



UNFPA provides health facilities to the internally displaced persons in Damascus, rural Damascus, Idleb, Homs, Deraa, Hasakeh through its local partners, NGOs and public facilities in the Syrian Arab Republic. Credit: UNFPA, 2013.

HIGHLIGHTS

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC: UNFPA provides reproductive health services, including emergency obstetric care, to around 100,000 women and provides life-saving reproductive health commodities that serve around 85,700 women and girls of reproductive age.

LEBANON: UNFPA provides centres in the North and Bekaa with three basic life-skills training kits as part of the gender-based violence prevention and response campaign. UNFPA provides rape treatment kit to governmental hospital in Tripoli and various quantities of UNFPA reproductive health kits to UNRWA.

JORDAN: UNFPA launches a new ante-natal cards initiative for pregnant Syrian refugee women to improve the coordination among health care providers and augment the quality of reproductive health services.

IRAQ: UNFPA provides 986 women with reproductive health services as well as helping eight survivors of gender-based violence.

TURKEY: UNFPA distributes 300,000 brochures on reproductive health to Syrian refugees inside the camps.

EGYPT: UNFPA conducts training courses in Damietta and Alexandria for 220 health workers on patients' rights, refugees' rights, family planning, gender-based violence and referral systems.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

The United Nations expects another 2 million Syrians to become refugees in 2014 and 2.25 million more to be displaced during the year within the Syrian Arab Republic. UNFPA and partners are currently addressing the concerns of around 9.3 million people who are directly affected by the crisis in Syria and the 2.1 million Syrian refugees who are now hosted in neighboring countries. Around three-quarters of Syrian refugees are women and children, and almost 490,000 are women and girls of reproductive age. The majority are having economical and emotional difficulties and the crisis is placing a strain on communities and infrastructure and services in host countries.

UNFPA and partners are scaling up effort 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

Protection of civilians in the areas of armed conflict and meeting reproductive health concerns, especially post-natal care, and reproductive health surgical interventions have been challenging given the complicated security environment, the reduced capacity of public health facilities and the high fees for services in private health facilities.

Due to the escalating violence, increased political tensions and deteriorating economic conditions, women are being exposed in different places to domestic and other forms of gender-based violence. Rising psychological stress among women, their families and health care providers has been observed by field workers and partners.

LEBANON

As of 25 October, the number of Syrian refugees currently receiving assistance through UNHCR and partners is 800,000, of which over 713,000 are registered and 87,000 are awaiting registration. According to UNHCR, over 8,000 Syrian refugees have been born in Lebanon since March 2011. Out of the 781 Syrian babies born in October, only 23 per cent have birth certificates.

JORDAN

There are 547,274 Syrian refugees in Jordan (52 per cent are women and girls aged 12-58) who are living inside and outside the Zaatari camp in 12 different governorates in Jordan, mainly in Mafraq, Amman and Irbid.

Coping with increasing numbers and reaching refugees in the communities remains a challenge for the humanitarian agencies. The Government of Jordan is expecting that by the end of 2014, the total number of Syrian refugees will reach 800,000 (75 per cent in communities and 25 per cent inside the camps).

UNFPA has started the implementation of a strategy to cope with the potential new refugees who are expected to arrive to Jordan as a result of the escalating crisis in Syria. The Fund has to re-orient and change its activities as the new Azraq camp has not been opened as was originally scheduled.

UNFPA is moving from coping with the immediate emergency situation and planning for more sustainable services inside the camp as there is an expectation that Zaatari camp will remain a home for Syrian refugees for a long period of time.

IRAQ

The government of Kurdistan region in Iraq and the United Nations agencies are closely following up the news of confirmed ten polio cases in Deir Ezzor Governorate in Syria Arab Republic. As per the Ministry of Health's instructions, all polio eradication activities have been intensified including surveillance and vaccination, and a fixed immunization post has been established at border crossing point to vaccinate all Syrian refugees crossing the border into Kurdistan region.

UNFPA is following up closely with Directorates of Health to provide required services and support needed to Domiz and Geylan camps, as they are expecting to receive around 50,000 Syrian refugees in the coming weeks. UNFPA provided two containers to each of the four camps in Erbil to be used as centres to provide reproductive health services for Syrian refugees.

TURKEY

A total of 200,034 Syrians refugees are currently being hosted 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. During the reporting period, 462 refugees were admitted to hospitals along with 195 companions.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE (15 - 31 OCTOBER 2013)

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH,

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Reproductive health services: Around **100,000 women** received reproductive health services, including emergency obstetric care, in Damascus, rural Damascus, Sweida, Hama, Aleppo and Homs through the UNFPA-supported maternity hospitals and mobile teams.

