



This newsletter is an update on gender issues in UNRWA and the region. It is issued on a monthly basis for the gender network, the gender taskforce, and our external partners, with the aim of sharing information, tools, reports, and news on gender.

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The Gender Unit at HQ-Amman is currently completing a Gender Analysis of the five field offices and their programmes. To date, interviews with key stakeholders from Jordan, Lebanon and West Bank have been conducted. The Unit is also preparing for the Gender Taskforce meeting that will be held in Amman, August 19th-20th, 2014 and will bring together all fields and programmes.

Consolidating the Referral System in Lebanon Caring for Child Survivors of GBV

As part of the Family Protection programme, Lebanon Field Office recently rolled out a comprehensive training for 92 counselors in UNRWA’s Education Programme titled ‘Caring for Child Survivors’. Funded by the US Government, and implemented in partnership with ABAAD Resource Centre for Gender Equality, the training equips counselors with information and skills to improve their capacity to detect indications of child sexual abuse (CSA) and enhances the ability of counselors to offer listening and counseling to children in UNRWA schools. Among the topics addressed in the training, UNRWA’s counselors discussed the guiding principles for working with abused children in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, experiences and challenges in addressing sexual and gender-based violence within the

community and with children and the role of counselors to refer to specialized services that are available in Lebanon. The training informed the development of the manual ‘Supporting Child Survivors: a practical guide for counselors in UNRWA’s education programme in Lebanon’. The manual, which provides counselors with a practical and accessible toolkit for providing basic counseling and primary support activities, was developed in a participatory manner during the course of the training and will soon be published in Arabic. A post-training workshop will be held in August 2014 to reinforce the core themes of the training and enable a discussion with staff on how the knowledge and practices are applied by UNRWA’s counselors. For more information contact h.skaardal@unrwa.org.



Highlight from the Field: LEBANON

Darine Maliji is working as the UNRWA Environmental Health Promoter in the Saida Area for a project on Environmental Health jointly sponsored by UNICEF and UNRWA. The project, which aims to create “Green, Clean, Healthy Camps,” is led by 12 Environmental Health Promoters working across five fields in Lebanon.

Darine was a natural fit for this position. She graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Biology in 2009 and finished her master’s degree in Microbiology in 2013, both at Beirut Arab University. In her capacity as Environmental Health Promotor, Darine has carried out numerous activities and awareness campaigns in the Ein-Helwi and Mie Mie Camps, which have been instrumental in changing knowledge, attitudes, and behavior related to environmental health. The scope of her work includes building institutional capacity of local partners including community based organizations, schools, health centres, youth clubs etc., as well as work targeted at local community. As a champion for Environmental Health, she works to mobilize community support and encourage community engagement in projects designed to elevate environmental health in Saida. For more information contact d.maliji@unrwa.org.



FACT OF THE MONTH:

UNFPA estimates that **140 million girls** will become **child brides** between 2011 and 2020.

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Reports & Resources

Events of Interest

July, August, September 2014 — UN Women Training Centre with ITC & ILO are offering a new course for UN System Gender Focal Points. Online English & Spanish 21st July to 22nd August 2014; Turin 25th to 29th August 2014; Santo Domingo 8th to 14th September 2014. [Contact alicia.ziffer@unwomen.org](mailto:alicia.ziffer@unwomen.org) for more information.

July 2014 — Online
Human Rights & Justice Group is offering an online Certificate on Gender-based Violence Training. 24th July to 29th August 2014. Click [here](#) for more information.

August 2014 — Online
Capacity Africa Institute is offering a Certificate in Gender and Development. Region: Global. Course starts 1st of every month for two months. Click [here](#) for more information.

UNFPA has produced an advocacy brief entitled, *Engaging Men, Changing Gender Norms: Directions for Gender Transformative Action*. The brief explores best practices for fostering social transformation of gender norms. [View the report](#)

WILFP has released a report detailing the outcomes of the conference held in February which brought together women from Bosnia and women from Syria to share experiences related to women's participation in peace building. Included in the report are discussions and conclusions that emerged from the conference. [View the report](#)

OXFAM has created *Transformative Leadership for Women's Rights: An Oxfam Guide* which outlines a framework for elevating women's rights and promoting gender equality. The guide provides key recommendations for advancing women's rights through incorporating transformative leadership approaches into programming and policy

development. [View the report](#)

Journal of North African Studies has released a special issue entitled *Women, Gender, and the Arab Spring* which features work from a variety of interdisciplinary scholars addressing the impact of the Arab Spring on gender dynamics. [View the report](#)

Wilson Center Middle East Program and Global Women's Leadership Initiative has released a paper series featuring scholarly work which explores issues related to women in the MENA region addressing themes of political participation, equal rights, and empowerment. [View the report](#)

ICAN released a policy brief entitled *Extremism as Mainstream: Implications for Women, Development & Security in the MENA /Asia Region*. The report explores the impact of extremist ideology on women's legal rights, as well as their political and civic participation, outlining key findings and recommendations for the way forward. [View the report](#)

Regional News

West Bank and Gaza

Denmark has pledged six million kroner to support programming that addresses gender based violence among Palestinian women. The aid will be distributed with the help of UNFPA and aims to mitigate the effects of the humanitarian situation that is resulting in increased violence against Palestinian women. [Read more](#)

Syria

A group of six Syrian women participated in a panel at the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict in London that discussed the impact of sexual violence on Syrian women, both within the country and those displaced by the conflict, providing a platform for them to share how they are actively contributing to a peaceful transition in Syria. [Read more](#)

Jordan

ARDD-LA has launched a women's mentoring and civic engagement program in partnership with UN Women in Zaatari Camp. The program trains Syrian refugee women in civic engagement skills such as advocacy and community organizing, empowering them to strengthen their own community, speak-up for its needs and become agents of change. [Read more](#)

Egypt

In a landmark move, Egypt has passed legislation criminalizing sexual harassment. As one of his final acts in office, former President Moursi issued a decree that makes sexual harassment a crime punishable by six months in jail and a hefty fine. [Read more](#)

Global

At the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict in London last month the UNHCR called on the international community to remain committed to combating sexual violence in conflict, ending impunity for perpetrators, and strengthening support for survivors. Recent successes and best practices were highlighted including "Safe from the Start" a US initiative that aims to prevent GBV in global humanitarian emergencies. [Read more](#)

Read more

Sexual violence survivors raising their voices to support women who have suffered crimes against humanity launched a global advocacy and support network called "Survivors United for Action". The network offers women a platform to connect with other survivors for support and to lobby policy-makers about their rights at local, national and international level. [Read more](#)