

UNDP Response in Syria

Restoration and Stabilization of Livelihoods
Mid-Year Report
January – July 2014



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



Table of Contents

GLOSSARY.....	2
HIGHLIGHTS.....	3
SITUATION UPDATE.....	5
UNDP RESPONSE UPDATE.....	7
1. Emergency employment opportunities for infrastructure rehabilitation.....	8
2. Restoration of livelihoods and revival of micro-to-small businesses.....	9
3. Livelihoods restoration and emergency employment targeting women-headed households.....	11
4. Comprehensive support to persons with disability.....	12
5. Support to tuberculosis and HIV patients in Syria.....	12
6. Support to early recovery and livelihoods planning and coordination.....	14
DONORS.....	15



GLOSSARY

CSO	Civil Society Organization
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
SHARP	Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USD	United States Dollar





HIGHLIGHTS

Since the beginning of 2014, UNDP scaled up its early recovery and resilience interventions targeting 12 highly affected governorates in Syria. Relying on its area-based approach in planning and programming, UNDP is currently implementing 47 recovery, resilience and livelihoods projects. Until July 2014, a total of **1,527,977 crisis affected people** all over Syria benefitted from UNDP's support.

UNDP's recovery, resilience and livelihoods programme was conceived, designed and is implemented as an integral component of the **Syrian Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP)** as it is agreed upon between the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and the United Nations in Syria. Projects are implemented with local authorities at different levels, non-governmental organization, and community- and faith-based organizations active in communities all over Syria.

Almost 50,000 persons in the governorates of Aleppo, Al-Hasakeh, Ar- Raqqa, As- Sweida, Damascus, Deir-Ez-zor, Dara', Hama, Homs, Idleb, Rural Damascus and Tartous directly benefitted from emergency employment opportunities, small businesses restoration, and targeted rehabilitation services for women-headed households, people with disabilities and tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS patients, leading to an overall improvement of their dire living conditions.

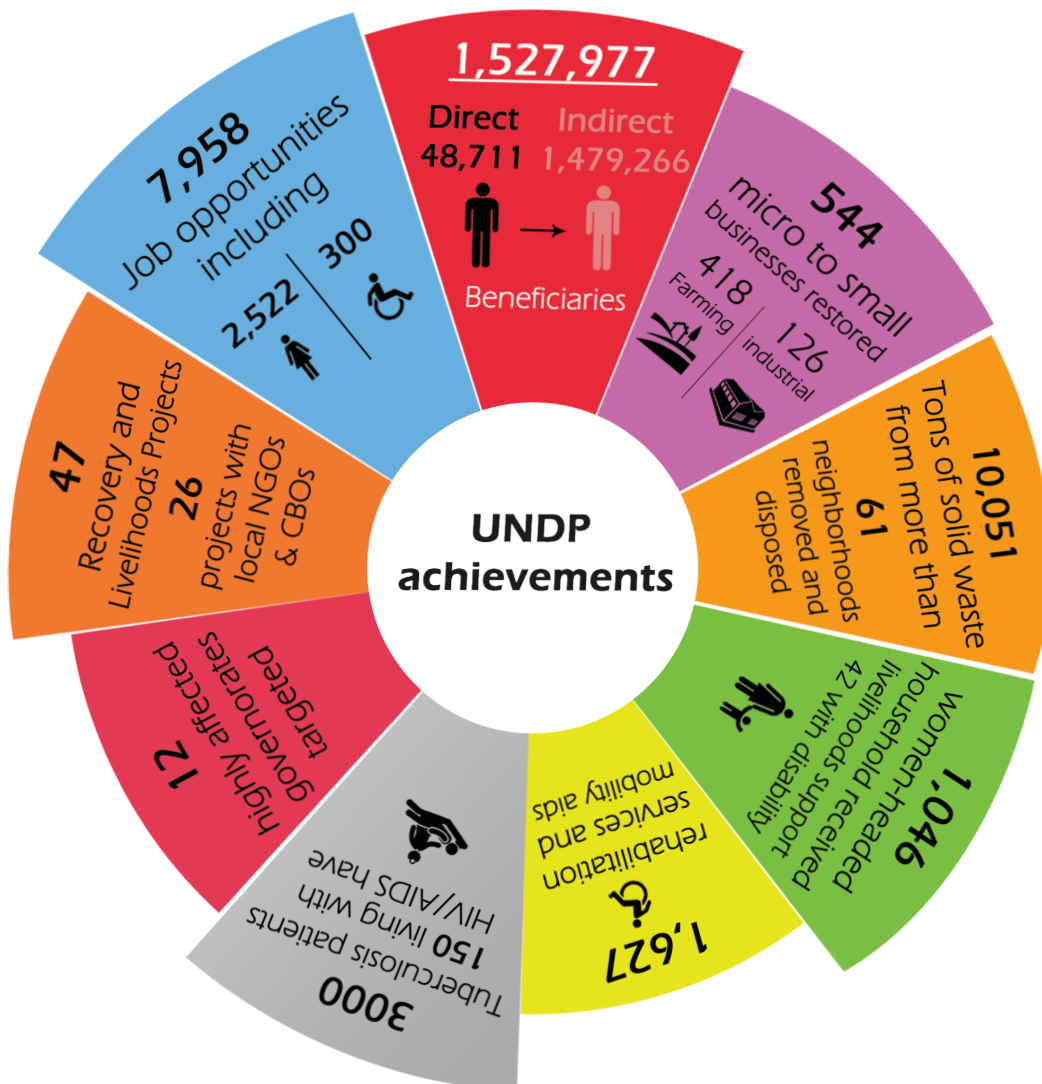
Around **8,000 emergency employment opportunities** were created benefiting **37,629** individuals including direct dependent family members in Aleppo, Al Hassakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Damascus, Deir-Ez-zor, Dara', Hama, Homs, Idleb and Tartous. **Over 75% of the employment opportunities** served the removal and disposal of more than 10,000 tons of solid waste from 61 neighborhoods allowing as such around 1.4 million residents including IDPs and host communities to enjoy better health and cleaner environment conditions around their homes. **25% of employment opportunities were generated through the restoration of livelihoods including revival of productive workshops and local micro-to-small businesses.**

