UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

FACTSHEET

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Prevention and Response in Syria

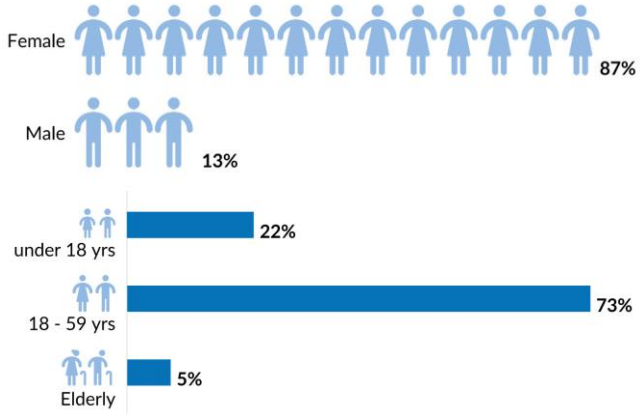
January - December 2022

194,699
people participated in GBV awareness sessions

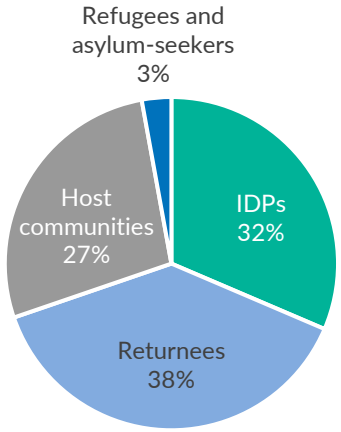
11,924
GBV awareness sessions conducted

8,118
GBV survivors received safe and survivor-centred GBV response services

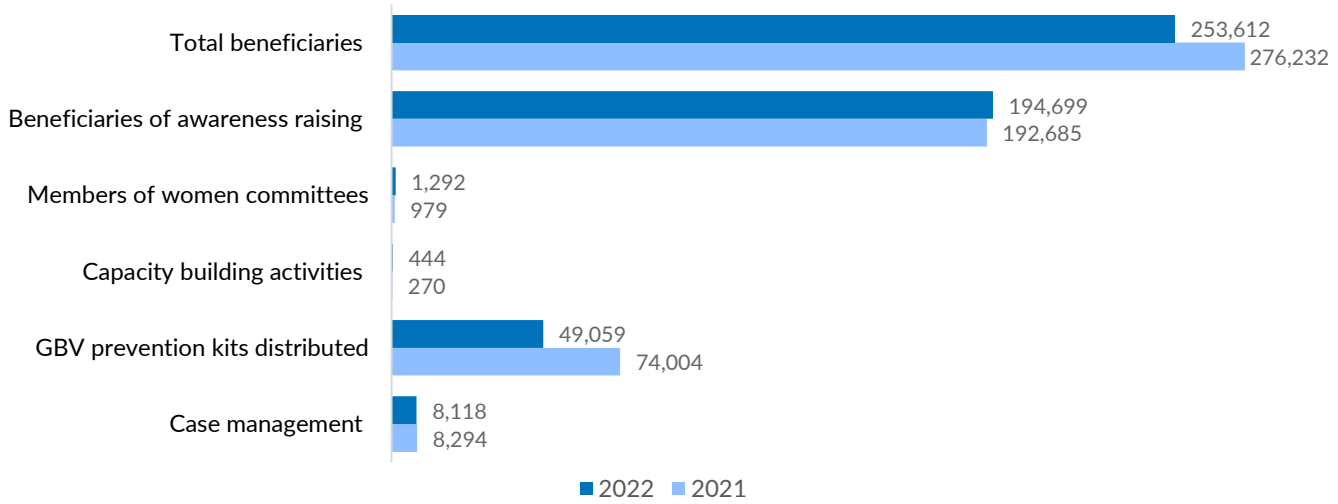
194,699 people reached with GBV prevention and response services



Population groups
benefitting from services



14 Governorates | 127 Community Centres | 117 Committees



Case management

UNHCR's survivor-centred approach to GBV case management seeks to empower the survivor by prioritizing the survivor's rights, needs and wishes. This is done through ensuring that survivors have access to appropriate, accessible and quality support services including health care, psychological and social support, and legal services. In line with the guiding principles on protection and applying the survivor-centred approach, UNHCR and its partners tailor each service to the needs of each survivor based on their wishes.

By the end of 2022, UNHCR and its partners had identified and supported **8,118** survivors of GBV through survivor-centred and multi-sectoral case management services.

Community engagement

Women's committees comprising women of all ages and backgrounds play a central role in GBV awareness-raising and community mobilisation. Women's committees were created to strengthen the role of women in decision-making within their communities.

Women's committees focus on the promotion of gender equality, sensitization through awareness-raising in GBV prevention and response, women's legal rights and available services. The committees also coordinate with UNHCR to assist vulnerable women to find work. During 2022, UNHCR supported **117** women's committees (**1,292** women) spread across the different governorates.

Men engagement in GBV prevention, risk mitigation and response continued during 2022 through two men committees. They worked on enhancing the role of men in preventing and responding to GBV as well as in challenging deep-seated cultural norms and power structures. In 2022, UNHCR introduced capacity building activities on Engaging Men in Accountable Practices (EMAP) to partners. The activities aimed to prepare **82 male facilitators** to implement EMAP on a larger scale.

Awareness-raising

Awareness-raising is a fundamental component of UNHCR's GBV prevention strategy. It enhances gender equality and gender inclusion; challenges preconceived ideas, attitudes, behaviours and beliefs that propagate GBV among communities; prevents women and men from becoming survivors or perpetrators of GBV; and informs communities and especially survivors of GBV about the available services.

Awareness-raising fosters communication and information exchange to improve mutual understanding of GBV and the related harms within the communities as well as mobilizes communities to bring the necessary change in attitudes and behaviour. UNHCR and its partners are working on a curriculum-based methodology for awareness-raising activities that will be implemented nationwide and will facilitate impact measurement on behavioural change.

During 2022, UNHCR and its partners conducted **11,942** awareness raising sessions, reaching **194,699** people, on various types of GBV issues, such as child marriage, sexual harassment, intimate partner and domestic violence, women's and girls' rights, as well as on available services, including legal, health and psychosocial services. In addition, UNHCR distributed **49,059** risk reduction kits including hygiene materials and other items that enhanced the

dignity of the beneficiaries and provided them with essential items necessary for their safety and personal hygiene.

Capacity-building

In 2022, UNHCR trained 444 (295 in the fourth quarter) partner staff, government staff and community members on GBV through different capacity-building activities. These included trainings on life skills and specific topics, such as GBV case management, basics of GBV prevention and response, and EMAP. These trainings equipped partner staff with adequate skills and knowledge on GBV prevention and response and sensitized communities on combating GBV.

Women and children participated in an art exhibition in Aleppo organized during the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence. ©UNHCR/H.Maarouf.