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JANUARY - JUNE 2011 / Issue 3

NEWSLETTER

Expanding Scope of Partnerships Guarantees Impact

The first half of 2011 witnessed the smooth continuation of several collaborations initiated in 2010 - which marks the first year of the UNFPA-supported *Country Programme Action Plan 2010-2014* in Lebanon - as well as new partnerships that were identified, established and effectively translated into joint projects based on extensive consultation. Indeed, UNFPA considers these strategic partnerships critical for coordinating and leveraging the necessary support to advance the implementation of priorities in accordance with the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and the agenda of the International Conference of Population (ICPD) on the one hand and aligned with the recent Ministerial Declaration on the other. Both MDG and ICPD priorities can only be implemented if all strategic partners are mobilized by working together towards common national results, based on unique abilities, comparative advantages, complementary roles and a clear division of responsibilities, all of which leading eventually to the desired impact of the programme delivery.

UNFPA Lebanon takes pride in the vast pool of existing and new partners entrusted with executing numerous aspects of the country programme or simply affirming their strong alliance and support to ICPD and MDG agendas. A diverse array of actors constitutes this solid partnership including governmental administrations and commissions, NGOs (mainly youth), research and academic institutions, media, private sector, faith based organizations, and United Nations organizations.

It is believed that this multi-sectoral partnership will further anchor UNFPA's participative approach adopted across all stages of its work, be it during the identification of national priorities, conceptualization of various approaches, or articulation of innovative interventions.

Lastly, it is through leadership, commitment, and devotion that our partners will undoubtedly contribute to advancing Reproductive Health and Rights as well as Gender Equality and ultimately improving the wellbeing of men and women in Lebanon.

In this issue covering January-June 2011, UNFPA Lebanon is pleased to introduce its existing and new partners by highlighting the scope of these partnerships coupled with salient achievements and results. All views and comments are appreciated and welcomed.



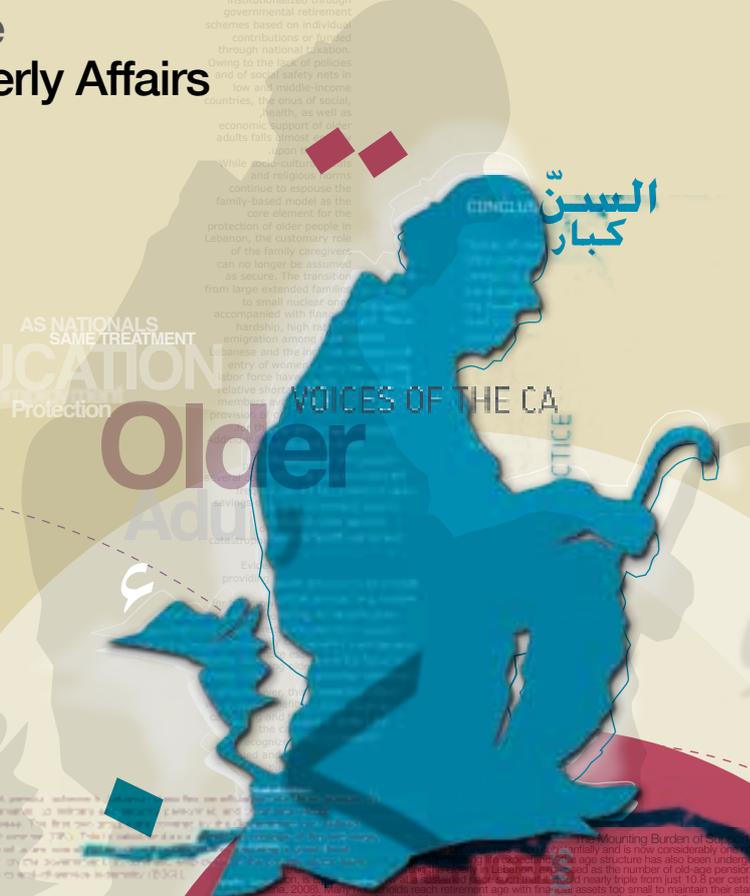
Towards Enhancing Role of the National Commission for Elderly Affairs

In its efforts to strengthen the role of the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) as a pioneer and leader on all matters related to ageing at the policy level, the *Population and Development* (PD) project – a joint collaboration between MOSA and UNFPA - is supporting the undertaking of an assessment of the National Commission for Elderly Affairs (NCEA) and its Technical Secretariat. This task consists of an in-depth analysis of the NCEA and its secretariat's role, functionality, modus operandi, and capacities in comparison with other countries' experiences. The assessment is also expected to review MOSA and NCEA roles in leading efforts towards achieving the commitments of the *Madrid International Plan of Action on Aging* (2002), coordination and partnerships with key stakeholders in the field of ageing, and linkages to the *International Conference on Population and Development* (1994) and the *Millennium Development Goals* (2000). The assessment will be completed by August 2011 and its findings will constitute the basis for reform actions including institutional and capacity development among others. Read more on the findings in our next issue.

