



Winter storm hits the region: Syrian women, girls and boys run for safe shelter during a winter storm in Syrian Arab Republic. Credit: UNFPA 2013.

## HIGHLIGHTS

**SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC:** In cooperation with implementing partners, UNFPA completes five operational research projects on: the implications of the crisis on reproductive health professionals; an assessment of the quality of emergency obstetric care (EmOC) at UNFPA-assisted facilities; an assessment of the services provided by UNFPA-assisted mobile teams; the lessons learned in the use of reproductive health vouchers; and an assessment of the quality of psychosocial support services (PSS) and psychological first aid (PFA) training sessions.

**LEBANON:** UNFPA distributes 90,000 reproductive health pamphlets covering such topics as family planning, reproductive tract infections, nutrition during pregnancy, gender-based violence, and postpartum depression. UNFPA equips four youth friendly spaces and reaches around 10,000 Syrian youth and Palestinian refugees from Syria to promote healthier and more active youth.

**JORDAN:** UNFPA establishes a fourth UNFPA comprehensive women's centre and safe space in district 8 in the Zaatari refugee site and sets up a new reproductive health clinic in Emirates Jordan Camp.

**IRAQ:** UNFPA equips three new women's spaces in Kawargoesk, Darashakran and Basirma camps in Erbil to provide psychosocial support services and social activities for Syrian refugees.

**TURKEY:** UNFPA distributes 55,000 hygiene kits to all 21 camps in 10 provinces, hands over three ambulances to the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) and establishes a women's space in Nizip1 camp.

**EGYPT:** UNFPA equips 46 primary health care units in Cairo and Giza with reproductive health-related medical equipment and trains 62 physicians and nurses on patients' rights and family planning.

## HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

The human cost of Syria's civil war, now in its third year, continues to rise. According to the United Nations, Syria now has the world's largest humanitarian crisis. The estimated number of Syrian refugees, now over two million and expected to reach four million by the end of 2014. Around 25 per cent of total number of Syrian refugees is women and girls of reproductive age, of which around 50,000 are pregnant and 21,000 are new born babies to mothers seek refuge to countries neighboring Syria. The majority are having economical and emotional problem and placing a strain on communities, infrastructure and services in host countries. Inside Syria, the number of people in need and displaced are increasing rapidly. More than 9.3 million are directly affected by Syria crisis, of which 6.5 million people are internally displaced and 2.3 are women and girls of reproductive age; the majority are beyond the reach of humanitarian aid.

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.

### SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

During the reporting period, several incidents of armed conflict took place in different areas of Damascus, Rural Damascus (especially Adraa and Maalola), Aleppo, and Deir Ez-zor, resulting in increasing numbers of deaths, casualties, and affected people including the numbers of internally displaced people and of people seeking refuge outside the country. This coupled with severe weather conditions raised ever-growing concerns regarding the access to basic services, including safe delivery for Syrian women.

### LEBANON

As of 15 December, the total number of Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR is 797,405 and 54,510 refugees are awaiting registration, with an average of 50,000 persons being registered each month. The total number of refugees arriving in Aarsal in the Bekaa since the influx started on 15 November reached 20,000 Syrian refugees as of 15 December, with a slower arrival rate of 10-15 families per day more recently. This brings the total number of Syrian refugees living in Bekaa - which is considered the most affected area in Lebanon - to 277,759 registered refugees.

Around 90 per cent of the new arrivals in Aarsal are facing harsh winter weather conditions as most had to flee with no possessions; they are in need of all basic requirements, including reproductive health services.

The security situation continues to be tense in some areas where there is a large Syrian refugee presence, such as Tripoli in the North. Sporadic shelling from the Syrian border side into Lebanese territory continues to be reported. The deteriorating security conditions are affecting the humanitarian operations, including UNFPA, as staff were compelled to cancel field missions.

## JORDAN

A total of 16,543 Syrian refugees arrived in Jordan during the reporting period, bringing the total number of Syrian refugees registered in Jordan to 569,003, of which 52 per cent are female, 7 per cent are girls between the ages of 12 and 17 and 24 per cent are women between the ages of 18-58.

## IRAQ

The total number of Syrian refugees in Iraq is 210,612; almost 97 per cent are concentrated in the three governorates in the northern part of Iraq, Duhok, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah. UNFPA expanded its gender-based violence services in Erbil both in the new camps, at Kawarqes, Darashakran and Basirah, as well as in the non-camp settings at Kasnazan, Rajan and Bahraman centres.

## TURKEY

According to the Prime Ministry's Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD), the total number of registered Syrian refugees inside camps reached 208,033 distributed in 15 camp sites in Hatay, Sanliurfa, Gaziantep, Kahramanmaraş, Osmaniye, Mardin, Adana, and Adiyaman provinces, and 6 container sites in Hatay, Malatya, Sanliurfa, Gaziantep and Kilis. During the reporting period, 173 Syrian refugees have been admitted to regional hospitals along with their 11 companions. Moreover, there are an estimated 500,000 Syrians living outside of camps in cities in the south-eastern region and in the major cities in Turkey.

According to AFAD, almost 1.9 million services have been provided since the beginning of the crisis in 2011, with an average of 5,276 services per day: around 41,000 Syrian refugees have been hospitalized, 32,000 surgeries have been provided and 7,268 Syrian children have been born in Turkey.

## EGYPT

There are 131,116 Syrian refugees in Egypt, of which 48.8 per cent are female.

## AT A GLANCE:

### In Syria Arab Republic

**9.3 MILLION** PEOPLE AFFECTED  
**2.3 MILLION** WOMEN AND GIRLS OF REPRODUCTIVE (CHILD-BEARING) AGE  
**164,610** PREGNANT WOMEN

### In Jordan

**569,003** REFUGEES  
**142,705** WOMEN AND GIRLS OF REPRODUCTIVE (CHILD-BEARING) AGE  
**10,071** PREGNANT WOMEN

### In Turkey

**708,033** REFUGEES  
**177,008** WOMEN AND GIRLS OF REPRODUCTIVE (CHILD-BEARING) AGE  
**12,532** PREGNANT WOMEN

### In Lebanon

**851,915** REFUGEES  
**186,114** WOMEN AND GIRLS OF REPRODUCTIVE (CHILD-BEARING) AGE  
**15,078** PREGNANT WOMEN

### In Iraq

**AROUND 210,612** REFUGEES  
**35,846** WOMEN AND GIRLS OF REPRODUCTIVE (CHILD-BEARING) AGE  
**3,727** PREGNANT WOMEN

### In Egypt

**131,116** REFUGEES  
**32,846** WOMEN AND GIRLS OF REPRODUCTIVE (CHILD-BEARING) AGE  
**2,320** PREGNANT WOMEN

SOURCE:  
AFAD, UNHCR AND UNFPA, NOV 2013

## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE (1 - 31 DECEMBER 2013)

### SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, INCLUDING FAMILY PLANNING

#### SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

**Assessing the effectiveness, efficiency and quality of humanitarian response:** In December, UNFPA completed, in cooperation with implementing partners, operational research projects on: the implications of the crisis on reproductive health professionals; an assessment of the quality of emergency obstetric care (EmOC) at UNFPA-assisted facilities; an assessment of the services of UNFPA-assisted mobile teams; the lessons learned on the use of reproductive health vouchers; and an assessment of the quality of psychosocial support services (PSS) and psychological first aid (PFA) training sessions.

**Reproductive health voucher programme:** Throughout 2013, UNFPA continued to focus on promoting its reproductive health voucher programme as a means of overcoming some of the barriers of access to reproductive health services by women. The outcome of interviews with key partners delivering hospital-based reproductive health care, which was conducted as part of an independent operational study, revealed that the deterioration in family incomes, price increases and the depreciation of the Syrian currency had forced women and their families to seek free-of-charge care. As such, UNFPA has a three-pronged approach: to improve public health facilities already providing free-of-charge care for normal deliveries, to provide vouchers for emergency obstetric and other surgical interventions for families with limited incomes, and to provide services through a select number of hospitals (public and private) in hard to reach areas such as Al-Waer in Homs.

**UNFPA supported 14,200 women in accessing mobile and static clinics around the country** through the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Higher Education, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and the Syria Family Planning Association, in addition to private sector hospitals for emergency obstetric care, including normal and Caesarean-section deliveries for around **1,250 women through its reproductive health vouchers**. This support included access to reproductive health information to around 5,000 affected people with special focus on internally displaced persons in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs, Idlib, Tartus and Deraa.

**Reproductive health supplies and training:** During the reporting period, UNFPA delivered reproductive health commodities to Khan Shaykhun town in Idlib governorate, **increasing the availability of reproductive health services to 50,000 of the affected people, including 2,000 pregnant women.** In parallel, UNFPA continued the series of orientation sessions for 50 service providers on the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for reproductive health in emergencies.

## LEBANON

**Provision of reproductive health supplies:** UNFPA delivered three kinds of reproductive health kits to health facilities offering primary health care services to refugees that are not part of the Ministry of Public Health Network: five medical centres supported by the International Medical Corps in the North, a Premiere Urgence mobile medical unit in Mount Lebanon, a Lebanese Family Planning Association centre in Bekaa and five Amel medical centres in Bekaa, Beirut and South.

**UNFPA provided contraceptive supplies and sexually transmitted infections kits** to the International Medical Corps and to Amel-supported mobile medical units that have been set up in Aarsal in response to the current influx of refugees.

UNFPA replaced the expired rape treatment kits with new kits in Saida government Hospital (Tyre), Haykal Hospital (Tripoli), HNDP (Kobayat) and Machha primary health care centre (Machha), and provided a rape treatment kit to the UNHCR office in Mount Lebanon to be used as a stopgap measure until centres in Mount Lebanon can receive training on treatment of rape cases.

**Provision of reproductive information materials:** During the reporting period, **UNFPA distributed 90,000 reproductive health pamphlets** covering such topics as family planning, reproductive tract infections, nutrition during pregnancy, gender-based violence, and postpartum depression through health outreach activities and awareness sessions organized by UNFPA partners such as the International Medical Corps, Premier Urgence, the Lebanese Family Planning Association, Save the Children and Amel Association.

## JORDAN

**Opening of the fourth UNFPA comprehensive women's centre in Zaatari camp:** On 10 December UNFPA inaugurated the fourth comprehensive women's centre and safe space in district eight in Zaatari camp. The centre offers reproductive health services and gender-based violence prevention and response services for women, girls, men and boys in Zaatari camp and will be run by both the Jordan Health Aid Society (JHAS) and International Red Crescent. During the opening event, various activities were conducted with the participation of hundreds of Syrian refugees, such as games, flying kites, drawing activities and gender-based violence awareness sessions in addition to medical screening services for hypertension, diabetes and breast cancer as well as instruction on breast self-examination to women who attended the clinic during the event.

**Reproductive health services:** A total of 3,654 women and girls received reproductive health services in UNFPA-supported units at the JHAS-UNFPA site in Zaatari camp, Mafraq, Ramtha, Irbid, and Amman, of which around 7.3 per cent of these services were offered to girls under the age of 18 years; around 101 women and girls have participated in awareness sessions on family planning. At Aman Society-UNFPA sites in Amman, the Jordan Valley, and the southern governorates a total of 1,171 women and girls received gynecology and obstetrics consultations and ante-natal and post-natal care consultations.

Moreover, the society sensitized 121 women in Amman on reproductive health issues including on the efficacy, safety, and advantages of IUDs and menopausal hormone therapy.

**Supporting the safe delivery of new babies:** During the reporting period, a total of **76 babies were born at the Zaatari clinic at JHAS-UNFPA site, and 102 complicated cases were referred** due to the severe weather conditions and the power cuts in Zaatari camp to the Mafraq Badee, Moroccan and Al Bashir hospitals.

**Establishment of new clinic:** UNFPA through the Institute for Family Health has opened a new clinic in the Emirates Jordan Camp and recruited a female doctor and midwife.



UNFPA Assistant Representative Ms. Muna Idris addressing the audience at the opening of the Women Comprehensive Centre in site 4 in Zaatari, in Jordan. Credit: UNFPA 2013.

## IRAQ

**Reproductive health services:** UNFPA provided reproductive health services to 329 Syrian women in the UNFPA reproductive health clinic in Domiz camp: 131 cases visited the clinic for the first time and 120 received post-natal services. The clinic also distributed information materials in Arabic covering issues related to women's health in general and on reproductive health.

**Reproductive health supplies:** UNFPA handed over a temporary reproductive health facility in Gawelan to the Directorate of Health in Erbil and distributed a new batch of reproductive health kits to the camps at Kawarogesk and Dara Shukran.



UNFPA equips the new health facility in Gawelan camp in Iraq. Credit: UNFPA, 2013.

**Supporting human resources:** UNFPA is supporting the Directorates of Health in Suleimaniyah and Erbil to provide reproductive health services including antenatal, postnatal and family planning services through the recruitment of a mid-wife and gynecologist in Erbil and two gynecologists and two midwives in Suleimaniyah.



## TURKEY

**Reproductive health supplies:** UNFPA has distributed 55,000 hygiene kits to all 21 camps in 10 provinces. The distribution process of the kits was planned in collaboration with the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD), based on the camp populations and AFAD guidance, while the distribution process itself was monitored by the UNFPA field staff.

**UNFPA delivered three ambulances to AFAD as a vital link in supporting medical emergency care inside the camps.**

**Reproductive health training:** UNFPA organized Minimum Initial Service Package echo training on 11-13 December for 35 key managers and service providers working for AFAD, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Family and Social Policies, the Metropolitan Municipality and Harran University in Sanliurfa.



Participants during a meeting organised by UNFPA in Turkey. Credit: UNFPA, 2013.

## EGYPT

**Reproductive health training course:** UNFPA conducted a training course for 26 physicians working in primary health care units, family planning centres and women's health centres serving Syrian refugees in Cairo and Giza. The training took place in the maternal and child health sector's training centre at the Ministry of Health. The main objective of the training was to discuss patients' rights, refugee rights and family planning. The training was a great opportunity to receive feedback on the challenges the Syrian refugees are facing when they seek medical advice.

On 2 December, a training course took a place in the maternal and child health sector's training centre at the Ministry of Health targeting 36 nurses working for primary health care units, family planning centres and women's health centres. The training discussed patients' rights, refugee rights, family planning, counseling and challenges the Syrian refugees are facing in Cairo and Giza.

**Procurement of medical equipment for 46 primary health care units:** UNFPA, upon the request of Ministry of Health and based on the needs assessment of 46 primary health care units where the majority of Syrian refugees are concentrated, has procured six ultrasounds, 46 sonicates, 26 autoclaves for sterilization, 20 delivery kits for midwives to satisfy the needs of both the Syrian refugees and the host community.



UNFPA organising a training course for nurses and health workers in Cairo in Egypt. Credit: UNFPA, 2013. Credit: UNFPA, 2013.

## GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

### SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

**Gender-based violence services:** UNFPA continues to provide counseling, psychosocial support services (PSS) and psychological first aid (PFA) and clinical case management through its partners in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Idlib and Homs. During the reporting period, over 4,800 women in these areas benefited from the mobile and fixed clinic services.

**Gender-based violence training:** UNFPA supported capacity building of 20 professionals from the Ministry of Health on psychosocial support services (PSS).

UNFPA supported the capacity building of 25 midwives who completed refresher training on emergency obstetric care and 25 reproductive health professionals who completed an orientation session on the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP).

### LEBANON

**Distribution of informational materials on gender-based violence:** UNFPA distributed 2,500 leaflets and 10,000 community brochures on the gender-based violence referral pathway, and 10 dissemination workshops about these materials were organized for approximately 200 refugee outreach volunteers and social workers. The workshops were organized in collaboration with UNHCR and the Ministry of Social Affairs.

**Gender-based violence training:** Two follow-up meetings with nine social workers from North, Bekaa and South were organized by the American University of Beirut to brief them on the empowerment sessions they will conduct with Syrian and Lebanese women on problem-solving skills.

