



Bringing new hope in lives of Syrian women survivors of family-based violence

One look at Amal, 46, and you can tell that she is feeling miserable inside. The red and blue bruises on her face provide a glimpse of her battered psychological state. She feels lost, vulnerable and hopeless. "I do not know if I have any rights or even access to support of any kind. All I know is that I need help," says Amal, a mother of five. Amal was admitted to Al-Halbouni health clinic in Damascus for medical consultation, after she had been severely beaten by her husband.

"I welcomed Amal and tried to reassure her that she is not alone, we are here to listen and support her in every way medically, psychologically and even legally", says the legal consultant at Al-Halbouni clinic while recalling her first meeting with Amal.

Supported by UNFPA Syria, Al-Halbouni clinic is one of the Syrian Family Planning Association (SFPA) clinics, mandated to provide services such as medical examination, social services and legal counseling for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV).

Thanks to the integrated package of support services provided by Al-Halbouni clinic, Amal feels somewhat more motivated to deal with her emotional trauma. "I feel more aware of my rights now than I ever did before and how to access support in times of need", Amal says.

In line with the SFPA approach to involve men in search of durable solutions to issues of GBV, Amal's husband was contacted by the mobile team of SFPA and offered psychosocial consultation and services. "The crisis we face is too harsh and I was not able to control myself," he said.

He was made aware of the protection rights available to women in the event of being dealt with violently at home, and counseled about the need for the couple to support each other and derive mutual strength from being together.

Reunited with her family and husband, Amal now visits the clinic regularly to improve her psychological well-being as well as skills that can help enhance her livelihood prospects through participation in vocational training courses organized by SFPA.

Three months after accessing various services at the SFPA-run Al Halbouni clinic, Amal feels alive and rejuvenated. She reports that relations with her husband have never been better and that her husband's violent behavior is now a thing of the past. Amal, whose name means 'hope' in Arabic, lives by two hopes: that crisis in Syria ends soon and the ties with her family and husband continue to be optimal.

AL-Halbouni Clinic is one of the three centres in Damascus and another seven centres around Syria that are supported by UNFPA through deployment of staff and the provision of reproductive health services and commodities to enable women to lead healthy lives.

Source: <http://syria.unfpa.org/news/bringing-new-hope-lives-syrian-women-survivors-family-based-violence>

HIGHLIGHTS OF UNFPA ACTIVITY DURING JUNE 2016

Syrian Arab Republic from all channels

- 168,570** reproductive health services delivered to Syrians
- 5,674** deliveries supported including 1,395 Caesarean section deliveries
- 9,525** gender-based violence response services provided to Syrians
- 3,628** women accessed women safe spaces
- 5,807** dignity kits distributed

In neighbouring countries affected by the crisis

- 13,966** reproductive health services delivered to Syrian refugees
- 3,991** Syrian refugees benefited from reproductive health related messages through outreach and awareness activities.
- 5,120** Syrian refugees benefited from family planning services and consultations
- 30,000** Syrian refugees benefited from distribution of reproductive health kits.
- 2,695** beneficiaries received gender-based violence services
- 11,772** Syrian refugees accessed women safe spaces and participated in activities in camps and host communities.
- 3,706** Syrian refugees reached with gender-based violence related messages

500 babies have been safely delivered at the UNFPA supported hospital in Azraq camp, which is the second largest Syrian refugee camp in Jordan. UNFPA is the sole provider of reproductive health services in the Azraq camp including comprehensive emergency obstetric care.