Developing Quality Standards for Elderly Institutions in Lebanon

With an elderly population at around 7.4% of the total population in 2004 and changing family structures, Lebanon is more than ever in need for institutions providing quality health and social services for older adults. In this context, and building on recommendation of a technical workshop held in 2010, the *Population and Development* (PD) project, a joint collaboration between the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) and UNFPA, in partnership with MOSA's National Commission for Elderly Affairs and the Department of Family Affairs, initiated the development of practical standards for elderly care in Lebanon.

An independent expert was appointed for this endeavor and is currently working in close coordination with a specialized committee appointed by the Minister and in a participatory approach. Standards are expected to see light before the end of 2011. They will be in line with international sets of standards while taking into account both the local context and the institutions' capacities and means for adopting corrective measures. The adoption of the standards is expected to improve the quality of life of the elderly and enhance social equity at little or no extra cost.





Salemet Hamlek Evaluated for Better Maternal Health

Pregnant women and mothers were provided with a chance to voice out their opinions on the type of information they receive through the *Salemet Hamlek* newsletter and to suggest recommendations for improving it.

Supported by UNFPA since 2007, the newsletter is published twice a year by the *Choices and Challenges in Changing Childbirth Research Program* at the American University of Beirut's Faculty of Health Sciences/Center for Research on Population and Health. Some 30,000 copies per issue are disseminated widely to various private clinics as well as public health outlets in several regions and through the Reproductive Health programme of the Ministry of Public Health. The newsletter constitutes an educational written tool that can be kept as a reference to the readers with information and tips related to women and pregnancy, delivery and postpartum.

After 3 years of its issuance and with the support of UNFPA, an evaluation of the newsletter looked at various variables mainly clarity and comprehensibility, quality of information, attractiveness, acceptability, and appropriateness of the tool, among others. The evaluation was undertaken in several regions targeting women beneficiaries on the one hand and obtaining the opinions of health education experts and medical doctors on the other.

Many recommendations arose from the evaluation with key ones summarized as follows:

- Increase of information that target family members, mainly husbands;
- Provision of web links for additional information on specific topics;
- Improvement of layout and structure including use of headers and sub-headers, more space and easily readable text. The format of the newsletter was perceived to be very suitable as "it can be easily put inside a ladies' bag";
- Insertion of quotes, tips, concerns and questions by women and providers;
- Use of real life pictures to be explored;
- Increase of visibility and demand for the newsletter. Current distribution of the newsletter through clinics was considered appropriate.

SALEMTEK HAMLEK NEWSLETTER FROM THE BENEFICIARIES' PERSPECTIVE

The evaluation of *Salemet Hamlek* newsletter among women showed the following:

- The vast majority of women found the information of good quality (comprehensive, understandable, convincing, credible and providing new knowledge)
- Although 96.3% of women perceived the information in the newsletters targeting women in general around childbirth; a smaller proportion reported it to be targeting their families in general and husbands in particular
- Only 68.5% of women agreed that the information provided is sufficient and 56.7% found that it directed them to other sources of information if needed
- 50% of women made use of some information provided in the newsletter and only 35.4% of them reported discussing the content with someone else, mainly with relatives and husband
- Only 29.1% reported that they found the newsletters to be missing some useful information
- Few respondents beneficiaries suggested to increase the number of pages and to produce a more comprehensive booklet about pregnancy, birth and postpartum
- Around 92% were satisfied by the mode of distribution through clinics
- Around 95% expressed willingness to read future issues of the newsletter

Expert Round Table Meeting to Set Agenda on Women's Health

On the occasion of the *International Women's Day*, UNFPA partnered with the Lebanese Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology (LSOG), the *Choices and Challenges in Changing Childbirth Research Program* (American University of Beirut/ Faculty of Health Sciences) and the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) for holding a round table meeting on March 11. This national event that aimed at identifying priority issues on women's health brought together renowned senior experts from some 30-35 academic institutions and NGOs in addition to women activists groups. Several issues and parameters supported by strong evidence were discussed and a number of key priorities were agreed upon that constituted a framework for a national agenda to improve women's

health. The LSOG will follow up with key stakeholders – namely MOPH - on the next steps for adopting the women's health framework and for operationalizing the coordination mechanism.

On the other hand, UNFPA will sustain its partnership with LSOG throughout 2011 however this time to maximize the dissemination of relevant, evidence-based, and necessary knowledge and information on women's health to the population at large. As such and in view of the unanimous belief that media plays an important role in informing and shaping perceptions on health and in raising awareness, and due to the fact that there are no available local resources for the general media personnel, it becomes compelling to look at how women's health issues are being addressed in the media. More on this initiative in the next issue!