**UNFPA partnership:** UNFPA partnered with four NGOs (Amel, the International Medical Corps, Intersos, and Makhzoumi Foundation) for the distribution of 19,000 sanitary packs and 6,240 baby diapers. In agreement with partners, priority is being given to the new arrivals in Aarsal area as well as to women refugees who attend awareness activities through those NGOs.

### The 16 Days of Activism to Eliminate Violence Against Women:

During the annual global 16 days campaign to eliminate violence against women, from 25 November to 10 December, the gender-based violence task force members organized more than 50 events across the country. These included activities such as cinema and video shows, discussions on gender-based violence by students, photo exhibitions, community dance shows, awareness sessions on domestic violence, and legal counseling on the family law. Target groups included Lebanese, Syrians and Palestinians of all ages.

## JORDAN

**The 16 Days of activism against gender-based violence:** UNFPA, together with UN Women and the International Red Crescent launched the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence campaign including the launch of an animation video on early marriage that has been developed by the seven young Syrian girls with the support of UNFPA.

**Gender-based violence services:** More than **2,205 gender-based violence prevention and response services** were offered to women and girls in Zaatari camp, Ma'an and Zarqa through UNFPA partners, including reproductive health group and individual counseling, recreational psychosocial activities, gender-based violence awareness-raising activities and reproductive health awareness-raising activities.

**Outreach community activities:** A total of **6,262 home-to-home visits** were conducted in Zaatari camp during the reporting period by 24 outreach community volunteers (12 men and 12 women) and other workers from the International Red Crescent.

**National standard operating procedures rollout:** During the reporting period, a total of **281 persons (157 women, 124 men)** have been trained on the national standard operating procedures (SOPs) on gender-based violence since the start of November, and 21 staff from the national authorities and key partners have participated in a three-day training of trainers on the SOPs, including, for example, information on how to identify and refer cases of gender-based violence, case reporting, and how to address issues such as violence in school.



Mr. Ahmad Hindawi, the United Nations Secretary General's Envoy on Youth with Syrian girls in the UNFPA women's comprehensive centre in Zaatari camp in Jordan. Credit: UNFPA, 2013.

## IRAQ

**Gender-based violence services:** During the reporting period, UNFPA equipped three women's spaces in Kawaragoesk, Darashakran and Basirma camps in Erbil to provide psychosocial support services and social activities for Syrian refugees. In the two weeks' time since the centres opened on 16 December, around 35 Syrian women have benefited from the listening, counseling, and referral services: 12 domestic violence cases in Darashakran, 11 cases in Kawaragoesk and 2 cases in Basirma, and 5 cases were referred for further support to Un Ponte Per and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) in Darashakran and Barsima camps, respectively. The women's space in Domiz camp in Dohuk continues to provide support to the Syrian refugees through the provision of basic support and referral services; during the reporting period a total of eight women received counseling sessions and eleven have been followed up.

The new women's spaces in Erbil camps have started offering social and recreational activities to women and girls inside the camps; these sessions are considered an entry point to raise awareness on different issues related to gender-based violence, such as delivering information and open discussion on early marriage and domestic violence among women within the refugee community. During the reporting period, 29 women benefited from various recreational activities in Kawaragoesk camp, 60 girls and 30 women benefited from various recreational activities in the women's space in Darashakran camp while in Dohuk, 105 women and girls benefited from courses such as sewing, knitting, make-up and English courses in Domiz camp.



The new women's spaces in Erbil camps have started offering social and recreational activities to women and girls inside the camps in Iraq. Credit: UNFPA, 2013.

**A joint report on gender-based violence has been developed** based on findings obtained from eight focus group discussions conducted on gender-based violence among women, men, boys and girls in Kawaragoesk and Darashakran camps in Erbil. The report showed different levels of concern regarding each category assessed. The report recommended list of outreach and advocacy activities to be carried out in Erbil camps, such as to raise the awareness about the available services in each camp, to conduct awareness sessions on early marriage (which has seen an increase in the camps), and to advocate for better safety and better privacy for women and girls in the camps.

