



Gender Bulletin

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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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On the occasion of the 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence (GBV) between the 25th of November and the 10th of December, UNRWA field offices are organizing events in order to raise awareness on GBV. The Agency's calendar of activities will be shared soon.

9th GBV learning workshop : exchanging lessons learned on GBV interventions



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The 9th GBV learning workshop, which is organized on a bi-annual basis by the Gender Unit, took place in Amman on the 19th and 20th of October. Gender focal points and representatives from all five fields, different programmes and the Gender Unit from HQ met during the two-day workshop to provide updates on the implementation of GBV referral systems. Challenges faced and lessons learned were exchanged and major achievements could be reported on the expansion of the referral system and on the capacity of staff to identify and refer cases of GBV survivors. Besides, group discussions provided the opportunity to review monitoring framework of the referral system and exchange and update information on the referral pathways. The rich experiences that were shared will feed into future strategies of the Agency on addressing GBV and will specifically inform the implementation of the Building Safety Programme which aims at addressing GBV during emergency situations.

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SFO towards involving Men in GBV prevention

At the beginning of this month, UNRWA held a workshop in one of the IDP collective shelters in Syria which aimed at engaging men in addressing GBV. Twenty men from the shelter participated in the workshop, addressing GBV through the use of different methodologies such as brain storming, group work, role play and questionnaires. Four main types of GBV, physical and psychological violence, the denial of resources, as well as sexual abuse were discussed. The participants reflected upon their own involvement in committing GBV, identified factors leading to GBV and discussed solutions for addressing GBV. As a final outcome of the workshop, the participants developed a work plan for preventing and addressing GBV in their shelter in the future.

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UNRWA participating in global UN SWAP meeting

Last month, UNRWA participated in a workshop that was held by UN Women in Geneva, bringing together the Inter-Agency Network on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment to discuss the UN SWAP framework of indicators. The discussion focused on the gender equality markers and on how to improve the tracking of resources devoted to achieve gender equality. Apart from that, the gender architecture, parity and gender biases at the workplace were main subjects on the agenda. UNRWA participated by sharing its experience and its work on gender equality and thereby contributed to building learning around UN SWAP. Furthermore, the final discussion on the next accountability framework for gender equality (UN SWAP 2), which closed the workshop, was specifically important for UNRWA, given that the Agency is currently in the process of developing its new gender equality strategy for the period of 2016-2021.

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Building Safety

A contextual analysis for the development of standard operating procedures has been started with the participation of all five fields of the Agency's operation during the 9th GBV learning workshop.

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Fact of the Month

Only **18%**

of appointed ministers world wide are women. [Read more](#)

Events of Interest

29 Nov.-12 Dec. 2015 - Global

The women's global call for climate justice, a global campaign formed in the lead up to COP21 with partners all over the world, calls on women to raise awareness on gender and climate justice by organizing local events between the 29th of Nov. and the 12th of December. [More info](#)

7-10 Dec. 2015 – Geneva, CH

The first International Development Cooperation Meeting on Gender and Media and the first General Assembly of the Global Alliance on Media and Gender (GAMAG) will be held by UNESCO and GAMAG with the aim of promoting a dialogue to achieve gender equality in and through media. [More info](#)

14-24 Mar. 2016 - New York, US

The NGO Committee on the Status of Women, NY (NGO CSW/NY) is organizing the NGO CSW60 FORUM under the theme: "Women's empowerment and its Link to Sustainable Development." Free online registration is now open. [More info](#)

Reports & Resources

UNESCO

UNESCO has compiled a new report "Gender and EFA 2000-2015: achievements and challenges." The report analysis obstacles to gender equality in education from different perspectives and presents different policy programmes implemented in the field. It finds that while some progress has been made, achieving gender parity remains a global challenge. [Read the report.](#)

FAO

FAO has published a new report "Running out of Time: The Reduction of Women's Work Burden in Agricultural Production." It analyses women's work burdens and their effects on communities and presents time saving technologies as well as best practices that could improve women's working conditions in the agricultural field. [Read the report.](#)

Mama Cash

Mama Cash, an international women's fund, has released a new report "New Perspectives, New Solutions: Funding Organizing Led by Girls and Young Women." The report presents seven recommendations on how to improve funding approaches towards organizations led by young girls and women and thereby support the young women's initiatives. [Read the report.](#)

UN Secretariat

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat has launched "The World's Women 2015: Trends and Statistics" which presents recent findings including progresses and drawbacks regarding the status of women within the policy areas identified in the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action. [Read the report](#)

UN Security Council

The UN Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2242 this month, urging states and UN institutions to move forward in the integration of gender issues and the inclusion of women in the field of peace and security, such as during peace processes as well as security considerations and operations. [Read more](#)

UN Women

UN women has published a new report "Preventing Conflict, Transforming Justice, Securing the Peace: A Global Study on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325." The report reviews the past 15 years since the adoption of the resolution and identifies challenges and lessons learned in its implementation. [Read the report.](#)

Regional News

Jordan

Teachers in Jordan are mobilizing against unfair payment for women in the private educational sector. The campaign "Stand Up With Teachers" that was launched in spring this year aims at empowering women employed in the private educational sector of whom many receive a salary below the minimum wage, to raise their voice against unfair remunerations and demand better working conditions. [Read more](#)

West Bank

The only female taxi driver in Palestine aims at opening her own female taxi company to improve the mobility of women in Palestine and encourage other women to follow in her footsteps. Nadia Ahmad, who is working as a taxi driver for two years now, has already succeeded in overcoming initial barriers that she faced as a woman working in a traditional men profession. [Read more](#)

Miftah recently held awareness raising sessions on reproductive and sexual health rights for leaders from the national coalition for Resolution 1325, with the aim to increase the members' capacity in distributing knowledge on reproductive and sexual health rights. According to some of the members of the coalition it would be specifically important to increasing the awareness of people living in remote areas in order to mobilize public pressure and improve health and educational service delivery. [Read more](#)

Gaza

According to an article by Reuters published recently in Daily Mail Online, girls and young women in Gaza avoid seeking mental health care due to fears of facing negative repercussions regarding their marriage prospects. Despite high rates of post-traumatic stress and depression in Gaza, mental health remains a treatment beset with stigmas. However, the recent integration of mental health care into primary health care facilities might challenge cultural barriers. [Read more](#)

Morocco

Women in the province of Errachidia created a new source of income through the production of medicinal and aromatic plants. The new initiative, which by now engages over 100 women in eight oases, proves to be economically sustainable and fruitful in mitigating the effects of climate change and desertification. [Read more](#)

Egypt

A new initiative on training women to direct traffic has started in Egypt by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, in collaboration with the Interior Ministry and Giza governorate. The initiative, which is currently piloted in Giza, creates access for women to an occupation usually dominated by men. If successful, it will be implemented across the country. [Read more](#)