



# UNFPA Lebanon 2022 Annual Report



*For her.*

*For life.*

*For Lebanon.*

# UNFPA in Lebanon 2022



## Pregnancy and Birth

- 8 billion certificate
- Nutritional guidelines for lactating women
- Intervention in high risk pregnancy



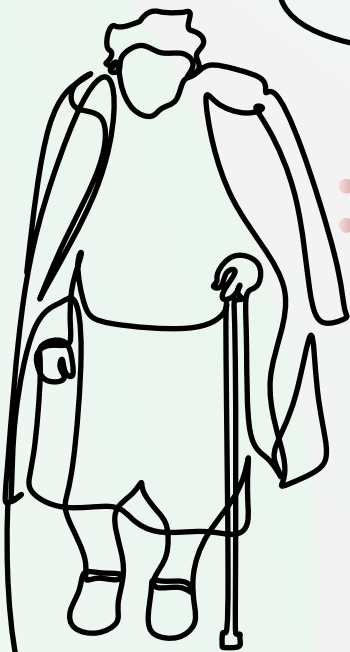
## Adolescent Girls

- Young people policy
- Early Marriage
- Period Poverty
- Gender-Equality
- Gender-based violence



## Older Women

- National strategy
- Intergenerational relationships



## Adult Women

- Family planning
- Cash & Voucher Assistance
- Cholera preparedness
- Integration or SRH & GBV
- Clinical Management of Rape
- Maternal mental health
- Men

In 2022, UNFPA provided services across the full lifecycle of women and girls in Lebanon, and through the humanitarian and developmental nexus. In this report, we highlight the important role this outreach and policy work played in 2022 for the people in Lebanon.

The report is structured to reflect our interventions from prenatal and birth, through adolescence and adulthood, to older age and end of life, including the stories of frontliners, practitioners and beneficiaries, as well as the partnerships we established and sustained for greater impact. We also cover our support for vulnerable populations, such as LGBTQIA+ communities, persons with disabilities and migrants, as part of our principle to Leave No One Behind.



## Donors in 2022



# Partners



Makassed Philanthropic Islamic Association of Beirut  
Makassed Communal Healthcare Bureau



LECORVAW



الهيئة اللبنانية  
لمناهضة العنف ضد المرأة



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT  
UNIVERSITY FOR SENIORS  
جامعة البقار



# Ministries



الجمهورية اللبنانية  
وزارة الشؤون الاجتماعية



# United Nations Organisations



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



UNHCR  
The UN Refugee Agency



World Health Organization



## “ Foreword by UNFPA Head of Office, Asma Kurdahi

### **A year of crises**

After the Beirut Port Explosion in 2020, and the escalation of COVID-19 in 2021, the people of Lebanon were due a year of respite. However, the economic, financial and social crises continued to deepen. The Lebanese pound lost most of its value over 2022, pushing many people who had saved all their lives to the edge of poverty.

[According to the United Nations, more than 80% of the country's residents now lack access to basic rights, including health, education, water, electricity, and adequate standards of living.](#)

The economic disaster has brought a catastrophic impact on the healthcare sector. Medicines, medical supplies, and human workforce are in short supply, and individuals are unable to access health services due to the significant increase in admission fees.

Within this worsening context, we have intensified our support at UNFPA for humanitarian partners, who are providing direct interventions on the ground related to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) including family planning (FP), as well as combatting gender-based violence (GBV). As part of our Leave No One Behind principle, we have also provided protection and support for vulnerable members of society, such as refugees, LGBTQIA+ communities, persons with disabilities and migrant populations.

In this report, we share our important achievements with government ministries, partner civil society organisations and fellow UN agencies to develop national policies and guidelines that will help safeguard at-need populations in the future, including pregnant and lactating women, and women and girls at risk and/or survivors of rape and GBV. These steps are all taken with sustainable change in mind.

The UNFPA, with our partners, has shown an ability to think quickly and innovate in the face of new crises, such as mobilising our COVID-19 midwifery networks to meet the cholera outbreak. Our work with Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) for women in urgent scenarios has saved lives – and provided a referral template for other agencies to follow around the world. Our systemised approach to the integration of SRH and GBV services is also innovative, reaching women and girls who would have otherwise continued to suffer.

I would personally like to thank all the partners for their commitment and diligence with UNFPA during a difficult period making sure to continue delivering on UNFPA's mandate....



# Adoption of a Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus approach

UNFPA introduced a new [Country Programme Document \(CPD\)](#) for Lebanon in 2022, covering 2023 to 2025 .

This new CPD fully aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Lebanon, and was developed in full consultation with counterparts and key actors, based on concrete evidence and established priorities.

Over the short-term, the CPD vision is to meet immediate health and protection needs of vulnerable women and adolescent girls. Over the medium term, we aim to strengthen institutional systems, resilience and capacities to support recovery and reform plans, restore SRH and GBV services (in line with the United Nations' Sustainability Goal (SDG) 3 and SDG 5), reinforce stability (SDG 16) and promote social contract (SDG 1 and SDG 16).

