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UNDP'S RESILIENCE-BASED RESPONSE TO THE REGIONAL SYRIAN CRISIS

United Nations Development Programme

IMPACT OF THE SYRIA CRISIS

Almost three years into the armed conflict in Syria, the crisis and its spill-over into neighbouring countries is having a deep and widespread effect on development.

The refugee influx, coupled with the dramatic impact of fighting on Syria's infrastructure and economy, is compromising hard-won development gains and putting the entire future development of the region at risk.

The conflict has rolled back Syria's human development achievements by 35 years, with more than 50 percent of the population now living in poverty, as households exhaust their savings and coping strategies. The unemployment rate has reached almost 50 percent with 2.33 million jobs lost from the economy in recent years.

For the host countries, the large refugee influx is not only changing the demographic balance, which threatens to heighten social tensions, but also causing increased competition for limited resources, such as land, water and jobs.

From a development perspective, the enormous influx of refugees in host communities is not matched by an equal expansion of municipal and social services, such as health, education, sanitation, housing and socio-economic infrastructure. Water availability is increasingly critical in a region that has the least water per capita in the world. A collapse in economic opportunity and increased competition for jobs is driving a spike in poverty and unemployment among the most affected host communities, which are already poor and vulnerable. As a result, rising tensions threaten social cohesion and the rule of law.

- *Over 100,000 killed in fighting, with close to 600,000 injured;*
- *9.3 million in need of humanitarian assistance;*
- *6.5 million people now displaced from their homes;*
- *12.6 million now living in poverty and 4.4 million in extreme poverty because of the crisis;*
- *2.3 million refugees in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and North Africa; and*
- *Refugees now make up approximately 20 percent of the population in Jordan and more than 25 percent in Lebanon.*





UNDP'S APPROACH

Responding to the multiple dimensions of the crisis will enable communities to improve their capacity to absorb the shock of this and future catastrophes - that is, to regain and enhance their resilience.

In Syria and in host communities in neighbouring countries, UNDP is working with affected households and communities to address the immediate needs, while also laying the building blocks for medium- and long-term recovery and development.

Through a resilience-based development approach, UNDP takes a longer-term perspective from the outset. UNDP strengthens the capacity of communities to **cope** with the crisis through immediate emergency interventions, by bolstering livelihoods, housing, infrastructure and basic services; **recover** from the socio-economic impact of the crisis by regaining productive assets; and **sustain** this recovery toward development through a functioning and peaceful socio-economic and political environment where development gains are protected.

Activities so far have included: vocational skills training, livelihoods creation, business support, rapid employment generation, crisis management at the local level and peacebuilding through the media, community organizations and school teachers.

UNDP is also committed to helping local governments bolster basic services to respond to the increasing demands and strains placed on war-affected communities inside Syria, as well as host communities in neighbouring countries.

Resilience: *Helping people and communities to anticipate, manage, and recover from shocks, to protect and sustain human development gains.*

Resilience-based development recognizes local and national ownership, and addresses the specific context in each country. It builds on the existing abilities and skills of affected people, communities and host governments, implementing measures that will affect the long-term (sometimes decade-long) development prospects of a country.

Strengthening resilience means ensuring that human rights and gender equality are considered and all activities are conducted through a lens of sustainability and conflict sensitivity.

In Syria, **12.6 million** people now living in poverty and **4.4 million** in extreme poverty because of the crisis.

UNDP IN ACTION

In Syria

The Humanitarian Livelihoods Programme is helping affected communities avoid further destitution, marginalization and dependence on aid by providing emergency income to people who have lost jobs or businesses, repairing basic community infrastructure and service delivery and developing local capacity for early recovery. Special focus is placed on vulnerable groups, such as people displaced by the conflict, young people, women and women-headed households, and people with disabilities.

Some current and planned activities include:

- Providing emergency employment to people in affected areas, especially Aleppo, Deir Ezzor, Homs and Tartous so they can quickly rebuild and rehabilitate destroyed housing and infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, markets and schools, and enhance access to basic services. This includes the rehabilitation of 30 ancient Roman wells – which is improving access to safe water in the Al-Ghab area.

