يغلي هذا العدد الضوء على نماذج من البرامج والأنشطة التي تقوم بإنتاجها المكاتب القطرية لصندوق الأمم المتحدة للسكان، بمشاركة مع القائمين المعنيين في الدول العربية والتي تهدف إلى توفير فرص الإستفادة من خدمات الرعاية الصحية السابقة واللاحقة للفتيات، علاوة على رعاية عمليات التوليد الطبيعية والطارئة، التي تجمع عنها مضايعات، خاصة في البلدان والمدن التي لازالت تعاني من معدلات مرتفعة لوفيات الأمهات ومن عجز في الخدمات الصحية.

وينطلق هذا العمل في إطار الجهود المبذولة لتحقيق الأهداف الإ主管部门ية للأمنية (خاصة المغام السالم)، المتعلق بتخفيف معاناة الأمهات، وتعزيز خدمات الصحة الإنجابية، مع التركيز على تلبية احتياجات الشباب، فقد ساهمت الاستعدادات من خدمات الصحة الإنجابية والمجتمعية (بما فيها التنظيم الطبي للأسرة)، وتعزيز حقوق الشباب، ودعم تنمية الفردية والمجتمع.

ويستند هذا العمل على الاشتراك بين الأمم المتحدة لضمان تحقيق الأهداف الرامية إلى تعزيز الولوج إلى الخدمات كالأمان في مجال الصحة الإنجابية والمجتمعية، وتعزيز الحقوق الإنجابية، ودفع جهود منع في هذه المجالات، وفي نفس الوقت يعد الصندوق عزماً على وضع السكان الذين يتعرضون من نقص في الخدمات، لاسيما النساء، منهم والشباب في صلب عمله في المنطقة العربية، بهدف تعزيز حقوق الإنسان والمساواة بين الجنسين.

وينظر إلى التقدم الصريح في المنطقة العربية، خاصة في سوريا، حيث أدى تجاوزات النزاع المسلح إلى نزوح أعداد غير مقنعة من اللاجئين السوريين إلى مناطق أكثر أمناً في الدول المجاورة كالاردن ولبنان، وتركيا، أغلبهم من النساء والأطفال، وحراساً من الصندوق على المساعدة في تقديم الدعم لضحايا هذا النزاع، فإنه يقوم بتداخلات إنسانية بهدف إغاثة السكان وتوسيع الدعم اللائم لقرارات المنظمات والهيئات المشرفة على العمل الإنساني في المناطق الحدودية.
NEW RELEASE:
Regional Strategic Framework for Programming on Young People

What future for UNFPA youth programming after the Arab Spring?

UNFPA Representatives, Deputy Representatives, Assistant Representatives as well as Youth Focal Points from the Arab States gathered in Cairo for consultations on the roll-out of the new Regional Strategic Framework for Programming on Young People.

The Arab States Regional Office (ASRO) conducted a bottom-up, multistage, region-wide exercise with the goal of creating a new Regional Strategic Framework for Programming on Young People that holistically responds to the new emerging regional environment and strongly reflects some of the key issues affecting young people in the region.

From 6 to 7 August, heads of Cos from across the region familiarized themselves with the programming framework and discussed its roll-out and the operationalization of its three core programmatic pillars:

◊ Facilitate equitable access to decent employment and livelihoods by strengthening young people capacities and life skills
◊ Improve young people’s SRH by ensuring access to high-quality sexual and reproductive health information, education and services for all young people in the region
◊ Create an environment conducive for civic engagement of young people in order to accelerate social and economic development. Promote a culture of dialogue, tolerance, peace-building and communication skills, leadership and life skills in the context of youth-adult partnerships

“In line with UNFPA’s mandate, this strategic framework will leverage our expertise in population data analysis to inform policy formulation and programming for young people,” said Aleksandar Sasha Bodiroza, ASRO Technical Adviser on Youth, HIV/AIDS. “But we will also build partnerships for joint programming that respond to the multi-sectoral needs of young people.”

