



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*



DAYS OF RESILIENCE IN SYRIA
UNDP 2014



Destruction of homes and properties, Homs © UNDP



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Ghalia, working in food processing, Al-Hassakeh © UNDP



Glossary

CBO	Community-Based Organizations
ER&L	Early Recovery and Livelihoods
FBO	Faith-Based Organization
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HDI	Human Development Index
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NFIs	Non-Food Items
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PWDs	People With Disabilities
SHARP	Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan
SCPR	Syrian Centre for Policy Research
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USD	United State Dollar
WHO	World Health Organization



Joret Al-Shyah, Homs © UNDP

Situation update

Almost five years after its onset, the escalating crisis in Syria has caused massive damage to every aspect of life. 12.2 million¹ Syrians have been affected by the incessant violence and hostilities and suffered tremendous losses. Families have been forced to repeatedly flee violence, leaving their home-towns with no significant assets or belongings. 10.8 million people have been displaced, including 7.6 million² internally, resulting in the largest population displacement in history and causing further destitution of the Syrian population.

The unabated hostilities have caused huge loss of life and the destruction of infrastructure, such as the industrial city in Aleppo. Basic social and municipal services have been significantly weakened and livelihoods have been lost such as traditional market areas in Homs and Aleppo, which were totally destroyed, resulting in the disruption of a large number of shops and stores. Furthermore, the crisis led to massive destruction of homes and properties and the deterioration of the rule of law and security.

To better understand the socio-economic losses and the consequences of the Syrian crisis, UNDP has published, in partnership with the Syrian Centre for Policy Research (SCPR), an update on the impact of the crisis. A number of key points were highlighted:

- By the end of 2014, total economic loss since the start of the conflict was estimated at USD 203 billion, which is nearly four times of the GDP in 2010 in constant prices.
- The crisis has severely impacted all economic sectors in Syria primarily manufacturing sector where its losses reached 310%, followed by transportation & communication where losses reached 271% and then finance & real estate sector witnessing 254% loss.

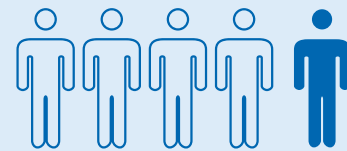
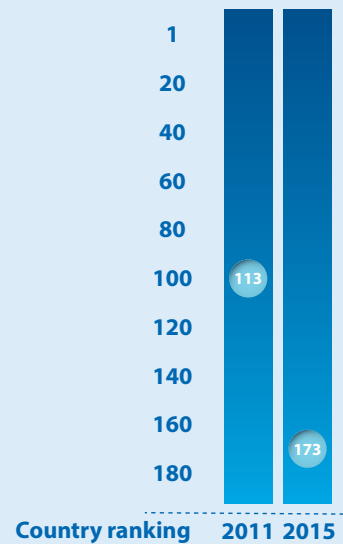


¹ OCHA, HNO 2015

² OCHA, HNO 2015

- The Syrian Human Development Index (HDI) is estimated to have lost 36.1% of its value compared to 2010, and 38.4% from its potential until the end of 2014. The rank of Syria in HDI, using the 2010 HDI results, would fall from 113 to 173 out of 187 countries.
- Syria is blighted by joblessness and overwhelmed by unemployment: 54.3 percent of the labour force, or 3.39 million unemployed persons. Some 2.67 million of these people lost their jobs during the conflict, their loss of income impacting on the welfare of 11.03 million dependents.
- Four in every five Syrians lived in poverty at the end of 2014, with more than half the population living in extreme poverty, unable to secure the most basic food and non-food items required for the survival of their households. Some 20 percent of the population survives in abject poverty, unable to meet their basic food needs, with the abject poor in conflict zones and besieged areas facing hunger, malnutrition and starvation.
- Almost half of the population fled their normal place of residence. The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) continues to increase reaching 6.8 million. In addition 3.3 million people fled the country as refugees.
- The future of Syria and its national identity are distorted by the dynamics of the conflict and the fragmentation of the society indicating a need for social cohesion efforts.

Syria's rank in HDI out of 187



Four in every five
Syrians live in poverty



6.8 million internally
displaced people
and **3.3 million** refugees



Al-Khaldia area, Homs © UNDP



Esam, a worker in solid waste removal, Al-Naora Garden, Idleb © UNDP

UNDP's response in 2014 at a glance

As a response to the emerging needs of the Syrian population, and in line with the 2014 Syrian Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP), UNDP focuses on building the resilience of the affected population in Syria to stabilize their livelihoods and strengthen their capacities to cope with the shocks and negative impacts of the crisis.

