

*Welcome to the third issue of “UN Women in Palestine” newsletter!*

#### NEWS & PROGRAMMES UPDATES

##### UN WOMEN WELCOMES ITS DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR HIS FIRST VISIT TO THE UN WOMEN OFFICE IN PALESTINE



- [Launch of “Spring Forward for Women” in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip](#)
- [UN Women support to ministries in the development of their sectoral strategies 2014-2016](#)
- [New Knowledge Management Strategy to equip UN Women on its access to justice work](#)
- [UN Women signs new Project Cooperation Agreements under the Spring Forward Programme](#)
- [New workshop to improve participation of women’s organizations in coordination structures in Gaza](#)

#### GLOBAL CALLS AND OPPORTUNITIES



##### [Launch of pioneering non-formal curriculum to end violence against women and girls](#)

#### PUBLICATIONS



##### [New UN Women Fact Sheets Gender in Education Social Protection of Women](#)



##### [Advancing Gender Equality: Promising Practices. Case Studies from the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund.](#)

## NEWS UPDATE

### UN Women Welcomes its Deputy Executive Director for his First Visit to the UN Women Office in Palestine



*John Hendra, UN Women Deputy Executive Director (right) and Mr. Stein Torgersbraten, Head of Development Norway (left) testing their cooking skills during a visit to the Anata Women's Centre.*

During a 3-day visit, on 9, 10 and 11 October 2013, Mr. Hendra met with representatives of the Palestinian Authority, civil society, UN agencies and donors, to discuss the work of UN Women in Palestine in support of national efforts for improving livelihoods and the advancement of women's rights.

In a meeting with Prime Minister, Dr. Rami Hamdallah, Mr. Hendra discussed national efforts to support women's rights and gender equality, with a specific focus on women's economic empowerment and support to vulnerable and marginalized women. Mr. Hendra also met with the Minister of Women's Affairs, Ms. Rahiba

Diab, to discuss the privileged relationship between UN Women and the Ministry, in particular in supporting the engendering of governmental planning and budgeting processes.

During his visit, Mr. Hendra met with the UN Women Civil Society Advisory Group in Palestine, which informed him about the situation of Palestinian Women as well as the challenges to the work of civil society organisations in this context. In addition, Mr. Hendra participated in a dialogue with the General Union of Palestinian Women (GUPW) and the Women's Affairs Technical Committee (WATC) on women's political participation and the

implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

Mr. Hendra's mission was an opportunity to visit two long-running programmes of UN Women in Palestine.

In a field visit to the Mehwar Centre, John Hendra met with the representatives of the different stakeholders who have supported the Mehwar Centre project: the Deputy Minister of Social Affairs, the Governor of Bethlehem, the Head of the Family Protection Unit, the Italian Cooperation Agency, and the staff of Mehwar. During the visit, Mr. Hendra had the opportunity to meet with and listen to the women sheltered at the Centre over a lunch, that they had prepared for the occasion, where women recalled their experiences and their hopes for the future.

Mr. Hendra also went on another field visit to the Anata Sabaya Centre, one of the centres participating in the Women-Run School Canteens Project. During the visit, Mr. Hendra, accompanied with Mr. Stein Torgersbraten, the Head of the Development Cooperation of the Norway Representative Office to the Palestinian Authority, which has funded the project since its inception in 2009, met not only with the women of the Centre but also with a representative of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the head of the local council, and the principals of three public schools in Anata, to discuss the project and how it has contributed to improving the livelihood and health of the community, as well as the collaboration established between the Centre and the other members of the community.

#### *IN PICTURE: John Hendra's visit*





### Official Launch of the Spring Forward Programme in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip

The Palestinian Ministry of Women's Affairs, the European Union and UN Women launched "*Spring Forward for Women*", in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip on 18 September and 25 September, respectively.

The "Spring Forward" Programme is a regional programme targeting



southern Mediterranean countries, which aims to support national and regional stakeholders to empower women economically and politically in the context of the Arab Spring. The Programme provides a mechanism to advance the economic empowerment of women in the region and to assist them to reposition themselves in the political and decision-making spaces so that they have greater influence in shaping the future of their countries. It supports initiatives by national and regional institutions and civil society organisations to ensure women's active engagement in decision-making, women's economic empowerment and the enhancement of regional knowledge and experience-sharing on women's political and economic rights.

