



UNRWA Gender and GBV specialized staff discusses priority issues and strategic development of programming. © 2019 UNRWA Photo

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monthly updates on gender issues in unrwa and the region

update of the month

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The UNRWA Gender Section wishes all colleagues and friends a Ramadan Kareem and all the best for the upcoming festivities – Eid Mubarak! At UNRWA, the holy month was marked by the last activities of the multi-year project on GBV, preparations for its closure, and further development of future GBV and gender-related work.

stories from unrwa

Where academia and practice meet—SGBV research informing programming

On 25 April, UNRWA had the pleasure to welcome ScD Jewel Gausman, PhD Areej Othman, and PhD Lucy Mathieson for a knowledge exchange on their GBV related research. Jewel Gausman and Areej Othman briefed interested UNRWA staff from Jordan Field and Headquarters on their current research project "[Harnessing the Power of Social Networks to Create Positive Change in Norms and Attitudes towards Sexual and Gender Based Violence among Youth in Jordan](#)". The research team consists of the Women & Health Initiative at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, the School of Nursing at the University of Jordan, and The Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development, JOHUD, and has just received the [World Bank 2019 Development Marketplace: Innovations to Address Gender-Based Violence Award](#). Using the social ecological model, the research team aims to shed light on how social interactions among 1,000 youth aged 18-24 living in East Amman influence attitudes related to gender and sexual- and gender-based violence (SGBV). Insights will then be used to inform further research and interventions.

Dr. Lucy Mathieson's lecture introduced the participants to her socio-legal PhD research on SGBV in conflict and displacement zones and their peripheries in which she applies critical and narrative theories.

She highlighted how a narrow understanding of GBV omits crucial conflict dynamics and thus limits success of interventions or leads to further harm. Therefore, she called for a less dichotomist view on conflict economies and more careful analysis of context-specific power relations. As part of this, she gave a quick snapshot of analysis of SGBV across IDP communities in Sudan, Yemen and among urban registered Syrian refugees and Palestine refugees from Syria in Jordan. Lucy Mathieson has 17 years of experience on issues pertaining to international humanitarian law and human rights law. She has undertaken numerous fact-finding missions providing investigative and evaluative assessments including for the UN Security Council Advisory Division, UNFPA, and a variety of INGOs.

From increased knowledge to improved services—on-the-job coaching sessions for UNRWA staff

As one of the last components of the UNRWA multi-year project on 'Building Safety', 191 on-the-job coachings were conducted with GBV specialized staff in all five fields of operation. The sessions aimed to ensure that knowledge gained through various trainings translates into actual changes in practice and improved services for survivors of gender-based violence. The approach builds on and incorporates the UNRWA GBV Competency Framework that outlines the skills, behaviours and knowledge areas necessary to perform work on GBV and serves to monitor the quality of staff performance and identify capacity gaps.



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inspiring story

Multigenerational efforts to make gender equality and women's rights a lived reality

To mark the 25th anniversary of the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#), considered the blueprint on women's rights and empowerment, UN Women announced its new multigenerational campaign, "Generation Equality: Realizing women's rights for an equal future" on 6 May. The campaign will highlight key issues including equal pay, equal sharing of unpaid care and domestic work, an end to sexual harassment and all forms of violence against women and girls, health care services that respond to their needs, and their equal participation in economic and political life and decision-making in all areas of life. Therefore, it will bring together the next generations of women's rights activists and the gender equality advocates and visionaries who were instrumental in creating the Beijing Platform for Action. Read more [here](#).

events of interest

Women Deliver 2019 Conference

Under the theme "Power, Progress, Change", more than 6,000 people will gather in Vancouver, Canada, from 3-6 June for the Women Deliver 2019 Conference. The conference will feature prominent speakers, including Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau. The program will focus on a multitude of issues, from health, education, economic and political empowerment to human rights, good governance, and girls' and women's agency and equality. In addition to on-site-attendance to keynotes, social enterprise pitches, workshops, and more, there will be the chance to participate in the Virtual Conference.

regional news

World: The UN Security Council adopted [Resolution 2467 \(2019\)](#) on conflict-related sexualized violence. The resolution calls for a survivor-centered and multi-dimensional approach to prevention and response. Furthermore, it strengthens justice and accountability in that it builds on a holistic understanding, which includes reparations and livelihood support for survivors. Overall, it acknowledges structural gender inequality and discrimination that are the root causes of sexual violence,

affirming the necessity of the participation and empowerment of women as the only viable route to sustainable peace and security.

Lebanon: With its #Undress_522 campaign, the Lebanese NGO and UNRWA partner [ABAAD](#) has [won the first prize](#) for most impactful campaign at the annual United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Action Awards. ABAAD was chosen out of over 2,000 applications from 142 countries for its 2016 campaign to abolish marital rape laws.

reports & resources

Global Views on Diversity, Gender Equality, Family Life and the Importance of Religion

Pew Research Center has recently published the results of their research covering 30,133 people in 27 countries, showing that overall people see more diversity and gender equality happening but say family ties have weakened. Find more details [here](#).

Mapping support services for GBV survivors

A new Council of Europe methodology and respective tools help countries to map support services for victims of the diverse

forms of violence covered by the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, known as the Istanbul Convention. Click [here](#) for the full methodology.

In-depth look into the lives of women and girls in Syria

UNFPA has published the report "[Voices from Syria 2019 - Assessment Findings of the Humanitarian Needs Overview](#)". It aims to constitute a resource for informed development and implementation of humanitarian programming across sectors.

facts of the month

15 million

adolescent girls worldwide (aged 15 to 19) have experienced forced sex at some point in their life.

30 per cent

of women worldwide have experienced physical or sexual violence—mostly by an intimate partner. Even more have experienced sexual harassment.



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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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