544 micro and small businesses are restored and rehabilitated benefitting 6,305 persons in Aleppo, Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-Ez-zor, Hama, Homs, Rural Damascus and Tartous. UNDP's assistance consisted

of direct procurement from local workshops and small businesses and the provision or replacement of productive assets, in addition to the provision of vocational training which facilitated the revival of micro and small businesses.

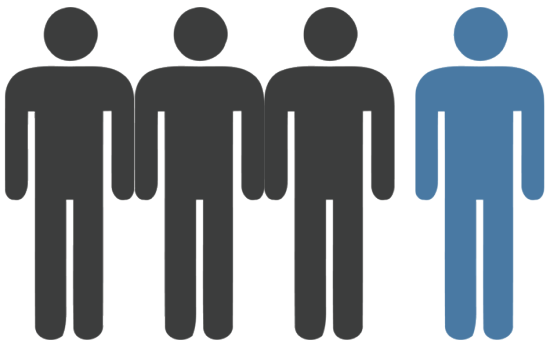
Over 1,000 women-headed households, including 42 women with disability, received livelihoods support directly benefiting 3,399 persons. The livelihoods support consisted of targeting women-headed households for the provision of emergency employment in sewing and food processing workshops, assets and tools replacement and cash for work initiatives in Al-Hasakeh, Hama and Tartous. **1,627 persons with disabilities** were provided with rehabilitation services and mobility aids. UNDP continued its medical support to **3,000 tuberculosis patients and 150 persons living with HIV/AIDS**.

In addition to the almost 50,000 direct beneficiaries around **1.5 million crisis affected persons** all over Syria are enjoying better health, environmental and living conditions as a result of UNDP's livelihoods and resilience programme. Families of people employed, residents and IDPs living in the 61 neighborhoods where solid waste manage activities are conducted, crisis affected population with better access to local markets restored and rehabilitated are all among the 1.5 million persons targeted by UNDP's area-based programming.



SITUATION UPDATE

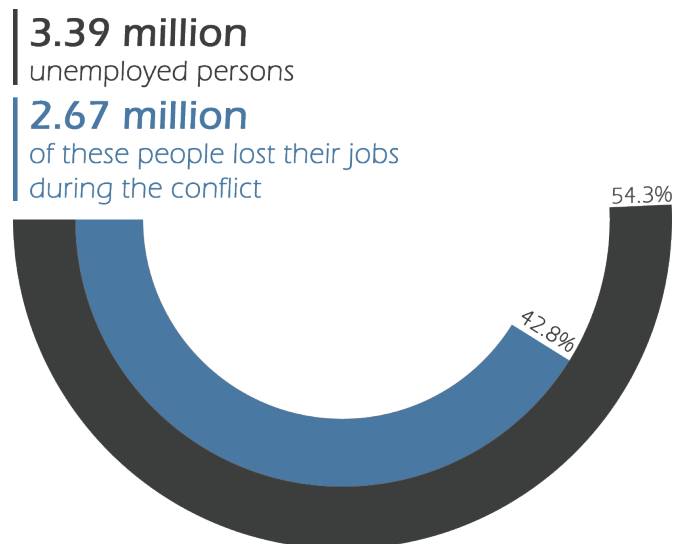
Since March 2011, Syria has been witnessing an internal civil unrest that has directly resulted in losses of human lives, significant displacement and migration, weakened social services, destruction of basic social and productive infrastructure and significant loss of livelihoods, destruction of homes and property, and the deterioration of the rule of law and security. The Syrian Center for Policy Research in partnership with and funded by UNDP has recently published a socio-economic study on the impact of the crisis, "Squandering Humanity", highlighted that *:



Three in every four Syrians lived in poverty at the end of 2013

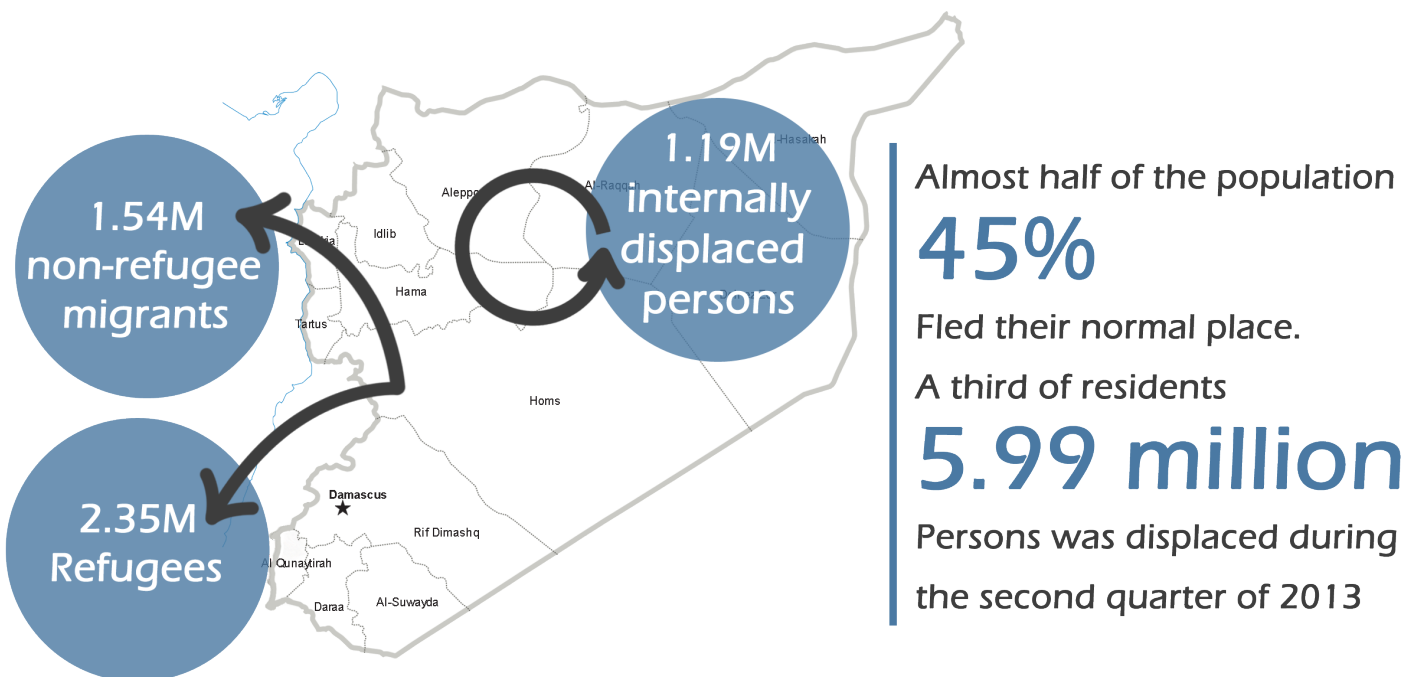
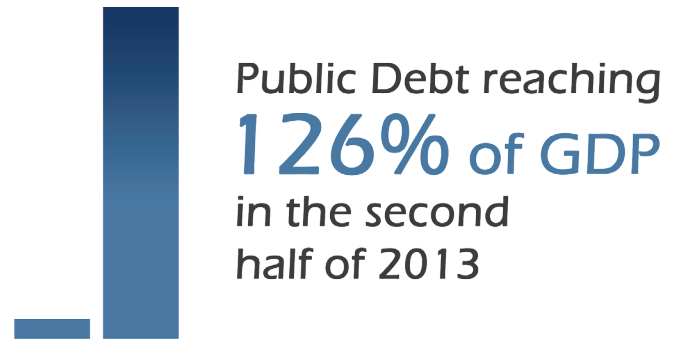
Syria is blighted by joblessness and overwhelmed by unemployment with 54.3 per cent of the labour force, 3.39 million persons, without work. Some 2.67 million of these people lost their jobs during the conflict, with their loss of income impacting on the welfare of more than 11 million dependents.

Three in every four Syrians lived in poverty at the end of 2013, with more than half the population (54.3 per cent) living in extreme poverty: unable to secure the most basic food and non-food items required for the survival of their households. Some 20 per cent of the population survives in abject poverty mostly in conflict zones and besieged areas facing hunger, malnutrition and starvation.



