

*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.*

Coordinated by Sana Jelassi, Tamara Abu Nafiseh and Lisa Gaudry

The Gender Unit at Headquarters is currently preparing for the 7th GBV workshop which will take place in Amman September 22nd to 24th, 2014. The workshop will bring together UNRWA staff from all the fields working on GBV, in addition to other UN agencies and local partners with GBV expertise to share lessons learnt, best practices and discuss challenges.

## Palestinian Youth in Lebanon Address GBV through Photography

In partnership with Abaad Resource Centre for Gender Equality and as part of the Family Protection Programme at UNRWA's Lebanon Field Office, 16 young girls and boys between the ages 15 and 18 participated in a gender awareness programme in Burj Shemali Camp in South Lebanon. The young participants were introduced to different concepts and issues relating to gender roles and gender inequality as well as gender-based violence (GBV) through discussion and group work. Bringing together displaced Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) and Palestinian refugees in Lebanon the workshop provided a space for youth to come together to discuss an issue that affects individuals, families and communities, but also one of the hidden impacts of the Syrian crisis.

Assisted by a professional photographer, the youth made their own pinhole cameras and were trained on how to take photographs using a camera made out of a paper box. Over a two week-period, the Burj Shemali Women Programme Centre (WPC) was transformed into a photography workshop, fully outfitted with equipment and dark-room facilities.



Equipped with new knowledge and ideas, the youth set out in their communities to document through photography how they perceive gender relations, gender inequalities and gender differences in their communities. The resulting series of photographs, which is a collection of images from Burj Shemali Camp, were reworked with photo captions that tell three fictional



stories the youth themselves have narrated. The stories describe the life of three different individuals, both male and female, experiencing gender inequality in different ways. The stories attest to the profound and diverse manifestations of gender inequality in global as much as refugee societies and the important contribution youth must play to ensure a future without gender discrimination.

For more information, contact [h.skaardel@unrwa.org](mailto:h.skaardel@unrwa.org)

## Ein El Sultan's Training Centre

Founded in August of 2011, Ein el-Sultan Training Centre in Jericho is the sole UNRWA Training Centre for employees in West Bank and provides Human Resource-focused training. UNRWA provides trainings at the Ein El Sultan center to new and existing staff on a range of issues.

Further, the center provides work opportunities for women through the Women's Centre in Ein El Sultan Camp as well as other nearby Women's centers. The latter provide catering and cooking services for the training center. The Women who take part in cooking and catering are able to gain valuable experience by catering for the training center which operates for 40 hours weekly. The Women's Centre is responsible for meals and refreshments, and sources their ingredients locally from the camps. The Women's Centre uses the money to pay the women who prepare the food, and to cover the cost of ingredients and equipment. They also use part of the income to fund other activities within the Women's Centre. As a result, the training center has been crucial in empowering the local community, allowing individuals, particularly women, to become self-reliant and industry-savvy.

For more information, contact [m.sarhan@unrwa.org](mailto:m.sarhan@unrwa.org)

### FACT OF THE MONTH:

In Gaza, nearly 46,000 women are pregnant, including 10,000 displaced by the conflict. Shifa Hospital reported a 15 to 20% increase in premature births linked to the stress of bombardments. [Read more](#)

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## Events of Interest

**September 15th, 2014 — UK**  
University of Huddersfield, Diamond Jubilee Theatre 9am to 5pm. University of Huddersfield Midwifery Society is presenting a Conference on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). [Click here for more information.](#)

**September 12th, 2014 — Chicago, US.** The University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign is holding a lecture at 12pm on "Women in Middle East" presented by the Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Program. [Click here for more information.](#)

**October 1st - November 11th, 2014 — Online.** The Human Rights Education Association is offering a course on "Gender and Humanitarian Action" The course identifies the importance of addressing gender in humanitarian response and will familiarize participants with key frameworks underpinning gender mainstreaming approaches. [Click here for more information.](#)

## Reports & Resources

### UNDP

The UNDP has released the 2014 Human Development Report, "Sustaining Human Progress: Reducing Vulnerabilities and Building Resilience." [View the report](#)

### BAKER INSTITUTE

The Women and Human Rights in the Middle East Program at the Baker Institute has released their spring 2014 issue, "Defining Islamic Feminism" for the Journal of Women and Human Rights in the Middle East. [View the report](#)

### UNFPA

MenEngage Alliance and the UNFPA have released an advocacy brief called, "Engaging Men, Changing Gender Norms: Directions for Gender Transformative Action." The brief explores the importance of changing men's ideas and behavior surrounding gender and gender equality. [View the report](#)

### GIRLS NOT BRIDES

Girls Not Brides has developed a Theory of Change with a range of approaches required for ending early child marriages. View the visual diagram [here](#). [View the report](#)

### GADN

The Gender and Development Network has published a report on unpaid care work that women and girls do for their families and the importance of making it a priority for the post-2015 development goals agenda. [View the report](#)

### CARE

From 2010-2012, CARE USA implemented the Women's Empowerment Impact Measurement Initiative (WEIMI) to develop the necessary capacity, tools, guidance, and practice to measure and demonstrate the impact of its work on women's empowerment. The lessons and experiences from this initiative have been transformed into an online guidance tool to develop theories of change and impact measurement systems. [View the report](#)

### GENDER & DEVELOPMENT

Gender and Development has released their latest issue which focuses on Gender, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning. It is the only journal in the world to focus on international development and gender issues, and also explores connections with feminist perspectives. [View the report](#)

## Regional News

### Gaza

In partnership with Jawwal telecommunications company, UNICEF has reached 550,000 people in Gaza with life-saving and child protection SMS text messages aimed at reducing child injury and death, decreasing psychosocial distress and increasing protection of children from abuse, by providing psychosocial support, simple coping tools, and a channel to voice their concerns. [Read more](#)

### Iraq

UN officials have declared the humanitarian crisis in Iraq a "Level 3 Emergency," the highest-level emergency designation. More than a million people have been displaced by violence, and many more are at risk. According to OCHA, there are increasing reports of rape and other violence against women and children. [Read more](#)

### Jordan

150 young Jordanians are participating in a local conference that employs arts and technology in promoting human rights. The conference seeks to create dialogue among young Jordanians on topics such as early marriage, human trafficking, child labour and gender-based discrimination. [Read more](#)

### Lebanon

Women to Women Success, a recently founded non-governmental organization, works with women who are unable to leave their homes for various reasons, to help them improve their cooking skills and find jobs that suit their lifestyle. The NGO strives to promote the belief that women of any age can be productive members of their society. [Read more](#)

### Global

In developing communities, when girls are unable to go to school, child marriages, sex trafficking, and forced prostitution are often the alternatives. However, women who have had the opportunities of formal schooling are more than twice as likely to send their own children to school, as compared with women with no formal education (UNICEF). "If we educate a girl, we educate a family." [Read more](#)

### Read more

Investing in women contributes to the success of development goals. The countries that have invested in education for girls, jobs for women, and healthcare for pregnant women and new mothers have seen the greatest advancements in recent development efforts. [Read more](#)