

UNFPA IRAQ

QUARTERLY UPDATE

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UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND - IRAQ
صندوق الأمم المتحدة للسكان - العراق

DIGNITY KITS TO THE POPULATION AFFECTED BY FLOODS

Heavy seasonal rains from 24 March to 2 April caused flooding and damage in several governorates in the central and northern governorates in Iraq, especially the regions through which the Tigris River runs. The severe weather has led to the drastic increase of the water levels in the river and its tributaries, causing the displacement of at least one thousand families.

UNFPA supported the distribution of 568 dignity kits through partners in the flood-affected areas of Diyala and Salahuddin. Reaching some of the locations was challenging forcing the volunteers and the social workers to reach the families by boat.

Each dignity kit included a blanket, a hairbrush, sanitary pads, underwear, slippers, a sewing kit, towels, a abaya, and a shampoo among other essential items for women hygiene.

In addition, the teams working at the UNFPA-supported women centres continue to conduct visits to the families in the flooded areas, together with local authorities and community leaders, providing the necessary information on flood response and offering emergency psychological first aid to women, girls and young people in these areas.



TRAINING MINISTRY OF HEALTH STAFF IN NAJAF



UNFPA conducted a training from 21 to 25 April on Emergency Obstetrics and Neonatal Care (EmONC). The sessions which were held in Najaf, and included medical staff from the Ministry and department of Health.

The sessions, the first of their kind since 2014, detailed and explained the content of the newly updated EmONC guidelines, which were updated in 2018 with the support of UNFPA.

Participants were trained on the basic skills of the programme and briefed on the changes made to the guidelines as part of the efforts exerted to enhance EmONC services nationwide and reduce maternal mortality in the country.

FINALISING THE DRAFT OF THE ANTI-DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LAW



With the support of UNFPA, the Women's Empowerment Department, in partnership with the Supreme Judicial Council organised a two-day workshop to review the draft of the anti-domestic violence law before sending it to the parliament for discussion and adoption.

Participants included 15 parliamentarians from the women and children committee, judicial committee and others, in addition to donors, humanitarian workers, activists and civil society organisations. Attendees discussed the complete draft suggested and focused on the penalty and prevention, protection, and services to survivors' segments.

VOICES OF YOUTH IN PEACEBUILDING

To provide youth in Iraq with adequate guidance in their efforts to promote peace and social cohesion, UNFPA and The Folke Bernadotte Academy, and the Swedish government agency for peace, security and development, organised a consultative workshop and dialogue focusing the “Voices of Youth in Peacebuilding”.

Participants told their stories related to the challenges of radicalisation and secular/ethnic division and identified the similarities and differences that youth face when promoting peace and social harmony in Iraq.



UN URGES LEGISLATORS TO ENACT ANTI-DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LAW

The United Nations urged Iraqi legislators and government leaders to press ahead with efforts to enact an Anti-Domestic Violence Law that fully protects the legal rights and shelter needs of all victims of domestic violence and serves as a deterrent and prevents impunity of perpetrators.

Under the auspices and in the presence of the President of the Republic, H.E. Barham Salih, the “Advocacy Workshop for the Endorsement of the Anti-Domestic Violence Law”, supported by UNFPA, was held at the presidential palace on 5 May with the aim to rally support for endorsement of the draft law in the Council of Representative.

Iraqi legislators are urged to explicitly define domestic violence and its penalties in the draft law, as opposed to referral to the Penal Code Law which under Article 41 effectively decriminalises domestic violence. Legislators also are urged not to impose mandatory referrals to reconciliation mechanisms and dropping of charges against perpetrators when reconciliation is achieved, but rather decisions are taken in direct consultation with survivors.



CELEBRATING MIDWIVES IN DUHOK

For International Day of the Midwife, UNFPA and the Department of Health in the Duhok Governorate in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, celebrated and honored midwives working in the governorate.

Speeches at the event focused on the fundamental role played by midwives in ensuring high quality reproductive health services in to reduce the morbidity and mortality among women and new-born in Iraq.

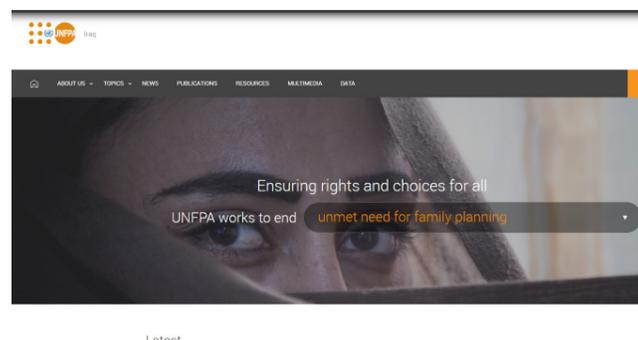


UNFPA OPENS DELIVERY ROOM IN BAAJ

To meet the needs of women and girls in Baaj district and neighborhood, UNFPA opened on 23 May a delivery room in the area.