During the meeting, many participants actively used social media to expand the event’s reach, engage with young people directly and connect with potential collaborators or partners. Twitter’s viral power was utilized using the hashtag #ASROyouth.
SYRIAN RESPONSE:
Delivery Kits and Emergency Obstetric Care for
Displaced Communities

The ongoing civil and political unrest in Syria has left approximately 1.5 million people displaced, some of whom have had grave difficulties in securing adequate shelter, food and health care. More than 200,000 families are currently hosted in 370 educational facilities in Syria, including schools. Despite the ever-expanding interventions, the international community, UNFPA included, along with national counterparts, have been trying to address some of the most critical needs.

In addition to supporting reproductive health services, Syria CO has also been focusing on building community resilience for women and their families in the internally displaced populations and host communities. Six mobile teams regularly visit schools housing IDPs to provide psychosocial support and first aid. A total of 8000 families received dignity kits that helped support personal hygiene where water and sanitation facilities are scarce.

Maternal health services, including emergency obstetric care, has also been a prominent feature of UNFPA’s emergency response in Syria. A total of 12,000 women were handed home delivery kits for safe normal delivery.

Oula, a pharmacist and a health volunteer, commented on the less obvious impact of the dignity kits in women’s lives: “It’s clear that the kits can help maintain personal hygiene... what I didn’t realize was the emotional impact it had on the displaced women. With the dignity kits, they feel that there are people who really care about their needs,” she said.
SYRIAN RESPONSE:
Vouchers in Syria: Improving Women’s Access to RH Services

Around 2.5 million people, of whom 625,000 are estimated to be women of reproductive age, are considered to be directly affected by the escalating violence in Syria. Generally, maternal mortality and morbidity are associated with delays, either in identifying danger signs or in accessing appropriate obstetric interventions. The nature of the Syrian conflict includes military checkpoints, armed clashes and roadblocks that disrupt both health service providers and patients from reaching health facilities in a timely manner. Coupled with depleted stocks of reproductive health commodities, supplies and medications, safe delivery in the Syrian context has become more difficult to safeguard.

Economic depression due to crisis can further exacerbate the ability to access appropriate health care, especially when public services are unavailable and disposable family income is limited. Gender considerations that give precedence to male members and children in the family may further constrain women from accessing reproductive health services. In one area of rural Damascus, the caesarian section rate reached 55% of all deliveries, a clear indicator of deteriorating RH services, including antenatal and delivery care.

To address some of the challenges, Syria CO has begun a limited but innovative intervention by establishing a voucher system which enables women to obtain free-of-charge maternal health and obstetric services at the Obstetric University Hospital and the RH clinics of the Syrian Family Planning Association (SFPA). The vouchers are distributed to women in the crisis-affected areas by outreach mobile teams or medical volunteers providing RH services and information in order to reduce the need for emergency obstetric interventions, including C-section delivery.

To date, 2,500 vouchers have been distributed in Damascus and Raqa governorates. UNFPA will also expand the voucher system to Aleppo and other conflict areas.

Under the assumption that providing a gratuitous service will help encourage women to make use of antenatal and delivery facilities, safe transportation from homes to the health facilities remains a concern given the current insecurity. Quality of care within these facilities is also of vital concern, including provider stigmatization, lack of available supplies and overburdened health facilities. The quality of the services has not been formally evaluated, but anecdotal evidence suggests that it has been negatively affected by the increased absenteeism of staff and the depleted availability of medicines in the local market. These two factors are subject to regular follow-up by UNFPA with the concerned implementing partners and stakeholders and will provide further indication of the utility of the voucher system.

We would like to invite you to connect with us through our new social media channels and help broaden our outreach.

Follow us on Twitter: www.twitter.com/UNFPAArabStates
Like our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/UNFPAArabStates
Looking forward to engaging with you online,
ASRO Communication Taskforce
“The Tuk-Tuk Nurse-Midwife”: a testimony from the field showing how UNFPA works to reduce maternal mortality in Upper Egypt

In the context of World Population Day 2012, Egypt CO screened a short documentary titled: “The Tuk-Tuk Nurse-Midwife”, re-energizing its commitments towards universal access to reproductive health and recognizing those who work in the field, provide information, services and supplies.

