



Report on UNFPA Jordan's activities marking the International Women's Day for the year 2022

8th of March, 2022

BACKGROUND

Each year on the 8th of March, the world celebrates the **International Women's Day (IWD)** to shed light on women's social, economic, cultural and political achievements, but also to reflect on the progress made towards gender equality and to call for change.

A global theme is released yearly by UN Women¹ to ensure that efforts worldwide are united and under the same messages. In 2022, the theme "**Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow**" gave the opportunity to build more understanding on the vital link between gender, social equity and climate change, and recognized that without gender equality today and women's active participation and contributions, a sustainable future, an equal future, remains out of reach.

On the national level, the Jordanian National Commission for Women decided to align its efforts and messages with the global theme to build a solid ground with evidence-based initiatives on the impacts of climate change on the lives of women and girls in Jordan, but also to shed light on women's important contribution to climate change action.

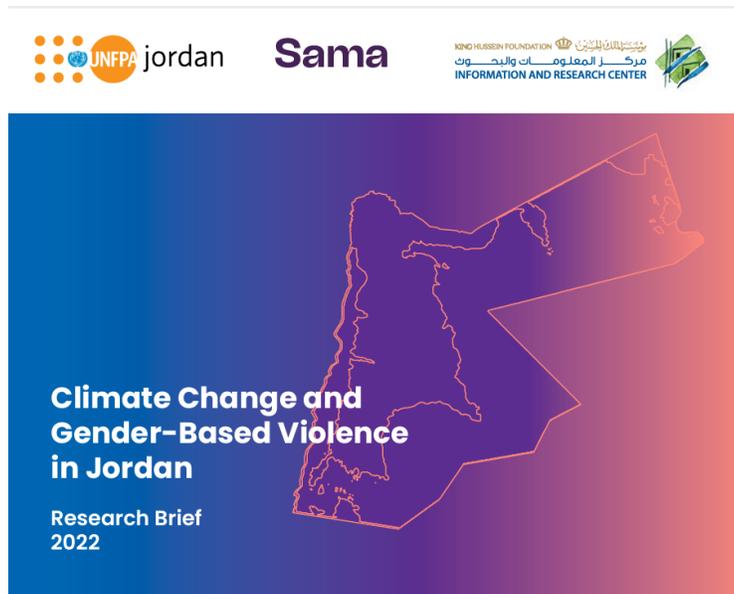
The official hashtags of the campaigns are: **#IWD2022** #اليوم_الدولي_للمرأة

UNFPA JORDAN ACTIVITIES

This year, with the generous contribution of the USA, UNFPA was able to generate evidence and raise awareness and the understanding on the impact of climate change in exacerbating the risks of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) especially against women and girls, through conducting direct activities in addition to supporting its national partners to mark this day.

1) Research Brief on GBV and Climate Change in Jordan:

UNFPA Jordan in collaboration with the Information and Research Center – King Hussein Foundation and Sama Consulting developed the first research brief aiming to highlight the impact of climate change on exacerbating the risks of GBV against women and girls in Jordan. The brief outlines the situation of climate change in Jordan, its impacts on women and girls, and highlights the contribution of women and girls in Jordan who are leading the charge on climate change



¹ UN Women, [International Women's Day theme](#), 2022

adaptation, mitigation, and response, to build a more sustainable future for all.

The research brief was published on several platforms, including: [UNFPA Jordan website](#), [Sama website](#), [Haqqi](#), [GBV SWG portal](#) and others. Moreover, [2 radio interviews](#) were organized to launch the research highlighting its main findings on 8th of March. As for next steps, UNFPA Jordan will continue supporting in developing more evidence but also to raise awareness on the topics, especially when starting the 10th program cycle (2023 - 2027) which has a focus on climate change action.

The findings of the research were also presented by the lead researcher in the [GBV SWG Learning Dialogue](#) and UNFPA ASRO's CSW side event.

2) Leading and collaborating in interagency activities:

By co-chairing the **Gender-Based Violence Sub-Working Group (GBV SWG)** along with UNHCR, and by being an active member of the **United Nations Communication Group (UNCG)** in Jordan, UNFPA organized the following:

A) Gender-Based Violence Sub-Working Group (GBV SWG):

UNFPA Jordan led the coordination of the GBV SWG 16 Days taskforce in: developing key messages in consultation with more than 120 women, men, girls and boys from the communities, organizing a [learning dialogue](#) with experts and women leaders to understand how climate change fuels GBV in Jordan and lastly launching [a recycling competition](#) for young women.

[More information can be found in the GBV SWG report for 2022:](#)



Panelists of the GBV SWG Learning Dialogue
Photo credit: UNFPA Jordan

B) United Nations Communication Group (UNCG):

As an active member, UNFPA supported in developing the [national key messages](#) of the campaign that were created jointly with JNCW.



