



IRAQ: An eight-month pregnant woman reached Kurdistan region in August and she is now living in Bharka camp in Erbil, benefiting from UNFPA reproductive health services provided in the primary health care centre close to the camp. Credit: UNFPA

HIGHLIGHTS

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC: UNFPA delivers reproductive health services to 9,000 women, family planning services to 5,600 women and reproductive health vouchers to 1,500 women in Damascus, rural Damascus and Aleppo.

UNFPA provides vital hygiene products to 9,200 women and 5,000 men in Damascus, Aleppo, Deir Ezzor, and Qameshly.

LEBANON: UNFPA conducts 138 focus group sessions on mental health and psychosocial support, targeting 611 women in five areas. Kits for clinical management of rape are updated.

JORDAN: UNFPA supports reproductive health services for 1,626 women in Zaatari camp.

IRAQ: UNFPA delivers reproductive health and family planning services to around 8,000 women of reproductive age in Domiz camp in Dohuk governorate, as well as 5,000 newly arrived women refugees in several temporary camps in Erbil and Sulimaniyah Governorates.

TURKEY: "Helping the Helpers" training course on psychosocial support, with particular focus on gender-based violence was organized by UNFPA on 21-22 and 28-29 August 2013 in Gaziantep-Nizip-1 Camp.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

Nearly 6.8 million people have been affected by the crisis in Syria, of which 25 percent are women and girls of reproductive (child-bearing) age. More than two million Syrians have fled across Syria's borders into neighboring countries seeking protection, medical care and other urgently-needed aid. More than half are children, with most under age 11 and more than 400,000 are women and girls aged between 15-49.

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

The threat of military intervention as a result of the alleged use of chemical substances that resulted in the loss of life among the civilian population of Ghouta neighbourhood of Damascus has complicated the security environment in which UNFPA and implementing partners are working. Several thousand citizens abandoned their houses in rural Damascus as a consequence of the attack out of fear of future similar events.

Protection of civilians in areas of armed conflict as well as a marked escalation of hostilities in a number of governorates is a grave concern to UNFPA and its partners. This includes the old city and Waer neighbourhoods in Homs, the Ghouta east and west suburbs of Damascus, Deir Ezzor and rural Aleppo. Sectarian violence in the coastal region of the country, in Tartous and Latakia, is a further concern in that there have been reports of mass killings and displacement of a number of villages. Abduction of women as 'spoils of war' has also been reported.

Access to blockaded areas has made accurate estimates of internally displaced peoples (IDPs) in non-Government of Syria (GoS) controlled areas difficult. Access to IDP concentration areas such

as communal shelters has also been limited by bureaucratic procedures as well as security constraints due to ongoing armed conflict in many areas.

Armed conflict continues in different areas of rural Damascus, Homs and Deir Ezzor, resulting in an increase in the number of IDPs in need for protection and social services including health care.

Reliable data for reproductive health and gender-based violence trends remain a challenge for planning, particularly in areas where active conflict is taking place and in blockaded areas. As IDP numbers continue to rise, access to areas for assessment of the trends will be critical for the planning of the next humanitarian response plan for Syria in 2014.

Meeting reproductive health concerns, especially post-natal care, access to family planning services and reproductive health surgical interventions (for example, emergency delivery, haemorrhage and fistula repair) has been challenging given the reduced capacity of public health facilities and the high fees for private facilities. UNFPA seeks to partially address these concerns through its outreach ser-

vices, vouchers for reproductive services and support to operational public and private hospitals and clinics with commodities and supplies. Due to the escalated violence and political tension, psychosocial stress among women, their families and health care providers has been observed to be on the rise through partner reports and UNFPA field monitoring visits. Consequently, this is a priority programme focus for UNFPA and implementing partners.

JORDAN

There are 515,012 Syrians refugees in Jordan, of which 485,818 are registered and 29,194 are awaiting registration.

The new Azraq camp is planned to open in mid-September. However, the Zaatari camp may be required to receive an additional 20,000 Syrian refugees as a result of an escalation in the Syrian crisis, the recent alleged chemical weapons attack in Damascus suburbs and the possible use of force by non-regional governments. (Source: UNHCR, 15 July 2013)

LEBANON

As of 31 August, the number of Syrian refugees currently receiving assistance through UNHCR and partners is 716,000, of which over 606,000 are registered and 109,000 are awaiting registration. Current distribution of the registered population is as follows: north Lebanon: 200,000 (33%); Bekaa: 206,000 (34%); Beirut and Mount Lebanon: 119,000 (18%); south Lebanon: 79,000 (13%).