“Being a nurse-midwife has changed my life,” said Ibtisam, the midwife UNFPA followed during the days leading up to WPD. Beneficiary of Ministry of Health and Population-UNFPA nurse-midwives trainings provided under the programme “Enhancing Maternal Health,” Ibtisam now delivers around 100 babies a month in Minya; she is the real link to the communities and she provides information and advice on vaccination, family planning and breastfeeding.

Although Egypt has achieved a significant improvement in the past 20 years in matters related to maternal health and has almost reached its set target for MDG 5 - Improve Maternal Health, however, a regional disparity remains to be addressed; only 58% of the deliveries are attended by medical personnel in Minya and only 48% receive regular antenatal care.

By giving specific attention to some governorates and by seeing nurse-midwives as key players in improving maternal health in Egypt, the program contributes to reducing the gap between governorates and to enhance maternal health nationwide.

Every 1,000 women, one every 90 seconds, die giving life worldwide because women have no access to functioning health facilities or to qualified health professionals. UNFPA-Egypt understands these issues and builds the capacity of health care providers to provide quality RH services. According to Ibtisam: “The trainings are very good and I hope it spreads across the whole country.”

World Population Day celebration in Morocco

The National Institute for Health Administration (INAS) of the Ministry of Health and UNFPA in partnership with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) celebrated on 11 July the WPD by organizing a seminar on public health under the theme “Universal Access to Reproductive Health Services”.

More than 150 persons participated in this event – the majority of them had newly graduated from INAS. Representatives from national NGOs, technical and financial partners, opinion leaders, young leaders along with media were also present.

After less than one year after the population of the world reached 7 billion, two years before ICPD+20 and at three years away from the deadline of 2015 for the achievement of MDGs, this celebration offered an opportunity to discuss progress and what remains to be done in order to accelerate universal access to reproductive health care in Morocco.
Throughout the event, a panel discussion took place and was composed of representatives from civil society, national institutions, religious institution, sociologist and young participants. This celebration was also an opportunity to recall and acknowledge all those who are working on research in the field of health and those who deliver information, services and products. It pointed out once again the commitment to improve access to information and to RH services for the whole population which counts 32 million, including young people who represent almost one fifth of this population.

A partnership convention was signed by UNFPA and INAS formalizing their collaboration in the field of RH.

**Iraq CO launches Population Situation Analysis 2012 Report**

With the support of UNFPA, the Ministry of Planning in Iraq celebrated the World Population Day in Al-Rasheed Hotel in Baghdad.

During the event, the report Iraq Population Situation Analysis (PSA 2012) was launched as the second report produced by the National Population Council (NPC) on the state of Iraq population. The report presents a comprehensive analysis on the population growth, distribution, and determinants of the current population situation in Iraq. It also analyzes the impact of political, economic, and population factors on development plans and sheds light on basic services, especially in the health sector and in the RH services, youth and women needs.

Furthermore, the report introduces a demographic analysis and identifies the impact of the political and economic unrest in Iraq that led to difficulties in achieving the MDGs, in particular the MDGs related to RH, education and poverty; the political situation posed a challenge to the creation of employment opportunities, reduction of poverty and the ability to effectively deal with the environmental issues facing the country.

Finally, the report recommends solutions for population problems and emphasizes that the main themes should focus on sexual and reproductive health, youth, gender equality and the well-being of elderly people.

The event was attended by the Head of the Prime Minister’s Office, Minister of Planning, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in Iraq, UNFPA Representative, Deputy Minister of Planning and Head of Central Statistical Organization (CSO), members of the NPC and its Technical Secretariat, various ministries planning units’ staff, academics, a number of UN delegates and media.
Shedding Light on Lebanese Soldiers’ Sexual Reproductive Health

On 9 August, in celebration of World Population Day and of National Army Day, UNFPA Lebanon launched two studies on SRH among Lebanese Army soldiers.

The 2 studies are the result of collaboration between UNFPA and Lebanon Family Planning Association through a project which aims at ensuring provision of quality RH care services in the health clinics affiliated to the Army Medical Directorate. The project is also designed to raise awareness among Lebanese soldiers, officers and their respective families on SRH/HIV/AIDS/FP and gender issues. The studies were conducted with the technical support of the Lebanese Health Association.

