As in previous years, UNRWA has activities in all its fields of operations to mark International Women’s Day (IWD). UNRWA activities under the theme “I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women’s Rights” celebrated women and girls’ social, political, and economical achievements while recognizing the challenges that persist. For the occasion UNRWA Acting Commissioner-General sent a message to all staff placing gender equality at the core of the Agency and the services provided to Palestine refugees women, men, boys and girls.

UNRWA Acting Commissioner-General joins the International Gender Champion

International Gender Champions is a leadership network that brings together female and male decision-makers determined to break down gender barriers and make gender equality a working reality in their spheres of influence and was launched at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, July 2015.

In 2020, Acting Commissioner-General of UNRWA, Christian Saunders braced the International Gender Champion Parity Pledge. As a champion, the Acting Commissioner-General made two individualized commitments that pertain to achieving gender equality; UNRWA will ensure compulsory e-learning on awareness of gender-related frameworks for all senior managers and will reach 40 per cent of women in the P-5 and above staff category by the end of 2020.

Yoga Session at Gaza Field Office for International Women’s Day and Happiness Day 2020

On the occasions of the of International Women’s Day (IWD) 8 March, and International Happiness Day (IHD) 20 March, the Gaza Field Office conducted four yoga sessions for 90+ women. This event acknowledged staff efforts and commitment as well as advocate for a better wellbeing. Feedback was very positive, with several requests to continue similar stress-relieving activities in the future. One staff member noted that it was the first time she went home after working without being excessively stressed. With COVID-19 crisis and measures of confinement in place, similar activities in HQA and other fields were postponed.

Resilience is womanly

UNRWA Spanish Committee organised on the 7th of March in the Circulo de Bellas Artes in Madrid a public debate on women and resilience, presenting among others the Spanish version of the UNRWA study “How Does She Cope?” on women survival strategies in the Gaza Strip. The debate hosted by Spanish journalist Yolanda Alvarez hailed various experts that discussed with the public the situation of Palestine refugees’ women and girls, their resilience, and their coping mechanisms. Artist Maria Ortiz (pictured above) made a dramatized reading of the history of a woman Palestine refugee from Gaza.
UNRWA is a United Nations agency established by the General Assembly in 1949 and mandated to provide assistance and protection to some 5.6 million registered Palestine refugees. Its mission is to help Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank and the Gaza Strip achieve their full human development potential, pending a just and lasting solution to their plight. UNRWA services encompass education, health care, relief and social services, camp infrastructure and improvement, protection and microfinance.

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