ASRO MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Issue November 2020

ASRO

UNFPA
ICPD25

The Nairobi Summit on ICPD25: After one year, #TheMarchContinues

On 11 November, UNFPA ASRO marked the first anniversary of the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 by releasing two videos to document the commitments made by the Arab countries during the Summit, and the main accelerators for the fulfillment of the ICPD agenda. The commitments made were centered around three zeros: Zero preventable maternal deaths, Zero unmet need for family planning, and Zero gender-based violence and harmful practices. *Photo from archive © UNFPA Morocco*

Video on Commitments

Video on Accelerators

Youth celebrate the Nairobi Summit first anniversary

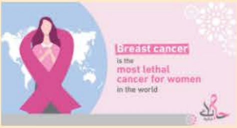
The Youth Forum in the Arab region, which took place in Tunisia in 2019, established a Regional Youth Task Force on ICPD and Post-Nairobi Commitments that represents a true region-wide youth accountability framework and mechanism. On 26 November, the Task Force organized a regional webinar to celebrate the first anniversary of the Nairobi Summit and to assess the progress made during the year in reference to the commitments made by the different stakeholders. *Photo from archive © UNFPA ASRO*

Watch the webinar

Leveraging digital technology to strengthen health systems

UNFPA ASRO held regional virtual training on clinical management of rape (CMR) and intimate partner violence (IPV) for health care providers and managers. The training was designed and delivered by the Regional Roving Clinical Management of Rape (CMR) specialist to equip first line responders with practical skills to enable them providing quality and empathetic CMR services to survivors. Over 100 participants from UNFPA country offices and implementing partners in Iraq, Libya, North East Syria and Namibia received the training, which aimed to strengthen and build the institutional capacity of health systems. Similar global training was also conducted in partnership with WHO, UNHCR and Save the Children UK. The partnership with Save the Children UK reached 25 countries in different continents as illustrated here.

LAS and UNFPA joint efforts to advocate for breast cancer early detection



On 9 November, the League of Arab States, in partnership with the UNFPA ASRO Sexual and Reproductive Health unit, convened a virtual event to celebrate the first anniversary of the Pink Tank campaign. The campaign was launched in 2019 by the Director of Social Sector at LAS, Amb. Hayfaa Abou Ghazalah, and UNFPA Arab States Regional Director, Dr. Luay Shabaneh, to advocate for breast cancer early detection. This year's celebration witnessed presentations delivered by a number of Arab countries on their efforts to increase public awareness about breast cancer early detection and available treatments, an intervention by WHO, and a testimonial by a woman survivor on her journey in fighting breast cancer.

Advancing awareness on reproductive health cancers

On 10 November, UNFPA ASRO and the Friend of Cancer Patients in UAE held a virtual Memorandum of Understanding signing event led by the Regional Director, Dr. Luay Shabeneh, and the Chairperson of the Board of Directors, FoCP, H.E. Sawsan Jafar. The MoU is a formalization of the partnership between the two organizations building up on the collaboration in the 2019 Cervical Cancer Forum and its outcome document Sharjah Declaration 3x3. The aim of the partnership is to raise awareness about non-communicable diseases, with a focus on reproductive health cancers in particular, cervical cancer. The second joint Regional Conference on Cervical Cancer is planned to take place in a virtual event in January 2021. *Photo © UNFPA ASRO*

Watch the recording of the signing ceremony

Joint meeting with the Ministries of Health on RMNCAH

On 17 November, UNFPA, WHO and UNICEF Regional Directors and the Ministers of Health from countries with high maternal and child mortality burden and in emergency situations, met together to discuss the challenges related to maintaining reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health (RMNCAH) services during the COVID-19 pandemic and the support expected from the three agencies. The meeting came to follow up on a joint letter from the UNFPA, WHO, and UNICEF Regional Directors to the Ministers of Health in July 2020 to ensure that RMNCAH services are maintained and relevant supplies are secured. *Photo © UNFPA ASRO*

Session on the national and international legal dimensions of violence against women crimes

