

UNFPA Syria

Monthly Update

JUNE 2017

“A great champion of health and well-being for all”, Dr. Osotimehin’s service and forceful voice of advocacy towards a better world will be dearly missed. UN Secretary General António Guterres



RIP

Babatunde Osotimehin

1949 - 2017

Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin



UNFPA Syria Staff - Damascus

Dr. Osotimehin was profoundly dedicated to a life of dignity for all across and beyond Africa. He vigorously championed three major transformative goals: zero preventable maternal deaths; zero unmet demand for family planning; and the elimination of harmful practices and violence against women and girls.



YPEERs Syria - Damascus

Dr. Osotimehin was committed to a life of service. At the helm of UNFPA, Dr. Osotimehin was a champion for youth, women and girls. Prior to his appointment at the UN, he served as the Minister of Health and Director-General of the National Agency for the Control of AIDS in Nigeria. Throughout his career, he chaired several international fora focused on health, population and family planning. He was a medical doctor by training.



2017

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Four Motivated And Talented Youth Join UNFPA Office Within The Recently Rejuvenated UN Volunteer Programme

UNFPA Syria is proud to announce the joining of 4 new United Nations Volunteers during June 2017. It is worth mentioning that it is a remarkable achievement and it must be well recognized because youth will see more opportunities to serve in their country to promote for peace and positive change.

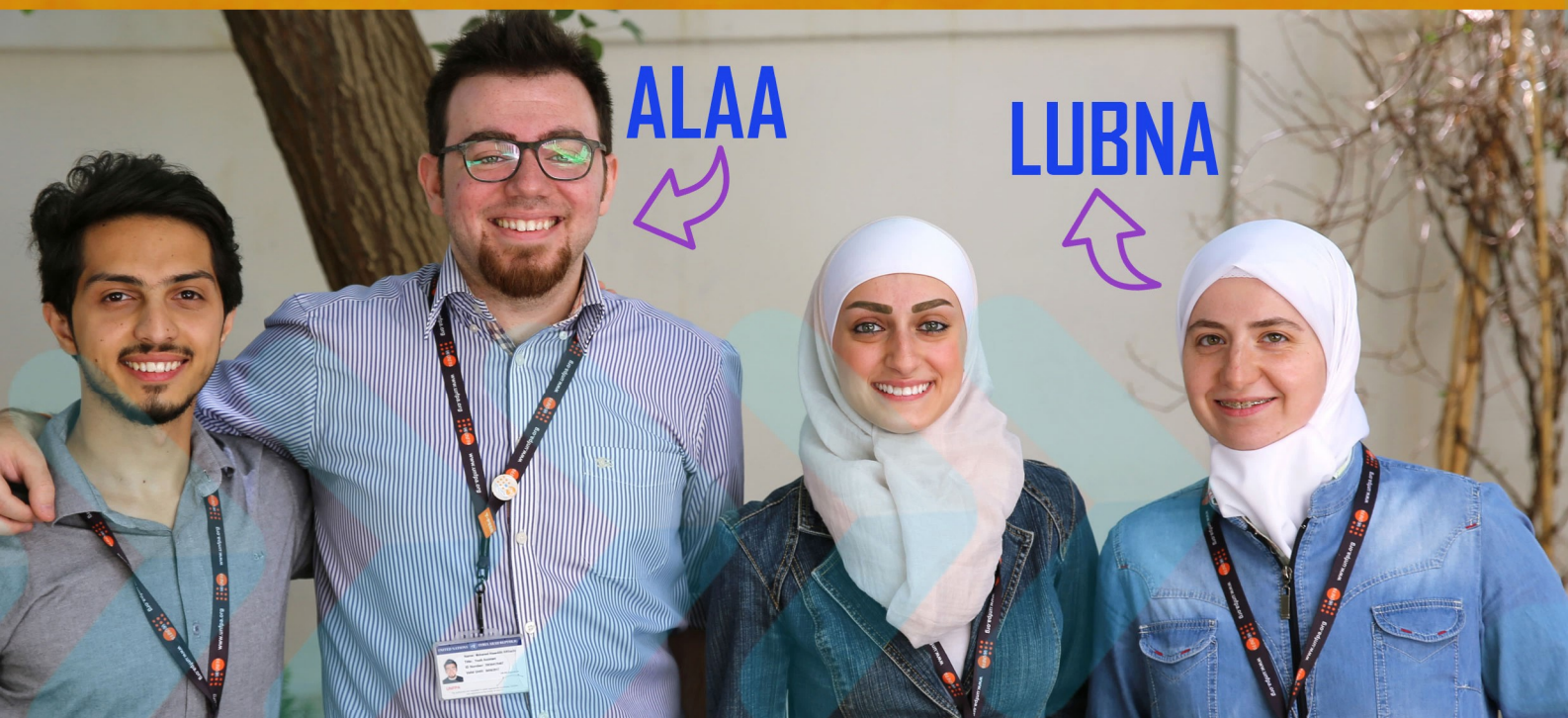
“Youth can do a lot. They can change the world but we have to let them first,” Massimo Diana, UNFPA Representative in Syria commented.

