

UN WOMEN COUNTRY OFFICE FOR JORDAN



Friday Notes

EDITORIAL

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

NEWS FROM JORDAN

PAG. 2-3

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM CAMPAIGN

PAG.4

RESPONSE, RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE

PAG. 5-8

- Highlights from the Za'atari
Refugee Camp
- Highlights from Host
Communities and Poverty
Pockets

IN FOCUS: FOSTER ACCOUNTABILITY TO FINANCE FOR GENDER EQUALITY

PAG.8

UN COORDINATION

PAG.9

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 August to December 2015.

This issue comes at the conclusion of unprecedented national coordination efforts to mark the *16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence* campaign. The UN Country team in Jordan - under the leadership of UN Women, the Jordanian National Commission for Women, the USAID-funded Takamol Gender Program and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands joined forces to organize more than 200 events in all Governorates of Jordan, involving 100 national partners among governmental institutions, the civil society, the private sector and the youth. Responding the UNiTE campaign call to orange the world, the UNESCO-world heritage site of Petra has been lit in orange to mark the opening of the national campaign.

The Country Office continues to straighten its humanitarian mandate with the launch of a thirds safe space for women and girls in the Za'atari refugee camp, in partnership with WFP - a unique collaboration to provide economic empowerment programs for Syrian refugees. Parallel to this, we scaled up our engagement in Jordanian host communities, with a special focus on promoting economic empowerment for young girls living in marginalized areas and social cohesion through football and community initiatives.

I am also particularly proud to announce the launch of a new joint program to support rural women's economic empowerment, developed in partnership with FAO, UNESCO and WFP. This, along with other activities featured in this edition, showcase the Country Office's leadership in promoting gender focused initiative in inter-agency efforts in line with the Delivery as ONE approach.

I wish you a happy reading.

Warmly,

Giuseppe Belsito
Representative

News from Jordan

Jordan hosts the Resilience Development Forum

From 6 to 9 November 2015, Jordan hosted the *Resilience Development Forum: Integrating responses, expanding partnerships (RDF)*, organized within the framework of the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP), and the Regional United Nations Development Group. The scope of the RDF included the six countries that are most affected by the Syria crisis – Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey, in addition to Syria itself. On this occasion, the UN Women Deputy Executive Director, Mr. Yannick Glemarec, co-chaired two high level panels on inclusive resilience building for women and girls as well as on fostering inclusiveness in the resilience aid architecture. At the margins of the Forum, Mr. Glemarec met with HE Ms. Reem Abu Hassan, Minister of Social Development, to discuss progresses as well as the ongoing cooperation with UN Women in Jordan. The Country Office also took part in the regional booth dedicated to the UN Women's response to the Syrian crisis in the RDF Resilience-building Innovation Marketplace. The Marketplace was designed to give space for the many partners involved in the response to the Syria crisis to showcase their innovative initiatives and ideas, and to share knowledge, lessons learned, best practices and technologies employed.



UN Women commits to better include youth in the discourse on Peace and Security

On 21 August 2015, the Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security brought together academics, international community leaders and young people from around the world to debate a new international agenda on youth, peace and security. The UN Women's Regional Director for Arab States, Mr. Mohammad Naciri, participated in a panel titled 'Youth, Peace and Security: unlock the potential for conflict prevention and peacebuilding'. The session was moderated by Ms. Alaa Murabit – member of the UN Women Global Civil Society Advisory Group. *"What we see is that your generation has been far better at breaking down gender barriers than mine or the ones before. Young people are inclusive, curious, passionate – and it is this passion, this curiosity and this vision we need as we move forward"* affirmed Mr. Naciri in his opening remarks. Recalling international commitments to ensure women participation in peace-keeping, peace-building and negotiation processes – such as the Beijing Declaration and UN Security Council Resolution 1325 – Mr. Naciri reaffirmed UN Women's commitment to supporting the youth movement to better include the voice and instances of youth at all levels of peace and security engagement, making reference to the UN Women regional efforts to work with youth-based community led initiatives.





