

Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response in Syria

January – June 2023

27,595

people participated in gender-based violence (GBV) awareness sessions

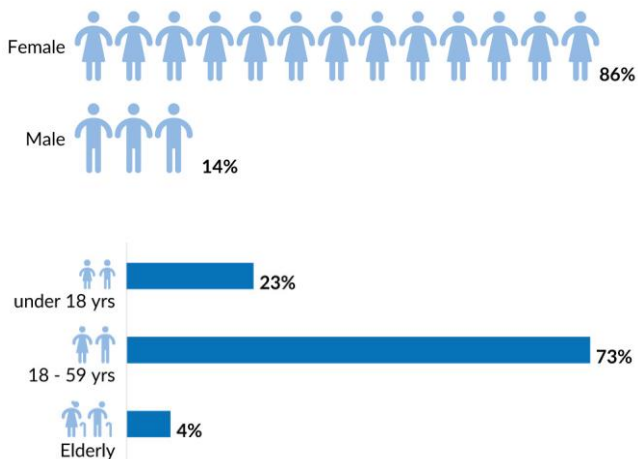
2,760

GBV awareness sessions conducted

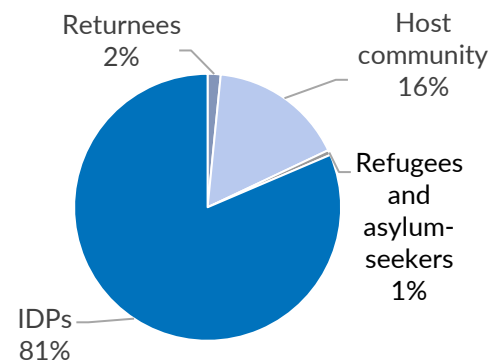
2,787

GBV survivors received safe and survivor-centred GBV response services

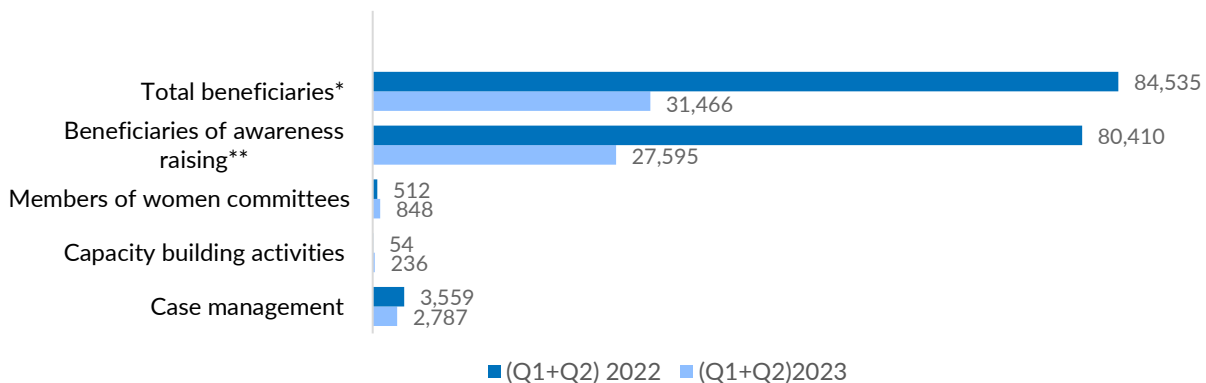
30,382 individuals reached with GBV prevention and response services



Population groups benefiting from services



14 Governorates | **114** Community Centres | **85** Committees



* Total beneficiaries number in (Q1+Q2) 2023 is fewer than (Q1+Q2) 2022, as UNHCR prioritized life-saving activities in most affected locations during the earthquake response (see 'Earthquake response' section below).

** Beneficiaries of awareness-raising sessions are fewer in number than (Q1+Q2) 2022 due to a change to the curricula-based approach (see 'Awareness-raising' section below).



Case management

UNHCR's survivor-centred approach to GBV case management seeks to empower the survivor by prioritizing the survivor's rights, needs, and wishes. This is done through ensuring that survivors have access to appropriate, accessible, and quality support services including health care, psychological and social support, and legal services. In line with the guiding principles on protection and applying the survivor-centred approach, UNHCR and its partners tailor each service to the needs of each survivor based on their wishes.

During the first half of 2023, UNHCR and its partners identified and supported **2,787** GBV survivors through survivor-centred and multi-sectoral case management services.



Community engagement

Women's committees comprising women of all ages and backgrounds play a central role in GBV awareness-raising and community mobilization. Women's committees were created to strengthen the role of women in decision-making within their communities.

Women's committees focus on the promotion of gender equality, sensitization through awareness-raising in GBV prevention and response, women's legal rights, and available services. The committees also coordinate with UNHCR to assist vulnerable women in finding work. As of the beginning of January and, till the end of June 2023, UNHCR supported **85** women's committees (**848** women) spread across the different governorates.

Men's engagement in GBV prevention, risk mitigation, and response will be continued during 2023 through enhancing the role of men in preventing and responding to GBV as well as in challenging deep-seated cultural norms and power structures. In this regard, an orientation workshop on EMAP (Engaging Men in Accountable Practices) was conducted in May 2023 for a total of **31** participants nationwide, to introduce the programme, including on how it is to be contextualized and implemented.



Awareness-raising

Awareness-raising is a fundamental component of UNHCR's GBV prevention strategy. It enhances gender equality and gender inclusion. It fosters communication and information exchange to improve mutual understanding of GBV and the related harms within the communities, as well as available services, especially those available to GBV survivors, and promote changes in attitudes and behaviour.

UNHCR has gradually started shifting from multiple awareness-raising sessions to the curricula-based approach. This allows specialized staff to work closely with the same group of people throughout the implementation of the curriculum aiming at the end to measure the attitude and behavioural change of the participants through a pre- and post-impact assessment. One partner will implement "The Girl Shine" curriculum in different locations (Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs, Hama, Daraa, Idleb, Aleppo and Hassakeh). **18** GBV facilitators from Sweida, Dar'a, Damascus, and Rural Damascus participated in a workshop in Damascus in June 2023. UNHCR and its partners conducted **2,560** awareness sessions reaching **27,017** individuals.



Capacity-building

A total of **236** individuals were trained on GBV prevention, risk mitigation, and response. A total of **7** activities on capacity-building targeted GBV focal points from UNHCR and partner staff including case managers, coordinators, reviewing officers, mobile team, and outreach volunteers.

Earthquake response

After the 6 February earthquake, which caused grave destruction and thousands of injuries and deaths, UNHCR and its partners acted quickly in adapting their programmes to address the urgent needs resulting from this emergency. Life-saving activities were prioritized in the affected locations to address urgent basic needs. Also, UNHCR in coordination with the GBV sub-sector developed key messages on GBV prevention and risk mitigation. These were disseminated by GBV and non-GBV frontline workers, in addition to the distribution of risk reduction kits that contained feminine hygienic items for personal use. GBV survivors received survivor-centered services by UNHCR and its partners in the community centres including health, psychosocial support, legal and socioeconomic services.