



UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND – SYRIA

# United Nations Population Fund Syria

July 2016

OUR LATEST NEWS

## Saving the lives of Syrian women and adolescent girls

Across Syria, the biggest humanitarian and refugee crisis of our time in the region, the United Nations Population Fund, UNFPA-Syria continues to provide lifesaving supplies, care and support to women, girls and young people caught up in emergencies, and works with affected families, and communities to build resilience against future crises.

Since the beginning of 2016, UN agencies increased efforts to reach as many as possible people in need living in hard to reach and besieged areas. Humanitarian partners successfully during June & July 2016 delivered multi-sectoral assistance through UN inter-agency operations reaching over **8,332** civilians in besieged, hard-to-reach and other priority crossline locations with dire humanitarian needs.

UNFPA Syria office participated in 13 UN inter-agency convoy delivering health, medical, and other emergency supplies to the besieged areas in Daryya, Moadamia, Duma, Kafarbatna, Bludan, Jirud, West Harasta, Zamalka and Erbin.



### UN and SARC Staff at AlWaer Supported Clinic

"Humanitarian response is a priority for UNFPA-Syria, we will strengthen our efforts to meet the sexual and reproductive health and protection needs of women and girls during the Syrian crisis," says Massimo Diana, UNFPA's Representative in Syria.

### Number and Figure

On 14 July, UNFPA joined an inter-agency convoy to Al-Waer, Homs targeting **75,000** people in need, of whom approximately **15,000** were families.

*"Delivering health services to women and young girls must be a priority"*

## Saving the lives of Syrian women and adolescent girls

*Continued from 1<sup>st</sup> page*

UNFPA Syria office participated in an inter-agency convoy delivering health, medical, and other emergency supplies to the besieged Al-Waer neighborhood in Homs.

This was the first of two convoys planned to the neighborhood targeting 75,000 people in need (approximately 15,000 families) with the most recent inter-agency humanitarian delivery to this area was on 16 June.

As part of this convoy, UNFPA-Syria, in cooperation with the Syrian Arab Red crescent (SARC), launched the first reproductive health clinic in Al-Waer.

The clinic was equipped with specialized medical staff and basic medical supplies such as pharmaceuticals, laboratory diagnostic equipment, ultrasound, oxygen concentrator, generator, sterilizer and gynecological examination beds.

In parallel, the UNFPA team visited their key partner in Homs the Syrian Family Planning Association (SFPA) medical point in Al-Waer, where critical health services are provided, such as family planning, health and premarital counselling, and awareness sessions including early marriage. This facility supports 40 to 70 beneficiaries per day.

*"This clinic will provide a wide spectrum of reproductive health services for 19,000 women, antenatal care for 250 expected deliveries per month in the area, thanks to UNFPA response," Iman, one the health service providers, commented.*



**Staff shipping medical supplies to clinic in Al-Waer**

# Empowering Women Through Reproductive Health Education

For many women living in the rural areas, it is a taboo to discuss topics related to sex. Therefore, for these women sexual education and reproduction is still a vague subject.

Additionally, women in rural areas are usually married off at an early age, which makes it harder for them to proceed their education, build a career or have dreams outside the circle of their families, husband and kids.

UNFPA – Syria works to make sure all women are equally provided with their rights, education and reproduction health services.

In Al-Qamishli, a city in northeastern Syria on the borders with Turkey, there is a small village where women expressed that their lives were completely changed after a series of workshops on sexual education and reproductive health services. These workshops and services were provided by UNFPA's local partners under European Commission Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) funded project.



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Our local partner "Al-Ihsan NGO" in Al-Qamishli facilitated organizing raising awareness campaigns, medical checkups, and psychological support services for women residing in the village.

Amsha, a habitant in the village and 1 out of 12 .000 beneficiaries from the project during 2016, said: "At first it was small informative gatherings in schools on how women should take care of their health during pregnancies. However, it expanded to the surrounding areas quickly."

Amsha also pointed out that most women are heavily involved in working in the farms, which makes it hard for them to maintain a healthy pregnancy and later on a healthy delivery.

# Breast and Cervical Cancer is no longer a fear

In Tal Hamis, a town in northeastern Al-Hasakah Governorate, northeastern Syria, where women are not well-educated about basic information on most diseases and illnesses. Al-Ihsan NGO implemented raising awareness sessions on breast cancer and its roots within the ECHO funded project.

Volunteers, staff and Doctors provided workshop sessions to highlight the origin of the illness and point out symptoms and self-check-up.

The joint project included the launching of two mobile clinics providing female medical examinations, legal consultation, and psycho-social support.

This project targets two of the most affected villages in Tal Hamis, rural AL-Qamishli and aspire providing health services for all women in the town equally.

Another workshop Al Yaouribia, rural AL-Qamishli, was organized by our local partner aiming to shed lights on cervical cancer as being one of the most common diseases among women.

Mobile teams also provided free of charge checkups to all women inside the village and distributed medications.



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# Numbers Matter

TEDxYouth@Jahez

The world looks at numbers as empty facts. However, every number might represent a child out of school, a survivor, a refugee, a woman suffering from domestic violence or an unemployed man.

It is time to look at numbers as more than just numbers and act towards global issues.

Aiming to raise awareness on population related issues and global goals. In addition, to give youth a chance to share their ideas on how to make the world a better place. UNFPA supported TEDxYouth@Jahez , event, entitled : "Numbers Matter" on July 9, 2016, on the occasion of World Population Day.