Ms. Rahiba Diab, Minister of Women's Affairs, in her address during the launch said that *"the Palestinian Ministry of Women's Affairs is working hard on fulfilling its mandate in order to empower Palestinian women and girls in various spheres of public life. We will continue our strategic partnership with UN Women and other national and international partners for the advancement of women's status. On this special occasion, the inauguration of the Regional Programme, I say yes, let's take a step forward, and more steps forward for Palestinian women's empowerment and giving them the status they deserve"*.

Mr. David Geer, Deputy EU Representative, noted that *"women's full participation in economic and political life is not only an issue of justice and of rights: it is also essential to sustainable economic development and prosperity. The EU, which has long recognized the principle of equal treatment including equal pay for equal work, is delighted to support the efforts of Palestinian women to ensure that they play a full role in shaping their own lives and the future of the Palestinian people"*

Alia El-Yassir, UN Women Special Representative in Palestine stressed that *"the work in support to women's economic empowerment has demonstrated that women's access to economic opportunities is not only essential to secure their livelihoods and those of their family, but also key to opening the door for greater access to and integration of women in social, political and cultural life, ensuring full enjoyment of their rights. The inclusion and participation of women in decisions that affect their lives and their communities is key for*

*sustainable development. The Spring Forward Programme translates this vision of a society."*

In Palestine, the Programme will build on local initiatives, with the recognition that sustainable change must be locally owned and led. The work will focus on several priorities to support economic and political empowerment of women: cultural heritage with capacity building in marketing skills and support to the review of economic related policies and legislation; knowledge-building in electoral processes; establishment of a caucus to advocate for women's human rights and enhance women's political participation, among other activities.

### 3 questions to Salam Abu Baker

*In her address at the launch, Salam brought to light how support to community-based organizations is crucial to women's political and economic empowerment.*



*Salam (Ahmad Yassin) Abu Baker was born in 1975 in Yabad, Jenin. Since 2011, Salam has participated in a UN Women project that saw the establishment of Yabad Women's Association and Centre. Upon its establishment, Salam was elected Head of the Board of Trustees. She is also currently a Board Member, and the only female member, of the Yabad Youth Club and of the Committee of the Workers Union.*

**You are an active member of Yabad Women's Association but also other organizations in your community. What brought you to volunteer in the first place?**

I believe in volunteer work, and that it promotes human values. I came to Yabad Centre to help and contribute to the development of the local community. In Yabad, we started from scratch. UN Women played a major role in building the centre but we needed to develop our capacities and ensure that our activities focused on the community and the women members of the centre. I am proud that the Women's Centre is now an umbrella for all women in Yabad.

**What have you learnt from your experience in the Yabad Centre?**

While volunteering in Yabad, I have realized that what women needed the most were economic opportunities. I have also realized that when working with the community and in order to bring change, you need to have in mind different elements: the culture; the skills and aptitudes needed and available; and the perception of the local community regarding the women's centre and its members.

**The Spring Forward Programme aims also to empower women politically. What does politics mean for you? How would you define women's role in politics?**

I believe politics is not only stone throwing, but also social and voluntary work to serve our communities. I believe that as a volunteer I can help my community and participate in the development of my country and in politics. However, today, for a woman to effectively participate at the political level, she needs to overcome a number of challenges: within herself, within her family and her community. She should reach economic independence. This also leads to reduced violence within the family and community. If a woman has a strong financial base, she will be able to participate in decision-making. Women's economic situation and political status are closely interrelated in Palestine.

## **PROGRAMME UPDATES**

---

### **UN Women support to Palestinian ministries in the development of their 2014-2016 sectoral strategies**

A technical assistant consultant on gender responsive planning has been recruited by UN Women in September 2013, under the Increase Financing for Gender Equality Programme, funded by the European Commission. The consultant will work closely with the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) to provide support to a number of line ministries – including the Ministries of Labor, Agriculture, Social Affairs, Health, Education and Justice – to build the capacities of the respective planning teams on gender responsive planning and thus ensure the development of gender responsive sectoral strategies for the 2014-2016 cycle.

