



UNFPA youth peer education network organized an event for Syrian families, where they have been approached with reproductive health awareness messages, including family planning, child marriage and HIV. Damietta, Egypt. Credit: UNFPA, 2013.

HIGHLIGHTS

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC: UNFPA expands its voucher delivery system to cover eight private maternal hospitals in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Tartus, Homs, Sweida and Aleppo.

LEBANON: UNFPA distributes around 2,000 leaflets for front-line workers and 10,000 brochures for communities during 10 workshops on gender-based violence referral pathways, including referral to case management organizations.

JORDAN: UNFPA provides gender-based violence prevention and response services to 1685 beneficiaries in Zaatari camp and 1,074 in Ma'an and Zarqa.

IRAQ: UNFPA expands its gender-based violence interventions in non-camp settings in Erbil, using existing structures in Khaznazan, Mamostayan and Nawroz localities, and starts providing reproductive health and gender-based violence services to Syrian women in Kawaragoesk and Darashakran camps.

TURKEY: UNFPA conducts regional training course on Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for 23 professionals working in the humanitarian field.

EGYPT: UNFPA conducts assessment mission to Msaken Othman compound in Giza and trains 142 Syrian women and girls on gender-based violence.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

As the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic is now well into its third year, around 9.3 million people are reported to be directly affected by the crisis, more than 5 million Syrians have been internally displaced, and over 2.2 million refugees have poured into neighbouring countries, of which more than 500,000 are women and girls of reproductive age and 41,000 are pregnant. The United Nations expects another 2.25 million more to be displaced within the Syrian Arab Republic and an additional 2 million Syrians to become refugees in 2014.

Women and girls of reproductive age often bear the brunt of the suffering: their families are being torn apart; they are traumatised by what they have seen; they feel alienated and out of place living in refugee camps or host communities; and many are working to support their families and their children to make ends meet. A sense of normality is lost.

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

Almost half of the Syrian people, 9.3 million people, of whom 2.3 million are women and girls of reproductive age, are affected by the ongoing armed conflict inside the country according to the latest assessments.

Armed conflict continued in different areas in Damascus and Aleppo resulting in continued increases in the number of deaths and casualties, a growing number of internally displaced persons and more damage to infrastructure and properties.

Protection of civilians and access to humanitarian aid by people in need in difficult areas, especially Moddameya, Yarmouk and Palestine camps, remain big concerns for UNFPA and partners.

The conflict in Al-Qalamoon mountainous region across the Syrian-Lebanese borders and Qaraa village resulted in thousands of

people to seek refuge in Lebanon during the month of November. In addition to that, the closure of the Damascus-Homs highway blocked the transportation and delivery of humanitarian assistance and the accessibility of United Nations staff to the humanitarian hubs in Homs governorate.

Protection of civilians, including women and girls from violence and sexual exploitation, in such emergency situations continues to remain a key humanitarian priority. Women and girls are facing greater risk of abuse, violence, forced marriage and sexual exploitation. Despite the increased number of cases reported by UNFPA partners in the field, the Government continues not to prioritize gender-based violence (GBV).

The quality of reproductive health services are greatly affected in many areas in the country as a result of damage to health facilities,

security restrictions and shortage of medicines and human resources. The percentage of Caesarean-sections has doubled as a result of the conflict. Recent analysis showed that the percentage of Caesarean-sections in private hospitals continues to increase, ranging between 25-68 per cent of the total number of deliveries in 2013. The percentage of Caesarean-sections in public hospitals increased from 25 per cent in 2012 to around 35-45 per cent in 2013. This is attributed to the fact that Syrian women opt for pre-planned hospital deliveries by Caesarean-section to avoid any unexpected complications.

LEBANON

As of 15 November, the number of refugees currently receiving assistance through UNHCR and partners is 824,288 Syrian refugees in Lebanon, of which over 744,000 are registered and 79,000 are awaiting registration. The month of November witnessed an increase in tension along the Lebanon-Syrian border. During the week of 15-21 November, more than 7,000 Syrian refugees entered Lebanon as a result of the deteriorating security situation in Qalmoun. On 19 November, two suicide bombings occurred at the Iranian embassy in Beirut.