حملة العنف ضد المرأة
STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
البعد الدولي والقانوني لجرائم العنف ضد المرأة

UNFPA ASRO's Partnerships office in Dubai supported the Women's Council of Dubai Police in organizing a virtual session titled 'National and International Legal Dimensions of Crimes of Violence against Women' on 25 November on the occasion of International Day to Eliminate Violence against women. The session was organized as part of the ongoing cooperation between UNFPA and the General Department of Human Rights at Dubai Police to increase sensitization to women and girls related issues and rights. The session was delivered by the President of the Court of Appeal and the Counselor for the Unit of Combating Violence against Women at the National Council for Women in Egypt, expert Judge Ahmed El Naggar. *Photo © UNFPA ASRO*

ASRO KNOWLEDGE HUB

On 4 November, the SRH team held the last technical webinar on Reproductive Health Commodity Security for the countries in the region and their partners. The webinar was the fourth in a series of technical webinars launched at the end of September.

Reproductive Health Commodity Security (RHCS)

Health Storage & LMIS

Recordings of all webinars

The HR Corner

Relationship conflicts are unavoidable, especially as relationships grow and priorities and needs change. This is especially important during the current pandemic when partners are under additional stress and distress – and in addition may be separated by region or country. As part of its efforts to prioritize staff welfare, UNFPA ASRO organized a session on 'How to maintain strength in couples' relationships during COVID times?'. The session was delivered by MHPSS Consultant, Catherine Bean, on 18 November.

Watch the session

LIBYA

Empowering midwives to help save lives

UNFPA country office in Libya, in partnership with the Ministry of Health (MoH) and AlJalaa Hospital, conducted a 14-day comprehensive training programme on maternal and child health (MCH) in Tripoli from 31 October to 12 November. Midwives from 10 health facilities located in remote areas of Ghat and Ubari regions participated in the training. According to Libya Health sector reports, more than 80% of health facilities lack the capacity to provide lifesaving maternal and newborn health services in the south of Libya. Provision of MCH and Emergency Obstetric Care training is part of the UNFPA capacity building initiative in Libya to increase the resilience of healthcare institutions in the face of conflict and COVID-19 pandemic in Libya. *Photo © UNFPA Libya*

Engaging youth in peacebuilding

UNFPA and Track Organization for Peace and Development (TOPD) announced a call for proposals inviting young journalists in Sirte to propose media-focused initiatives on peacebuilding. On 22 November, five journalists won the competition and received grants to implement their innovative initiatives. The mayor, the Civil Society Commission office and the Ministry of Planning office of Sirte attended the winning ceremony. The projects focus mainly on anti-hate speech campaigns, engaging dialogue across different community activities, and social cohesion initiatives. *Photo © UNFPA Libya*

Training on clinical care of GBV survivors

UNFPA conducted training sessions for 15 health care workers from the Ministry of Health on the core concepts of gender-based violence and the clinical Care for GBV survivors in Tripoli from 15 to 20 November. The training objective was to enable participants to provide women and girls survivors of violence with centered clinical care. *Photo © UNFPA Libya*

GCC

Gender mainstreaming in development programmes

UNFPA GCC developed a short e-course module titled 'Gender mainstreaming in programmes development and management' to promote gender equality and parity by minimizing gender-based social barriers and to anchor gender equality in development programmes by considering the needs of women and vulnerable groups. The e-course includes the same syllabus/curriculum used in the training course, which was successfully conducted with the Ministry of Social Development of Oman and other national government stakeholders. The purpose of developing a virtual version of the training was to sustain knowledge access while respecting the pandemic social distancing preventive measures.

