

gender bulletin



UNRWA Syria Field Office, Damascus © 2018 UNRWA Photo by: Sawzan Sahli and Nawwar Mohammed

monthly updates on gender issues in UNRWA and the region

update of the month july 2018 | issue no. 93

The UNRWA West Bank Field Office began rolling out the new Training Package on Enhancing Understanding of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) to frontline staff in the Hebron, Jerusalem and Nablus areas as part of the second phase of the 'Building Safety' project.

stories from UNRWA

Awareness raising on gender-based violence through puppet theatre in Syria

UNRWA field staff in Syria developed a training course to raise awareness among children and adolescents on protection from abuse and sexual harassment through puppet theatre. The idea was introduced by a group of teachers from the Jaramana kindergarten in the greater Damascus area. Developed as part of the 'Safe Building Safety' project, two workshops with over 80 UNRWA staff and volunteers participants from Damascus, Homs, Hama, Latakia, Deraa and Aleppo, have been trained on the puppet theatre method.



Facilitated by both an external specialist in theatrical writing and teachers from the Jaramana kindergarten, the purpose of the trainings is to teach participants the essentials of puppet theatre as a means of awareness raising. Topics highlighted include: gender-based violence for children, adolescents and their families, including persons with disabilities. During the training, participants were asked to write a short play about child or adolescent abuse. The plays were then discussed in groups, and the best ones were selected to be performed in the plenary.



Before the performances started, participants tested their creativity in a puppet crafting session. In the coming months, approximately 2,500 children and 13,000 adolescents and their families will attend the puppet shows. Performances will take place every 15 days in different UNRWA schools and kindergartens, with each show addressing a different issue, including child marriage, gender equality, child abuse, sexual and children's rights.



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inspiring story

Female Jordanian police officer served as a UN peacekeeper in Sudan

Captain Ann Al Tawal, a police officer in Jordan's Family and Child Protection Unit, was a captain in the UN peacekeeping mission in Sudan in 2012 and 2017. She recalls her experience as a peacekeeper positively and states that the core value she brought back from her missions is respect for diversity. While Al Tawal thinks that her experience as a female UN peacekeeper is not different from that of a male officer, she believes that the presence of women in peacekeeping forces is vital for fellow women in post-conflict zones. For her, women peacekeepers are particularly important in areas with no female police officers or civil protection institutions, as many conflict-affected women feel more comfortable speaking with a female counterpart. The UN is convinced that the recognition and integration of gender perspectives into all aspects of UN peace operations are crucial to successful peacekeeping efforts. [Read more.](#)

events of interest

Inspiring Women Leaders 2018, Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)

4-5 October 2018, Geneva, Switzerland

As women leaders face different challenges and opportunities than their male counterparts, this two-day course is specifically designed to build women's skills to influence and provide them with strategies to succeed. The course is open to women with at least 5 years professional experience, who seek to enhance their leadership potential. It will be facilitated by the GCSP in partnership with the Center for Creative Leadership (CCL). [Read more.](#)

Gender Matters Online Course, UNITAR

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) offers a free, self-paced course which provides an introduction to the concept of gender and examines prevailing gender inequalities and their sources. The course is available in English, French and Spanish and consists of 9 sections. Topics covered include gender as a social construct, gender as power hierarchy, gender stereotypes and the UN approach to gender. The course requires no previous knowledge of gender and is designed for anyone with an interest in the concepts of gender and gender equality. [Read more.](#)

regional news

Iran

Nasrin Sotoudeh, a prominent Iranian human rights lawyer who has previously represented several women arrested for protesting the compulsory use of headscarves, was arrested in late June by Iranian authorities. It appears that Sotoudeh was convicted in absentia of a five-year jail sentence, but reasons for her arrest and conviction remain unclear. International rights groups have urged Iranian authorities to "immediately and unconditionally" release the lawyer. [Read more.](#)

Jordan

Marketing expert Hiba Shabrouq was among this year's participants in the Women Ambassadors Forum (WAF) which took place in Dallas, USA. Founded in 2015, the aim of the WAF is to "provide aspiring women leaders from around the world with the tools,

knowledge and opportunities to unlock their potential to spark positive change". For Shaqroub, "Every day was a new life lesson: from ways to empower women to get 'a seat at the table,' to techniques on how to strengthen our leadership skills, to the principles of change management, to public speaking lessons and skills to influence people without using power."

[Read more.](#)

Jordan

Hiba Qandeel, owner of "Hibat Al Tabee'a" ("Gift of Nature"), a natural herb and food products company, was the first woman to obtain a permit for a home-based business in the Greater Zarqa Municipality after new regulations made registration possible. Qandeel has since been able to grow her business and now employs 20 people. [Read more.](#)

reports & resources

Paper on Gender and the Grand Bargain

Not what she bargained for? Gender and the Grand Bargain, a paper published by *Care and ActionAid*, concluded that plans to reform the humanitarian sector by 2020 are still failing to reach grassroots women's rights organizations or impact women affected by crises. The authors make recommendations to governments, UN agencies and NGOs on how women's leadership and participation can be promoted through the Grand Bargain. Key recommendations include ensuring that funding reaches local women's organizations and civil society groups addressing gender issues, strengthening the participation of local women's groups in humanitarian coordination and empowering women to participate meaningfully. [Read more.](#)

Report on empowerment and accountability for gender equality

The UN Women report *Empowerment and Accountability for Gender Equality in Humanitarian Action and Crisis Response*, outlines the achievements made in the promotion of accountability for gender in 2017 by the organization and its partners. It highlights how

the agency's approach, which consists of normative and coordination work accompanied by operational work, addressed the needs and challenges of crisis-affected women and girls and enabled their empowerment. It furthermore examines the approach's contribution to strengthening the resilience of affected populations by empowering women and girls. [Read more.](#)

Note on how non-specialized organizations can safely refer GBV survivors to GBV case management agencies

Safe Referrals of SGBV survivors by Non-specialized Actors to SGBV Case Management Organizations was developed by the SGBV Sub-Working Group and its partners in Jordan and published in June, 2018. The note provides guidance to non-GBV specialized humanitarian service providers on how to safely handle disclosures of GBV incidents by refugees. The two page document details responsibilities and required actions to ensure that non-GBV specialized service providers know how to assist and refer survivors in accordance with a survivor-centred approach. [Read more.](#)

Facts of the Month

2 in 3 women

Are likely to experience sexual violence and harassment in their lifetime. [Read more.](#)

Only 10%

of all businesses in Jordan are owned by women. [Read more.](#)



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UNRWA is a United Nations agency established by the General Assembly in 1949 and mandated to provide assistance and protection to some 5.4 million registered Palestine refugees. Its mission is to help Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank and the Gaza Strip achieve their full human development potential, pending a just and lasting solution to their plight. UNRWA services encompass education, health care, relief and social services, camp infrastructure and improvement, protection and microfinance.

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