

Welcome to the second newsletter of UN Women in Palestine!

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ENGENDERING HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE



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GLOBAL CALLS AND OPPORTUNITIES



Upcoming launch of an interactive web portal dedicated to women’s economic empowerment

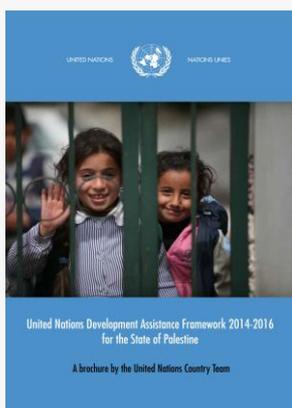
UN Women Arab States Regional Office: Call for Membership for the Regional Civil Society Advisory Group

NEWS UPDATES



UN Women Welcomes Its New Executive Director

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngucka from South Africa was officially sworn in as the new UN Women Executive Director on 19 August 2013. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngucka, who was the first woman to hold the position of Deputy President in South Africa, from 2005 to 2008, becomes the second UN Women Executive Director, replacing Michelle Bachelet, who stepped down earlier this year after 3 years at the head of UN Women.



UN Secretary-General Ban-Ki Moon and Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Hamdallah Launch the First Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2014-2016

On 19 August 2013, the UNCT launched its first-ever UNDAF for the State of Palestine. The UNDAF as the UN strategic development framework 2014-2016, describes the collective vision and response of 19 UN Agencies in Palestine to national development priorities for the next 3 years. UN Women, also through coordinating the Inter-Agency Gender Task Force (GTF), actively engaged throughout the development process to ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment is addressed and that the document is aligned with national gender priorities.



The UN Launches an Interactive Map of People's Demands and Priorities across the World

On 10 September 2013, the UN Secretary General presented a new report [“A Million Voices. The World We Want”](#), which summarizes the findings of a global consultation and survey that engaged more than 1.3 million people in all 193 UN Member States since August 2012. Launched the same day, the results of the My World 2012 can also be accessed through an [interactive map](#) that displays what people want in terms of development in every country. The report will be presented on 23 September 2013 during the 68th General Assembly Session in New York, while [consultations and surveys](#) will continue until the end of 2015.



Photo credit ©UNFPA

UN Agencies, National and International NGOs Trained on Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Action

Simona Pari, the regional GBV advisor of the Rapid Response Team in Amman, conducted a three-day training (from 3 to 5 September) on Managing GBV Programmes in humanitarian settings. The training gathered 30 participants from UN agencies, as well as national and international NGOs groups. The training is part of the 1-month mission undertaken by the Regional GBV advisor in the oPt, from 26 August to 26 September 2013. Invited at the initiative of the GBV sub-working group (chaired by UNFPA), Simona will conduct another mission in October to meet with Gaza stakeholders.

The UN Women Office in Jerusalem Welcomes its New Gender Mainstreaming Coordination Officer

Arnar Gislason has joined UN Women in August as the new Gender Mainstreaming Coordination Officer. Seconded by the Government of Iceland, Arnar will support the development of the UN Women gender mainstreaming programming framework as well as strengthening the links with and support to national gender mainstreaming processes. Arnar brings to the UN Women team an extensive experience on gender issues, having worked in the capacity of an Equal Opportunities Officer at the University of Iceland, in addition to serving on various committees focused on gender equality and working as a group facilitator in the UK at both London Probation and the Domestic Violence Intervention Project.



The Government of Iceland Supports UN Women's Work on Sheltering Services in Palestine

In August 2013, the UN Women office in Palestine received a new financial contribution from the Government of Iceland for its work on sheltering services. The contribution will directly support the Mehwar Centre and further, will help to build, upgrade and homogenize the standards of other anti-violence centres in Palestine.



The Ministry of Women's Affairs Consults National Stakeholders on the First Draft of its New Gender Strategy

In August, the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) circulated the first draft of the Cross-Sectoral National Gender Strategy 2014-2016 to national partners and stakeholders in the West Bank for inputs. In the Gaza Strip, UN Women is supporting MoWA in including national partners by facilitating consultations through the General Union of Palestinian Women (GUPW). MoWA will work in September on developing the related action plan and coordinate with other line ministries to ensure priorities are also reflected in their budgets. The Strategy aims to inform the development of the new Palestinian National Development Plan 2014-2016.

PROGRAMME UPDATES

UN Women Fund for Gender Equality Grants 5 Projects on Women's Political Empowerment in Palestine

The Palestinian Centre for Peace and Democracy with the Jerusalem Centre for Women, the Association of Women Committees for Social Work, Stars of Hope, Anabta Women Welfare Society and Dalia Association constitute the 6 organizations that have been selected in Palestine under the UN Women Global Fund for Gender Equality. The [6 selected organizations](#) will receive grants totalling USD 1.315 million over the period of two years, to implement 5 projects aiming at the political empowerment of women in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem; through strategic interventions ranging from leadership training and capacity building to networking, communication and media engagement.