Reproductive health supplies: UNFPA provided the Syrian Arab Red Crescent clinics with live-saving reproductive health commod-



UNFPA distributes reproductive health supplies to UNFPA national partners in Hama, Syrian Arab Republic. Credit: UNFPA, 2013

AT A GLANCE:

In Syria Arab Republic

6.8 MILLION PEOPLE AFFECTED
1.7 MILLION WOMEN AND GIRLS OF REPRODUCTIVE (CHILD-BEARING) AGE
68,000 PREGNANT WOMEN

In Jordan

543,183 REFUGEES
135,795 WOMEN AND GIRLS OF REPRODUCTIVE (CHILD-BEARING) AGE
5,431 PREGNANT WOMEN

In Turkey

506,551 REFUGEES
126,637 WOMEN AND GIRLS OF REPRODUCTIVE (CHILD-BEARING) AGE
5,065 PREGNANT WOMEN

In Lebanon

812,268 REFUGEES
205,317 WOMEN AND GIRLS OF REPRODUCTIVE (CHILD-BEARING) AGE
8,212 PREGNANT WOMEN

In Iraq

AROUND 197,884 REFUGEES
49,471 WOMEN AND GIRLS OF REPRODUCTIVE (CHILD-BEARING) AGE
1,978 PREGNANT WOMEN

In Egypt

126,081 REFUGEES
31,520 WOMEN AND GIRLS OF REPRODUCTIVE (CHILD-BEARING) AGE
1,260 PREGNANT WOMEN

SOURCE:
UNHCR AND UNFPA: NOV 2013

ities to enable around **85,700 women to receive quality reproductive health services**, including emergency obstetric care and safe deliveries. UNFPA provided six reproductive health clinics run by social care NGOs in Hama with reproductive health commodities to support the needs of **3,200 women**.

UNFPA supported mobile teams to reach and provide services to around **4,000 women** residing in Damascus, rural Damascus, Homs and Idlib with reproductive health services.

UNFPA provided the health facilities of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Higher Education, Syrian Arab Red Crescent and UNFPA-supported private hospitals with life-saving reproductive health commodities to enable around **3,400 women** to receive quality reproductive health services including obstetric care for both normal and Caesarean-section deliveries. Around **630 women benefited from the reproductive health vouchers**.

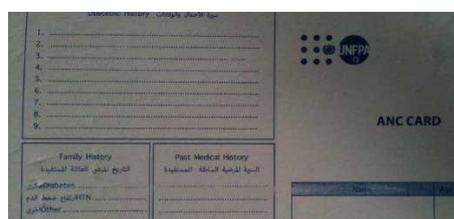
LEBANON

Reproductive health supplies: UNFPA provided a **rape treatment kit to the governmental hospital in Tripoli** and organized a sensitization session on sexual violence treatment for the five professionals responsible for providing essential treatment to survivors.

Based on the request of the UNRWA Department of Health, UNFPA provided 975 reproductive health kits with male condoms, kits with oral and injectable contraceptives, kits for treatment of sexually transmitted infections and three kits containing IUDs.

JORDAN

Improving the quality of ante-natal care services delivery: UNFPA and the Jordan Health Aid Society launched a **new ante-natal cards initiative** for Syrian pregnant women in order to facilitate the medical follow-up and coordination between different health care providers and to improve the quality of reproductive health services.



The new ante-natal care card for Syrian pregnant women in Jordan. Credit: UNFPA, 2013

UNFPA offered a space in Zaatari **comprehensive women's centre (No. 3) to support the vaccination campaign against polio** which is planned to be carried out by the Ministry of Health and UNICEF in the coming weeks.

Reproductive health awareness: UNFPA in collaboration with the Jordan Health Aid Society has organized awareness-raising activities in Zataari camp for **81 women on pre-marriage tests and early marriages**. UNFPA in collaboration with AMAN sensitized **44 women on modern contraception methods**, with special focus on the efficacy, advantage and safety of IUDs.

UNFPA in partnership with the Institute for Family Health is offering reproductive health services through the two mobile clinics serving the northern part of the Jordan valley and the northern governorates.

During the month of September, the Institute for Family Health with the full support of UNFPA has reached **941 women and girls through 19 reproductive health awareness-raising sessions** on family planning, contraceptive use, early marriage, infections, breast cancer, breast feeding, care for newborns, and nutrition. In addition, they **organized 447 health counseling sessions** prior to women and girls being referred to the doctor for a general examination. The counselling included antenatal care, delivery and family planning methods.

UNFPA in collaboration with the Jordan Health Aid Society has organized awareness-raising activities for 36 women aged 24 and above on hygiene at the Save the Children site in Zaatari camp.

Reproductive health services: During the reporting period, UNFPA with its implementing partners Aman and the Jordan Health Aid Society supported reproductive health services for **2,757 women, of which 199 women were younger than 18**. UNFPA-Aman clinics cover Syrian refugees in Amman, the southern governorates, and the Jordan Valley while UNFPA-Jordan Health Aid Society clinics cover Syrian refugees in Amman, Mafraq, Ramtha, Irbid and Zarqa governorates and in the refugee camps.

During the reporting period, **UNFPA supported the safe deliveries of 29 babies** in Zaatari comprehensive women centre (No. 3).

IRAQ

Reproductive health services: UNFPA provided the following reproductive health service for Syrian women refugees in Domiz camp: 320 antenatal care services, 246 family planning services and more than 140 postnatal services. In addition to that, 198 gynecological and 82 obstetrical cases have been received required treatment and care.

Supporting human resources: UNFPA in partnership with national NGOs recruited two new gynecologists and two midwives, increasing the total number of health staff supported by UNFPA in the reproductive health centres inside the camps to eight.

TURKEY

UNFPA distributed 300,000 brochures on reproductive health to Syrian refugees inside the camps.

EGYPT

Reproductive health training: UNFPA conducted a training course in Damietta Specialized Hospital for **40 physicians** working in the primary health care units and centres of family planning and women's health. In Alexandria the course was provided to **35 physicians**

working in the primary health care units, centers of family planning and woman health in "Somoha" mother health care centre. The main objective of the trainings was to build the capacity of the physicians on patients' rights, refugees' rights, contraceptive technology updates and family planning. The training provided an opportunity to receive feedback on the challenges Syrian refugees face when they visit health facilities.

Another training was held in "Somoha" Mother health care center in Alexandria for **35 nurses** working in the primary health care units and centers of Family planning and woman health. The participants were introduced to general information about the patients' rights, refugees' rights and family planning methods.



Participants during the training course held in "Somoha" mother health care center in Alexandria, Egypt. Credit: UNFPA, 2013

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Gender-based violence services: Psychosocial support services (PSS) and psychosocial first aid (PFA) were provided through UNFPA-supported clinics and mobile teams for **2,000 women** residing in the affected areas in Damascus, rural Damascus, Idleb and Homs.

Gender-based violence supplies: In an attempt to preserve dignity of families in the violence-affected areas and in cooperation with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, UNFPA provided vital hygiene products to **12,300 women in Talbise and Qaryateen in rural Homs**.



UNFPA partners distributing hygiene kits to women and girls in different areas of rural Homs, Syrian Arab Republic. Credit: UNFPA, 2013

LEBANON

Gender-based violence prevention and response campaign with focus on basic life-skills, problem solving and psychological first aid targeting women: UNFPA provided centres in the North and Bekaa with three basic life-skills training kits and plans to distribute another three kits through its partners to centres in the South.

Piloting gender-based violence information management system: UNFPA developed gender-based violence information material on referral pathways and organizations providing case management for communities and frontline humanitarian workers in Aakar, Tripoli, Bekaa, Mount Lebanon, and the South. The material will be distributed to the regions in November through ten dissemination workshops in collaboration with Heartland Alliance and partners working in the areas of gender-based violence in the field.

JORDAN

A preliminary meeting with 25 managers of health service providers in Zaatari camp introduced the new **training package developed by International Red Crescent, NHF/Institute for Family Health and UNFPA on clinical care for sexual assault survivors**. The team agreed to conduct the first round of the training in November, targeting the camps-based service providers, aiming to improve clinical care, psychosocial support services and general treatment of sexual assault survivors by providing them with medical instruction and by encouraging competent, compassionate and confidential care. The expected training will include one extra day introduction session for clinical staff, including medical and non-medical staff providing direct services as well as their supervisors.

In Zarqa, UNFPA in partnership with Un Ponte Per (UPP) and Jordanian Women's Union **trained 18 Syrian volunteers on the basics and guidance of community-based protection for refugees on 2 and 3 October and offered 318 services for Syrian refugees in Ma'an and Zarqa**, including case management, psychosocial support, legal aid, recreational activities and courses in alphabetization, computers or life skills.

Home-to-home visits: UNFPA in partnership with the International Red Crescent in Zaatari camp is overseeing a team of 12 community outreach trained volunteers (6 females and 6 males) to conduct home-to-home visits and organize tea sessions for the communities, aiming to increase the level of knowledge on available services for gender-based violence survivors and vulnerable women and girls in Zaatari camp.



Women and men volunteers express their feelings about the activities they are organizing and how they are keen to give individuals in their communities a sense of accomplishment. Their motivations to volunteer range from "to help my community become less violent" to "make use of my time in this refugee camp, if I am not working at least I can be learning". Jordan. Credit: UNFPA, 2013

IRAQ

Gender-based violence services: The women's centre in Domiz camp provided listening services to eight women, of which one case has been referred for psychosocial support.

UNFPA finalized an agreement with a local NGO to provide psychosocial and gender-based violence prevention services to Syrian refugees inside and in the community in the governorate of Erbil.

