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REGIONAL SITUATION REPORT

FOR THE SYRIA CRISIS

June 2023

“ THE NIGHT OF THE EARTHQUAKE ENCAPSULATED TWELVE YEARS OF CONFLICT. AMIDST THE TREMORS, I HAD FLASHBACKS TO ALL THE LONG YEARS OF SUFFERING, VIOLENCE, AND DESTRUCTION.

— A doctor working in a UNFPA-supported facility in Aleppo governorate that was severely affected by the earthquake

SNAPSHOT

Halfway into 2023, Syrians and host communities throughout the region are living through one of the worst years of the crisis. People in need continue to face the escalating impact of a protracted conflict, further complicated by a collapsing economy, climate-related challenges, and chronic and new emergencies, including the massive earthquake that struck Türkiye and north-west Syria in February 2023.

The crisis region, which spans the Whole of Syria, Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt, continues to face a multitude of challenges, particularly in light of widespread and ongoing humanitarian challenges in multiple countries, far-reaching inflation and economic recession, as well as the wider impacts of the other crises in the region and beyond. More than twelve years into this protracted crisis, people continue to endure the cumulative effects of years of instability, the risks of which are even higher now due to extended disruption in community networks and the rule of law.

The Regional Situation Report for the Syria Crisis offers a bird's eye view of UNFPA's operations within the context of the Syria crisis. The report is prepared by the UNFPA Regional Humanitarian Hub for Syria and the Arab States (The Hub) in Amman, and spans operations led by UNFPA offices in Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt, in addition to operations led inside Syria, both from Damascus and cross-border via Türkiye.

In addition to providing aggregated quantitative results for each country involved in UNFPA's regional Syria response, this report also brings stories from the field that highlight the plight of communities inside Syria and in host countries, underscoring the positive impact of the response delivered by UNFPA in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence, youth engagement, and others.

The quantitative data presented in this report is cumulative, covering achievements made in 2023 as of the reporting month.



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“ VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS HAS BECOME A SERIOUS PROBLEM AFTER THE WAR. WE SIMPLY DO NOT FEEL SAFE ANYMORE.

– YUSRA, a woman from Qamishli

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CRISES WITHIN CRISES UNFOLD AS SYRIAN COMMUNITIES ARE PUSHED TO THE BRINK.

In 2023, the needs of Syrians and host communities are higher than ever, particularly in light of widespread economic collapse, the cumulative impact of 12 years of conflict, climate-related challenges, and various other socio-political factors.

Despite the continuing efforts of humanitarian actors, the Syria crisis remains one of the world’s most complex humanitarian and protection emergencies. As of early 2023, 15.3 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance – the highest number since the onset of the crisis in 2011. This includes 7.7 million women and girls, 4.2 million of whom are of reproductive age.

Meanwhile, more than 6.8 million Syrian refugees remain as refugees in five neighbouring countries – Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt, nearly half of whom are women and girls.

A disaster unfolds in the north-west

On February 6, communities surviving extreme conditions were in north-west Syria were pushed to the brink after multiple earthquakes, the strongest being of 7.7 magnitude, struck southern Türkiye and northern Syria, creating a disaster of colossal proportions. Following the initial quake, around 17,000 aftershocks occurred until March 13, highlighting the vulnerability of the region to future earthquakes and the severe risks facing communities.

In addition to leaving hundreds of thousands of people – mostly women and children – without access to shelter, food, water, heat, and healthcare, the emergency has further amplified the challenges of an already weak and fragile health system. Maintaining access to lifesaving sexual and reproductive health (SRH) assistance, integrated SRH-GBV services, and other essential health services remains a critical response priority for UNFPA and its partners operating on the ground. Moreover, the situation is further compounding the risks of gender-based violence (GBV), particularly as women and girls are forced to stay in overcrowded shelters that lack adequate privacy, lighting, and security.

Prior to the earthquakes, conditions in displacement camps in the north-west of the country were already dire as people were left with little choice but to return to their homes in front-line areas, where active hostilities and indiscriminate attacks against civilians have claimed countless lives and targeted food and water resources.

Throughout 2022, civilian life and humanitarian assistance were severely impacted by artillery shelling, air strikes, land mines, and unexploded ordnance, creating fear for millions of Syrians who have known nothing but conflict and displacement. Compounding the impact of these challenges is the growing threat of climate-related shocks, with serious drought and flooding creating additional needs and threats. More than a decade of conflict has also resulted in large-scale destruction of the water and sanitation infrastructure, leaving significant numbers of Syrian families in overcrowded displacement sites and poor WASH conditions. Up to 47 percent of the population rely on often unsafe alternatives to piped water, which constitutes a major risk factor for disease outbreaks, including cholera.

Women & girls pay the steepest price

Assessments and focus group discussions conducted by UNFPA show that gender-based violence continues to pervade the daily lives of Syrian women and girls impacted by the crisis. Their lives are marked by mutually reinforcing forms of violence and gender inequality, often exacerbated by discriminatory attitudes based on age, displacement status, disability, and/or marital status. This has created an environment in which women and girls are consistently devalued, controlled, exploited, and then blamed for the violence they face.

“Things have gotten much worse in recent years,” explains Sali, a young woman living in Areesha camp, who was forced into a child marriage when she was 14 shortly after the crisis erupted. Fortunately, she was able to access services at a UNFPA-supported Safe Space, which helped her overcome her trauma. “The situation is the same for so many girls around me, but many are not able to find support as I did.”



15.3 MILLION
Estimated people in need inside Syria



4.2 MILLION
Women and girls of reproductive age in need in Syria



500,000
Estimated pregnant women and girls in the crisis region



5.6 MILLION
Refugees, asylum seekers, or stateless people in the region

“ FOR MOST PEOPLE IN SYRIA, LIFE TODAY CARRIES VERY FEW PROSPECTS FOR A BETTER FUTURE.

— RIMA, a young woman from Aleppo

Unsurprisingly, women and girls throughout Syria and the crisis region are telling UNFPA that the violence against them has become normalized. Harassment, intimate partner and family violence, child and forced marriage and subsequent pregnancies, and sexual violence and exploitation are consistently reported, while new trends, such as various forms of technology-facilitated violence, have also been observed in recent years. Adolescent girls in particular face a wide range of challenges that usually accompany them throughout their lives. It begins with restrictions on movement and domestic violence, and progresses as the girl grows to include child and serial marriage, domestic violence, early pregnancy, sexual violence, and sexual exploitation, among others. Girls are also being denied their education, which further limits their life prospects and can entrap them in an unending cycle of violence and exploitation.

Throughout the region, Syrians & host communities face an uphill battle

More than 6.8 million Syrians remain as refugees in five neighbouring countries – Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt. For the women and girls among them, the protracted nature of the crisis has only multiplied the risks, including the growing threat of gender-based violence in its various forms. Many Syrian refugees live in overcrowded and unsafe conditions, where women and girls are at risk of harassment, assault, and exploitation. The worsening macroeconomic context, now worse than ever after the war in Ukraine, is also forcing countless families to resort to negative coping mechanisms to survive, including child and forced marriage.

Moreover, Syrian refugees in host countries continue to face discrimination, even as they struggle to overcome their traumas and rebuild their lives. This can manifest in a multitude of ways, including limited access to employment opportunities, education, healthcare, and basic services. For women and girls, it can also mean further risk of violence and fewer opportunities to access legal assistance. Discrimination continues to be a significant barrier to their integration and can contribute to their marginalisation and exclusion from society, further underscoring the essentiality of programmes tailored to their unique needs and challenges.