**GOAL 1**  
NO POVERTY

**GOAL 3**  
GOOD HEALTH  
AND  
WELL-BEING

**GOAL 5**  
GENDER  
EQUALITY

**GOAL 16**  
PEACE, JUSTICE  
AND STRONG  
INSTITUTIONS

## Taking a convening role

UNFPA continued to co-chair the GBV national working group, which provides overall technical and advisory support to the GBV sector in Lebanon. The interagency GBV working group met in 2022 on a monthly basis.

Key achievements this year included:

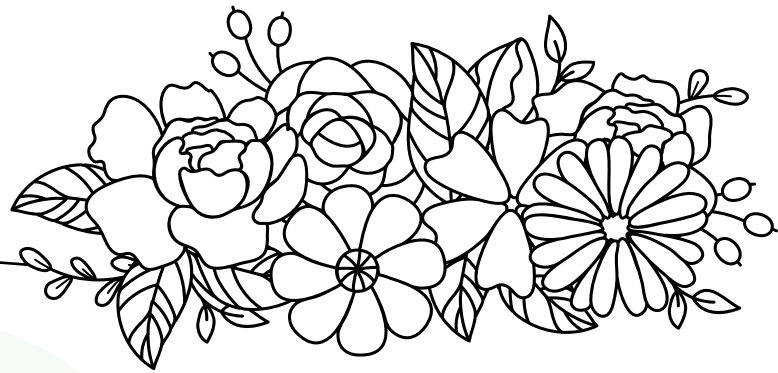
- ↪ Securing humanitarian funding for GBV
- ↪ Mainstreaming GBV in the response and in particular as part of the Cholera Response Plan
- ↪ Leading the celebration of 16 days of Activism against GBV
- ↪ Ensuring the proper planning and reporting against the two humanitarian response plans in Lebanon (Lebanon Crisis Response Plan - LCRP, Emergency Response Plan - ERP) and the needs analysis in the multisectorial needs assessment (Multi-Sector Needs Assessment - MSNA, Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon - VASyR)
- ↪ Producing a secondary data review with the support of the Area of Responsibility (AOR) to increase understanding of qualitative information available on GBV risks and response
- ↪ Reviewing the new terms of reference confirming UNFPA's leading role in GBV coordination in Lebanon along with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) and UNHCR
- ↪ Increasing the working group membership to around 70 member organisations working in the humanitarian-development nexus to combat GBV



We also co-chaired the reproductive health sub-working group (RHSWG) and the Clinical Management of Rape (CMR) Survivors task force with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH). Our partners were encouraged to actively participate in these groups to keep abreast of key developments and priorities, and capitalise on the referral system.

In addition, we have a leading role in the development of a national CMR protocol that enables relevant facilities to ensure comprehensive quality care for survivors of rape, including for their referral to legal and protection services. Furthermore, UNFPA provides support through training and technical guidance on CMR services for the MoPH, working with healthcare providers (physicians, midwives, social workers, nurses) in the selected CMR facilities, as well as sensitisation activities with health and GBV actors.

Moreover, UNFPA supports the inter-agency GBV Information Management System (GBVIMS) in Lebanon in collaboration with UNICEF and UNHCR, which enables humanitarian actors responding to GBV to collect safely and effectively, store, analyse, and share data reported by survivors, especially those receiving case management services where GBV trends are analysed in [reports to inform better programming and decision making](#).



## Tangible impact on GBV

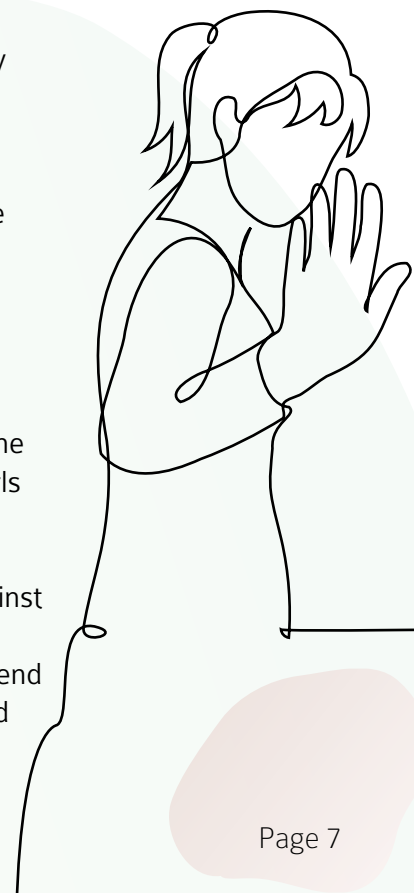
UNFPA Lebanon, in partnership with ESCWA and NCLW, developed standard operating procedures (SOPs) on sexual harassment law (law 205) to ensure women and girls at risk and/or survivors of GBV/sexual harassment (SH) receive a prompt and comprehensive response from service providers that meets their needs from the first point of contact onwards.

Following Government endorsement in 2020, we supported a social media campaign to spread awareness on national efforts to battle SH at the workplace, as well as advocacy and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material that targeted legal professionals, youth, and social workers.

We also raised awareness among media actors and Internal Security Forces around the SH law, to influence their coverage of events and protection of women and girls experiencing violence, respectively.

In addition, UNFPA launched a series of knowledge management products to provide a strong evidence base for informing GBV/RH policy and programming. These covered topics such as intimate partner violence, violent practices in obstetric care, analysis of the Lebanese legal instruments from a gender perspective and GBV against women and girls with disabilities.

