

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 November 2014 to May 2015.

This edition comes at the end of a very dynamic and engaging month for our Country Office, which actively coordinated two high level profile visits, namely the one of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ms. Bangura, as well as the joint field visit to Jordan of the Executive Boards of UNDP/ UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN Women and WFP.

In the following pages, we are proud to present progresses made by all Units in advancing the women's agenda in Jordan, with a special focus on efforts aimed at straightening resilience and social cohesion in Jordanian communities currently hosting a high number of Syrian refugees.

Various occasions of advocacy and social mobilization on International Women's Day as well as during the 16 Days of Activism on Gender Violence, continue to represent pivotal occasions for our Country Office to become a positive catalyst of change for gender equality, especially among the youth.

With an eye to scaling up gender mainstreaming at the level of the UN Country Team, we initiated critical synergies with national partners on inter-governmental processes and policy reform.

I wish you a happy reading.

Warmly,

Giuseppe Belsito

High level visits



The team welcomes the UN Women Executive Board Members to Jordan

From 24 April to 2 May 2015, the UN Country Team hosted the Joint Field Visit of the Executive Boards of UNDP/ UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN Women and WFP to Jordan. The Country Office organized various activities to present the variegated portfolio of initiatives and programs carried out in the Kingdom, such as a thematic discussion on 'Advancing Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women' with contributions from key national partners, a field visit to the shelter for survivors of gender violence in Zarqa, a dinner with our Civil Society Advisory Group and a high level meeting with Her Royal Highness Princess Basma bint Talal. On this occasion, Executive Boards members also visited the two Women and Girls Oasis in the Za'atari refugees camp, inaugurating the recently completed women's bazar. *'I'm impressed throughout my visit to Jordan by the commitment to women empowerment at all levels of the society, including at the highest level of its leadership'*- H.E. Amb. Petersen, President of the UN Women Executive Board.

Special Representative of the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict

During her tour in the region, Ms. Bangura visited Jordan from 22 to 26 April 2015. The Country Office facilitated a number of meetings for Ms. Bangura with representatives of Jordanian and Syrian civil society organizations, national women's machinaries and the women's committee of the Women and Girls Oasis in the Za'atari refugee camp.



International Women's Day

The third edition of the Women's Film Week kicks off on 8 March 2015

Held under the esteemed patronage and at the presence of HRH Princess Bassma Bint Talal (UN Women Goodwill Ambassador), UN Women Jordan - in partnership with the Royal Film Commission - launched the third edition of the Women's Film Week on 8 March 2015 at the Rainbow Theater, to mark International Women's Day (IWD).

'This year's celebrations come at special occasion. Tomorrow, in New York the United Nations and the Member States will mark the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and its Platform for Action - a process that brought the UN family, the government of Jordan and the civil society together with a common vision: achieving women's empowerment and fulfill the Beijing promise of a better and more equal future for women and girls worldwide' affirmed Mr. Giuseppe Belsito, UN Women Jordan Representative, during its opening remarks.

To further enrich the link with the Beijing+20 process, the event was held under the artistic direction of Ms. Ghada Saba, first Jordanian female filmmaker and global Beijing+20 Gender Equality Champion. The Women's Film Week opened with the Finnish-Moroccan documentary 'Dance of Outlaws', kindly sponsored by the Embassy of Finland in Beirut. Directed by Mohamed El Aboudi - who also attended the screening event- the documentary portrays the story of Hind, a Moroccan women raped during her childhood and consequently denied an official identity, who refuses to give up her dream of dignity, motherhood and love.

Running from 8 to 12 March, the third edition of the Women's Film Week focused on violence against women, presenting to the Jordanian public more than 14 movies and documentaries from all around the world which have been kindly sponsored by various Embassies and cultural centers in Amman.



Response, Recovery and Resilience

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ZAATARI REFUGEE CAMP

UN Women cash for work provides a model for women's engagement in camp life

In late 2013, UNICEF and UN Women signed an agreement of joint cooperation to support the empowerment of female refugees living in the Za'atari camp through the provision of self-reliance activities, and linking these to a sustainable production line. The first phase of this cooperation came to a close in December 2014, with 1000 baby kits and 5,000 school uniforms produced for UNICEF beneficiaries. More than 60 female refugees – targeted as heads of households and classified as 'vulnerable' – benefited from the cash for work opportunities produced by this, and the cooperation is being expanded into 2015 with a focus on baby kit production. For instance, in January and February the tailors within UN Women's centres produced 800 school uniforms. These cash for work opportunities are some of the few offered to women in Za'atari outside of areas such as cleaning, and provide critical financial support as well an opportunity to leave the home and gain respite from the monotony of prolonged camp life.