UNFPA continues to show up

Among the millions of Syrians who have spent the last 12 years surviving conflict, displacement, economic collapse, and mounting risks to their safety, many feel their calls for help have been increasingly drowned out. And yet, despite the enormous challenges levelled against them, Syrians throughout the region refuse to give up. People of different ages and backgrounds, including women and girls who have survived gender-based violence, continue to demonstrate remarkable resilience and determination. Many rise above their challenges and traumas to provide better prospects and opportunities for their children and loved ones, while others defy circumstances to become artists, activists, innovators, and influential voices in their communities.

UNFPA and humanitarian actors will continue to advocate for the rights and well-being of all Syrians, particularly women and girls. As of March 2023, as part of its regional response to the crisis since the beginning of the year, UNFPA has delivered sexual and reproductive health services to more than 400,000 people, while around 250,000 were reached with services designed to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, including around 105,000 adolescent girls. More than 11,000 women were provided with cash and voucher assistance, and more than 2,300 LGBTQIA+ individuals were served.

In 2023, UNFPA is [appealing](#) for a total of \$182.3 million to fund its operations throughout the crisis region. This includes an appeal of \$134.9 million to fund UNFPA's regional Syria crisis response across the Whole of Syria, Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt (36 percent funded), in addition to \$33.6 million to fund its response to the February earthquakes in the Whole of Syria and Türkiye (43 percent funded), \$7.2 million to fund the Lebanon Emergency Response Plan (14 percent funded), and \$6.65 million to fund the Sudan Emergency Response Plan (7 percent funded).



#ThisIsNotNormal

Disrupting the normalization of violence against women and girls

On the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, UNFPA Arab States Regional Director, Laila Baker, called upon the international community to hold perpetrators to account. Watch the video [here](#).

The [#ThisIsNotNormal](#) campaign comes in response to increasing reports by women and girls that violence against them is becoming so widespread and unchecked, that it has been normalized in many communities.

Globally, women and girls continue to bear the brunt of the worst impacts of natural and human-made disasters, and this includes the escalating risks of multiple forms of gender-based violence and harmful practices.

In the Arab region, converging crises are affecting the lives and well-being of women and girls, including protracted humanitarian crises, armed conflicts, forced

internal and external displacement, food insecurity and water scarcity, the worsening impacts of climate change, and countless other serious challenges. Harassment, intimate partner and domestic violence, child and forced marriage, and sexual violence and exploitation are consistently reported, while new trends, such as various forms of cyber violence, have also been observed in recent years. Women and girls also report that this sense of normalization is eroding their resilience, particularly for those living in humanitarian settings.

Featuring the voices of [artists and influencers](#) across the Arab region, the campaign aims to counter this alarming trend, amplify the voices of

women and girls survivors of gender-based violence, and reaffirm global commitment to ending gender-based violence, including sexual violence in conflict, and providing justice and support services to all those affected.

[#ThisIsNotNormal](#) is an extended campaign that will continue over the coming months. UNFPA is inviting donor countries, UN and partner agencies, gender-based violence experts, journalists, and other opinion influencers to participate.

“ WITH SO MANY COMMUNITIES GRAPPLING WITH THE IMPACTS OF EXTENDED HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES, WOMEN AND GIRLS ARE PAYING THE STEEPEST PRICE.

— LAILA BAKER, UNFPA Arab States Regional Director



FROM ALL OPERATIONS

OPERATIONS IMPLEMENTED THROUGHOUT THE REGION, INCLUDING THE WHOLE OF SYRIA, TÜRKIYE, LEBANON, JORDAN, IRAQ, AND EGYPT.

1,303,491

PEOPLE REACHED WITH SRH SERVICES

98% FEMALE

463,684

PEOPLE REACHED WITH GBV PROGRAMMING

92% FEMALE

17,165

PEOPLE REACHED WITH YOUTH ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

81% FEMALE

188,382

ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

8,977

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REACHED WITH VARIOUS SERVICES

89% FEMALE

5,276

LGBTQIA+ INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS SERVICES

12,780

PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH CASH & VOUCHER ASSISTANCE

96% FEMALE

4,832

PEOPLE TRAINED ON VARIOUS TOPICS

79% FEMALE

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Adolescent girls reached with SRH services	85,888	100%
Family planning consultations	387,192	99%
Normal / assisted vaginal deliveries	17,497	100%
C-sections	7,038	100%
Ante-natal care consultations	267,582	100%
Post-natal care consultations	43,108	100%
People trained on SRH-related topics	1,728	87%

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Adolescent girls reached with GBV programming	95,577	100%
People reached with dignity kits	164,826	100%
GBV case management consultations	18,493	95%
People reached with GBV awareness sessions	348,125	95%
People trained on GBV-related topics	2,814	74%

YOUTH SERVICES

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Adolescent girls reached with youth activities	6,917	100%
People trained on youth-related topics	290	84%



145
PRIMARY HEALTHCARE FACILITIES *



108
WOMEN AND GIRLS SAFE SPACES



30
EMERGENCY OBSTETRIC CARE FACILITIES



16
YOUTH CENTRES



89
MOBILE CLINICS



25
OTHER SERVICE DELIVERY POINTS

* Above figures reflect fully-supported service-delivery points. Inside Syria, an additional 638 primary healthcare facilities are being partially supported through the Ministry of Health.

AS THE CHALLENGES DEEPEN, WOMEN AND GIRLS CONTINUE TO PAY THE PRICE.

The conflict in Syria has created one of the most severe and protracted humanitarian crises in the world today. Millions have been displaced both inside the country and outside as refugees, especially in Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt. The crisis has permanently altered the fabric of society in Syria itself, with far-reaching ramifications for its future resilience.

Assessments and interviews conducted by UNFPA since 2016 have also been able to illustrate the profound effect that years of instability have had on women and girls, particularly adolescent girls, who face a variety of unique risks. Lack of individual autonomy, movement restrictions, forced and early marriage, denial of resources and opportunities, and sexual and physical violence continue to be part of their daily reality, creating a web of violence that can transcend generations.

Despite testing their limits, however, the crisis has also revealed the remarkable resilience of women and girls, many of whom defy enormous odds to build brighter futures for themselves and their families.

THE WHOLE OF SYRIA

UNFPA REMAINS COMMITTED TO ENSURING THAT ALL COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT SYRIA HAVE ACCESS TO QUALITY SERVICES AND SUPPORT

893,680

PEOPLE REACHED WITH SRH SERVICES

98% FEMALE

386,099

PEOPLE REACHED WITH GBV PROGRAMMING

93% FEMALE

7,928

PEOPLE REACHED WITH YOUTH ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

76% FEMALE

158,962

ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

7,060

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REACHED WITH VARIOUS SERVICES

88% FEMALE

10,920

PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH CASH & VOUCHER ASSISTANCE

100% FEMALE

2,408

PEOPLE TRAINED ON VARIOUS TOPICS

77% FEMALE

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Adolescent girls reached with SRH services	74,015	100%
Family planning consultations	338,843	100%
Normal / assisted vaginal deliveries	16,639	100%
C-sections	7,038	100%
Ante-natal care consultations	241,031	100%
Post-natal care consultations	37,768	100%
People trained on SRH-related topics	1,059	86%

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Adolescent girls reached with GBV programming	81,027	100%
People reached with dignity kits	134,171	100%
GBV case management consultations	10,009	96%
People reached with GBV awareness sessions	286,776	96%
People trained on GBV-related topics	1,255	70%

YOUTH SERVICES

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Adolescent girls reached with youth activities	3,920	100%
People trained on youth-related topics	94	69%



76

PRIMARY HEALTHCARE FACILITIES *



55

WOMEN AND GIRLS SAFE SPACES



19

EMERGENCY OBSTETRIC CARE FACILITIES



11

YOUTH CENTRES



87

MOBILE CLINICS



12

OTHER SERVICE DELIVERY POINTS

* Above figures reflect fully-supported service-delivery points. Inside Syria, an additional 638 primary healthcare facilities are being partially supported through the Ministry of Health.