KEY PRIORITIES FOR IMPROVING WOMEN'S HEALTH

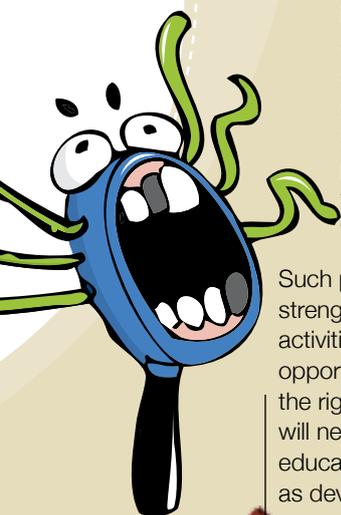
The Expert Round Table Meetings on Women's Health identified the following priorities that would require particular actions and interventions:

- Women's health should be comprehensively looked at from a life-cycle approach
- Women's health priorities must not be perceived as identical to maternal health needs
- Social determinants must be assessed as factors impeding women's equal access to health
- Some women groups within the population remain relatively ignored in terms of tailoring services to their health needs and priorities (i.e. elderly women, women with special needs, sex workers, foreign domestic workers)
- Sexual and reproductive health rights are as important as reproductive health services
- The high proportion of C-sections in Lebanon needs to be reexamined and assessed in terms of cost effectiveness, necessity, impact on woman's health, etc
- Re-assess the role of midwives to expand their scope of services
- Re-visit and tailor a reproductive health service package for adolescents and unmarried girls through a friendly and culturally appropriate approach as well as positive attitudes by service providers
- Reinforce sexual and reproductive health education in schools
- Support community outreach on women's health issues and needs
- Impact of Gender Based Violence on women's health

A Multi-Level Partnership Newly Initiated

UNFPA's successful collaboration with the Educational Center for Research and Development (ECRD) and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) resulted in the development and issuance of the long awaited *Gender-Sensitive Life skills Reproductive Health Education* curriculum in 2009. With the integration process now in progress, UNFPA is currently focusing on expanding reproductive health (RH) education in school-based extracurricular activities as a mean to capture young students in any school setting and with the intention to relay essential messages and reliable information. It was therefore necessary to identify a new, pertinent, and strategic partnership that would be entrusted for taking in charge a full set of interventions and activities for fulfilling the desired results.

Such partnership was established with the Saint Joseph University (USJ) and aims at strengthening institutional capacities of MEHE to integrate RH concepts in extracurricular activities as well as providing intermediate and secondary students with tools, opportunities, and accurate information on RH that will eventually help them make the right and responsible decisions about their health and wellbeing. This partnership will necessitate the execution of essential components such as training on existing educational tools (i.e. interactive games) to be used by students in public schools, as well as development of new tools with due attention to social media, where applicable.



In addition to the above and in order to ensure the sustainability of this approach, a course on RH education will be developed by USJ to complement the *Teachers Education Curriculum* offered yearly by the Faculty of Educational Sciences. This way, teachers from different regions can enroll in the course intended to equip them with adequate knowledge and understanding on RH and which in turn will contribute to improving the life skills approach among students in conjunction with their reproductive health.



The partnership with USJ doesn't end at this stage but further extends to collaborate - once again - with the Centre Universitaire de Santé Familiale et Communautaire (CUFSC) at USJ campus. UNFPA has previously partnered with CUFSC for translating its informative website into Arabic and disseminating its useful content in various public schools nationwide. Currently, the CUSFC is entrusted with developing a training manual for health (and social) care providers who cater for young people's health in general and reproductive health in particular. It is expected that this training resource will be validated by health professionals and youth themselves to be used later on for reinforcing capacities of providers in health outlets.

Theatre Based Peer Education Expanding Further in Schools

Back in 2010, the Lebanese Evangelical School, Zahrit el Ehsan and Al Mabarrat Association- represented by Imam Al Mabarrat School and Al Rahma School - engaged in a unique and successful experience: Theatre Based Peer Education (TBPE). This particular new approach gives young people the chance to select topics of their interest and voice them out on stage in such a way to influence their peers. The implementation of the TBPE approach in these schools - including theatrical performances - resulted in a highly significant increase in knowledge and positive attitudes among intermediate and high school students on issues related to reproductive health, including HIV/AIDS as well as other risky behaviors.

This successful initiative encouraged the Educational Center for Research and Development (ECRD) to adopt the TBPE approach within its continuous training program in 2011 and building on the *Gender-Sensitive Life Skills Reproductive Health Education Curriculum* (issued in a ministerial communiqué in 2009) as the main framework for the integration of TBPE throughout the education sector.

This new approach introduced in 2011 within the ECRD/UNFPA ongoing partnership will consist of reinforcing capacities of a core group of experts to act as national trainers in TBPE. This core group will be selected from three continuing education centers/Dar el Mouallemeen in selected regions (i.e. Tyr, Zahleh and Mount Lebanon). In addition, selected school health supervisors from the Orientation and Guidance Bureau of the Directorate of Education at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education as well as teachers from El Mabarrat Association will join the core group of national trainers. The latter will receive a series of trainings in TBPE techniques, facilitation and coaching skills as well as in thematic issues related to reproductive health as outlined in the curriculum. Later on, they will be responsible for developing the capacities of teachers in selected schools and who are expected to kick off the TBPE initiative within their respective students.