Catalyzing civil society’s action towards the adoption of the SDGs

Building on the gender-focused Post-2015 Coalition launched by UN Women in collaboration with Sisterhood is Global Institute (SIGI) in 2012, on 3 August UN Women – on behalf of the UN system in Jordan – brought together civil society partners from different constituencies to discuss the possible expansion of the Coalition to include review and oversight of all themes and cross-cutting topics included in the new set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that Member States are set to adopt in September 2015. *‘Only when civil society works together under a common voice, we can ensure that its priorities and issues will be heard in the post-2015 process... the UN system stands ready to continue*

supporting civil society in this process’ affirmed Mr. Belsito, Representative of the UN Women Country Office for Jordan. On this occasion, Her Excellency Dr. Asma Khader, on behalf of SIGI, presented a proposed structure for a new, so-called ‘Post-2015 Civil Society Coalition’ Jordan. Participants welcomed the initiative, stressing the need to ensure inclusiveness in the process for all stakeholders – including youth and people living with disabilities. *‘The voice of civil society is pivotal to influence the process of setting priorities for Jordan under any new Sustainable Development Goals’* affirmed Dr. Salma Nims, Secretary General of the Jordanian National Commission for Women. The meeting ended with agreement on a road map to institutionalize an expanded Coalition and to reach consensus on its priorities for Jordan in the years to come.

UN 70th Anniversary in the spotlight



UN Women joined the UN Country Team in Jordan in the celebration of the UN 70th Anniversary! Beneficiaries of the UN Women-led ‘Women and Girls Oasis’ in the Za’atari refugee camp produced mosaics coasters featuring the 70th logo, which have been donated by the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator to high dignitaries in Jordan on the occasion of UN Day.

New Intern portal launched

UN WOMEN JORDAN

Internships

The UN Women Internship Programme offers a small group of outstanding students the opportunity to acquire direct exposure to UN Women’s work. It is designed to complement women’s development-oriented studies with practical experience in various aspects of multilateral technical cooperation but also complements other international studies, including law. We accept students currently enrolled in a master’s, post-master’s or doctorate programme, or in the final year of a bachelor’s programme as well as recent graduates (maximum one year after graduation).

Interns are normally involved in some aspect of the design, implementation and evaluation of UN Women-supported programmes and projects. Every attempt is made to match the interests of the intern with the needs of the organization.

Internship assignments vary in length, between two and six months, according to the availability and academic requirements of the intern, as well as the needs of UN Women. Assignments are available on a part-time and full-time basis throughout the year.

UN Women does not pay for internships. The costs associated with internships must be borne by the nominating institution, related institution or government, which may provide the required financial assistance to its students or by the student, who will have to obtain financing for subsistence and make his or her own arrangements for travel, accommodation, etc.

With the aim to continue promoting the Country Office’s website, UN Women Jordan created a new portal to facilitate the collection of internship applications. The system is also design to support the program staff in the the selection process.

16 Days of Activism campaign

Jordan turns orange!

The Campaign uniquely – and for the first time in Jordan - brought together the United Nations System in Jordan - under the leadership of UN Women, the Jordanian National Commission for Women (main national women’s machinery), the USAID-funded Takamol gender program, the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and more than 100 civil society organizations to step up efforts to end gender based violence. Also for the first time - since the campaign started to be marked in the Kingdom -



advocacy messages based on real-life stories have been displayed in an unprecedented street campaign highlighting the different forms of gender-based violence (GBV). More than 200 events have been organized in all governorates of Jordan, which have been advertised on a joint calendar of events. In addition, on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the UN Country Team in Jordan lighted up in orange the UNESCO world heritage archeological site of Petra and Le Royal Hotel in Amman. During a dedicated event held under the esteemed patronage and at the presence of HRH Princess Basma int Talal, an animated video on CEDAW has been presented by UN Women - as part of a dedicated joint UN Women/UNFPA/UNICEF program aimed at revising negative connotation associated with the convention among the general public.

Syrian refugees take part in the 16 Days of activism campaign

UN Women, in collaboration with UNHCR, the Government of Jordan, IOM and various international NGOs engaged the Syrian refugee community residing in the Za'atari camp in the 16 Days campaign 2015. A joint opening event has been organized on 25 November 2015, including various activities for families. Young girls - who benefit from the literacy classes organized in the UN Women-led Oasis in the camp, performed a silent play to raise awareness on the importance of education in preventing early marriage. In addition, on 2 December 2015, UN Women in partnership with IMC organized a march around the perimeter of the refugee camp to advocate for women’s empowerment. The event has been attended by more than 300 men, women, boys and girls.