Cross-border operations in Syria are essential to ensuring that women have access to sexual and reproductive health services and are protected from gender-based violence. With the ongoing crisis, women in Syria face numerous challenges, including limited access to healthcare, displacement, and increased risk of violence. UNFPA's cross-border operations enable the organization to provide vital assistance to women in areas where access to life-saving services is limited or non-existent.

Through its cross-border programming, UNFPA provides essential support to those in need, including emergency reproductive healthcare and gender-based violence response and prevention. These services play a crucial role in saving lives and protecting women from GBV, which has increased significantly during the conflict.

SYRIA COUNTRY OFFICE

TWELVE YEARS ON, COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT SYRIA CONTINUE TO SUFFER AS MULTIPLE CRISES CONVERGE.

797,971

PEOPLE REACHED WITH SRH SERVICES

99% FEMALE

2,936

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REACHED WITH VARIOUS SERVICES

94% FEMALE

322,465

PEOPLE REACHED WITH GBV PROGRAMMING

95% FEMALE

10,844

PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH CASH & VOUCHER ASSISTANCE

100% FEMALE

7,928

PEOPLE REACHED WITH YOUTH ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

81% FEMALE

1,113

PEOPLE TRAINED ON VARIOUS TOPICS

85% FEMALE

139,767

ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Adolescent girls reached with SRH services	61,515	100%
Family planning consultations	217,601	100%
Normal / assisted vaginal deliveries	4,200	100%
C-sections	4,076	100%
Ante-natal care consultations	141,214	100%
Post-natal care consultations	10,362	100%
People trained on SRH-related topics	410	85%

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Adolescent girls reached with GBV programming	53,832	100%
People reached with dignity kits	53,693	100%
GBV case management consultations	8,862	96%
People reached with GBV awareness sessions	214,074	97%
People trained on GBV-related topics	246	91%

YOUTH SERVICES

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Adolescent girls reached with youth activities	3,020	100%
People trained on youth-related topics	22	68%



73

PRIMARY HEALTHCARE FACILITIES *



41

WOMEN AND GIRLS SAFE SPACES



19

EMERGENCY OBSTETRIC CARE FACILITIES



11

YOUTH CENTRES



98

MOBILE CLINICS



12

OTHER SERVICE DELIVERY POINTS

I KNOW THE WORLD I WANT TO LIVE IN. HELP ME BUILD IT, AND I WILL NEVER STOP WORKING.

– RASHA, a young woman from Syria

* Above figures reflect fully-supported service-delivery points. Inside Syria, an additional 638 primary healthcare facilities are being partially supported through the Ministry of Health.

MULTI-FACETED CHALLENGES PERVADE THE LIVES OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SYRIA

Amidst a storm of converging challenges, the situation in Syria continues to take a toll on essential services like SRH and GBV response. The devaluation of the Syrian Pound and surging inflation have thrust the vast majority of Syrians into uncertainty, exacerbating the already precarious conditions for various vulnerable populations.

As chronic fuel shortages persist, transportation costs soar, and the cost of daily living rises, the ability of UNFPA Syria's partners to provide critical services is increasingly hampered. The struggle to secure and retain qualified staff, particularly in GBV case worker roles, is an ongoing challenge due to the mounting difficulties associated with the economic downturn. Even the attempt to compensate for the energy shortages using generators falls short, with many service delivery points experiencing daily electricity crises due to the scarcity of fuel. The domino effect of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to wreak havoc on international procurement, adding further complications with supply chain disruptions, soaring freight expenses, limited shipping capacity, and sanctions on Syria. Slow customs clearance upon arrival creates yet another barrier to accessing essential resources and aid.

To compound matters, the crisis in Ukraine is placing additional pressure on the already disrupted global market for lifesaving SRH and maternal care commodities. As the demand intensifies, the availability of crucial supplies becomes scarcer, making it a daunting task for UNFPA Syria to meet the needs of those they strive to serve. Obtaining necessary government approvals also remains a long and complex process for UNFPA partners, further delaying much-needed aid from reaching the people in dire need.

Meanwhile, security remains fragile, with Aleppo, Dara'a, Hama, Homs, Idlib, and Latakia being the epicenters of tension and uncertainty. The threat of violence looms over the population, hindering access to services and further compounding the struggles faced by those already grappling with dire circumstances.

UNFPA Syria continues to support access to lifesaving, comprehensive, specialized, and integrated SRH and GBV prevention and response services across 246 service delivery points in all 14 governorates. This includes 95 static health clinics, 87 integrated mobile teams (IMTs), 41 women and girls' safe spaces, 11 youth friendly spaces (YFS), three satellite points, six community wellbeing centres (CWCs), one Family Protection Unit, and two midwifery networks. Two Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) hospitals in Aleppo and Damascus governorates were also partially supported with SRH commodities.

Hope Amidst Chaos: Najwa's Story of Survival

"Say my name and show my face — I'm proud of what I've become!"

This is what Najwa, aged 52, told UNFPA when asked if we could share her story. After twenty years of marriage, Najwa's husband left her and their four girls, and she found herself in the difficult position of needing to earn a living to raise a family. The devastating February 2023 earthquakes affected her physically and psychologically, and she had to flee several times as part of her house was damaged.

Najwa's only refuge was the women and girls' safe space in her neighbourhood and the psychosocial support sessions offered there, which gave her a semblance of security amidst the chaos. "The individual psychosocial sessions helped rebuild my self-confidence brick by brick. I came to realize that there is nothing wrong with me as a divorced woman. On the contrary — I can achieve a lot."

"My struggle began with the crisis in Syria and became progressively worse as the economy collapsed," explains Najwa. "The last straw was the earthquake, which added to our socioeconomic woes and deepened my fear and anxiety. But I've been visiting the Bustan Al Zahra safe space for five years now to try and move past this reality. I'm learning handicrafts and baking in the hope of setting up my own business, which will help finance the restoration of my home."

On average, 50 to 60 women visit the Bustan Al Zahra safe space on a daily basis. The space is managed by Al Ihsan Charity and Developmental Association (ICDA) in Aleppo with the support of UNFPA Syria.

After the earthquake, the safe space Najwa frequents offered a three-day training programme to build awareness on first aid

during emergencies. The programme had a significant impact on Najwa, allowing her to better deal with the health needs of her daughter, who suffers from convulsive seizures, in addition to offering much-needed guidance on what to do in the event of another emergency. For those suffering from anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder due to the earthquake, these support sessions provide much-needed comfort and empowerment.