Access the e-course

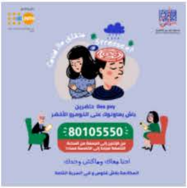
Re-energizing the Nairobi Summit commitments

UNFPA marked the first anniversary of the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 jointly with the Resident Coordinator Offices in the GCC states region. A social media campaign, including a message from the UNFPA Representative in the GCC, Karl Kulessa, was launched on the UNFPA GCC and the RCOs social media platforms to remind stakeholders who participated in the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 of the commitments to accelerate the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. *Photo © UNFPA GCC*

TUNISIA

Psychological support to vulnerable youth and adolescents

UNFPA, in partnership with the Tunisian Institute for the Rehabilitation of Survivors of Torture (Nebras Institute), launched the green line initiative - a hotline to provide psychological support to adolescents and youth in November. The initiative is part of the leaving no one behind in times of COVID-19 project. It aims at addressing the impacts of COVID-19 on the mental health of young people. The green line is managed by a network of psychiatrists who are available to provide psychological support confidentially across the country.



Leaving no one behind during COVID-19: Social support to people with disabilities

UNFPA and the Arab Institute for Human Rights (AIHR) launched a campaign during the month of November to support people with disabilities amid the COVID-19 pandemic. In partnership with Ibsar Association - an organization for people with disabilities - UNFPA and AIHR implemented a programme of action to strengthen people with disabilities' access to information on COVID-19 and SRH/GBV services. The initiative consisted of translating information into sign and braille languages and making them available on the different social and media networks, and providing social support, including treatments, medical fees, and hygiene and dignity kits to 637 young people with disabilities across the country. *Photo © UNFPA Tunisia*

PALESTINE

Protocol for health care professionals on COVID-19 infection during pregnancy

On 1 November, UNFPA and the Ministry of Health launched the 'COVID-19 Infection in Pregnancy: Protocol for Health Care Professionals' in an event that was attended by the Minister of Health, Dr. Mai S. AlKaila, and representatives from national and international partners.
"This Protocol will serve as a future framework and evidence-based clinical guidance for sexual and reproductive health care providers in the management of pregnancy, labor and delivery during the pandemics, with emphasis on management of women with confirmed COVID-19 infection." said Minister AlKaila. *Photo © UNFPA Palestine*

New safe space for vulnerable women in East Jerusalem

لا للعنف ضد النساء والفتيات

On 23 November, UNFPA opened a Women and Girls Safe Space with the support of the Spanish Cooperation and the Spanish Autonomous Communities. The establishment of the space was part of the 'Prevention, Mitigation and Response of the humanitarian GBV needs in East Jerusalem' project to ensure access to multi-sectoral GBV services. The location of the safe space is significant as people living in East Jerusalem, particularly in Kufur Aqab, face challenges accessing services from both the Palestinian Authority and Israel. The Hemaya network - a network of service providers - is a key partner in the operation of the space, along with the Red Crescent Society and the Palestinian Planning and Protection Association (PFPPA). *Photo © UNFPA Palestine*

"25 years of the ICPD: accelerating the promise"
They are our future leaders...if given a chance!
It is our job to ensure girls have the tools they need to reach their potential.
unicef for every child
Consulate General of Sweden Jerusalem

Joint celebration of the 16 Days of Activism campaign

UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland launched together a social media campaign to mark the 16 Days of Activism to eliminate violence against women. The campaign consists of disseminating video messages recorded by Palestinian men celebrities that call for an end to violence against women. Also, UNFPA led a campaign on behalf of the GBV sub-cluster honoring GBV service providers by featuring one on a daily basis during the 16 Days of Activism.. *Photo © UNFPA Palestine*

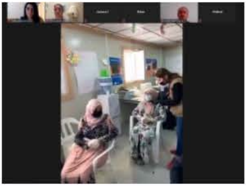
Video on girls' dreams, aspirations and challenge

IRAQ

Launching a national strategy for family planning

On 22 November, the Ministry of Health launched the National Family Planning Strategy (2021-2025) developed with the support of UNFPA and funding from Canada and Sweden in consultation with many stakeholders, including women and youth. The strategy aims to reduce maternal and infant mortality and adolescent pregnancy by addressing the gap in the use of modern contraceptives. In Iraq, the adolescent fertility rate is among the highest in the region (70/1,000 adolescent girls) while the use of modern contraceptives is about 36%. *Photo © UNFPA Iraq*