Finally, UNFPA joined the UN family in Lebanon in leading the 16 Days of Activism against GBV (25 November to 10 December), which campaigns to end and prevent violence against women, girls, and marginalised groups. Under the banner "UNITE! Activism to end violence against women and girls", we encouraged everyone in Lebanon to take a stand against GBV in their local communities, and to support women's rights movements.





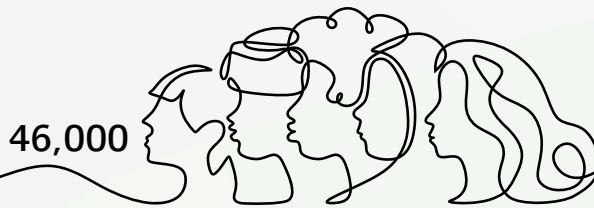
# Birth

## Humanitarian Work

### Midwifery network during COVID-19...

In response to the COVID-19 crisis in 2022, we continued and upgraded our support for pregnant women in line with the increased maternal mortality of 2021. This push included the maintenance of a midwifery network for coordination and sharing of information, in collaboration with the Lebanese Order of Midwives (LOM), which promoted COVID-19 vaccination among pregnant women and increased awareness about the virus, as well as SRH. Midwifery interventions were meanwhile expanded to cover community-based care for high-risk pregnancies.

Around 46,000 women were reached by the network and 930 women received midwifery care for high-risk pregnancies. 2,370 migrants and 525 women with disabilities were targeted by the network to ensure no one was left behind.



46,000



930

### ...and then for Cholera

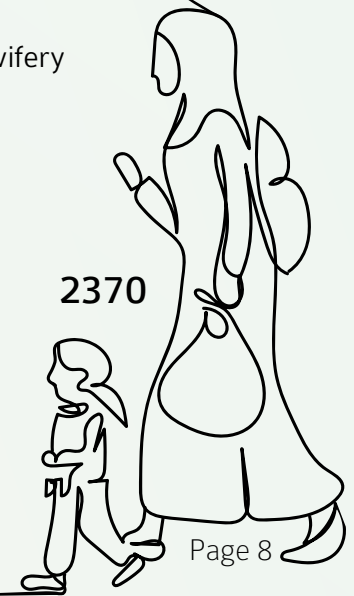
[In response to the Cholera crisis that hit northern Lebanon from October to December 2022, claiming 22 lives with 652 confirmed cases](#), UNFPA led the development of key messages on the disease and risks to pregnant women in partnership with members of the RH sub-working group. These vital communications, including short videos, were disseminated promptly to care providers through the midwifery networks we had established during the COVID-19 crisis.

“The cholera outbreak demonstrated UNFPA’s ability to respond quickly to yet another emergency for the people of Lebanon.”

Maguy Ghanem, SRH Program Specialist, UNFPA Lebanon.



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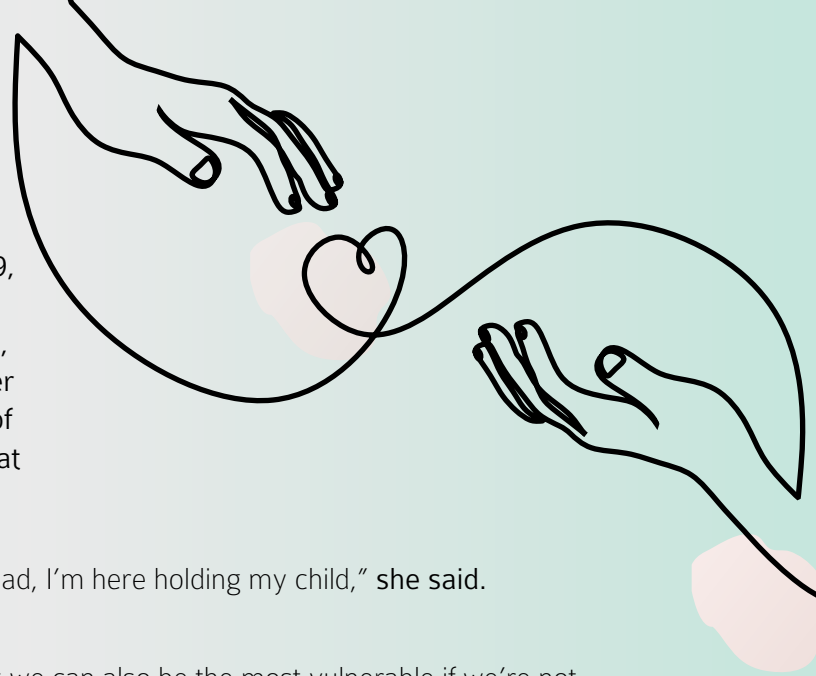


2370



# Case Study

Mariam fled Syria, longing for a better future. She met “the love of her life” in Lebanon and they were expecting a baby. Just a month from full term, she caught COVID-19, but was unable to afford medical fees to assist the delivery. Mariam was monitored by a midwife from LOM, a national NGO supported by UNFPA Lebanon. Due to her severe infection, LOM was able to mobilise the network of midwives who found Mariam a place at a public hospital at midnight. She gave birth to a healthy girl.



“Without their help, I would have died. But instead, I’m here holding my child,” she said.



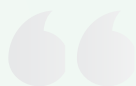
“Pregnant women are the strongest people, yet we can also be the most vulnerable if we’re not provided with the appropriate and adequate care.”  
Mariam, a beneficiary from UNFPA’s support

## Development

### Celebration of 8 Billion Day

On November 15, 2022, the global population officially ticked past eight billion. In collaboration with the MoPH, UNFPA used this milestone to shed light on addressing key challenges in accessing SRH and highlighting importance of promoting universal access to SRH. As such, mothers who delivered on that day in 25 governmental hospitals were provided with specific information on maternal health. Each received a birth certificate (below) that laid out a vision for a better tomorrow, as well as baby kits.

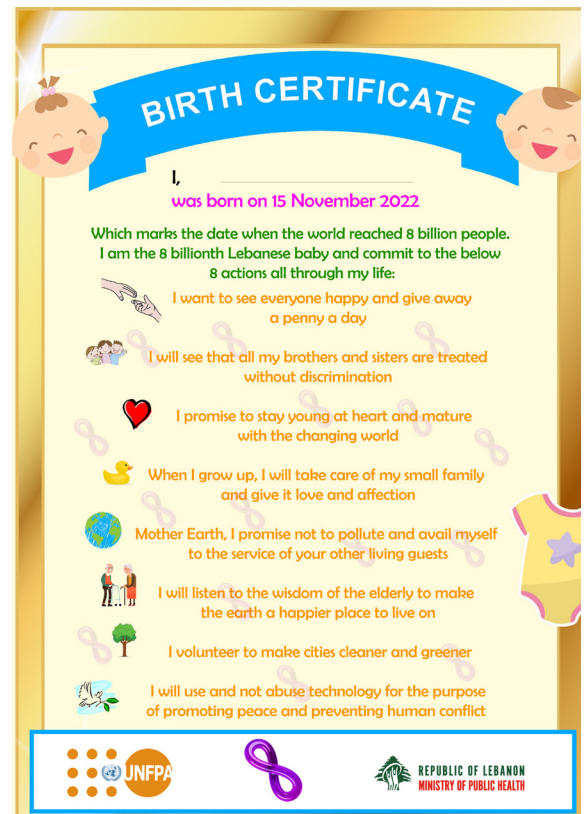
The event was broadcast on national television and across social media.



“I still can’t believe that I am a mother now. My baby is part of the 8 billion today! This is so exciting!”  
Nada, a newly delivering mother

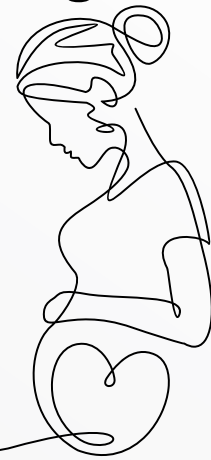


“I can’t describe the feeling. We are lucky that he was born on this special day.”  
Fayrouz



# Guidelines on nutrition for pregnant and lactating women

As part of our work at the humanitarian-development nexus, UNFPA developed guidelines on nutrition for pregnant and lactating women in collaboration with the MoPH and the nutrition sector. The dietary guidelines aim to promote healthy and diversified diets and provide practical tools for members of the public, as well as by health care providers who counsel women on perinatal care.



“This guide will empower MoPH and nutrition sector actors in Lebanon to integrate, implement and scale up standardised nutrition counseling for pregnant and lactating women through the network of primary healthcare centres and their outreach and community activities utilising social behaviour change”

**Mira Mokdad, Nutrition Sector Co-coordinator, on behalf of the Nutrition Sector**



# Adolescent Girls

## Humanitarian Work

### Adolescent Girls in Action

#### 1000 Young Persons

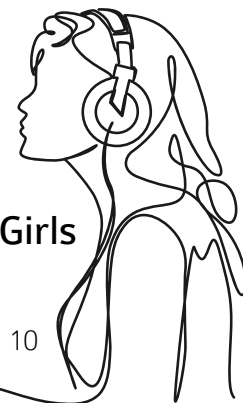


↪ In partnership with School of Nursing at the American University of Beirut, as part of the regional REACH initiative by Columbia University, we contributed to the piloting of the mHealth phone app that aims to increase literacy on SRH and improve access to services for young people through digital technology. Around 1000 young persons were informed about it and there were a core group who worked on its development.

↪ UNFPA partners tailored specific life skills interventions targeting adolescent girls in order to promote their wellbeing and mitigate or reduce their exposure to GBV. For example, in partnership with ABAAD, we reached 450 adolescent girls with interactive awareness-raising activities, including case studies and exercises inspired by the Rebel Girls Journal toolkit.



#### 450 Adolescent Girls



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### Case Study

#### “My life has become less stressful”

Farah, a young Syrian refugee at the Lebanese Council to Resist Violence Against Woman (LECORVAW) centre funded by the Government of Sweden, has attended psychosocial support sessions focusing on positive parenting.



“I’m learning and applying the new techniques with my husband and my children,” she said.



“Those sessions have positively changed my relationship with my family and my surroundings. My life has become less stressful, and I highly encourage my friends and my neighbours to come and participate in the sessions.”

# Development

## Raising the profile of young people

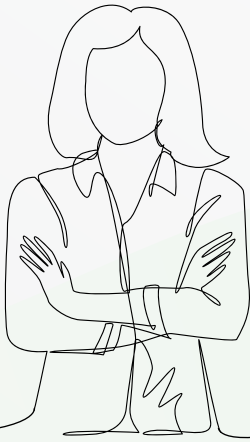
In collaboration with UNICEF, and in partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, we finalised the action plan of the national youth policy in 2022. This action plan reflects the challenges faced by young people in Lebanon, especially increased unemployment, engagement in high-risk behaviours, lack of opportunity and the international brain drain, shown by the long lines of young people outside foreign embassies, who stand every day in the hope of acquiring a work visa.

Through our advocacy efforts, the Youth Action Plan was endorsed by the Government and officially launched under the patronage and presence of the Prime Minister with the participation of six ministers and stakeholders. This event helped position UNFPA as one of the key UN leads working on youth.

“The aim of the policy is to give young people more hope, such as providing them with a dedicated space that offers opportunities to find work and become more proactive within their communities. It’s important to build their self-esteem. We’re delighted that the Government has taken ownership of this policy.”

UNFPA Lebanon head of office Asma Kurdahi





# Adult Women

## Humanitarian Work

### Life-saving cash

Due to the crippling economic situation in Lebanon that exacerbated the risk of GBV, UNFPA provided emergency cash assistance (ECA) and recurrent cash assistance (RCA). The amount for ECA and RCA increased from 60 USD to 90 USD in September 2022. Over 2,000 at-risk women and survivors had access to more than 1,200 Online Money Transfer agents around Lebanon, where they could receive cash over the counter after verifying their identity.

In response to the increase in fuel prices, we also administered cash for transport (CFT) through our Ips so that beneficiaries could seek vital services, especially in women's and girls' safe spaces (WGSS).

A post distribution study we conducted revealed that 98% of women say that they felt safer after they received cash assistance.



“All our cash cases are evaluated on the level of GBV need rather than financial means. We help those women who want to flee a violent relationship by renting another apartment or fund a cast for a broken arm. It's always decided by the protection outcome and on a case-by-case emergency basis. CVA is used extensively by UNFPA around the world, but Lebanon is the first country to invite referrals from non-IPs, which offers a precedent for others to follow.”

Pamela Di Camillo, Gender-Based Violence & Humanitarian Coordinator, UNFPA Lebanon

# Cash referral system: a first for UN Agencies



During the last quarter of 2022, UNFPA scaled up the coverage of cash assistance by offering RCA referral services outside of our implementing partners (IPs) to additional organisations that are members of the GBVIMS.

UNFPA also completed a pilot project to integrate CVA into menstrual hygiene management. The project was conducted in partnership with AMEL and LECORVAW with over 2,600 vulnerable women and girls of reproductive age receiving cash to cover the purchase of monthly menstrual products after attending awareness sessions on menstruation and menstrual hygiene.

Despite many competing spending priorities and the unrestricted nature of cash assistance, the women and adolescent girls consistently spent their allowance on menstrual hygiene products. Monitoring showed very positive impacts on psychological wellbeing and intergenerational relationships, helping to normalise conversations about menstruation between adolescent girls and their caregivers and reducing the stress they felt about discussing and accessing products to sufficiently manage their menstruation.

[The Impact Survey](#) showed the following results:

- ↪ Over 920,000 women are at risk of period poverty in Lebanon
- ↪ Shifting to reusable sanitary pads reduces the annual cost by 36%
- ↪ Nearly all women use the money they save on household necessities



## Case Study Regaining the power of trust

Sana, a 32-year-old mother of two boys, experienced intimate partner violence after her husband lost the ability to walk and couldn't find a job. She heard about the services provided by our IP Concern.



At first, Sana struggled to speak out.

“I had put my trust in those who are closest to me, but they had abused it, so I found it almost impossible to trust again,” she said.

Regular sessions with her case worker Patricia helped Sana to talk about her emotions. She started to feel more confident about the future. And with cash assistance, Sana was able to support her children with their studies and watch their results improve at school.

“I am extremely happy that I can provide them with basic needs such as education and food,” she said.

“I was finally able to buy vegetables and feed them properly for the first time in months.”

“My work contributes every single day to changing people’s lives for the better. I remember working with a woman who was exposed to GBV, and she received PSS and CVA in response. As a result, she was able to find safe shelter through the cash assistance. She was put at ease by the PSS sessions. She then enrolled in vocational trainings that helped her find a job. For me, this is a successful story that proves that nothing is impossible.”

Rayan, GBV Officer at LECORVAW, UNFPA Lebanon’s IP.

## Comprehensive GBV approach


UNFPA Lebanon provided integrated GBV and SRH services through IPs. The programme targeted vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian women and girls, migrants, adolescents, persons with disabilities, and individuals from the LGBTQIA+ community.

Comprehensive and specialised GBV services were provided through four IPs in five static WGSS, and three mobile units, including case management, psychological first aid, and psychosocial support (PSS) sessions, while beneficiaries were referred individuals to other specialised services, such as health, legal, and shelter, among others.

In total, 244 women and girls received case management, 1,272 received PSS and 15,888 were reached with GBV awareness.