3) Supporting community-based activities:

UNFPA supported its implementing partners: International Rescue Committee (IRC), Institute for Family Health (IFH) and Jordanian Women's Union (JWU) in activities conducted to celebrate the occasion.

- **7 in-person activities** were conducted in 7 UNFPA supported WGSS.
- **161 beneficiaries** were reached through in-person activities from different nationalities including: Jordanian, Syrian refugees, Egyptians and non-Syrian refugees such as Palestinian and Iraqis.
- Activities included awareness raising sessions, theaters, relaxation learning sessions and videos under the global theme, which gave beneficiaries the opportunity to understand but also engage in climate change action.
- Leading the coordination efforts of the GBV WG sub-national IWD taskforce in Azraq Camp (chaired by IRC jointly with UNHCR) and Zaatari Camp (chaired by IFH along with IMC).



An awareness raising event in UNFPA supported Women and Girls Safe Space (WGSS) in Azraq Camp

Photo credit: International Rescue Committee

Findings of the activities conducted:

- **Cash assistance and climate change mitigation:** Through the awareness raising sessions conducted in the WGSSs, women that receive cash assistance have expressed that they develop their own income-generating projects based on the climate, for example in summer time they work on raising livestock and poultry, in order to be able in winter to make and sell food products such as cheese, yogurt and pickle.
- **Impact of climate change in the lives of women and girls:** During the awareness raising sessions, women stated that climate change impacts negatively on the communities as families are losing their livelihood opportunities and this is affecting their economic situation, which have led families to marry off their daughters who are under 18 years old.
- **Women-led recycling initiatives:** Many initiatives were highlighted during the activities that are led and established by women, such as: Recycling damaged cars wheels to implant onions, parsley,



mint and other corps, recycling banana leaves and convert them into women purses, reusing plastic bags into household products, and other.

SUMMARY OF THE IMPACT

During an awareness raising session were women contributors to climate change shared their stories and initiatives
Photo credit: IFH/ UNFPA-supported project

- **Reach through direct execution activities:** 288 people
- **Media reach:** In total 164 posts reached 32,000 views
- **Amplifying women's contributions and efforts:** UNFPA highlighted the stories of 10 women contributors to climate change through the different activities, including women leading recycling projects, women in agriculture and others from both the local and refugee communities. A 40-year old Syrian woman said: *"I'm happy that the IWD this year focused on us women working in agriculture. I feel humble to be able not only to share my story and my voice, but the voices of all women in agriculture."*

UNFPA also shared the stories of the winners of the GBV SWG Recycling Competition to celebrate and support their initiatives. *"What a great surprise to be one of the winners of the GBV SWG recycling competition. Through products such as MicroPlasticsJO baskets, the battle for a sustainable tomorrow is not yet lost."* said Maria, 34-year old Iraqi woman and one of the winners of the recycling competition in her [Facebook Page](#).



Twitter post to amplify the work and voices of the GBV SWG recycling competition winners
UNFPA Jordan Twitter Account

- **Building evidence on the linkages between GBV and Climate Change:** UNFPA Jordan has developed the first research brief paper on the linkages between GBV and climate change in Jordan in two languages ([English](#) and [Arabic](#)), that is being used as a base reference for understanding the linkages, building information and calling for concrete recommendations and actions to enhance the response to climate change impacts against the lives of women and girls. Moreover and through co-chairing the GBV SWG, UNFPA has supported in connecting the environmental and WASH sector together with the GBV sector to ensure proper response to the risks of GBV as a result of climate hazards.

HUMAN-INTEREST STORY

Ever since Abeer, the 44-year old Jordanian woman living in Deir Alla joined a womens-led craft organization in 2008, Abeer has strengthened her handicraft skills and has started her first handicraft and recycling project. Abeer hasn't only kept those skills for herself but she has trained other women and girls in her community to do their own projects that support them economically.

Like many other women in her area, Abeer has faced initial challenges such as a lack of financial resources to buy crafts materials, but that did not stop her. She came up with the idea of reusing her house old items, sourcing them also from the streets, farms, factories and used them to build her recycling project and generate an income for her and her family, in addition to supporting the protection of the environment.

"There are fortunes inside our homes that should not be wasted!" she said. Abeer became very known in her community in producing purses, chairs and also traditional crafts by reusing the banana leaves left overs from the farms in Deir Alla, were she also trains other women at a UNFPA-supported facility.

Today Abeer is the president of a women's led handicraft charity called Ghadaq, where she provides the space, materials and support for other women in Deir Alla. Her work led her to think of developing a mobile application to connect women across Jordan wanting to sell unused household items with other women who might need them for recycling projects, and advertise upcoming training and peer-to-peer handicraft sessions.



Ms. Abeer Al-Zoubi, 44-year old Jordanian woman living in Deir Alla and President of a handicraft charity while participating in the GBV SWG Learning Dialogue

Photo credit: UNFPA Jordan

UNFPA Jordan would like to thank its generous donors for their support in the International Women’s Day activities. The following donors contributed to the campaign:

