gender section
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gender bulletin


'A Ray Of Hope' Event in Syria © 2016 UNRWA Photo by Taghrid Mohammad

monthly updates on gender issues in UNRWA and the region

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update of the month

The UNRWA Annual Gender Task Force Meeting took place in Amman last month and saw the participation of representatives from all field offices and Headquarters. Participants gave input for the gender-based violence e-learning course which is currently being developed and discussed the draft of the new UNRWA Gender Strategy.

stories from UNRWA

International Women's Day in Amman

UNRWA Headquarters organized events in light of International Women's Day, including the round table 'SDG5 and Women Refugees: Mechanisms to Step It Up'. The event saw the participation of representatives from UNRWA, UN Women, UNHCR, ARDD Legal Aid and ABAAD Resource Centre. UNRWA Commissioner-General Pierre Krähenbühl delivered concluding remarks to the round table. Another well-received event was organized by UNRWA training coordinator Sharon Arnott, who gave a session specifically targeting women on 'How To Give a Brilliant Presentation'.

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Gender Taskforce Meeting © 2016 UNRWA Photo



Commissioner-General Pierre Krähenbühl speaks at round table © 2016 UNRWA Photo

'A Ray of Hope' in Syria

In celebration of International Women's Day, UNRWA held a 'Ray of Hope' ceremony at the Opera House in Damascus under the patronage of the Ministry of Social Affairs. The event highlighted resilience of women, in particular Palestine refugee women. The celebration included a performance and the documentary 'Enough is Enough', which profiles stories of three gender-based violence survivors who overcame adversity and became powerful members of their communities through UNRWA Family Support Offices. About 600 persons attended the event, which was also covered by local media.

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Building Safety Update

As part of the consultation process for the development and design of a Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Prevention Framework, an online survey has been carried out. The GBV Prevention Framework aims to strengthen the Agency's preparedness capacity to mainstream GBV interventions in emergency operations, and the survey will provide relevant information on UNRWA staff attitudes, knowledge and practices towards addressing GBV, with a particular focus on prevention.

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Inspiring Story

Education Is Change

"Being a child in a refugee camp is different from being a child anywhere else in the world," says Hanan al-Hroub, who grew up in Dheisheh camp in the West Bank. Last month she won the US$ 1 million 2016 Global Teacher Prize. The award is presented every year to an exceptional teacher who has made an outstanding contribution to their profession. Al-Hroub teaches second-grade at a governmental school in Ramallah. She spreads the message: 'No Violence'. Her teaching involves projects that help children who have been exposed to violence to overcome the psychosocial effects. "The only thing that can change the future is education. Education can affect change and help us build the Palestinian community and state we want." Read more

Events of Interest

16 April 2016 – Amman

The World Food Programme is celebrating mothers who succeeded in productive projects. Therefore, it is organizing a brunch in the Ward Restaurant at 10:30 a.m. It will include performances and a bazaar of artifacts and products produced by the awarded mothers. Read more

11-14 May 2016 – Izmir

Gediz University's Gender Development Studies Centre is organizing an international conference on 'Gender and Migration: Critical Issues and Policy Implications' with various speakers. Read more

16-18 May 2016 – Copenhagen/Online

Women Deliver is organizing its Fourth Global Conference on girls' and women's health, rights and well-being. The focus will be on how to implement the Sustainable Development Goals so they matter most for women and girls. The conference can be followed online via a live stream. Read more

Regional News

Syria

When women are included in peace negotiations, the resulting agreement is 35 per cent more likely to last at least 15 years. Now, after years of being sidelined, Syrian women have been included in the Syria peace talks in Geneva at the table and in prominent advisory bodies. Women's advocates say the progress is long overdue and does not go far enough. Yet, it is a step in the right direction. Read the article

Jordan

Last month, the 5,000th baby was born at the UNFPA clinic in Za'atari refugee camp – a girl named Rima. Her parents hope she gets "a better chance than we did in our lives." The total estimated number of births in Za'atari is 10,000. This illustrates how much life is going on. Currently, around 80,000 people live in the camp. Many argue that it may evolve into a real city within a few years. Read the article

Reports & Resources

Lebanon Support

The report 'Overview of Gender Actors & Interventions in Lebanon' gives an overview of organizations and projects that are targeting women in Lebanon. The report reveals issues within the organizations and in the implementation of gender projects and gives recommendations for further action. Read the report

NGO Committee on the Status of Women

'A Guide for NGOs and Women's Human Rights Activists at the UN and CSW' is a tool to help build the capacity of women's rights activists and NGOs to advocate for the empowerment and the rights of women and girls. It discusses policies and cases and includes a toolkit. Read the Report

UN Women

The 'Global Database on Violence Against Women' has been updated, redesigned and relaunched. It aims to provide up-to-date information on the extent, nature and consequences of violence against women and the impact of related policies and programmes. Read more

UNFPA, Promundo

The report 'Adolescent Boys and Young Men: Engaging Them as Supporters of Gender Equality and Health and Understanding their Vulnerabilities' reviews why the engagement of boys and men is essential for achieving gender equality, and how it can also positively impact their own lives. Read the report

KAFA, IPSOS, UNFPA

How many Lebanese people know survivors of family violence? Do they trust the police and know their rights? How is the media portraying family violence? The report 'General Awareness on Family Violence in Lebanon' is answering these and more questions. Read the report

IOM, Various Governments

The Bali Process' 'Policy Guide on Identifying Victims of Trafficking' for policy makers and practioners gives an overview international and regional standards and good practices for the identification of survivors of trafficking. Read the report

Facts of the month

1/3 of women worldwide experience **physical** or **sexual violence**, which is mostly perpetrated by an **intimate partner**. Read more

83% of **domestic workers** worldwide are women. Most are **not legally entitled** to a **minimum wage**. Read more

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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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