UNFPA MISSION:

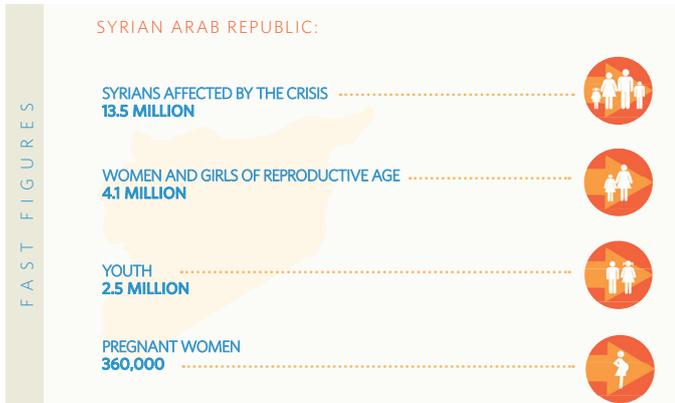
UNFPA believes that every Syrian woman and girl has the right to have access to affordable reproductive health care and be effectively protected from gender-based violence. UNFPA and partners are scaling up efforts to empower and improve the lives of Syrian women and youth and impacted communities inside Syria and in host countries, including by advocating for human rights and gender equality, to better cope with and recover from the crisis.

UNFPA: Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.



HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC FROM ALL CHANNELS



SOURCES: UNHCR, OCHA and UNFPA May 2016

UNFPA RESPONSE IN SYRIA (MARCH 2016)

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND SAFE MOTHERHOOD

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

134,652 reproductive health services

- 578 deliveries supported by UNFPA for women above 18
- 451 Caesarean-section deliveries
- 1,314 deliveries for women under 18
- 9,692 ante-natal care services
- 9,894 family planning beneficiaries

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES **33,533** services

AWARENESS **22,670** beneficiaries

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

RESPONSE SERVICES **6,584** women and girls

WOMEN ACCESSING SAFE SPACES **1,920** women and girls
677 women and girls (recreational activities)

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES **10,891** services

TRAINING **59** social workers

UNFPA-SUPPORTED FACILITIES IN SYRIA



Number of women's spaces

18



Number of field reproductive health clinics or mobile teams

74



Number of health facilities

930

RESPONSE THROUGH CROSS-BORDER MODALITY

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND SAFE MOTHERHOOD

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

22,132 beneficiaries received services in the northern part of Syria

- 1,358 safe deliveries
- 321 Caesarean-section deliveries
- 144 pregnancies under 18
- 4,746 ante-natal care services
- 374 post-natal care services
- 1,689 family planning

11,786 beneficiaries received services in the southern part of Syria

- 1,029 safe deliveries and 623 C-sections
- 250 pregnancies under 18
- 3,142 ante-natal care services
- 232 post-natal care services
- 1,717 family planning services

AWARENESS SESSIONS

321 women and girls participated in the northern part of Syria and 255 women reached through outreach activities.

155 women and girls participated in the southern part of Syria

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

RESPONSE SERVICES

2,170 beneficiaries received gender-based violence services in the northern part of Syria

771 beneficiaries received gender-based violence services in the southern part of Syria

WOMEN ACCESSING SAFE SPACES

1,259 beneficiaries accessed women safe spaces in the northern part of Syria

449 beneficiaries accessed women safe spaces in the southern part of Syria

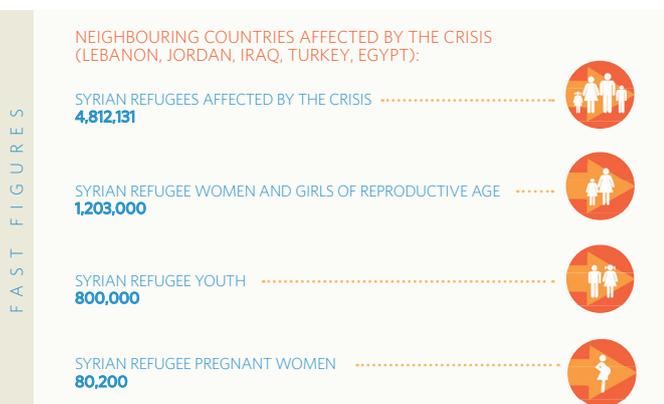
TRAINING

14 social workers

"...I feel that I liberated my body, my feelings, my expressions here, I can tell my abuser that you can no longer destroy me ... enough!!" said a beneficiary from services provided by KAFA NGO in Lebanon.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS


SOURCES: UNHCR, OCHA and UNFPA


REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND SAFE MOTHERHOOD

TURKEY	
SERVICES	2,733 services for Syrian and Turkish beneficiaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 636 ante-natal care services 1,639 family planning services 41 pregnancies for women under 18
AWARENESS SESSIONS	315 Syrian and Turkish beneficiaries
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	4,400 Syrian Turkish beneficiaries
TRAINING	39 nurses and midwives trained in Turkey
SUPPLIES	900 copies of brochure on breast feeding, ante-natal care and family planning distributed

LEBANON	
SERVICES	53 ante-natal care services
AWARENESS SESSIONS	716 beneficiaries

JORDAN	
SERVICES	8,189 reproductive health services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 237 safe deliveries and 16 C-sections 26 pregnancy under 18 1,544 family planning services 3,584 ante-natal care services 827 post-natal care services 1,682 infections treated
AWARENESS SESSIONS	2,655 beneficiaries in camp and in host communities

IRAQ	
SERVICES	3,044 beneficiaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60 safe deliveries and 38 C-sections 1,937 family planning services 315 ante-natal care services 133 post-natal care services
AWARENESS SESSIONS	1,051 beneficiaries



GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

TURKEY	
SERVICES TO SURVIVORS	69 services
WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	1,264 Syrian beneficiaries
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	843 Syrian beneficiaries
SUPPLIES	28 family hygiene kits distributed (140 beneficiaries) 100 copies of an Arabic brochures on GBV was distributed to Syrian women in Ulubey/Huksam Centre.



GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

LEBANON	
RESPONSE TO SURVIVORS	305 services
WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	121 Syrian beneficiaries
SUPPLIES	30 dignity kits distributed

IRAQ	
SERVICES TO SURVIVORS	24 women and girls, of which 7 new
RESPONSE SERVICES	770 services
AWARENESS SESSIONS AND CAMPAIGNS	387 women and girls
SUPPLIES	10 dignity kits distributed

JORDAN	
RESPONSE SERVICES	1,551 services
WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	9,797 Syrian beneficiaries
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	2,463 women, girls, men and boys Women and girls accessing safe spaces for recreational activities 2,817



SUPPORTING ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH

EGYPT	
WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	326 Syrian beneficiaries
TRAINING	29 social workers

SYRIA	
ACTIVITIES	150 Syrian young people

LEBANON	
ACTIVITIES	75 Syrian young people

JORDAN	
ACTIVITIES	1,015 Syrian and Jordanian young people

IRAQ	
ACTIVITIES	87 Syrian young people

* Activities include health and GBV related training and recreational activities

UNFPA-SUPPORTED FACILITIES



Number of women's spaces

58

Lebanon
5
Jordan
19
Iraq
10
Egypt
4
Turkey
20



Number of field reproductive health clinics or mobile teams

80

Jordan
24
(14 in host communities, 10 in camps)
Iraq
25
(12 in camps, 13 in host communities)
Egypt
12
Turkey
17
Lebanon
2



Number of youth centres and safe spaces

25

Lebanon
5
Jordan
11
Iraq
3
Egypt
4
Turkey
2

STORIES FROM SYRIAN REFUGEES | TURKEY

STORIES FROM SYRIAN REFUGEES | JORDAN



One of the social activities organised at an IMPR centre in Turkey
source UNFPA Turkey

There is hope!

Samra

Samra is a 27 year-old Syrian woman who has three children. She arrived in Turkey four months ago after experiencing the suffering and difficulties of traveling and crossing the border illegally although she was pregnant. Her journey to Turkey was full of challenges and risks, but that is incomparable to what she had been through when she was in Syria. Back home, Samra had no access to proper medical care due to the ongoing conflict. Samra visited the women's centre of the Turkish NGO, IMPR, a UNFPA implementing partner after she heard about the centre and services provided there, particularly services provided to pregnant women.

When Samra visited the IMPR women center, she was pregnant in her seventh month and it was obvious that she was suffering from exhaustion, tiredness, dizziness and anaemia. She underwent the needed medical checkups and was assured that her baby was fine.

