Gender Bulletin

January 2016 | Issue 63

This newsletter is an update on gender issues in UNRWA and the region. It is issued on a monthly basis for the gender network, the gender taskforce, and our external partners, with the aim of sharing information, tools, reports, and news on gender.

Coordinated by Sana Jelassi, Tamara Abu Nafiseh and Sophia Schall

UNRWA Gender Highlights of 2015

Spreading the Word: UNRWA Storytelling Event During the International Women's Day



@2015 UNRWA Photo- Omar Abed Al-Rahman Breka

"Every point that breaks a human being and brings them to a better place, is it not to break them; it is to empower them."

Manal

"Vulnerability reminds me of strength. Strength is my motivation."

Wafa

To celebrate International Women's Day 2015, on March 8th, UNRWA organized "In Their Own Words" - a storytelling event at the Dar Al Anda Gallery, in Amman. The storytelling performance was inspired by the lives of thirteen Palestinian women living in UNRWA's areas of operations in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank and Gaza, some of whom are UNRWA staff. The stories showed fragments of these women's lives, told in their own words, shedding light on their triumphs, and at times their losses and display-ing courage, resilience and resourcefulness among these women.

For more information please contact: t.abunafiseh@unrwa.org

Global Collaboration Towards Gender Equality

UNRWA took part in the "Arab High Level Conference on Beijing+20: Towards Justice and Equality for Women in the Arab Region" that took place in Cairo between the 2nd to 3rd of February. The conference aimed at reaffirming Arab states' commitments to enhance gender equality and women's empowerment in the region. Apart form that, UNRWA was represented at an Inter-Agency Network on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment workshop, that took place in Geneva in October. The workshop aimed at discussing the UN SWAP framework of indicators on which the Agency is reporting annually.

For more information please contact: s.jelassi@unrwa.org

Towards Preventing and Mitigating Gender-based Violence

Best Practices on Addressing GBV: Learning Workshops and the Learning Document

This year saw the round-up of the implementation of the GBV referral system which was accompanied by the finalization of a learning document "UNRWA Experiences in GBV Programming: Experiences From the First Five Years". The learning document presents best practices on addressing GBV from all five fields of the Agency's operation and was developed based on the GBV learning workshops that took place on a bi-annual basis in Amman over the past five years. This year's learning workshops focused on exploring ways to enhance the sustainability of GBV interventions beyond the referral project.

For more information please contact: t.abunafiseh@unrwa.org

Building Safety: Addressing GBV during Emergencies

A new project "Building Safety: Strengthening GBV Prevention & Preparedness", which aims at addressing GBV during emergencies, has been rolled out. For its implementation, the gender unit at HQ organized two workshops—a planning and assessment workshop, with the participation of the gender taskforce and frontline staff from all five fields of the Agency's operation. The workshops aimed at building a common vision and coordinated approach to the project and identify context specific needs. The three main components of the project—standard operating procedures, a manual on addressing sexual violence during emergencies and a prevention framework, are currently being developed.

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UNRWA Fact of the Year 2015

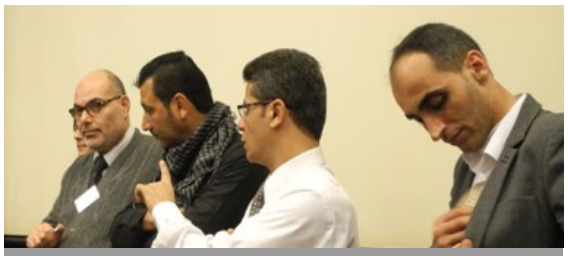
67%

UNRWA was able to *meet* or *exceed* 67 per cent of the United Nations System Wide Action Plan for gender equality and the empowerment performance indicators.

For more information s.jelassi@unrwa.org

Towards Gender Equality in the MENA Region and Globally in 2015

Men Stand-up for Women's Rights



@2015 UNRWA Photo—Sophia Schall

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes: As part of the campaign "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes", 200 Lebanese men walked through Lebanon in red high heels to raise awareness on violence against women. Read more

Imams and Preachers for women's rights: Imams and Preachers from the West-Bank recently participated in workshops on communication tools aimed at raising awareness on reproductive health rights and combatting violence against women by introducing these issues into the leaders' religious discourse. Read more

Challenging Gender Stereotypes: Art and Sport



@2013 UNRWA Gaza Photo—Guillaume Petermann

Syria's Rebellious Women: A new series of short documentaries "Syria's Rebellious Women," by Syrian journalist Zaina Erhaim portraits women as active change makers in their societies by showing their struggles for helping others within the war-torn environment. Read more

Antigone of Syria: A group of Syrian refugee women in Beirut created a new version of the play Antigone, equating the moral questions raised with those of their own stories of suffering in Syria. *Read more*

Women football: A young women football team from the West-Bank has challenged gender boundaries through their success stories in an otherwise male dominated discipline. The team has managed to reach the second place on the national level. Read more

Rapping against gender inequalities: The Palestinian rap-band DAM has released a new song "Who you are" which addresses socially constructed gender roles and women's rights. The song is a joint project between DAM and UNFPA. Listen to the song

Local and Global Advocacy for Women's Rights



@2013 UNRWA Gaza Photo—Guillaume Petermann

Our Right, Which We Must Demand: To raise awareness of UN Resolution 1325 on women, peace, and security, Radio Souriat from Syria started the promotional campaign "Our Right, Which We Must Demand". The campaign focused on issues such as the prevention of gender based violence, women's protection and women's participation in decision making processes through radio shows, visual designs, events, and promotional voice recordings. Read more

Give Mom Back Her Name: UN Women started a new campaign "Give Mom Back Her Name" in Egypt , which aims at taking steps to eradicate the taboo of not disclosing one's mother's name. Read more

HeForShe: The initiative has been launched by UN Women in January 2015, a one year pilot campaign which aims at committing governments, corporations and universities to take responsibility in empowering women and promoting gender equality.

Read more

Global Commitments to Gender Equality



@2013 UNRWA Gaza Photo—Guillaume Petermann

Closing the Gender Gap: 80 world leaders committed themselves to close the gender gap by 2030 at the UN women's conference held on the 27th of September at the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Summit in Beijing. Read the commitments

Gender, Peace and Security: The UN Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2242, urging states and UN institutions to move forward in the integration of gender issues and the inclusion of women in the field of peace and security. Read more