The [Fund for Gender Equality](#) is a UN Women global fund established in 2009, dedicated to women's economic and political empowerment. A grant-making mechanism, it provides funds to rigorously selected grantees through a global "call for proposal" open to national gender advocates, both governmental and non-governmental. Women's organizations and government agencies are responsible for the direct implementation of their projects, while the FGE can provide tailored programmatic assistance. The Fund aims to realize rights, accelerate poverty alleviation and advance sustainable development through strategic partnerships with national gender advocates.

The AWCSW Women's Political Participation Project

The Association of Women Committees for Social Work, a well-established Palestinian women's organization, has been selected under the FGE grant to implement an innovative project which combines the establishment of advocacy groups with effective networking to increase political and public participation of women at all levels. The different committees established – at the local, governorate and national levels – aim to function as forums that both strengthen women's voices and participation at the community level and in local councils and relay women's demands at the governorate and national levels. The project, which started at the beginning of this year, has already supported the establishment of 10 action work committees in 10 localities of the Jenin and Ramallah governorates, and engaged 108 participants drawn from youth activists, locally-elected women and women leaders, as well as CBO representatives. At the governorate level, AWCSW works on the establishment of two Committees to Promote Women in Politics (CPWP), in Jenin and Ramallah governorates – comprised of representatives of local elected women, women leaders, CBOs and male from each community – which ensures the linkage between the demands expressed and identified at the local level and national priorities identified in the newly developed Cross-Sectoral National Gender Strategy 2014-2016.

Upcoming Event - Launching of the "Spring Forward for Women" Programme



UN Women and the Palestinian Authority will be holding a special event on 18 September in the West Bank and on 25 September in the Gaza Strip to officially launch the "Spring Forward for Women" programme, a UN Women and European Commission funded regional women's economic and political empowerment programme. UN Women will invest in building capacities not only at the regional level but also in countries through programmatic action.

UN Women and OCHA Partner to Engender Humanitarian Response in Palestine

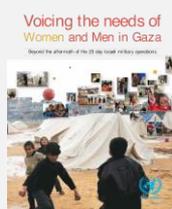


With the technical support of UN Women, the recruitment of a gender advisor to be housed at OCHA kick-starts what is hoped to be a long-term UN Women-OCHA partnership for

engendering humanitarian assistance in Palestine. With financial support of the Government of Spain and the Government of Canada, the gender advisor will be supporting the Humanitarian Country Team at large, aiming at providing the basis for informed decision-making, coordinated planning and programming of emergency response, building linkages with recovery planning, particularly in the Gaza Strip.

This project directly responds to the findings of the Inter-cluster Rapid Assessment (IRA), in the aftermath of the Israeli military operation "Pillar Defense" in November 2012, particularly in terms of allowing humanitarian actors to better understand the gendered impact of humanitarian crises and emerging needs.

The gender advisor will provide technical support and training to humanitarian stakeholders in engendering response, and will support the establishment of a gender coordination mechanism for humanitarian action in Gaza, comprising of representatives from the government, donor community, civil society, NGOs and UN agencies.



Following the Israeli military operation in Gaza "Cast Lead", the Gender Task Force, led by UN Women published the first inter-agency gender needs assessment: "[Voicing the needs of women and men in Gaza, Beyond the Aftermath of 23 day Israeli military operations](#)". It was followed by the guidebook "[Towards gender equality in humanitarian response: Addressing the needs of women and men in Gaza](#)". Both publications were based on a consultative process with sector leads and carried concrete recommendations for sectors to better mainstream gender in programming focusing on existing gender gaps.



The World needs more...

Each year, on 19 August, the world celebrates Humanitarian Day and commemorates those who lost their lives in humanitarian services and the spirit of people helping people. This year, the UN and its humanitarian partners launched "[The World needs more...](#)" campaign. The month-long campaign aims to raise funds for aid through an innovative approach, which turns words into aid. Sponsor or Share a word on Twitter or Facebook using the **#the world needs more #your word** to help unlock funds from brands for millions of people affected by disasters worldwide. You have 14 days left to [support and participate](#).

UN Women Charts a New Route for Hope for Syrian Women Refugees

Millions of Syrians have sought refuge in Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey since the beginning of the crisis in Syria. Jordan now hosts about 1 million Syrian refugees with women, boys and girls making up nearly 80% of Jordan's Syrian refugee population.

The sounds of women laughing and cracking jokes are all one can hear standing outside the

Tailoring Workshop container at the Women and Girls Oasis in Zaatari Camp. Opening the door of the container leads to a space loaded with smiles where women sit behind sewing machines working on colorful fabrics. Two very eager women Fatima (36) and Hajar (36) welcome visitors and are very open about sharing their stories and showing their work: "My husband is an injured military defector. He cannot work so I took it upon myself to help provide for him and my three kids. By mere chance, a woman told me about UN Women's oasis and the tailoring workshop and here I am. It is the best thing that ever happened to me since we fled Syria three months ago" says Fatima beaming while Hajar nods her head in agreement.

