gender bulletin

monthly updates on gender issues in UNRWA and the region

update of the month

This month, the UNRWA Protection Division hosted its fourth Practicing Protection session. Researchers from the Gender & Adolescence: Global Evidence (GAGE) longitudinal study joined UNRWA staff to discuss their findings relating to the gendered experiences of Palestine refugee adolescents in Lebanon, Jordan, and Palestine. The discussion focused on gendered forms of violence in homes, schools, and communities, and explored the ways in which the COVID-19 pandemic has shaped these.

stories from UNRWA

The UNRWA Youth Unit's Innovation Labs and KFW Cash for Work Program in Lebanon enable Palestine refugee youth to alleviate the burdens of the economic challenges they face.

Amani Salah Chabaya

Amani Salah Chabaya is a twenty-two-year-old Palestinian refugee from Lebanon who graduated from UNRWA Siblin Training Centre (STC) with a semi-professional degree in business management. In 2020, Amani joined the UNRWA Cash for Work Youth Employment Program. She received life skills for employability training and career counselling at UNRWA’s Employment Service Centre in Saida and was recruited as an administrative assistant at Takafol Association, a local civil society organization. Unfortunately, due to limited funds, the Association was not able to prolong her contract.

Amani is currently still looking for work, and she stresses the difficulties she is facing during the job-seeking process in Lebanon. She emphasizes the importance of short-term employment opportunities and life skills sessions in improving youth access to the labor market and building professional networks:

“I benefited from the short-term employment opportunity, and I think it was good opportunity for me to improve my skills and search for a fixed job, but I wish that the employment period was extended for more than 40 working days and that the target group was extended to include more age categories.”

june celebrations

4 June: International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
5 June: World Environment Day
7 June: World Food Safety Day
12 June: World Day Against Child Labour
15 June: World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
19 June: International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict
20 June: World Refugee Day
23 June: International Widows’ Day
26 June: United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture
inspiring story

From Where I Stand: “I Deserve to Live, and Work and Do Whatever is Needed to Make My Daughter Happy”

Oula Abdou filed for divorce from her husband who sold drugs and abused her and their daughter. Subsequently rejected by her family for her decision, her ex-husband falsely accused her of selling drugs with him – this led the twenty-four-year-old Lebanese woman to go to prison for one year and three months. In prison, Oula signed up to Al Jamhiyya al Loubnaniya Al Khairiya lil Islaah Wal Taahil, an NGO that provided her with both psychosocial support and skills-training through a sewing workshop. Thanks to this program, Oula now makes a living for herself and her daughter. Read more about Oula’s story here.

events of interest

11th European Conference On Gender Equality in Higher Education, 15-17 September 2021 (virtual)

This conference aims to strengthen the “debates on gender equality in higher education and research.” Topics discussed will include gender in STEM fields, the integration of gender dimensions in university teaching, and policies that foster the integration of gender dimensions in research and innovation, amongst others. This conference will also provide opportunities for virtual networking for practitioners, researcher, teachers and others from Europe and beyond. Learn more about this here.

Cultivating Equality: Advancing Gender Research in Agriculture and Food Systems, 12-15 October 2021 (virtual)

This conference will bring together researchers, practitioners and students to explore the role of gender in generating “sustainable and resilient agricultural and food systems.” Discussions will focus on the intersectional dimension of marginalization and social exclusion from agriculture and food systems around the world. Participants will have a chance to exchange knowledge and perspectives through scientific dialogues, multi-stakeholder panels, and networking sessions. Read more about this event here.

reports & resources

COVID-19: Gendered Impacts of the Pandemic in Palestine and Implications for Policy and Programming

This UN Women Rapid Gender Analysis report explores the evolution of gender roles for women, girls, men, and boys in the oPt since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Findings highlight the gendered impact of quarantine in the oPt, the disproportionate risks faced by female frontline workers, the increase in domestic and gender-based violence, as well as the under-representation of Palestinian women in decision-making. Finally, the report gives Palestinian women’s organizations an opportunity to express their concerns and formulate recommendations. Read the report here.

Violence Against Women Prevalence Estimates, 2018

This UN Women, UNHCR, and ILO-commissioned report explores the challenges faced by Syrian refugee women in Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq. Findings include an increase in Syrian refugee women’s income-generation, a furthering of their double work burden, and the need for enhanced coordination between gender equality, livelihoods, and gender-based violence actors to ensure more effective referral pathways. The report also formulates key recommendations to UN agencies, governments, and donors. Find out more here.

facts of the month

In the Arab states, women perform 4.7 times more unpaid care work than men

In Palestine, 80 per cent of men and 60 per cent of women agree that women’s most important role is taking care of the home