UN Women supports dialogues on Women, Peace and Security

In February 2015, UN Women Jordan organized two consultations with stakeholders to discuss their perspectives on national and global progress in the area of women, peace and security as contribution to the High Level review of the implementation of UNSC Res.1325 (2000) and the Beijing+20 process. The first consultation involved a group of Syrian refugees who serve as members of women's committee in Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan., while the second targeted a range of national governmental stakeholders and representatives of the Armed Forces.

Participants highlighted the need for greater support to women's civil society groups, the importance of women's engagement in conflict resolution and the importance to channel humanitarian aid in order to address the needs of both women and men.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM HOST COMMUNITIES AND POVERTY POCKETS

Spring Forward: Women and Youth in Action!

Within the framework of the regional EU- funded project 'Spring Forward', the UN Women and Jordan River Foundation teams hit the road to visit a number of selected women beneficiaries who have successfully started their small-scale businesses in the Governorate of Mafraq thanks to the loans received earlier this year.

For instance, the team met with Fadia, a woman who started a bakery shop in her house in order to support her children to attend school, as well as with Aida - a woman living with disabilities and serving as the single family breadwinner. On this occasion, the team attended a workshop on strategic planning and media outreach for partner community-based organisations.



Parallel to this, UN Women Jordan continues to collaborate with Jordan's General Federation Union and its women's committee. In March 2015, a training was organized to empower female members of the union's leadership in preparation of upcoming general elections within the union (October 2015).

UN Women and Youth for Youth Association award youth from Local District Councils

In February 2014, UN Women and Youth for Youth Association awarded more than 30 girls and boys from local district councils, who successfully completed a series of dedicated trainings and launched their own initiatives at the community level. On this occasion, youth representatives from

the rural areas of Jdeita (Irbid) and Dulail (Mafraq), presented their community-based initiatives, such as on re-use of grey water, paper recycling and youth-run productive kitchens with local products. The project is now moving on to new governorates located in the center of Jordan.



Gender Responsive Budgeting

UN Women's support to GRB in Jordan – both in the form of technical assistance and knowledge sharing with the Government of Jordan and in its support to advocacy and mobilisation with civil society partners – resulted in an increase in the annual budget allocation for women's key priorities. Analysis of the budget shows a 2% increase from 2013.

Sharing knowhow to foster gender equality

Study tour. UN Women Jordan and Egypt have collaborated to jointly organize a study tour for the Government of Jordan on Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB). The tour brought together 11 Government and non-governmental officials and partners to Egypt to explore the Egyptian experience in implementing GRB. Egypt was chosen due to its rich experience in GRB including, importantly, the establishment of an Equal Opportunities Unit within the Ministry of Finance, which was replicated in other Ministry's. The participants at the end of the tour were able to gather first-hand information on the practical implementation of GRB, to learn from best practices available in Egypt and to draft gender sensitive budget templates. The participants were also able to draw recommendation on how to move forward on the implementation of GRB. UN Women Jordan office will continue to encourage and support South-South and triangular cooperation to increase the use of GRB as an important tool to advance gender equality.



Action Plan. UN Women in close partnership with JNCW supported the members of the GRB network in finalizing the National Network Action Plan to Support GRB in Jordan (2015 – 2017). The action plan as well as the vision, mission, core values and mandate of the network has been published as an informative brochure during the launch of the GRB network in April 2015.

In focus: Citizen Budget Brochure

UN Women in close partnership with the Jordanian Coalition on Budget and the General Budget Department simplified the citizen budget brochure to make it more attractive and accessible to all Jordanian citizens. The updated brochure included explanation about Gender responsive budgeting and highlighted women and child share in the budget. Citizen budget is an invaluable tool in helping to initiate and sustain a dialogue between government and citizens.

Violence Against Women

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence

Building on the positive experience of 2013, UN Women Jordan mobilized more than 50 partners on the occasion of the 16 Days Of Activism Against Gender Violence, including the UN Country Team in Jordan, CSOs, national and international NGOs, youth associations. The 16 Days campaign in Jordan kicked off on 25 November with a joint press conference, attended by more than 20 national media partners. On this occasion, UN Women supported national civil society partners - under the leadership of the Jordanian National Commission for Women- in creating momentum around disputed art. 308 of the Jordanian Penal Code, which allows rapists to escape persecution by agreeing to marry the victim.

“We cannot accept that our sisters be married to their rapists. We need to work to abolish article 308 of the Jordanian Penal Code, as similar norms were already abrogated in many other countries in the region.” - Mr. Giuseppe Belsito, UN Women Jordan Representative

The campaign concluded with a joint closing ceremony attended by 900 participants and held

under the esteemed patronage and the presence of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Bint Talal,

‘What better proof of the destructive effect of apathy than the results of the gender gap index of 2014? Jordan ranks thirteenth among sixteen countries in the region, or thirty-eighth among forty other upper middle-income counties. Are we just going to sit back and accept this?’ - Her Royal Highness affirmed.

16 Days campaign at a glance

- 3,215 people directly involved in field events
- 22,350 users engaged online
- More than 60 events organized in all Governorates of Jordan and in the Za’atari refugee camp
- More than 30 articles published on national media outlets



Beijing+20 national review

Jordan in the spotlight at CSW59!