EGYPT

Gender-based violence training: UNFPA conducted a training course on 21 October in Damietta Specialized Hospital for **40 physicians** working in the primary health care units and centres of family planning and women's health. Another two meetings were conducted on 30 and 31 October for **35 physicians and 35 nurses** working in the primary health units and centres of family planning and woman's health in Somoha mother health care center in Al-alexandria. The participants were introduced to the definition of violence, types of violence and its impact, medical protocols to deal with gender-based violence cases and referral options.



Participants during the training course held in Damietta Specialized Hospital, Egypt. Credit: UNFPA, 2013

SUPPORTING ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH

LEBANON

Youth assessment for Syrian refugees: The technical committee, consisting of members from UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO and Save the Children International, reviewed the pre-tested youth assessment questionnaire. Training for seven field supervisors from Bekaa (2), North (3), South (1), and Beirut (1) took place in Beirut on 26 October. The 5-hour training introduced the participants to the survey questionnaire and criteria for selection of data collectors/interviewers in addition to financial and logistic issues such as distribution and number of the interviewers.

Interventions targeting youth affected by Syrian crisis for healthier and more active youth (Syrians and Palestinian refugees from Syria as well as youth from the hosting communities) and aiming for healthier and more active youth through the following:

Memoranda of understanding were prepared and signed with five NGOs (Beit Atfal Al Soumoud, Makassed, Ribat, Women League-Halba, Development for People and Nature Association) and the Social Development Center in Baalbek affiliated to the Ministry of Social Affairs. Creative activities are being prepared such as open days, production of youth stories and puppet theatre shows.

A puppet show is being set up in order to be circulated in Bekaa, North, South and Beirut. The shows will be developed in association with puppetry and UNFPA experts and youth who will act as facilitators during the public performances. Issues to be addressed are being identified during discussions with the youth.

Educational materials for youth in humanitarian settings were reviewed and three additional issues - assertiveness, decision-making and self-esteem (as reflected from the field discussions) - were added. Ten thousand copies are being printed to be distributed to the youth participants notably in the open days and awareness-raising sessions throughout the project.

IRAQ

UNFPA in collaboration with American University of Beirut has conducted a training course on enhancing youth capacities in project and activity management for sixteen Syrian volunteers and activists of youth friendly spaces and cultural houses in Duhok in Kurdistan region in Iraq.

EGYPT

On 23 October, a **focus group discussion was conducted for 14 young Syrian refugees (8 males and 6 females)** residing in 6th of October district in Cairo. The focus group discussion conducted by UNFPA, Tadamon NGO, the Y-PEER network and AMERA NGO was designed to assess the situation of Syrian refugees in the district. The participants expressed their concerns for employment and education and at the increased risk of being exposed to different types of gender-based violence. The result of the assessment will be used to develop appropriate interventions with young Syrian refugees.

UNFPA in partnership with Resala NGO organized an event on 26 October in Damietta for the youth peer education network (Y-PEER). Around 50 Syrian refugees parents and 60 children participated in the event and were introduced to awareness messages on reproductive health, including family planning, child marriage and HIV.



Syrian women and children participating in an outdoor event in the 6th of October district in Cairo, Egypt. Credit: UNFPA, 2013

COORDINATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

UNFPA participated in the protection mainstreaming workshop organized by UNHCR on 29-30 October 2013 in Beirut.

Seven health professionals from International Medical Corps (3), DRC(2) and Syrian ARC(2) were trained on screening, clinical management and counseling services of GBV survivors.

LEBANON

On October 26, UNFPA took part in the Bekaa health working group. UNFPA briefed partners on updates related to the distribution of the UNFPA reproductive health pamphlet, on the progress in the development and piloting of the pregnancy card as well as on the list of health facilities offering clinical management of rape services that have received the reproductive health kit for rape treatments.

On October 23, UNFPA participated in the review group discussion, preparing for the standard operating procedure (SOP) on protection against sexual exploitation and abuse. The SOP and trainings to be rolled out to United Nations staff and partners will outline ethical guidelines to prevent humanitarian staff from exploiting beneficiaries and will put in place complaint procedures for cases and suspicions of sexual exploitation and abuse.

JORDAN

Three delegates from ECHO visited on 22 October the International Red Crescent-UNFPA comprehensive women centres, where they were able to meet with staff and Syrian volunteers in the camp who lead community outreach and recreational activities.

EGYPT

UNFPA participated in the Ministry of Health's weekly coordination meeting to review the ongoing assessment process of the 45 primary health care centres serving Syrian refugees in five governorates. Data collected included information about family planning and sexual and reproductive health.

On 22 October, UNFPA in coordination with Save the Children discussed the action plan to build the capacities of two primary health care units in Cairo and Giza governorates to serve as referral centres for gender-based violence cases among refugees.

DONORS

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

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