Reproductive health services are among the most needed services among the refugee community: according to UNHCR's report on secondary and tertiary care for the period of January - June 2013, 70 per cent of all refugees referred to hospital care were women. Approximately 40 per cent of all referrals were for cases of obstetric and gynecological care (UNHCR, Oct. 2013).

JORDAN

Around 52 per cent of the total of 553,311 registered Syrian refugees are women, of which 6.9 per cent are girls between the ages of 12 and 17 and 23.7 per cent are women between the ages of 18-58.

Reaching refugees in the communities has become a major challenge for UNFPA and its partners as the percentage of Syrian refugees living outside the camps accounts for around 75 per cent of the total number. This requires an outreach strategy that may require more human and financial resources

IRAQ

As of 25 November, there are more than 206,000 Syrian refugees in Iraq, almost 97 per cent are concentrated in the three governorates in the north. UNFPA has started carrying out its programme in the new camps in Erbil and expanded its gender-based violence services to Syrian refugees in hosting communities.

TURKEY

A total of 522,111 registered Syrian refugees are in Turkey, some of them are living in 15 tented sites in Hatay, Sanliurfa, Gaziantep, Kahramanmaraş, Osmaniye, Mardin, Adana and Adiyaman provinces, and at five container sites in Malatya, Sanliurfa, Gaziantep and two in Kilis.

EGYPT

There are 127,876 Syrian refugees in Egypt, of which 49.9 per cent are women.

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

553,311 REFUGEES
136,155 WOMEN AND GIRLS OF REPRODUCTIVE (CHILD-BEARING) AGE
9,794 PREGNANT WOMEN

In Turkey

600,000 REFUGEES
150,000 WOMEN AND GIRLS OF REPRODUCTIVE (CHILD-BEARING) AGE
10,620 PREGNANT WOMEN

In Lebanon

824,288 REFUGEES
177,086 WOMEN AND GIRLS OF REPRODUCTIVE (CHILD-BEARING) AGE
14,579 PREGNANT WOMEN

In Iraq

AROUND 206,632 REFUGEES
34,347 WOMEN AND GIRLS OF REPRODUCTIVE (CHILD-BEARING) AGE
3,657 PREGNANT WOMEN

In Egypt

127,876 REFUGEES
31,520 WOMEN AND GIRLS OF REPRODUCTIVE (CHILD-BEARING) AGE
2,263 PREGNANT WOMEN

SOURCE:
AFAD, UNHCR and UNFPA, Nov 2013

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE (1 - 30 NOVEMBER 2013)

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, INCLUDING FAMILY PLANNING

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Reproductive health services: During the reporting period, around **15,000 women received reproductive health services**, including emergency obstetric care through UNFPA-supported maternity hospitals and mobile teams in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Deir-Ezzor and Homs.

Reproductive health supplies: UNFPA has **expanded its voucher delivery systems to cover eight private maternal hospitals**, enabling 2,000 women to access reproductive health services including obstetric care for normal and Caesarean-section delivery services free of charge in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Tartus, Homs, Sweida and Aleppo. UNFPA conducted a meeting with directors of two private hospitals in Homs as part of a mission aimed at discussing the mechanisms for applying the Ministry of Health's criteria in the UNFPA-supported voucher programme.

Reproductive health training: UNFPA conducted an orientation session for **45 professionals** from the Ministry of Health, Syria Family Planning Association and Syria Arab Red Crescent on the UNFPA Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for reproductive health and gender-based violence management in crisis situations.

LEBANON

Distribution of reproductive health commodities: UNFPA provided rape treatment kits to three mid-way houses (Al Dar) that are supported by UNHCR, UNICEF, the Danish Refugee Council and ABAAD NGO in Ainab, Chekka and Zahle. The mid-way houses are safe and supportive houses for abused Syrian refugee women and girls providing different kind of services, such as medical and forensic services for women survivors of sexual violence, as well as mental-health support.

UNFPA, in coordination with UNHCR, provided **rape treatment to one reported rape case in Mount Lebanon**.

UNFPA replaced expired items of rape treatment kits at the **International Refugee Council women's centres** in Aarsal and Berqayel and seven other centres offering clinical management of rape services in the Bekaa region.