Finally, it is worth noting that the support of the Visual and Performing Arts Association (VAPA) will be sought throughout this project given its expertise in theater and improvisation as well as VAPA's key role in leading this pilot initiative in 2010.



A Student-Focused Outreach

In a continuous effort to reach out to Lebanese youth, UNFPA and the Youth Peer Education (Y-PEER) network conducted a number of outreach activities in universities, all aiming at introducing students to UNFPA's mandate and areas of work.

On March 26, UNFPA joined efforts with 8 other UN agencies and animated 2 sessions in the *Model UN/Mock Simulation* at the Lebanese American University (LAU) in Beirut. The first session addressed the *Role of Youth in HIV/AIDS Prevention: the Y-PEER Initiative*. The Y-PEER network in Lebanon – supported by UNFPA - was introduced to over 100 young delegates and the presentation included statistics on the HIV epidemic, videos, and photos on how youth are addressing such a challenge through awareness, networking, and advocacy in a youth-friendly approach. The second session highlighted the UNFPA supported initiative with the Educational Center for Research and

Development aiming at *Integrating Reproductive Health Education into Curricular and Extra-Curricular Activities* whereby students were extensively exposed to the process of evidence-based advocacy which was essential in making such a breakthrough possible. The session consisted of a short animated movie about the need for reproductive health education in schools followed by a brainstorming discussion. Both sessions were highly interactive and appreciated by the students. A total of 180 high school students from several schools throughout Lebanon were thus introduced to UNFPA's work.

In parallel, and on two occasions, Y-PEER Lebanon participated in university efforts promoting students' activism and awareness. As part of the first *UN Day* organized by LAU on April 27 at its Beirut campus, and along with representatives from UN agencies in Lebanon, members of the Y-PEER network occupied a booth, displayed various materials and presented the students with what they do. On May 6 and 7, and at the Saint Joseph University's *9th International Francophone Seminar on Youth and Risky Behaviors*, members of Y-PEER network also had the chance to man their own booth by engaging the young students in interactive awareness games on HIV/AIDS transmission and prevention, sexually transmitted infections, and other topics related to their health. The feedback turned out very positive and many students inquired about how they could join the Y-PEER network.

UNFPA's Support to National Youth Policy

The *Lebanese Youth Participation and Empowerment Project (YEPP)* is a joint project among the UN Youth Task Force member agencies and the Ministry of Youth and Sports in Lebanon, and in partnership with youth groups and youth-focused civil society organizations. As part of the project, two studies i.e. *National Youth Profile: an Overview of the Situation of Young People in Lebanon* and *Youth and Laws in Lebanon* were commissioned to be prepared by national experts as baseline for the national youth policy. The findings and policy recommendations of the two studies (among other studies) were extensively reviewed, discussed and validated by multi-stakeholders from governmental and non-governmental sectors. As a last step to ensure comprehensiveness and coherence of these essential national documents, UNFPA at the request of the Youth Task Force commissioned an external senior consultant to take charge of this task. The outcome yielded high quality results and the documents were finalized and will soon be published and disseminated.

Relying on Y-PEER's Expertise

Since its launch in 2008, and with the support of UNFPA, members of the Youth Peer Education (Y-PEER) network in Lebanon have undergone a series of trainings and workshops on various techniques, skills and topics. Three years later, and out of UNFPA's belief in young people's capacities and capabilities to act as vibrant leaders and agents of change, Y-PEER members are being involved in several of UNFPA's projects and partners building on the experience and knowhow invested in them, thus translating acquired knowledge into practice. Below are examples of the Y-PEERs contribution in 2011 to UNFPA's ongoing work:

- Peer to peer sensitization in summer camps on gender equality in North Lebanon and within the context of the joint MDG-F programme on Peace Building and Conflict Prevention;
- The Y-PEERs will take part in promoting the educational tools that will be used in awareness raising activities in the context of UNFPA supported project with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in partnership with Saint Joseph University;
- Members of the Y-PEER network will act as resource persons in the training of experts on theater based peer education and within the context of UNFPA supported project with the Educational Center for Research and Development;
- Y-PEER members are expected to proactively engage in the second phase of the Operationalization of Youth Friendly Services initiative.

High Lead Concentrations in Lebanese Cities
Lead concentrations at monitored urban locations varied from 0.17 to 4.64 µg/m³ with an average value of 1.86 µg/m³. Highest concentrations were found in Dora, Metreha, and Heliye. (Musa and Duzal, In suburban areas, atmospheric lead concentrations were about 2.22 times lower than the average measured in the heavily traveled locations. These levels are higher than values reported in countries where lead has been phased-out from gasoline. In 1998, the average lead concentration was 0.2 µg/m³ in the United States.)



Let's Talk: A Pioneering Campaign

The *Let's Talk* campaign was launched in Lebanon with the support of the international fashion retailer H&M. Masar, a local NGO engaged in youth empowerment activities, has been identified as a key partner to manage the campaign in close collaboration with the Youth Peer Education (Y-PEER) network and UNFPA.

