

UNFPA IRAQ

QUARTERLY UPDATE



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

HANDOVER OF HAMMAM AL-ALEEL HOSPITAL

UNFPA and WHO in Iraq handed over the Hamam Al-Aleel Field Hospital that the two agencies established in 2017. The facility, funded by the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), was part of the two agencies' response to the urgently needed trauma and obstetric care services following military operations to liberate the city of Mosul in November 2016. This facility will allow local health authorities to provide urgent and essential health care services to a community of 250,000 people, including over 40,000 IDPs accommodated in the adjacent camps in Hamam Al-Aleel area, south Mosul.



UNFPA PAVES THE WAY FOR YOUTH ADVISORY BOARDS IN IRAQ

UNFPA held a meeting with the Diyala Governorate in eastern Iraq, to discuss the establishment of Youth Advisory Boards (YAB) in the governorate of Diyala, Najaf, and Wasit in Iraq.

The Youth Advisory Board is a committee of twelve 18 to 30 year-old boys and girls in charge of planning, implementing, and monitoring youth programmes in their respective areas.

The members will assist the Ministry of Youth in policy development in matters that affect marginalized adolescents and youth. UNFPA will train the elected YAB on youth programming and other technical areas.





On 6 May, UNFPA Iraq supported a 5-day-advanced youth peer education training for 22 young men and women in Sulimaniyah, in northern Iraq. During the training, the participants were sensitized on issues related to gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health, including HIV awareness, as well as various sessions dedicated to life-skills.

STRENGTHENING THE CLINICAL RESPONSE TO RAPE IN IRAQ

To strengthen the clinical response to rape, UNFPA, with the support of The Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP), conducted a four-day training of trainers' workshop on Clinical Management of Rape from 6 to 9 May attracting 25 social and health workers, forensic experts, investigators, and GBV specialists from NGOs and UN Agencies. During the sessions, the experts familiarized themselves with the guidelines and protocols on clinical services for sexual violence survivors including procedures for providing post-rape care and treatment, performing physical examinations, collecting forensic evidence as well as treatment and individual follow-up.

+ ADOLESCENTS TOOLKIT TRAINING IN CENTRAL & SOUTH OF IRAQ



UNFPA in Iraq ensures young girls are aware of their reproductive rights through a youth-friendly reproductive health care approach based on an approved adolescent girls' toolkit. From 6 to 10 May 2018, an Adolescent Girls Toolkit training of trainers was organized in Baghdad with 25 participants from Baghdad, Ninewa, Salahudin, Diyala, Anbar, Babylon, Karbala and Najaf governorates of Iraq.

This was the first training of its genre to be held in the Central and Southern Iraq on the Adolescent Girls Toolkit that was developed jointly by UNFPA and UNICEF. The toolkit is a collection of learning sessions and tools designed to empower adolescent girls to address key issues on life skills, reproductive health, gender-based violence and financial education.

TRAINING FUTURE LEADERS ON PEACE

UNFPA launched on 26 June a 5-week long peacebuilding cascade sessions as part of its youth leadership transformation project in Dhi-Qar and Anbar governorates. The sessions which are given 3 times per week to more than 30 young men and women include topics such as conflict resolution and mediation, community mobilization and negotiation. The presentations focus on how to incorporate life skills, sport, youth empowerment, and negotiation skills for peace building. The sessions are implemented by the Ministry of Youth and Sports and NGOs.



IRAQ CELEBRATES WORLD REFUGEE DAY

On 20 June, the UNFPA-supported women centres celebrated World Refugee Day in refugee camps in Erbil and Duhok.

The social workers in the field discussed with the women who attended the events the importance of peace and security and how to achieve a certain level of stability until the safe return. More than 200 women attended the celebrations which included dance, theatre, and poetry performances, as well as art exhibitions.

The women expressed their appreciation for being reminded of happier times in Syria as they shared their success stories.

AWARENESS TRAININGS IN SULIMANIYAH & DIYALA

More than 40 men from the internally displaced people and the host community in Sulimaniyah and Diyala Governorates attended 14 customised sessions on the risks and dangers of Female Genital Mutilation, Honor Killing as well as Gender-Based Violence, and forced and early marriages on the society, especially girls.

FIRST ADVANCED PEER EDUCATORS TRAINING IN DUHOK

From 24 to 28 June, Y-Peer in Iraq, supported by UNFPA, organised its first Advanced Peer Educators Training in Duhok, in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. A total of 25 young Iraqis and Syrians participated in the 5-day training where they learned about life skills, adolescence, leadership, reproductive health, women empowerment, gender equity, HIV, child marriage among other topics.

