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UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND – SYRIA

United Nations Population Fund - Syria

June 2016

OUR LATEST NEWS

My Newly Twin Girls See Life

Rahaf is a very young girl who lives in a small village in Al-Hassakeh called "Mokhtaleh," with her husband. She is only 20 years old and pregnant. Rahaf was desperately in need of help in regard to her reproductive health.

"My health condition was very bad. My 2 little girls wouldn't have been alive now without the UNFPA's medical help supported by ECHO," Rahaf said to our coordinator in Al-Hassakeh when he went to check up her after giving birth.

Rahaf was not able to give a natural birth. Therefore, she needed a C-section operation due to her very young age.

Thankfully, Rahaf is now a mother for two little amazing girls. She is also in a very good health and is being followed up with our mobile team.

With the support of the European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO), UNFPA- Syria has started the implementation of a project to reach women with lifesaving reproductive health and gender based violence (GBV) services. The project is being implemented in cooperation with 8 local NGOs in Hama and Al Hassake to work throughout 10 mobile teams, 8 primary health clinics and 4 hospitals.



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Rahaf with her twin girls

TEDxYouth@Jahez

First-time ever, supported by UNFPA (Syria)

May 21, 2016, Damascus, Syria sees its first-ever TEDxYouth@Jahez conference; a whole-day locally organized gathering approved by TED organization gathers captivating speakers, doers and passionate people to speak about their tales of passion.

The daylong program took place at Damascus University, Conference Hall and was organized around the theme: "Tales of Passion." It is divided into 3 main sessions: Breaking Boundaries, Call to Action and Colors Of Passion. Topics are interesting and diverse, from Entrepreneurship, programming to business, art and social issues.

TEDxYouth@Jahez program features talks of 10 outstanding youth ranging in length from 2 to 15 minutes, conversation breaks and icebreaking activities where audience, partners and team members have the opportunity to talk, discuss and exchange ideas.

UNFPA (Syria) and MTN-Syria (International Telecommunication Company) generously provided strategic level partnership along with Syrian Computer Society (SCS) as the educational partner. In partnership with Venture International Business Consulting and Training Center, Direct group, BNA Art.

UNFPA Syria recently launched many projects in support of youth. Massimo Diana during the event quoted Einstein: "Creativity is when intelligence is having fun," to emphasize on the importance of having such events for young people to unleash their creative spirits and involve in community building through their ideas.



Massimo Diana with organizers and UNICEF staff

"Thank you for giving UNFPA the opportunity to support great youth in Syria," Massimo Diana, UNFPA (Syria) Representative.

Why TEDxYouth@Jahez

TEDxYouth@Jahez aims to tackle one important issue that Syrian youth nowadays face, which is tackling the hardship of finding a suitable idea-sharing platform.

Full details on the conference can be found at: <http://tedxyouthjahez.com/>

"Every Youth Matter and Every Idea Counts."



Youth Innovation

Second Quarter graduation

After the great success that "Youth Innovation" project showed in Damascus, UNFPA – Syria office decided to take this experiment to another level and implement the project in two different governorates.

Two intensive trainings on “Business Start Up and Communication Skills” were completed in the two cities on the following dates:

Homs: 23 April – 8 May 2016

Tartous: 9 – 22 May 2016

Selection was very hard due to outstanding youth and restricted criteria. 100+ applications were received from local NGOs. However, only 55 passionate people with startup ideas were chosen to attend the training, of which 27 were females.

Training was successfully completed and participants submitted their innovative projects.

Let's all keep our fingers crossed for them until evaluation phase is finished.



Youth innovation project - Homs

Youth have dreams

"We have dreams. They might seem too little. However, we wish they can come true one day."

[Marah Shaaban, Youth Innovation Project Participant].

Marah is a brilliant girl with outstanding communication skills. She enrolled in the training to make her small idea a big startup.





Y-PEER Syria is a comprehensive youth-to-youth initiative pioneered by UNFPA and has been founded in Syria since 2006. Y-PEER network aims to improve sexual and reproductive health rights of young people and to strengthen advocacy skills.

The network initiated its first activity in 2008, which was the beginning of a series of trainings for volunteers from different associations and organizations. These workshops supports in expanding the network by adding more members to it.

The network had to stop in 2013 due to the crisis in Syria. Nevertheless, members continued using Y-PEER techniques and manuals in various activities conducted in their associations and organizations.

Y-PEER is launched again in 2016 and is granted an official approval.

May 19 - 23, Y-PEER in partnership with UNFPA and SFPA (Syrian Family Planning Association) organized a workshop about theater-based techniques. 20 participants from different governorates including, Damascus, Sweida, Hama and Tartous took the training for the course of five intensive days.

The workshop focused on many different topics including, theater techniques (Tone of voice, facial expressions... etc.), defining target group and message, peer education.



The workshop also covered topics like peer pressure, gender-based violence and stigmatization.

All participants were able to highlight different social issues through an interactive show. These cases were:

- Stigma practiced on AIDS patients.
- Domestic violence.
- Peer pressure.
- Concept of Voluntarism.