JORDAN

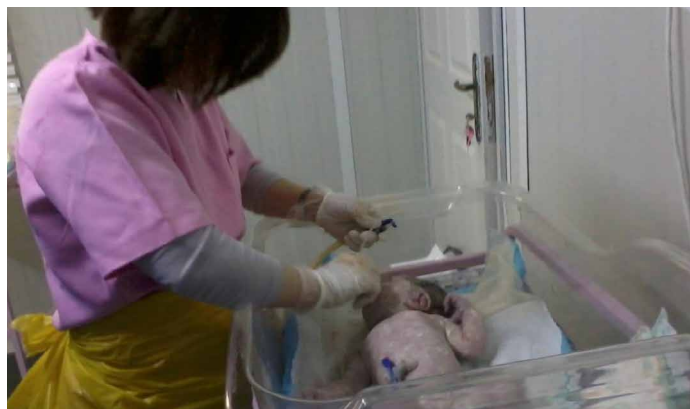
Reproductive health services: A total of **4,973 women** and girls received reproductive health services in UNFPA-supported units. Around 10 per cent of these services have been offered to girls younger than 18 years old.

During the reporting period, a total of **103 babies were born** at the Zaatari clinic 3 at the UNFPA/JHAS site, and between 25 October -12 November, 48 complicated cases were referred to the Mafraq, Badee, Moroccan and Bashir centres.

Reproductive health supplies: During the month of November, **61 reproductive health kits** were distributed to UNFPA's implementing partners designed to benefit around 10,000 Syrian refugees for three months.

UNFPA participated in the vaccination campaign against polio, led by Ministry of Health and UNICEF in Zaatari camp, by offering two vaccination spaces in its Zaatari (3) location.

Reproductive health training: Awareness sessions on reproductive health were provided to Syrian women in Jordan on relative marriage (JHAS/UNFPA), menopause, and IUD effectiveness and efficiency (Aman/UNFPA).



Midwife Elham attending to a newborn baby boy in Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan. Credit: UNFPA, 2013

IRAQ

Reproductive health services: UNFPA provided reproductive health services to **475 Syrian women** in the UNFPA reproductive health clinic in Domiz camp as follows: 355 ante-natal cases, of which 148 cases visited the clinic for the first time, and 120 post-natal services. The clinic also provided family planning counseling and services to the clients, among whom there was a strong demand for pills, IUDs and condoms.

Supporting human resources: UNFPA is supporting the Directorate of Health in Erbil to provide reproductive health services in Kawaragoesk camp through the recruitment of two health service providers.



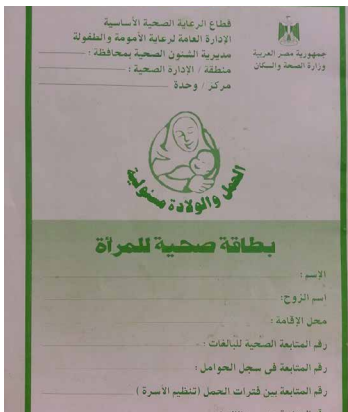
UNFPA handing over medical equipment at Darashakran camp in Erbil, Iraq. Credit: UNFPA 2013.

TURKEY

Reproductive health training: UNFPA conducted a Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) regional training course on 25-29 November in Ankara for 23 professionals working in NGOs and UNFPA staff, including from the Syrian Arab Republic.

EGYPT

UNFPA signed an **agreement with the Ministry of Health on 10 November to provide 60,000 women's health cards** to the pri-



mary health care centres, aiming to facilitate the process of registration, management and follow-up for Syrian refugees and Egyptian women. This was one of the recommendations of primary health care centres needs assessment to fill the gap in the registration and follow-up mechanism for pregnancy and family planning.

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Gender-based violence services: Around 2,800 women received psychosocial support services and psychological first aid through UNFPA-supported clinics and mobile teams in the most affected areas of Damascus, Rural Damascus, Idlib and Homs.

Moreover, around 220 gender-based violence survivors visited the UNFPA-supported clinic of the Syria Family Planning Association to get free-of-charge medical consultation, psychosocial support and legal advices.