**Gender-based violence outreach volunteers:** UNFPA and its partner have identified **60 outreach volunteers** in the camps of Kawaragoesk, Darashakran and Basirma (20 per camp) in Erbil and built their capacities through three-day training courses on gender-based violence core concepts and on mapping outreach activities. The volunteers will be responsible for awareness raising and community mobilization for use of women's space services and other related activities in the camps.

In December, a total of **1,405 families in tents have been reached with various gender-based violence messages** by the volunteers: Kawaragoesk (420), Darashakran (150), Basirma (720), Domiz (115) and also in the non-camp settings in Kasnazan, Rajan and Bahrama.

**As part of 16 days of activism to end gender-based violence, two live paintings and performances were organized** on 25 November in Kawaragoesk camp and on 4 December in Domiz camp, aiming to raise awareness on gender-based violence and early marriage within the refugee community targeting both men and women. One formal awareness session on violence against women was provided at the women's space for 26 women (16 to 45 years old) in Domiz camp.



**Winterization campaign:** UNFPA distributed dignity kits in Domiz, Basirma, Dara Shakran and Kawergosk aiming to protect pregnant women from the harsh winter.

**Gender-based violence supportive materials:** UNFPA has developed 1,000 posters and distributed as part of an awareness raising campaign on women's space services and distributed 1,500 visiting cards, which includes help line numbers for the women spaces, to families in the camp.



UNFPA distributing winterization-dignity kits for Syrian pregnant women in Iraq. Credit: UNFPA, 2013.



UNFPA distributing reproductive health kits in Dara Shukran and Kawergosek camps, Iraq. Credit: UNFPA, 2013

## TURKEY

UNFPA has established a women's space in Nizip-1 camp aiming to scale up the gender-based violence interventions inside camp, though organization activities for Syrian women living in the camp.

UNFPA organized a five-day training course on 2-6 December for around 30 provincial social service providers and managers to improve their capacities and the effectiveness of the psychosocial interventions for trauma survivors among Syrian refugees living in camps and host communities.



Participants during a meeting organised by UNFPA in Ankara, Turkey. Credit: UNFPA, 2013.

## SUPPORTING ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH

### SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

UNFPA supported awareness-raising sessions of 54 "Y-Peers" (youth outreach volunteers) residing in Damascus, Aleppo and Deir Ez-zor on reproductive health and gender-based violence with a focus on mitigating the negative influence of the crisis on boys and girls.

### LEBANON

**Joint youth assessment:** The process of the quantitative and qualitative data collection of the assessment has been accomplished. A total of 985 Syrian youth refugees affected by the crisis have participated in the survey questionnaire, approximately 218 Lebanese and Syrian youth through the focus group discussions and 53 gatekeepers (parents, NGOs, municipalities, etc.) via the in-depth interview. The data is being analysed and the first draft of the report is expected in the first week of January 2014.

Interventions targeting youth affected by Syrian crisis for healthier and more active youth included open days and educational sessions using interactive techniques conducted by the six participating NGOs. A total of 7,670 youth have been reached so far. T-shirts and caps with the "Youth are up to it" slogan were distributed in addition to a booklet tackling reproductive health issues and life skills.

A puppet theatre play addressing reproductive health issues, "Zeina Loses All", was developed and performances took place in the various Lebanese regions, reaching approximately 3,000 youth and adults.



Right: A puppet theatre play addressing reproductive health issues, took place in the various Lebanese regions, reaching approximately 3,000 youth and adults. Left: "Zeina Loses All" poster. Credit: UNFPA, 2013.

Four youth-friendly spaces were equipped and hosted by four NGOs namely DPNA, Makassed, Reebat and Dari.

A series of field visits were conducted to the various NGOs and Social Development Centers that benefited from the grants to conduct outreach activities for Syrian refugees youth as well as Lebanese youth in host communities. The purpose of the visits was to monitor the quality and progress of the work undertaken by the trained peer educators supported by the peer educators' focal points.

Under the school component of the IDRAAC project, teachers trained as mediators of behaviour change and resilience are intervening in 19 schools and reaching 2,520 students (1,791 intervention students, 729 control students). During December, 595 sessions were conducted at the schools by 32 teachers. In addition, under the better parenting component, to date around 212 women have been recruited and are benefiting from the parenting sessions. Furthermore, the data entry and analysis for the impact assessment of the various project components, namely gender-based violence, schools' resilience building and parenting skills, has started.