"What I liked the most about the trainings is that they are taught in the most innovative and fun way. For example, during one of the sessions, we were told we should listen and trust other people; instead of lecturing us, the trainer blindfolded us, partnered us with another participant, and asked us to listen to them in order to pick up as many post-notes as possible from the floor," said one of the participants.

The Peer educators are expected to give awareness sessions and transfer their learning to other youth in their neighbourhoods and camp, under the umbrella of Y-Peer.



SUPPORTING YOUNG REFUGEE ARTISTS IN IRAQ

Trauma generated by wars is often not confined to the battlefield. Refugees are negatively affected by the multiple displacements, loss of loved ones and properties and the instability which lead to a sense of helplessness and despair.

Art has emerged as a valuable tool to help mitigate the sense of despair and integrate refugees into their new surroundings. In Iraq, up to 250,000 Syrian refugees are hosted in nine camps in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Out of those, 35,000 found haven in Domiz camp. To help them cope with the difficulties and integrate into the social fabric of the Kurdish community, the Governor of the Region of Duhok inaugurated on 20 June, the "House of Artists" initiative as part of the Fil Manfa project. Fil Manfa Project and the House of Artists, initiated and backed by UNFPA and the Roberto Cimetta Fund (RFC), offer young refugee artists a safe space to develop their talents and practice live or visual arts, dancing and music.

DONOR UPDATES



EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION PROGRAMME (RDPP)

With funding from European Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP), UNICEF and UNFPA will work closely with the Kurdistan Regional Government and other partners to ensure service providers and justice and security personnel have increased capacity to provide age-appropriate survivor-centred services and child friendly juvenile justice. The project will also guarantee quality services to GBV survivors in general. The contribution from RDPP will enable UNFPA to strengthen the capacity of its local partners, of decision makers, and services provides across the country to advocate and ensure an overall more survivor-centred approach of GBV intervention.

AUSTRALIA

The Government of Australia has committed to providing UNFPA Iraq with an allocation of AUD 12 million over three years. The timely allocation will support the emergency reproductive health and gender-based violence related services in the country.

In Iraq, gender-based violence, including sexual violence and forced marriages, was used as a weapon of war mainly by the Islamic State in Iraq and Levant (ISIL). In areas of ISIL occupation, women and girls were deprived of basic reproductive health services.

In the post-conflict phase, thanks to this new contribution, UNFPA will increase the availability of and access to specialized reproductive health and gender-based violence related services and improve national capacity to sustain these services.

