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Gender Bulletin

This newsletter is an update on gender issues in UNRWA and further. It is issued on a monthly basis for the gender network and gender taskforce and will allow to share information, tools, reports and lessons learned on gender from UNRWA, the UN system, the region and on an international scale.

Peace
Starts Here

السلام
يبدأ هنا

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Coordinated by PCSU: Sana Jelassi and Farah Al-Kasim

May has seen a whirlwind of activity, and June looks to be even more promising! During May, activities in Gaza and West Bank worked towards empowering women and girls through raising awareness, trainings and workshops. As evidenced in the gender calendar, June, too, will be buzzing with a wide array of activities in the fields and at headquarters. The June calendar of gender-related activities is available on the intranet (Home> PCSU> Gender> Gender Calendar).

Measuring Social Performance

The Community Managed Fund (CMF) scheme is one of the services provided under the Social Services Programme (SSP) and implemented in 36 Community Based Organizations (CBOs) located in refugee camps. The CMF is a financial tool designed to improve outreach to remote areas and to transfer capital into poor communities. The SSP has developed the CMF to improve the CBOs capacity in managing their own credit operations and to be able to provide refugees, particularly women, with access to credit opportunities, while enhancing the financial sustainability of CBOs from the revenues they receive.

Social Services Division at Headquarters is currently leading the development of a comprehensive Social Performance Management system (SPM) and Social Audit exercise. The SPM includes building the capacity of SSP staff and refugees running the operations inside the 36 CMF schemes in the four areas where it operates. This system will ensure measuring the social impact of the financial and non financial and non-financial services and products that CMF schemes provide to the community. It will coach them to carve their vision and mission statements, in harmony with UNRWA's, while also aligning their social goals and objective with it. Additionally, it will mentor the design of new loan products that are responsive to their communities' needs serving an increased number of poor and vulnerable groups in a sustainable manner. The system takes into account gender equality and equal

access to services, and improves the social capital of beneficiaries.

The SPM took place in Jordan, June 5-9, 2011, and will take place in Lebanon June 13-17, 2011.

For more information, please contact Rana Zawawi (r.zawawi@unrwa.org) or Reema Masoud (r.masood@unrwa.org).



Community Development Social Worker in Zarqa presenting her group's work on describing the status of beneficiaries before and after the CMF services in the efforts towards carving the CMF vision. (Photo courtesy of Reema Masoud, 2011).

Jordan—Addressing Gender Stereotypes in the Curricula

As part of the Education Department's gender mainstreaming strategy, it has been undertaking the identification of gender stereotypes in the education curricula.

Jordan field is leading in this particular area with a pilot intervention, where the EDC has been working tirelessly to address gender stereotypes, through the analysis of the textbooks used in Arabic language and Social Studies for grades 1 through 10.

The results of the analysis revealed that the textbooks are generally biased in favour of men, whereas women tend to be marginalized, noting that women and girls are depicted in traditional roles in 75 per cent of the cases.

Men are commonly portrayed as powerful, and often in leading roles as teachers, heroes, physicians, engineers and martyrs. On the other hand, women are marginalized and represented as emotional characters, playing traditional roles such as mothers, sisters, housewives and nurses.

The EDC identified school supervisors as ideal entry points to work on the elimination of gender stereotypes in the curricula, acting as agents of change. By targeting school supervisors, UNRWA is able to address the curriculum, the methodology and the children themselves.

Currently, enrichment material is being developed to be used in co-curricular activities and the human rights programme. The enrichment material will include stories of women in international, Arab and Muslim history, who have had prominent, powerful and impacting roles. The addition of this text will increase the recognition of women's roles and will present them in a more appropriate, less discriminatory manner.

