**Gender-Based Violence Humanitarian Response in Iraq - 2018-2019**

In 2018, UNFPA rationalised its operations because of the reduction of humanitarian funding and gradual transition to resilience and recovery in Iraq, leading to the humanitarian-development nexus: UNFPA phased out from around 30 women centres.

**UNFPA GBV Services in Iraq**

- Supporting women centres to provide holistic GBV services, including life-skills courses and PSS services
- Co-leading the Rapid Response Mechanism, with WFP and UNICEF, through the distribution of dignity kits within 72 hours of an emergency
- Providing awareness sessions on Child Marriage, harmful practices, different types of harassment and violence against women
- Capacity building of different GBV actors, including government entities and local partners
- Conducting advocacy campaigns on GBV-related issues

**2019 Humanitarian Needs**

- **Funding Required & Target**: US$ 12 M
- **Challenges**
  - Shortage of funding for humanitarian activities
  - Preparing implementing partners for the humanitarian-development transition
  - Phasing out from several women centres over a short time span
  - Limited access to some areas for security reasons despite population being in need of GBV services

**Story from the Field**

Haneen Ali from Mosul was 19 years old when the conflict forced her and her family to flee their home. Alongside her parents, she walked through mine-planted fields to find safety in the Debaga camp for internally displaced people.

Haneen continued her studies from a tent, reading books and educating herself. Her determination guided her to one the UNFPA-supported Women Centres in the camp, where she volunteered to be a sewing trainer. Thanks to her talent and drive, she was immediately accepted.

> “It is not about sewing, to be honest; these women attend the sessions I give looking for a friend, for an escape, for a place where they can forget their miseries and feel useful. These women gather as friends do in a neighbourhood, a casual ladies’ get-together over sewing pieces of clothing. Some, however, come with deeper pains so, for them sewing this piece of cloth feels like knitting their own lives together and helps heals their wounds.”

**Success Indicators**

- 3,022 girls subjected to violence accessed the essential services package
- 140,293 women subjected to violence accessed the essential services package
- 1,337 women and girls received prevention and/or protection services and care related to female genital mutilation
- 76,585 girls at risk of or affected by child marriage received prevention and/or protection services and care related to child, early and forced marriage

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