**Bringing new hope in lives of Syrian women survivors of family-based violence**

*One look at Amal, 46, and you can tell that she is feeling miserable inside. The red and blue bruises on her face provide a glimpse of her battered psychological state. She feels lost, vulnerable and hopeless. “I do not know if I have any rights or even access to support of any kind. All I know is that I need help,” says Amal, a mother of five. Amal was admitted to Al-Halbouni health clinic in Damascus for medical consultation, after she had been severely beaten by her husband. “I welcomed Amal and tried to reassure her that she is not alone, we are here to listen and support her in every way medically, psychologically and even legally”, says the legal consultant at Al-Halbouni clinic while recalling her first meeting with Amal.*

**Supported by UNFPA Syria**, Al-Halbouni clinic is one of the Syrian Family Planning Association (SFPA) clinics, mandated to provide services such as medical examination, social services and legal counseling for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV).

Thanks to the integrated package of support services provided by Al-Halbouni clinic, Amal feels somewhat more motivated to deal with her emotional trauma. “I feel more aware of my rights now than I ever did before and how to access support in times of need”, Amal says.

In line with the SFPA approach to involve men in search of durable solutions to issues of GBV, Amal’s husband was contacted by the mobile team of SFPA and offered psychosocial consultation and services. “The crisis we face is too harsh and I was not able to control myself,” he said. He was made aware of the protection rights available to women in the event of being dealt with violently at home, and counseled about the need for the couple to support each other and derive mutual strength from being together.

Reunified with her family and husband, Amal now visits the clinic regularly to improve her psychological well-being as well as skills that can help enhance her livelihood prospects through participation in vocational training courses organized by SFPA.

Three months after accessing various services at the SFPA-run Al Halbouni clinic, Amal feels alive and rejuvenated. She reports that relations with her husband have never been better and that her husband’s violent behavior is now a thing of the past. Amal, whose name means ‘hope’ in Arabic, lives by two hopes: that crisis in Syria ends soon and the ties with her family and husband continue to be optimal.

**AL-Halbouni Clinic** is one of the three centres in Damascus and another seven centres around Syria that are supported by UNFPA through deployment of staff and the provision of reproductive health services and commodities to enable women to lead healthy lives.

**HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE**

**REGIONAL SITUATION REPORT FOR SYRIA CRISIS**

1-30 JUNE 2016

**UNFPA RESPONSE IN SYRIA (MARCH 2016)**

**REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND SAFE MOTHERHOOD**

**REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>134,652 reproductive health services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• 578 deliveries supported by UNFPA for women above 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 451 Caesarean-section deliveries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1,314 deliveries for women under 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 9,692 ante-natal care services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 9,894 family planning beneficiaries</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**

| 33,533 services |

**AWARENESS**

| 22,670 beneficiaries |

**GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT**

**RESPONSE SERVICES**

| 6,584 women and girls |

**WOMEN ACCESSING SAFE SPACES**

| 1,920 women and girls |
| 677 women and girls (recreational activities) |

**OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**

| 10,891 services |

**TRAINING**

| 59 social workers |

**UNFPA-SUPPORTED FACILITIES IN SYRIA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of women’s spaces</th>
<th>Number of field reproductive health clinics or mobile teams</th>
<th>Number of health facilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>930</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RESPONSE THROUGH CROSS-BORDER MODALITY**

**REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND SAFE MOTHERHOOD**

**REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>22,132 beneficiaries received services in the northern part of Syria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• 1,358 safe deliveries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 321 Caesarean-section deliveries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 144 pregnancies under 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 4,746 ante-natal care services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 374 post-natal care services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1,689 family planning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**AWARENESS SESSIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>321 women and girls participated in the northern part of Syria and 255 women reached through outreach activities.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>155 women and girls participated in the southern part of Syria</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT**

**RESPONSE SERVICES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2,170 beneficiaries received gender-based violence services in the northern part of Syria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>771 beneficiaries received gender-based violence services in the southern part of Syria</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WOMEN ACCESSING SAFE SPACES**

| 1,259 beneficiaries accessed women safe spaces in the northern part of Syria |
| 449 beneficiaries accessed women safe spaces in the southern part of Syria |