Innovative approach: First virtual tour for donors



On 17 November, UNFPA conducted a virtual monitoring visit, the first of its kind in Iraq, for donors representative from Canada, Australia, and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). The donors were able to have a virtual tour in the UNFPA-supported women centre and reproductive health clinic in Barhika camp for internally displaced persons in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Also they were able to interact with both the service providers and women receiving services. *Photo © UNFPA Iraq*

Delivering PPEs to the Ministry of Health in Kurdistan

On 18 November, UNFPA delivered the fourth shipment of personal protective equipment worth US$226,007 to the Ministry of Health in the Kurdistan Region with financial support from the Swedish Government. The PPEs included coveralls, long-sleeve gowns, face shields, eye goggles, aprons, head covers, and shoe covers to front-line health workers. *Photo © The Ministry of Health*

YEMEN

Strengthening maternal mortality monitoring

In partnership with the Ministry of Public Health and Population, UNFPA conducted a two-day induction workshop in Aden on surveillance and response to maternal and perinatal deaths. 70 reproductive health specialists from the governorates of Aden and Abyan attended the workshop where they discussed the importance of surveillance, response and raising awareness about the major causes of maternal deaths within the current context of an escalating conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic. They were also introduced to the national guideline and the 'Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response' system. Participants agreed on a template to be used in hospitals to monitor maternal deaths. The template will be piloted in three hospitals in Aden, Abyan and Mukallah. *Photo © UNFPA Yemen*

A new Youth, Peace and Security Pact for Yemen

UNFPA, in collaboration with UN Women and Youth without Borders Organization for Development, launched the Youth, Peace and Security Pact (YPS Pact) in Yemenl. The launch coincided with the fifth anniversary of the UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security. The YPS Pact consists of 30 young men and women coming from across the country and aims to enhance the role of youth in the peacebuilding and decision making processes at the local and national levels in order to advance the peace and security agenda in Yemen. *Photo © UNFPA Yemen*

مركز الملك سلمان
للإغاثة والأعمال الإنسانية
KING SALMAN
HUMANITARIAN AID & RELIEF CENTRE
United

New agreement to improve women's protection

The Saudi Arabia's King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSrelief) pledged a contribution of US$ 1.6 million to support UNFPA work in providing emergency gender-based violence services to the most vulnerable women and girls in Yemen. The agreement was signed by KSrelief Supervisor General, Dr. Abdullah Al Rabeeah, and UNFPA Deputy Executive Director for Management, Ib Petersen. The funding will allow UNFPA to improve GBV services in areas where protection needs of women and girls have grown, directly benefiting nearly 30,000 of the most vulnerable women and girls across nine governorates. This includes improving psychosocial support services, legal aid and livelihood opportunities for GBV survivors, through support to eight safe spaces and two safe shelters. *Photo © UNFPA Yemen*

JORDAN

Eib - Podcast addressing taboos

UNFPA embarked on a new collaboration with Sowt (voice) - a leading regional podcast network - to produce the sixth season of the 'Eib' (shameful) podcast. The podcast addresses how society is affected by gender-related social norms. The season includes 12 episodes tackling several topics related to adolescents and youth sexual and reproductive health (SRH), including sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence and other issues that are deemed taboo.

Using media to tackle GBV related issues

UNFPA supported the production of 30 segments of the 'Ailtak Amanak' (Your family is your safety) radio show. The segments tackled different GBV topics with expert insights to raise awareness among families about domestic violence and other forms of GBV. The segments were broadcasted on Radio Al-Balad - a popular national radio station and live-streamed on its Facebook page reaching thousands of people during October and November. On the occasion of the 16 Days of Activism, UNFPA Jordan Representative, Enshrah Ahmed, was hosted in one of the segments to launch the campaign. *Photo © UNFPA Jordan*

Engaging media in UNFPA mandate

On 16-17 November, UNFPA conducted a virtual orientation session for a selected group of journalists to introduce them to the UNFPA mandate and scope of programmes in Jordan. The session was the starting point of a new partnership with media outlets. The partnership will include a series of events and field visits to the Syrian refugee camps in Zaatari and Azraq and to UNFPA-supported centres across the country. *Photo © UNFPA Jordan*

LEBANON

Launch of a joint UN campaign against GBV

On the ocasion of International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the United Nations system in Lebanon, the Sexual and Gender-based Violence Taskforce (SGBV TF) and the National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW) joined forces, to intensify efforts for ending and preventing gender-based violence (GBV). A campaign 'Safety from violence is everyone's right: safety at home, safety at work, safety on the streets, safety online, and safe reporting' was launched to advance the safety of all women and girls, including Lebanese, residents in Lebanon and refugees, domestic workers, LGBTQI, and girls and women with disabilities, everywhere at any time.