"I'm still anxious because my house remains damaged, and I live in constant worry that it might either fully or partially collapse," added Najwa. "In the midst of these difficult events, I came to see the safe space as the best thing that happened to me. Based on my recommendation, many of the women in my neighborhood have joined to benefit from the programmes on offer."

IN THE MIDST OF THESE DIFFICULT EVENTS, I CAME TO SEE THE SAFE SPACE AS THE BEST THING THAT HAPPENED TO ME... MANY OF THE WOMEN IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD HAVE JOINED TO BENEFIT FROM THE PROGRAMMES ON OFFER.



TÜRKIYE CROSS-BORDER

FOLLOWING THE EARTHQUAKE IN FEBRUARY, UNFPA CONTINUES TO RESPOND TO AN ONGOING AND FAR-REACHING EMERGENCY.

96,899

PEOPLE REACHED WITH SRH SERVICES

95% FEMALE

64,272

PEOPLE REACHED WITH GBV PROGRAMMING

79% FEMALE

19,999

ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

4,106

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REACHED WITH VARIOUS SERVICES

89% FEMALE

1,250

PEOPLE TRAINED ON VARIOUS TOPICS

70% FEMALE

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Family planning consultations	10,904	95%
Normal / assisted vaginal deliveries	9,800	100%
C-sections	2,606	100%
Ante-natal care consultations	50,246	100%
Post-natal care consultations	23,330	100%
People trained on SRH-related topics	295	85%

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Adolescent girls reached with GBV programming	19,999	100%
People reached with dignity kits	77,491	100%
GBV case management consultations	703	97%
People reached with GBV awareness sessions	37,128	82%
People trained on GBV-related topics	955	66%



11

PRIMARY HEALTHCARE FACILITIES



14

WOMEN AND GIRLS SAFE SPACES



9

EMERGENCY OBSTETRIC CARE FACILITIES



2

MOBILE TEAMS



THE DAY AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE, I COULD NOT WORK BECAUSE OF ALL THE BLOOD ON THE GROUND AT THE HOSPITAL. IT WAS TERRIBLE. TO CONTINUE PROVIDING HEALTH SERVICES, WE SET UP TENTS OUTSIDE THE FACILITY AND NOW, AFTER THREE MONTHS, WE MOVED INTO CONTAINERS. IT WILL TAKE AROUND A YEAR TO REBUILD OUR HOSPITAL BUT WE ARE DOING OUR BEST TO SUPPORT WOMEN AND GIRLS AS WELL AS OUR FAMILIES.

— a gynecologist working in a UNFPA-supported facility in Aleppo

THE NEEDS & CHALLENGES IN NORTH-WEST SYRIA REACH NEW HEIGHTS

The humanitarian situation in north-west Syria remains dire for millions of women and girls. Among the area's population of 4.5 million, 4.1 million are in urgent need of humanitarian aid, 2.9 million are internally displaced, and 3.3 million are food insecure. All of them rely on humanitarian aid to survive, even more so after the catastrophe wrought by the February earthquakes.

Throughout June, the security situation also remained extremely volatile, with a recorded increase in hostilities, particularly in Idlib. The incidents impacted civilian infrastructure, including a marketplace, causing multiple civilian deaths and injuries. The escalation of violence was officially condemned by the UN's Deputy Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Syria crisis in an official statement released in June 2023.

UN humanitarian leaders, including UNFPA, continued to jointly advocate for the Security Council to maintain access to north-west Syria. Ahead of the vote, UN Agencies and other humanitarian actors continued to transship and preposition essential lifesaving goods and supplies, such as IARH kits and Dignity Kits, in north-west Syria.

UNFPA is currently conducting a community-based assessment to better adapt the response to evolving SRH needs and priorities. As part of this exercise, over 70 focus group discussions were held with girls, women, boys, and men, along with 13 in-depth interviews with SRH service providers in 13 sub-districts of north-west Syria. Participants highlighted community-level SRH needs and priorities, as well as barriers to services. They also shared concrete recommendations on how to promote and enhance reproductive health and rights in the aftermath of the earthquake. Hard-to-reach populations, including women and girls with disabilities and those living in widow camps, were also consulted.

In partnership with UN OCHA, UNFPA and the GBV AoR have strengthened their efforts to effectively consult affected communities on the quality of Dignity Kits distributed in north-west Syria. As part of this joint inter-agency exercise, a monitoring tool was developed that will be rolled out in the area during field missions, if legal parameters permit. UNFPA, OCHA, and the GBV AoR will jointly consult women and adolescent girls living in camps and collect their feedback on dignity kits received during the earthquake response. The outcome of this exercise will inform the content of future kits, enhancing their alignment with the evolving needs of affected communities.

As the sole provider of SRH medicines and supplies to north-west Syria, UNFPA has continued to use the UN Security Council-authorized cross-border modality to transport goods from Türkiye into Syria. As part of UNFPA's continuity plans, 36 IARH (Inter-Agency Reproductive Health) kits have been transported to NWS. These kits will be critical to ensuring the continuation of operations of health facilities providing SRH services in case the UN Security Council Resolution is not renewed in July 2023. The delivered kits will cover the needs of around 2,401 beneficiaries for a period of three months.

In line with UNFPA's continuity planning, a total of 37,300 customized Dignity Kits to were transshipped to north-west Syria, containing critical hygiene and safety items for women above the age of 10. Dignity kits serve as strategic entry points for identifying women and girls at risk of GBV and referring them to specialized service providers. In addition to meeting basic hygiene needs, dignity kits can also include other essential items such as a flashlight, a blanket, and a whistle, which are important for women's safety and security in emergency situations.

UNFPA's partners have continued to prioritize targeted efforts towards shifting unequal and negative social norms that underpin GBV, especially intimate partner violence, child marriage, and sexual violence. In June, 13,059 beneficiaries were reached through GBV prevention initiatives. Partners continued to use the GBV AoR's Awareness Raising Toolkit in outreach efforts, providing standardized GBV messages to women, adolescent girls, men, and adolescent boys. This has fostered consistency and complementarity in GBV messaging shared by all partners and members of the GBV AoR.

In June, UNFPA's partners delivered 40 structured awareness-raising sessions aimed at shifting negative perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors around gender equality and power imbalances within diverse community groups, including men, boys, and religious leaders.

The cross-border referrals of cancer patients from north-west Syria to Türkiye via the Bab Al-Hawa border-crossing resumed in June 2023 after a temporary disruption caused by the February earthquakes. This was achieved due to joint advocacy efforts led by the Health Cluster and UN agencies, and with the support of the Government of Türkiye. The reactivation of this life-saving pathway will enable at least 4,300 active cancer patients in north-west Syria, including breast cancer patients, to receive quality and comprehensive medical care.

In the words of Manar, a 23 year-old displaced woman from north-west Syria

I was quite young when I lost my husband during the siege of Aleppo. It was devastating, and I found myself an adolescent widow with no children. My family and I had no choice but to flee to a camp in north-west Syria, where life was tough and unstable.

As a young widow, my father put a lot of pressure on me to remarry whoever proposed, making me feel like a burden to my family. He even restricted my movements, insisting I couldn't go out without someone from the family accompanying me, all out of fear of what people might say about a young widow. This broke my heart.