---

### **Signature of new Project Cooperation Agreements under the Spring Forward Programme**

In the framework of the implementation of the Spring Forward Programme in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, UN Women has signed in September 2013 the first Project Cooperation Agreements with the General Union of Palestinian Women (GUPW), the Women's Affairs Technical Committee (WATC) and Al Mahatta Gallery. WATC and GUPW will support the women's political participation component through capacity building of civil society and community-based organizations, and advocacy at grassroots level, political parties and young leaders. Al Mahatta will provide training in design and production of cultural products and work with a business consultant on the marketing of products. UN Women is currently finalizing a new cooperation agreement with the Central Election Commission of Palestine to implement the BRIDGE trainings workshops.

---

### **Finalization of the Knowledge Management Strategy on women's access to justice**

In September 2013, UN Women finalized a tailored Knowledge Management Strategy, under its project "Support for Delivery of Security and Justice Services to Women", funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID). The objective of the Strategy is for UN Women to capture processes and approaches, both positive and negative, of its work on women's access to justice, as well as the human face, focusing on women, their experiences and how the work has impacted women and their families, to help the main actors in Palestine to build on good practice, avoid repeating mistakes, and continue improving and delivering on commitments to women's rights. Knowledge products will address practitioners as well as others stakeholders. The first Knowledge Product is in process of development and will focus on the theme of "support to rehabilitation" in Correction and Rehabilitation Centres

---

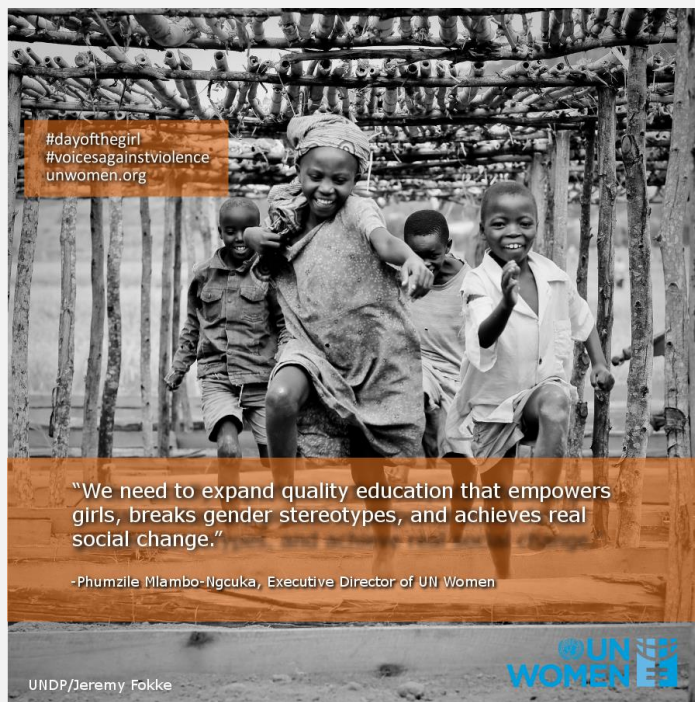
### **UN Women facilitates a workshop to increase participation of Gaza women's organizations in coordination structures and the new Humanitarian Programme Cycle.**

With the general aim of improving Gaza women's organizations' participation in coordination structures and the humanitarian programme cycle (HPC), UN Women, OHCHR, and OCHA held a one day workshop on 7 October 2013 with 20 Gaza women's organizations. The workshop aimed at providing the women's organizations with general information on coordination structures and the HPC, highlighting the importance of their engagement in coordination structures vis-à-vis mainstreaming gender in humanitarian response, and reaching concrete recommendations on how the clusters and sectors can better address and respond to the needs and areas of interest of women's organizations.