## JORDAN

**Youth activities:** During the reporting period, a total of 294 youth benefitted from the youth recreational psychosocial activities in Zaatari camp and from the edutainment activities in youth spaces around Jordan. Around 35 youth (15 Syrian boys and 20 Syrian girls) participated in two separated Y-Peer activities, where both groups have decorated large caravans in the new UNFPA site #4 in Zaatari district 8 with graffiti art. This event is part of a Y-peer annual campaign "10 Days of Activism" under the theme of "The World We All Want".



The 16 days of activism: "The World We All Want". Graffiti produced by the Y-Peer Syrian girls during the 10 days of activism on 10 December in Zaatari camp UNFPA Comprehensive Centre in Jordan. Credit: UNFPA, 2013.

## IRAQ

The UNFPA youth space centre organized training courses for Y-Peers in Domiz camp in Dohuk as well as Kawaroesk, Darashakran and Pasirma camps in Erbil, aiming to strengthen their capacities on communication and peer-education skills.

During the reporting period, 137 Syrian youth (93 females and 44 males) have benefited from the ongoing activities such as Kurdish language courses, drawing and music conducted at the Serdem Youth Centres in Domiz camp.

In an attempt to train social and psychosocial researchers on strengthening the psychosocial rehabilitation, education, healing and vocational services inside reformatories in Iraq, a five day training was organized for 20 social and psychosocial researchers from Erbil, Sulaimaniyah and Duhok. The training covered screening risky behaviors through motivational interviewing and strengthening justice and protection for the juveniles and youth at risk. Another five-day training course on life skills was delivered to 20 young people (15-24 years old) covering the issues of gender-based violence, anger control, addiction, HIV and STDs.



Syrian youths participating in the Y-Peer training course organized by UNFPA in Dara Shukran camp in Iraq. Credit: UNFPA, 2013.

The 16th days of activism, Syrian refugees during the live painting performance in Kawergosek camp in Iraq. Credit: UNFPA, 2013.

## COORDINATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

### SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

UNFPA participated in the regional forum on gender-based violence held in Morocco on 28-29 November 2013.

UNFPA participated in the workshop on "Addressing reproductive health needs including violence against women in Syria" in Beirut on 4-5 December; and "Mental health services during crisis" in Damascus on 8-10 December.

UNFPA participated in the ongoing inter-agency coordination with government, NGOs and other development agencies as well as the thematic discussions on reproductive health and protection in the finalization of the 2014 Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP).

UNFPA also continues to participate in United Nations group meetings on health; protection and NFI/logistics in support of better assessment of needs follow up on convoys to the affected areas and to avoid any overlap in the response to health and gender-based violence needs, which are UNFPA's main areas of concern.

## JORDAN

As the lead agency, along with UNICEF and UN Women, to offer reproductive health services for gender-based violence survivors, UNFPA chaired the bi-monthly reproductive health coordination meetings in Zaatari camp, the monthly reproductive health coordination meeting and co-chaired the weekly gender-based violence coordination meeting in Amman. As the lead agency to offer reproductive health services to gender-based violence survivors, UNFPA organized the first technical meeting with all concerned agencies on 18 December to discuss the progress of the one-year project funded by Norwegian government and the way forward. The reporting templates and meeting mechanisms have been agreed upon while the next step will be to agree on a visibility policy for the project.

## LEBANON

UNFPA, UNICEF, ABAAD, UNHCR, the International Red Crescent, International Medical Corps and members of the gender-based violence working group had a special meeting on 3 December to discuss the current challenges in the implementation of clinical management of rape trainings and to coordinate actions in 2014. It was agreed that rapid assessments of health facilities will be conducted prior to the provision of rape treatment. Partners provided comments to a draft assessment tool.