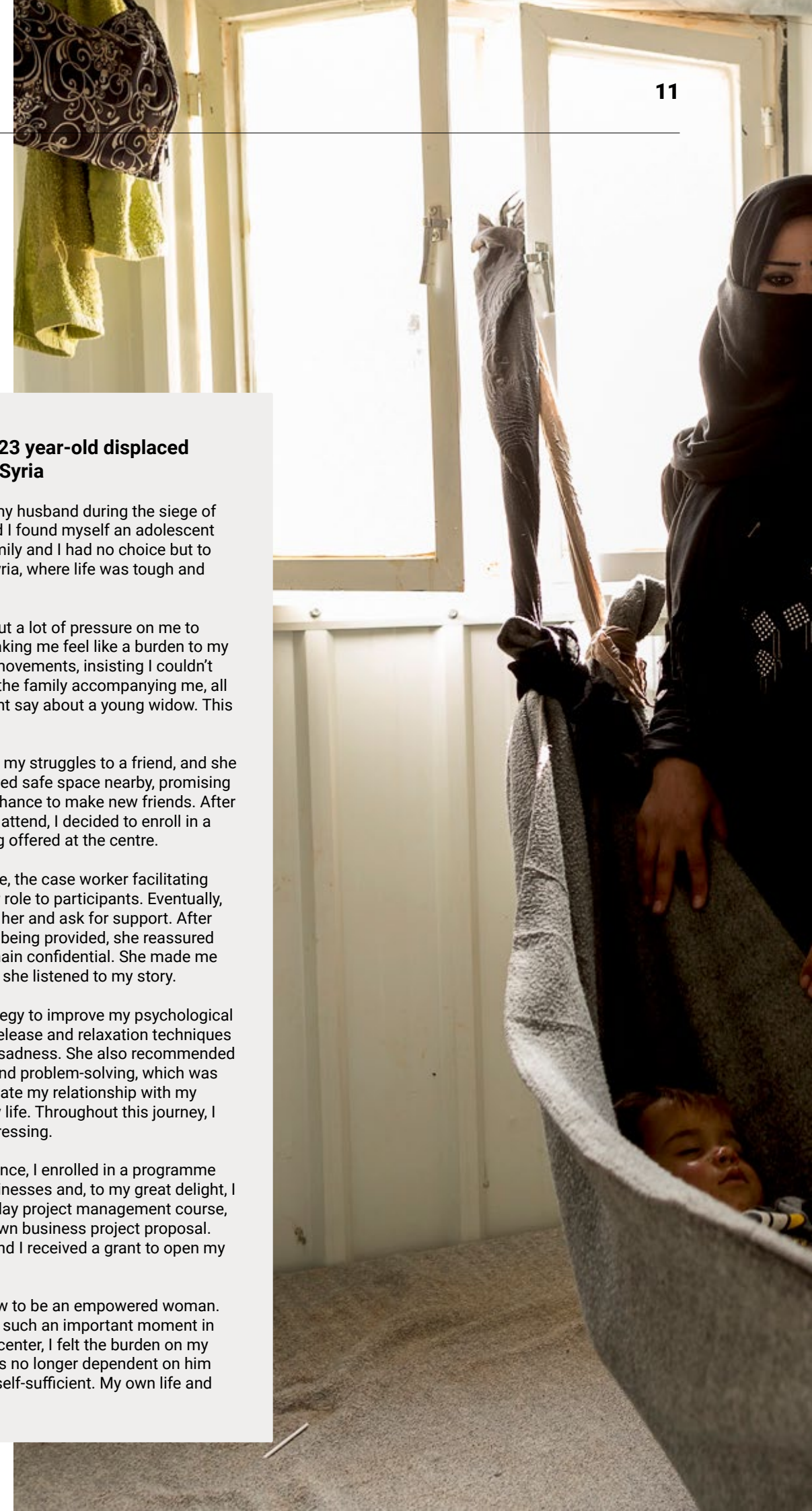
But one day, I opened up about my struggles to a friend, and she invited me to a UNFPA-supported safe space nearby, promising professional support and the chance to make new friends. After convincing my father to let me attend, I decided to enroll in a hairdressing vocational training offered at the centre.

At the beginning of each course, the case worker facilitating the sessions would explain her role to participants. Eventually, I made the choice to approach her and ask for support. After introducing me to the services being provided, she reassured me that her support would remain confidential. She made me feel comfortable and safe, and she listened to my story.

Together, we worked on a strategy to improve my psychological well-being, practicing healthy release and relaxation techniques to better cope with stress and sadness. She also recommended a training on communication and problem-solving, which was very useful in helping me navigate my relationship with my father and regain control of my life. Throughout this journey, I discovered a passion for hairdressing.

With the case manager's guidance, I enrolled in a programme designed to support small businesses and, to my great delight, I was selected to attend a four-day project management course, during which I developed my own business project proposal. My proposal was successful and I received a grant to open my hairdressing salon.

At the safe space, I learned how to be an empowered woman. Starting my own business was such an important moment in my life. With every visit to the center, I felt the burden on my father's shoulders lighten. I was no longer dependent on him and I became more and more self-sufficient. My own life and dreams are far from over.



TÜRKIYE COUNTRY OFFICE

54,601

PEOPLE REACHED WITH SRH SERVICES

92% FEMALE

48,287

PEOPLE REACHED WITH GBV PROGRAMMING

82% FEMALE

5,415

PEOPLE REACHED WITH YOUTH ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

93% FEMALE

11,264

ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

516

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REACHED WITH VARIOUS SERVICES

58% FEMALE

5,003

LGBTQIA+ INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS SERVICES

877

PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH CASH & VOUCHER ASSISTANCE

45% FEMALE

1,826

PEOPLE TRAINED ON VARIOUS TOPICS

77% FEMALE

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Adolescent girls reached with SRH services	3,941	100%
Family planning consultations	12,931	93%
Ante-natal care consultations	3,156	100%
Post-natal care consultations	1,095	100%
People trained on SRH-related topics	109	61%

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

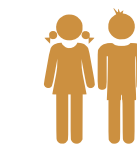
	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Adolescent girls reached with GBV programming	4,649	100%
People reached with dignity kits	18,736	98%
GBV case management consultations	1,153	74%
People reached with GBV awareness sessions	30,555	88%
People trained on GBV-related topics	1,085	76%

YOUTH SERVICES

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Adolescent girls reached with youth activities	671	100%
People trained on youth-related topics	137	99%



5
WOMEN AND GIRLS SAFE SPACES *



4
YOUTH CENTRES



13
OTHER SERVICE DELIVERY POINTS



UNFPA HAS BEEN A SOURCE OF STRENGTH AND SUPPORT FOR US SYRIAN WOMEN IN TÜRKIYE. THEY HAVE PROVIDED US WITH ESSENTIAL HEALTHCARE SERVICES AND EMPOWERED US TO TAKE CONTROL OF OUR LIVES.

– RANA, a Syrian woman living in Türkiye

* Safe Spaces in Türkiye are providing an integrated response to refugees in need, including both gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health services in the same facility.

FOUR MONTHS AFTER THE KAHRAMANMARAŞ EARTHQUAKES, THE NEEDS OF WOMEN & GIRLS IN TÜRKIYE REMAIN SIGNIFICANT

Before the earthquake, more than 1.7 million of the four million refugees (primarily Syrians under Temporary Protection, as well as International Protection Applicants and status holders from other nationalities) resided in the affected area. Many refugees and migrant populations from the 11 provinces have since been relocated, with around 62,000 Syrian refugees remaining in nine temporary accommodation centers.