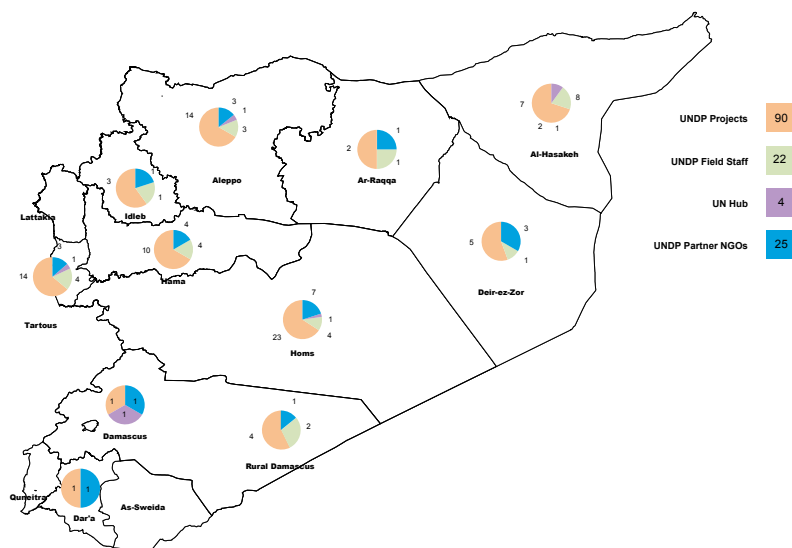
UNDP's recovery, resilience and livelihoods programme was conceived, designed and is implemented as an integral component of SHARP 2014 as it is agreed upon between the government of the Syrian Arab Republic and the United Nations in Syria. Projects are implemented with various actors including local authorities, non-governmental organization (NGOs), and community and faith-based organizations (FBOs) active in communities all over Syria.

Given the highly diverse and fluid situation in affected communities, UNDP resorted to an area-based approach for planning and implementation of its humanitarian and livelihoods interventions relying on its field teams located in 10 different governorates. This approach allows UNDP to gauge emerging needs and gives it more flexibility to respond to changing needs in a timely

manner. Identification of local initiatives is a dynamic process based on an inclusive and participatory local planning process in affected communities.

In 2014, UNDP succeeded to scale up its early recovery and resilience interventions targeting 14 highly affected governorates in Syria. It is currently implementing over 100 recovery, resilience and livelihoods projects. Approximately half of these projects are implemented in close collaboration with local partners including Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), while the rest are directly implemented by UNDP field teams through local procurement and local employment schemes.

UNDP's projects varied from the rehabilitation of community infrastructure and basic services such as solid waste removal, to business revival and restoration support, including food processing, manufacturing shoes and concrete blocks, supporting sewing workshops, re-establishing markets and stimulating local economy by encouraging local production and procurement. Vocational training was also provided with entrepreneurship promotion activities, with a special



UNDP operational presence in Syria

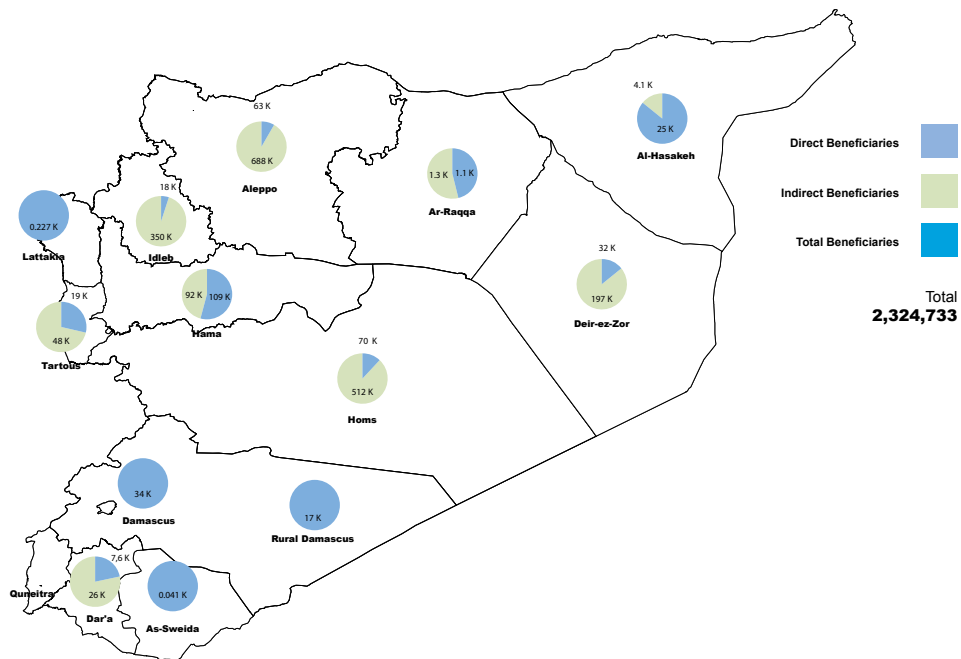
focus on vulnerable groups, including women-headed households, people with disabilities and young people.

