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## monthly updates on gender issues in unrwa and the region

July 2020 | issue no. 117

update of the month

As part of its management initiatives to further the Agency's reform, UNRWA is including gender in its framework for organizational culture change. This is aligned with UNRWA Gender Equality Strategy that is built on a double track theory of change aiming at mainstreaming gender in its programmes and in its management practice.

## stories from unrwa

**Gender lenses in UNRWA Jordan Field response to COVID-19 pandemic**

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect UNRWA areas of operations and the life of millions of Palestine refugees. UNRWA adapted its operations to provide essential services to Palestine refugees and adopted measures and protocols to continue the provision of primary health care services, remote self-learning education, and cash assistance. As part of its strive for providing quality services to Palestine refugees UNRWA is looking further at addressing vulnerabilities among refugees and specifically looking to the differentiated impact of the pandemic on women, men, boys, and girls.

**Gender lenses in the Jordan Field COVID-19 Socio-Economic Impact Survey**

UNRWA Jordan field office has undertaken a rapid COVID-19 Socio-Economic Impact Survey in collaboration with others UN agencies working in Jordan and using a questionnaire developed by WFP, UNHCR and UNICEF and run between 21 and 24 of April 2020.

The results of the survey that targeted 1080 Palestine refugees in Jordan (PRJ), Palestinian refugees from Iraq (PRI) and Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) all in Jordan using a simple random sampling methodology showed interesting findings and UNRWA decided in partnership with UN-Women to deepen the study of the gender related issues in a follow-up survey.

The results showed that the surveyed refugees population is young with 53 per cent below 18, with no significant difference between sexes. Women represent 32.7 per cent of the head of households. In terms of chronic diseases and vulnerabilities the survey shows that 19.6 per cent refugees suffer from a chronic health problem and 3.42 per cent are persons with disabilities. 94.2 per cent of the children are enrolled in schools and more than the three-fourth of the students have access

to the internet with only 1.3 per cent having access to unlimited data. Around 64 per cent of the surveyed population expressed worries for not having enough food during the crisis and mainly for lack of funds. Only per cent reported having cash saving and only per cent among those reported having enough cash for to cover two weeks. During the last past 2 weeks and with the closure of schools and movement restrictions 31 per cent of the surveyed households reported internal conflict and increase in aggressive behavior.

The results of this survey provided important information on the refugee situation but also raised questions on the vulnerabilities related to gender, gender based violence and the inclusion of persons with disabilities. One of the recommendations of the survey was to conduct an in-depth "needs" assessment that will focus on these vulnerabilities. In partnership with UN-Women, UNRWA Jordan and the Gender Section a review of the questionnaire took place and questions were reviewed to allow a better understanding of the gendered vulnerabilities as well as other vulnerabilities affecting refugees during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Gender inclusion Checklist**

Based on the HQ guidance document on the integration of gender lenses in the COVID-19 response, the Jordan Field Office has also developed a gender checklist to guide the programmes in their response to COVID-19. The document includes guiding questions in areas such as cash and food assistance, healthcare, remote education, community engagement and support to staff and aims at supporting among other the review of referral pathways for survivors of gender-based violence, the distribution of dignity kits and mechanisms that guarantee equal access to internet and remote learning to boys and girls.



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## inspiring story

### Sharing childcare work: Palestinian couple living in a refugee camp in Lebanon leads by example

In Rashidieh camp, Mahmoud Charary, father of a one-year-old girl, stands out for his routine involvement in the childcare work and house chores while his wife Malak works for long hours in a pharmacy of the camp. In the face of a community in which prevails insecurity and discrimination against women and girls, Mahmoud represents a good influence in addition of promoting gender equality and positive masculinity: "My wife and I share responsibility in everything at home, and I am proud of it. I cook, clean, do the laundry, care for my baby daughter and wife, which grants Malak time for herself and for her work. I don't expect to be awarded for it, rather I believe it is my responsibility". Although he has been severely criticized for challenging traditional gender-roles by the community, the 27-year-old has eventually managed to gradually build consensus and particularly during COVID-19, he shares an important message and sets a good example to integrate gender-equitable attitudes in the community. More [here](#).

## events of interest

### Gender Mainstreaming and Sustainable Development

International Training Center of ILO has launched its online learning course that will cover key gender issues related to mainstreaming of labour-related development activities. The course will be held from September 7 to 30 October, 2020 and will be available in English for Policy makers, civil society representatives, staff and employers interested in gender mainstreaming and gender equality. More [here](#).

## regional news

**West Bank:** Fearing Israel's intentions to annex the West Bank on 1 July, Palestinian artist Khadeeja Bisharat, mother of three children in the northern Jordan Valley, depicts through her paintings scenes of demolitions and violence that reflect Israeli's commitment to extend their sovereignty over the occupied territories.

**Jordan:** In response to a "honor killing" by a Jordanian father of his daughter, people have risen in

the streets of Jordan and over social medias under the hashtag "stop killing women" to denounce the horrific incident that occurred this month. According to local reports, Ahlam is the ninth woman to be murdered by a family member in Jordan this year. Whilst protesters demand change, the Kingdom's penal code still guarantees protection for perpetrators of honor killings in several articles. More [here](#).

## reports & resources

**Global COVID-19 Situation Report No. 2** More [here](#).

After launching in May the COVID-19 Global Response Plan, UNFPA has published its updated Global COVID-19 Situation Report to highlight its commitment to address gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health issues through innovative strategies and interventions. With "7 million unintended pregnancies, 31 million additional cases of GBV, and 2 million female genital mutilation cases", UNFPA is prioritizing the continuity of GBV and SRH services, as well as GBV prevention and mitigation and community engagement.

### A primer for parliamentary action: Gender-sensitive responses to COVID-19

UN Women launched its primer addressed to parliamentary staff and members of Parliaments to ensure that COVID-19 response and recovery decision-making is consistent with women's needs. Highlighting the impact of COVID-19 on women, the primer sets guidelines through which Parliaments can include gender-sensitive options during recovery from the pandemic and beyond. More [here](#).

## facts of the month

In 2020, Women only account for around **25% of seats** in national Parliaments.

Today, there are **97 million pregnant women** in the world.



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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 5.6 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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