



UNRWA West Bank Field Office © 2018 UNRWA photo by Iyas Abu Rahmah

monthly updates on gender issues in UNRWA and the region

update of the month

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UNRWA Jordan Field Office conducted a training on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and Sexual Harassment for 25 staff members

stories from unrwa

Annual Central Youth Summer Camp in the West Bank

The annual Central Youth Summer Camp is a four-day event aimed at educating, empowering and enhancing the resilience of young refugees, particularly those who are vulnerable and who have been exposed to and endured extreme forms of political and social violence and have the potential to influence others within their communities. Under the slogan "My Dignity is My Identity", which was chosen to link with the "Dignity is Priceless" campaign, this year's camp targeted 50 young female and male participants (aged 18-24) from various areas of the West Bank. Youth participated in sessions related to gender-based violence (GBV) implemented using a GBV training package developed by the Agency's Gender Section as part of the 'Building Safety' project. The camp

The evening sessions included interactive activities that focused on improving dialogue and communication skills using expressive arts and body-mind practices. These sessions focused on gender roles, gender equality, GBV and gender sensitivity. Attendees were very involved and committed, and demonstrated a strong willingness to share their personal experiences and hear from others with empathy.

The camp concluded with a closing ceremony that featured performances by the young participants using psychodrama, silent drama skits, music and dance (dabke). In addition an exhibition showcased the artistic creations of participants and highlighting core values learned during the camp. All of the performances featured in the ceremony were organized and planned by the participants during the last three days of the camp and were completed with professionalism, reflecting the efforts of the team of UNRWA counsellors involved in the camp activities. The staff stressed the importance of the continuation of these camps, given the impact they have on youth through empowerment and development for refugee communities. The female and male youth who participated in the camp demonstrated a high sense of commitment and enthusiasm and left with greater knowledge of gender roles, increased self-esteem, improved communication skills and knowledge of positive behaviour. Upon completion of the camp, the alumni were then given the chance to lead refugee children (aged 6-13) in annual summer camps that were conducted in 17 locations across the West Bank in July.



programme was divided into two sessions. The morning sessions gave the participants the opportunity to explore the concepts and beliefs related to GBV and sexual violence, as well as to learn about communications.

The overall success of the Central Youth Summer Camp was largely due to the cooperation of the Agency's Health, Education and Relief and Social Services (RSS) Programmes, whose joint efforts were led by the Child and Family Protection Programme, in close coordination with the Protection & Neutrality Department.

united nations relief and works agency
for palestine refugees in the near east

For more information, please contact: [Amal Ghanem](#)



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inspiring story

Tunis elects first female mayor

In a move seen as an inspiring development for women across the country, the Tunisian capital Tunis saw its first female mayor elected last month. Souad Abderrahim, a 53-year-old pharmaceutical manager, ran as an independent in the first municipal elections since the 2011 revolution. She was chosen by Tunis' municipal council to become the new mayor after having won the majority of votes. In her first speech as Tunis's mayor, Abderrahim dedicated her victory to all Tunisian women who had struggled to be in such senior positions. Abderrahim first became involved in politics in the 1980s as a student activist and was imprisoned for two weeks after her activist group got banned by former Tunisian leader Zin El Abidine Ben Ali. She then became a member of parliament in 2011 following Ben Ali's downfall. Since the revolution, Tunisia has experienced a boost in women's rights, and many citizens hope that the election of Abderrahim is just a next step on the ladder. [Read more.](#)

events of interest

Women's Safety First

29 September 2018, Iraq, Erbil

Some risks faced by women are uniquely based on gender and tend to increase in a crisis environment. Organized by Strategic Edge International, this one-day course seeks to address this issue by providing women with life-saving skills - such as the capability for self-protection—and confidence in dealing with the threat of harassment and violence as well as dangerous environments. In addition, it will look at how women can advocate for more gender-sensitive security protocols in their organizations. [Read more.](#)

Gender and Development, Future Learning Devised by Deakin University, this free two-week online course explores why gender matters in contemporary international and community development. It examines how gender connects to and interacts with development as well as the ways in which gender and development can contribute to positive change, and provides an overview of the history of women in international development. The course is designed for persons with an interest in or who are working in gender development or the humanitarian and community sector. [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.

regional news

Jordan

UN Women and the Jordanian non-profit organization Generations for Peace have partnered to promote gender equality and women's empowerment through sports. Through this initiative, over 600,000 Jordanian and Syrian youth will participate in gender-sensitive sport-based activities. The project fosters the participation and leadership of vulnerable girls in youth initiatives. [Read more.](#)

Gaza

Five Gazan women have participated in food production workshops as of a GBV pilot project. Supported by UN Women and funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), the Hayat Business Incubator (Food Incubator) initiative aims to address violence against women by providing five female survivors of domestic violence with skills training and

income-generating opportunities, while in parallel assisting them with essential services, such as psychosocial support and access to legal aid. As a result of this pilot project, all five women now have a steady income and have reported improved power dynamics within their households. [Read more.](#)

Jordan

A study from Jordan's Department of Statistics revealed a 16 per cent gender pay gap in the country's public sector and an 18.3 per cent gap in its private sector. The study was brought to the fore by the Sisterhood is Global Institute Jordan (SIGI Jordan), a local NGO promoting women's right. According to SIGI Jordan, the gender pay gap causes massive losses for women, depriving them of economic opportunities and limiting their economic capabilities. [Read more.](#)

reports & resources

Gender and Development: ICTs

The latest issue of Oxfam's Gender and Development journal explores information and communications technologies (ICTs) from the perspective of women's rights and gender justice. While the digital revolution is transforming how human beings live, work, and relate to each other, stark inequalities in terms of who benefits from it and whose voice is being heard remain. According to the journal, women are globally around 10 per cent less likely than men to own a mobile phone, 70 per cent less likely than men to use the internet. Articles in this issue focus on experiences from different countries and argue that while there is a need to look at women's access to ICTs, affordability, availability and awareness as well as to questions of power and inequality need to be addressed for ICTs to realize their full potential for social justice. [Read more.](#)

Missed Opportunities: the High Cost of Not Educating Girls

This report from the World Bank is part of a series of reports that focus on measuring the global economic cost of gender inequality. It estimates the global impact of depriving girls of

education. The report's findings show that limited educational opportunities for girls and barriers to completing 12 years of education cost countries between 15 and 30 trillion US dollars in lost lifetime productivity and earnings. The report is a follow-up to the publication "Unrealized Potential: The High Cost of Gender Inequality in Earnings." [Read more.](#)

Roadmap to 50x50: Power and Parity in Women's Leadership

The first annual report from the Global Women's Leadership Initiative Index was launched by The Women in Public Service Project (WPSP) at the Wilson Center, a project committed to accelerating global progress towards women's equal participation in policy and political leadership. The Leadership Index measures what position women hold in public service leadership, how they got there and how much power they possess based on indicators from 75 countries. It focuses on positions across the executive, legislative, judiciary, civil service and security sectors of government from the national to local levels. The findings reveal barriers and opportunities for women's leadership on a global level. [Read more.](#)

Facts of the Month

1:5

The approximate ratio of female to male labor force participation in Jordan for 2017. [Read more.](#)

Only 1 in 8 women

In Syria are in paid work. [Read more.](#)