

#ALEPPO

#YOUTH

#Hasakah

#Facts

Aleppo, Spreading Hope and Restoring Services to a War-torn City

UNFPA Syria Newsletter

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“Hala and Shahd” 2 New Babies Born

An immense feeling of joy and love despite all gloomy times. The first child has always brought a different taste of happiness and pleasure to the family. The first scream, the first words and the first steps they make are special and never forgettable. There is nothing like this.

This is the case for both Rasha and Fatima from Al-Yaroubia area in AlHassake, who fled from the on-going Syrian crisis in northern eastern borders and they are so thrilled about the joining of a new member to their families.

Both, Rasha and Fatima, gave birth to their newborns on the same day.

Rasha, 24 years old, is married since 2 years. “I’m so excited to hold my 1st baby,” she says with her eyes sparkling. Rasha visited the clinic

supported by UNFPA_Syria and after the checkup, the doctor said that she won’t be able to give normal birth and she must do C-section. Minutes later, the reproductive health team arranged the room and prepared her to the operation.

Only a few hours later, Shahd (which means Honey in Arabic), weighing 3 K.g, came to the world.



“Hala and Shahd” 2 New Babies Born

“I held her for 9 months inside of me, it is time to hold her between my hands,” Fatima, 20 years old, says to the doctor preparing her to give birth to her 1st child. Hala’s (which means beauty in Arabic) coming was very smooth and her mother, Fatima, didn’t suffer any complications and she was delivered normally. It’s like an adventure. Basically “I don’t know what I should do because I didn’t do it before, having a baby is a life-changing experience. It is physically challenging but also deeply emotional”, Fatima concluded telling us her story.



Twelve days in Aleppo

The crisis of Aleppo, one of the oldest cities in the world and formerly Syria's most populous, began in July 2012 and ended in December 2016 after the Syrian Government regained full control of the city.

Shortly after the end of the siege, a United Nations convoy was set up to conduct a needs assessment exercise by meeting with local partners and learning from the population that had been long.



UNFPA Syria Security Assistant Ruba Farah shares her story as a member of a UN convoy mission to Aleppo, a city obliterated by the Syria crisis, to assess the needs of the people trapped by the conflict. "The destruction was beyond imagination," she said.

While it was an opportunity for UNFPA and its local partners

to provide services to over 13,000 people over a 12-day span, for Ms. Farah the mission was a homecoming of sorts. It marked her return to the city of her childhood which had become a battleground, trapping men, women and children within its boundaries. Ruba shares her account of the mission in her own words below.

Mouhammad Zaza, Gender-Based Violence monitoring and evaluation assistant and I joined the convoy leaving Damascus for Aleppo on New Year's Day. The 350 km trip took over eight hours because of the several security checkpoints we had to pass through.

Twelve days in Aleppo

The journey to Aleppo was very special for me because I originally come from there. I was raised in Aleppo and it is also my mother's home town. When we arrived, I was shocked to see how the city where I spent most of my childhood had turned into a dark box. I was afraid after seeing the level of destruction across the city. My feelings were undefined and contradictory. The devastation was beyond imagination. Schools, hospitals, roads and houses, all destroyed.



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Mouhammad and I were overwhelmed. When we arrived at the evacuation area in the east of the city. I couldn't recognize the streets or the neighborhoods even though I played in those streets every day when I was a kid. The war had changed everything. Debris and gloominess filled every corner of Aleppo. I didn't see a single child smiling.

Twelve days in Aleppo

I went into one of the shelters where I saw a group of little kids shouting. When I came closer, I realized that they were standing next to a small candy cart owned by an elderly trader. He said that “selling sweets from his cart, a small box on two wheels, was what put food on the table to keep him and his family alive.” I felt that was the moment to bring smiles to the children's faces, so I bought the whole basket of sweets from him and asked the man to distribute them among the kids. They were so excited about eating sweets. Even their mothers joined in! But, actually, I was the one who felt the happiest on that day, because I saw the kids' cheerful faces again.