She kept visiting the centre regularly until she gave birth to a baby girl. But her visits to the centre continued, even after delivery. She said that the quality of services provided in the centre encouraged her to visit the centre regularly for post-natal care.

Maha

Maha is a girl who witnessed atrocities during the Syrian conflict and suffered from the bitterness of displacement. But having a disability added more to her suffering as she is deaf.

Maha had been through difficulties after fleeing her country. She and her family members live in the city of Sanliurfa at present and survive with the hope of living a stable and secure life. However, Maha still suffers from her health problems. Nonetheless, Maha's mother and family met with other women and heard about services provided to Syrian, Turkish and Iraqi women in the IMPR women's centre.

The centre provided Maha with the hearing aids she needs, and she currently visits the centre regularly.

Maha is currently improving due to the coordination between the women centre and her family.

"RET (a UNFPA implementing partner) provided a series of follow-up trainings on women's rights

in Turkey; gender; gender-based violence; and communication skills to the members of the team. In addition, one of the social workers attended a three-day training of trainers on hygiene provided by CARE (e.g., lice control and menstrual hygiene)." RET International.

Ala'a

Success, hard work, and diligence are not associated with any certain age; many people achieve great successes in their lives when they are very young.

Ala'a, one female beneficiary, began participating in the activities at the Youth Center in Zaatari Camp for Syrian Refugees four months ago. She is very committed to attending daily activities, especially fitness classes, although she does not have a strong natural affinity for fitness. In the beginning, Ala'a found in the sports caravan a place where she could break out of her shyness and escape from the pressures she was facing at home and school. Due to her diligence and commitment, she came to know many of the drills very well and almost to memorise them, from the warm-ups to specific technical drills; and she learned the importance of each drill and how each movement benefits the body and mind.

Over the course of four months, there have been many positive changes in Ala'a's behaviour and spirit.

It is clear through her body language and her way of speaking that she has gained more confidence in herself. The other girls look up to her as a strong leader in activities.

Ala'a has now become a fitness trainer with different organisations in Za'atri Camp. Some of the fitness drills that she has designed have been used by many other organisations as well.



Training and recreational activities being conducted with beneficiaries at UNFPA supported youth centre in Za'atari camp, Jordan.

Photo credit: Questscope

Farah

Farah is a 19-year-old Syrian girl who approached the UNFPA-supported centre run by the Jordanian Women's Union and told the social worker that she got engaged to a 31 year-old man two years ago when she was only 17. After Farah got engaged, her fiancé traveled out of the country and she saw him for only three months. According to Farah, she wants to break up with her fiancé as she is scared about her future with him: he verbally abuses her and her family and he threatens her father that he will send him back to Syria. Farah and her family are worried about her future.

Farah was provided with psychosocial support through one-on-one sessions in order to empower her and help her make her own decisions. Farah was referred to a lawyer who provided her with legal counseling and awareness raising sessions on her legal status and her rights.

The staff visited Farah's family and talked to them about the situation. After talking to them, the staff understood that her family wants her to leave her fiancé but they are scared that he might hurt them and their Farah. Her parents talked about their worries on Farah's future. Farah was introduced to the activities and services provided at the centre and she started attending most of the activities including awareness raising sessions, literacy courses and she benefited from psychosocial and legal support.

Farah has had multiple sessions with the social worker and psychologist and the positive difference in her behaviour started to be noticed, not only by the staff but also by her family and friends. The 19-year old girl managed to leave her fiancé and began to focus on a new future for herself by continuing her education.

Farah says that when she decides to get married she will choose a partner who will support her to reach the goals that she aims to achieve.

COORDINATION & CAPACITY BUILDING

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

UNFPA participated in the access working group meeting, the United Nations sector group meetings on health, protection, and logistics, as well as meetings of the United Nations Humanitarian Country Team and the United Nations Security Cell. UNFPA also participated in meetings to discuss programme criticality of different United Nations activities in the country.

TURKEY

UNFPA took part in the Protection working group meeting and co-chaired the SGBV sub-working group meeting in Gaziantep. A draft version of standard operating procedures (SOPs) on SGBV has been introduced, and the SOPs are expected to be finalised at the next meeting.