Gender-based violence supplies: UNFPA has distributed around 13,000 dignity kits to Aleppo, 1,300 kits to Rural Homs, as well as 122,000 sanitary napkins to vulnerable women in Rural Homs, Aleppo, and rural Damascus. Moreover, as part of winterization activities, UNFPA has distributed 5,320 quilts to women in Aleppo.

LEBANON

Psychological support with focus on gender-based violence and parenting strategies: The cycle of awareness sessions on parenting strategies for Syrian displaced mothers was launched in mid-November. More than 160 Syrian mothers have benefitted from 32 sessions conducted by eight trained social workers from the Social Development Centres in the Ministry of Social Affairs.

Piloting gender-based violence information management system: UNFPA in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs and in collaboration with the Heartland Alliance and other partners in the field has distributed around 2,000 leaflets for frontline workers and 10,000 brochures for communities during 10 workshops and trainings organized for social workers, refugee outreach volunteers, case management officers and refugee community representatives. The materials focused on gender-based violence referral pathways and case management organizations, with special information made for Syrian refugees in Akkar, Tripoli, Bekaa, Mount Lebanon, and South.

Establishing new partnership for preventing and responding to gender-based violence: UNFPA supported a local NGO partner (KAFA) to establish a listening and counseling centre in the Bekaa to respond to the needs of Syrian refugees and Lebanese women who are either actual or potential survivors of gender-based violence.

Gender-based violence prevention and response campaign with focus on basic life-skills, problem solving and psychological first aid targeting women: The Social Development Centres in the Ministry of Social Affairs and UNFPA partner NGOs in the North, Bekaa and South have organized 200 training sessions for 1,580 Syrian refugee and Lebanese women on basic life-skills and problem solving, using material and resources provided by the Lebanese American University and the American University of Lebanon, and with special focus on nutrition, hygiene, women's empowerment through work, and gender-based violence laws.

JORDAN

Gender-based violence services and training: During the month of November, a total of 103 beneficiaries have received psychosocial-counseling sessions and 357 beneficiaries participated in recreational activities, while 241 beneficiaries attended youth activities and 984 were reached through awareness sessions. Fourteen women service providers from UNFPA's implementing partner NGO Aman Association received a basic training on gender-based violence.

In Ma'an and Zarqa, UNFPA and its partners delivered 1,074 gender-based violence prevention and response services including, case management, psychosocial support, recreational activities, and various empowerment courses (alphabetization, computer, and life skills).

At the UNFPA-IRC women's comprehensive centres in Zaatar camp, new gender-based violence cases were identified and supported and some these cases have been referred to external partners for medical and protection support.

UNFPA and its partners organized gender-based violence awareness campaigns in the north of Jordan and in Der Alla.

On November 9-11, UNFPA and its partners delivered a clinical care for sexual assault survivors training for clinical staff providing camp-based direct services. This is part of a series of trainings aiming to improve clinical care, psychosocial support services and general treatment of sexual assault survivors by providing medical instruction and encouraging competent, compassionate, and confidential care.

Home-to-home visits: During the reporting period, as part as their gender-based violence prevention and response activities, around 2,000 beneficiaries have been reached through the home visits in Zaatar camp by 24 community outreach volunteers of IRC/UNFPA who are in the process of recruiting 12 additional community volunteers to help in covering all 12 districts in Zaatar camp.



Leaflets for frontline workers and brochures for communities produced to inform about gender-based violence referral pathways and case management organizations in Lebanon, Credit: UNFPA, 2013.

IRAQ

Gender-based violence services: The women's space in Domiz camp continued to provide basic support and referral to Syrian refugees inside the camp: five Syrian women received listening sessions, two cases were followed up and one case was referred to UNHCR for non-food items support.

Eight focus group discussions on gender-based violence have been conducted by UNFPA for Syrian women, men, boys and girls in Kawaragoesk and Darashakran camps in Erbil. The findings will be used to form outreach and advocacy activities in Erbil camps.

New outreach volunteers: Eighteen UNFPA-identified volunteers have been trained on gender-based violence and how to plan and conduct outreach activities in the camp. In November, a total of **390 families in tents have been reached** with various gender-based violence messages as well as services offered in the women's space and health facility in the camp. **Forty outreach volunteers have been identified** in Kawaragoesk and Darashakran by UNFPA's partner, Al Massela, for women's space management and outreach activities in Erbil.