At a meeting with the Primary Health Care Department at the Ministry of Public Health on 4 December the Ministry suggested making available reproductive health pharmaceuticals including reproductive health supplements as well as contraceptive methods through the Ministry's primary health care network and to other centres that are offering primary health care services to refugees and are not part of Ministry of Public Health network. It was agreed that UNFPA would send an official letter to Ministry of Public Health to address development of a national clinical management of rape protocol.

The three months trial period of September to November for sharing data on gender-based violence cases ended, and the first national data on gender-based violence for the period was ready in December. Based on the data from nine data gathering organizations, the following trends were noticed: 58 per cent of the survivors of the cases reported were women, 27 per cent were girls, 7.2 per cent were boys, and 6.8 per cent men. Of the types of gender-based violence, 40 per cent were rape cases, 21 per cent were psychological and emotional abuse, and 12.5 per cent were sexual assault. Both rape and forced marriages constituted 9 per cent each of the reported cases, and 8.5 per cent were denial of resources, opportunities and services. Of the forced marriage cases 78 per cent were child marriages.

UNICEF, UNHCR and UNFPA, on behalf of the gender-based violence task force, and in collaboration with the Resident Coordinator's office, submitted a report on conflict related sexual violence in Lebanon to the Secretary General's annual report to the Security Council. The report included information about sexual violence experienced in Syria by refugees, sexual violence perpetrated in Lebanon, services provided, and initiatives and commitments to prevent and respond to the violence.

## IRAQ

UNFPA discussed with the Ministry of Health and the Departments of Health in Duhok, Erbil and Suleimaniyah the projected needs for reproductive health kits for 2014. UNFPA has discussed also with the Directorate of Health in Dohuk the future collaboration with Premier Urgence and the needs in terms of equipment and supplies.

In December, UNFPA attended and co-chaired a gender-based violence coordination meeting, a protection meeting, a gender-based violence information management system meeting in Erbil, three protection meetings in Kawaroesk and Darashakran camps, and a meeting on early marriage at Dohuk.

## TURKEY

UNFPA participated in a United Nations Country Team meeting organized on the 6 December which has been organized during the visit of president of Turkey Mr. Abdullah Gul to Kilis Elbeyli camp. UNHCR on behalf of United Nations agencies thanked the Government of Turkey for their support and stressed the importance of maintaining open borders to Syrian refugees and on the need for visa lifting or visa liberalization for Syrians, in particular in cases of family reunification.

## EGYPT

On 15 December, UNFPA participated in the health group meeting working in primary health care units aiming to analyse the results of the national November polio campaign and to identify the areas where Syrian families are mainly concentrated. Moreover, the group discussed the progress of activities at primary health care centres and the quality of health services provided for Syrians and Egyptians in Masaken Othman health centre, Six October district.

## CHALLENGES IN SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

### Challenges in Syrian Arab Republic

Access to reproduction health and gender-based violence services continue to be of a high concern to UNFPA and its implementing partners (IPs);

During the reporting period and for the last several months there has been a noticeably increasing trend in gender-based violence reports from partners. This includes alleged reports of sexual violence including from armed groups party to the conflict. Survivors of gender-based violence have been reluctant to speak out previously for fear of stigma. From information collected from NGO partners in the field, including the Syria Family Planning Associate and Syrian Arab Red Crescent, survivors of gender-based violence have come to recognize that political violence and unrest are not excuses for the perpetration of gender-based violence, especially violence against women. This has been matched by feedback from health and social service providers who have also recognized the importance of increasing their skills and knowledge in gender-based violence case management that meets the growing needs and complexity of cases presenting to UNFPA supported facilities.

### Challenges in Lebanon:

- Access to unregistered Syrians who have been detained remains a challenge and problematic.
- Refugees have expanded to new areas, requiring new interventions to target those areas.
- There is a highly fragile situation with intensified hostility in the North, Bekaa and the South affecting programme delivery and staff movement.

## Funding updates

UNFPA received GBP 3 million from the United Kingdom's Department for International Development in support of the gender-based violence response programme in the Syrian Arab Republic. UNFPA received a grant of C\$1 million from the Government of Canada to combat gender-based violence in the Syrian Arab Republic, Lebanon and Jordan.

## DONORS

UNFPA is grateful for the support of the following donors in the Syria crisis:

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