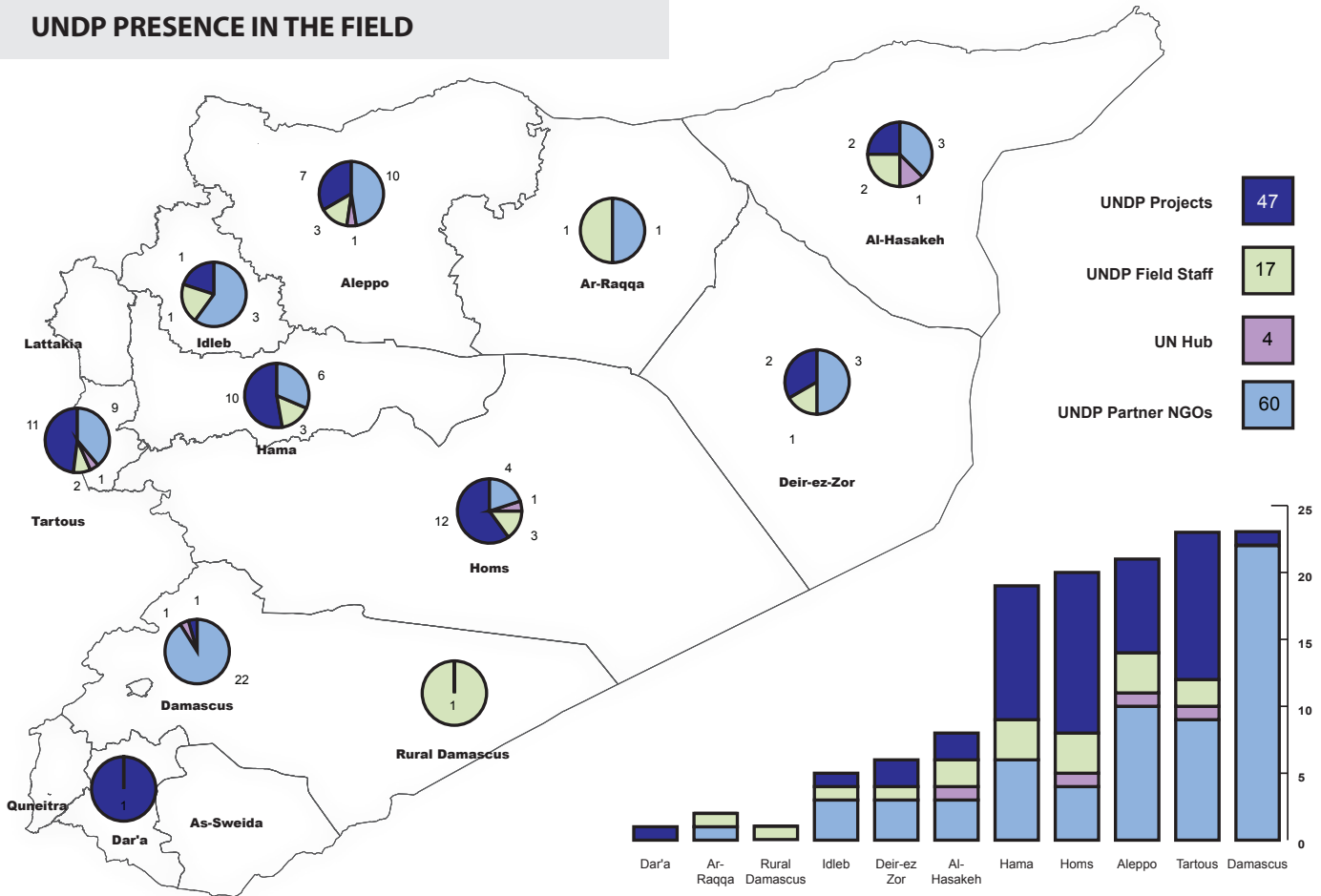
* SCPR http://scpr-syria.org/att/SCPR_Squandering_Humanity_En.pdf

- By the end of 2013, total economic loss since the start of the conflict was estimated at USD 143.8 billion, which is equivalent to almost three times the GDP of 2010 in constant prices.
- Public debt continued to grow in the second half of 2013 reaching 126 per cent of GDP.
- Syrian human development regressed by more than four decades during the conflict. With a Human Development Index measure of 0.472, Syria has fallen from the “medium human development” cluster of nations into the “low human development” group, largely as a result of weakening performance in education, health and income.
- Almost half of the population (45 per cent) fled their normal place of residence. A third of residents (5.99 million persons) was displaced during the second quarter of 2013 with an increase of 1.19 million persons. 1.54 million persons departed the country as non-refugee migrants in addition to another 3 million people who fled the country as refugees.
- The future of Syria and its national identity is being formed within the dynamics of the conflict and the fragmentation of Syrian society stressing out the need for social cohesion efforts.



UNDP RESPONSE UPDATE

UNDP PRESENCE IN THE FIELD



To respond to the increasing socio-economic challenges, UNDP scaled up its early recovery and resilience interventions in 2014 taking into consideration basic needs prioritized by local communities in affected areas including both IDPs and host communities. Given the protracted nature of the crisis, host communities have overstretched their resources and residents are competing over services, resources and community infrastructure.

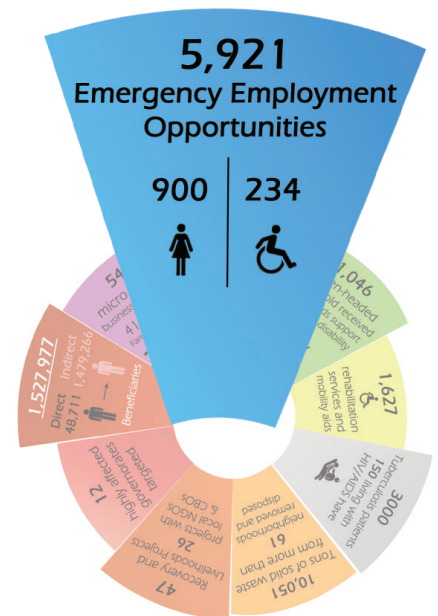
Following rapid participatory assessment of the main livelihoods needs in targeted areas and as part of UNDP strategic orientation to strengthening local NGOs capacities and ensuring civic engagement in the process of crisis response, interventions were identified and implemented in partnership with local NGOs, local committees and faith-based organizations. For each target governorate, UNDP develops a Governorate Profile capturing the governorate main socio-economic features and a situation analysis reflecting on the impact of the crisis with a special focus on the development indicators, the current priorities and needs of the affected population, in addition to identifying entry points and resources for the development of an adequate response plan. Area/Governorate response plans are then developed to define the framework of interventions under the overall UNDP strategic plan in SHARP.