Among the main recommendations of the workshop was the recommendation that changes must be implemented by humanitarian clusters, including improving information sharing mechanisms, while the commitment of women's organizations in participating in humanitarian coordination structures to advance a gender equality agenda in the response should be increased.

## GLOBAL CALLS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### Launch of pioneering non-formal curriculum to end violence against women and girls



On the occasion of the International Day of the Girl Child, UN Women and the [World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts](#) (WAGGGS) launched **Voices against Violence**, a new non-formal education curriculum on ending violence against women and girls, putting young people at the heart of prevention efforts.

First of its kind, the *Voices against Violence* is a co-educational curriculum designed for various age groups ranging from 5 to 25 years. It provides girls, boys, young women and young men with tools and expertise to understand the root

causes of violence in their communities, to educate and involve their peers and communities to prevent such violence, and to learn about where to access support if they experience violence.

Working with youth organizations, UN partners and governments, UN Women and WAGGGS will roll out the curriculum to young people around the world. It will be adapted to national context, translated into local languages, and reach an estimated five million children and young people by 2020.

With one in three women and girls experiencing abuse in their lifetime, violence against women and girls is the most pervasive human rights violation. Gender-based violence starts early, and girls and young women are particularly vulnerable. Over 50 per cent of sexual assaults are committed against girls under 16 years. Globally, one in three girls are married before the age of 18 and one in nine before they turn 15.

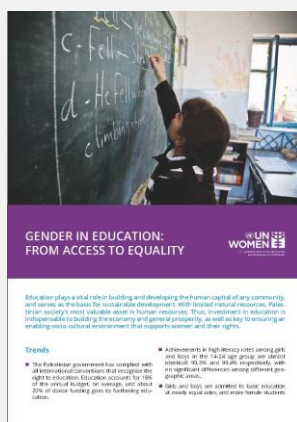
The new curriculum stems from the understanding that prevention should start early in life, when values and norms around gender equality are formed, by educating girls and boys about respectful relationships and gender equality. Effective prevention efforts entail a cross-generational approach, working within schools and communities, and providing young people the tools they need to challenge gender stereotypes, discrimination and violence.

Members of the Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting Movement can earn a 'badge' by completing a set of six age-appropriate sessions from the curriculum. Sessions can range from the youngest groups starting out with storytelling and games that prompt them to think about gender bias and stereotypes, while older age groups might organize poster competitions, visit and volunteer with local shelters, or develop local community-based campaigns and projects to address specific forms of violence against girls and women.

For more information on Voices against Violence, visit <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/prevention#WAGGGS>



## Gender in Education: From Access to Equality



## Social Protection of Women: From Protection to Empowerment



These two fact sheets are part of a series of fact sheets that will be developed in the upcoming month to present gender priorities and promote gender mainstreaming in the different sector working groups in LACS and support addressing gender in the aid coordination structure

## Advancing Gender Equality: Promising Practices. Case Studies from the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund.

The [report](#) provides case studies from 20 joint programmes supported by the Spanish MDG Achievement Fund (MDGF), including practical programmatic solutions relevant to the gender dimensions of the MDGs, as well as to on-going discussions around the post-2015 development framework. In many ways the programmes documented here anticipate the gaps that have been identified in relation to the promotion of gender equality in the MDGs. As such, they provide an evidence base that links to many of the key issues currently under discussion and offers opportunities for replicating successes in policy and practice. Areas addressed by the programmes include overcoming violence against women, access to sexual and reproductive health services, women's asset and property ownership, and participation in public and private decision-making. Programmes also present effective practices to address inequalities through partnership with some of the world's most excluded groups of women and girls.



## New reports on gender equality issues discussed at the UN General Assembly

On the occasion of the opening session of the Third Committee of the General Assembly, six [reports prepared by UN Women](#) were examined during three days of discussion on gender equality issues starting on 11 October 2013.

UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka presented the reports and discussed their recommendations with Member State representatives.

The reports cover the following issues:

- [Violence against women migrant workers](#)
- [Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas](#)
- Measures taken and progress achieved in the promotion of women and political participation
- [Women in development](#)
- [Update on the work of UN Women](#)
- [Measures taken and progress achieved in follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly](#)