In the Syrian refugee camp of Zaatari located in the Jordanian Governorate of Mafraq, close to the Syrian borders, UN Women is supporting an empowerment project through establishing a "safe space" named "Women and Girls' Oasis". A "cash for work" program, enables Syrian women refugees who are professional tailors and hairdressers to work six hours a day in the workshops and earn a living. The tailors are sewing new-born outfits for baby girls and boys which are delivered to hospitals operational within the camp to provide to new mothers.

Despite a very calm and timid exterior, when approached, Hajar's words escape her mouth like a torrential flood: "I have been through a lot and did not expect my life to turn out the way it did. I fled Syria with my five children because I received threats to my son's life. I left everything behind, my house, my husband and all my belongings and embarked on a trip to the unknown. I reached the camp already depressed with very few words to exchange with



others. At some point, my words got stifled by sadness, the smile left my face and tears became a permanent and favorite companion."

However, Hajar's grief started to gradually dissipate upon learning about the Oasis. As a professional tailor, she got herself involved along with some other 900 hundred women and teenage girls in the activities taking place in the Oasis such as tailoring, hairdressing, drawing, English classes, mosaic and handcrafts as well as gymnastics.

The impact of the Oasis has far exceeded the monetary aspect of the project. With growing bonds and trustful relations formed with the Oasis' staff, other women are encouraged to speak out about taboo subjects, including Gender-Based Violence (GBV). Away from the protective walls of the workshops, they reveal their shocking stories and they no longer shy away from sharing their experiences about the psychological and emotional violence they face in the intimacy of their homes.

The Oasis has allowed refugee women to take advantage of this safe haven and experience a different and unexpected role in the camp's social life and within their own family structure. Such intervention has brought back the smiles to the faces of Fatima and Hajar when they declared: "We have hope now! We feel safe, and are looking forward to the day when we go back to a peaceful and stable Syria"

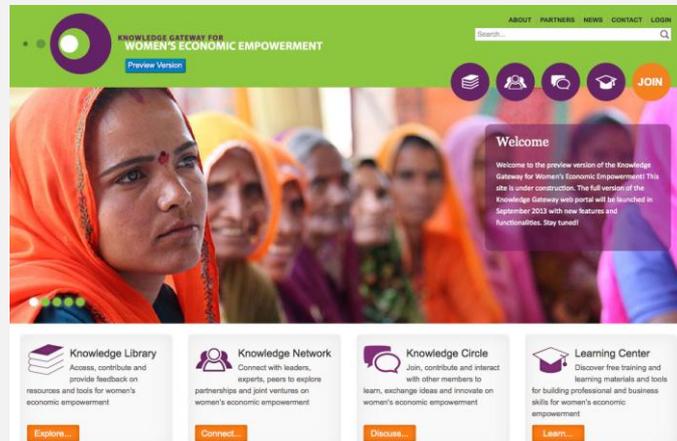
This story from the UN Women office in Jordan has been published in April 2013 on [UN Women website](#).

UN Women work in communities in Jordan where Syrian refugees are hosted, with a focus on the less services areas in the middle and south of the country. The areas covered include Irbid, Madaba, Deir Alla, Hitteen and Hussein Refugee camps. UN Women in cooperation with the Jordanian Women Union (JWU) provides psychological services to minimize the impact of stress, trauma, and Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV). Women are referred to shelters, health and other service providers when needed. Additionally, UN Women provides recreational, social and informational activities to facilitate peer-to-peer support, social interaction and venting as well as raise awareness about their rights.

GLOBAL CALLS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Upcoming Launch of an Interactive Web Portal Dedicated to Women's Economic Empowerment

Currently accessible in a [preview version](#), the Knowledge Gateway for Women's Economic Empowerment will be launched later this month. The web portal will offer a dynamic platform to promote information and knowledge sharing, collaboration and learning and mobilize capacity among partners. The creation of this platform stems from one of the recommendations for action from the 2011 International Conference on Women's Economic Empowerment co-hosted by UN Women and the Government of Canada specifically related to advancing women's and girls rights, opportunities and participation in the economy. To visit and join the web platform, click [here](#).



UN Women Arab States Regional Office: Call for Membership for the Regional Civil Society Advisory Group

UN Women Arab States Regional Office's call for membership aims to identify 25 members from women's networks, grassroots organizations and experts on GE/WE who will represent the region. The Advisory Group will be a consultative forum for regular dialogue between civil society and UN Women aimed to institutionalize exchange on political developments taking place in the region, foster dialogue and engagement between UN Women and civil society; build on civil society's expertise, experience, perspective and knowledge to strengthen UN Women's regional programme and priorities; and serve as a consultative forum of ideas and strategies on key policy, knowledge and advocacy issues. Civil society organizations in Palestine are highly encouraged to apply to ensure representation. Deadline for applying is **17 September 2013**. ToR and applications can be found [here](#).