



UNFPA marked the following three international days during the months of July and August:

On July 11, World Population Day, UNFPA expressed the need to redouble efforts to protect the health and rights of Syrian women and girls, and to empower them to play a proactive role in peace talks, peace building, and recovery.

On August 12, International Youth Day, UNFPA called for enhancement of efforts to promote youth leadership and participation, and to enable young people to develop the skills, knowledge, and support needed to make informed decisions about their bodies, lives, families, communities, and country.

On August 19, World Humanitarian Day, UNFPA stood strong for the human rights and inherent dignity of every human being. To improve humanitarian effectiveness, UNFPA called for increased action and funding for sexual and reproductive health services, for tackling gender-based violence, and for meaningful participation of affected populations, especially women and young people.

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

UNFPA-assisted partners delivered around 400,000 reproductive health and gender-based violence related service during the months of July and August 2015.

LEBANON

UNFPA launched results of rapid assessment of 'Women's Socio-Economic Empowerment;' organized awareness sessions on different reproductive health related issues for 4,923 women, and delivered 5,250 condoms to the Ministry of Health for distribution among Syrian refugee men. UNFPA also conducted trainings for 238 health and social workers on issues related to gender-based violence and

reproductive health, and provided training to 80 officers of the Internal Security Forces (ISF) on implementation of Law 293 for protection of women and other family members from domestic violence.

JORDAN

UNFPA provided reproductive health services to 33,756 Syrian refugees and organized gender-based violence related recreational activities and self-reliance and skills training for 10,829 women, girls, men, and boys. A total of 7,083 youth participated in UNFPA-supported reproductive health awareness sessions as well as self-reliance and life skills activities.

IRAQ

UNFPA provided 4,129 reproductive health services to women and girls, supported the delivery of 574 babies, and managed 174 Caesarean section deliveries. As many as 395 refugees benefited from gender-based violence related sessions, 887 were reached with information on gender-based violence, and 918 participated in recreational activities. The Fund also equipped seven district hospitals and 11 primary healthcare centres with reproductive health kits. A total of 1,031 young girls and boys participated in UNFPA-supported youth activities.

TURKEY

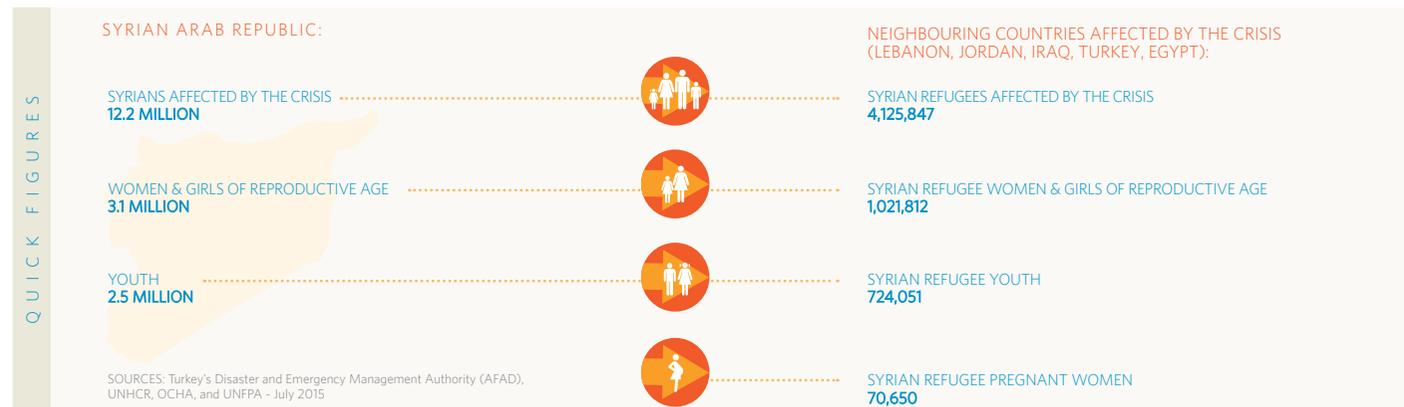
UNFPA distributed 39,627 dignity kits and hygiene kits to its implementing partners, and printed 435,000 copies of a brochure on gender-based violence in Arabic language and 225,000 copies of the brochure in Turkish for distribution. Moreover, UNFPA provided gender-based violence related services to 332 Syrian refugees, and reproductive health services to 2,121 Syrian refugees.

