



The 16 Days Campaign activities against GBV. © 2019 UNRWA photo by Khalil Adwan

monthly updates on gender issues in unrwa and the region

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update of the month

UNRWA participated in the Call to Action 2020 Annual Partners meeting that was held remotely on 16-19 June. The “Call to Action on Protection from GBV in Emergencies” is a coalition bringing together governments and donors, international organizations and non-governmental organizations with the aim of changing humanitarian response by integrating GBV from the onset of the emergency response. UNRWA, a partner of the call since 2017, is committed to continue the mainstreaming of GBV in its services.

stories from unrwa

Gender Awareness E-learning Course

UNRWA officially launched its mandatory Gender Awareness E-learning Course for its area and international staff, which aims at developing awareness of basic concepts of gender equality, gender analysis and promote behavioral change that will contribute to building a more gender sensitive organizational culture.

The e-learning has three levels that introduce different concepts depending on the grade of staff. Level 1 provides basic gender concepts and key messages from UNRWA, while level 2 focuses on the showcasing of the added value of gender mainstreaming in service delivery. Last but not least, level 3 provides concepts on gender sensitive management and organizational culture.

The e-learning outcomes are:

- Level 1: Recognize what gender means and how to promote gender equality and comprehend the Agency's key messages on gender.
- Level 2: Acquire basic understanding of gender mainstreaming and gender analysis and recognize the practical strategies for putting gender perspective into UNRWA service delivery.
- Level 3: Identify the principal international standards

on women's rights and gender equality and recognize that achieving gender equality is a central part of key global commitments for the UN and UNRWA.

UNRWA Gender Equality Strategy 2016-2021 annual implementation report january- december 2019

UNRWA published the 2019 annual implementation report of its Gender Equality Strategy (GES) 2016-2021 that highlights the main results of the year and reflects on challenges. The report follows the structure of the GES theory of change, its drivers of change and its “dual-track” approach focusing on organizational and programme changes. In 2019, UNRWA focused on mainstreaming gender in existing processes, reinforcing accountability through gender sensitive auditing processes and the use of the gender marker in projects. The Human Resources Department refreshed the Gender Parity Action Plan and the Relief and Social Services Programme published an account of the resilience of Palestine Refugees women in Gaza. With the end of funding to the project related to addressing Gender Based Violence (GBV), a transition plan was developed to further mainstream GBV in UNRWA main programmes.



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inspiring story

The Palestinian women who made a mark on international art scene through embroidery: Inaash Association in Lebanon has been improving the lives of refugee women for 51 years by teaching them traditional embroidery. The Association currently works with Palestinian women, and the Lebanese women who support them, in five camps. Some of these women turned into globally acclaimed artists, with their work displayed in galleries and institutions around the world. The Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris, and a number of other international galleries, exhibited "Twelve Windows," an artwork conceived by renowned Beirut-born Palestinian artist **Mouna Hatoum** in partnership with Inaash. Each of its twelve exquisitely embroidered panels represents, through motifs and patterns, a key region of Palestine. Researched and designed by **Malak Abdel Rahim**, the panels extend the long-standing tradition of Palestinian embroidery, passed from mother to daughter, which today is among the most tangible and enduring facets of Palestinian culture. The work has also been exhibited at Institut du Monde Arabe and at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, and in Kuwait, Abu Dhabi and New York. More [here](#).

events of interest

Introduction to gender-responsive budgeting in public institutions: International Training Centre of ILO is organizing an online training program from **24 August to 16 October 2020**. The programme will introduce participants to the operating principles and most commonly used strategies and tools to integrate a gender dimension in budgetary processes. Starting with the basics of GRB through an analysis of the budgeting cycle, the course will discuss how national and local commitments on gender equality can be supported through budgetary priority setting in order to achieve de-facto gender equality as well as effective use of budget funds. The training will also cover different examples and case studies to show variety of GRB approaches around the world. More [here](#).



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regional news

Iran: Iran's President Hassan Rouhani has requested his cabinet to speed up harsher laws in so-called "honour killings" amidst social media outcry over the murder of a 14-year-old girl, Romina Ashrafi, by her father. The President also pushed for speedy adoption of relevant bills, some of which have apparently been shuttled for years among various decision-making bodies in Iran. More [here](#).

Saudi Arabia: Divorces in Saudi Arabia have risen by 30 per cent in the month of February after the

confinement during the coronavirus pandemic caused many wives to discover that their husbands had other wives and families in secret. According to *Middle East Monitor*, 52 per cent of divorce requests and cases that month were from the cities of Makkah and the capital Riyadh. It is also noted that the majority of women who requested divorces from their polygamous husbands were employees, businesspersons, prominent women in the community and female doctors. More [here](#).

reports & resources

COVID-19: Gendered Impacts of the Pandemic in Palestine and Implications for Policy and Programming: To increase understanding of the gender-specific impact of COVID-19 and ensure that the needs and priorities of all Palestinians are fairly and effectively addressed in response plans, UN Women conducted a rapid gender analysis. Based on preliminary data collection, surveys and meetings that UN Women had with more than 30 women-led organizations and woman leaders in the West Bank and Gaza, the report warns that the pandemic is expected to disproportionately affect women, create and exacerbate pre-existing gender-specific risks and vulnerabilities and widen inequalities. More [here](#)
Remote data collection on vio-

lence against women during COVID-19: A conversation with experts on ethics, measurement & research priorities: The UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti published an article on what COVID-19 means for data collection efforts focusing on violence against women (VAW). While general guidance exists for phone and SMS-based surveys – questions remain: Is it necessary - or possible - to safely and accurately collect VAW data, given the risks and ethical challenges? If so, by whom and under what circumstances should VAW data be collected? Further, if surveys proceed, in past efforts, how have experts overcome ethical and methodological challenges within remote VAW data collection to produce quality and actionable evidence? More [here](#).

facts of the month

650 million girls and women alive today were married as children

Globally around **21% of young women** were married before their 18th birthday

UNRWA is a United Nations agency established by the General Assembly in 1949 and mandated to provide assistance and protection to some 5.6 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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