This delivery room is much needed in the area as prior to its opening, pregnant women were referred to Talafar General Hospital, 120 Km far, leading to possible complications. UNFPA is providing financial as well as technical supports to the operations of the delivery room.

NEW WEBSITE DESIGN



ECHO REGIONAL HEALTH ADVISOR IN HAMMAM AL-ALIL

On 26 May, the Regional Health Advisor for European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management (ECHO), Mr Fernando Fernandez accompanied by a delegation from ECHO Erbil, the World Health Organization (WHO), and UNFPA visited health facilities in Hammam Al-Alil camp.

The visit included the UNFPA-supported maternity ward and reproductive health clinic and the WHO-supported primary health care clinic. Mr Fernandez was briefed on the services provided in these facilities, the numbers of patients, the trends in the camp as well as the humanitarian situation in the area.

ECHO is a major donor to the emergency reproductive health and clinical management of rape services to internally displaced people and women in hard-to-reach areas across Iraq.



FINISHING TOUCHES ON THE FAMILY PLANNING STRATEGY



UNFPA and the Ministry of Health held a three-day workshop, funded by Canada, from 11 to 13 June at the Iraqi Statistical Association in Baghdad on the family planning strategy.

Forty participants from the different ministries including Higher Education and Planning, UN agencies and NGOs conducted a final review of the draft strategy.

Participants were divided into four groups discussing four thematic segments related to the community, the commodities, the service and information management, and the monitoring process. At the end of the workshop.

They identified the roles and tasks of the groups to guarantee the implementation of the strategy. The document is expected to be submitted to the Minister of Health for approval in July.

PSEA SESSIONS IN DUHOK



On 26 June, UNFPA conducted a full day session on the protection of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) to 25 humanitarian workers in Duhok.

The topics focused on the core concepts of PSEA, the response to cases and complaints and the required assistance to survivors. Similarly, PSEA sessions were conducted to 18 women in Sulaymaniyah.

TRAINING ON THE ADOLESCENT GIRLS TOOLKIT INCLUDING IN SCHOOLS CURRICULA

UNFPA partner in Sulaymaniyah organised a three-day training on the Adolescent Girls Toolkit from 18 to 20 June to 21 school social workers. The training aimed at embedding the toolkit in the schools' curricula.

The main focus was on the ways to better involve young girls in society, how to help them gain self-confidence and accept the changes occurring in their life as they reach puberty. The discussions include how to present women and girls' rights to the adolescents.

On World Refugee Day, UNFPA partners with UNHCR organised ceremony in the different camps for refugees in Erbil and Duhok in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

The celebrations included theatrical and musical performances, dances and exhibitions.



EXPLORING THE BEST METHODOLOGIES FOR THE 2020 CENSUS

On 17 June, UNFPA organised a three-day study tour for the population experts from the Central Statistical Organization and the Kurdistan Region Statistics Office. The tour aimed at engaging the Iraqi delegation in technical discussions with the Department of Statistics in Jordan.

The experts discussed at length the benefits and challenges of electronic census and went over the lessons learnt from the Jordan experience.



UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE FOR EVERY PERSON, ANYWHERE, ANYTIME IN IRAQ

As the world commemorates World Health Day with the theme, Universal Health Coverage (UHC), WHO, UNFPA and UNICEF recommit to supporting the Government of Iraq ensure that every person in Iraq has access to quality health care services, in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of achieving universal health coverage by 2030.

Iraq has seen great improvement in life expectancy from 68.1 to 70.3 years; neonatal mortality have gone down from 27 to 17 per 1000 live birth, while under five mortality has reduced from 54 to 30. However, more needs to be done in order to build on these achievements and ensure equitable access to essential health services, irrespective of socio-economic status or geographic location.

WHO, UNFPA and UNICEF are working closely with the authorities in Iraq at the national and subnational levels to strengthen health systems for better service delivery.

EU COMMITS EUR 2.5 MILLION TO EMERGENCY REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES IN IRAQ

While close to 4 million people have returned to their homes, more than 1.5 million individuals in Iraq remain in dire need of humanitarian assistance, including protection and reproductive health. The European Commission has announced a contribution of EUR 2.5 million in humanitarian aid to UNFPA.