**TRAINING**

| 14 social workers |

"...I feel that I liberated my body, my feelings, my expressions here, I can tell my abuser that you can no longer destroy me ... enough!!" said a beneficiary from services provided by KAFA NGO in Lebanon.
### Humanitarian Response

#### Neighbouring Countries Affected by the Crisis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Syrian Refugees Affected by the Crisis</th>
<th>Syrian Refugee Women and Girls of Reproductive Age</th>
<th>Syrian Refugee Youth</th>
<th>Syrian Refugee Pregnant Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>4,812,331</td>
<td>1,203,000</td>
<td>800,000</td>
<td>80,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>8,189</td>
<td>2,655</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>3,044</td>
<td>1,051</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>716</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Fast Figures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neighbouring Countries Affected by the Crisis (Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Turkey, Egypt)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syrian Refugees Affected by the Crisis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syrian Refugee Women and Girls of Reproductive Age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syrian Refugee Youth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syrian Refugee Pregnant Women</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Source: UNHCR, OCHA and UNFPA |

### Reproductive Health and Safe Motherhood

#### Turkey

**Services**
- **2,733** services for Syrian and Turkish beneficiaries
  - 636 ante-natal care services
  - 1,639 family planning services
  - 41 pregnancies for women under 18

**Awareness Sessions**
- **315** Syrian and Turkish beneficiaries

**Outreach Activities**
- **4,400** Syrian Turkish beneficiaries

**Training**
- **39** nurses and midwives trained in Turkey

**Supplies**
- **900** copies of brochure on breast feeding, ante-natal care and family planning distributed

#### Jordan

**Services**
- **8,189** reproductive health services
  - 237 safe deliveries and 16 C-sections
  - 26 pregnancy under 18
  - 1,544 family planning services
  - 3,584 ante-natal care services
  - 827 post-natal care services
  - 1,682 infections treated

**Awareness Sessions**
- **2,655** beneficiaries in camp and in host communities

#### Iraq

**Services**
- **3,044** beneficiaries
  - 60 safe deliveries and 38 C-sections
  - 1,937 family planning services
  - 315 ante-natal care services
  - 133 post-natal care services

**Awareness Sessions**
- **1,051** beneficiaries

### Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment

#### Turkey

**Services to Survivors**
- **69** services

**Women and Girls Accessing Safe Spaces**
- **1,264** Syrian beneficiaries

**Outreach Activities**
- **843** Syrian beneficiaries

**Supplies**
- **28** family hygiene kits distributed (140 beneficiaries)
- **100** copies of an Arabic brochures on GBV was distributed to Syrian women in Ulubey/Huksam Centre.
**GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Response Services</th>
<th>Women and Girls Accessing Safe Spaces</th>
<th>Outreach Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LEBANON</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response to Survivors</td>
<td>305 services</td>
<td>121 Syrian beneficiaries</td>
<td>2,463 women, girls, men and boys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Women and girls accessing safe spaces for recreational activities 2,817</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>JORDAN</strong></td>
<td>1,551 services</td>
<td>9,797 Syrian beneficiaries</td>
<td>326 Syrian beneficiaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EGYPT</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>326 Syrian beneficiaries</td>
<td>29 social workers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Syria</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>150 Syrian young people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Iraq</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>24 women and girls, of which 7 new</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Supporting Adolescents and Youth</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10 dignity kits distributed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**UNFPA-SUPPORTED FACILITIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number of Women's Spaces</th>
<th>Number of Field Reproductive Health Clinics or Mobile Teams</th>
<th>Number of Youth Centres and Safe Spaces</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>(14 in host communities, 10 in camps)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STORIES FROM SYRIAN REFUGEES | TURKEY

One of the social activities organised at an IMPR centre in Turkey
source UNFPA Turkey

There is hope!

Samra

Samra is a 27 year-old Syrian woman who has three children. She arrived in Turkey four months ago after experiencing the suffering and difficulties of traveling and crossing the border illegally although she was pregnant. Her journey to Turkey was full of challenges and risks, but that is incomparable to what she had been through when she was in Syria. Back home, Samra had no access to proper medical care due to the ongoing conflict. Samra visited the women’s centre of the Turkish NGO, IMPR, a UNFPA implementing partner after she heard about the center and services provided there, particularly services provided to pregnant women.

