

The Syrian Family Planning Association, in cooperation with the Ministry of Information, supported by UNFPA, organized a workshop for media in Damascus aimed at promoting reproductive and sexual health approaches. Emphasis was placed on the need to promote curricula for reproductive health, sexuality, social and psychological support and the role of media in raising awareness. The workshop included a film about breast cancer awareness and the prevention methods, as well as to help in early detection of the disease through self-examination.



The ChangeMakers team, supported by UNFPA, organized a Hackathon for 2 days. The competition targeted youth between the ages of 15-17. 20 young people participated in the Hackathon and 7 mentors joined. The Hackathon aimed to build web applications to solve social issues. 4 distinguished teams were rewarded and the second place was given to an application that aims to help Syrian women find the nearest clinic to their location.

The Ministry of Health organized a central seminar in cooperation with UNFPA to highlight the breast cancer campaign in October. Ms. Perez del Pulgar, Deputy Representative of UNFPA in Syria, said that “working with different local partners, including the Ministry of Health, facilitates planning and implementing service programmes of which focuses on women's health.”



The Relief and Development Center in Mesyaf, rural Hama, celebrated the opening of a new Women and Girls Safe Space (WGSS) on 20 October. Representatives of the Department of Health Care and UNFPA attended the opening. More than 400 women registered their entrance to the center which aims to provide consultancy services on health, legal issues and case management services. The Safe Space also provides women with various vocational training.

Nour Foundation, supported by UNFPA, celebrated the graduation of a new batch from their workshops. 225 women participated in workshops on computer literacy, English literacy, spot, reading and writing, as well as handmade crafts. “Joining this workshop gave me the opportunity to meet with women, exchange ideas and discuss women related issues,” said Siham, participant in one of the workshops provided by Nour Foundation in Aleppo.



As of 1 October, UNFPA in partnership with the Syrian (Enterprise Business Center) SEBC and Ezzati initiative under Azza's Atoura supervision, started to organize training workshops on self-defense. These workshops took place at Al-Halbouni center supported by the SFPA (Syrian Family Planning Association), and Jaramana center supported by the RDC (Relief and Development Center). The programme targets workers at the centers aiming to provide them with self-defense techniques to prepare them to better defend themselves when they are exposed to violence.



Between 1- 5 October, UNFPA held a joined training on Resilience and Social Cohesion in Damascus with UN-Habitat. This was a first step in building staff capacity in these new and crucial areas to our work in war torn Syria. The training explored concepts and definitions of resilience and social cohesion and shared practice tools for analysis of local context.

"The training is very important and the office will build on it to improve the capacity of implementing partners in coordination with other UN agencies to support the stabilization of the Syrian institutions and resilience of the people," Mr. Massimo Diana, UNFPA Representative commented.

The training was found to be very relevant and staff showed great interest and ability to take these issues forward in their work," said Kinda Katranji, UNFPA Communications Officer. The trainers commented how impressed they were with the caliber of staff, their commitment to learning and their resilience in the face of such difficult issues.



UNFPA joined Ministry of Health and other local partners, such as Al-Mawadda Charitable NGO, AlIhsan Charitable Association in Al-Hassake, AlBir and AlIhsan Association in Ras El-ein and AlBir and Social Care Association in Hama, to hold various awareness raising sessions, campaigns as well as training women on self-examination techniques for breast cancer throughout October.