Let's Talk campaign is a regional initiative aiming at voicing out youth concerns and aspirations, stimulating debate, creating demand, and raising awareness among young people around issues related to their health, including HIV/AIDS prevention. Capacity development, outreach activities, as well as media and entertainment events (including media encounters, concert, etc.) will be carried out to reach out to the youth across Lebanon.

A number of Lebanese celebrities and key decision makers will be invited to support this campaign. In this regard, an opinion survey was launched among young people to explore their favorite icons in the world of celebrities and in particular music, movie, media, sports, and fashion industries. The results of the survey will determine the celebrities who will be approached and potentially involved in the campaign. In addition, an assessment of the campaign's impact on the young people will be conducted at the end of the campaign.

The activities will kick off soon so keep your eyes open!



Prioritizing GBV Prevention and Response

Despite the fact that international laws guarantee women and men equal rights in the enjoyment of all human rights aspects, women and girls continue to face, in law and in practice, inequalities worldwide including in Lebanon. Gender Based Violence (GBV) is one of these striking inequalities whose impact can be devastating on the health, security and well being of the survivor as well as the family and the society at large. That is why UNFPA has been collaborating with GBV actors in Lebanon, since 2008, to support national efforts for mainstreaming and institutionalizing prevention of and response to GBV in national planning and development.

In accordance with the key priorities for 2010, which were identified jointly as a result of a close coordination and consultation with concerned stakeholders, four national studies on GBV in Lebanon were completed and key findings of these studies were disseminated during a stakeholder's meeting on March, 10. The meeting, which was also an occasion to commemorate the *International Women's Day*, gathered some 65 participants from governmental administrations, NGOs, academic institutions, international bodies, and the media sector. There was much interest in the findings of the studies and the resulting policy implications especially that newly generated evidence provided a comprehensive overview of the GBV situation in Lebanon in terms of legislations, services, resources, actors, and media coverage of GBV, among others. As such, the identified gaps and challenges are fundamental for enhancing GBV prevention and response.

Building on findings and recommendations of the studies, the meeting identified key strategic interventions to be implemented in 2011 as follows:

- Preparations for undertaking a GBV prevalence survey
- Development of policy briefs on GBV
- Development of a GBV monitoring and evaluation framework
- Support media training on GBV issues
- Expand pool of resource experts on GBV by training core team of trainers
- Continue supporting advocacy and lobbying efforts

The above efforts and interventions will require participation and involvement of GBV actors at the national and regional levels.

The Revised National Strategy for Women in Lebanon Validated

After a thorough consultative process initiated by the National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW) in cooperation with UNFPA, a two-day workshop was organized to validate the revised National Strategy for Women in Lebanon. The use of the term "women in Lebanon" (rather than "Lebanese women") in the title of strategy was considered a progressive step forward in addressing women issues, thus allowing the strategy to tackle priorities relevant to Lebanese women as well as women refugees, women migrant workers, etc. This point was one of the main recommendations in the national CEDAW reports presented by NCLW in previous years.

The meeting was organized on March 17 and 18 and in commemoration of the *International Women's Day*. An estimated 65 representatives of governmental institutions, civil society, and international organizations actively participated in the deliberations. The opening ceremony was lead by NCLW General Secretary Mr. Fadi Karam and UNFPA Country Director Mr. Ziad Rifai.

All for One Strategy!

Although different NGOs and international organizations work constantly on developing their own strategies, it was an achievement to gain national support and ownership on the adoption of the Strategy for Women in Lebanon from main actors

The strategic objectives in the strategy were drawn from the international conventions and agreements endorsed by Lebanon, as well as on Lebanon's Constitution and the *National Accord* (known as the *Taef Agreement*). The initially proposed objectives were discussed one by one within the Lebanese context and revised in a way that respected all relevant priorities and issues expressed by the participants. The final outcome consisted of a strategy comprising nine objectives as follows:

- Achieving gender equality in rights and duties, in all sectors and legislations;
- Enhancing educational opportunities for girls and women;
- Enhancing gender equality in access to health care and reproductive health services;
- Combating poverty among women;
- Enhancing the participation of women in economic life;
- Achieving gender equality in all decision-making positions;
- Combating violence against women;
- Changing the stereotype image of women in media and culture;
- Enhancing the protection of women in armed conflict, emergency, and national disasters.

The future steps will consist of finalizing and disseminating the strategy as well as translating the latter into a *National Action Plan*, which will be led by NCLW with the support of UNFPA, and conducted in a participatory approach involving all relevant stakeholders.

Responding to Girls and Women's Reproductive Health Needs in North Lebanon: Developing Capacities of Health Care Providers

Within the context of the joint MDG-F programme on *Conflict Prevention and Peace Building* in North Lebanon, and in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health, UNFPA organized a two-day capacity development seminar in June on the provision of a comprehensive and quality reproductive health package for health care providers in Tripoli.

