

gender bulletin



An activity implemented in Marka Camp to teach students how to better protect themselves © 2019 UNRWA Photo by Kholoud Joudeh

monthly updates on gender issues in unrwa and the region

update of the month

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The UNRWA Gender Section has begun to develop the transition plan for the GBV interventions. The process has begun with a stocktaking involving GBV coordinators and focal points and protection team leaders within the headquarters and across the field offices.

stories from unrwa

UNRWA Endline Study

The UNRWA has come out with the endline study of its GBV prevention work, which assesses the change that has happened since the development and roll out of the GBV prevention framework. The GBV prevention framework was based on the findings of a study conducted in 2016 that established the baseline in terms of perception of GBV in the organization and communities. The study identified several challenges to GBV prevention, including the misunderstanding of GBV concepts, lack of resources to undergo GBV prevention work and inadequate support to staff who must challenge cultural norms in championing GBV prevention. In light of these findings, the GBV prevention framework laid out the goals it plans to work towards, such as transforming attitudes towards GBV, using evidence to implement interventions and strengthening institutional capacity for GBV prevention. The framework also lays out the steps for achieving such outcomes: undertaking an analysis to generate evidence on which to base decisions, developing and implementing a roadmap and critically reviewing the interventions to ensure continual best practices. The endline study examines the implementation of the prevention framework and compares its findings with those of the baseline study. The study found that UNRWA staff improved their understanding of the difference between GBV response and preven-

tion, are more knowledgeable about key actors working in GBV prevention, are more familiar with GBV prevention tools and are more confident in their ability to identify groups at risk of GBV. UNRWA staff also gave positive feedback on the GBV Training Package and GBViE eLearning Course, two components of the Building Safety project which aimed to mainstream GBV interventions in UNRWA's emergency response. The study found a dramatic increase in the perceptions of strong leadership in UNRWA regarding GBV prevention. However, several challenges to mainstreaming GBV prevention remain, such as the cultural context, insufficient resources, lack of clarity surrounding coordination and roles and inadequate M&E tools.

Oslo Call to Action Conference

UNRWA attended the conference "Ending Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Crises" in Oslo on 23-24 May. UNRWA is dedicated to its commitment to the Call to Action on Protection from GBV in Emergencies and to the conference's principles. The conference, the first of its kind, brought together NGOs, civil society, states, UN agencies, and SGBV survivors and specialists. Participants committed to a survivor-centered approach to SGBV and acknowledged gender equality as a root cause. Participants agreed to strengthen SGBV prevention and submitted policy and best practice commitments in view of this goal. Donors also committed US\$ 363 million to SGBV prevention and response.

inspiring story

Arab News: The Many Firsts of Hanan Ashrawi

Hanan Ashrawi is the first woman to hold a record number of political appointments and positions in Palestine. She was the first female dean of a Palestinian university, the first spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation at the 1991 Madrid Peace Conference, one of the first female elected MPs, the first female minister of higher education, and the first female elected member of the executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). "Being the first is important because it breaks the impasse, creates precedents and encourages women in other fields, especially politics, to get involved. Politics and other fields have traditionally been the monopoly of men," Ashrawi told Arab News.

campaigns of interest

16 Days of Activism: #ILOendGBV

The Centre for Women's Global Leadership is leading a campaign to pressure the ILO into adopting and implementing a legally binding convention on GBV in the workplace. The campaign also urges the ILO to include clear recommendations for employers and governments. The first part of the campaign lasted from 10-21 June, during the ILO meeting to decide the content and form of the instrument. After the conclusion of the meeting, the campaign will focus on the implementation and compliance of the instrument by local governments. Read more about the campaign [here](#) and download the #ILOendGBV campaign toolkit [here](#).



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

Lebanon: The National Commission for Lebanese Women [submitted](#) a proposal that would amend Lebanon's nationality law, which does not allow women to pass their nationality on to their children. Under the proposal, children of Lebanese mothers and foreign fathers would receive Lebanese citizenship if under 18 years old and a green card (with the chance to apply for citizenship after five years) if over 18. However, the bill has attracted criticism on several sides, and it is unclear if it will pass in Parliament.

Oman: Jokha Alharthi's book 'Celestial Bodies' became the first Arabic book to [win](#) the Man Booker International Prize, the most prestigious award for translated fiction. 'Celestial Bodies' follows three Omani sisters as they navigate their relationships, love and loss against the backdrop of a country undergoing rapid social and technological change in the 1970s. The book showcases the cultural changes that have impacted women's lives and reflects the history of Arabic literature and poetry.

reports & resources

Feminist Foreign Policy

A feminist foreign policy analyses global issues and security from the viewpoint of marginalized communities. It aims to empower women and promote gender equality, as well as scrutinize patriarchy and racism, among other oppressive forces. Find a reading list of feminist foreign policy [here](#) and [here](#).

GCPEA DRC Brochure

The Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack recently published a report detailing the impact of attacks on education for women and girls in the Kasai province of the DRC. Children

have been devastated by the conflict; the Kamuina Nsapu militia has recruited children for combat, children have been attacked and raped while at school, and the military has damaged school facilities. Read the detailed report of the findings [here](#).

The Business Case for Change

The International Labor Organization (ILO) published its report Women in Business and Management. Among its [findings](#) are that gender diversity improves business outcomes and that an increase in female employment boosts national GDP.

facts of the month

US\$ 575 billion

is the annual cost of legal and social barriers to women's equal access to jobs and careers in MENA.

35 per cent

is the increase in likelihood that a peace agreement will last 15 years if women participate in peace negotiations.

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