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UNFPA Team Visit to Al-Hassake and its Camps at Northern-Eastern Syria

On July 2017, Massimo Diana, UNFPA Representative in Syria, joined a mission to Al-Hassake to assess the UNFPA intervention in the area as well as provide needed health services including Reproductive Health, Gender Based Violence, medicines and supplies to people & IDPs. Mr. Diana accompanied Mr. Ali Al-Zaatari, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Syria who visited Qamishli, Hassakeh City, Qahtanieh, Jwadieh, Tal Hamis, Tal Tamer, Amouda, Tal Brak, Shaddahi, Al Hole, Drbassyieh, and Yaroubieh Districts.



"We should never overlook the needs of women and young girls, especially in conflict zones. A healthy future depends on how well their presence is," Mr. Diana commented during his visit. "Seven years into the crisis has brought notable negative impact to the country. We are on mission to restore hope and ensure every woman and young girl has access to reproductive health with dignity," he continued emphasizing on the important role UNFPA is playing in Al-Hassake.

The UNFPA Country Office in Syria is working collaboratively with 9 local partners, including Directorate of Health, Syrian Family Planning Association, Al Bir and Ras El Ain Association, Al Bir and Social Services in Qamishli, Pan Armenian Association, Al Yamama Association, Mawadda Association, Al Ihsan Association and Relief and Development Center.

UNFPA Team Visit to Al-Hassake and its Camps at Northern-Eastern Syria

As of July 2017, UNFPA has supported the provision of health and reproductive health outreach services including family planning services to men, women and young people through a total of 7 mobile teams; of which 2 provide medical, RH\GBV and PSS services in Al-Hassake. Moreover, UNFPA supported 7 health clinics and 3 women and girls safe spaces.

Nevertheless, 2 mobile teams are working tirelessly on a daily basis to serve an estimation of 1,700 IDPs located in Al-Areeshe camp as of 18 June. Additionally, UNFPA successfully contributed 500 hygiene kits and almost 300 sanitary napkins to women at the camp in addition to delivering up to 700 health services, of which 24 were to pregnant women, 37 nursing women, 80 services were provided to men.





UNFPA's work at Al-Areeshe camp is not limited to ensuring safe deliveries but also distributing necessary hygiene kits as well as providing people with basic health, mental, and reproductive health and internal medicines services.

"It is important to visit people and talk to them to know their needs," Mr. Diana further explained and stressed the importance of participating in field visits. He also expressed his ultimate pleasure to be serving women in Syria through UNFPA as he believes that we can't reach a peaceful world unless we protect the rights of both women and young girls.

The Al-Areeshe transit camp is a newly established IDPs camp in the Areesheh sub district 30 km south of Al Hassakeh city and 120 km from Qamishli.

Peace .. Youth .. Art 3 Days of Peace Activism Campaign in Syria

3 days of peace activism campaign is organized by Y-PEER team and supported by UNFPA- Syria. It was launched simultaneously with the regional campaign aiming to promote the culture of peace through advocating for gender equality and reducing Gender Based Violence (GBV) by mobilizing and engaging young people in producing peace-building activities such as media products and leading outreach activities on the ground in their communities.

"We must focus on those who have the ability to spread their impact at larger scales. For example, women and youth are the biggest population in Syria and their impact is notable," Ammar Muhrez, representative of Civil Syria NGO, said. Ammar represented his NGO while 20 other youth-led initiatives and organizations attended the forum to participate in the 3 days of peace activism in Damascus University.



The campaign continued for three days, whereby YPEER implemented activities that are related to gender equality and GBV aiming to Mobilize and raise awareness of young people on gender equality, Promote the culture of peace as a mean to reduce GBV and Build young people's capacity through their participation in civil and voluntary activities.

The campaign included a media campaign on GBV and gender equality as well as youth's role. Additionally, it aimed to spread raising awareness messages on social media networks. Moreover, 40 young people from different national youth-led initiatives participated in an open discussion that aimed to introduce GBV concept and identify challenges faced by youth today in order to reach a collaborative method to captivate youth power

10 Syrian artists also contributed art pieces to an exhibition. They are looking forward to share peace messages through art. "Art is a very important tool to spread peace because it doesn't speak to your mind, but stir your emotions and talk to them," Nadine Ghannoum, artist, commented on the importance role art could play in peace-building.