In addition, partners implemented empowerment, prevention, and risk mitigation activities, including group PSS sessions, life skills, emotional support groups, vocational training (such as chocolate making, balloon decorations, hairdressing, embroidery, crafts, etc), and distributed dignity kits to participating women and girls.

SRH services were also provided by four IPs through six health facilities and two mobile units operating within the vicinity of the WGSSs, including medical consultations, midwifery care, midwifery home care visits, and family planning counselling, as well as intrauterine device (IUD) insertion/removal, PAP smear tests, mammography, lab tests, ultrasound, imagery tests, and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) tests.



15,888 GBV Awareness



244 Case Managements



1272 PSS

## The positive impact of integrated SRH-GBV interventions



“I am Lebanese and married with three kids. I endured a lot of physical violence at home. The awareness sessions and psychosocial sessions at the Amel Association, helped me to de-stress. They really changed my life in a positive way. In addition, I used to have some gynaecological infections, but I couldn’t afford the treatment. The centre provided me with the necessary health care. I was scared at first, but the outreach team encouraged me. My condition could have led to womb cancer at later stages, so I was fortunate to treat it early. I encourage every woman and girl to benefit from these services.”



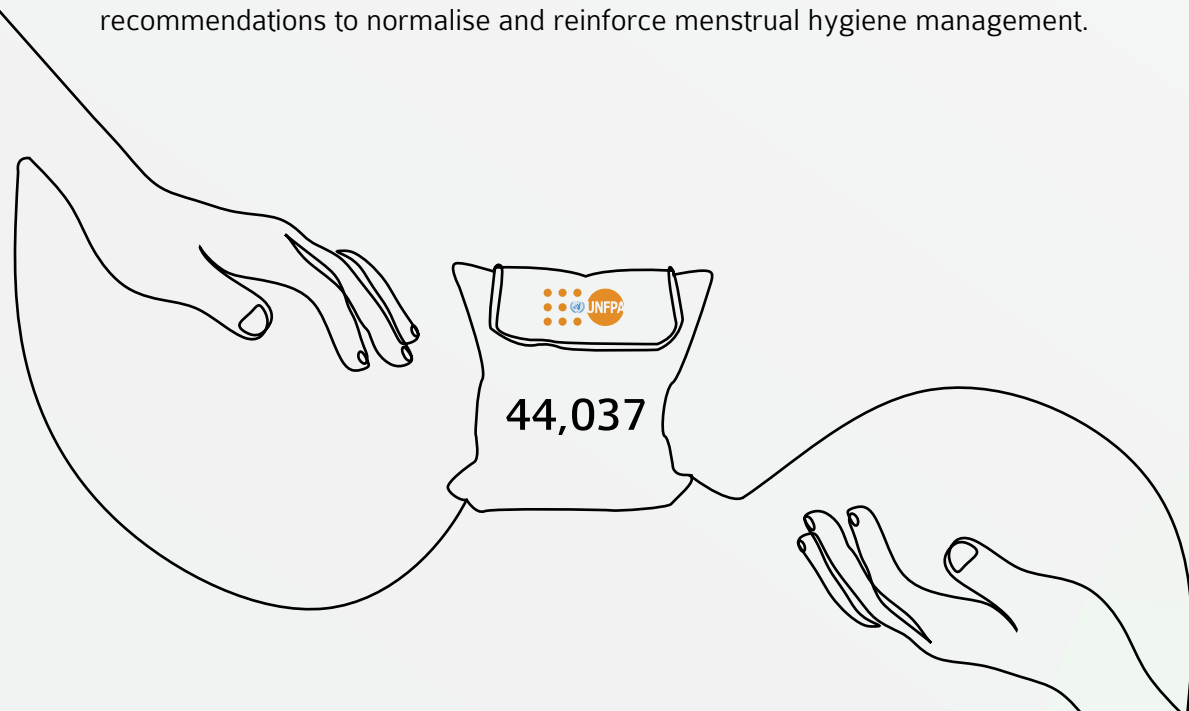
“What’s really special about the comprehensive GBV approach is that IPs are trained to notice whether a woman or adolescent girl who has visited for an SRH issue is also showing symptoms of GBV. And vice versa.

“Due to cultural reasons, a woman might be allowed by her husband or family to visit an SRH centre for antenatal or postnatal care but restricted from visiting a WGSS for GBV services. Now, we can reach those women too. Of the total beneficiaries reached with SRH services and information, 15% were referred to GBV services.”

Nicia El Dannawi, GBV Programme Specialist, UNFPA Lebanon

## Untapping dignity

In 2022, 44,037 dignity kits were distributed, including locally-made reusable sanitary pads to tackle period poverty. The generation of evidence on reusable pads is supporting the proposition of policy and program recommendations to normalise and reinforce menstrual hygiene management.





# Case Study

## Staying strong to beat cancer



One of UNFPA's key goals globally and in Lebanon with regards to women's health, is to improve breast cancer screening and early detection rates in order to save as many lives as possible. With generous support from our donors, UNFPA and their IPs have been working to achieve this goal over the past few years with SRH services.

49-year-old Mariam lives in Aarsal with her five children. She noticed that she had abnormal thing growing on her breast.



