



Recreational activity at UNRWA school © 2018 UNRWA photo by Khalil Adwan

monthly updates on gender issues in UNRWA and the region

update of the month September 2018 | issue no. 95

UNRWA is pleased to announce the upcoming roll-out of its e-learning course to address gender based violence in emergencies. This e-learning module is part of the Agency's commitment to the "Call to Action on Protection from GBV in Emergencies" and specifically to build capacity to respond to and mitigate GBV risks.

stories from UNRWA

Building a gender resource library in Jordan Field Office (JFO)

Last month the Jordan Field Office (JFO) Gender Mainstreaming team established a "Gender Resource Library", and uploaded more than 30 resources, as the foundation for this reference source. The library will provide a platform for all UNRWA staff to access gender mainstreaming tools, training materials, and academic texts and documents, enabling increased awareness of the effectiveness of gender mainstreaming in UNRWA operations.

The library is an evolving project, and will be updated regularly with relevant information as it becomes available. As such, the Gender Mainstreaming team actively seeks feedback and contributions from all UNRWA staff with relevant material or programme activity 'best-practices', images, academic texts or teaching resources of interest for upload. Currently, resources are predominantly in the English language, however Arabic language training resources and tools for inclusion are being sourced. For more information please contact : l.schmidt@unrwa.org

Building community self-protection capacity to prevent GBV in JFO:

As part of the USG funded project "Building Safety", JFO is piloting a new methodology aimed to enhance self-protection capacities within the community. The methodology, called "Building Self-Protection", consists of a participatory protection assessment with UNRWA students, parents and teachers that will enable the community to take measures and address protection concerns with a focus on GBV. The methodology has three stages:

1. Community risks assessment to increase understanding of unsafe places, threats and barriers to access.
2. Community Resource mapping (assets mapping) to locate and explore possible resources available in the communities.
3. Protection Roadmap, linking risks with assets to put in place feasible solutions through community mobilization.

The methodology, designed by JFO Neutrality and Protection Unit in close coordination with education programme, is currently being implemented in 24 UNRWA schools in Jordan with the active participation of School Counselors who commendably volunteer as GBV Focal Points within the JFO GBV Network. After the implementation of the three first exercises of the methodology, a learning workshop was held on the 15th of August to assess the design of the methodology and its activities, to identify lessons learnt and to prepare the implementation of the next stages of the methodology.

For more information please contact : z.piniella@unrwa.org



Correction from last month's issue : An aforementioned training on SEA and SH in JFO, announced for august 2018, took place on the 12th of September 2018, and was conducted for 25 staff.



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

www.unrwa.org

inspiring story

Doctor Hayat, the first female biotechnology doctor in the Arabian gulf

Dr. Hayat Sindi, a Saudi Arabian medical scientist has been accepted into Cambridge University to pursue a PhD in biotechnology, making her the first Arab woman to pursue a PhD in this subject. Dr. Sindi is also one of the first women in the Consultative Assembly of Saudi Arabia, and has continued to make major contributions in the field of medical testing and biotechnology. She was recently ranked by *Arabian Business* as the 19th most influential Arab in the world. In 2010, Sindi was the winner of the Mecca Al Mukaramah prize for scientific innovation, given by His Royal Highness Prince Khalid bin Faisal Al Saud. She was also named a 2011 Emerging Explorer by the National Geographic Society. On October 1, 2012, Sindi was appointed to be a Goodwill Ambassador, by the head of UNESCO for her efforts in promoting science education in the Middle East, especially for girls. She was also on Newsweek's 2013 list of 150 women who shook the world for that year. [Read more](#)

events of interest

The United States Celebrates the Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote, August 26

The national celebration has been held annually since 1973. It commemorates the 1920 adoption of the 19th Amendment, which granted women the constitutional right to vote.

Many Twitter users applauded the efforts of female suffragettes, while noting that more progress needs to be made to ensure equality for all women, including women of color and women with disabilities, since even after the 1920 amendment, Jim Crow laws in the South prevented many African-Americans male and female from voting until the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965. [Read more](#)

Female Political Leaders Summit 2018, 6-8 June in Lithuania

This session discussed the benefit of having a gender equal parliament and how European Institute For Gender Equality tool can support such change in the European Union and beyond to bring more gender equality. [Read more](#)



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

www.unrwa.org

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

Tunisia: Tunisian president Beji Caid Essebsi, vows to give women equal inheritance rights. He says he will submit a bill to the parliament granting women and men equal inheritance rights, in line with a proposal put forward by a government-backed committee. A report by the Individual Freedoms and Equality Committee released in June sought to address a number of issues related to individual freedoms and gender equality, but drew the ire of the country's conservative forces. [Read more](#)

Egypt: Women's rights activists and jurists hailed a decision by the Supreme Judiciary Council earlier this month to promote 16 female judges. Female activists in Egypt have been pushing for efficient implementation of new laws that protect women, such as the penalization of female genital mutilation and jail terms for those who marry underage girls

as well as upcoming legislation that would penalize families who allow such marriages. They ask for maximum penalties for domestic violence, swift divorce under fair conditions for women and a zero-tolerance attitude toward harassment and rape. [Read more](#)

Gaza: In May 2018, the Women's Health Centre launched a campaign to address the slow proceedings of courts in the event of divorce, as some divorce proceedings span over 10 years. The campaign is part of a program to combat increasing GBV against girls and displaced women in Gaza, and is implemented in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNPFA). The organization has promoted the campaign over social media and enlisted the help of legal associations to help bring decision makers to actions. [Read more](#)

Reports & Resources

Stand up — Speak out: Youth activism training to help end child marriage

Girls not brides, a global partnership that fights child marriage, developed an activism training course to help young activists to amplify and strengthen the role that young people have in ending child marriage across the world. With dynamic and fun methods and strategies for training young people to champion change in their communities, the purpose of the manual is to spread hope and power and encourage young people of all races to stop child marriage. [Read more](#)

Study finds less corruption in countries where more women are in government

A greater representation of women in the government is bad news for corruption, according to a new study published in the *Journal of Economic Behaviour & Organization*, corruption is lower in countries where a greater share of parliamentarians are women.

The study indicates that the likelihood of having to bribe is lower in regions with a greater representation of women in local politics in Europe. The authors speculate that women have an impact in reducing corruption because they choose policies that are related to the welfare of women, children, and families. [Read more](#)

High-quality health care for girls and women living with FGM: World health organization launches new clinical handbook.

Girls and women who have been subjected to female genital mutilation (FGM) need high quality, empathetic and appropriate health care to meet their specific needs. WHO has launched a new clinical handbook to help health care workers provide such care. [Read more](#)

Facts of the Month

48 per cent

Of women in the Middle East do not have a mobile phone and are disconnected from internet, and mobile service. [Read more](#)

200 million

Girls and women alive today have suffered female genital mutilation in 30 countries. [Read more](#)

For more information, please contact s.jelassi@unrwa.org