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) program contributes to peace and development through volunteerism worldwide. They collaborate with partners to recruit qualified, highly motivated and well supported UN Volunteers to promote the value and global recognition. It has been reactivated in Syria again after being paused due to the Syria crisis in 2011.

“It was in 2015, when I heard Mr. Diana mentioning UNV. He walked the talk and made it a reality,” Salam Al-Nukta, UNFPA Youth Volunteer says upon signing her contract to start a journey of 2 years serving as a youth volunteer in the communication unit in her country. She is 23 years old who is still proceeding her undergraduate studies. Salam’s among the newest and first UNVs in Syria which strengthen UNFPA’s firm commitment to support and empower youth in their communities.



Four Motivated And Talented Youth Join UNFPA Office Within The Recently Rejuvenated UN Volunteer Programme



It is worth mentioning that 3 out of 4 United Nations volunteers are young people under 25 who will contribute to UNFPA in addition to United Nations Volunteers to respond to the call to make the world a better place and leave no one behind.

Who are the new UN Volunteers in UNFPA-Syria?

Lubna AlKallas: National United Nations Volunteer Specialist, Admin Assistant. She worked with NewBoy, for ten years, where she participated in the development of the country office in Syria then worked remotely with Dubai office as an assistant manager, who is responsible to manage the development of the company. Lubna later had the opportunity to join UNDP in late 2016 as an administrative assistant.

Alaa Al-Khachi: National United Nations Youth Volunteer, Youth Assistant. He attended his first session with YPEER in Syria in 2009. YPEER paused its operations in the country due to security situation but Alaa reactivated the network in 2015. After that, he was nominated to be the International Coordinator. Alaa was always interested in art and music, he even has a special tone of voice that enable him to be a unique singer. He believes art can be utilized for good purposes.



UN VOLUNTEERS

Four Motivated And Talented Youth Join UNFPA Office Within The Recently Rejuvenated UN Volunteer Programme



Eyad Al-Khayat: National United Nations Youth Volunteer, Data Assistant. Eyad has always stood strong in advocating for young girls, especially his younger sister. He volunteered with TEDx community and co-organized the first TEDx event in Syria. He later became a leader at TEDxJahezWomen. He graduated in June 2017 as software engineer and he is looking forward to create a platform for young girls to express freely and practice their skills. Eyad also leads “ChangeMakers”, an initiative that aims to reduce the gender gap in technology

Salam Al-Nukta: National United Nations Youth Volunteer, Communication Assistant. Salam was always interested in volunteering to empower young people. She volunteered with TEDx community in 2015 and organized a TEDxYouth, in her country, that aimed to act as an open platform for young people to share their ideas and thinking outside the box. She works closely with Eyad in leading “ChangeMakers” where she aims to be a role model for other girls who aim to pursue their education in science; Salam is still continuing her education as a biologist.



UN VOLUNTEERS

Working with Youth in Syria to find creative ways to speak out against gender-based violence through performing arts



On 15 June, 30 young people participated in an interactive theater workshop in Misyaf, Hama city. The workshop included two plays, the first one is about GBV and forced marriage and the second play is about youth and social media. The workshop focused on introducing the GBV concepts and types, the reasons and features of forced marriage in addition to the concept of being single from social perspectives. They also present the linkage between youth and social media nowadays.