Women and girls' reproductive health stood out as one of the unmet needs in the findings of the assessment carried out with UNFPA's support in late 2010 in three regions in north Lebanon. The study aimed at exploring, understanding, and identifying the needs and priorities of women and young girls in various domains including in health. It is to be noted that based on the assessment's findings and on communities' feedback, the original work plan was tailored to meet community priorities and expectations.

The seminar targeted various health care providers (physicians, midwives and nurses) on health in general and reproductive health in particular. Experts in the medical and public health fields covered various topics such as safe motherhood, sexually transmitted infections, reproductive tract infections and HIV/AIDS prevention, stress management, counseling in reproductive health, patient education and prevention of Gender Based Violence. A total of 50 participants attended the seminar and received educational material packages to be distributed for patients in local health centers patients.

A similar seminar targeting Nahr El Bared and Baddawi Palestinian camps and surrounding Lebanese villages is planned for July 2011.

SPREADING GENDER EQUALITY AWARENESS AMONG YOUTH

Within the context of the MDG-F joint programme and with the aim of maximizing outreach to youth in various settings, the Youth Peer Education (Y-PEER) network was mobilized to transfer its knowhow and edutainment approach to its peers. By the end of June, 12 Y-PEER educators from Palestinian Camps and Lebanese NGOs attended a two-day capacity development training on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.

The young educators were introduced to the basics of gender concepts and definitions, gender equality from a human rights perspective, girls and women empowerment, as well as prevention of gender based violence. The participants were specifically trained on using gender related educational tools and games including one on domestic violence i.e. "Suha and Karim" movie. The young educators got the chance to translate theory into practice by using the movie's training module on human rights, causes and consequences of violence, as well as breaking the silence.

In July, these 12 educators will be using the newly acquired techniques and skills during the awareness sessions they will conduct on gender equality issues in their respective communities, especially in summer camps organized by UNICEF in North Lebanon and gathering Palestinian and Lebanese youth.

UNFPA Publications on University Libraries' Shelves

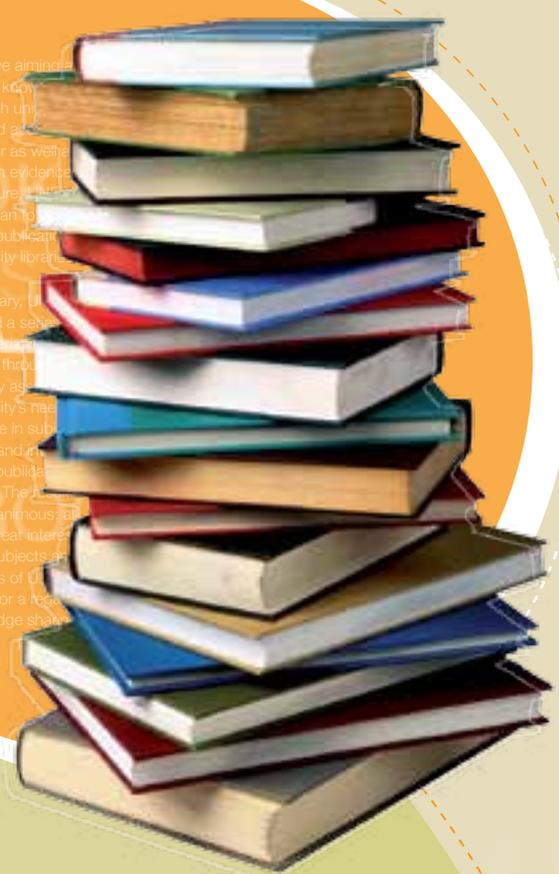
In a move aiming at widening the knowledge sharing with university students and academicians as well as promoting an evidence-based culture, UNFPA launched a plan to share its multiple publications with university libraries.

In February, UNFPA conducted a series of visits with librarians of 21 universities throughout Lebanon by assessing the university's needs, preference in subject areas, users and interest in UNFPA publications and mandate. The results were unanimous: all showed great interest in the subjects and publications of UNFPA and called for a regular knowledge sharing process.

As a result, global, regional and national UNFPA reports and publications addressing a variety of topics will be regularly shared with university libraries and made available to students and faculty throughout Lebanon.

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Ongoing Development of UNFPA Staff Capacity