UNFPA attended the protection, NFI and Health Working Group meeting for the West Coast coordination in Izmir, Turkey with the aim to work collectively to identify and fill the gaps and avoid duplications in services provided to refugees in the western part of the country.

UNFPA Turkey also took part in the "reporting on GBV in the Syrian crisis" workshop in Beirut. The workshop was concluded with developing a country plan for 2016, where three roundtable meetings in Turkey were planned in the provinces of Istanbul, Ankara and Sanlivrfa.

LEBANON

UNFPA teamed up with UNHCR and the Ministry of Social Affairs to co-lead the June SGBV task force meeting where the advocacy points for the United Nations Humanitarian Country Team were discussed and endorsed.

UNFPA and UNHCR co-led the National GBV information management system (IMS) steering committee meeting to proceed to mid-term review and agree on priorities for the coming six months.

UNFPA led the clinical management of rape (CMR) task force meeting, where participants discussed updating the CMR facilities list and linking them through field visits with the relevant GBV focal point people.

UNFPA led the sexual and reproductive health working group, where updates on the HIV/AIDS Global Fund proposal were presented as well as discussions and updates were made on family planning, ANC/PNC and deliveries, the updated CMR facilities list, as well as on needs of printing information and education materials.

JORDAN

UNFPA participated in a research forum on researching public health in urban humanitarian contexts resulting from the Syrian crisis. The aim of the forum was to share learning around public health in urban humanitarian contexts and explore potential new collaborative research partnerships.

UNFPA, as member of the neonatal steering committee, participated in a meeting that gathered the Ministry of Health, UNICEF, WHO and USAID to discuss a neonatal mortality surveillance system to discuss the newly developed guidelines for neonates at Ministry of Health facilities.

As a member of the National Technical Committee for Protection from Violence, UNFPA took part in the development of its annual work plan which will be based on the objectives of the national strategic plan, and aligned with the Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and Child Protection (CP) sub-working groups' work plans. The committee links both the humanitarian response coordination structure (of the United Nations and international and national NGOs) and the national/governmental bodies in Jordan to ensure effective protection response in the country.

The Youth task force in Zaatari Camp worked on a quarterly newsletter by youth and for youth on the subject of youth and technology. The task force also collaborated with the SGBV sub-working group to provide an awareness session on early marriage in the camp.

The UNFPA Y-PEER Coordinator, together with a Jordanian Y-PEERian, attended the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul where they presented the work that the Y-PEER network is doing with Syrian refugees, particularly in Zaatari Camp, where a Y-PEER network has been established.

EGYPT

UNFPA teamed up with other United Nations agencies, national and international NGOs in coordinating activities to respond to the Syrian crisis, addressing reporting challenges, facilitating service referrals and contributing to the national strategic plan for the Syrian response.

Coordination meetings were held of the inter agency work group, health work group, and inter-sectorial workgroup. UNFPA also raised the issue of non-formal marriages among Syrian refugees to Egyptian nationals for economic reasons, and the implications of such behaviour.

UNFPA also presented to these working groups its achievements on safe spaces for refugees (women, girls, and boys) supported by success stories from the field.



Women recover in the UNFPA-supported hospital in Quneitra. Over 600 babies were born there in the first quarter of 2016. © UNFPA/a UNFPA partner organisation.

Source: www.unfpa.org

"Throughout Syria, where 13.5 million people displaced by the violence are living within its borders, the maternal mortality rate has increased by nearly 40 per cent since the fighting began.

UNFPA is working to combat this rising mortality rate by supporting quality sexual and reproductive health services across the conflict-ridden nation. The Fund has supported reproductive health services for nearly 414,000 people inside Syria – and for 47,000 refugees living outside its borders. In the first quarter of 2016, the UNFPA-supported hospital in Quneitra delivered over 600 babies and provided ante-natal services to nearly 1,300 women and girls."

Source: <http://www.unfpa.org/news/caring-crisis-affected-mothers-quneitra-syria#sthash.Yu3rri9Y.dpuf>

CHALLENGES

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

The lack of accessibility to Aleppo is exacerbating the shortages of humanitarian assistance while making it difficult to monitor what is being done.