The highly unstable security situation across the country has impacted programmes and hindered humanitarian access, mainly in northern Bekaa and Wadi Khaled. As a means of contingency planning, the Ministry of Social Affairs, along with UNHCR and partners, agreed that a reception area would be established at Masnaa border to provide information and counseling to refugees upon their arrival. Water, sanitation and health facilities will be available in this area, and refugees with specific needs will be identified and referred to specialized agencies in Lebanon. Authorities are exercising more caution in checking documents at the border and denying access to people without valid passports, ID cards or to those whose documents are damaged.

TURKEY

A total of 201,067 Syrians refugees are currently hosted through a temporary admission centre to the 15 tented sites in Hatay, Sanliurfa, Gaziantep, Kahramanmaras, Osmaniye, Mardin, Adana and Adiyaman provinces, and at five container sites in Malatya, Sanliurfa, Gaziantep and two in Kilis. During the reporting period, 397 refugees have been admitted to the hospitals along with 130 companions.

The Government of Turkey start issuing ID card for all registered Syrian refugees, which allow them to access hospitals and to use health services. Officials of the Prime Ministry, Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) in Sanliurfa province signed an agreement with the Pharmacists Union in Sanliurfa to cover 80 percent of the cost of medicines of Syrian refugees who are registered and have ID cards and living in rural areas and 100 percent of the of medicines cost for Syrian refugees inside the camps.

IRAQ

As of 4 September, there are more than 200,000 Syrian refugees in Iraq, almost 97 percent of them are concentrated in the three northern governorates of Iraq (Kurdistan region), 30 percent are located in several camps: 40,000 in Domiz camp (Dohuk governorate), and around 23,000 in other camps in Erbil and Sulimaniyah governorates. The last three weeks witnessed a major influx of

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 Lebanon

716,000 REFUGEES
179,000 WOMEN AND GIRLS OF REPRODUCTIVE (CHILD-BEARING) AGE
7,160 PREGNANT WOMEN

In Jordan

515,012 REFUGEES
128,753 WOMEN AND GIRLS OF REPRODUCTIVE (CHILD-BEARING) AGE
5,150 PREGNANT WOMEN

In Iraq

AROUND 200,000 REFUGEES (WITH 10 - 12 % OF HOUSEHOLDS ARE FEMALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS)
50,000 WOMEN AND GIRLS OF REPRODUCTIVE (CHILD-BEARING) AGE
10,000 PREGNANT WOMEN
80,000 FEMALE & MALE YOUTH (15 TO 29 YRS), OF WHOM 40,000 ARE SINGLE MALE YOUTH

SOURCE:
UNHCR: AUG 2013

refugees to Iraq with around 55,000 newly arrived refugees while tens of thousands are awaiting favourable opportunities to cross the borders into Kurdistan region. Almost 95 percent of them are of Syrian Kurdish origin, and around 10-12 percent of families are "female headed households, which are more vulnerable for social and health risks, including marginalization, gender-based violence and abuse than others. More than 40 percent of these refugees (or around 80,000) are young males and females (15-29 yrs) while around 50 percent of these young people are single young males youth (15 - 29 yrs).

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE (15 AUGUST- 10 SEPTEMBER 2013)

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, INCLUDING FAMILY PLANNING

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC:

Reproductive health services: Around **9,000 women received reproductive health services**, including emergency obstetric care, in Damascus, rural Damascus, Aleppo and Homs through the maternity hospitals and mobile teams supported by UNFPA. UNFPA has expanded its service delivery through the distribution of reproductive health vouchers to the affected people residing in Damascus, rural Damascus and Aleppo, benefiting 1,500 women who received emergency obstetric care including normal and Caesarean-section delivery services, free of charge.

Reproductive health supplies: UNFPA provided five Syrian Arab Red Crescent clinics in Damascus and rural Damascus with contraceptives enabling around **5,600 women to receive family planning and reproductive health services**. Around **300,000 women have benefited from reproductive health medical equipment and supplies** delivered by UNFPA to support the quality of reproductive health services including emergency obstetric care in public health facilities in Damascus, rural Damascus and Homs.

Reproductive health capacity building: To reduce current and potential delays in receiving emergency obstetric care at the community level, **27 midwives completed a two-day training on emergency obstetric care in support of women in Damascus, rural Damascus, Deraa, and Sweida**, using minimum, available equipment. This capacity-building event is part of the agreement between the Ministry of Health and UNFPA to improve the capacity of midwives at the community level.