The following sections summarize results achieved from January till July 2014.



1. Emergency employment opportunities for infrastructure rehabilitation and basic services restoration in affected communities

UNDP in cooperation with local partners provided 5,921 emergency employment opportunities for the restoration of basic services, of which 5,791 persons were employed in the area of solid waste management and 130 persons were employed for infrastructure rehabilitation activities benefiting 29,605 direct beneficiaries including dependent family members, employing 900 women and 234 persons with disability. Out of total 7,958 employment opportunities created by UNDP, 5,791 opportunities focused on restoring solid waste management services in affected communities.



The solid waste initiatives succeeded in removing and disposing 10,051 tons of solid waste from more than 61 neighborhoods allowing as such a total number of 1,395,435 residents to enjoy better health and environmental conditions in Aleppo, Deir-Ez-zor, Hama, Homs, Idleb and Tartous. To complement the solid waste management activity, UNDP coordinated with local municipalities in Deir-Ez-Zor for pest control spraying targeted 248 shelters and streets hosting IDPs. Three hygiene promotion and awareness sessions were conducted in the target communities.

These initiatives complemented other activities implemented by other UN agencies in the area of good hygiene practices. Field teams closely liaise with UNHCR, UNICEF and other active partners at the local level to ensure harmony and coordination in the area of hygiene promotion.



2. Restoration of livelihoods and revival of micro-to-small businesses

Through its work on the restoration of livelihoods, UNDP promoted local procurement and supported asset replacement. Adopting the local procurement option aims at reviving local markets and vital economic cycles through local production which could employ a significant number of local labor. If well developed, the local production and local procurement mechanisms could substitute the import of humanitarian assistance and revitalize the local production sectors in the country creating a more resilient local economy. As such, 544 micro-to-small size businesses were supported until July 2014 in Aleppo, Al-Hasakeh, Ar Raqqa, Deir-Ez-zor, Hama, Homs, Tartous, and Rural Damascus benefiting at least 6,305 direct individuals and 35,521 indirect beneficiaries through productive assets replacement and agricultural input, revival of local micro and small businesses with particular focus on clothes production and garbage bins manufacturing. This has ultimately created and sustained jobs for more than 2,037 persons employed in food processing and sewing workshops in addition to local factories and production facilities.