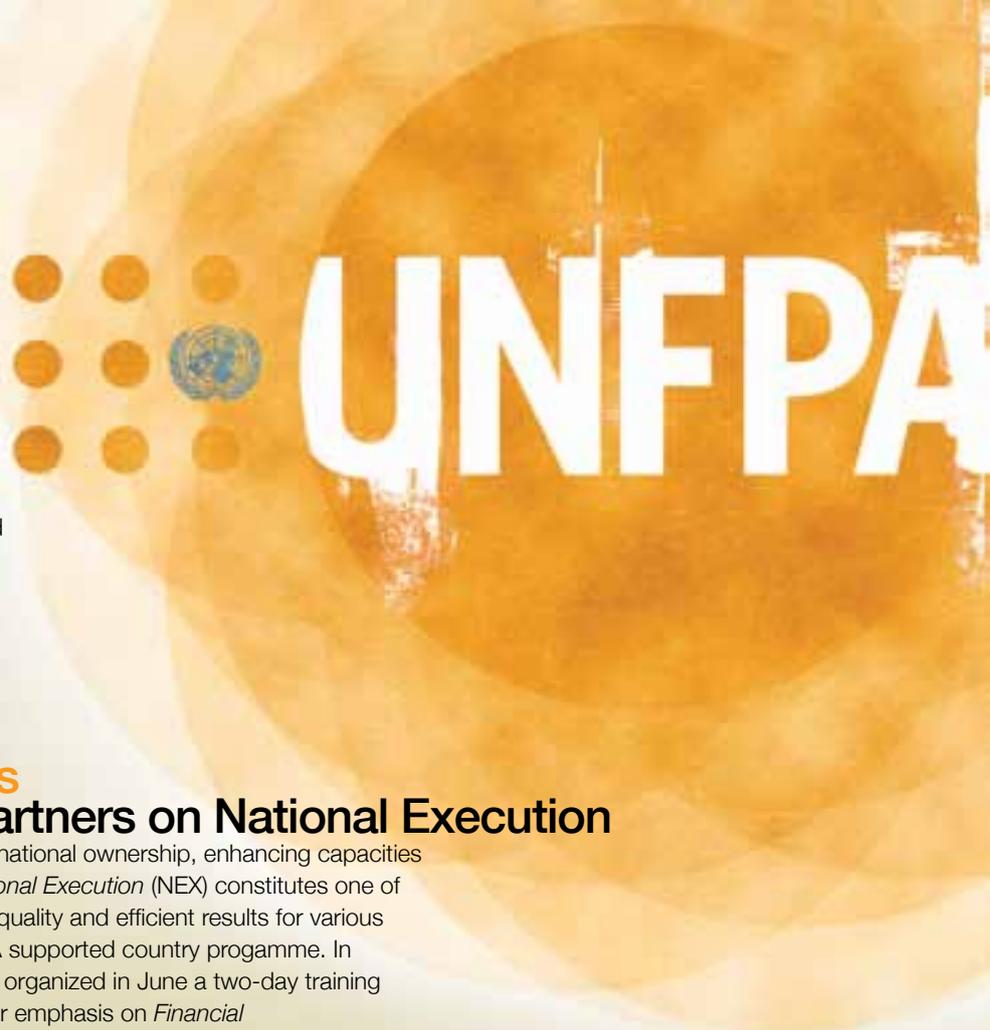
Ongoing development of staff capacities constitutes a guarantee of quality management and monitoring coupled with dedicated professionals. In line with this firm belief, the UNFPA management is continuously encouraging the staff to participate in learning opportunities be it through webinars, distance learning courses and/or national training workshops among others. As such, and each in accordance with his/her function, some staff enrolled in webinars/distance learning courses in areas as varied as *Gender Based Violence programming, Information Management System, International Public Sector Accounting Standards, Sexual and Reproductive Health programming, and Resource Mobilization*. In parallel, the Country Office recently established internal periodic afternoon learning sessions covering topics ranging from organizational structure and systems to various thematic areas. Those afternoon sessions were found to be quite beneficial by the staff.

Last but not least, some staff have been acting as resource persons locally, regionally, and globally in various fora (i.e. workshops, conferences, technical meetings, etc) and thus their role is not only to transfer their knowledge and expertise to others but also to benefit from these events for introducing further innovations and new approaches into their respective areas of work of the Lebanon country programme.

UNFPA Lebanon Welcomes Arab States Regional mission

UNFPA Country Office welcomed colleagues from UNFPA Arab States Regional Office from May 27 till June 1. The delegation consisted of Mr. Hafedh Chekir, Regional Director, Mr. Mohamed Afifi, Special Assistant to the Regional Director, Mr. Aleksander Bodiroza, Technical Adviser on Youth and HIV/AIDS, Ms. Josiane Khoury, Programme Specialist and Mr. Abdallah Zoubi, Adviser on Population and Development.

The delegation's visit was essentially for the purpose of attending the Regional *UN Development Group and Regional Coordination Mechanism* meetings in addition to side meetings with regional partners for discussing operational and programmatic matters. The UNFPA office seized this opportunity and a general staff meeting with the mission was held over a Lebanese breakfast. Discussions addressed new challenges and programmatic orientations in light of the socio-political changes and emerging priorities in several Arab countries.

