

Responding to protracted forced displacement amid development challenges: The role of the Sub-Regional Response Facility for the Syria Crisis

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Context analysis

- **Countries in the region, including Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq face significant development demands, including stagnant economies, high unemployment especially among young people and risks of climate change – as they are also hosting large numbers of forcibly displaced people.** Advancing on sustainable development, including shifting to market-oriented economies, addressing climate change, strengthening institutions and social protection will continue to be vital while ensuring no one is left behind, including forcibly displaced people.
- **As of the end of 2021, the region hosted over 14 million forcibly displaced people in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Egypt.**¹ Of those, 6.8 million are Syrian refugees and 6.7 million are Syrian IDPs.² Globally, Lebanon hosts the largest number of refugees per capita (1 in 8), followed by Jordan (1 in 14) and Turkey (1 in 23). The region is also characterized by historical displacement including that of Palestine and Iraqi refugees and is at risk of new or re-emerging instabilities and conflict.
- **Current policies towards forcibly displaced people are not conducive to the achievement of their full potential and contributions to the countries' human development.** While several positive inclusionary policies exist, overall, the socio-economic and political context and policies implemented by countries in the region and, in some cases within each country at sub-national and local levels, contribute to the factors and impacts of protracted displacement. For instance, they can exacerbate legal precariousness or the ability to effectively contribute to society and the economy.
- **At this crossroad, finding development solutions to forced displacement across the region that are adaptive and sustainable is a dynamic endeavour at different levels** (national, sub-national) and involving different partners incl. authorities. Advancing adaptive solutions is a multi-dimensional process that should (1) frame the continuous efforts on operationalizing the HDP nexus in the region through coordination and programming, and (2) build on key approaches such as resilience development, leaving no one behind and conflict sensitivity, to lead to continuous incremental positive change.

The unique value addition and achievements of SRF

- **The SRF is a unique UNDP programme that is the first of its kind to respond to large scale forced displacement by co-leading the Syria regional response with UNHCR and mainstreaming a resilience-based development approach.** The SRF connects two sub-regions (Europe and Arab States), informs responses to compounded crisis, including through program innovation, knowledge-generation and -sharing across countries and policy engagement. Since its creation in 2014, the SRF has been instrumental in supporting cross-learning across and between UNDP at country, Hub, and Headquarters levels and 3RP partners (UN, Donors, I/NGOs, Private sector).

¹ UNHCR. 2022. [Global Focus: Middle East and North Africa](#), and UNHCR. 2022. [Global Focus: Türkiye](#).

² UNHCR. 2022. [Global displacement hits another record, capping decade-long rising trend](#), and IDMC. 2022. [Country Profile Syrian Arab Republic 2021](#).

SRF's key achievements

1. **Played a crucial leadership role in the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) as a co-lead with UNHCR, enhancing advocacy and resource mobilization.** The 3RP remains a unique mechanism that brings together humanitarian and development responses in a single response plan. The SRF has successfully integrated a resilience approach in the 3RP by focusing on medium- and longer-term outcomes that enable solutions for forcibly displaced people and sustainable outcomes for host countries.
2. **Provided knowledge, program and coordination support to country offices and partners in the sub-region, including on thematic issues such as resilience and solutions.** The SRF has produced various knowledge products to highlight best practice and lessons learned in resilience programming, provided technical assistance to country offices, is informing both the larger conceptualization of the refugee response and policy engagement, and direct on-the-ground operationalization of these approaches incl. through seed funding.
3. **Fostered innovation and promoted partnerships with the private sector and IFIs.** The SRF has convened dialogue with IFIs on areas on collaborations, and supported IFI analysis in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey to map potential areas of collaboration between 3RP and IFIs. Moreover, the SRF's Innovation for Crisis (I4C) convened partners to share innovative approaches in the Syria response while SRF also supports the implementation of a digital skills portal in collaboration with the UNDP Jordan Country Office.

About SRF's vision and strategic direction

- **SRF's vision is to promote and support development and peacebuilding approaches that advance development and adaptive solutions in the Middle East, which enable displacement affected communities to live safe, dignified and productive lives.** The SRF together with the UNDP countries in the region is reformulating its service lines and finalizing a Theory of Change to clearly articulate and position SRF as a unique actor responding to the challenges of protracted displacement in the region with a development lens.
- **Going forward, SRF will focus on three strategic pillars while advancing key concepts including resilience for all and adaptive solutions,** which contextualizes and builds off UNDP's global approach to development solutions to forced displacement:³
 1. **Coordination:** Among other outputs, SRF will produce targeted knowledge and learning products to inform development-orientated policy and programming implementation in the 3RP and convene partners and stakeholders on strategic policy dialogue on solutions.
 2. **Support to country offices:** For example, SRF will support efforts to include resilience and solutions approaches in local and national development plans, as well as expanding partnerships with a variety of actors incl. striving towards localization
 3. **Innovative programming:** Continue generating good practices on measuring and programming on all adopted approaches, e.g., resilience, social cohesion, HDPN and area-based approaches. SRF will use adaptive solutions as a frame to its work across the countries and at regional level.

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³ UNDP as the lead development agency has for the first time included a specific programmatic objective on forced displacement in its Global Strategic Plan 2022-2025. Under "Signature Solutions 3" of the Global Strategic Plan 2022-2025, Result 3.4 states that UNDP will contribute to "Integrated development solutions implemented to address the drivers of irregular and forced migration, enhance the resilience of migrants, forcibly displaced and host communities, and expand the benefits of human mobility". See: [Global Strategic Plan 2022-25](#).