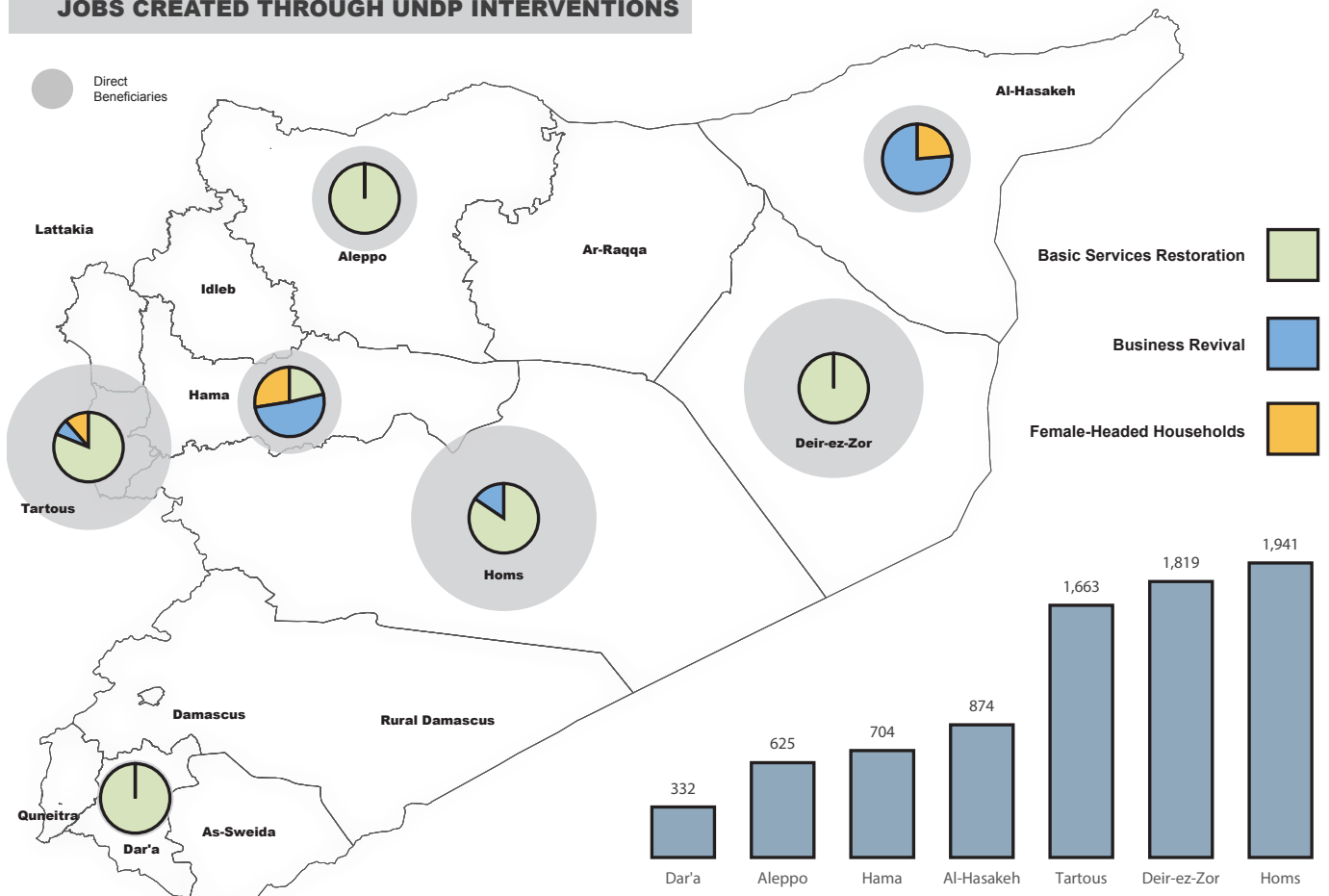


These businesses were prioritized by the local communities in targeted areas, particularly in the most affected neighborhoods, where markets are relatively dysfunctional, workshops and small businesses are either closed or down-sizing as a result of the crisis. 418 farming and agricultural businesses and 126 productive industrial businesses were supported based on their traditional and unique aspects to targeted areas and their contribution to the socio-economic rehabilitation of the affected communities. The types of supported businesses varied from industrial to agricultural and included among others: the establishment of cold storage rooms, ice production, sewing and knitting, building block manufacture, market place rehabilitation, carpentry, painting workshops, electricity maintenance, car washing, laundry facilities, blacksmith, plumbing, roof-top gardening, bakeries, poultry farms.



These interventions are implemented in partnership with local NGOs and are monitored by local committees established in targeted neighborhoods. UNDP's assistance consisted of direct procurement from local workshops and small businesses in target governorates, building linkages between local producers and UN agencies to purchase locally produced products with the aim of substituting humanitarian assistance import and encouraging local procurement, and the provision or replacement of productive assets, in addition to the provision of vocational training for 149 persons which facilitated the revival of micro-to-small businesses. UNDP also provided on-the-job training and technical assistance to partner NGOs and supported businesses mainly in conducting feasibility studies, market surveys and sustainability plans.

JOBS CREATED THROUGH UNDP INTERVENTIONS

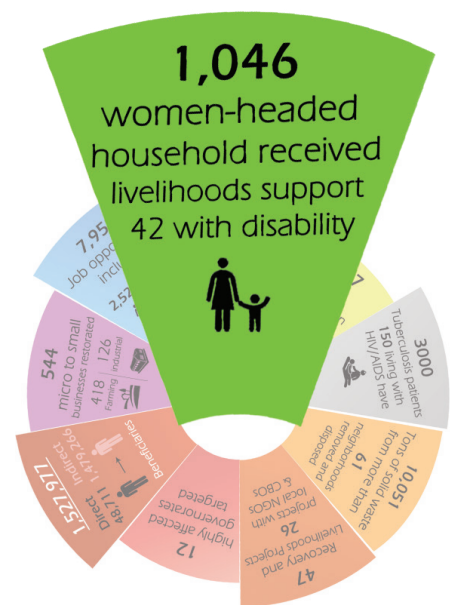




3. Livelihoods restoration and emergency employment targeting women-headed households

Jobs and income generation opportunities were provided for 1,046 women-headed households in Al-Hasakeh (Qamishli), Hama (Salamieh) and Tartous benefiting 3,399 persons including dependent family members.

Women-headed households were given special attention in UNDP’s targeted programme as a primary vulnerable group in crisis times. They were mainly engaged in sewing and clothes production activities, working either from home or in local workshops, farming and agriculture and other productive activities. They received targeted support through the creation of employment opportunities, provision of vocational training, and necessary tools and equipment to kick-start their productive activities. On another hand, gender was taken into consideration in all UNDP activities which is clearly reflected through the employment of 2,522 women (32% of total jobs opportunities) in the regular emergency employment schemes and business revivals. UNDP has recently completed a sewing value chain analysis which will inform its programmatic interventions to rehabilitate this sector primarily serving women and female headed households to restore and stabilize their livelihoods.





4. Comprehensive support to persons with disability

During the first half of 2014, UNDP managed to render rehabilitation services and mobility aids to 1,627 persons with disability including the distribution of 1,000 wheelchairs in cooperation with local NGOs in 10 governorates: Aleppo, As-Sweida, Damascus, Deir-Ez-zor, Dar'a, Hama, Homs, Lattakia, Rural Damascus, and Tartous. Based on the socio-economic integration approach, UNDP employed 300 persons with disability through its emergency employment interventions.

