

UN WOMEN COUNTRY OFFICE FOR JORDAN



Friday Notes

EDITORIAL

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Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to a new issue of the UN Women Jordan *Friday Notes!* In this edition, we are happy to present you our main highlights from the field from May to October 2014.

Whether by providing strategic support towards the adoption of a UN Assistant Framework (UNAF) in Jordan or taking the lead in the preparation of the Jordanian Resilience Plan, our Country Office is increasingly gaining trust and recognition at the UN Country Team level as well as with national partners and the donor community.

We are also pleased to introduce you the newly established Response, Recovery and Resilience Unit, presenting its work both in the Zaatari Refugee Camp as well as in Jordanian host communities and poverty pockets -where our Office is expanding its presence.

With two publications launched in June and one in the pipeline, our Country Office is reinforcing its role as knowledge gateway on gender issues in the Kingdom.

Finally, we will guide you through our many activities and achievements in both the Post 2015 Development Agenda and in the Beijing+20 national review process, with a special insight on our advocacy efforts.

I wish you a happy reading.

Warmly,

Giuseppe Belsito
Representative
UN Women Country Office for Jordan

News from Jordan

UN Women Jordan and Finland sign agreement to support women in host communities and refugee camps.



On 29 October, Mr. Giuseppe Belstio, UN Women Jordan Representative, and Ms. Liisa Maunula, Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of Finland, signed an agreement of 500,000 euro to support Women in Host Communities and in Jordan's Refugee Camps.

Focusing on prevention and response to Gender Based Violence and the promotion of self-reliance and social cohesion "Eid-bi-Eid", the project will be also complemented by a similar contribution received from the Government of Italy.

UN Coordination: UN Women's leadership in Social Protection and joint programs

As the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation inaugurates the Jordan Response Platform for the Syria Crisis (JRPSC), the UN system, the donor community and I/NGOs are joining forces in the preparation of a integrated national plan for 2015, which will incorporate both the humanitarian and development streams of the ongoing responses to the Syrian crisis in Jordan.

Within this framework, UN Women was requested to chair the Social Protection task force, which will develop the sector plan for 2015, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Social Development, UNICEF and UNHCR. Technical support to all other task forces has been also provided, to ensure that gender is well mainstreamed in the planning process.

UN Women has also provided strategic support in the recent shift from UNDAF to UNAF at the Country Team level, receiving recognition as the leading agency which actively promote a culture of joint programs among sister agencies.

UN Women Jordan launches its new website

After months of preparation, our Country Office is proud to announce that our new website is finally online at jordan.unwomen.org!

Visitors to the page will have an comprehensive, up-to-date and transparent access to all news related our activities and programs.

Response, Recovery and Resilience

In order to support the government's gradual shift from relief towards recovery and resilience and in line with the new Resident Coordinator's vision for the UN Country Team in Jordan, the Country Office has launched the 'Response, Recovery and Resilience Unit' on 1st September 2014.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ZAATARI REFUGEE CAMP

The day after the camp: self-resilience means business

In April 2014, UN WOMEN forged a new partnership with ILO to initiate a pilot project for Syrian women refugees in Zaatari. Titled, "My Business, My Life", the training focused on the provision of basic business skills, looking at ways for women to start and manage income-generating activities within the refugee community. As a result, women were empowered to be self-reliant in preparation of "the day after the camps".

"This course helped me to develop my skills and has given me more confidence. As a woman with a lot of children, I have learnt skills that have given me the confidence to rely on myself and be independent. I didn't previously have any exposure but now I feel like I know what it means to be a pioneer" affirmed one of the 20 participants in the pilot workshop held in the UN Women-run Oasis in the camp.



UN Women contributes to the inter-agency AMANI campaign



Running from April to December 2014, UN Women is conducting a series of activities as part of the inter-agency campaign AMANI ("My safety") which aims at raising awareness among the Syrian refugees of protection concerns and responses within their communities. Based on the story of a girl named "Amani", who arrives in Jordan with her family as refugee, the campaign builds on protection messages for children and parents.

It's graduation time at the Women and Girls Oasis!

On 26 June 2014, UN Women commemorated World Refugee Day with the graduation ceremony of the vocational and life-skills trainings organized in the Women and Girls Oasis of Zaatari refugee camp. Around 56 enthusiastic and optimistic women were awarded with the certificates stating that they have successfully completed the beautician and business-cycle workshops. As part of the Women's Economic

Empowerment programme, students were provided with in-kind grants to start their own business.

What makes our interventions in the camp innovative? Through this programme, UN Women provides a multi-dimensional interventions', whereby life skills, GBV awareness, civic engagement, economic empowerment and self-reliance opportunities are offered to Syrian women refugees.



In focus: UN Women provides hygiene kits and reproductive health training to women in Zaatari camp and in host communities

As part of its support to vulnerable Jordanian women - and to help filling a gap in the distribution of non-food items - UN WOMEN used CERF funds to procure, assemble and distribute hygiene kits during to Holy month of Ramadan.

