



The brutal three-year civil war in the Syrian Arab Republic makes the country an epicenter of violent and forced displacement. Every 60 seconds, a Syrian family flees their home under threats of persecution, conflict and violence. The war has led to an estimated 150,000 deaths, 6.5 million displaced persons, 241,000 besieged people in Syria's contested cities and 3 million refugees outside the country, of which 25 per cent are women and girls of reproductive age. A total of 372,000 pregnant women are among the affected populations in Syria, and there are about 50,000 pregnant Syrian refugees.

The surge of displaced peoples in the Arab region soared 335 per cent in the past 10 years. The political, economic and social strain on neighbouring countries is intense. Despite the striking generosity of hosting communities, Syrian refugees are struggling to cope with the current situation, and the influx of Syrian refugees has stretched the resources in the region and raised fears of violence.

Every woman has the right to have access to affordable reproductive healthcare and be protected from gender-based violence. UNFPA and partners are scaling up efforts to achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health (including family planning), promoting reproductive rights, reducing maternal mortality and improving the lives of youths and women by advocating for human rights and gender equality and by promoting the understanding of population dynamics. UNFPA and partners face a complex operational environment and a shortage of funds to implement the programmes called for in the Syrian Humanitarian Assistance Plan (SHARP) and the Regional Response Plan 6 (RRP6).

## Regional activity highlights

- Syrian Arab Republic:** UNFPA provided [reproductive health services](#) to 24,800 women including [emergency obstetric care service](#) for 2,400 women and [safe delivery services](#) for 1,100 women through reproductive health vouchers. UNFPA distributed [hygiene kits](#) to 800 women, [dignity kits](#) to 29,000 people and [reproductive health kits](#) to serve around 450,000 people, 80,000 of whom have received family planning commodities. UNFPA raised the [awareness](#) of 9,500 [internal displaced persons](#) on reproductive health issues. UNFPA delivered psychosocial and psychological first aid services to around [4,750 women, including 440 GBV survivors](#).

- Lebanon:** UNFPA conducted [77 awareness sessions](#) on reproductive health, 151 training sessions on [GBV](#) for 1,700 refugee women in North, South, Mount Lebanon, and Bekaa and organized GBV-related social counseling, psychotherapy, legal consultations and [awareness sessions](#) for 1,450 refugee women. UNFPA distributed [reproductive health kits](#) that are expected to serve [7,645 people](#). UNFPA designed a programme tool to assess the

existing 11 youth friendly spaces and completed a joint report on Syrian and Lebanese youth.

- Jordan:** UNFPA established three women centres and reproductive health clinics in Azraq camp and expanded one clinic in Zaatari camp. UNFPA provided [29,959 women and girls with reproductive health services](#), supported the safe delivery of 174 babies and [sensitized 11,798 refugees](#) on GBV-related issues while providing services to [196 GBV survivors](#). UNFPA facilitated a 15-day youth project on communications and arts media supported by the German Government in Zaatari camp. The International Rescue Committee in partnership with UNFPA [conducted the second satisfaction survey](#) with the involvement of 55 beneficiaries at the women's centres in Zaatari camp.

- Iraq:** UNFPA provided [reproductive health services](#) to [1,238 women](#) and girls, established an athletic field for youth programmes in Domiz camp in Dohuk and established three youth spaces in Basirma, Darashakran and Kawergosk camps in Erbil. A total of 1,000 copies of an advocacy booklet on GBV titled "Echoes of Silence"

were printed. UNFPA organized peer education sessions for 35 youth addressing the issues of family relations, sexual and reproductive health, HIV and AIDS.

- Turkey:** UNFPA completed a GBV pilot programme in Nizip camp and developed a guide on "GBV focused psychosocial first aid intervention with Syrians in Turkey". UNFPA [distributed 535,000 brochures](#) on "the protection of family in Turkey" in Arabic and 527,500 in Turkish to all Syrian refugees inside the camps as well as to host communities and began establishing reproductive health counseling units for Syrian women in urban areas.