When Samra visited the IMPR women center, she was pregnant in her seventh month and it was obvious that she was suffering from exhaustion, tiredness, dizziness and anaemia. She underwent the needed medical checkups and was assured that her baby was fine. She kept visiting the centre regularly until she gave birth to a baby girl. But her visits to the centre continued, even after delivery. She said that the quality of services provided in the centre encouraged her to visit the centre regularly for post-natal care.

Maha

Maha is a girl who witnessed atrocities during the Syrian conflict and suffered from the bitterness of displacement. But having a disability added more to her suffering as she is deaf. Maha had been through difficulties after fleeing her country. She and her family members live in the city of Sanliurfa at present and survive with the hope of living a stable and secure life. However, Maha still suffers from her health problems. Nonetheless, Maha’s mother and family met with other women and heard about services provided to Syrian, Turkish and Iraqi women in the IMPR women’s centre.

The centre provided Maha with the hearing aids she needs, and she currently visits the centre regularly.

Maha is currently improving due to the coordination between the women centre and her family.

“RET (a UNFPA implementing partner) provided a series of follow-up trainings on women’s rights in Turkey; gender; gender-based violence; and communication skills to the members of the team. In addition, one of the social workers attended a three-day training of trainers on hygiene provided by CARE (e.g., lice control and menstrual hygiene).”

RET International.

STORIES FROM SYRIAN REFUGEES | JORDAN

Ala’a

Success, hard work, and diligence are not associated with any certain age; many people achieve great successes in their lives when they are very young.

Ala’a, one female beneficiary, began participating in the activities at the Youth Center in Zaatari Camp for Syrian Refugees four months ago. She is very committed to attending daily activities, especially fitness classes, although she does not have a strong natural affinity for fitness. In the beginning, Ala’a found in the sports caravan a place where she could break out of her shyness and escape from the pressures she was facing at home and school. Due to her diligence and commitment, she came to know many of the drills very well and almost to memorise them, from the warm-ups to specific technical drills; and she learned the importance of each drill and how each movement benefits the body and mind.

Over the course of four months, there have been many positive changes in Ala’a’s behaviour and spirit.

It is clear through her body language and her way of speaking that she has gained more confidence in herself. The other girls look up to her as a strong leader in activities.

Ala’a has now become a fitness trainer with different organisations in Za‘atri Camp. Some of the fitness drills that she has designed have been used by many other organisations as well.

Farah

Farah is a 19-year-old Syrian girl who approached the UNFPA-supported centre run by the Jordanian Women’s Union and told the social worker that she got engaged to a 31-year-old man two years ago when she was only 17. After Farah got engaged, her fiancé traveled out of the country and she saw him for only three months. According to Farah, she wants to break up with her fiancé as she is scared about her future with him: he verbally abuses her and her family and he threatens her father that he will send him back to Syria. Farah and her family are worried about her future.

Farah was provided with psychosocial support through one-on-one sessions in order to empower her and help her make her own decisions. Farah was referred to a lawyer who provided her with legal counseling and awareness raising sessions on her legal status and her rights. The staff visited Farah’s family and talked to them about the situation. After talking to them, the staff understood that her family wants her to leave her fiancé but they are scared that he might hurt them and their Farah. Her parents talked about their worries on Farah’s future. Farah was introduced to the activities and services provided at the centre and she started attending most of the activities including awareness raising sessions, literacy courses and she benefited from psychosocial and legal support.

Farah has had multiple sessions with the social worker and psychologist and the positive difference in her behaviour started to be noticed, not only by the staff but also by her family and friends. The 19-year old girl managed to leave her fiancé and began to focus on a new future for herself by continuing her education.

Farah says that when she decides to get married she will choose a partner who will support her to reach the goals that she aims to achieve.
The UNFPA Y-PEER Coordinator, together with a Jordanian Y-PEERian, attended the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul where they presented the work that the Y-PEER network is doing with Syrian refugees, particularly in Zaatari Camp, where a Y-PEER network has been established.