A first batch of 1000 kits was delivered in July to the Moroccan hospital within the camp. In the following months, another 1,000 kits were released to ACTED for a further distribution in other districts. A series of activities were organized in collaboration with ACTED and Save Children Jordan, covering issues related to personal hygiene, food safety, breast feeding, complimentary feeding, and feeding during illness. UN Women also partnered with the Jordanian

Women's Union for the distribution of more hygienic kits in Jordan's northern governorates. Also on these occasions, distributions were complemented by awareness raising sessions. By discussing issues pertinent to both groups, both communal awareness and social cohesion were strengthened.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM HOST COMMUNITIES AND POVERTY POCKETS



UN Women awards women' microfinance projects in Al-Mafraq Governorate

On 10th September, UN Women Jordan awarded 20 women, who successfully started their microfinance projects after receiving a loan earlier this year. This event was part of the broader regional project "Spring Forward" founded by the EU, which aims at increasing the economic participation of women living in rural areas in the South Mediterranean region.

Participating women come from four poverty pockets, marked by a poverty rate that can reach 75%, especially among female-headed households. By starting small income generating projects, these women will have the chance to improve their life as well as the one of their families.

"We believe such effort would enhance women's economic participation in the local communities, by creating income-generating opportunities, which eventually will lead to alleviate poverty in the poorest areas in Al-Mafraq Governorate", affirmed Mr. Belsito, UN Women Jordan Representative.

UN Women signs an agreement with the Greater Zarqa Municipality

During an official municipal council session held on 30th September, Mr. Emad Al-Momani, Mayor of the Greater Zarqa Municipality, and our Representative, Mr. Giuseppe Belsito, signed a MoU in order to support women and girls living in the Zarqa Municipality. The agreement is designated to support municipal authorities in raising awareness about gender equality and women's empowerment through a number of joint initiatives and programmes, including to enhance the political and economic participation of women at the municipal level.

Within this framework, the Greater Zarqa Municipality and UN Women Jordan will have the opportunity to establish a permanent consultation forum of dialogue to exchange data and information and, therefore, to develop better targeted interventions in the area.

"UN Women will work in Zarqa to ensure the economic empowerment of the most marginalized" affirmed Mr. Belsito.



Knowledge gateway

UN Women Jordan continues to be the referral agency to analyze and present data and information related to status of women in the Kingdom. With two publications launched in June 2014, the Country Office serves as knowledge gateway on overlooked women's issues both in the humanitarian as well as in the development sphere.

UN Women and the Ministry of Social Development launch of Gender Perspective Study on Jordanian Host Communities.



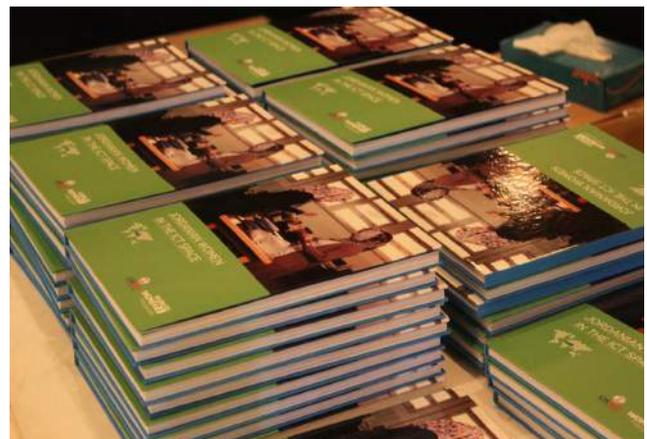
Held under the patronage and at the presence of Her Excellency, Mrs. Reem Abu Hassan, Minister of Social Development, UN Women launched on 22 June the gender perspective study titled *Beyond the Camps: Impact of the Syrian refugee influx on Jordanian Host Communities*. A trailblazing initiative by the Country Office to examine the impact of the Syrian refugee crisis on Jordanian host communities. With more than 610,000 Syrian refugees hosted by Jordan, women and girls are particular vulnerable to increasing scarcity and rising tensions, and the findings show that issues of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) among Jordanians have increased.

"This study represents a useful tool I can actually use in my cabinet to reflect the voices of Jordanian and Syrians, especially women". "When we talk about social cohesion, we need to hear the voices of women" affirmed HE Abu Hassan. The event was attended by participants from the donors community, national institutions, international NGOs and the civil society.

UN Women Jordan launches the very first national study on "Jordanian Women in the ICT Sector"

On 25th June, UN Women Jordan and the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology launched the study "Jordanian Women in the ICT Sector", the very first of its kind ever presented in the Kingdom! As part of a broader project founded by USAID- Achieving E-Equality in the ICT sector- the study evaluates and illustrates the status of women in this particular economic sector, while highlighting promising entrepreneurship and business incubators.

Building upon the previous studies conducted in 2002 and 2007, the study presents a number of recommendations to build Jordanian women's capacities and capabilities, enhance their skills, and promote their integration in the ICT workplace.



"ICT is one of Jordan's gold mines, where women can be the key players in reaping the benefits of this economic sector" affirmed Mr. Giuseppe Belsito, UN Women Jordan Representative.