Working with Youth in Syria to find creative ways to speak out against gender-based violence through performing arts.

A new initiative to support female-headed households in Homs



Aiming to empower women in Homs, our local partner, Aoun NGO organized a small exhibition on the occasion of Eid Alfitr to promote the women's foodstuffs in their markets and link them with the local market after finishing the cooking course.

13 women who lost their breadwinners attended the cooking course for two months in the women & girls safe space (WGSS) in Al-Idekhar area-Homs, where they learnt about the

production Oriental and Western cuisine.

On this occasion, a team from UN offices visited the (WGSS) and attended the packing process and marketing. The UN team visited also Aoun mall where they met the women in order to support them and to promote their hand-made products.



GBV mainstreaming session in Homs Hub



“GBV is fundamental part in any humanitarian response”, Suzanne Fares, WFP Program Assistant commented after attending the GBV mainstreaming session in Homs.

Given the high need of GBV mainstreaming, UNFPA- Homs hub called for a session on 15 June, gathering all the sector focal points and implemented partners to introduce the guidelines.

The session aimed to introduce the concept of GBV mainstreaming to all active sectors and to assess the needs and technical support for

sectors and IPs concerning the issues of GBV mainstreaming.

22 participants attended the session, including the head offices of the active sectors, focal points, and program officers from UN Agencies -OCHA, UNHCR, WFP, UN Habitat, WHO, Unicef, IOM, UNDP.

“GBV issue is not something separated but it involves is all sectors of work and life”, Hazem Al-Jundi, OCHA Head of Sub office- Homs stated during the GBV mainstreaming session.

Emergency Response in the field:



During June, a UN inter-agency team conducted a needs assessment mission to Al Wa’er- Homs. UNFPA participated at the two interagency missions, the first one was to assess the general situation, and the second mission was more specific about the health issues & needs. UNFPA had two functional reproductive health clinics with SARC and SFPA that were providing reproductive health services, medical checks and medicines.

UNFPA contributed with the following supplies for June month:

2 Reproductive health kits to AL Rastan & Talbiseh areas / Homs

2250 Female hygiene kits to Northern rural of Hama

7992 Sanitary Napkins to Northern rural of Hama

9 Reproductive health Kits to Northern rural of Hama

1272 Sanitary Napkins to Foua and Kafraya

A Portable ultrasound to Al-Waer/ Homs



Engaging Young Leaders In An Impactful & Inspiring Communications Training To Build Valuable Skills

“The workshop was short in time but it held a lot of information on facts and new concepts,” said Tuleen Ridai, a volunteer at the end of the workshop in Damascus.

Tuleen is one of 30 young people who attended the UNFPA 2-days’ workshop which aimed to produce raising awareness key messages on UNFPA’s mandate and to enhance youth’s role in bringing a positive change in their society.



The workshop took place in Damascus engaging young people representing different youth-groups, such as Y-PEER and TEDx which are both supported by UNFPA -Syria in addition to other youth-groups, like JCI, SFPA, SANAD, SARC and other young active individuals in their community.

Massimo Diana, UNFPA Representative in Syria, welcomed young people on the first day and noted that “UNFPA in Syria is proud to expand its network and include more youth on board to support the planning and implementation process of UNFPA in Syria”.

This workshop is the first of its kind because it represents the actual integration between all program units in the UNFPA office. Given that, the young people were exposed to topics related to UNFPA mandate, such as child marriage, reproductive health as well as adolescent pregnancy and changes during puberty, in addition to gender-based violence, through interactive practices and open discussions.



Engaging Young Leaders In An Impactful & Inspiring Communications Training To Build Valuable Skills



Yamanah Zidan, an active youth agent in the community, commented that social media might not always be the best option for spreading messages and we must talk to our audience group in a language that they understand. "We must start looking for innovative messages and spread them at places where youth are most active at, like restaurants, gyms and even malls," she added.

The workshop ended with an extended list of key messages which have been generated by the workshop's participants and UNFPA will use afterwards to raise awareness and outreach more young people.



Providing Youth with Critical Thinking Training To Enable them Countering Negative Perceptions and Standing Up For Themselves

In June 16, 2017, Damascus, Syria, TEDxYouth@Jahez team organized its first salon event, supported by UNFPA-Syria; a half-day locally organized gathering to introduce and discuss breaking through ideas.