JORDAN

Reproductive health awareness: UNFPA in collaboration with Aman Association has organized **four awareness-raising activities for 47 women (26 participants in Nazzal and 20 participants in Hashimi communities) on the effectiveness, benefits and disadvantages of IUDs**, as well as on the common symptoms, treatment, and prevention of reproductive tract infections.

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: UNFPA supported reproductive health services for 1,626 women. Of these women, 725 women were younger than 24 and 754 women were 24 years old and above. A total of 369 women received ante-natal services through UNFPA-supported clinics, 53 women received post-natal care services, 477 women attended clinics for family planning purposes and an additional 527 women had sought cures for infections.

LEBANON

Replacement of expired medicine: UNFPA replaced the expired medicines for reproductive health kit #3 in the clinical management of rape referral facilities in the north, located in Hayek hospital, Hospital Notre Dame De La Paix, Qobayat hospital and Machha primary health care centre.

TURKEY

UNFPA received the specifications of the required ambulance from AFAD and will initiate the procurement procedures in the second week of September.

IRAQ

Reproductive health services in Domiz refugee camps: the Dohuk Department of Health in collaboration with the UNFPA-established reproductive health clinic aims to deliver regular reproductive health services every day from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm, including antenatal care, postnatal care and family planning and other related services. During the month of August, **more than 1,000 Syrian refugees visited the clinic, 300 of whom were pregnant, and more than 400 couples received family planning services.**

Establishment of new reproductive health clinics in the new camps in Erbil and Sulimaniyah governorates: UNFPA is currently in the process of supporting the Department of Health to set up reproductive health clinics in each of the five newly created camps. Within this context, pre-fabricated containers (8m by 4m) were ordered from local providers, as well as necessary medical equipment. Reproductive health kits were procured through UNFPA procurement branch. Efforts are ongoing to identify and recruit medical and paramedical staff among Syrian refugees residing inside the camps



Women waiting to receive UNFPA-provided reproductive health services in the clinic in Domiz refugee camp, Iraq. UNFPA-2013.

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC:

UNFPA and Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) **organized 12 recreational days during the period of 15-21 August in support of women's psychological health** to around 1,800 people residing in 12 shelters in Damascus.

Psychosocial support services (PSS) and referrals to specialized psychiatrics and clinics were provided for 2,300 women residing in shelters in Damascus, rural Damascus, Aleppo, and Homs. Moreover, supported by UNFPA, the community and SARC volunteers provided psychosocial first aid (PFA) for around 7,500 people residing in the violence-affected areas of Damascus and rural Damascus during the period April-August 2013.

In this reporting period, **120 women were screened for gender-based violence in a comprehensive reproductive health facility**, 90 of whom received medical counseling, community support, legal counseling, and referral services.

In an attempt to preserve dignity of families in the violence-affected areas and in cooperation with SARC, **UNFPA continues to provide vital hygiene products to 9,200 women and 5,000 men in Damascus, Aleppo, Deir Ezzor, and Qameshly.**

UNFPA retains a staff counselor for individual sessions at the request of the staff member and in order to provide support to the team of professionals working under duress.

JORDAN

Gender-based violence training: As part of the joint gender-based violence prevention project, the International Rescue Committee (IRC), in collaboration with UNFPA, had a meeting with community networks, including youth, girls' and women's committees to identify the various training needs for the coming period and with street leaders in Zaatari camp to introduce them to the project. IRC/UNFPA organized a safety audit tool training for 17 people representing the implementing partners in Zaatari camp and started safety audit data collection.

Gender-based violence services: UNFPA reached 3,780 women and men in 1,187 sessions that took place at UNFPA/ Institute for Family Health (IFH) women and girls centres in Cyber City, King Abdullah Park, and Zaatari camp as well as in communities and at sites in Maan and Zarqa governorates in Jordan. Of the total number, 1,811 were women and 172 were men 24 years old and above, 1,414 women and 283 men were under the age of 24 and 542 girls and 136 boys were under the age of 18. The sessions included recreational activities (53), awareness raising activities (44), reproductive health individual counseling sessions (259), reproductive health group counseling sessions (7), individual psychosocial support sessions (301), group psychosocial support (11), and vocational training courses (16).

LEBANON

Gender-based violence prevention and response campaign with focus on basic life-skills, problem solving and psychological first aid targeting women: UNFPA in collaboration with the Lebanese American University and the Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW) held a five-day training workshop on basic life skills training to 13 social workers from six national NGOs and Social Development Centers operating in Baalbek, north Lebanon (Halba, Meniyeh) and south Lebanon.

