

RECOMMENDATIONS

- To further expand the programme to cover the five governorates with more teams at the same time.
- To have the programme as a fast/continuous standing service as part of the national health service delivery system, adopted by the MoH, NGOs, and syndicate levels.
- To continuously evaluate, upgrade and develop the programme so that it continues to respond to the most pressing SRH needs.
- To study the impact of this programme on the individuals SRH knowledge/awareness and the health outcomes.

FOR MORE
INFORMATION

 palestine.unfpa.org

 palunfpa@unfpa.org

 [unfpapalestine](https://www.facebook.com/unfpapalestine)

 [@unfpapalestine](https://twitter.com/unfpapalestine)



PROGRAMME BRIEF

Door-to-Door Midwifery Counselling in Gaza Strip





BACKGROUND

UNFPA continues its commitment to thrive for the best outcome of women's health and wellbeing, by strengthening the role of midwives in the field of Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH). Furthermore, UNFPA plans to ensure wider engagement of midwives with the community.

Following to the military escalation in the Gaza Strip in May 2021 and its devastating impact on the population and the health facilities. It became more challenging for both sides health authorities/providers and women to maintain safe, responsiveness, and good quality SRH services. Therefore, UNFPA thought of implementing a home visit programme to compensate for the interrupted services.

UNFPA also considers the psychosocial needs of the Palestinian women and girls in the Gaza Strip who suffer from recurrent Israeli military escalations and the accompanying stress they are exposed to. Therefore, UNFPA adopts a multi-disciplinary approach by deploying a psychosocial support (PSS) worker together with a midwife in a collective team for the home visits. The team is also mandated to identify possible survivors of gender-based violence. The provided consultation and counselling services during each home visit include:

- Family planning, advantages, and disadvantages for each method
- Pre-Conception Care
- Antenatal care, postnatal care, Reproductive organ disorders
- Menstrual cycle and personal/self-hygiene
- Menopause: symptoms and ways to deal with
- Good and healthy nutrition
- Any other relevant issues based on the findings of the assessment

MAIN OBJECTIVE

The main objective of the initiative is to engage with the community at home level to support pregnant, lactating women, women at menopause, and girls by providing counselling services through UNFPA's local partners.

Team Composition and Prospects:

The MLCHV team is composed of a trained midwife and a psychosocial worker recruited to approach women in need at their homes, conducting initial assessments/midwifery diagnosis and providing needed counselling besides some items like vitamins, methods, designated kits, and simple drug items.

The teams are exploring ways to have safer access to the neighborhoods via active coordination with local authorities, while for the continuum of care, the teams closely coordinate with the relevant health facilities in the area on ways of effective referrals and follow up.



VOICES OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

One mother said, "my daughter is timid and ashamed to talk to me. When the team spoke with her and informed her about the menstrual cycle, they provided excellent PSS until the girl started talking and responding to them". The older women unanimously agreed that they excellently benefited from the programme, and it was appropriate at the right time. "As older women, no one takes care of us. This programme met our needs because we could not get out of home due to joint pains. Vitamins and minerals and PSS benefit us".

"The programme met our needs", several single women said. "The team provided vitamins for those who suffered anemia, as well as iron tablets and gave us health and nutrition tips. One of us received PSS because she suffered from obesity and depression."

"I was concerned about leaving my children home alone. The team came to my house, at the right time, gave me vitamins, and that was extremely helpful" one lactating woman said. "I hope these home visits can become recurring" she continued.