For more information on this initiative, please contact :

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Sample of enrichment material being produced by EDC

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Events of Interest:

- The government of the Netherlands is investing in Women in developing countries through its new fun FLOW—Funding Leadership Opportunities for Women. Closing date for application is July 29, 2011.
<http://www.minbuza.nl/flow>
- The Rotary Foundation is accepting applications to its Rotary Peace Fellowship. Deadline for application is August 15, 2011. For more information:
<http://bit.ly/OLVUd>
- Responding to Conflict is offering a 5-day course on strengthening policy and practice in conflict affected areas. Course fee is £990 (including food, accommodation and materials).
<http://bit.ly/mJctFC>
- Human Rights Education Associates is offering an online course on the rights of persons with disabilities. Deadline for application is September 1, 2011.
<http://bit.ly/ieMfcn>
- UNFPA offers a GBV program management e-learning course which will develop field capacities on GBV in emergencies.
<http://bit.ly/eyvDEH>

Tools and Reports:

- The UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women's latest report to the Human Rights Council.
<http://bit.ly/kFLdQh>
- UNIFEM (part of UN Women) has made available a new resource entitled *Investing in Gender Equality: Ending Violence Against Women and Girls*, available in several languages.
<http://bit.ly/kvwlVQ>
- A recent Human Rights Watch report reveals Women in Turkey are left unprotected from violence.
<http://bit.ly/kwP7vN>
- AWID recently launched its discussion paper *Development Cooperation Beyond the Aid Effectiveness Paradigm: a women's rights perspective*.
<http://bit.ly/ibMSpa>
- Concern Worldwide and Oxfam GB published a recent report that looks at the impacts of cash transfers on gender dynamics.
<http://bit.ly/milOlj>
- Save the Children has a toolkit on supporting children's meaningful and ethical participation in research relating to violence against children.
<http://bit.ly/lz340M>
- On May 20, 2011, representatives from civil society, women's rights organizations, international organizations, the public sector and diplomatic corps from Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Syria and Lebanon convened in Rabat for a regional seminar on Women and Democratic Transitions in the MENA region.
<http://bit.ly/l9dLBR>
- *Voices of survivors: the different faces of gun violence*, depicts 16 testimonies of women survivors of gun violence from different countries.
<http://bit.ly/kbOefX>
- The final report of the Huairou Commission's Global Summit on Grassroots Women's Leadership and Governance is now available.
<http://bit.ly/j8xioQ>
- FemLINKPacific has published a handbook on *Localising UNSCR 1325 in the Pacific "Peace Talks"*.
<http://bit.ly/k54zyO>

Regional News

Algeria

Family Law at the crux of Algerian women's future.

<http://n.pr/mUD5am>

Egypt

Egyptian women participate in "No to sectarian strife" march.

<http://bit.ly/iZD5s1>

Egypt establishes right of women married to Palestinians to pass nationality to their children.

<http://bit.ly/ioaxMM>

Jordan

In Jordan, micro, small and medium enterprises have contributed to women's empowerment, particularly those living in the governorates.

<http://bit.ly/k8lp40>

Young filmmakers highlight the situation of women in Jordan.

<http://bit.ly/iGSOBg>

Kuwait

Only one woman appointed in Kuwait cabinet. Amani Bouresli is the new Minister of Commerce and Industry.

<http://bit.ly/lpoTXZ>

Lebanon

Protesters in Beirut have mounted pressure on Lebanese authorities to adopt laws banning gender-based violence.

<http://bit.ly/maNx5p>

Libya

Through the din of war, Libyan women demand a louder voice.

<http://bit.ly/jEif1a>

Morocco

Morocco was elected as a member of the Women and Development Committee of the UN Economic Commission for Africa.

<http://bit.ly/jXNHjz>

oPt

Palestinian becomes first Arab woman to climb Mount Everest.

<http://bit.ly/iysVad>

Qatar

Only one out of the four women running for Qatar's municipal elections has won a seat.

<http://bit.ly/kArvtE>

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Women use Facebook to urge defiance of driving ban.

<http://hgm.me/kS7ijz>

Woman arrested for driving in Saudi Arabia. Human Rights Watch urges for her release.

<http://bit.ly/jHZjV3>

UAE

A female Emirati educator is leading the way for visually impaired students in the UAE to earn their right to education.

<http://bit.ly/mkP2hz>

Regional

Women face human cost of Arab Spring uprisings.

<http://bit.ly/k8Ae87>