Violence Against Women

Lifting up women's voices: early marriage play performance in Zaatari



On 13th August, the UN Women in partnership with the Jordanian Women's Union have displayed a show of the play "Because I was still a little girl" in Zaatari Camp. The theatrical performance is part of the Norwegian-funded joint project between UN Women, UNFPA and UNICEF "*Hemayati: promoting women and girls' health and well-being*", which aims at involving women and girls in cultural activities as a means of reflection, dialogue and awareness on early marriage and its effects on women, girls and society by presenting personal experiences on stage. The actual performance was followed by a very interactive discussion with the audience that, due to the conservative nature of their background, was supportive of early marriage as a way to protect girls.

UN Women Jordan is ON AIR!

On 21 and 24 September, our staff was hosted by Sa'a Suriya (the Syrian hour), to present our services and projects on Violence Against Women and Women Economic Empowerment, with live reportages from the field.

As an information sharing tool for Syrian refugees living in host communities, the programme is broadcasted live in all Kingdom. Sa'a Suriya is a Un Ponte Per... project, supported by UNESCO.



Post 2015 Development Agenda...

...Civil Society in the spotlight!

Since the first round of Post 2015 consultations in Jordan in 2013, UN Women Jordan has been leading the inclusion of civil society partners in incorporating global women's issues, gender equality, and the advancement of women's rights, in the dialogue, planning, and implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. As part of the UNDG project "*Continuing inclusive dialogue on the post-2015 development agenda*", the UNCT in Jordan has been selected as one of seven countries to run the second round of post-2015 national consultations under the theme "Partnership with civil society and other actors", along Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lesotho, Saint Lucia and Tunisia.

As one of the more active members of the UNCT's interagency Post 2015 working ground, UN Women reconvened the partners of the Post 2015 coalition established during the first phase of national Post 2015 consultations in 2013 and mobilized new constituencies to ensure that gender would lie at the very heart of this second round of consultations. UN Women Jordan also took the lead in organizing one of the four



thematic consultations envisaged for this phase and titled "*Combat stereotypes to ensure gender equality and decrease geographical disparities; reduce poverty and ensure equal access to social services*". Held on 22nd June, by other agencies in terms of number of participants from UN Agencies CSOs and government, issues discussed and recommendation by the participants. Members of the UN Women Jordan Civil Society Advisory Group were actively engaged in the overall process, providing strategic guidance during the planning process of the Country Office's strategy as well as during consultations.

UN Women Jordan also contributed to the outreach campaign related to the process, securing an interview with Dr. Salma Nims, the newly appointed Secretary General of the Jordanian National Commission for Women. "*You cannot create proper democratic development without meaningful representation of the voices of civil society*", Dr. Nims said during the interview. "*Civil society organizations should be included during the planning, implementation and monitoring stages of policy making*", she added.

Beijing+20 national review

RESULTS AT A GLANCE

- Seven UN Agencies engaged in the joint program “Realizing Beijing+20 in Jordan: Women in Action!”, namely UN Women, UNFPA, WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNDP and UNRWA
- 16 consultation events organized in collaboration with more than 10 national partners and under three different royal patronages
- More than 650 people from different constituencies directly consulted in 10 out of 14 governorates in Jordan
- Peak of 30,000 users engaged weekly on the UN Women Jordan Facebook page on Beijing +20 posts
- Media Compact agreement signed with The Jordan Times- the most important English newspaper in the Kingdom
- Support provided to national partners for the organization of a side event on Beijing+20 during the upcoming CSW59 on Women and Armed Conflict, to be hosted by the Permanent Mission of Jordan to the UN
- Two profiles from Jordan submitted to global Beijing+20 advocacy campaigns

Joining Forces, Expanding the Dialogue

Within the framework of the joint program “Realizing Beijing+20 in Jordan: Women in Action!”, UN Women continues to mobilize partners and create synergies with new constituencies to promote the Beijing+20 review and appraisal process in Jordan. Joint Beijing +20/Post 2015 consultation initiatives have been also organized in the field of Women and Media and Women and the Environment. Outcomes and recommendations from all the above mentioned consultation events, will fed into the Beijing+20 National Position Paper for Jordan, which is going to be presented by the Jordanian delegation during CSW59.

With one editorial on Women in the Decision making published in September 2014, a regular newsletter on Beijing+20 activities regularly circulated among partners, a number of joint press releases and weekly social media coverage, the the outreach of the process is blooming at its full potential, attracting more interest from the general public in Jordan.



Social mobilization and advocacy

#BRINGBACKOURGIRLS

Since May 2014, UN Women Jordan continues to mobilize different constituencies to share solidarity with the abducted girls in Nigeria and their families.



HeforShe campaign kicks off in Jordan!

On 23-24 October, UN Women Jordan participated at the Akhtaboot job fair, a famous national event attended by 17,000 youth from all over the Kingdom. This occasion has been pivotal not only to present the work of our Country Office but also to raise awareness on the #HeforShe campaign, collecting the support of numerous male participants.