In 2014, UNDP succeeded in reaching a total of 2,324,733 affected people including direct and indirect beneficiaries, benefitting from UNDP's Livelihoods Restoration and Resilience Building programme in all 14 governorates in Syria. The assistance to target governorates varied based on the extent of the damage, needs and number of affected of population including IDPs and host community members.

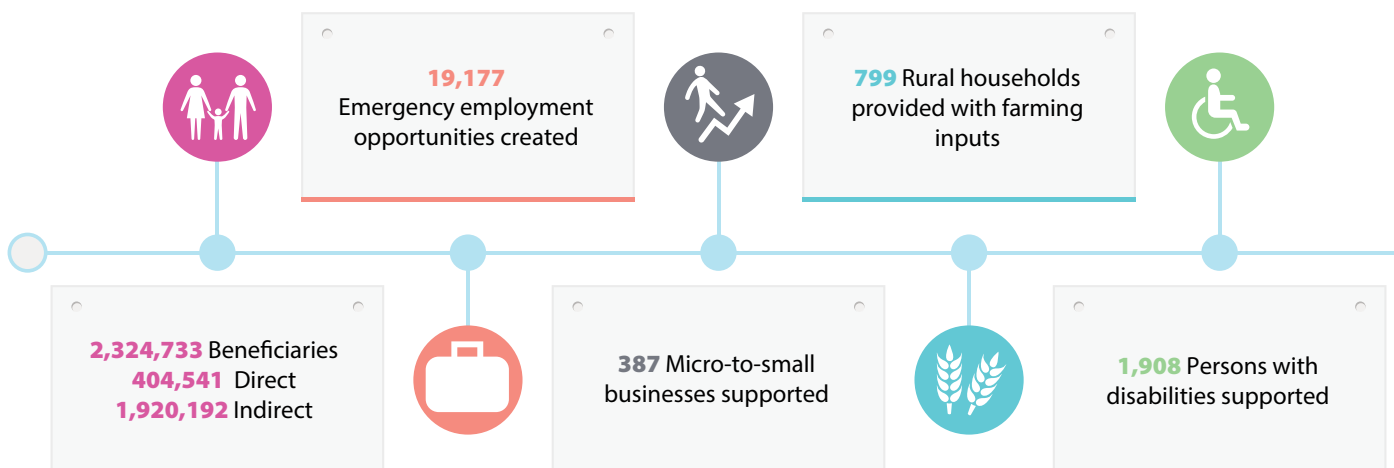
A total of 404,541 persons among the most affected population including dependent family members, directly benefited from livelihoods support such as creating emergency employment opportunities, assisting small business restoration, availing vocational

training and replacing lost assets, as well as targeted rehabilitation services for people with disabilities, and tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS patients. Special attention was given to the economic empowerment of women-headed households as the main vulnerable group in crisis times. As indicated the Humanitarian Needs Overview report (HNO) developed by the UN in Syria in November 2014, the proportion of female-headed households have increased dramatically during the conflict. Due to limitations in mobility imposed by cultural factors, women have greater difficulties regarding security and accessing food and non-food assistance or finding jobs as they might lack specific skills and experiences. Therefore, some women resorted to negative coping mechanisms to provide the basic needs for their families.