Gender-based violence training: A total of **25 medical personnel and paramedics** have been trained on care to gender-based violence survivors and on promoting a multi-sectoral approach to address gender-based violence.

To encourage maximum utilization of the women's space and to create a platform for group therapy for women, **UNFPA has introduced social and recreational activities for the Syrian women in Domiz camp.** The recreational activities also act as an entry point for raising awareness on reproductive health and gender-based violence.

In November a total of **200 Syrian women have participated** in UNFPA activities as follow:

- A total of 34 women participated in two sessions of a basic English course continuing gender-based violence messages: the first course was attended by 9 women and the second course by 25 women.
- Weekly dress-making sessions were conducted, targeting 33 women with gender-based violence messages mainstreamed into the sessions.
- Two make-up sessions were conducted for adolescent girls, targeting 42 adolescent girls; the sessions included early marriage messages.
- Two handicraft sessions have been conducted, targeting 31 Syrian women refugees, with gender-based violence messages mainstreamed into the sessions.
- Around 60 Syrian women refugees have attended three formal gender-based violence sessions carried out in the UNFPA women's space in Domiz camp on forms of violence against women, early marriage, consequences of gender-based violence and available services.



Handicraft session in Yasmin Women Centre in Domiz camp in Iraq. Credit: UNFPA, 2013.

TURKEY

Gender-based violence training: On 20 November, UNFPA in collaboration with the Ministry of Family and Social Policies conducted a training course on gender-based violence concepts for **60 security staff working in Nizip 1 camp.**

During the reporting period, UNFPA has **reached 61 women and 9 men in Nizip 1 camp**, where they have been introduced to gender-based violence concepts and available services.

EGYPT

Assessment mission in "Masaken Othman" compound: UNFPA partners in the field have confirmed the increase of the reported cases of gender-based violence among Syrian girls and women even. A male child case has been reported in the isolated area called Masaken Othman compound in 6th of October, Giza, which is still under construction and where about 300 Syrian families are residing: 30 of them are families headed by women. **Four to five rape cases among Syrian women have been reported by UNFPA partner NGOs, one of them being kidnapped after rape.** During the reporting period, UNFPA visited the compound to assess the situation and develop an evidence-based response plan.



UNFPA conducting assessment mission to Masaken Othman compound in Giza, Egypt. Credit: UNFPA, 2013.

Gender-based violence awareness training: UNFPA in partnership with FARD has organized two-day awareness sessions, three sessions per day, on gender-based violence for 142 Syrian women and girls living in Masaken Othman compound. The women discussed their problems while being advised on case management, security advice and referral centres.



UNFPA conducting gender-based violence awareness sessions for Syrian women and girls in Masaken Othman compound in Giza, Egypt. Credit: UNFPA, 2013.

SUPPORTING ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH

LEBANON

Youth assessment for Syrian refugees: A youth assessment is being led by UNFPA in partnership with UNICEF, UNHCR, UNESCO and Save the Children International. During the reporting period, the team has completed the survey questionnaire for the quantitative part, trained the survey interviewers and field supervisors in various regions, and started quantitative data collection and entry for the survey component. For the qualitative part, around 26 focus discussion groups with youth and around 50 in-depth interviews with gatekeepers have been conducted and analysis initiated. Delays have arisen due to the highly insecure security situation, particularly in the north.

Interventions targeting youth affected by Syrian crisis for healthier and more active youth (i.e., Syrians and Palestinian refugees from Syria as well as youth from the hosting communities). During the reporting period, four youth safe spaces established by UNFPA partner NGOs and Social Development Centres and peer education outreach activities have been launched and around 1,500 Syrian youth refugees have been reached.

Educational puppet show: a rapid youth survey took place on using the puppet theater theme to address youth-related issues such as early marriage, youth engagement, and prevention of risky behaviours.

Educational materials for youth in humanitarian settings have been developed, printed and disseminated to around 10,000 Syrian young persons in different regions.

Planning resilience-building interventions among school students: A three-day school training for 29 teachers was conducted during the first week of November on delivering behavioural management and resilience building strategies in classrooms. Social workers and field workers collected data from 1,611 students in 15 schools before the interventions and will be compared later after the intervention is introduced.