The program was organized around the theme: "Critical Thinking - Envisioning 2030." It is intended to introduce critical thinking tools of which young people need in today's world to analyze information they encounter in their daily lives.

"UNFPA Syria is renewing its support to youth-led initiatives aiming to inspire young people, give them voices and catalyze active contribution in their communities in Syria", Massimo Diana, UNFPA representative stated.



The program started with featuring a TEDTalk on The surprising habits of original thinkers. 50 young people, later, participated in conversations on how they envision the world in 2030 and analyzed the issue: "Due to rapid development in technology, more than 3 thirds of today's current jobs will disappear."

Aya Al-Jouja, one of the participants quoted from Adam: "You call it procrastinating. I call it thinking." Aya pointed out to the importance of getting the job done quickly, however, she sees that it is also important to think deeply before finalizing touches on any given projects. "Time allow me to see things that I couldn't see at the first place. So, it is not about getting the job done first, it is about getting it done better," she added.

The workshop aimed to provide young people with 3 tools, including: Starbursting, 5 WHYs and Root-Case Analysis. "It is unfortunate that young people don't learn critical thinking skills at schools. It is the most needed skill today and we are missing out on this one," Yamana Zidan, facilitator at TEDxYouth@Jahez.



TEDx
Youth@Jahez
x = independently organized TED event

A Story From The Field

Syrian Women Find Services And Hope In Al-Hassakeh Clinics

"I had experienced multiple displacements," Nourah, displaced woman from Al-Hassakeh and a mother of 2. Nourah is only 30 years old who had just been separated from her second marriage. Her first marriage lasted for 9 years before it had to end unexpectedly. She wasn't comfortable with her husband's decision joining the armed parties, in a result, she sought divorce for the sake of her 2 children; one boy and a girl.

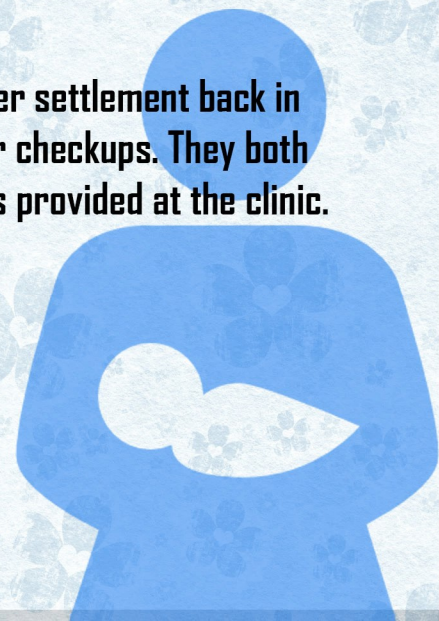


Nourah, like many other women, had to flee Syria to Turkey to escape the bitter war. Shortly after Nourah's displacement, she married a Turkish citizen. "I wanted a man to protect me and my children," she said. Unfortunately, the second marriage lasted for 4 months only. "Then I knew I had to return to Syria and find a path to recovery," she added.

Noura's psychological situation wasn't stable before she meets the psychological consultant and service provider at the UNFPA-supported clinic. She suffered rejection from her community after she returned. "I don't see anything wrong with my marriage but they refuse to accept me," she muttered to the consultant and started crying. "I was trying to do the right thing for my children. I wanted to find someone who could fill the gap for them for losing their father," she continued.

Nourah is one of almost 1,500 total beneficiaries from UNFPA's services provided through our local partner, Al-Bir and Al-Ihsan Association in Ras Al-Ein, Al-Hassake, in June. While total number of beneficiaries in Al-Hassake can reach up to 11,500 in June only. UNFPA is tirelessly working and collaborating with local NGOs to provide women and girls reproductive health services as well as psychological and legal consultation. UNFPA supports 8 reproductive static clinics, 8 reproductive mobile teams and one women and girls' safe space.

Nourah started visiting the clinic supported by UNFPA in Al-Hassakeh after her settlement back in Syria where she used to come accompanied with her sister in law for regular checkups. They both benefited from health care services as well as psychosocial support services provided at the clinic.





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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