Solid waste removal schemes will also provide employment opportunities, while significantly improving living conditions in shelters and host communities. The tools, equipment and pesticides that are needed to carry out this work are procured locally, which assists the local economy;

- Assisting individuals and communities that have lost small businesses by providing them with cash grants to buy new productive assets. This includes such items as cold storage rooms to preserve meat and vegetables, ice making machines for refrigeration to offset electricity cuts, sewing machines, electric and mechanical workshops, tools for brick production, assistance with rooftop gardens and replacing damaged equipment in a sweet factory. Vocational training, for example in sewing skills so people can establish tailoring businesses, is helping affected people to start other endeavours;
- Providing essential non-food items to affected communities and displaced people living outside shelters. For example, 10,000 displaced families received kitchen sets to complement food distribution by the World Food Programme. UNDP has also partnered with 12 national NGOs to distribute clothes and quilts to more than 50,000 affected families in Syria;
- Providing emergency employment schemes, vocational training and start-up kits to affected women and people with disabilities. In Hassakeh, a sewing workshop was established to produce clothes that were later distributed through local NGOs to displaced people; and
- Providing medical aids to people with disabilities (such as prosthetics, artificial limbs, crutches, and wheelchairs, among others), as well as a range of physiotherapy treatment, psycho-social support, vocational training and start-up kits for quick income generating activities.



9.3 million
in need of humanitarian
assistance



Supporting recovery and woman-headed households

In the Al Hassakeh Governorate in northeast Syria, 150 women from both displaced and host communities can participate in a UNDP-supported sewing workshop as well as other training and cash-for-work opportunities.

This approach helps secure the livelihoods of women and their families and provides a ripple effect as much of the income is spent in local markets. Furthermore, the clothes that are produced from the workshop help meet local needs and provide children's clothing, bedding and quilts, which are essential for survival during the winter.

SYRIA FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

| Outputs | Resources required (US\$ million) |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Emergency employment opportunities provided for improved service delivery and reparation of basic community infrastructure | 13.5 |
| Emergency support for restoration/ stabilisation of disrupted livelihoods | 19.3 |
| Emergency support provided for vulnerable groups with special attention to women-headed households and people with disabilities | 4.1 |
| National and local capacities for community resilience | 1.3 |
| Coordination for emergency livelihoods | 1 |
| Project management, policy, advocacy and coordination | 6 |
| TOTAL: | 45.2 |

In Lebanon

UNDP's Stabilization and Recovery Programme seeks to support the resilience of vulnerable host communities, promote peacebuilding and conflict prevention, while also strengthening the capacity of key national institutions to coordinate recovery and manage the response to the crisis.

Some current and planned activities include:

- Helping civil society organizations and local governments cope with the increasing presence of Syrian refugees - by working to improve the delivery of health, education, water, sanitation, and waste management for over 300,000 people. This has so far included schemes to improve drinking water infrastructure and waste management systems, giving equipment to schools and primary health care clinics, and supporting youth and cultural centers;

Providing emergency employment schemes, linked with vocational training, especially for women and young people in host communities. This will eventually reach more than 300,000 people;

- Working with local economic development agencies to promote business links and create employment. In Bekaa, for example, local bakeries were established and are now producing bread that provides hundreds of school children with a school lunch, while creating over 200 jobs;
- Improving living conditions for Palestinians in Lebanon by providing emergency employment schemes that will fix dilapidated local infrastructure, enhance access to housing and mend basic urban services. There has been an influx of some 30,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria since the crisis began, placing an additional strain on Palestinian refugees already in the country, many of whom were already living with deteriorated urban services. These activities will target an estimated 60,000 beneficiaries; and
- Fostering social cohesion and promoting peace by helping community leaders address some of the underlying causes of conflict, creating 'safe spaces' for community groups to discuss their concerns openly, while engaging with and training national media to

promote a culture of peace and tolerance. For example, in Wadi Khaled, one of the areas with the highest concentration of Syrian refugees, UNDP has trained local officials in conflict resolution, mediation, and crisis management. Teachers have also been trained in conflict resolution, in order to help them better manage the rising tensions within classrooms between Lebanese and Syrian students.