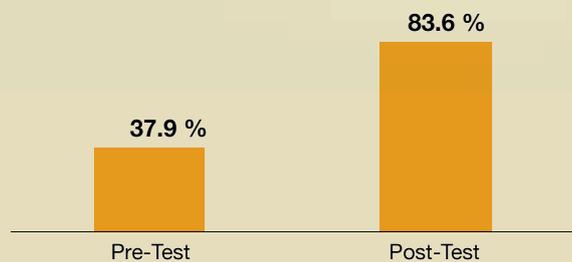


Enhancing Capacities of Implementing Partners on National Execution

As UNFPA is committed to promoting national ownership, enhancing capacities of implementing partners through *National Execution (NEX)* constitutes one of the main modalities for achieving high quality and efficient results for various components of the 2010-2014 UNFPA supported country programme. In that respect, UNFPA office in Lebanon organized in June a two-day training

workshop on NEX with particular emphasis on *Financial Management* of its supported projects including roles and accountabilities of implementing partners. The workshop gathered a total of 21 participants consisting of managers, national directors, focal points, and accountants/finance officers of all current implementing partners, notably Ministry of Social Affairs, National Commission for Lebanese Women, Educational Center for Research and Development, Saint Joseph University and Masar NGO in addition to the UNFPA programme staff. The Council for Development and Reconstruction was represented in its capacity as national counterpart and executing agency for the whole country programme. The workshop was greatly appreciated by the participants who expressed satisfaction with the theoretical information as well as hands-on exercises on financial management.

Substantial Increase in Partners' Knowledge on Financial Management



A Mapping of Private Sector Launched

Strategic partnerships for UNFPA are critical for coordinating and leveraging the necessary support to advance the implementation of national priorities in line with the agenda of the *International Conference on Population and Development and the Millennium Development Goals*. It is with this spirit that

UNFPA launched recently a mapping of selected private sector enterprises particularly those engaged in Corporate Social Responsibility in Lebanon. Upon completion of this exercise, UNFPA will build on its findings to engage proactively in initiating partnerships based on common grounds and to build mutually-beneficial relationships that can help both organizations reach the desired goals and results while maintaining their respective mandates. The findings are expected to come out by the end of 2011.

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PUBLICATIONS

COVER	TITLE	AUTHORS	LANGUAGES	VOLUME
	<p>Review of Gender Based Violence Resource and Training Materials in Lebanon, Executive Summary</p> <p>مراجعة الموارد والمواد التدريبية المتعلقة بالعنف المبني على أساس النوع الاجتماعي في لبنان</p>	UNFPA and Education for Change (EFC)	Arabic, English	23 pages
	<p>Review of Gender Based Violence Research in Lebanon, Executive Summary</p> <p>مراجعة البحوث المتعلقة بالعنف المبني على أساس النوع الاجتماعي في لبنان</p>	UNFPA and Education for Change	Arabic, English	24 pages
	<p>Situation Analysis of Gender Based Violence in Lebanon, Executive Summary</p> <p>تحليل واقع العنف المبني على أساس النوع الاجتماعي</p>	UNFPA and Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR)	Arabic, English	25 pages
	<p>Assessment of Media Coverage of Gender Based Violence in Lebanon, Executive Summary</p> <p>أوجه معالجة الإعلام اللبناني لموضوع العنف المبني على أساس النوع الاجتماعي</p>	UNFPA and the Lebanese Council to Resist Violence against Women (LECORVAW)	Arabic, English	24 pages

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	تنفيذ الاقران من خلال المسرح في الإطار المدرسي: دليل تدريسي	Y-PEER Lebanon and Visual Arts and Performing Association (VAPA)	Arabic	57 pages
	دليل مساند حول الحقوق الإنسانية للمرأة	UNFPA, the National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW), KAFA (Enough) Violence and Exploitation (with support of Italian Cooperation Office of the Embassy of Italy in Beirut)	Arabic	144 pages
	Gender Sensitive Life Skills Reproductive Health Curriculum Development, A Best Practice Documentation منهج دراسي حول الصحة الإنجابية يراعي مسائل الجندرة ويزوّد الطلاب بمهارات حياتية: توثيق الممارسات الفضلى	UNFPA and Educational Center for Research and Development (ECRD)	Arabic, English	36 pages
	Y-PEER Newsletter, Issue 5, January – April 2011 نشرة شبكة تنفيذ الأقران بين الشباب، عدد ٥، كانون الثاني – نيسان ٢٠١١	Y-PEER Lebanon	Arabic, English	6 pages
	TANSEEQ for Ending Gender Based Violence in Lebanon, Issue 2, July – December 2010 تنسيق للحد من العنف المبني على أساس النوع الاجتماعي في لبنان	UNFPA and several GBV actors in Lebanon	Arabic, English	12 pages

صندوق الأمم المتحدة للسكان - لأن كل شخص مهم

يدعم صندوق الأمم المتحدة للسكان، وهو وكالة إنمائية دولية، حق كل امرأة ورجل وطفل في التمتع بحياة تتسم بالصحة وبتكافؤ الفرص. ويقوم الصندوق أيضا بدعم البلدان في استخدامها للبيانات السكانية اللازمة لسياسات برامج مكافحة الفقر وللبرامج التي تمكن من أن يكون كل حمل مرغوباً، وكل ولادة مأمونة، وكل شاب وشابة خالياً من فيروس نقص المناعة البشرية/الإيدز، وكل فتاة وامرأة تُعامل بكرامة واحترام.

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