The Permanent Mission of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the UN and the Jordanian National Commission for Women – with the support of UN Women Jordan - organized a Beijing+20 side event titled ‘Women and Armed Conflicts: A Regional Perspective’ during the 59th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Attended by more than 130 participants from all over the world, the event comes at the hedge of the Beijing+20 review sustained by the joint programme ‘Realizing Beijing+20 in Jordan: Women in Action!’ (UN Women, UNFPA, WHO, UNICEF, UNRWA, UNDP, UNESCO, JNCW): an inclusive and comprehensive national appraisal process, that has no precedent in previous Beijing reviews carried out in Jordan. ‘[Women are the first victims in any war, not because men suffer less, but because they end up carrying the burden of the entire family](#)’ affirmed H.E. Mrs. Dina Kawar, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Jordan to the UN.

Women and Health: UN Women and WHO presents outcomes of national consultations

Held under the esteemed patronage and at the presence of HRH Princess Muna Al Hussein, UN Women and WHO in collaboration with the National Woman’s Health Care Center, presented the results of the Beijing+20 national consultations on Women and Health.

‘[I am confident that this national consultation process and this report will be critical to understand how strategically reposition ourselves raising awareness on women and health issues– and finding sustainable solutions for women’s priorities](#)’ affirmed Mr. Giuseppe Belsito, UN Women Jordan Representative.



At the forefront of advocacy

Jordan prepares for the implementation of the Post 2015 Development Agenda

With less than 300 days left before the expiration of the Millennium Development Goals, a Post-2015 stakeholders meeting organized by the United Nations in Jordan took place on 23 March 2015 to present the key updates on the process that will define a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and focused on partnerships opportunities at the country level to implement the new Development Agenda. UN Women contributed not only with a key note presentation during the meeting, but also with the re-activation of the Post 2015 Coalition initiated by our Country Office in 2013 in partnership with the civil society.



HeforShe: Social Media Rally

On 4 December, UN Women took the lead and launch a social media rally, inviting UN Staff in Jordan to join the solidarity movement for gender equality and sign the online petition. In collaboration with the UN Communication Group, pictures of UN staff were posted on agencies' official social media accounts during the day. The rally kicked off with a picture of the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Jordan, Mr. Edward Kallon.



On 5 December, UN Women celebrated the International Volunteer Day with the volunteers of the Shams Community in Irbid.

Part of the activities included a photo booth for the HeforShe campaign fit out in the Arabella Mall in Irbid, where volunteers engaged the public in making a stand for gender equality.

News from Jordan

UN COORDINATION

As per recommendations received from the UNCT, UN Women Jordan provide assistance to develop the *UNCT Performance Indicators on gender equality and women's empowerment (Gender Scorecard)*. Running between November and December 2014, the process involved various governmental and non-governmental partners and the entire UN System. The final version of the Scorecard report has been endorsed by the UNCT in January 2015.

As a follow up on the results of the Scorecard exercise, the UNCT created a *Gender Theme Group (GTG)* to mainstream gender in the implementation of the UNAF 2015-2017. Chaired by UN Women, the GTG is held at the level of Head of Agencies.

The first meeting of the GTG has been held on 8 March 2015, with the participation of 10 UN Agencies. On this occasion, the group endorsed an annual work plan, which includes a set of initiatives, such as the development of a gender strategy for the UNCT, various training opportunities for gender focal points and the development of dedicated resource tools, along with one joint advocacy campaign to be carried out in collaboration with the UN Communication Group.

#WhatDoesItTake?

As the Syria crisis enters its fifth year, our Country Office joined other UN agencies, Member States, world leaders and the wider humanitarian community to send a message of solidarity with the people of Syria with the social media campaign #WhatDoesItTakes. On 25 March 2015, the UN Women Jordan Representative, Mr. Giuseppe Belsito, shared the following message to the world:



[#WhatDoesItTakes to end violence against women in the Syria Crisis?](#)

Civil Society Advisory Group welcomes a Youth member

In line with the Global Civil Society Advisory Group, also the Jordan's Group recently welcomed a new youth member selected among various candidatures received by young advocators in Jordan. The objective is to progressively expand the Group to new youth representatives till the end of the year towards the creation of a separate Youth Civil Society Advisory Group.

Knowledge gateway



On 1 December 2014, UN Women Jordan and UNV launched the Volunteer Training Manual on gaining support and advocacy for women's rights in CEDAW. The manual aims at informing young volunteers about the fundamental women's rights and main principles of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and develop their capacity to advocate for women's rights in Jordan.

This initiative concludes the project "Empowering Youth to Advocate for Women's Human Rights Through Volunteerism" which aims at engaging and mobilize enthusiastic youth volunteers and empower them to advocate for women's rights in the different governorates of the Kingdom.