The first study titled: “Knowledge, Attitudes, Beliefs and Practices of Lebanese Army soldiers regarding RH, sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS” and covered a representative sample of the Lebanese Army brigades deployed throughout the country.

The second study titled: “Assessment of Women’s Satisfaction with RH Services in Health Facilities of The Lebanese Army” was conducted at selected Lebanese Army health centres providing RH services to army personnel and their families and aimed at assessing the quality of services. Among services assessed in the study are pre- and post-natal care, health education, Reproductive Tract Infections/STI/HIV/AIDS prevention, in addition to assessing the condition of the health facility and its personnel.

By raising a number of relevant and important issues and by formulating a series of recommendations, these studies provide the necessary baseline information on various RH aspects within the army institution, a matter Lebanon CO and its partners shall pursue by advocating for the incorporation of SRH/HIV/AIDS education in the formal army curricula.

Knowledge, Attitudes, Beliefs and Practices of Lebanese Army soldiers regarding RH, sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS

71.5% did not perceive themselves as being at risk of contracting HIV/AIDS

13.7% believed transmission of the virus was possible through the sharing of dishes and utensils, 13.6% mentioned polluted or contaminated water and 33.9% the use of public toilets

Most participants could mention at least three methods of prevention, 86.4% for condom use, 54.6% for loyalty to one partner; and 59.1% for the use of sterile syringes

Assessment of Women’s Satisfaction With RH Services In Health Facilities Of The Lebanese Army

82.3% had been availing themselves of the RH services provided

85.3% of respondents were familiar with contraceptive pill and 77.5% with IUD; while just 8.1% had no knowledge of contraceptive methods

Just over half of the respondents indicating familiarity with male condoms

47.7% reported having had one or more unwanted pregnancies; 60.8% of unwanted pregnancies ended in abortion

Nearly all who were pregnant at the time of the study were making multiple visits to their doctor. 85% took iron and vitamin supplements

Both studies are accessible on:

www.unfpa.org.lb/publications.aspx
Inauguration of the first midwifery school in Mogadishu, Somalia

Delivery of maternal health services in Somalia has been hampered by the lack of trained health personnel, further exacerbated by an exodus of health workers during the last two decades of conflicts. Now the tide might be turning.

During 2012, the Transitional Federal Government forces have taken major steps in making Mogadishu a safer place, paving the way for Somalia CO to open the first midwifery school in the war torn city.

Many of the nurses who have been trained in Somalia have not had a sufficient practical experience in midwifery and emergency obstetric care; much of the training is done in classrooms and the practical sessions give little exposure since many deliveries are still being done at home or by traditional birth attendants, rendering the school a positive step towards ensuring full training of midwives.

In addition to the need to increase the overall number of health workers, it is also essential to provide additional training to existing personnel in order to further build their capacity in core areas such as antenatal and postnatal care, emergency obstetric care and other sexual and reproductive health interventions.

The course is based on the curriculum developed by UNFPA in Somaliland and is designed to prepare competent midwives, especially in post basic midwifery, reproductive health, mother and child care, and community health in general.

After announcements were made over two local radio stations, applications for the course were received at the Ministry of Health. Forty nurses applied and after an entrance exam, 20 were selected for a twelve-month long course.

The school is a joint venture between UNFPA, Women and Health Alliance International (WAHA) and the Ministry of Health.

UNFPA Egypt joined the Social Community!

Like UNFPA-Egypt Facebook page and follow them on Twitter to be the first to get all the information about UNFPA activities, publications and news in Egypt! UNFPA-Egypt is also pleased to announce the launch of its new website in English and Arabic. Localize the projects on the Interactive Map, have a look at the video and photo galleries.
INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY: Celebrations in Oman, Iraq and Yemen

Partnering for Youth: Regional Activities in Oman

During the Khareef Salalah Festival, UNFPA supported two regional activities which involved participants from all over the GCC Region. The festival takes place annually in the southern region of Oman - Salalah - to mark the Khareef, or Autumn season, which brings with it auspicious rains, mild weather and turns the mountains to shades of green.