LEBANON FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

| Outputs | Resources required (US\$ million) |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Livelihoods and economic opportunities | 15 |
| Local capacity to deliver basic services | 16.5 |
| Living conditions in Palestinian gatherings | 4.6 |
| Mitigating the environmental impact of the crisis | 7.5 |
| Local mechanisms for peaceful coexistence & conflict resolution | 4.5 |
| Government capacity for crisis management and response | 2.8 |
| LAF CIMIC programme | 3.5 |
| Management, policy, advocacy and coordination | 1.5 |
| TOTAL: | 55.9 |

Supporting host communities and encouraging social cohesion.

Wadi Khaled, near the northern border with Syria, is one of the poorest areas in Lebanon hosting refugees. In response to initial signs of social tension between refugees and local youth, UNDP established a Youth Cultural Centre. The Centre offers courses in language and information technology, screens films, and hosts discussions on social issues for close to 56,000 locals and refugees. Teachers at the Centre have been trained in peacebuilding and conflict resolution to help manage classroom tension between Lebanese and Syrian students.

In Jordan

The overall goal of UNDP's programme, Mitigating the Impact of the Syrian Refugee Crisis through Support to Host Communities, is to sustain social and economic stability by responding to the urgent needs of crisis-affected host communities, while also helping them to absorb refugees in a way that doesn't exacerbate existing tensions or increase vulnerability to poverty. Work is mostly concentrated in Mafraq and Irbid.

Some current and planned activities include:

- Helping local government to improve municipal and social services by providing training, equipment, and upgrading infrastructure. For example, UNDP has helped improve solid waste management by providing waste compactors, fogging machines and sprayers, as well as rodent poison and insecticides;
- Providing emergency work to Jordanians living in host communities – in order to boost their income and revive local markets, enabling the population to meet rising costs and reduce vulnerability to further shocks;
- Arranging vocational training for more than 300 unemployed young people from Irbid and Mafraq and placing them in jobs with private companies in a variety of fields;
- Helping local small businesses to offer work-based training and employment for young people; and
- Encouraging and training unemployed young people to start their own businesses, as well as providing grants, small loans and other managerial advice and support.

JORDAN FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

| Outputs | Resources required (US\$ million) |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Employment opportunities, economic recovery and service delivery. | 8 |
| Enhanced local economic development | 2.4 |
| Improved delivery of municipal and social services | 16.7 |
| Coordination of host community concerns | 0.9 |
| Programme management | 3.45 |
| TOTAL: | 32.4 |



Supporting refugees with disabilities

Life as a refugee can be exceedingly difficult, all the more so for persons with disabilities. UNDP is working with NGOs in Iraq to help refugees with disabilities by providing prosthetic devices, physical therapy services, and walking aids.

In Iraq

UNDP's project, Accelerated Support for non-camp Syrian Refugees and their Host Communities in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq is assisting local communities to cope with the incoming Syrian refugees. Another project, Enhancing Protection for Vulnerable Women and Girls among the Syrian Refugees from SGBV and Trafficking, helps establish prevention and protection mechanisms for women and girls who may be vulnerable to sexual and gender-based violence.

Some current and planned activities include:

- Working with the Directorate for Combating Violence Against Women of the Kurdish Regional Government alongside civil society organizations to raise community awareness about sexual and gender-based violence. Ensuring refugees, particularly women and girls - are aware of the legal rights of victims;
- Providing legal counselling and services to victims of sexual assault, attempted sexual assault and abduction/trafficking, through UNDP-supported legal aid centres that operate in three refugee camps; and
- Supporting and empowering refugees with disabilities by helping to provide emergency employment, as well as working with NGOs to provide and maintain ortho-prosthetic devices, physiotherapy services and walking aids.

IRAQ FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

| Outputs | Resources required (US\$ million) |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Institutional strengthening for improved basic service provision | 7.85 |
| Economic empowerment and livelihood enhancement | 2 |
| Social reconciliation and cohesion | 0.85 |
| TOTAL: | 10.7 |

TURKEY FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

| Outputs | Resources required (US\$ million) |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Stabilized livelihoods and improvement of basic living conditions for Syrian refugees and those near refugee camps. | 10 |
| Livelihoods needs assessment for Kilis, Gaziantep and Sanliurfa | 0.1 |
| Strengthening livelihoods opportunities for affected Turkish communities | 6.5 |
| Enhanced municipal service delivery and response capacity | 4 |
| Project management | 2 |
| TOTAL: | 22.6 |

In Turkey

The UNDP programme, Mitigating the Impact of the Syria Crisis on Turkish Communities in the Southern Anatolia Region is helping host communities to accommodate the large numbers of refugees.

