gender section

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monthly updates on gender issues in UNRWA and the region

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update of the month

In support of the Secretary-General's UNiTE Campaign, UNRWA is marking the 25-year anniversary of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Campaign through a symposium on GBV on 8 December in Amman, in addition to various field-level activities.

stories from UNRWA

Workshop on Prevention of Child Marriage in the West Bank

As part of the UNRWA West Bank Field Office (WBFO) initiative to work on addressing child marriage, a workshop was held in October with the aim of analyzing, understanding and addressing the topic. It focused on the causes and consequences of child marriage, in addition to understanding the services to be offered in response. The workshop engaged staff on the role of front-line staff in efforts to mitigate the cases of child marriage.

It also looked at ways to address the issue by looking into contributing factors, such as gender roles, family and society norms. The need for a national plan to look into the issue from a broader, more holistic perspective and to explore the ways in which child marriage is linked to poverty was also analyzed.

Multisectoral coordination in UNRWA is henceforth needed in order to address the different facets of the issues that give rise to child marriage. Coordination will thus bring together protection, education, health, and Relief and Social Services. Participants agreed on an action plan for each sector, in addition to recognizing the important role to be played by community-based organizations.

In the same vein, UNRWA WBFO has worked on a series of films addressing child marriage from the poverty, education and health perspectives, which will be screened in Amman and WBFO as part of the 16 Days of Activism against GBV Campaign.

For more information, please contact: s.jelassi@unrwa.org and k.abudiab@unrwa.org

Launch of Manual for Community Workers on Addressing GBV

UNRWA Lebanon Field Office (LFO), in partnership with Heartland Alliance International, has recently concluded the development of the manual, 'Community Workers' Guide to Understanding Gender-Based Violence and Child Protection Basic Concepts'. The manual was the result of a training and capacity-building project implemented with Heartland International in 2015/16, which supported eight women programme centres in Palestine refugee camps in Lebanon.

The main aim of the manual is to strengthen community-based responses to better understand and address refugees' protection needs by building the capacity of community workers and volunteers. It is also designed to strengthen key skills in the safe identification and referral of survivors and individuals at risk, as well as basic skills and core guiding principles for primary psychosocial support.

Given the importance of community-based organizations as advocates and agents for change in their communities, the manual includes specific components on community-based GBV and child protection awareness and prevention programming in non-specialized settings, including the setup of community-based support groups for women at risk.

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

'Building Safety' Update

As part of the overall aim of the *Building Safety* project to enhance the institutional capacity to integrate GBV in emergency prepared-ness and response, UNRWA has progressed on the development of guidelines that focus specifically on the mitigation of GBV risks. A workshop is planned to take place in early December to validate the guidelines and test some of the tools developed.

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Inspiring Story

Green Cake

The ongoing blockade on Gaza and the recurring conflicts have prevented communities from developing their city and rebuilding houses and structures destroyed during the conflicts due to the restrictions on the entry of building materials.

Majd Almashharawi and Rawan Abdellatif, two young female civil engineers in Gaza, have started the *Green Cake* project, an environmentally friendly method of making bricks from coal ashes and cement. These bricks are produced at a cost of 25 per cent less than the commonly used ones. In addition, these bricks are also high quality.

The two engineers are currently looking into securing a patent and starting a production line. Read more

Events of Interest

EDUCATION AND GBV PREVENTION: WHAT WORKS?
8 December, Amman

UNRWA is organizing a symposium to mark the end of the 16 Days of Activism against GBV Campaign, focusing on the links between education and GBV prevention. For more information, contact t.abunafiseh@unrwa.org.

WOMEN VENDORS EXHIBITION AND FORUM (WVEF)
7-9 December, Istanbul

Aims to provide opportunities for enterprises owned by women from all over the world to expand business relationships globally in an effort to contribute to women's economic empowerment and sustainable development. More information

#FAM2017 REGISTRATION
9-19 May 2017, Paris and Brussels

The registration for FAM 2017 training is now open. The Union for the Mediterranean aims to support women in their careers, advocate for equality between men and women, and to develop a Euro-Mediterranean network on this topic. More information

Regional News

Iraq

Duhouk Survivor's Centre, established by UNFPA and the Iraqi Directorate General of Health last year, continues to provide specialized services to survivors of all forms of GBV. Since its opening, the Centre has handled over 850 cases, providing medical treatment, counselling, legal services and referrals to other services. Read more

Egypt

Beating the odds! Two young women started a band in Egypt, which is commonly linked to men and very rare among women "Playing any instrument is a right of every woman on earth, especially if she is passionate about it," says Donia. Read more

The Aman (security) initiative started by the Musawah Organization for Training and Counseling in Egypt, intends to help women fight sexual harassment and improve their safety by educating the public, encouraging women to report these cases and training them on how to defend themselves in similar situations. Read more.

Tunisia

The Tunisian coalition party is currently working on passing a bill to enforce legislation on cases of violence against women. The bill is expected to toughen punishment on offenders. Read more

Lebanon

The Youth Peer Programme in Lebanon supported by UNFPA and INTERSOS uses peer-to-peer education to raise awareness about child marriage. It also provides a space to receive reliable information about reproductive health. Read more

Reports & Resources

Save the Children

The *Every Last Girl* report focuses on tackling the main causes of girls' exclusion and disempowerment by calling on governments and donors to ensure fair finance, equal treatment and accountability to girls in order to eliminate gender discrimination, empower girls and change societal norms that hinder girls from maximizing their rights and achieving their goals in life. Read more

UNFPA

State of the World Population 2016 by UNFPA aims at protecting and preventing the impairment of the health and development of around 65 million 10-year-old girls worldwide by investing in their health, education and empowerment with support from family, community and nation. Read more

Women's Refugee Commission (WRC)

The *We believe in Youth* report addresses the challenges faced by youth refugees, such as difficulty in assessing quality education and health care, culture clash and attaining personal documents. It gives clear detailed guidance to front-line workers involved in humanitarian response services on how to address these issues.
Read more

War Child Canada and WRC

The manual, *A Guide to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Legal Protection in Acute Emergencies,* was developed by WRC and War Child Canada. It draws on War Child's experience in providing legal aid to outline best practices for survivor-centred legal protection in emergency contexts. Read more.

Facts of the Month

32 **million girls** of primary-school age are not in school. Learn more

2.6 **billion girls and women** live in countries where marital rape is not explicitly criminalized. Learn 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, protection and microfinance.

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