UNDP also indirectly supported 1,920,192 persons



UNDP total beneficiaries in Syria during 2014





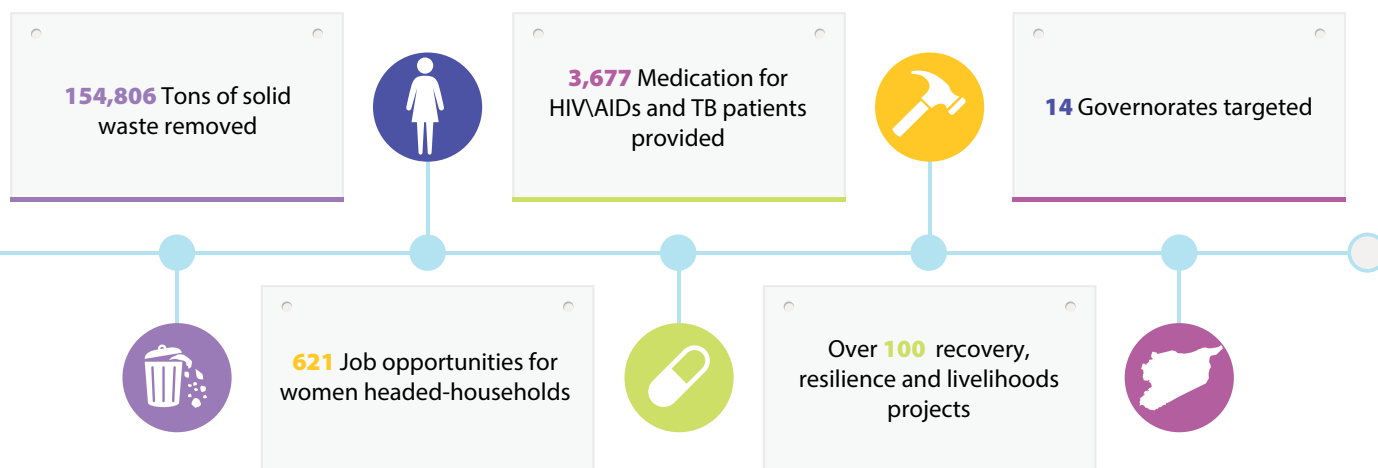
Women making traditional Syrian Labneh, Hama © UNDP

among the most affected population. 1,833,588 persons enjoyed better surroundings in terms of health and environmental conditions as a result of the removal and disposal of 154,806 tons of solid waste and the rehabilitation of infrastructure in more than 250 neighborhoods and collective shelters in Aleppo, Dar'a, Deir-Ez-Zor, Hama, Homs, Idleb and Tartous.

Tens of thousands of businesses have been closed across the country (such as building blocks and shoe manufacturing, traditional confectionery, and industrial facilities in addition to many other small businesses). An estimated 2.67 million people, who supported some 11 million dependents, have been laid off³. Thus, UNDP focused in its interventions to support local businesses and production to help restore disrupted livelihoods. As

such, 50,370 indirect beneficiaries enjoyed better access to basic commodities and services as a result of reviving and rehabilitating almost 1,200 local micro and small businesses, including agricultural and farming ones in Aleppo, Al-Hassakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Hama, Homs, Idleb, Rural Damascus and Tartous.

Gender considerations are observed in all UNDP's livelihoods and resilience activities, where a total of 195,538 women benefited from the provision of emergency employment opportunities in sewing, food preservation and solid waste removal, in addition to vocational training and assets and tools replacement in Aleppo, Al-Hassakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Dar'a, Deir-Ez-Zor, Hama, Homs, Idleb, Rural Damascus and Tartous governorates.



³Syria Squandering Humanity – Socio-economic Monitoring Report on Syria, Syria Centre for Policy Research, May 2014

UNDP's achievements in 2014

Emergency employment for improved service delivery and repair of basic community infrastructure



Worker removing solid waste from Al-Mintar area, Tartous © UNDP

UNDP, in cooperation with local partners, provided 14,400 emergency employment opportunities for the restoration of basic services in Aleppo, Dar'a, Deir-Ez-Zor, Hama, Homs, Idleb and Tartous. Those opportunities were created in the areas of solid waste removal, rehabilitation of infrastructure, mechanical repair for municipal trucks and equipment and agricultural and forestry preservation activities.

14,400 emergency job opportunities under the cash-for-work scheme

Through those initiatives, UNDP succeeded in removing and disposing of 154,806 tons of solid waste from over 250 neighborhoods and collective shelters, allowing a total number of 1,833,588 residents to enjoy better health and environmental conditions in Aleppo, Dar'a, Deir-Ez-Zor, Hama, Homs, Idleb, Lattakia and Tartous.

