Gender bulletin

monthly updates on gender issues in UNRWA and the region

Update of the Month

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UNRWA adopted the Human Resources (HR) Gender Parity Action Plan geared towards the implementation of UNRWA Gender Equality Strategy and the Secretary-General’s system-wide strategy on gender parity. The goal is to reach gender parity at the level of senior leadership by the end of 2021. For more information, please contact Nadine Kaddoura: nkaddoura@unrwa.org

Stories from UNRWA

Jordan - In the Jordan Field Office, an awareness-raising campaign about the dangers of child marriage started at the end of September and will continue until mid-October.

Emphasis lies on the right to and importance of education of girls and women, even when they are married at a young age. Child marriage often means the end to a girl’s formal education. Compared to the reasons boys give for dropping out of school, females are more likely to report early marriage as a major reason for dropping out.

While stressing the importance of continued education, the campaign further raises awareness about other negative impacts such as health risks related to early pregnancy.

The campaign comprises 40 different activities at schools, Women Programme Centres (WPCs) and other locations across Jordan, targeting predominantly girls of different age groups, but also parents and young boys as allies. Altogether over 5000 people will be targeted with this campaign.

Activities include plays, drawing, awareness-raising sessions on education, health and the Jordanian law, the distribution of brochures, video screenings and discussion sessions.

For more information on the campaign, please contact
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Gaza - Under the title, “Girls Not Brides - End Child Marriage” (in Arabic: لا لزواج القاصرات), the Gaza Field Office Relief and the Social Services Programme in Gaza recently completed the implementation of an advocacy campaign in cooperation with WPC.

Similar to its counterpart in Jordan, the campaign highlighted the negative effects of child marriage and additionally called for amending the minimum age of marriage for girls under Palestinian Law to 18 years.

Feedback from participants attending awareness-raising sessions and a seminar, as well as from those listening to radio spots broadcasted on Al-Quds station, stressed the importance of regular awareness-raising campaigns, specifically on the consequences of child marriage, the importance of quality sexual and reproductive health education and leadership programs for young girls.

Moreover, participants stressed the importance of supporting continued education even when girls get married, and ensuring harmful practices are condemned, especially by traditional leaders and tackling poverty which is seen as exacerbating factor for child marriage.

A total of 527 community members, including traditional leaders and representatives from local organizations, benefited from these activities.
UNRWA is a United Nations agency established by the General Assembly in 1949 and mandated to provide assistance and protection to some 5 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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