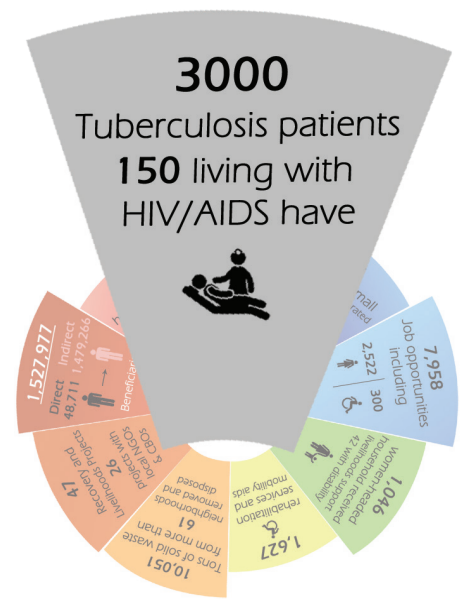


5. Support to Tuberculosis and HIV patients

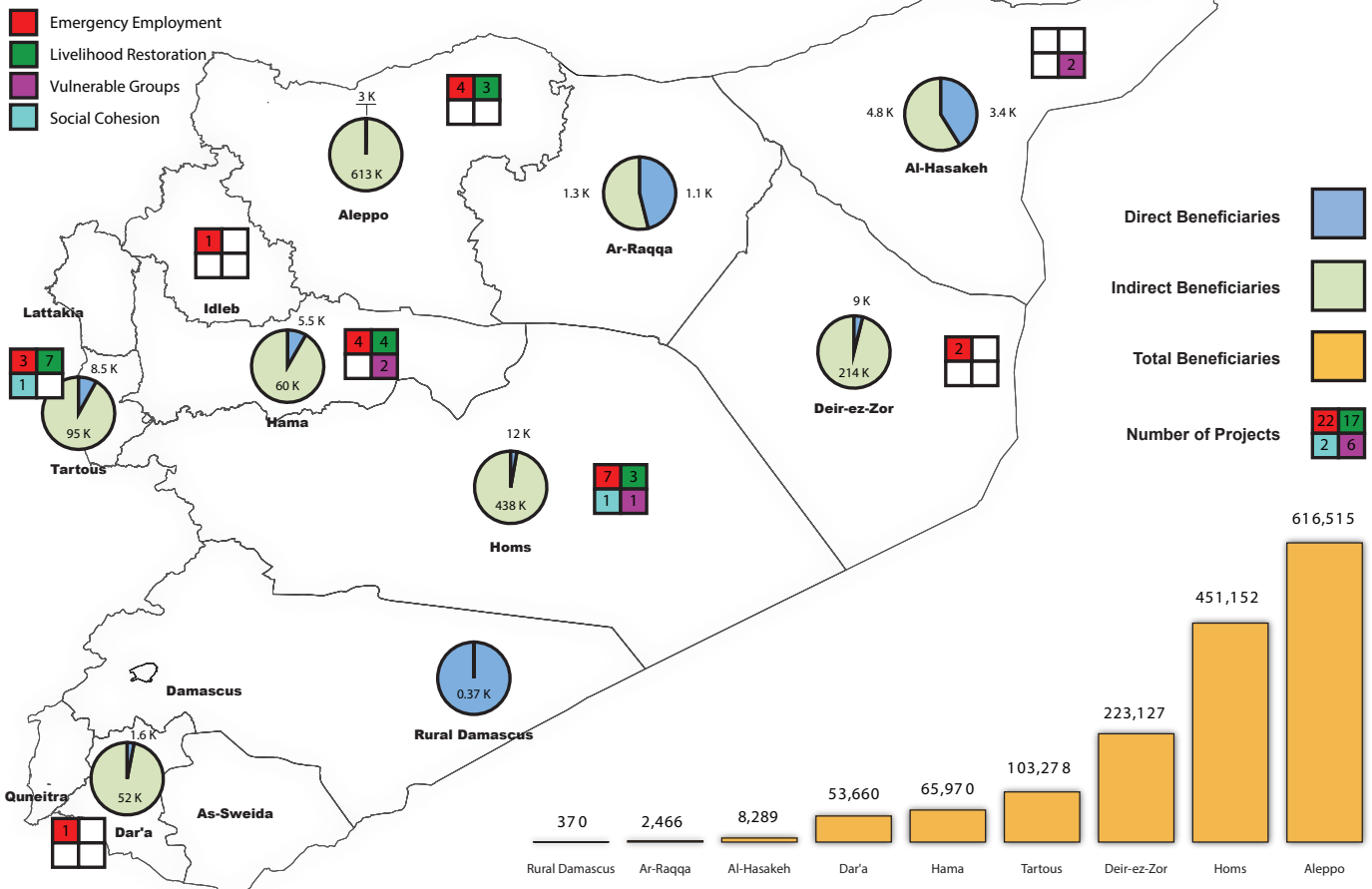
UNDP normally extends its emergency and recovery services to the most vulnerable groups in crisis times; these include patients with non-communicable and infectious diseases.

