Youth Task Force held another field exchange visit at Save the Children International in the Zaatari camp.

The YPEER Network held its annual retreat in Madaba to plan for the year's activities. Eleven Syrian refugee YPEERs attended the meeting as well.

CHALLENGES

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

The dramatic depreciation of the value of the Syrian Pound is affecting the ability of the people to cope with the increased cost of living. As such, women can be exposed to different risks including gender-based violence.

Limited financial resources are affecting the ability of UNFPA to expand the humanitarian response programmes.

Beneficiaries' access to services is still a challenge in many areas due to the deteriorating security situation, restriction of movement, lack of transportation and border-crossing constraints.

The poor security situation in eastern Ghouta has been the main barrier in preventing the direct communication and coordination process between

UNFPA's implementing partner and Duma clinic. As this clinic is in a besieged area, access was totally unavailable. As a result, staff were forced to use mobile communications to provide the needed help and support.

TURKEY

Economic problems hinder people from reaching or participating in activities.

The poor security situation outside the borders of Turkey has an indirect negative impact on the on-going programme.

Language barriers limit access to some of the services, especially in the field of health.

Lack of funds shut down many of women's empowerment and recreational activities, and affect the sustainability of outreach activities.

There is lots of demand to organise computer and ICT courses, however no computer-equipped room is available to conduct the course.

High turnover of health staff, with minimum support or incentives.

JORDAN

The influx of new refugees at the Azraq camp (between 300-500 a day) has led to a pressing need to scale up services. The average number of beneficiaries at the Azraq hospital and UNFPA supported clinics has steadily increased to around 200-300, compared to 100-150 beneficiaries at the start of the year.

UNFPA's implementing partner IMC is stretching its capacity to the maximum by providing services to new arrivals hosted in Village 5 - the reception and public areas. Similarly the pressure on the ambulances has been doubled due to the increased number of emergencies related to growing numbers in Village 5.

IRAQ

There is a continuing lack of resources to sustain the on-going programmes.

PUBLICATIONS



"More than Numbers" presents an overview of the situation of Syrian women and girls. It provides an introduction to gender-based violence during emergencies, the forms of gender-based violence in Syria and neighbouring countries, the contributing factors and the impact it is having on individuals, families and communities. It includes a list of recommendations and challenges that may help in designing strategies and programmes to better address gender-based violence and influence changes of cultural norms.

http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/unfpa_gbv_take10-may17-single41.pdf

DONORS & PARTNERS

UNFPA IS GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING DONORS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE SYRIA CRISIS:

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IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

IN SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC: Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MOSA), Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE), Syrian Family Planning Association (SFPA), Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC)

IN LEBANON: Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Social Affairs, Lebanese Family Planning Association, Palestinian Red Crescent Society, Humedica, Makhzoumi Foundation, Amel Association, International Medical Corps and Caritas Lebanon, KAFA ("Enough Violence and Exploitation"), Akkarouna, INTERSOS, SHEILD, LOST, Heartland Alliance, Makassed Primary Health Care Centers, Mazloum Hospital and International Organization for Migration (IOM).

IN JORDAN: Ministry of Health (MOH), Institute for Family Health (IFH), International Medical Corps (IMC), Jordanian Health Aid Society (JHAS), Family Protection Department (FPD), Jordanian Women's Union (JWU), Youth Peer Education Network (YPE), NCF (National Council for Family Affairs), Questscope.

IN IRAQ: Ministry of Culture, Sport and Youth (MCSP), Ministry of Labor & Social Affairs (MLSA), AL Massela, START NGO and Harikar.

IN EGYPT: Ministry of Health (MOH), Resala and FARD Foundation.

IN TURKEY: The Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) of the Prime Ministry of Turkey, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), and Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Family and Social Policies (MoFSP), Harran University in Sanliurfa, NGOs including the International Middle East Peace Research Center (IMPR), KAMER, TOG, RET International, HÜKSAM, ASAM, BUHASDER.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Daniel Baker,
UNFPA Syria Regional
Response Advisor
baker@unfpa.org
+962797225829

Ruba Hikmat,
UNFPA Syria Regional
Communications & Media Specialist
hikmat@unfpa.org
+962795096066

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