Response, Recovery and Resilience

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ZAATARI REFUGEE CAMP

Proud to present a new safe space in the Za'atari refugee camp

Thanks to an unprecedented collaboration effort, UN Women Jordan and WFP launched on 10 November 2015 the third safe space for women and girls in Za'atari refugee camp - thanks to the generous contribution of the Governments of Finland and Italy. The Oasis uses the building generously donated by the Civil Military Support Element of the United States of America and it is supported by the Government of Jordan's Syrian Refugee Affairs Directorate. *'Restoring the dignity of women affected by conflict and war is at the heart of our work in Za'atari camp'* said Giuseppe Belsito, UN Women Jordan Representative. *'We are proud to partner with WFP to allow us to maximize our impact in the work we undertake with refugees. The partnership combines the strength and expertise of WFP in humanitarian delivery with the expertise of UN Women in gender equality, empowerment, and women's rights'*. In addition to helping families meet their basic needs, the UN Women and WFP programme empowers women and girls in Za'atari camp to play a greater role in local decision making through UN Women's female camp committees. Attended by various representatives of the donor community and camp-based authorities, the launch event for the third centre provided an opportunity to present the work done through the Oasis for women and girls in support of Syrian women and girls.



Ms Kirsikka Lehto-Asikainen, Director of MENA/MOFA, Government of Finland, with Cons. Marco Salaris from the Embassy of Italy, symbolically cutting the red ribbon to inaugurate the safe space.



A splash of color in the UN Women Oasis: Jordanian students and Syrian refugees give new design to the safe space

UN Women Jordan launched a design competition to 'color' the 'Women and Girls Oasis' in the Za'atari refugee camp. During the month of September, Syrian refugees attending the various workshops and activities organized in the UN Women safe spaces in the camp, drawn various creative designs to enrich the Oasis. On 16 November, the students of the School of Architecture and Built Environment of the German-Jordanian University visited the UN Women-led Oasis and worked side by side with Syrian refugees to realize their creations and paint the Oasis's caravans. The event has been generously sponsored by the Government of Japan. Following this initiative, all three Oasis run by UN Women will be painted followed the best designs created by students and Syrian refugees.

Engaging men and boys in the discourse on gender based violence



UN Women Jordan, in partnership with ARDD Legal Aid, launched a new program in the Za'atari refugee camp which aims at engaging men and boys on sexual and gender based violence through psychological and peer-to-peer support. Dedicated sessions organized over the period of 6 months will provide a safe space of dialogue for men and boys on SGBV-related issue which directly affect their lives. Parallel to this, this initiative also aims at promote and raise awareness on men and boys active role in preventing violence against women and girls.

In focus: UN Women trains Jordanian peacekeepers to address gender violence



UN Women Jordan is supporting the Government of Jordan to ensure that its deployments of peacekeepers are equipped to address and combat sexual violence in conflict. To this end, Major-General Patrick Cammaert, a leading international expert on peacekeeping who has served in numerous capacities with both the Royal Netherlands Marine Corps and the United Nations –including commanding UN troops in missions in Cambodia, Ethiopia and Eritrea, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, and more recently as the head of the Gaza Commission of Inquiry (2014)-, has just completed the first in a series of training for Jordan's peacekeepers, undertaken in collaboration with the Jordan Armed Forces in the Peacekeeping Operations Training Centre. *'Pre-deployment training on conflict related sexual violence is vital for a successful implementation of the mandate'* affirmed Major-General Patrick C. Cammaert. This support recognizes Jordan's prominent role as a provider of global peace and security expertise. Since the creation of the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Jordan has been among the top ten countries worldwide contributing to UN Peacekeeping Troops and UN Police Officers – with an estimated number of 61,611 officers deployed in the past 10 years.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM HOST COMMUNITIES AND POVERTY POCKETS

Social cohesion and sport: girls access public space

Forging positive bonds between Syrian and Jordanian youth through sports, UN Women in partnership with the Asian Football Development Project (AFDP) and Search for Common Ground (SFCG), is holding a series of community and football activities tailored towards girls in the Kingdom. The project aims to bring Syrian refugees and Jordanian host communities together while also empowering young girls and further developing their skills for peaceful conflict resolution through physical education, sport and football. The collaboration consists of a series of trainings for coaches, exciting football tournaments, and various community activities.



The activities will be launched as Jordan gears up to host the 2016 FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup, the largest sporting event in the history of the Kingdom. Throughout the 12-month collaboration, football coaches and physical education teachers will be trained to use football and fun to promote healthy conflict resolution among their students. These methods will be employed during a series of engaging three-day football camps and one-day football tournaments to be carried out in the northern cities of Mafraq, Irbid and Ramtha, providing safe spaces for Syrians and Jordanian youth to interact. These cities will also host small community projects, to be designed and developed by pairs of Syrian and Jordanian girls, further promoting trust-building and cross-cultural understanding.

Promoting training and professional development for young girls living in marginalized areas.

