gender section
unrwa

gender bulletin



monthly update on gender issues in UNRWA and the region

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update of the month

The inception phase for the development of the Gender Equality Strategy for the period 2016-2021 has started. The work has included meetings with representatives from different departments and programmes at Headquarters and focus group discussions as part of the assessment phase.

stories from the field

Engaging Communities in Responding to Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

More than 300 Palestine refugee women and girls from Lebanon and Syria took part in 18 GBV sensitization and information sessions implemented by UNRWA Lebanon over the course of 2015. The sessions are part of an effort to increase the awareness and capacity of community members to address GBV through community-based initiatives and increase knowledge among refugees of available services. In the sessions, participants also discussed what are the barriers for survivors in accessing services and reflected on how service providers and communities can address those barriers. The sessions were organized by the Relief and Social Services Department's Women's Programme in Lebanon

For more information, please contact: h.skaardal@unrwa.org.

UNRWA Opens Family Support Offices in Syria

January 2016 saw the inauguration of two Family Support Offices (FSOs) in Homs and Latakia welcomed by members of the community, as well as UNRWA staff. The newly opened FSOs are a major step forward for UNRWA in reaching out to a larger number of Palestine refugees within Syria's conflict-torn environment. Like similar offices in Alliance and Dera'a that are already operating within Syria, the newly opened FSOs aim to provide services for Palestine refugees by providing counselling, legal assistance and referrals to social services. Among the staff members are volunteers, lawyers, psychosocial counsellors and social workers who also assist gender-based violence survivors and may refer cases to required services inside and outside the Agency.

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Building Safety

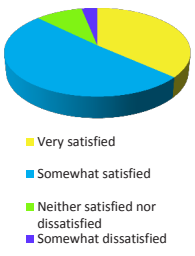
As part of the two-year Building Safety Programme, a broad consultation process on assessing gaps and opportunities in relation to addressing gender-based violence (GBV) in emergencies is being undertaken within the Agency. The consultation involves all different programmes and departments at both HQ and field levels. The results of the ongoing assessment will inform the development of the GBV Standard Operating Procedures, which will set minimum standards and provide guidance tools on GBV in emergencies.

For more information, please contact: s.chirizzi@unrwa.org.

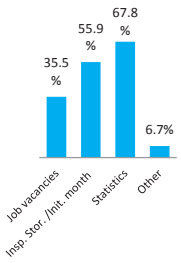
Gender Bulletin Survey Results

With the aim to further improve the content and coverage of topics of the monthly UNRWA Gender Bulletin, the Gender Unit at UNRWA Headquaters has conducted an online survey. The following results are among those obtained:

How satisfied are you with the content of the Bulletin?



What, if any, of the following suggestions would you like to see included in the Bulletin?



We will do our best to integrate the results of the survey in our work on the Gender Bulletin in the future.

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

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Events of Interest

12 March 2016 – Online Registration
Science Po is organizing a two-week programme from 9 to 20 May in Paris for women from the south Mediterranean to strengthen young women practitioners' societal engagement in working towards gender equality. The programme is free of charge. Read more

31 May-1 July 2016 – Online Application
The International Women's Media Foundation (IWMF) is offering support to women journalists through the provision of funds for individuals and groups. The second application round for 2016 will be open for the period 31 May-1 July. Read more

20 February 2016 – Online Application
The US Embassy in Jordan invites secondary school female students to apply for this year's TechGirls programme that will take place from 12 July to 3 August in the United States. Read more

8 March 2016 – Online Registration
The application for the three-day workshop, 'Next Generation Women Leaders', organized by McKinsey & Company, is open until 8 March. The workshop will take place in Paris between 12-14 May 2016 and costs related to the event will be covered for selected applicants. Read more

Fact of the Month

10% Across all media, women were the central focus of just 10% of news stories in 2015. Read more

Reports & Resources

European Foundation Centre (EFC)
EFC has published a report, 'Grantmaking with a Gender Lens: Five Practice Case Studies'. The report shows how foundations can take gender into account when designing, delivering and supporting programmes. Read the report

UNFPA
UNFPA has released 'Shelter from the Storm: A Transformative Agenda for Women and Girls in a Crisis-Prone World.' The publication analyzes different crisis situations and presents possibilities for the integration of sex and reproductive health rights of women and girls during humanitarian responses. Read the report

Men Engage and UN Women
Men Engage, in collaboration with UN Women, has launched 'Men, Masculinities and Changing Power: A Discussion Paper on Engaging Men in Gender Equality from Beijing 1995 to 2015'. The paper outlines the developments in engaging men in gender equality as well as strategies for the future. Read the discussion paper

Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP)
The GMMP report for 2015 focuses on media accountability to women and analyzes news content through a gender lens based on data from 114 countries for the period from 1995 to 2015. Read the report

UN Women
UN Women has released a report on 'Women's Empowerment and the Link to Sustainable Development' that was the outcome of an expert group meeting convened in the lead-up to the 60th session of the Commission of the Status of Women (CSW) in 2016. Read the report and expert papers

Association for Progressive Communication (APC)
APC has published the results of a new research project, 'From Impunity to Justice' which focuses on women's experiences of technology-related violence against women (VAW), as well as existing legal remedies for dealing with technology-related VAW. Read the research reports and materials

Regional News

Lebanon

Anthony Keedi, a psychologist from the Abaad Resource Center for Gender Equality, works towards changing traditional understandings of masculinity. Motivated by his own experience of how his own understanding of masculinity increased his readiness to use violence and made him more prone to substance abuse and isolation, he now helps to run a psychological clinic that works with men on their concept of masculinity and its effects on others. Read the article

Through a project implemented by ABAAD in 2015, women acquired skills in craftsmanship and carpentry by using recyclable materials they could collect from waste. The women's handmade products were recently sold at the Glass Hall, a cultural centre in Beirut's Hamra district. Apart from providing the women with a small income, it also fosters solidarity between them. Read the article

Jordan

Heba Ghaith, a woman from Maan, opened her own women-only gym, 'My Fitness', in Maan. With the support of the microfinance institute Tamweelcom, Ghaith was able to overcome obstacles in accessing the necessary means and support to realize her idea. Read the article

In January 2016, experts and representatives from seven Arab public broadcasters from Jordan, Egypt, Palestine, Lebanon, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco met in Amman to discuss aspects of gender equality in their public media organization and in their publications' content. Held by the Jordan Media Institute (JMI), the meeting was part of a JMI partnership with MedMedia, a EU-funded project for media reform. Read the article

occupied Palestinian territory

Palestine women who are involved in small-scale organic food production can sell their products at the Tuesday organic market in Ramallah at fair and stable prices. Currently, 350,000 families benefit from the weekly organic market, an initiative which started in 2013 and aims at promoting food sovereignty and creating an independent local Palestinian economy. Read the article

Global

To facilitate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to improve economic outcomes for women, the United Nations has announced the first High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment. The panel will provide recommendations and concrete actions that can be taken by international, national, public and private actors to work towards closing the economic gender gap. Read the article

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UNRWA is a United Nations agency established by the General Assembly in 1949 and mandated to provide assistance and protection to some 5 million registered Palestine refugees. Its mission is to help Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank and the Gaza Strip achieve their full human development potential, pending a just and lasting solution to their plight. UNRWA services encompass education, health care, relief and social services, camp infrastructure and improvement, and microfinance.

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