Through this well-structured workshop, Y-PEER team was able to deliver a very important message, which is to accept the other despite differences.

The training was remarkable and acted like a changing point for most of trainees.

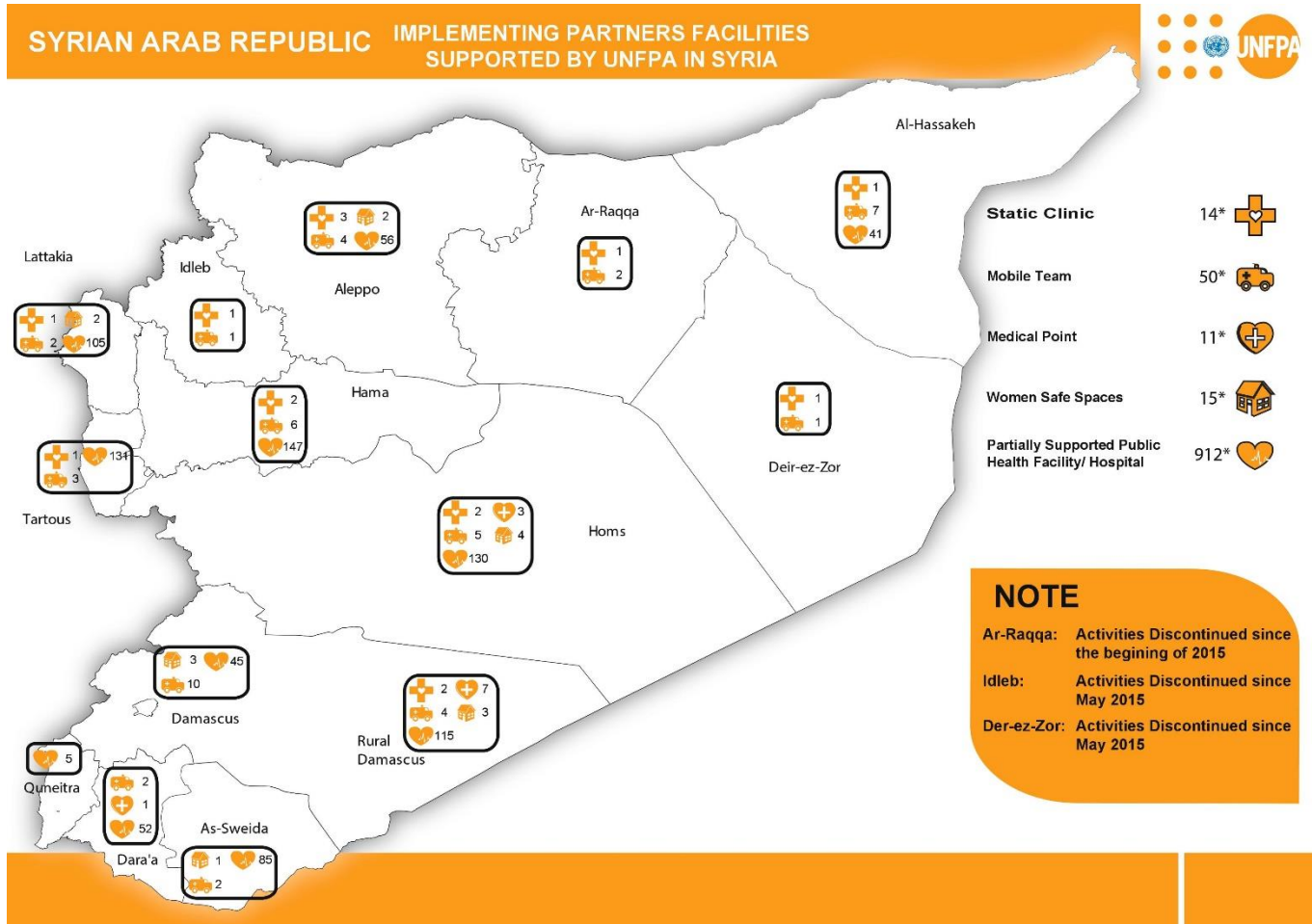
"Interactive theater helped me boost my self-esteem," Dima, one participant from the workshop expressed her feeling to our reporter.

Y-PEER team is looking forward more workshops to serve as fun and interactive tool in solving and raising awareness about social issues.



20 participants from different governorates including, Damascus, Sweida, Hama and Tartous attended the workshop

Supported facilities by UNFPA-Syria in cooperation with the implementing partners



United Nations Population Fund

Damascus, Syria

UNFPA is the lead UN agency for delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

While UNFPA assistance must remain concerned with saving lives and safeguarding human dignity, preparing Syrian people for future recovery, reconstruction, reconciliation and stability, is equally a priority.

UNFPA -Syria focusses on:

- Improving access to high-quality reproductive health care.
- Scaling-up gender-based violence prevention and response.
- Enhancing youth participation and inclusiveness.
- Supporting capacities to collect and use gender-and age-disaggregated data for tailoring response and recovery programming.



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