According to focus group discussions conducted by UNFPA, domestic violence has increased following the disaster, encompassing physical, sexual, and psychological abuse. The surge in violence can be attributed to elevated stress levels arising from the loss of loved ones, deteriorating and cramped living conditions, unemployment, and economic disempowerment. Regrettably, the most vulnerable individuals, namely women and children, bear the brunt of this escalating violence. Refugee women, for instance, who face a combination of harmful cultural norms and mounting challenges due to discrimination, tend to avoid reporting violence due to fears of losing custody of their children or being unfairly blamed for the incident.

In light of these alarming trends, UNFPA-supported service units use informative IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) materials addressing GBV response in both Turkish and Arabic languages. There is a pressing requirement for a dedicated hotline to provide remote psychosocial support and follow-up on GBV cases within the case management system. These measures are crucial to addressing the immediate needs of those affected and ensuring that appropriate assistance is readily available to survivors of violence.

UNFPA plays a crucial role in providing essential SRH and protection services, including prevention and response to GBV. To cater to people facing high protection risks, UNFPA also offers emergency and recurrent cash assistance, covering evacuation costs, rental payments, and other necessities. These services are delivered through 12 service units.

After the Kahramanmaraş earthquake, UNFPA swiftly scaled up its operations, establishing a static service unit in Gaziantep, two tent service units in temporary settlements in Adiyaman and Malatya, and 10 mobile teams in affected provinces to provide SRH and GBV information and services, even in remote areas. As of June, UNFPA is supporting a total of 20 static service

units, two tent service units, and 11 mobile outreach teams across the nation. Additionally, to ensure the well-being of service providers dealing with the trauma and stress caused by the earthquake, UNFPA conducted self-care sessions for 92 service providers from various units, such as key refugee services, women and girls safe spaces, youth centers, and women and youth support centers.

UNFPA also remains proactive in raising awareness among protection sector partners on the needs of different vulnerable groups. In June, a training was organized on the needs of LGBTQIA+ individuals, reaching 21 representatives of the UNHCR Counseling Line Personnel to enhance their capacity to provide GBV prevention and response services. Moreover, a 3-day training was conducted in Gaziantep, involving 62 representatives from 25 organizations, to better inform protection sector partners on protection and SRH needs.

UNFPA also hosted an advocacy event to create awareness among donors about the needs and challenges of key refugee groups when it comes to accessing services in Türkiye. Furthermore, an online advocacy session was organized on the topic of responding to the protection and health needs of people who sell or exchange sex in humanitarian settings, attracting 98 participants from various UN agencies and NGOs.

During June, UNFPA also continued to invest in building the capacities of its partners. Activities included a training on multi-sectoral responses to GBV for women with disabilities, targeting 44 representatives from 26 local and international NGOs, UN agencies, legal associations, and UNFPA-supported service units. UNFPA also conducted a training on GBV in emergencies, targeting senior representatives of the Ministry of Family and Social Services (MoFSS), with plans set to introduce similar programmes at the provincial level.

“We used to take turns to sit and sleep”: Helping refugee men and boys overcome the trauma of violence

Ahmed vividly recounts the horrors of the violence he endured as a detainee in Syria. For three grueling years, he shared an underground cell with a hundred others, deprived of freedom, basic services, and even sunlight. An ominous signboard in the detention area said: “The lost enter here and leave reborn.”

“A detainee who dared to speak up would be immediately taken to be tortured. A few days later, they would bring him back on the verge of death and throw him into the ward. He would usually pass away the next morning, and they would make us carry the body ourselves. It was very difficult to experience these things.”

The 33 year-old fled to Türkiye from Syria in 2018, seeking a fresh start with his family in Adana. However, the haunting memories of the inhumane treatment he witnessed and endured in Damascus during the conflict continue to weigh heavily on him. The torture was the most difficult aspect of his experience, and he describes grappling with the fear of death every second.

During his time in prison, he — like other detainees — was known by his serial number, 217. “We were 100 people in a tiny room and there was no place to sleep or sit,” he recalls. “We used to take turns to sit and sleep.”

For Ahmed, witnessing others being tortured inflicted deep wounds on his psyche that mirrored those on his body. He painfully recounts the cycle of pain and death that unfolded on a daily basis, along with the “heart-wrenching cries for help from women and children.”

Due to his extended time in detention, Ahmed’s family had believed him to be deceased. When he eventually regained his freedom, he reunited with them in Türkiye after many years of separation. This reunion, coupled with professional help he received at a UNFPA-supported service unit in Adana, helped restore some of the hope he’d lost throughout his ordeal.

Funded by EU Humanitarian Aid, the service unit where Ahmed accessed support is part of UNFPA Türkiye’s Men & Boys project; a collaboration with the Positive Living Association. The unit provides various services that include essential legal counseling, psychological support, and health guidance, enabling people like him to gradually heal from the traumas of the past.

“I can’t even fathom the difference between my state of mind on the first day I came here and how I feel today,” explains Ahmed. “For the first time in many years, I have dreams. Now, I hope to find a life partner and start a family of my own.”

UNFPA Türkiye’s Men & Boys project was conceived to provide vital support for refugee men and boys who have experienced sexual violence or are at risk of it. By offering vital resources and support, UNFPA Türkiye aims to empower male survivors of sexual violence, ensuring that they are neither overlooked nor forgotten.



LEBANON COUNTRY OFFICE

UNFPA CONTINUES TO ADAPT ITS PROGRAMMES TO PROVIDE LIFE-SAVING SERVICES TO PEOPLE IN NEED, WITH A FOCUS ON WOMEN AND GIRLS.

30,269

PEOPLE REACHED WITH SRH SERVICES

98% FEMALE

17,329

PEOPLE REACHED WITH GBV PROGRAMMING

94% FEMALE

7,622

ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

912

PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH CASH & VOUCHER ASSISTANCE

96% FEMALE

725

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REACHED WITH VARIOUS SERVICES

98% FEMALE

273

LGBTQIA+ INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS SERVICES

283

PEOPLE TRAINED ON VARIOUS TOPICS

90% FEMALE

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Adolescent girls reached with SRH services	3,256	100%
Family planning consultations	4,574	97%
Ante-natal care consultations	2,390	100%
Post-natal care consultations	531	100%
People trained on SRH-related topics	283	90%

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Adolescent girls reached with GBV programming	4,366	100%
People reached with dignity kits	8,262	100%
GBV case management consultations	4,529	98%
People reached with GBV awareness sessions	12,201	96%



42

PRIMARY HEALTHCARE FACILITIES *



12

WOMEN AND GIRLS SAFE SPACES

“SOME DAYS, I EXPERIENCE THE DISCRIMINATION EXPLICITLY. A SHOPOWNER MIGHT REFUSE MY MONEY BECAUSE I’M SYRIAN, OR BOYS MIGHT CHASE ME IN THE STREET AND SHOUT OBSCENITIES AT ME.

– MAY, a young Syrian woman living in Lebanon

JORDAN COUNTRY OFFICE

WITH 1.3 MILLION SYRIANS NATIONWIDE, UNFPA IN JORDAN CONTINUES TO PROVIDE ESSENTIAL SERVICES TO REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES NATIONWIDE.