At this salon, 35 youth from different backgrounds gathered for one cause, which is to tackle the issue of world population growth and how this is connected to many other global issues.

The whole day event was divided into 3 sessions:

- Introduction on WPD.
- Video and discussion on "Global Population Growth, Box By Box."
- Talks by two young speakers.

Young people discussed four important questions:

- What are the Challenges of population growth?
- What is our role as youth to solve this problem?
- What are our needs to solve this?
- How we can convince our community in trying new things?



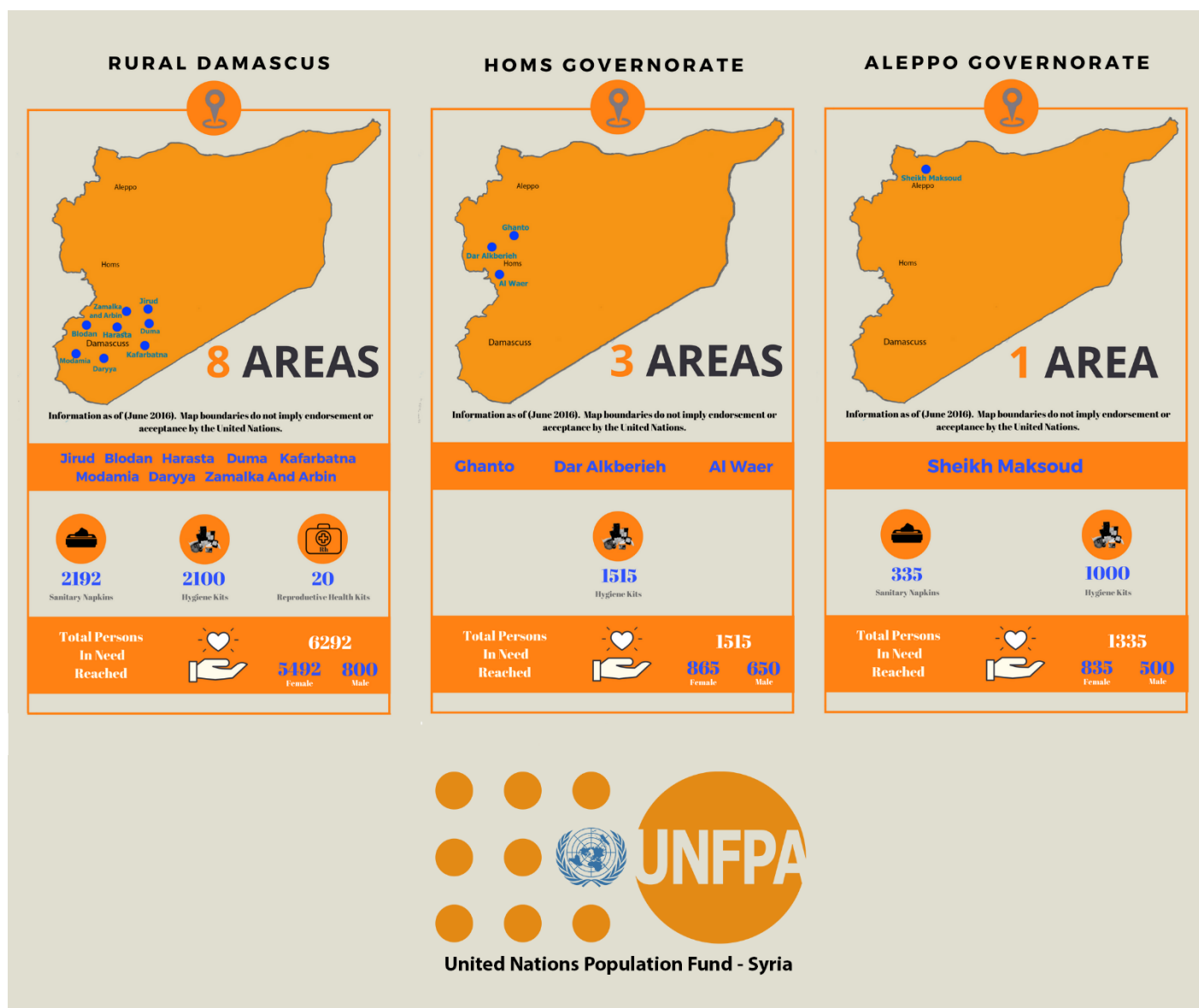
**TEDxYouth@Jahez Volunteers**

*"I never thought one individual can have such an enormous impact on the world. I must start with changing myself to change the community," Abdel Ghani Al Mawaldi, 17 Years old, student.*



**Group Photo at TEDxYouth@Jahez Salon**

# Delivery of Life-Saving Supplies to Besieged and Hard to Reach Areas in Syria, *during June*



# Glimpses From Our Local Partner



## Activities Conducted By Syrian Family Planning Association

### GBV/RH AWARENESS SESSIONS

**10**

Governorates

### Target Group

**Women And  
Teenage girls**

### HIV/AIDS COUNSELLING WORKSHOP

**7**

Governorates

**24**

Beneficiaries

### ADVOCACY WORKSHOP ON GBV

**8**

Governorates

**25**

Beneficiaries

### GBV CASE MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

**2**

Governorates

**50**

Beneficiaries

## *And let's not forget that...*

New sustainable development agenda 2030 depends on how well we support and invest in teenage girls.

World Population Day 11 July 2016

### 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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