"I couldn't afford to do a mammography," she said



"But then I found out that there is a campaign on breast cancer led by AMEL association offering them free of charge. I dared myself to do one."



That same day, Mariam found out that she had breast cancer. The tumour was removed without the need for chemotherapy because she detected it at an early stage.



"We shouldn't be scared about cancer. We must stay strong to beat it," said Mariam.



"Every woman should have a check as a preventive measure...as soon as possible. When I meet other women, I encourage them to do the same as me."

## Targeting men to challenge gender norms

UNFPA, in partnership with a local NGO, Lebanese Women Democratic Gathering (RDFL), implemented a community engagement intervention targeting 426 community members and community leaders, including municipalities, religious leaders, and boys/men networks, to promote social and behavioural change to gender equality in Lebanon.



"We participated in several sessions with rich and varied conversations, and we have actually heard some good ideas. I hope as a member of my local authority, we will return and start putting what we are learning and talking about into practice."

Male champion from the meetings.

# Development

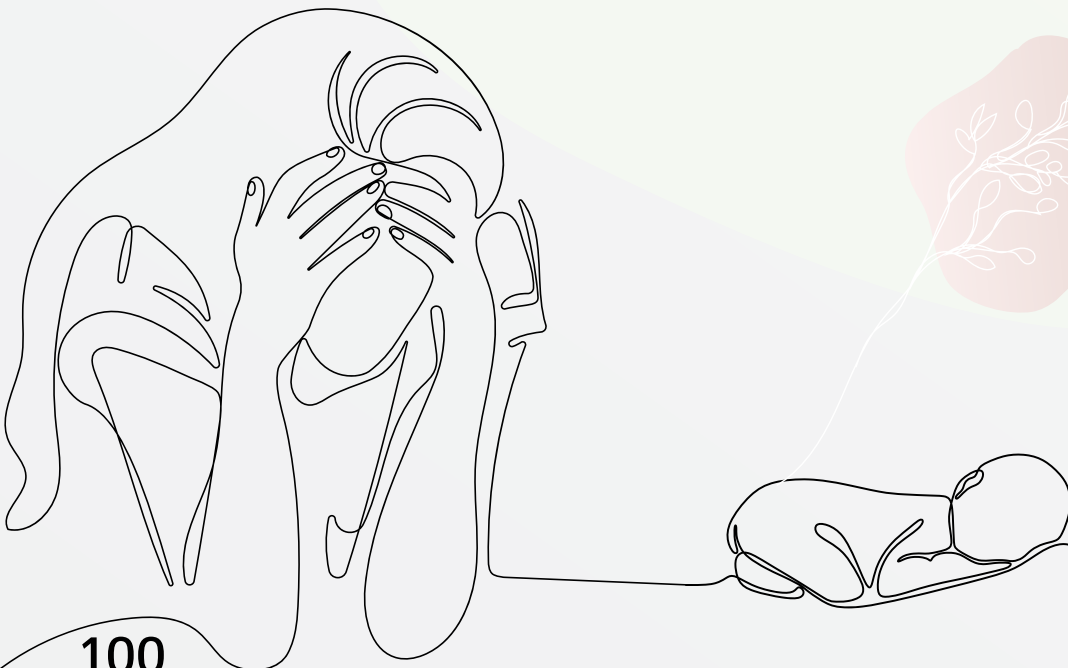
## Family planning, led by evidence

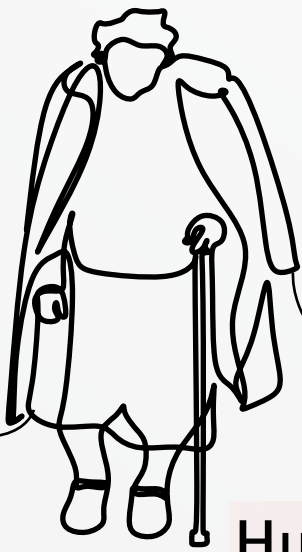
UNFPA provided support for the assessment stages of a multi-year FP strategy for Lebanon, which will inform future programming. Through advocacy, we also worked with a key faith-based organisation to consider the importance of including evidence-based information on all modern contraceptive methods in FP awareness raising.



## Mental health guidelines to address rising maternal depression

Due to the worsening context in Lebanon, the majority of Lebanese and Syrian refugees are suffering from chronic stress. In that regard, an increase of PSS provision has been observed. However, particular PSS to pregnant and lactating women is still lacking. In response to these critical needs, UNFPA has worked with the MoPH to develop maternal mental health guidelines to support the capacity of 100 non-mental health specialists (mostly midwives and social workers) to screen for and refer cases of maternal depression.





# Older Women

## Humanitarian/Development Nexus

The NGO Al-Makassed, in partnership with UNFPA, launched the project “Agents of change” which brought young and old people together to deliver both companionship and health support over a period of two months, as a sign of intergenerational solidarity. They had the chance to learn from each other. The young people benefitted from the wisdom and values of elders, while older people gained skills in digital technology. Twenty youth were matched with 20 older persons from the same community i.e. Tareek el Jdideh (Beirut). While 71% of the youth engaged acquired the needed skills provided for enhanced companionship with older persons, 100% of the elderly who participated in the activities with youth support reported positively being impacted and improved wellbeing.