Mental health with focus on gender-based violence: A total of 31 sessions were conducted in Aley, Bourj Hammoud, Chiyah, Jounieh, and Saida, reaching a total of 248 women. During the sessions, the participants were able to address several issues such as the wellbeing of Syrian refugee families, gender-based violence and specific forms of violence faced by refugee women as well as sexual harassment, pregnancy issues and depression. Since the beginning of the project on 30 August, a total of 138 focus group sessions have been held and a total of 611 women reached.



Quotes from participants in a focus group discussions (mental health with focus on gender-based violence):

- *"I feel much better with these sessions. It feels good to talk"*
- *"My relationship with my husband and children has improved"*
- *"I am pregnant and my friend here is pregnant. I didn't want to, but it happened. We used contraception and I already aborted twice. How many times am I to have an abortion? It is all because of my husband, he is the one that did this to me. He knows that if we did "it" this was going to happen. It is his mistake, not mine. How are we going to bring this child up now?"*

TURKEY

A "Helping the Helpers" training course on psychosocial support with particular focus on gender-based violence was organized by UNFPA on 21-22 and 28-29 August 2013 in Gaziantep-Nizip-1 Camp.

IRAQ

Gender-based violence training: UNFPA in close collaboration with the Department of Health in Duhok organized a training course on caring for women survivors of gender-based violence for 24 practitioners working with survivors of gender-based violence at the health centres in Duhok governorate and Domiz camp.

Gender-based violence prevention and response: During the period of 15 August to 6 September, 29 clients visited the women survivor center in Domiz camp, and they were provided with essential first response.

SUPPORTING ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH

JORDAN

Periodic awareness sessions on healthy lifestyles and sessions to discuss needs of young people in a camp setting are taking place. Reproductive health and gender-based violence services also continue to be offered to youth in Zaatari camp.

LEBANON

Initiating youth assessment for Syrian refugees: The first meeting for the technical committee, consisting of members from UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO and Save the Children International, took place on August 28 where they discussed the assessment timeline, research framework, interview guides and youth participation in terms of criteria, roles and process of recruitment for interviewers.

Planning resilience-building interventions among school students: During the reporting period, the selection of schools whose students will benefit from resilience-building training was completed; training curricula for teachers finalized and preparation for the training of teachers (planned for end of September) is under way. A refresher session was carried out for social workers on conducting awareness sessions for mothers on parenting strategies.

Interventions targeting youth affected by the Syrian crisis for healthier and more active youth: During the reporting period, UNFPA developed training curricula and reviewed material for youth trainings. Fourteen trainers participated in the training conducted on 26 - 29 August on the adolescent sexual and reproductive health toolkit for humanitarian settings. Three focus group discussions were conducted on 20 and 21 of August for 35 Syrian youth age 15-18 and 19-24, with the objective of prioritizing topics to be addressed in youth peer education, service-provider trainings and in providing youth-friendly services.

A youth peer-education workshop on reproductive health and life skills in humanitarian settings took place from 2-6 September where 21 Syrian youth from the north, south, Bekaa and Beirut participated and discussed.

IRAQ

From 23rd to 27th August, UNFPA organized back-to-back training sessions on youth peer education. A total of 41 Syrian youth participants took part: 31 were girls age 15-18. The training covered several topics, including violence, discrimination, anger management, sexually transmitted diseases, and integration in society. In addition, the participants trained to build the volunteers' knowledge on self-protection.



Syrian youth during the workshop in Domiz camp, Iraq. UNFPA-2013

COORDINATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

- On 23 August, UNFPA facilitated a workshop for 25 participants from different implementing partners to identify gaps and challenges of humanitarian response monitoring.
- UNFPA participated in United Nations sector meetings on health, protection and non-food items and logistics in support of effective and coordinated humanitarian response.
- UNFPA participated in the meeting organized for all United Nations staff in support of sharing information on the mission of the chemical weapon inspectors.
- UNFPA is coordinating with other United Nations agencies on conducting staff for all personnel on chemical awareness.

JORDAN

During the reporting period, UNFPA presented the findings of the minimum initial service package (MISP) assessment in the sub-working group on reproductive health held on 31 August. The assessment concludes that in spite of the steady influx of refugees the agencies that provide reproductive health services have been able to implement the MISP. They are facing challenges to balance between the increasing demands for services while maintaining the quality of services.