The continuous increase of IDPs numbers in various governorates has overstretched social services, including health and education. It has also led to municipalities being overwhelmed, with the dramatic increase in solid waste, which has led to environmental and public health hazards, including increased risk of disease. The impact has been hardest in Rural Damascus, Aleppo and Idleb governorates, which have received 40% of all IDPs in Syria⁴. Thus, 80% of the

⁴OCHA, HNO 2015

The Orontes River

runs across the city of Hama and feeds about 300 hectares of mostly agricultural areas. Saving the Orontes River was significant since it represents an alternative solution for water access after the damages to the water networks as a result of the ongoing violence.



Orontes River cleaning, Hama © UNDP

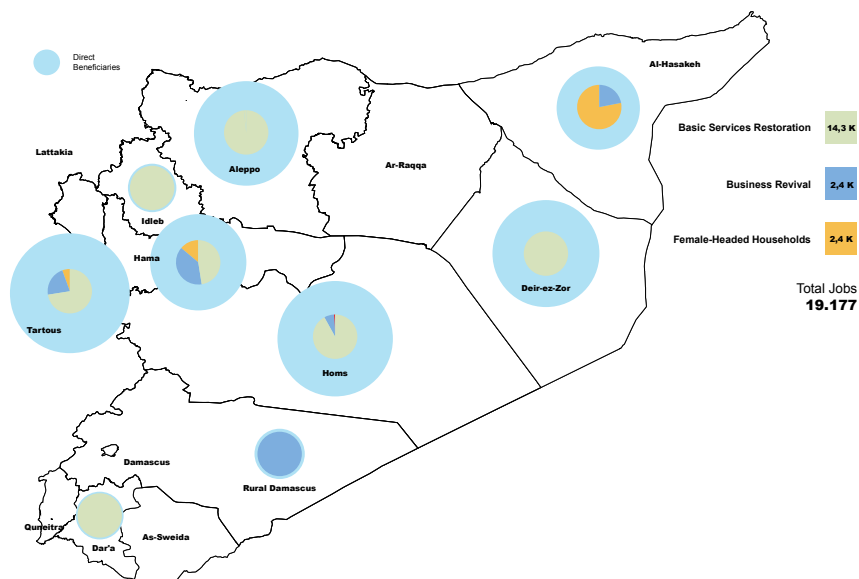
projects implemented under this component focused on solid waste removal and disposal, including cleaning the Orontes River. It is foreseen that more community-based infrastructure rehabilitation activities will kick-start in 2015. UNDP also distributed 9,544 litres of pest control substances in the most affected governorates, of which 4,200 litres were sprayed in Aleppo, 4,033 litres in Deir-Ez-Zor and 1,311 in Dar'a, Hama and Idleb.

To act comprehensively, UNDP promoted environmental and public health awareness within the framework of emergency employment for solid waste removal by conducting 174 hygiene awareness

sessions to raise awareness among the population, especially children, on the importance of maintaining a clean environment to limit the spread of epidemics and diseases. The sessions were held in Dar'a, Deir-Ez-Zor, Hama and Tartous governorates they directly benefitted 4,735 beneficiaries.

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

UNDP's support also included providing job



Emergency job opportunities created through UNDP's interventions during 2014



Hygiene awareness session for children in Tartous © UNDP

opportunities for repairing and maintaining the vehicle fleet and equipment of Tartous City Council. Workers were provided with tool kits for mechanical repairs. The innovative project contributed to improving the efficiency of municipal work in collecting and removing solid waste in a governorate that hosts 452,000 IDPs, and helped salvage vehicles and equipment that would otherwise be out of service as economic sanctions make it difficult to import the correct spare parts. The project has ultimately helped restore the municipal services in eight highly populous host neighborhoods in Tartous and has led to a better use of available resources and facilities.

Within the framework of UNDP's response plan for the rehabilitation of basic and social services, UNDP, in close cooperation with a local NGO and WHO rehabilitated one health center in Dar'a, securing reproductive health services for approximately 29,400 women and ambulatory services for about 117,000 residents. This

initiative provided 77 job opportunities for residents in this area, benefiting directly 385 beneficiaries including dependant family members. Moreover, technical studies were carried out for the rehabilitation of a health center of Sfera in Aleppo, which will serve 137,000 residents and will provide around 338 job opportunities. The project will be implemented in 2015.

A sustainable and reliable electricity supply is an essential element to ensure the humanitarian needs within the affected areas are met. It is also key for socio-economic recovery and for the return of IDPs to their locations. UNDP has initiated a project to rehabilitate the Jandar power plant in Homs through provision of emergency spare parts. This is a crucial project as it will improve the capacity of Jandar power plant which currently covers more than 15% of power supply in Syria.