In 2014, UNDP continued its support to engagement with most vulnerable in Syria and provided medication for 3,000 Tuberculosis (TB) patients, as such UNDP managed to maintain the incidence rate of TB at 18 per 100,000 despite the critical situation in the country and its impact on detecting TB cases

and patients' access to medication. However, the poor nutrition and poor accommodation for the displaced population has aggravated the severity of tuberculosis and this was reflected in the change of the treatment success rate which dropped from 90% to 84% in addition to the increase in mortality from 1.4 per 100,000 to 2.1 per 100,000. Moreover, UNDP provided medication to 150 people living with HIV/AIDS. UNDP maintained its TB and HIV monitoring activities through active engagement of local partners in 7 out of 9 target Governorates including Aleppo, Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqa, Damascus, Hama, Lattakia and Tartous.



TOTAL BENEFICIARIES



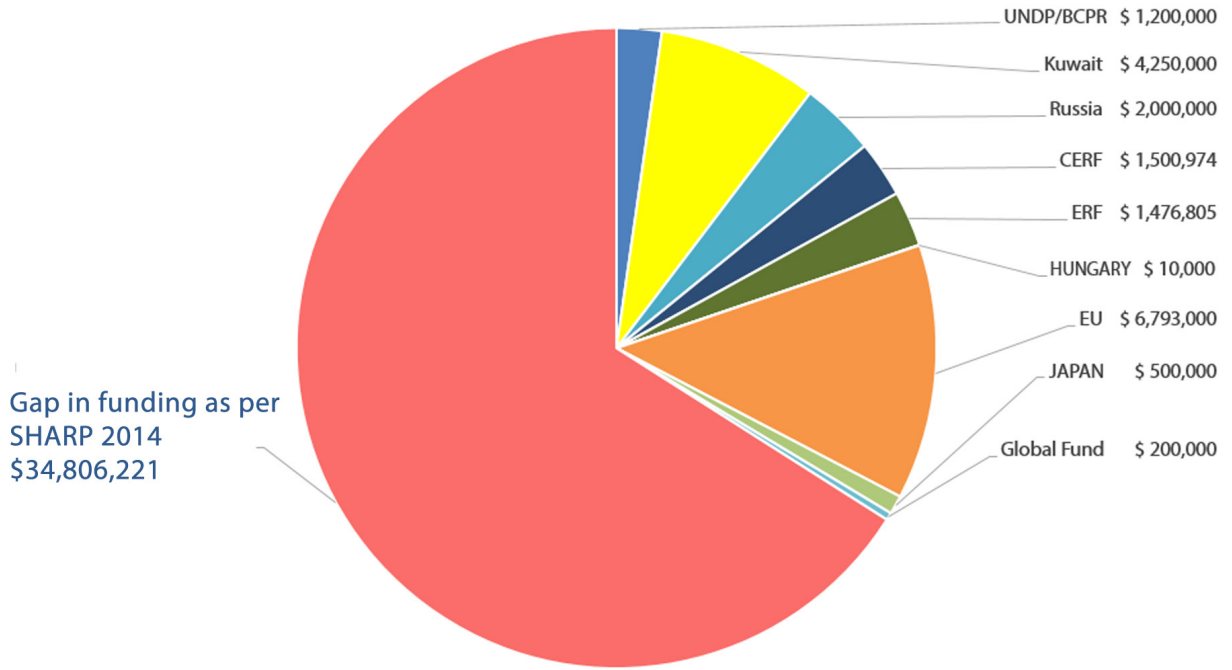
6. Support to Early Recovery and Livelihoods Planning and Coordination

UNDP continues its coordination and technical assistance efforts in the field of Early Recovery and Livelihoods allowing for larger engagement with local, national and international partners. UNDP is the sector lead of Early Recovery and Livelihoods in Syria engaging with more than 14 partners from UN agencies, international organizations and local NGOs. For the implementation of its projects, UNDP is partnering with 21 local NGOs and CBOs in 12 governorates in Syria. With the aim of developing national capacities in the implementation of early recovery interventions, UNDP carried out a national capacity assessment for 60 active NGOs. Preliminary results fed into the outlining of the NGOs capacity development strategy and training programme. Additionally, different assessments are designed to better understand the needs and priorities of the affected communities for early recovery and livelihoods interventions. UNDP developed the livelihoods damage assessment methodology, and an interactive database for capturing the socio-economic impact of the crisis and infrastructure damage will be established in the third quarter of 2014. For a wider understanding of the crisis, regular updates of the macro-economic study on the impact of the crisis track and monitor socio-economic indicators of major sectors of the Syrian economy and social infrastructure. The recent report “Squandering Humanity” reflected on the impact of the crisis in 2013. The mid-year 2014 impact of the crisis report will be published in September 2014.

On another note, UNDP is currently expanding its early recovery activities to launch more technical interventions in the field of debris and solid waste management in crisis times and spatial reconstruction planning. National and international technical experts are developing relevant guidelines, processes and procedures to be considered when devising a response plan to the solid waste and debris management and reconstruction planning.



DONORS



Japan



Kuwait



Russia



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