LEBANON

On August 20, UNFPA met with the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) and discussed the following:

- The process of purchasing reproductive health related pharmaceuticals that will be provided to the MOPH primary health care centres aiming to ensure a 20 percent increase of the said drugs. Such pharmaceuticals will also be provided to the Ministry of Social Affairs' social development centres and to YMCA-supported dispensaries.
- The launch of family planning counseling training for nurses, midwives, physicians and community health workers from different health facilities receiving Syrian displaced persons.
- The MOPH suggestion that pregnancy care services offered to Syrian displaced women correlate with the national service delivery guidelines adopted by MOPH.
- The possibility of integrating clinical management of rape services within the national protocols.

On August 22, UNFPA met with the National AIDS Programme (NAP), and it was decided that UNFPA will share data on available post-exposure prophylaxis kit drugs within different centres to support the Syrian refugee population.

IRAQ

UNFPA and UNHCR co-chaired the gender-based violence sub-working group meeting, where there was an update on all activities, harmonization of key messages and an agreement on working with the regional government coordination mechanism for combating violence against women.

From 1 - 3 September, a three-day workshop on health, nutrition and food security services for refugees was organized by UNHCR together with the Ministry of Health in collaboration with other health authorities, United Nations agencies, NGOs and bilateral donors in Erbil. The objectives of the workshop were to get a better understanding about the rights of refugees to health services both in and outside the camps.

CHALLENGES

In Syria, the bureaucratic procedures imposed by the Government of Syria on movement of goods, especially medical items, remain a major challenge to operations. As such, warehouses are full of reproductive health kits, serums and other reproductive health commodities that cannot be delivered to their final destination, sometimes for months.

The decline of the Syrian pound against other currencies, especially the U.S dollar coupled with the Syrian Central Bank's limitations on payment to vendors in dollars, has made transactions with local vendors for procurement, transport of goods and services difficult.

Security requirements for remaining in country to stay and deliver are increasing. This has resulted in disruption of staff as the UNFPA offices are obliged to relocate to new locations for current security and safety requirements. Additional security-related costs are very high and increasing. UNFPA remains concerned about the hindered access to health care across the country, but particularly in Rural Damascus, Rural Aleppo, De-rra, Deir Ezzor and Homs.

In Lebanon, the expansion of refugee to new areas, access to unregistered Syrians and the highly fragile situation with intensified hostility in the North, Bekaa and the South are all affecting programme delivery and staff movements.

In Jordan, the lack of security in certain parts of Zaatari camp impedes refugees' access to services. The continued limits to transportation options affect refugees' accessibility to health services for the more disadvantaged, including pregnant women, in the camp.

In Iraq, the magnitude of the influx of refugees diminished compared to that in mid-August; however, there is a challenge to cope with huge number of refugees currently residing in the Kurdistan region.



Thousands of Syrians have streamed into Iraq's Kurdistan region: half of them are women and girls. UNFPA-2013

FUNDING UPDATES

UNFPA Resource Mobilization for Syria Response

As of 29 August 2013

Country	Egypt	Iraq	Jordan	Lebanon	Syria	Turkey	Total Requested		
Requested in Appeal (Jan-Dec)	1,045,000	3,200,000	10,300,000	3,745,961	16,000,000	5,750,000	40,041,961		
Funding Source	Funding to Date						Total Contributed	TOTAL Committed	TOTAL Pledged
Interim Emergency Fund				175,000	507,700	310,000	485,000	■	○
Interim Regular Resources					2,300,000		2,300,000	■	○
Interim Calling from RC		200,000	100,000	250,000			250,000	■	○
CERF				102,500	1,141,637		1,246,637	■	○
BPRM				500,000	400,000	500,000	1,400,000	■	○
ECHO			1,315,417		1,308,900		2,624,317	○	○
Royal Embassy Norway			231,193				231,193	○	■
Other Funds							0	○	■
Member Funds		1,000,000	1,500,000	1,000,000	500,000	1,000,000	5,000,000	○	■
Classen Mission				140,000			140,000	○	■
Government of Australia							907,441		
TOTAL contributed		1,200,000	3,146,610	2,167,533	6,158,237	1,810,000	14,584,588		
% of Jan-Dec Appeal		38%	31%	58%	38%	31%	36%		
TOTAL contributed/ committed/ pledged		1,200,000	3,146,610	2,167,533	6,158,237	1,810,000			
% of Jan-Dec Appeal		38%	31%	58%	38%	31%			
Funding Gap (\$)		1,400,000	1,718,807	142,000	7,656,363	2,090,000			
	Funds Committed		Funds Pledged		Funds carried over from 2012				



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RELEVANT RESOURCES
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