Joint youth-led initiative in response to the Beirut Port Explosion

UNFPA, UNODC and UNESCO launched a joint youth led initiative to engage youth in supporting the communities affected by the Beirut blast. Out of 105 proposals, 15 proposals were selected where partners will implement innovative solutions such as: recycling, creating inclusive and green spaces, use of drama and sports for relaying messages, educating young girls on expressing themselves using film and new media, empowering youth to response to the crises, healing psychological distress through play, developing online application to outreach to the youth in need of innovative assistance, leveraging youth talents, adoption of social innovation, social entrepreneurship and collective intelligence in the fight against corruption, etc... To minimize likelihood of COVID-19, all partners are also taking extra precautionary measures throughout their activities including virtual activities.

Maintaining the health and dignity of people affected by the Beirut blast

Three months after the devastating Beirut Port Explosion, UNFPA continues scaling up its efforts to protect the rights of the affected population. A video was produced to highlight their needs and to call for support with dignity and without discrimination. Photo © UNFPA Lebanon

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SUDAN

Urgent support to the refugees from Ethiopia

More than 43,000 people fled into eastern Sudan from the ongoing conflict in Ethiopia's Tigray Region, according to United Nations officials. Majority of the refugees are women and children. In response to their urgent needs, UNFPA provided clean delivery kits, which contain basic supplies to facilitate safe delivery, to health workers and clinics that were set up on-site. UNFPA also delivered 8,300 dignity kits and GBV services to the women and girls in the camps. Partners, including the UN Refugee Agency, estimate the number of refugees could rise to 200,000 in the coming six months. "I ran from home when the gunfire was going off. I still don't know where my father and brothers are." said a young woman refugee at Um Raquba during a needs assessment. Photo © UNFPA Sudan

Needs assessment visit to Ethiopian refugee camps

On 18 and 19 November, a team from UNFPA visited Om Rakouba Ethiopian refugee camp in Gadaref, Eastern Sudan, and Hamdayet refugee reception point in Kasala state. The team visited the UNFPA-supported clinics and listened to the refugees' needs.

"A woman lost her baby after nine months of pregnancy due to lack of services," said UNFPA Representative in Sudan, Massimo Diana. "The woman had arrived at the health centre too late to deliver safely."

"No woman should have to go through this, and we are working to ensure services are available to save lives," he added.

UNFPA supports the reproductive health clinics in the camps by providing RH and safe delivery kits. 8300 Dignity Kits were distributed to women and girls in the camps. Photo © UNFPA Sudan

Training on ethical reporting on GBV cases

On 28 November, UNFPA Sudan in collaboration with UNAMID held a workshop for 50 police officers serving in North Darfur state on Ethical reporting on gender-based violence cases to help them follow a survivor centered approach when dealing with GBV reports. Photo © UNFPA Sudan

MOROCCO

Using artificial intelligence to stand up against GBV

On 25 November, UNFPA celebrated the birth of the first 100% Moroccan woman-robot, SHAMA, to take part iin the launch of the 16 Days of Activism campaign. UNFPA worked with a team from the University Cadi Ayyad in Marrakesh to launch a video of SHAMA who stands against all forms of discriminations against women and girls. Photo © UNFPA Morocco

URER
DROITS
S CHOIX

Meet Shama

Reaffirming the Nairobi Summit commitments

On 9-13 November, Members of the Moroccan delegation who participated in the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 joined UNFPA and the international community in marking the anniversary of the Summit. Parliamentarians, representatives of civil society and women-led organizations and young leaders shared photos of their most memorable moments at the Summit and powerful messages expressing their commitment to continue the march towards rights and choices for all. *Photo from archive © UNFPA Morocco*