On 1 October 2015, UN Women Jordan launched the program 'Services to improve the socio-economic well-being of vulnerable Jordanian women in host communities in Al Mafraq, Irbid and Zarqa Governorates' to boost employability and civic engagement opportunities for women and girls, aged 18-26, in the targeted poverty pockets and host communities. UN Women will offer career guidance, technical trainings and job placement services to more than 150 participants- with the specific aim of increasing women and girls' employability in national garment factories. The first 50 participants from Mafraq, who successfully passed the training course has been awarded by UN Women on 8 December 2015.



Micro-credit and business development services for vulnerable women

Within the framework of the EU-funded regional program 'Spring Forward for Women', UN Women Jordan- in partnership with Jordan River Foundation- organized an open day for women and girls living in marginalized areas. During the event, loans beneficiaries of the UN Women' micro credit scheme had the possibility to interact with institutions providing financial and non-financial services at the community level. Parallel to this, Jordan River Foundation organized two awareness raising session on child abuse and a puppet show for participating kids from the Hamra Suheim Elementary School.



In focus: Fostering accountability in financing for gender equality

Organized by UN Women Jordan and the Jordanian National Commission for Women (JNCW), a six-day specialized training workshop on gender-responsive budgeting took place between 11-16 September 2015. The main goal of the event was to raise awareness on mainstreaming gender in general budgets, ensuring that funds allocation address specific gender needs and achieve the optimal use of available resources to advance gender equality. Participants included members of the National Network of Gender-responsive Budgeting, analysts of the general budget from the Directorate of General Budget as well as other civil servants involved in the process within different ministries.

Over the span of six days, participants gained a better understanding of gender as a criteria to analyze budgets as well as gender-based discrimination and ways of addressing it. In addition, participants looked at women's rights, safeguarded by international conventions and national legislations, and examined ways to safeguard these rights in budgeting. The training workshop sheds the light on successful experiences of gender-responsive budgets in the region in order to learn from the best practices.

Empowering women in the public sector

As part of the Multi Country Office program 'Mixité and Leadership'- managed by the UN Women Morocco MCO and funded by France - UN Women Jordan signed a partnership cooperation agreement with the Jordanian National Commission for Women (JNCW) and the Ministry of Public Sector Development in September 2015. The main objective of this collaboration is to promote the empowerment of women working in the public sector, promoting opportunities for their career advancement, participation in the decision making and access to leadership positions.

Based on the findings of a study recently conducted by the Ministry of Public Sector Development, a series of trainings have been organized for women civil servant. In addition, a small delegation of Jordanian participants participated in the training organized in the prestigious Paris-based ENA institute along with other colleagues from the region. The training will be also beneficial to create a regional network of women civil servant, in order to exchange good practices and lessons learnt.

UN Coordination

HIGHLIGHTS

Gender mainstreaming in interagency efforts

As part of the annual work plan of the Gender Theme Group, a UN Women staff has been seconded to the office of the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Jordan for three months. During the assignment, a gender marker system for joint programs has been introduced in the Inter-Agency Projects Approval Committee and all active joint programs have been rated. In addition, a guidance note on how to mainstream gender in the formulation of the Business Operations Strategy has been developed and presented to the Operation Management Team.

Fostering gender sensitive approaches in resilience

UN Women Jordan, in collaboration with the Jordanian National Commission for Women, developed sectoral gender tip-sheets which has been presented to the various task forces created under the Jordan Response Platform for the Syria Crisis during the retreat organized to draft the Jordan Response Plan 2016. In its capacity of co-chair of the Social Protection Task Force, UN Women has also worked in close collaboration with the Ministry of Social Development and national actors to develop tailor-made responses and strategies for the sector vis à vis the formulation of the 2016 Jordan Response Plan.

In addition, UN Women provided strategic support for the review of the self-assessment gender marker rates made by implementing partners for all projects endorsed by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation under the Jordan Response Plan 2015.

Fostering national capacity to mainstream gender in programming

In line with the annual work plan of the Gender Theme Group, UN Women Jordan, in partnership with UNICEF Jordan, United Nations OCHA, UNHCR Jordan and UNFPA Jordan, organized a two-day training on gender mainstreaming in humanitarian and resilience programmes for national implementing partners on 6-7 December 2015 in Mafrq.



Accelerating Progress toward the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women in Jordan

UN Women Jordan in partnership with FAO, UNESCO and WFP, launched a dedicated joint program to secure rural women's livelihood and rights in Jordan in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and as an entry point for building resilience in the context of the Syrian crisis. The program will promote food and nutrition security through micro-homestead production intervention combined with nutrition education for targeted women. In addition, improved livelihoods for women and men will be secured through the revival of local economies for sustainable employment, income generation and to promote gender equality.