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: jorplo@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
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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