

UNFPA visits Aleppo

The UNFPA team, led by Mr. Massimo Diana, UNFPA Representative in Syria, visited Aleppo city in mid-November to follow up on projects and to take part in a variety of activities, such as the inauguration of the new Youth-Friendly space, in partnership with the Syrian Enterprise and Business Center (SEBC). The Youth-Friendly .space is well equipped to host future training workshops Mr. Hussein Diab, Governor of Aleppo, and Mr. Massimo Diana discussed the situation of relief and humanitarian work in Syria and means to enhance the joint cooperation and to implement more effective projects for the residents in the province.



Mr. Diana pointed that “UNFPA works in Syria on the rehabilitation of the Al-Zabdia Center in addition to its intention to supply Aleppo governorate with mammography devices for early detection of breast cancer.”

Aleppo: Breaking stereotypes in technology



UNFPA and the Syrian Computer Society (SCS), supported by the Japanese Government - “Education for All” Project, organized an open day in Aleppo. Over 700 people attended the event which aimed to raise awareness about technology and to break the stereotype that technology is only a field for men. Representatives from the governmental sectors also attended the event, such as the chief of Aleppo University and deans of various engineering colleges, in addition to students from secondary schools. The event also included distribution of prizes including 100 coupons to ICDL trainings and over 200 backpacks.

Aleppo: Awareness marathon for the global Sustainable Development Goals

The Junior Chamber International (JCI), organized a marathon in Aleppo supported by UNFPA Syria. More than 100 young people, 21 teams representing NGOs and other youth-led initiatives participated in the run for the global Sustainable Development Goals and to raise awareness of UNFPA’s mandate through riddles and interactive games. UNFPA Syria Representative Mr. Massimo Diana and the UNFPA team followed the marathon closely and experienced the strong youth of Aleppo.



TEDxJahezWomen highlights the importance of all women in society

On 2 November 2017, the TEDxJahezWomen took place in Damascus with 200 audiences and 5 speakers sharing their different stories and ideas. The event was remarkable as it included specialized sign language translators, 5 deaf audience members and one speaker with a disability.

One of the speakers, Razan, is disabled in her movement due to a medical mistake when she was born, said: "Society is missing out on many opportunities, clever minds and talents when it overlooks people with disabilities."

Wisal Ahdab, specialized sign language translator, said to

TEDxJahezWomen team: "Deaf people enjoy big events and love to network just like any other human being. I'm only here to deliver the sounds in signs."

TEDxJahezWomen is an independent event happening simultaneously with the global event TEDWomen in the United States. Its international theme is "Bridges" aiming to highlight the importance role of women in building bridges within different fields in the society.



Empowerment of women in Qara



UNFPA in partnership with the Monastery of Saint James the Mutilated (MJSM) in Rural Damascus celebrated the opening of a bazaar, which will contribute to the development and empowerment of women in Qara, Rural Damascus.

The market will sell handmade products made by women affected by the humanitarian crisis.

Understanding the reproductive health needs of youth

The Syrian Family Planning Association (SFPA) and UNFPA organized a training workshop which brought together health care workers from hospital facilities in Aleppo and Rural Damascus. The workshop aimed to raise workers' awareness of young girls and adolescents' reproductive health needs in the humanitarian context, as well as to enhance their understanding of the challenges girls face while receiving their basic health needs. Workers and participants created a work frame to develop more youth-friendly programmes.



Aleppo: Entrepreneurial bootcamp for youth



GOPA DERD, with support from UNFPA, organized an entrepreneurial bootcamp in Aleppo for 75 young people to receive courses on entrepreneurship, financial operations and public relations. 30 projects were developed during the training, from art and entertainment to education and small businesses.

UNFPA Syria launches the #Word campaign

In November, the UNFPA Syria Country Office launched a campaign titled the #Word campaign aiming to highlight how the meaning of words change when people's lives change due to the humanitarian crisis in the country. The first part of the campaign focused on the words #Home, #Dreams and #Water. This campaign was highly shared on all UNFPA Syria's social media accounts.



Innovation Bootcamp set focus on programming



On 9 November 2017, ChangeMakers celebrated the launch of their third “Innovation Bootcamp” in 2017. 17 new participants aged between 15 and 16 joined the bootcamp to acquire programming skills as well as basic entrepreneurial skills. The new participants attended the ceremony which introduced the initiative and highlighted the importance of such work in reducing the gender gap in STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, especially Tech. The bootcamp will extend to mid-December 2017.