There are delays in financial transactions due to banking restrictions. Staff availability and lack of supplies, especially medication and consumables, for new health facilities remain a challenge in the southern areas of Syria.

TURKEY

During the month of Ramadan, service delivery was carried out at a reduced rate.

Economic problems still hinder people from reaching or participating in activities.

The security threat outside the borders of Turkey has an indirect negative impact on the on-going programme.

The language barrier is still limiting access to some of the services especially in the field of health (lack of Arabic-speaking psychologists, social workers, doctors, etc.).

LEBANON

NGO partners report that the number of men and boys beneficiaries coming to their centre has significantly decreased due to their long working hours in informal employment.

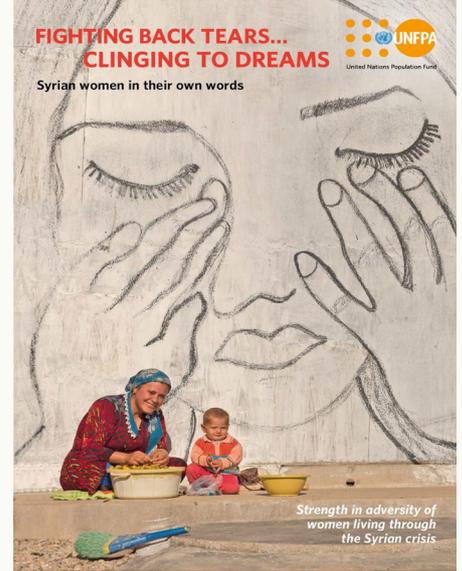
IRAQ

There is a continuing lack of resources to sustain the on-going programmes.

PUBLICATIONS

“Fighting Back Tears ... Clinging to Dreams: Syrian Women in Their Own Words”

The publication provides a different picture of Syria. What emerges is more than what we normally see and read about. There is great suffering and grief, but there are also heartening stories of devotion, initiative, togetherness and even joy. This publication aims to amplify the voices of Syrian women and add new texture to the portrait of their lives inside Syria and in neighbouring countries.



http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/fighting_tears_magazine_english.pdf

DONORS & PARTNERS

UNFPA IS GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING DONORS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE SYRIA CRISIS:

Australia, Canada, Denmark, European Commission, Germany, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Netherlands, Norway, OCHA/CERF, United States, United Kingdom, UNDP.

Private sector: MBC

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

IN SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC: Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MOSA), Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE), Syrian Family Planning Association (SFPA), Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) and International Medical Corps (IMC).

IN LEBANON: Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Social Affairs, Lebanese Family Planning Association, Palestinian Red Crescent Society, Humedica, Makhzoumi Foundation, Amel Association, International Medical Corps and Caritas Lebanon, KAFA (“Enough Violence and Exploitation”), Akkarouna, INTERSOS, SHEILD, LOST, Heartland Alliance, Makassed Primary Health Care Centers, Mazloum Hospital and International Organization for Migration (IOM).

IN JORDAN: Ministry of Health (MOH), Institute for Family Health (IFH), International Medical Corps (IMC), Jordanian Health Aid Society (JHAS), Family Protection Department (FPD), Jordanian Women’s Union (JWU), Youth Peer Education Network (YPE), NCFA (National Council for Family Affairs), Questscope.

IN IRAQ: Ministry of Culture, Sport and Youth (MCSP), Ministry of Labor & Social Affairs (MLSA), AL Massela, START NGO and Harikar.

IN EGYPT: Ministry of Health (MOH), Resala and FARD Foundation.

IN TURKEY: The Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) of the Prime Ministry of Turkey, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), and Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Family and Social Polices (MoFSP), Harran University in Sanliurfa, NGOs including the International Middle East Peace Research Center (IMPR), KAMER, TOG, RET International, HÜKSAM, ASAM, BUHASDER.

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RELEVANT RESOURCES

www.unfpa.org
www.ocha.org
www.unhcr.org
<http://syria.humanitarianresponse.info>