The first event, which was planned in collaboration with Tawasul Think Tank in Oman, was a meeting focusing on the role of the youth and ways they can be more involved in think tanks and civic engagement. The meeting was held under the theme: "Youth, Participation and the Future" and included youth from all 6 GCC states, including members of Y-PEER Oman and Y-PEER Bahrain.

The other activity was a 10-day long participation in the festival itself, which comes on the heels of the office’s participation in last year’s celebrations at Salalah and participation in the annual Muscat Festival. Members from Y-PEER Bahrain and Y-PEER Oman carried outreach activities to raise awareness on HIV. They performed puppetry theatre performances to demonstrate the importance of Family Planning.

Youth voice their issues on International Youth Day in Iraq

As a part of the activities taken to celebrate the International Youth Day, Iraq CO with the cooperation of peer educators’ team and youth ambassadors, organized a special evening; Martin Kopler, UN Representative in Iraq, was invited to join Iraqi youth and UNFPA Iraq youth team in a very open and fruitful discussion on young people’s rights and their role as being a very important tool in developing and establishing a better community. The meeting came to a close with a musical performance by a group of young people.

Meanwhile, in Erbil and under the theme: “Developing Kurdistan in Partnership with Youth,” UNFPA in cooperation with the Kurdistan Ministry of Youth and Culture celebrated the International Youth Day on 12 August.

IYD is an opportunity to address youth issues and celebrate their participation, rights and efforts; this event was attended by the official of the Foreign office in Kurdistan government, the Governor of Erbil, a number of parliament and government representatives, the director of UNAMI in Erbil, UN representatives, local and international organizations, political parties representatives and a wide participation from youth and activists.

The event was broadcasted live through two satellite channels and a local channel in Erbil, besides radio stations and print media coverage.
Yemen: Marking International Youth Day

With support of UNFPA, Y-PEER members led this year’s International Youth Day activities in two main governorates (Ibb & Hadramout) under the theme “Building a Better World: Partnering with Youth”.

Other members in the remaining governorates also conducted small-scale activities to mark this day.

The celebrations included varied activities like singing, theater plays and competitions that draw attention to youth issues and the challenges they face, highlighting the importance of their involvement in the discussion of matters that affect their daily lives.

In Ibb governorate, many youth initiatives seized the opportunity to share their experiences with audiences.

While in Hadramout governorate, theatre plays centered on reproductive health, family planning, HIV/AIDS, early marriage, FGM and volunteerism.

The event was attended by local authorities, NGOs from Ibb, Taiz and Sana’a governorates with participation of more than 250 young men and women.

In the end of the event volunteers were honored and awarded for their continuous efforts to bring youth issues to the limelight in Yemen.

Y-PEER Network in Yemen is expanding

Y-PEER network in Yemen is growing bigger. In the beginning of August, 50 members of Y-PEER from 12 governorates came to the capital to attend their first consultative meeting of the year 2012.

The 3-day meeting, which was organized by Civic Democratic Initiative Support Foundation (CDF) in collaboration of UNFPA, aimed to launch Y-PEER network in an additional four new governorates as well as to develop a four-year plan for the network that would be in line with UNFPA’s new CPAP (2012-2015).

The young people reviewed and evaluated their past activities in their own governorates and shared their achievements throughout the last year, as well as challenges and lessons learned. The new members were introduced to the network structure, rules, bylaws and messages it advocates for, including RH issues, Reproductive Rights, early marriage, HIV/AIDS etc.

Throughout the three days, the young people of each governorate worked in groups to develop Y-PEER’s 4-year plan in their own respected governorates, taking into account each governorate’s particular needs. Participants seized the opportunity of presence of all members to run their annual elections to select their focal points in all governorates. Moreover, they selected nominees for the network’s Focal Point in Charge, representing the network globally.

Moreover, the participants attended sessions on better ways to advocate on RH, RR, population issues as well as a session on volunteerism and its importance.
Iraq CO launches I-WISH in Al Najaf Governorate

Under the auspices of Central Statistical Organization (CSO) and in cooperation with UNFPA Iraq, Al-Najaf Statistical Directorate launched Iraqi Woman Integrated Social and Health (I-WISH) survey results in the governorate as part of disseminating the survey’s results on local levels.

