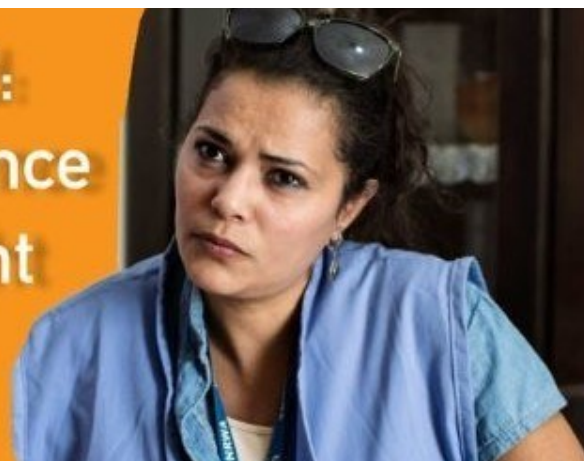


orange the world:
safety from violence
is everyone's right

16 days campaign
against gender based violence

16 Days Campaign Against Gender-Based Violence © 2020 UNRWA



monthly updates on gender issues in unrwa and the region

december 2020 | issue no. 122

update of the month

UNRWA received the UN-Women assessment of its performance on the UN-SWAP 2.0, the United Nations system wide accountability framework on gender equality. UNRWA was able to improve its performance in 2019 (reported in 2020), despite the inexistence of earmarked gender funding, meeting or exceeding performance for 10 performance indicators out of the sixteen applicable.

stories from unrwa

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

Between 25 November and 10 December, UNRWA participated in the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence under this year's theme: "Orange the World: Safety from Violence is Everyone's Right". In spite of this COVID-19 context, UNRWA was able to organize more than 35 activities across its five Field Offices. These activities took place both online and offline, ranging from sessions on cyber-bullying in schools to educational videos on GBV.

With movement restrictions and social isolation, the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a significant increase in physical, psychological, sexual violence against women and girls. UNRWA staff has been able to adapt to these particular circumstances, offering remote assistance, WhatsApp check-ins and adapted referral pathways. UNRWA health clinics have also addressed GBV, notably through delivering remote mental health and psychosocial support. These efforts have allowed UNRWA to assist nearly 1,500 GBV survivors between March and July 2020. However, the Agency's essential assistance to GBV survivors is at risk due to severe financial shortfall as underlined in one of our recent [press releases](#).

Success story from West Bank

As a concrete example of how UNRWA has been supporting GBV survivors during COVID-19, we published the [story](#) of Hana, one of the many frontline workers in the Child and

Family Protection Programme (CFPP) in the West Bank. Used to conducting face-to-face case meetings, Hana and her colleagues had to switch to remote case handling. Under the new, remote model, Hana assisted Amineh, a young Palestine refugee mother and victim of domestic abuse. Victim of physical abuse, Amineh reported her husband to the police, who was arrested. Upon his release two months later due to COVID-19, Amineh and her children began living in fear that he would harm them again. Amineh, who sought help, was referred to CFPP and assigned to Hana. Hana helped Amineh deal with her anxiety through remote counseling, and enrolled her and her children in psychosocial support sessions. Amineh continues to receive psychosocial counseling at UNRWA Department of Relief and Social Services, in addition to receiving help to find a path toward economic independence.

Despite challenges in terms of communication and fast response, the CFPP in the West Bank has been able to assist 226 GBV survivors between April and November 2020, adding to the 1,822 cases already being followed up by CFPP, including 733 child protection cases.

december celebrations

3 December: International Day of Persons with Disabilities
10 December: Human Rights Day
18 December: International Migrants Day
20 December: International Human Solidarity Day



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inspiring story

Kamala Harris: US will reverse Trump-era policy, restore relations with Palestine:

Kamala Harris was elected vice president of the soon-to-be US president, Joseph R. Biden. As the 49th US vice president, she is the first woman and African-American to hold this position. This election was considered as a victory for women's rights as she declared she is the first, but not the last to reach this function. As a Democrat, she will lead the US government's policy changes, starting in January 2021, specifically regarding the Middle East. She answered questions about humanitarian aid and Syria, among others, exposing how the US will take position in the next 4 years. For more information, click [here](#).

events of interest

11-12 January 2021, International Conference on Gender, Feminist and Women's Studies, Singapore

This international conference aims at bringing together a diverse range of stakeholders to exchange about Gender, Feminist and Women's studies. Scholarly papers, research extracts and e-posters can be submitted, in order to shape the conference. For more information, click [here](#).

05-06 February 2021, International Conference on Women Empowerment, Gender Equality, Education and Language Studies, Dubai

The Indian International Multidisciplinary Research Foundation Institute of Higher Education & Research organized this conference that aims at reflecting the state of research notably in Gender Equality and Women Empowerment. It is possible to register until 10 or 23 January, depending on what package is purchased. For more information, click [here](#).

regional news

Gaza

Doaa Qashlan is a disability rights activist in Gaza who uses a wheelchair or an electric mobility scooter. Although she faces daily challenges and stigma, she was able to go to school, graduate from University, and she now sees her disability as a catalyst for her achievements, thanks also to her mother and friends who are eminently supportive. More [here](#).

Egypt

For the 16 days campaign against Gender-Based Violence in Egypt, Aida Nour El Din, a lawyer, advocate and community leader is part of the women that are on the front line against the pandemic and its consequences. As the Chairperson of the Women and Development Association, she spread information about the prevention measures regarding violence against women, moved raising-awareness campaigns to online platforms, collaborating with UN Women. More [here](#).

reports & resources

The Role of the Care Economy in Promoting Gender Equality, Progress of women in the Arab States 2020

Unpaid work is often a burden carried by women; in Arab states, they perform these tasks almost five times more than men. This report analyses this pattern through four case studies focusing on Jordan, the State of Palestine, Egypt and Tunisia. As 2020 was a year of many anniversaries, such as the 25 years of the Beijing Declaration and the 20th anniversary of the UNSC resolution 1325 regarding Women, Peace and Security, the pandemic undermined the objectives of these policies aiming at making gender equality a reality for all. This report draws recommendations to address this situation. More [here](#).

The Impact of COVID-19 on Violence against Women and Girls in the Arab States through the Lens of Women's Civil Society Organizations

This report aims at highlighting the consequences of the pandemic on gender equality and violence against women, through a civil society organizations' lens. Major threats and vulnerable groups are the two main focuses. Based on the answers of more than two hundred CSOs, the report also draws recommendations regarding the aforementioned issues. The report is available in English and Arabic. More [here](#).

facts of the month

When a country is affected by conflict, girls are 2.5 times more likely to stop going to school.

Between 2015 and 2019, only one in five peace-agreements signed contained gender-sensitive dispositions.



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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 5.7 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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