Some current and planned activities include:

- Helping farmers to improve agricultural productivity, to prevent loss of livelihoods, as well as improve local food security, alongside schemes to promote business development and renewable energy; and
- UNDP's support will also extend to helping local municipalities to improve the provision of basic social services – particularly waste management.

Developing capacity in Turkey

In Turkey, UNDP partners with ministries, local authorities and civil society to help build local capacity. UNDP focuses on such issues as agricultural training, local economic development, and women's economic empowerment through support for women's cooperatives.



DELIVERING RESULTS THROUGH PRESENCE AND PARTNERSHIPS: With permanent offices (and additional UN hubs in Syria) in Amman, Ankara, Baghdad, Beirut, Damascus, and Erbil, as well as an extensive network of field-based sub-offices and expertise in the region and headquarters, UNDP is well-equipped with highly skilled national and international staff and local partnerships. UNDP is able to rapidly respond to changing situations in crisis countries by working with governments and national platforms, and through a network of NGOs and local organizations to reach otherwise inaccessible areas. Progress is monitored through well-established monitoring & evaluation systems and strict application of results-based management and external evaluations.

SUPPORTING THE OVERALL UN APPROACH TO THE CRISIS - ONE UN: UNDP works closely with national and local governments and municipalities, sister UN agencies, national and international NGOs to provide a coordinated and evidence-based response to the Syria crisis. In Syria, the UN-led Livelihoods Assessment, together with quarterly socio-economic updates of the impact of the crisis, informs the resilience-based response. In Jordan, UNDP, together with the UN Country Team supported the government in conducting the Needs Assessment Review of Impact of the Syrian Crisis on Jordan. This assessment lays the ground for the National Resilience Plan led by the Government of Jordan. A similar exercise supported by the World Bank and the UN, produced the Economic and Social Impact Assessment for the Syria Crisis in Lebanon, leading to the formulation of a government-led Lebanon Stabilization Roadmap in response to the crisis.

UNDP'S SUB-REGIONAL SYRIA CRISIS RESPONSE FACILITY: At the regional level, UNDP is working closely with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and other UN agencies to design a comprehensive regional strategy and framework guided by national plans for supporting and monitoring the response to the crisis. Given the regional impact of the crisis, UNDP has established a Sub-Regional Response Facility, in Amman, through an initial US\$ 4,070,000 investment, to enhance the regional coordination of the crisis and enable sustainable and resilience-based national responses by:

- Supporting UNDP country offices in the region to respond to the crisis through planning and programming, resource mobilization, partnerships and communication;
- Developing strategic and innovative partnerships with other UN agencies, NGOs, donors and the private sector to find resources to respond to the crisis;
- Supporting and engaging with regional coordination mechanisms for the crisis response;
- Working with researchers, think tanks and academic institutions – as well as commissioning research to better understand and analyse the affect of the crisis; and
- Communicating and advocating to ensure the crisis is well understood by target audiences globally.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS (US\$ MILLION)

REGIONAL RESILIENCE BASED DEVELOPMENT RESPONSE TO THE SYRIA CRISIS

| Country | Syria | Lebanon | Jordan | Iraq | Turkey |
|---|--------------|---------|--------|------|--------|
| Resources required | 45.2 | 55.9 | 32.4 | 10.7 | 22.6 |
| Requested through the Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP) | 45.2 | - | - | - | - |
| Requested through the Regional Response Plan (RRP6) | - | 39.8 | 19.7 | 10.7 | 22.6 |
| Total resources required: | 166.8 | | | | |

Notes:

- Funding for Lebanon and Jordan is being sought through both RRP and other sources.
- UNDP's Sub-regional Facility has requested funding through RRP6 for an additional \$4 million.



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