Promoting girls' empowerment

On 14 November, UNFPA joined an event organized by the Nordic Embassies in Morocco to advocate for gender equality for marginalized girls through Meryem Belkihel, a young Moroccan woman who has passion for adventures traveling across Morocco on her bicycle. Around 20 marginalized girls, the Ambassadors of Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden, and UNFPA Representative in Morocco, joined Meryem in her journey to encourage young girls to achieve their dreams and potential. *Photo © UNFPA Morocco*

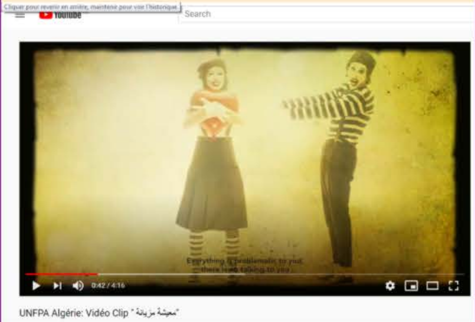
ALGERIA

Ensuring the continuity of SRH/FP services amid COVID-19

In November, UNFPA Algeria and the Directorate of Population of the Ministry of Health launched an awareness campaign to ensure the continuity of sexual and reproductive health and family planning services during COVID-19 and to raise awareness about cervical cancer. The campaign was disseminated on UNFPA social media platforms in three languages (Arabic, French and Amazigh) and covered by the national TV and Radio channels. As part of the campaign, UNFPA and the Directorate of Population organized a workshop to launch the results of a rapid assessment study on the impact of COVID-19 on the continuity of SRH/FP services. The results and recommendations of the study will be integrated into a standard SRH package supervision tool still under development. *Photo © UNFPA Algeria*

Strengthening the national response to COVID-19

On 26 November, UNFPA, in partnership with the Algerian Red Crescent, delivered PPE and hygienic products to the Gynecology/Obstetric department in Ain Oussara - governorate of Djelfa, to support service providers and women who come for delivery at the maternity ward. *Photo © UNFPA Algeria*


Cliquer pour revenir en arrière, maintenir pour voir l'historique.
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Everything is problematic to you!
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UNFPA Algérie: Vidéo Clip "معيشة مزيانة"

Online campaign against gender-based violence

UNFPA launched the 16 Days of Activism campaign against GBV through launching several online communication products: audio spots, a video on street harassment, and a clip 'serene life on domestic violence. *Photo © UNFPA Algeria*

SYRIA

New health care centre in Al-Hasakah

On 23 November, the Syria Al-Yamamah Charitable Association inaugurated a new health care centre with the support of UNFPA and the Directorate of Health to provide free medical services to the local community, including women and children. The new centre includes three clinics for children, women, and internal, in addition to a laboratory for medical analyzes and a pharmacy equipped with the necessary supplies. Photo © UNFPA Syria

Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic

On 14 November, UNFPA and the Education Directorate in Al-Hasakah governorate distributed personal hygiene kits to 19,000 students in grades 7 and 8 in schools in the cities of Hasakeh, Qamishli and Tal Hamis districts as part of the response to the Coronavirus. The kits included personal hygiene and sterilization supplies. Photo © UNFPA Syria

Public awareness campaigns against GBV

On 25 November, UNFPA launched the 16 Days of Activism campaign under the title: From Empowerment at home to empowerment in the world: promoting gender equality. In cooperation with 15 local partners, UNFPA will support numerous public awareness activities in 13 Syrian governorates engaging youth and women. The campaign will focus on the importance of reproductive health and gender equality to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence. Photo © UNFPA Syria

DJIBOUTI

Accelerating the abandonment of FGM

On 17-19 November, UNFPA, in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and the Family and with the financial support of the European Union, organized a training workshop on results-based management for 20 programme managers involved in the implementation of the national strategy for the abandonment of FGM. Participants were committed to develop work plans to achieve total abandonment of FGM. Photo © UNFPA Djibouti