The event was attended by the governorate religious figure Mr. Ali Al Bashier Al Najafi and a number of governorates council members, Ms. Thanaa Abbas the Director General of Technical Affairs in CSO, representatives from local NGOs, Universities professors, academicians, media personnel and journalists.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Faik Azeez, head of Al Najaf Statistical Directorate, shed light on how important the results of this survey is for decision makers, strategic planners and researchers to improve planning specifically for women throughout their life cycle, and for the entire community in general. Then, Ms. Thanaa Abbas presented the survey’s most significant indicators Al Najaf, comparing to national indicators.

Findings show that 7.1% of women in the age group (15-49) in Al Najaf were married before the age of 15, compared to 4.9% on the national level, whereas 48.4% of married women are using Family Planning methods, compared to 39.8% in Iraq as a whole. Moreover, the survey showed that 31.6% of women in the age group (15-49) are not employed for wages due to low educational levels, compared to a total of 13.4% unemployed on the national level.

## مبادرة (قصتنا التطوعية)

للمتطوعين الشباب في الهلال الأحمر العربي السوري – فرع دمشق

تتم إدارة آلية التنظيم المجتمعى من قبل الشباب أنفسهم في محاولة لإعطاء فرصة للمتطوعين من أجل تكوين قسمهم التطوعى الناجح بنظرة الحاضرين الذين يشهدوا في البلاد. حيث تم تشكيل الأولويات الخاصة بالمتطوعين من خلال جلسات نقاش مرورية، وتأسيس آلية واضحة لتنظيم المتطوعين والأنشطة فيما بينهم و مع فروع منطقة الهلال الأحمر العربي السوري بالمحافظات، إضافة إلى برنامج دوري لدعم الفئات المتطوعين للنساء، إلى الجلسات الفردية والجماعية مع الأخصائيين النفسيين.

وقد وضعت منظمة الهلال الأحمر العربي السوري، فرع دمشق - مبادرة "قصتنا" باستخدام أداة "التنظيم المجتمعى" التي تم إنشاؤها، باعتبارها إحدى المبادرات المحلية المبتكرة dobrإ من خلالها توفير بيئة داعمة وممتعة لهم، وتقديم الفرص والخدمات لتحقيق فعالية تطوعية تلبية الإحتياجات الإنسانية ميدانيا.

وكشفت الدراسات الكبيرة دعت إلى اختيار أداة "التنظيم المجتمعى"، التي تسبق لصدق الأمان الممتدة للسكان أن دعم المتطوعين الشباب على مبادئها، باعتبارها إحدى النواحي الفعالة يمكن أن تكون جزءاً من خلالها توفير بيئة داعمة وممتعة. تتضمن هذه النواحي الفعالة تلبيه الاحتياجات الإنسانية ميدانيا.

وفي الوقت الحالي، المتطوعون في بيئة السوق سينظمون المصايف والأنشطة، ويعملون معا للمساعدة في جعل المتطوعين الشابين أشخاصاً أ Cộngيتساً في المجتمع، وبناءً على تجربتهم وخبراتهم الفردية. وتتضمن هذه الأنشطة العديد من الرحلات والأنشطة، بما في ذلك الأعمال الخيرية والتطوعية، والأنشطة الاجتماعية والثقافية، والأنشطة الرياضية والفنية، وغيرها.

وأظهرت الملاحظات أن المتطوعين الشباب في الهلال الأحمر العربي السوري في فرع دمشق يستمتعون بتحسينات كبيرة في نواحي المبادئ، وتحسينات كبيرة في الأداء، وتحسينات كبيرة في شغفهم وانفتاحهم على المبادئ الإنسانية والإجتماعية. وتتيح مبادرة "قصتنا" للمتطوعين الشباب فرصة للإنسجام والتعاون والانفتاح، وتشجعهم على المشاركة بفاعلية في المجتمع.
Thanks for your contribution and for reading the Newsletter.

If you have any feedback, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Awaiting your contributions for our next issue covering activities carried out in September and October.

Deadline for submission is Monday, 22 October, 2012.

Kindly send your stories to:
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