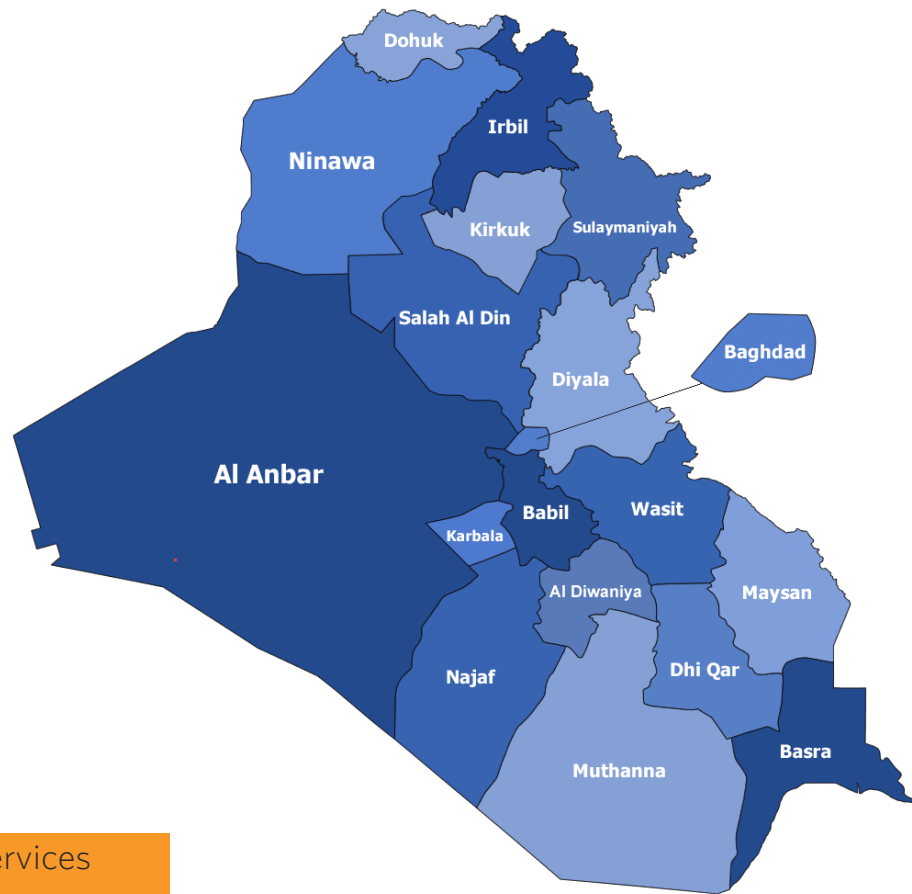
CANADA

The Government of Canada has announced a four-year contribution of CAD 5 million to UNFPA in Iraq to build the capacity of national institutions to implement gender and reproductive health interventions across the country.

Despite the end of military operations against the Islamic State in Iraq and Levant (ISIL), the devastating impact of the three-year war on women and girls in Iraq remains profound.

The latest multi-year grant from the Government of Canada will enable UNFPA to transition its current humanitarian interventions towards longer-term development programs that will enhance gender equality and empowerment of women, and increase access to and utilization of quality reproductive health services.

QUARTERLY FIGURES



IN IDP CAMPS AND HOST COMMUNITIES

57,889 women received RH services
30,349 people received RH awareness
sessions
76 RH facilities supported by UNFPA
1 mobile clinic
26,231 women received GBV services
83,216 people received GBV awareness
sessions
2,499 dignity kits distributed
147 women centres*

IN REFUGEE CAMPS

7,749 women reached through RH services
141 women received GBV services people
3,924 women received RH and family
planning consultations
2,2621 safe deliveries
8 health facilities
30 dignity kits distributed
147 women centres*
5 youth centres

* both for IDPs and Refugees

STORY FROM THE FIELD



RECOGNIZING THE STRENGTH AND COURAGE OF REFUGEES IN IRAQ

Ghalia, 33 from Aleppo, is one of the thousands of people who found themselves running for their lives in the wake of the battle of Al-Hasakah, north-east of Syria, in 2016. With her uncle's family, she settled in Domiz 2 camp, in Duhok Governorate in the Kurdistan region of Iraq.

When her parents and brother were killed during an airstrike in Aleppo a few years ago, she went on to live with her uncle's family in Al-Hasakeh. A few months later, she fell in love with an Iraqi man and, given the security situation in Syria at the time, they proceeded with a customary marriage.

Seven months into the marriage, the man she trusted abandoned her, stealing her belongings which she had inherited from her mother and the little money she had saved from her work at a bakery in Al-Hasakeh.

'I lost everything. My husband not only took my physical belongings but he also took away the little feeling of stability, safety, and happiness I had. I couldn't go to court to get my rights given that I had no legal document supporting my story. To top it all, I was pregnant when he left me. His actions took a toll on my health and I lost the baby. Everything went downhill,' says Ghalia.

To add to her misery, the increased fighting in Al-Hasakeh forced her and her uncle's family to flee to Domiz 2 camp. The young lady suffered from a nervous breakdown soon after as displacement and heartache led her to attempt suicide on many occasions.

Soon after, her uncle's wife reached out to the Women Centre in the camp seeking their help. The social workers immediately sat with Ghalia and listened to her story. "It took a while for me to trust the social workers. I only attended the first meeting because my uncle's wife pushed me to," explains Ghalia. "A few sessions later, I saw empathy and support from the social workers. They started giving me advice on how to act and how to think when I feel like I am heading to a dark place in my mind. They told me that I wasn't the only one who was feeling this way; I didn't believe them at first".

Ghalia began attending the awareness sessions and life skills courses offered by the Women Centre where she met other women with their own interesting story each: "I started developing a sense of belonging; I stopped feeling alone and started enjoying the company of the girls, especially when we opened up and I discovered that they too have stories similar to mine."

Meeting individuals who had gone through the same challenges gave Ghalia the confidence and strength she needed to move forward and stop dwelling on what initially broke her. "I now work as a volunteer in the Centre. I get to tell my story, talk about my depression to those who are going through a rough patch and share my lessons learnt from this experience, with the hope that it can give them a sense of relief," she says with a proud smile on her face.

Domiz 2 camp is home to close to 8,700 Syrian refugees who fled the war seeking a safe haven. UNFPA has one maternity unit, a reproductive health clinic, a youth centre and a women's social centre that is providing counseling, psychosocial support, awareness sessions, recreational activities and life-skills courses to hundreds of women on a monthly basis.



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