EGYPT

UNFPA Egypt supported 19 sessions on health education, psychological awareness, sport, and recreational activities targeting 82 Syrian girls in safe spaces located in two governorates, distributed 1,200 copies of brochures on reproductive health and gender-based violence awareness in three governorates, and conducted media training on 'Reporting on gender-based violence in humanitarian settings' for 12 journalists.

CROSS-BORDER OPERATION

A total of 14,604 women and girls benefited from reproductive health services in north Syria. UNFPA provided 151 reproductive health kits to health facilities supported by the Fund. A total of 946 women participated in gender-based violence related activities.





A Syrian youth plays guitar on the World Humanitarian Day 2015

Credit: OCHA / UNFPA, 2015

"Accessories, processed food, embroideries, and other items were available for sale. The sale proceeds help women and their respective families to supplement their income in these times of acute economic distress," Issam Habbal, head of Sae'd NGO, said during an exhibition-cum-sale of handicrafts made by 10 women NGO and entrepreneurs based in Damascus.

Responding to the rights and needs of Syrian women and girls: hygiene, health, dignity, safety, and protection

"I find such comfort in my work when I listen to and help resolve other people's problems," said Reem, a Syrian social worker living in Lebanon. Mother of four, Reem wants to contribute and become a beacon of light and hope for others. "Being a refugee doesn't mean confinement to your home. We can make a huge difference by helping and protecting each other."



A girl holding a sign that reads, "International Youth Day ... internal displaced person and happy", in Arbat camp, Iraq

Credit: Shajwan Imad | UNFPA, 2015

Syrian art, music and handmade craft on the frontline

"The wealth of art, craft, and music being created in Syria during these difficult times speaks volumes about the determination of our women and youth to express their multi-faceted capabilities," remarked 25 year-old Shaam, who had come to watch an interactive play on child marriage performed at the Opera House by a group of Syrian volunteers. The performance was organized to commemorate World Humanitarian Day 2015.

"While the two guitarists were playing music on stage, my inner self was shaking with exhilaration; I was totally captivated by the inspiring example set by Syrian youth," remarked a humanitarian staff who had attended a musical performance by a band of young Syrians. The band presented popular Syrian songs emphasizing the seminal role of youth in rebuilding Syria and their attachment to their homeland despite untold sufferings and hardships.



Reem cooking dolmas for her family in a small informal camp in the Bekaa valley. Reem attends violence against women awareness sessions at a UNFPA-supported listening and counselling centre in Al Marj and supports other Syrian women going through similar experiences.

Credit: Charlotte Mikkilborg | UNFPA, 2015

Driving change towards a better future in camps

Shajwan Imad, youth fellow at Arbat women centre in Iraq said, "Young people are driving change towards a better future for all in every corner of the world. In a world of increasing conflict, young people must be our strongest partners if peace and security are to win over war."

One way of fostering youth engagement is to invest in their time and encourage them to participate in building the community they are a part of. Even if IDP youth live in vulnerable conditions, they are helping to shape the camp community they live in by rekindling the soul of volunteerism. Through volunteering, they cooperate with the women's centre which, in return, is working to provide psychosocial support to women inside the camps; these women may be their mothers, sisters, friends, or neighbours. They are giving back to their camp in an unprecedented way, stimulating hope and enthusiasm for those who walk into the centre and witness their dedicated involvement.