**EGYPT**

UNFPA teamed up with other United Nations agencies, national and international NGOs in coordinating activities to respond to the Syrian crisis, addressing reporting challenges, facilitating service referrals and contributing to the national strategic plan for the Syrian response.

Coordination meetings were held of the inter agency work group, health work group, and inter-sectoral workgroup. UNFPA also raised the issue of non-formal marriages among Syrian refugees to Egyptian nationals for economic reasons, and the implications of such behaviour.

UNFPA also presented to these working groups its achievements on safe spaces for refugees (women, girls, and boys) supported by success stories from the field.

**LEBANON**

UNFPA took part in the Protection working group meeting and co-chaired the SGBV sub-working group meeting in Gaziantep. A draft version of standard operating procedures (SOPs) on SGBV has been introduced, and the SOPs are expected to be finalised at the next meeting.

UNFPA attended the protection, NFI and Health Working Group meeting for the West Coast coordination in Izmir, Turkey with the aim to work collectively to identify and fill the gaps and avoid duplications in services provided to refugees in the western part of the country.

UNFPA Turkey also took part in the “reporting on GBV in the Syrian crisis” workshop in Beirut. The workshop was concluded with developing a country plan for 2016, where three roundtable meetings in Turkey were planned in the provinces of Istanbul, Ankara and Sanlivrfa.

**JORDAN**

UNFPA participated in the access working group meeting, the United Nations sector group meetings on health, protection, and logistics, as well as meetings of the United Nations Humanitarian Country Team and the United Nations Security Cell. UNFPA also participated in meetings to discuss programme criticality of different United Nations activities in the country.

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SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

The lack of accessibility to Aleppo is exacerbating the shortages of humanitarian assistance while making it difficult to monitor what is being done.

There are delays in financial transactions due to banking restrictions. Staff availability and lack of supplies, especially medication and consumables, for new health facilities remain a challenge in the southern areas of Syria.

TURKEY

During the month of Ramadan, service delivery was carried out at a reduced rate.

Economic problems still hinder people from reaching or participating in activities.

The security threat outside the borders of Turkey has an indirect negative impact on the on-going programme.

The language barrier is still limiting access to some of the services especially in the field of health (lack of Arabic-speaking psychologists, social workers, doctors, etc.).

LEBANON

NGO partners report that the number of men and boys beneficiaries coming to their centre has significantly decreased due to their long working hours in informal employment.

IRAQ

There is a continuing lack of resources to sustain the on-going programmes.

PUBLICATIONS

“Fighting Back Tears ... Clinging to Dreams: Syrian Women in Their Own Words”

The publication provides a different picture of Syria. What emerges is more than what we normally see and read about. There is great suffering and grief, but there are also heartening stories of devotion, initiative, togetherness and even joy. This publication aims to amplify the voices of Syrian women and add new texture to the portrait of their lives inside Syria and in neighbouring countries.


DONORS & PARTNERS

UNFPA IS GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING DONORS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE SYRIA CRISIS:

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

Private sector: MBC

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

IN SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC: Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MOSA), Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE), Syrian Family Planning Association (SFPA), Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) and International Medical Corps (IMC).


IN JORDAN: Ministry of Health (MOH), Institute for Family Health (IFH), International Medical Corps (IMC), Jordanian Health Aid Society (JHAS), Family Protection Department (FPD), Jordanian Women’s Union (JWU), Youth Peer Education Network (YPE), NCFA (National Council for Family Affairs), Questscope.

IN IRAQ: Ministry of Culture, Sport and Youth (MCSY), Ministry of Labor & Social Affairs (MLS), AL Massela, START NGO and Harikar.

IN EGYPT: Ministry of Health (MOH), Resala and FARD Foundation.

IN TURKEY: The Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) of the Prime Ministry of Turkey, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), and Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Family and Social Polices (MoFSP), Harran University in Sanliurfa, NGOs including the International Middle East Peace Research Center (IMP), KAMER, TOG, RET International, HÜKSAM, ASAM, BUHASDER.

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RELEVANT RESOURCES

www.unfpa.org
www.ocha.org
www.unhcr.org
http://syria.humanitarianresponse.info