## Case Study Agents of Change

Ghada is one of many older Syrians who fled her country to Lebanon due to the ongoing war. Now 65 years old, she is raising her son’s children.

“The economic crisis has made it hard to cover our most basic needs,” she said.

“I could never imagine visiting a doctor due to the consultation fees.”

Ghada was visited by young trainees who monitored her health, allowing her to save money for rent and food. As part of the project, the young team accompany older people to outdoor activities.

“I enjoyed meeting other people my age and listening to nostalgic songs. It was lovely to spend time with young people. They are taking care of us and our needs,” she said.



# Development

## Taking a stand for older people

Older people in Lebanon are some of the most affected by the economic crisis in Lebanon. They have lost their savings, having contributed throughout their working lives, so they now have no funds to sustain their retirement. They have no access to healthcare and many are now struggling to put food on the table. Their inability to provide financially for children and grandchildren is also a source of stress.

In partnership with ESCWA, UNFPA supported the development of a National Strategy for Older People, which was endorsed by the Government. An action plan for the strategy is being drafted.



*Leave no one behind*

## Breaking new ground

As part of the United Nations' principle to Leave No One Behind, UNFPA Lebanon has promoted the wellbeing and protection of vulnerable groups such as the LGBTQIA+ community, persons with disability and migrant workers. We have supported our partners in preventing and mitigating risks of violence, abuse, and exploitation, and providing vital and essential GBV services.

We have advocated to mainstream SRH and GBV in national crisis response plans and worked for the inclusion of marginalised groups. For the first time, LGBTQIA+ terminology was included in the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan document that was endorsed by the Government.

UNFPA has also maintained coordination with relevant gender and GBV bodies including the UN Gender Working group, the Human Rights Working group, the PSEA network and the LGBTQIA+ taskforce, which has contributed to strengthening interagency advocacy on key issues.

# Case Study

## Raising awareness of LGBTQIA+

To ensure and promote inclusivity, UNFPA Lebanon continued its partnership with the Society for Inclusion and Development in Communities and Care for All (SIDC), a specialist partner that works with the LGBTQIA+ community. In addition, SIDC conducted awareness sessions on different topics, mainly gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, harm reduction, and mental health.

Patrick has been working at SIDC as a Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) Officer over the past few years. He offers consultations and testing for LGBTQIA+ communities.



“In Lebanon, we have a very poor awareness on sexual and reproductive health, especially when it comes sexually-transmitted diseases,” he said.



“I can proudly say that I am helping to save lives every single day.”

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## Supporting inclusion for Persons with Disability

In 2022, at the request of the MoSA, UNFPA in collaboration with ESCWA, supported the drafting of a National Strategy for Persons with Disability, which articulates the priorities in Lebanon for this segment of society. The strategy states the main actors for addressing the needs of persons with disability under the overall inclusion principle for human rights.

Our aim is to ensure that persons with disability live with dignity on one hand, but that they are also visible, empowered and proactive in society. The key is providing actionable advice and making sure that the strategy is aligned with national priorities and complexities.

To help draft this strategy, we developed a situation analysis on persons with disability with ESCWA, at the request of the Government.

In partnership with ABAAD, UNFPA also conducted a two-day capacity-building training workshop with 67 front liners and social workers people on case management, inclusive of persons with disability, to our IPs, NGOs, and other humanitarian actors.

Participants were equipped with the necessary knowledge of case management for persons with disability. In coordination with LECORVAW, UNFPA established two mobile units in Tripoli to provide GBV programming activities for this vulnerable group.

As part of the situation analysis on persons with disabilities, conducted by MoSA (see above), our research found that women and girls with disabilities face three-dimensional discrimination since they are females, have a disability, and are the poorest among the poor. They are often at greater risk of violence, abuse, persecution, neglect, and/or exploitation.

The research mapped available services, analysed major gaps and challenges related to service delivery, and identified the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders and service providers. Finally, the study provided recommendations and proposed interventions – at a legal, policy and capacity development level – to enhance the protection system for women and girls with disabilities in Lebanon.



## Growing population of migrant workers

While the vast majority of women and girls receiving UNFPA-supported GBV services are Lebanese (33%) and Syrian (75%), a low but increasing number (4%) of migrant and foreign nationals also sought case management services. As part of the new midwifery network for high-risk pregnancies, established in collaboration with the Lebanese Order of Midwives, migrants and women with disabilities were targeted by the network to ensure no one was left behind. More than 5,300 Migrant Workers were reached in 2022.

# Staying on top of operations

Our operations team ensured that resource management, accountability, and oversight processes and tools were efficiently and timely met and achieved throughout 2022.

In particular, we prepared a development plan for program supplies and financial management for IPs to ensure efficient implementation of the Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) and last-mile assurance. Key achievements included:

- a Capacities of IPs and program staff were enhanced through various training sessions covering HACT financial management, due diligence, PSEA, and the use of UNFPA tools,
- b Valid micro assessments, a quality assurance plan, and development plans based on audit recommendations were implemented to mitigate risks faced by IPs during project implementation,
- c the UNFPA CO updated and shared a list of harmonised rates relevant to IP transactions with other agencies and
- d A last-mile assurance exercise was conducted to ensure accurate monitoring and distribution of UNFPA program supplies, with relevant reports shared.

