



Gaza © UNRWA 2013 by Guillaume Petermann

monthly updates on gender issues in UNRWA and the region

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UNRWA has been granted funding for phase II of the Building Safety Programme as part of the Safe from the Start Initiative. This second phase will consolidate and build on UNRWA commitment to the Call to Action on the Protection of Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies.

stories from UNRWA

Women Highest Achievers in UNRWA Technical and Vocational Education and Training Centres in Jordan

"As a child, I used to watch doctors and nurses and dream about being in their position. I am very happy that my dream is coming true. My fiancé is a doctor and together we want to open our own laboratory one day and help as many people as possible," says 21-year-old Raghad, who studied at the UNRWA Amman Training Centre to become a medical laboratory technician. Raghad recently obtained the highest results of all students who sat for the annual comprehensive exams in the Kingdom of Jordan.

UNRWA currently operates two technical and vocational training (TVET) centres in Amman: Amman Training Centre and Wadi Seer Training Centre. More than 6,500 students from 47 TVETs across the Kingdom of Jordan sat for comprehensive exams this year. Students at the two UNRWA TVET centres had an average 90.1 per cent success rate on these exams, vastly outperforming the overall Kingdom-wide success rate of 57.5 per cent.

"Without the UNRWA support, my parents would have never been able to pay for my education and I would have never come this far," Raghad concludes. Raghad's family, who originates from Haifa, and her fiancé have supported her since the beginning of her studies. The recent graduate wants to continue studying and is planning to specialize in medical and laboratory sciences. For more information, please contact: jorpio@unrwa.org.

Back to School Campaigns in Lebanon to Prevent School Drop-out

At Haifa School in Beirut, a group of young Palestine refugee boys and girls gathered in the school playground to take part in the launch of the Back to School enrolment campaign, seeking to encourage Palestine refugee children in Lebanon to go back to school.

Even though school drop-out is a concern for both boys and girls, its causes and consequences are differently gendered. Boys tend to be at increased risk of child labor, while girls become at increased risk of child marriage. In order to improve enrolment and retention rates in UNRWA schools and vocational centres, UNRWA, with the support of the European Union (EU), is implementing an outreach campaign to mobilize communities to send their children back to school. The campaign primarily targets Palestine refugee children aged 6-18 who are living in Lebanon but have been out of school for an extended period of time.

The event highlighted current challenges and opportunities with regards to education, focusing on the importance of education in providing families and children with increased opportunities, and the ways in which quality and inclusive education plays key role in human, social, and economic development.

Speaking at the event, Director of UNRWA Operations in Lebanon, Claudio Cordone, said, "Education is of fundamental value to everyone in the Palestine refugee community, and UNRWA is fully committed to high-quality education for all Palestine refugees." For more information please contact: n.said1@unrwa.org



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Inspiring Story

First female radio station in Gaza re-opens

Eve FM has returned to the airwaves, broadcasting from Al-Bureij refugee camp in the Gaza Strip for the first time since its headquarters were destroyed by Israeli forces in 2014. The station is run predominantly by women and presents a feminist view of media coverage of the region with women's issues as the focus of the programme. The radio station seeks to change the stereotypical image of women and offers a space to engage with and address social problems, promote women's rights and defend their freedoms. [Read more.](#)

Events of Interest

World of Women Film Fair Middle East, Dubai, UAE

Deadline: 1 October 2017 for film submissions

The World of Women Film Fair, which will take place on 6-8 March 2018, is the first short film festival that promotes and awards female directors, producers, writers, editors and cinematographers in the film industry internationally. It is a showcase of films by women or about women, allowing the viewers to see the world through women's eyes. [Read more.](#)

EU Call for Proposals: Preventing Sexual and Gender Based Violence against Women and Girls in Developing Countries

Deadline: 25 October, 2017

This call for proposals is to improve the technical and financial resources available to local civil society organisations to work towards ending violence against women and girls, and increase access to sexual and reproductive health and rights for youth, women and men. [Read more.](#)

Regional News

OPT

The Women's Leadership Incubator (WLI) project was started in 2017 by the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor. It funds, trains and supports women's organisations to identify the needs of the community and implement programs to support their vision. Six organisations in Gaza have been selected and the project runs from August until January 2018. [Read more.](#)

Jordan

The activist group "My Nationality Is The Right of My Family" is looking to revamp its campaign against the laws which discriminate against Jordanian women married to non-Jordanian men. Currently, Jordanian men married to non-Jordanian women pass Jordanian citizenship to their wives and children, but this right is not held by Jordanian women married to

foreigners. [Read more.](#)

Syria

Two organisations, Half of Humanity and NuDay Syria, have created a partnership to provide feminine sanitary products to Syrian refugees. The initiative aims to provide access to proper feminine hygiene products to allow women to feel empowered to continue their work, education and daily life with a sense of security and dignity. [Read more.](#)

Lebanon

Following in the footsteps of Jordan's Lower House of Parliament, the Lebanese parliament has repealed an article in the penal code that exempted rapists from punishment if they married their victim. Despite this victory, many Lebanese women's group say there is still a long way to go to achieving equality for women under the law. [Read more.](#)

Reports & Resources

USAID Takamol Program

The USAID Takamol program, an initiative focused on gender and female empowerment in Jordan, conducted a national gender survey in Jordan to collect national data about perspectives on gender. The survey was carried out in 12 of Jordan's governorates and included participation from a sample of 2,000 people using a web-based survey. The data has been disaggregated to provide a finer-grained picture on gender perspectives in Jordan. [Read more.](#)

The Economic Research Forum (ERF)

The paper *The Effect of Mothers' Employment on Youth Gender Role Attitudes: Evidence From Egypt* examines

the impact of having a working mother during childhood on Egyptian young people's attitudes towards women's roles in the public sphere, gender roles in the household, and ideals around number of children and women's age at marriage that are related to gender roles. [Read more.](#)

World Economic Forum (WEF)

WEF's white paper, *Accelerating Gender Parity in the Fourth Industrial Revolution*, explores challenges and opportunities for the acceleration of gender parity in professional sectors such as education, financial services, care services, engineering and biotechnology. The paper proposes strategies to help accelerate system-wide change regarding gender equality. [Read more.](#)

Facts of the Month

23 per cent

is the global wage gap between men and women. [Read more.](#)

1 in 5

women who are refugees or internally displaced are estimated to have experienced sexual violence. [Read more.](#)



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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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