JORDAN

UNFPA signed a three-month partnership agreement with Questscope, aiming to build the competencies and skills of Syrian youth to be able to build the capacity of camp residents to design and implement a variety of health and wellness activities for Syrian adolescents and youth, and to offer specific activities for youth in the areas of health, early marriage, sports, and life-skills.

Sixteen Syrian women and girls participated in two focus group discussions to identify the needs of Syrian youth refugees inside Zaatari camp and in host communities. The results were almost all centred around the need for more spaces to express their thoughts and practice their hobbies such as art, sports and music.

IRAQ

UNFPA youth space centre organized a 20-day handicraft course targeting 15 girls in Domiz, a 20-day drawing class for 16 young people (6 boys and 10 girls) and a one week life-skills course for 15 young Syrian refugees. The courses were also used as an entry

point and a platform for information sharing on basic reproductive health and gender-based violence messages and concepts.

During the month of November, UNFPA has conducted seven life-skills sessions targeting 105 young people (of which 70 per cent were girls). The sessions were also used as a channel to raise the awareness of young people on reproductive health and gender-based violence. UNFPA in collaboration with the Mine Advisory Group (MAG) has facilitated a one day session for 13 young people on mine awareness.

COORDINATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

A high level meeting with parliamentarians in the Government: UNFPA organized a meeting with more than 130 parliamentarians to discuss the situation and needs of the Syrian population and to enhance their capacities to provide better protection for persons in need and to advocate for the parliamentarians' role in civil protection and humanitarian assistance. The parliamentarians highlighted the importance of getting more engaged in the humanitarian activities at the community level in order to enhance the acceptance, visibility and role of humanitarian actors.

UNFPA participated in the meetings to discuss the preparation and implementation of the joint humanitarian assessment.

LEBANON

UNFPA has participated in the reproductive health sub-working group meeting that took place on 26 November. The group has discussed reproductive health research, access to services, challenges related to reproductive health activities in the field, and interventions for youth. UNFPA shared an update on the clinical management of rape training course, the youth assessment, training modalities, and gaps in service in Beirut and Mount Lebanon.

The first report on gender-based violence trends: The first report on reported gender-based violence cases has been compiled and analyzed by eight data-gathering organizations and will be ready by the end of 2013.

A unified calendar of events for the 16 days campaign on gender-based violence has been developed and shared with partners. The kick-off event will start on 25 November and will last till 10 December; 30 activities will take place, including the launch of the ABAAD and UNICEF report on how gender-based violence affects boys and young men.

JORDAN

An extensive training of trainers on national Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) took place on 11-12 November for 30 participants, followed by two trainings in Amman targeted 53 staff working for national and international partners working in the area of gender-based violence.

IRAQ

UNFPA has participated and co-chaired a strategic group for gender-based violence coordination in Dohuk and Erbil, including one coordination meeting in Gawilan Camp, two protection working groups at the camp level in Darashakran and one camp coordination in Darashakran, and two winterization meetings in Erbil, where UNFPA has contributed 3,000 dignity kits including warm dress and warm baby clothes for pregnant Syrian women.

EGYPT

UNFPA participated in the health sector meeting, where the Fund agreed to purchase equipment for primary health care facilities based on the Syrian refugees' need assessments. UNFPA pledged to purchase sonogram and family planning equipment, examination beds, blood count, autoclaves, and oxygen pumps.

CHALLENGES IN SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Limited access to vulnerable population in most affected areas.

Inadequate source of reliable data on the number of affected people, including internally displaced populations.

Difficulties to obtain visas for international expertise.

Limited availability of qualified partners in the field who can implement UNFPA-gender-based programmes

Government of Syria's request to focus on psychosocial support in the gender-based violence programme.

Loss of qualified health workers due to security concerns.

Lack of reproductive health supplies and medicines.

More women opt for pre-planned hospital deliveries by Caesarean-section to avoid complications and risk of travel through checkpoints and other barriers.

The high fluctuation of the value of Syrian pounds in the local market affects the ability to estimate the budget needed to procure local items.

DONORS

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

Australia, European Commission, Germany, Italy, Kuwait, Netherlands, Norway, OCHA/CERF, United States, United Kingdom, UNDP.



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