49,623

PEOPLE REACHED WITH SRH SERVICES

99% FEMALE

5,731

PEOPLE REACHED WITH GBV PROGRAMMING

97% FEMALE

3,728

PEOPLE REACHED WITH YOUTH ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

73% FEMALE

6,783

ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

912

PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH CASH & VOUCHER ASSISTANCE

96% FEMALE

620

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REACHED WITH VARIOUS SERVICES

99% FEMALE

44

PEOPLE TRAINED ON VARIOUS TOPICS

86% FEMALE

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Adolescent girls reached with SRH services	2,205	100%
Family planning consultations	7,237	100%
Normal / assisted vaginal deliveries	554	100%
Ante-natal care consultations	13,205	100%
Post-natal care consultations	1,874	100%

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Adolescent girls reached with GBV programming	1,907	100%
GBV case management consultations	853	96%
People reached with GBV awareness sessions	2,502	98%

YOUTH SERVICES

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Adolescent girls reached with youth activities	2,020	100%
People trained on youth-related topics	26	85%



11
PRIMARY HEALTHCARE FACILITIES



17
WOMEN AND GIRLS SAFE SPACES



1
EMERGENCY OBSTETRIC CARE FACILITY



1
YOUTH CENTRE

In June, UNFPA Jordan launched a [monitoring report](#) on a promising pilot initiative carried out in 2022 in Amman, Madaba and Karak, which coupled awareness raising sessions on menstruation with small amounts of cash assistance loaded on electronic bracelets to purchase of menstrual hygiene products. The report reinforced existing conclusions on the key role played by cash and voucher assistance in improving the quality of life for women and girls in need, particularly during economic crises.

Meanwhile, UNFPA actively participated in the global annual technical consultation of the UNFPA-UNICEF global programme on the elimination of female genital mutilation (FGM) in Amman. HRH Princess Basma of Jordan, Goodwill Ambassador of UNFPA, contributed through a video message to the event, emphasizing the significance of addressing FGM, including among non-Syrian refugees in Jordan. The findings from UNFPA's recent research on FGM among refugees were shared during the consultation and a GBV sub-working group meeting, highlighting the need for continued investigation and strengthened advocacy efforts

to address the practice and support survivors, especially in accessing counseling and healthcare services.

Lastly, the International Conference on Midwifery gathered over 2,200 midwives and stakeholders in Bali to emphasize the importance of strengthening midwifery's role in maternal and newborn health services globally. UNFPA also held a regional meeting with SRH focal points from various regions and deputy representatives to accelerate the implementation of the new family planning strategy.

IRAQ COUNTRY OFFICE

IN IRAQ, UNFPA CONTINUES TO PROVIDE ESSENTIAL SUPPORT TO MORE THAN 290,000 REFUGEES AS 1.2 MILLION PEOPLE REMAIN DISPLACED NATIONWIDE.

3,517
PEOPLE REACHED WITH
SRH SERVICES
100% FEMALE

1,648
ADOLESCENT GIRLS
SUPPORTED THROUGH
VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

1,498
PEOPLE REACHED WITH
GBV PROGRAMMING
96% FEMALE

55
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
REACHED WITH VARIOUS
SERVICES
95% FEMALE

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Adolescent girls reached with SRH services	858	100%
Family planning consultations	3,706	100%
Normal / assisted vaginal deliveries	218	100%
Ante-natal care consultations	4,497	100%
Post-natal care consultations	1,255	100%

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Adolescent girls reached with GBV programming	790	100%
People reached with dignity kits	495	100%
GBV case management consultations	37	100%
People reached with GBV awareness sessions	5,014	89%



5
PRIMARY HEALTHCARE
FACILITIES



8
WOMEN AND GIRLS
SAFE SPACES



1
EMERGENCY OBSTETRIC
CARE FACILITY

IRAQ IN 2023: AN EVOLVING CONTEXT

Iraq has long been a destination for refugees seeking asylum, with a current count of 289,353 asylum-seekers and refugees as of April 2023. The majority, 91 percent, reside in the Kurdistan region of Iraq, with about one-third living in camps and the rest in urban areas. The refugee population is diverse, coming from countries like Syria, Iran, Türkiye, Palestine, and others. Approximately 47 percent are female, 53 percent are male, and 44 percent are children. Many face immediate protection concerns, including survivors of violence, those with medical conditions, and women and girls at serious risk. Resettlement remains a crucial solution for those in urgent need of international protection, while also fostering international solidarity and easing the pressure on Iraq's public services and international support.

Under the gender equality and women empowerment program, UNFPA Iraq is actively providing comprehensive GBV services to women and girls in various refugee camps in Erbil and Duhok governorates. These services include case registration, psychosocial support, referrals, and awareness-raising sessions for adolescent girls. Additionally, UNFPA supports reproductive health clinics in both refugee and internally displaced persons (IDP) camps, offering services like family planning counselling, contraceptives, and postnatal care to ensure access to high-quality reproductive health services for refugees and IDPs. On World Refugee Day, various events and exhibitions were organized to raise awareness and engage with the refugee community.

Through its ongoing efforts, UNFPA continues to play a crucial role in providing vital services and support to refugees and IDPs in Iraq, addressing their immediate needs and fostering better conditions for their well-being and protection.

EGYPT COUNTRY OFFICE

UNFPA EGYPT CONTINUES TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO SYRIAN REFUGEES IN THE COUNTRY, WITH A FOCUS ON WOMEN AND GIRLS.

271,801

PEOPLE REACHED WITH SRH SERVICES

100% FEMALE

2,103

ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

4,740

PEOPLE REACHED WITH GBV PROGRAMMING

94% FEMALE

271

PEOPLE TRAINED ON VARIOUS TOPICS

94% FEMALE

94

PEOPLE REACHED WITH YOUTH ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

86% FEMALE

During June, UNFPA Egypt and its partners continued supporting refugees through 11 safe spaces in Egypt, including the newly established space responding to the Sudan crisis. Various activities, including psychological support group sessions, one to one counselling support, GBV case management, and awareness raising sessions on GBV and SRH were conducted, reaching 1,055 women and 121 men in total.

UNFPA is establishing an agreement with the World Food Programme (WFP) to provide cash assistance for GBV survivors and women at risk through safe spaces. Furthermore, UNFPA is procuring 20,000 Dignity Kits to support refugees in need to be distributed between July and September.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Adolescent girls reached with SRH services	384	100%
Family planning consultations	15,557	100%

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

	TOTAL	% FEMALE
Adolescent girls reached with GBV programming	1,688	100%
GBV case management consultations	1,597	97%
People reached with GBV awareness sessions	1,310	91%
People trained on GBV-related topics	23	100%



11
WOMEN AND GIRLS SAFE SPACES

“ SINCE I STARTED PARTICIPATING IN THE ACTIVITIES, ESPECIALLY THE SUPPORT GROUP, MY VOICE WENT UP AND I WAS ABLE TO TALK TO PEOPLE. I USED TO BE ISOLATED AND MY HUSBAND PUT ME DOWN, BUT I GOT MYSELF BACK UP AND LEARNED TO SAY ‘NO.’

– FARAH, who recently accessed GBV programming at a UNFPA-supported facility in Egypt

THE LIFE-ALTERING IMPACT OF PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

Nawal, a strong-willed 51-year-old Syrian woman and a devoted mother of four children, has endured a challenging life marked by hardship and determination. From her early years in Syria, she faced the harsh reality of her mother's violence, which robbed her of a carefree childhood and compelled her to shoulder immense responsibilities at a tender age. Reflecting on her past, she shares, "I didn't experience childhood or adolescence as I've been blamed for everything since I was four years old."