UNFPA [distributed 6,000 hygiene kits](#) to women in the Gaziantep camp through the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS).

- Egypt:** UNFPA trained [270 doctors and nurses](#) working in primary health care units in Sharkia where many of the Syrian refugees in Cairo live. In Alexandria UNFPA organized a football tournament as a means of carrying out interactive health promotion sessions for youth.



A story from the field:

## In-time help changes life of a survivor of gender-based violence in Syrian Arab Republic.

Wardeh, a 24 year old mother in war-ravaged Syria is one of the thousands of victims of the conflict and one of the estimated 54,000 Syrian women who are at greater risk of exposure to gender-based violence (GBV), including rape, as a result of the ongoing civil war in Syria.

As a new mother, Wardeh's life should have been one of happiness and contentment. Wardeh, like many other young women whose husbands left their homes to fight in the war, became dependent on her extended family for sustenance. Because of her dependence on her in-laws, Wardeh did not complain when her mother-in-law locked her in the house and forbade her to visit other family members and friends. However, things became worse when her brother-in-law began pressuring her to have sex with him. Her already difficult life turned into a 'living nightmare', as Wardeh recalls now. She wanted to speak out about the sexual harassment but she understood the risks of taking such a step. "My mother-in-law would have turned my life into hell on earth, and would have taken my baby away from me. I simply couldn't bear this," she said.

Then one day she happened to watch a television program that showed a comprehensive centre for women in Al-Shagour neighborhood of Damascus. The description of the services at the centre, including reproductive health, counselling and listening services, encouraged her to visit it as it was close to her home. The visit to Al-Shagour clinic turned her life around, Wardeh believes.

She visited the centre with the complaint of difficulties in breast feeding. However, encouraged by the attitude of the staff at this centre, Wardeh opened up gradually. Later she even mentioned to the staff that "she had thought about committing suicide and putting an end to her miserable life". The centre staff helped her by listening and explaining that how the stress and depression that she was undergoing were affecting her physical and psychological health.

Al-Shagour centre is one of the three centres in Damascus run by a partnership of UNFPA and the Syrian Family Planning Association (SFPA). The clinic provides holistic services and support to survivors of gender-based violence.

Over the next three months, Wardeh continued to receive medical services and psychosocial support, including psychological aid, from the Al-Shagour centre. The staff also helped her by discussing ways for her to keep safe, her potential options, and presenting the consequences of her decisions. At first, Wardeh decided to talk about the harassment to her mother-in-law and husband when he returned. Unfortunately, neither her husband nor mother-in-law were sympathetic towards Wardeh. The centre staff followed up her case step-by-step and counselled her to face the challenges with hope and resilience.

Wardeh feels supported. She is still living with her husband and her baby but is in regular contact with the centre. With the support of the centre, Wardeh has a safety plan and even got enrolled in a free public university to be able to improve her educational qualification and improve her life. "I want a life for myself and my child, a life in which we both are strong and healthy. I know with the university certificate and the support from the centre I can deal with anything and anyone that comes my way", Wardeh said smiling.

### Syrian Arab Republic

9,300,000 Number of people in need  
 372,000 Estimated number of pregnant women  
 2,300,000 Estimated number of women of reproductive age

### Lebanon

1,081,676 Number of people in need  
 19,145 Estimated number of pregnant women  
 270,419 Estimated number of women of reproductive age

### Jordan

596,062 Number of people in need  
 10,550 Estimated number of pregnant women  
 148,337 Estimated number of women of reproductive age

### Iraq

225,409 Number of people in need  
 3,989 Estimated number of pregnant women  
 44,378 Estimated number of women of reproductive age

### Turkey

761,674 Number of people in need  
 13,481 Estimated number of pregnant women  
 250,000 Estimated number of women of reproductive age

### Egypt

137,545 Number of people in need  
 2,434 Estimated number of pregnant women  
 34,358 Estimated number of women of reproductive age