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Despite the challenges, we spent our time in Aleppo among the people, listened to their needs and problems and provided reproductive health services including dignity kits to over 13,000 clients, most of whom were women and girls.

I may be the only woman on

sense of understanding, commitment and strength.

The trip has eventually achieved concrete results given that it has identified the program priorities and expanded partnership with local NGOs to support women and youth in Aleppo.



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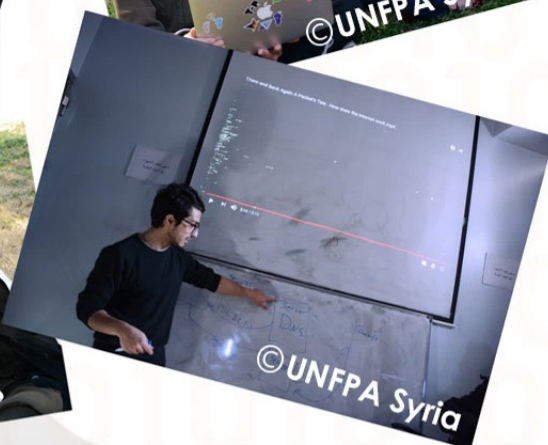
Updates from **ChangeMakers**

(Coding and Innovation School)

The workshop is at its last quarter. “ChangeMakers” aims to provide young people with skills, tools and opportunities to innovate through technology.

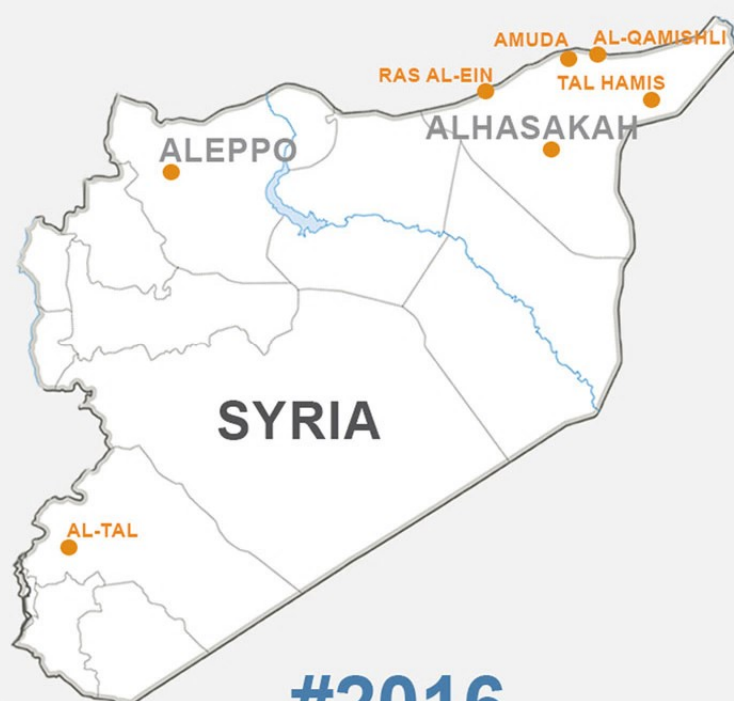
Young people learned Java script and took off with HTML. Participants at ChangeMakers are enjoying the lessons because they can see their work on the screen immediately. Ahmad Mansour, 16 years old and aspiring entrepreneur: “I have an educational application startup but I don’t know how to code. ChangeMakers created a friendly environment to learn coding and share ideas.”

Afraa Al-Ghalayini, 16 year-old passionate participant and peacebuilder: “Peace is inside each one of us. I wish to create a world full of peace.”



Info-graph

Reproductive Health Services in Hard to Reach Areas



#2016

● Information as of (January) 2017 Map boundaries do not imply endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

*Based on OCHA HNO 2017

70
DELIVERIES

8,345
FAMILY PLANNING

18,693
ANTE&POST
NATAL CARE

89,410

Beneficiaries IN 2016

Out of **4.9** Million estimated people in
need in hard to reach areas



RURAL DAMASCUS



ALEPPO CITY



ALHASAKAH

UNFPA Syria

INFO-GRAPH



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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