Nawal's life took another unexpected turn when she got married at the age of 14 to a 19-year-old man. Becoming a young mother, she courageously embraced the task of raising her children, all while enduring emotional abuse and neglect from her husband. Struggling to find balance between motherhood and an unhealthy relationship, she also had to cope with the controlling influence of her husband's family, as they all lived together in the same home.

When the war in Syria erupted, Nawal sought refuge in Egypt with her husband and children. However, their journey in a foreign land was fraught with challenges as they adapted to a new culture and grappled with harsh living conditions. To ease their financial burden, Nawal's children had to work from a young age, adding even more pressure on her shoulders. The overwhelming stress took a toll on her mental health, leading to feelings of depression, anxiety, and profound loneliness.

Despite the hardships, Nawal discovered a ray of hope five years ago through WhatsApp groups that led her to the Sanad Safe Space. This sanctuary offered her solace and healing through various activities, including therapy, dance, art therapy, theatre, yoga, psychodrama, awareness sessions, and vocational programs. Moreover, one-on-one sessions with a compassionate

case manager brought a remarkable transformation, significantly improving her well-being.

Today, Nawal stands stronger than ever, proudly saying, "I used to be scared to talk about my experiences and express my feelings. I always put my children first and never chose myself. However, with time, I learned to ask for what I need. Engaging in activities has encouraged me to relieve the pressure and stress. Additionally, I have had the opportunity to meet new people and form friendships."

With steadfast resilience, Nawal continues to visit the Sanad Safe Space regularly, participating in tailored sessions and activities that cater to her needs. Her inspiring journey serves as a testament to the indomitable human spirit that can triumph over adversity and find hope amidst life's darkest moments. Nawal's story reminds us that strength, perseverance, and the support of a caring community can empower us to overcome even the most challenging circumstances life throws our way.

“ I DIDN'T EXPERIENCE CHILDHOOD OR ADOLESCENCE AS I'VE BEEN BLAMED FOR EVERYTHING SINCE I WAS FOUR YEARS OLD.

— NAWAL, who recently accessed GBV programming at a UNFPA-supported facility in Egypt



COORDINATION

Whole of Syria

In June, the Whole of Syria GBV team welcomed a new Gender-Based Violence Information Management Officer (GBV IMO). The WoS GBV Area of Responsibility (AoR) also enlisted the support of an Information Management consultant to assist with crucial tasks planned for the summer. Additionally, during this period, Relief International successfully recruited a new Gender-Based Violence Coordinator for the north-east Syria region.

Meanwhile, the team finalized the GBV Prevention and Response to Older Women Training Package after incorporating feedback from various rounds of review. A Training of Trainers is planned before the end of the year.

Additionally, inter-sectoral discussions around the 2024 HPC cycle continued in June to tackle important changes from last year, including:

Shifting from project-based costing to a hybrid costing methodology: In preparation for the shift, the Whole of Syria GBV AoR held consultations with GBV coordinators and IMOs in all hubs to better understand the implications and the process that the new costing methodology would entail. Consultations with other GBV coordination groups in the region was also held to learn from their experience. From there, the GBV AoR agreed on a list of activities and of cost drivers, in consultation with the GBV actors in the hubs. The next steps will be to identify a cost range per activity and a target per activity, based on which, the overall cost will be derived.

Multi-sectoral needs assessment (MSNA) and the protection assessment: The protection cluster and AoRs discussed possible scenarios for protection data gathering for the 2023 MSNA, based on the changes in the way the MSNA will be conducted. These changes were proposed due to the ongoing data gathering challenges facing the Humanitarian Needs Assessment Programme (HNAP) and due to the fact that REACH will only be able to collect data at the household level in north-west and north-east Syria.

As in previous years, the GBV AoR will mostly rely on the qualitative data gathered through community and expert focus groups and will use the MSNA data for the

people in need and severity calculations. In relation to the qualitative data gathering, GBV coordinators have started reviewing the focus group discussion tools and discussed the sampling at the community level.

Meanwhile, the GBV AoR developed and disseminated the GBV coordination survey to all GBV members across the three hubs. The analysis and dissemination of results will be completed by the next quarter. In parallel, the Whole of Syria training package on GBV Prevention and Response to Older Women went through the last round of review. All final feedback was compiled and the final draft is now in production. A Training of Trainers is planned to take place before the end of the year.

Moreover, The Hub continued its efforts to strategically replicate good practices, supporting the Lybia country office in the development of a *Voices from Lybia* report to gauge the voices of women, girls, and the wider community on gender-based violence. Support provided included the recruitment of two consultants to lead the data analysis and report writing, organising a Training of Trainers for the Palestine team on the GBV M&E Toolkit, and following up with the Yemen team to organize a training on the contextualized GBV awareness raising toolkit.

Finally, The Hub finalized and designed the UNFPA Regional Adolescent Girls Framework, which will be disseminated across the region within the next few months.

Türkiye Cross-Border

The SRH technical working group, with the support of the World Health Organisation (WHO), designed a new phase of the Early Essential Newborn Care (EENC) Coaching Programme within north-west Syria. The programme, which will be implemented in the next reporting quarter, will target 14 comprehensive emergency obstetric and neonatal care (CEmONC) facilities and 10 basic emergency obstetric and neonatal care (BEmONC) facilities. During this quarter, the SRH thematic working group participated in developing the new EENC policy jointly with its partners.

Türkiye Country Office

As the co-chair of the GBV sub-working group, UNFPA has begun preparing the group's work plan for the remainder of the year. Meanwhile, UNFPA organized a three-day capacity-building training to enhance the abilities of 62 representatives from 25 partners in the south-eastern Türkiye region. The aim is to deliver quality services to key populations affected by the earthquake.

The GBV Sub-Sector, co-chaired by UNFPA and KAMER Foundation, is actively working to strengthen GBV awareness, response, and mitigation services in the earthquake-affected areas. A workshop was conducted to analyse the GBV response gaps in these areas, focusing on health and case management, mental health and psychosocial support, legal aid, and access to justice for survivors. This analysis is aligned with the minimum standards for GBV in Emergencies Programming. Additionally, GBV advocacy messages were finalized with inputs from sector members, and they will be shared among different sectors.

The PSEA Network has completed the work plan for the earthquake response until the end of the year. Furthermore, they are in the process of hiring a National PSEA Coordinator to oversee PSEA efforts across the country.

Jordan Country Office

As part of the case management capacity building initiative, two coaching programmes were carried out during the month of June targeting members of the GBV sub-working group, covering the core topics of case management counseling for adolescents and working with LGBTQI+ individuals. These coaching sessions are part of the workplan of the GBV sub-working group towards addressing capacity building gaps expressed by the member organization registered through the yearly training needs assessment sub-working group exercise.

Meanwhile, the GBV sub-working group organized a training programme on GBV safe referrals that tackled various topics, include the survivor-centered approach, safe referrals, and essential facilitation and planning skills for practice. The trained trainers have set an action plan to replicate the knowledge with non-specialized actors at different field locations aiming to enhance safe referrals to specialized GBV services.



DONORS & PARTNERS

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