Workshop on community development

On 11 November, the Ministry of Women and the Family, in collaboration with the UNFD and UNFPA, and with the financial support of the EU, organized an information and reflection workshop on community development. 250 participants who are responsible for technical structures, members of regional councils, territorial administration, presidents of community mutual and members of neighborhood councils attended the workshop. The community mutual programme consists of sensitizing communities to maternal and child health, family planning, reproductive rights, and gender-based violence, including FGM. Photo © UNFPA Djibouti

SOMALIA

Saving the lives of mothers and newborns amid COVID-19

UNFPA Somalia, with the support of the Italian Development Cooperation, procured newborn essential equipment, including 10 incubators and six infant radiant warmers as part of its support to maternal and newborn services across Somalia and in particular at the main referral hospitals in Mogadishu amidst response to COVID-19. UNFPA Somalia Representative, Anders Thomsen, handed over the supplies to functionalize the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) in Banadir Hospital. This is the only NICU in a public hospital with well-established and functioning equipment that delivers services for free in Mogadishu. Photo © UNFPA Somalia

Puntland launches its first Health and Demographic Survey

On 29 November, the Government of Puntland and UNFPA Somalia launched the Puntland Health and Demographic Survey (PLHDS) Report 2020. The report offers decision makers and stakeholders salient information on the health and lives of women and children in Puntland. Data was collected from over 28,000 households across Puntland as well as difficult-to-reach nomadic households, across six regions.

"Every number presented in the findings of the report has a story behind it. These numbers will guide us to address the barriers Puntland women face in accessing health. We can ensure mothers feel safe while delivering their babies, young people have a better chance to make choices, particularly regarding reproductive health, and that children have better access to the right nutrition and vaccinations required to lead full and productive lives," said UNFPA Somalia Representative, Anders Thomsen. *Photo © UNFPA Somalia*

Full report

Establishing a COVID-19 isolation area for pregnant and lactating women

The Ministry of Health in Puntland, with the support of UNFPA, established a COVID-19 isolation area for pregnant and lactating mothers in Garowe General Hospital on 24 November. The isolation area will provide access to life-saving Emergency Obstetric Care and Neonatal Care (EmONC) services and information, including access to cesarean section operations to COVID-19 positive or suspected pregnant or lactating women in Puntland. *Photo © UNFPA Somalia*

EGYPT

Enhancing the response to women and girls survivors of violence

UNFPA, is partnering with the Egyptian Family Planning Association (EFPA), held a training workshop for medical staff from 10 governorates on offering comprehensive response services to women survivors of violence on 1-5 November. The training brought together 18 doctors, nurses and social workers, offering an in-depth orientation to GBV, including FGM and child marriage, as well as reproductive health and rights. The workshop also introduced participants to the existing national referral process for all existing medical, legal and social services available nationwide. The workshop was the first step to operate 20 clinics in 20 selected governorates under this partnership by 2021. *Photo © UNFPA Egypt*

Empowering women and girls to combat violence against women

On 25 November, UNFPA signed a protocol with the Federation of Egyptian Industries (FEI) and the Egyptian Chamber of Apparel and Home Textile Industries to build the capacity of 250 women and girls. The initiative aims to prepare women and girls aged 18-30 for employment, by providing training on soft skills as well as raise their awareness on reproductive health and gender-based violence, including child marriage. This came as part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign. *Photo © UNFPA Egypt*

Art for Development: Community arts festival

UNFPA, the Ministry of Youth and Sports and Etijah Youth and Development Consultancy Institute launched the Community Arts Festival with the Zad Art Team with support from the European Union and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation. The festival began on November 21 and will run until December 6, during which performances will be livestreamed on UNFPA social media accounts. The festival came as part of the Population and Humanitarian Programmes operating under the Ministry of Youth and Sports in cooperation with UNFPA and Etijah to raise awareness on gender-based violence, family planning and harmful practices against girls. *Photo © UNFPA Egypt*

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