A New Youth-led Initiative Aiming to Create an Evolving Critical-Based Mindset

"I-Think" launched it is first practical workshops in Damascus, thanks to UNFPA support. "I-Think" is a youth-led initiative aims to create an evolving critical-based mindset to enable individuals initiating rational reactions to social and traditional media content. It also provides them with the tools to positively perceive messages.

"I-Think" team organized 3 workshops in Damascus, Syria. Where it focused on media and digital awareness for women, young people as well as awareness on gender-based violence.



A total of 72 people attended, most of whom were still continuing their undergraduate studies as well as media workers. "We were very selective with audience because we want to create an interactive environment to exchange experience between those who already had it and those who are still new to the topic," Anas Kurdi, Trainer and member at the selection committee, I-Think.

"It is imperative for young people as well as women to analyze all kind of information they receive from the media rather than accept messages in blocks," Sufian Abdulmouty, Communication Assistant at UNFPA- Syria and founder of "I-Think" Initiative.

A New Youth-led Initiative Aiming to Create an Evolving Critical-Based Mindset

"I-Think", initiative, aims to empower young people as active recipients in today's world given the rapid development in media tools and complexity of spreading information.

Moreover, UNFPA in Syria in increasing its interest in using social media platforms to spread awareness messages. It is notable that it is the most used platform among women and young people. "We are proud to be working with young people to reach out to the community and share our messages," Massimo Diana, Representative of UNFPA in Syria.







Training Syrian Staff and Professionals to Provide Specialized Psycho-Social Support

"The workshop was a strategic one because it included subjects that we missed during our studies in the college. The practical sessions were very advantageous to us, "Lana Al Sammak, a social service provider mentioned at the end of the workshop.



UNFPA – Syria office in collaboration with the Syrian Commission Family Affairs & Population (SCFAP) & SFPA organized a 5-day training, on July, 30th, 2017, entitled a "Specialized PSS & Supportive Communication Skills Training", that aims to present various psychological theories and methods which helps to improve its effectiveness in curing human's psychological harm.

The training targeted 20 psychological service providers from the family protection unit's staff to enhance their capacities in providing psychological services as well as strengthening their ability to provide comprehensive psycho-social support (PSS) interventions and gain insights of promoting wellbeing.

The trainer who delivered the workshop used modern and interactive methods, like role plays and interactive learning tools, collective activities Peer to peer activities and Visual learning materials during the session. "I found out that people enjoy learning more when they are involved in the learning process rather than listening to a lecture for the whole day," Hania, the trainer said.

At the end of the workshop, participants were able to understand human personality factors and learn how to communicate with others based on their characters. They were also exposed to techniques that will help them in solving different emotional problems as well as grow emotionally.

"This is the first time that I attend a psychosocial training. It was very supportive. It introduced me to many new and important skills such as communication skills", Dr. Myriam from SFPA commented.





World Population Day in the Local Syrian Press





http://thawra.sy/_archive.asp?FileName=59213853820170711201022

http://www.sana.sy/?p=587924

http://tishreen.news.sy/?p=99468

http://www.sana.sy/?p=589262

http://thawra.sy/_View_news2.asp?FileName=37833825320170710202614

Introductory session in Aleppo on the concept of GBV mainstreaming

Based on the high need of GBV mainstreaming and the role of UNFPA as a leading agency as the GBV sub sector, Aleppo sub office organized an introductory session in Aleppo on the concept of GBV mainstreaming based on the IASC Guideline For Integrating GBV Interventions in Humanitarian Actions.

The session was on Wednesday 19-7-2017, with the presence of 12 participants; the head offices of the activated sectors, focal points, and program officers from UN Agencies -OCHA, UNHCR, WFP, IOM, UNDP, FAO





TOT on basics of GBV and advanced facilitation skills

It's the first training in kind implemented in Aleppo, That lasted for four day in Aleppo covering 26 participants from our implementing partners in Aleppo, Participants are obstetrician, health counselor, legal counselor and psychological support from SFPA, SARC, GOPA, RDC, MOH, Nama'a, SIF, OXFAM, SOS and SSSD







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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