With the new EU funding, UNFPA will be able to reach over 100,000 women and girls with life-saving emergency obstetric care and emergency supplies, including support to 23 health facilities in the central and western part of Iraq.

The funding will also ensure specialised services to gender-based violence survivors, namely the clinical management of rape, case management and psychosocial support, with the integration of these services within the health facilities for ease of access and timely referral.

UN EMPHASIZES IMPORTANCE OF A SURVIVOR-CENTRED APPROACH TOWARDS VICTIMS OF ISIL ABUSES

A tailored and robust response to the needs of survivors of sexual violence in conflict perpetrated by ISIL (Da'esh) is needed to assist victims' recovery and contribute to lasting peace in post-conflict Iraq, the United Nations in Iraq said, marking the annual International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict. The day was observed by the United Nations, together with the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government, in events in Erbil and Baghdad on 19 and 26 June, respectively, under the theme "The Importance of a Survivor-Centred Approach".

Despite the end of the war and the recapture of territories in Iraq, these survivors, in the majority, suffer from depression, crippling anxiety, or panic attacks: some even consider self-harm or suicide. UNFPA, with donors and partners, will continue to work towards addressing the needs of survivors in post-conflict Iraq and raising awareness on the need for a survivor-centred approach that empowers and amplifies the voices of survivors.



- 95 women centres 
- 49 reproductive health facilities 
- One Mobile clinic 
- Five youth centres 

-  199115 women received RH services
-  39005 individuals received RH awareness sessions
-  132632 women received GBV services
-  63686 individuals received GBV awareness sessions
-  3175 dignity kit distributed

TAKING NECESSARY MEASURES TO SAVE NEW-BORNS

Nermin was only 21 years old when she was uprooted from her Syrian hometown of Qamishli in 2012. With her parents and siblings, she walked away from the life she had made for herself, running from a devastating war that engulfed the country, and travelled for hundreds of kilometres looking for refuge in Duhok, a city within the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

"I never thought I would have to start over. I was studying Arabic literature at university and was planning to become a teacher. I had it all figured out, except that God had different plans for me," she said. "The war forced me to choose between my dream and my life. Even if it meant spending my uncertain future in a tent, the choice was evident and heart-breaking."

"I had a difficult time adjusting to my new life. I would barely sleep during the night, and I would force myself to stay awake because the moment I close my eyes, I would see the faces of all those who were killed in front of me. It was haunting. I felt it was the end of the world for me and that I was never going to have a normal life again," she explained.

Nermin lived with her family for one year before her fate changed: "I was sad for a long time. I couldn't comprehend that I was never going to see my friends, colleagues and loved ones. Against all the odds, one day, as I was reading a book outside our tent, I met a man, and I fell in love that same moment," she explained.

"A few months later we got married and settled in Domiz 2 Camp in Duhok. We now have two beautiful children: Salim, who is three years and a half, and Samer, almost two years," she added. "I am also currently pregnant," she continued, cradling her belly with affection.

The soon-to-be mother of three lives in a tent in Domiz 2 camp. In the camp, UNFPA operates one maternity unit, a reproductive health clinic, a youth centre and a women's social centre. She gave birth to her second child, Samer, at the UNFPA-supported maternity ward.

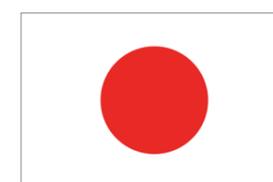


"I get very emotional recalling that day," explains Nermin. "The medical team at the hospital saved my child. Samer's umbilical cord was wrapped around his neck. The doctor kept reassuring me that it wasn't serious, but all I could think of was that I was losing my child. At that moment, I felt the world just stopped and the few minutes that passed felt like an eternity. I couldn't feel my heart beating anymore and broke into heaving sobs while the medical team was asking me to breathe. I only felt alive again when I held Samer in my arms. He was so small and beautiful."

"After my delivery, I sat with the gynaecologist who explained to me the importance of regular visits to the health clinic during pregnancy. Now that I am pregnant with my third child, who I hope is a girl, I conduct regular visits to the reproductive health clinic to anticipate any possible problems to improve the chances of having a healthy baby and safe delivery."

"This, however, will be my last child, for now," she added. "After I give birth, my husband and I agreed to visit the clinic and receive family planning sessions. Life is complicated in the camp, in the tent, and this is not the environment where I wish to raise my children."

UNFPA is extremely thankful to its donors for their contribution this year towards humanitarian and development programmes and response in Iraq.



من الشعب الياباني
From the People of Japan



Norwegian Ministry
of Foreign Affairs



SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY



European Union
Civil Protection and
Humanitarian Aid



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