Repairing municipal garbage vehicles, Tartous © UNDP

Emergency support for restoration and stabilization of disrupted livelihoods

Heavy fighting has destroyed physical infrastructure such as roads and housing buildings in which an estimated 2 million houses have been damaged. Approximately 680,000 have been completely destroyed. Economic and productive facilities have been heavily damaged and military activity and insecurity have significantly impeded access to sources of income and employment. Internal distribution and supply networks have been either disrupted or totally destroyed and the sharp depreciation of the currency coupled with inflation has devastated people's purchasing power. This has led to less access to basic needs and commodities such as food, medicines

and essential non-food items, increased negative coping mechanisms and ultimately a rapid rise in the number of poor people in dire need of assistance. 4 out of 5 Syrian people are now poor (SCPR, 2015)⁵ As a response to the deteriorating socio-economic situation in Syria, during 2014 UNDP supported the restoration and stabilization of disrupted livelihoods by focusing on reviving micro to small businesses through asset replacement, supporting the restoration of markets and stimulating the local economy by encouraging local production and procurement, as well as financial support. As such, a total of 1,200 local micro and small businesses, including agriculture and farming ones



Worker learning new skills in local aluminum workshop, Hama © UNDP

Emergency employment in local workshops provided 55 job opportunities for workers in different local workshops in Masyaf district (Hama). Workshop owners benefitted from "a free-hand" to support their daily workload, workers in the other hand received decent income and an opportunity to learn a new craft that they can capitalize on to start their own business in the future. The project ultimately benefited 426 beneficiaries, including dependent family members.

⁵ SCPR, Impact of The Crisis Report 2014, published in March 2015.



Beekeeping, Tartous © UNDP

"The beekeeping project was very supportive to us financially especially during these dire conditions."

Hessien Al Khaleel, IDP from al Hassakeh

were revived and rehabilitated in Aleppo, Al-Hassakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Hama, Homs, Idleb, Rural Damascus and Tartous.

A total of 387 micro-to-small businesses were revived in Aleppo, Al-Hassakeh, Hama, Homs, Idleb, Rural Damascus and Tartous, benefiting at least 2,135 people, including dependent family members. These businesses were prioritized by local communities in target areas to respond to the needs of the community. UNDP's guiding principle in early recovery is to rely on local resources and knowledge to preserve heritage and local capacities by restoring traditional crafts and industries such as the manufacturing of traditional bread and pastries in Homs and poultry production in As-Salamyia and plumbing, painting, carpentry and metal work in Homs.



Woman grilling eggplant, Beit Al-Mouna project, Hama © UNDP



Production of garbage bins, Hama © UNDP

The 387 supported businesses varied from the direct provision of equipment and materials to emergency employment schemes, such as food processing in Hama, Rural Damascus and Al-Hassakeh, poultry and emergency employment in local workshops in Hama, beekeeping and growing mushrooms in Tartous, green houses in Banias, distribution of livestock in Ar-Raqqa and plumbing works and establishing a productive market in Tartous.

UNDP supported the revival of eight industrial businesses in Homs including helping establish an ice production workshop to help local communities preserve food in the face of a lack of electricity, brick production, carpentry, blacksmiths, aluminum production and an electricity workshop to speed up repairs as well as businesses that help rebuild and repair houses and shelters. To boost food production and to support the local economy, UNDP also supported roof-top gardening, the rehabilitation of a local market and bakeries. UNDP supported small laundry facility and sewing workshop helped get more use from old clothes and distribute clothes to newly arrived IDPs and other humanitarian assistance.

UNDP helped create a range of innovative projects to support the restoration of livelihoods. These include a car washing project in Tartous that succeeded in providing 150 job opportunities. The project used many unskilled laborers, who would otherwise have found

it difficult to get jobs given the high unemployment rate. The project has also directly benefited 750 beneficiaries, including dependent family members, as cleaning tools and kits were distributed to targeted young people, allowing them to find job opportunities by providing cleaning services for cars and shop windows.

The supported “Balet Almouna” food preserving project in Hama provides 106 job opportunities for vulnerable groups including households headed by women and people with disabilities. It places a special emphasis on emergency employment and replacing lost tools and equipment. Through this project the women used their traditional knowledge of food preservation and passed this knowledge to other women. This allowed them to become entrepreneurs in this field. The food they produced was sold at the local market at reasonable prices, and the income generated ensured its continuity beyond the support of UNDP. This has ultimately directly benefited 530 beneficiaries including dependent family members.

UNDP adopted a livelihood and early recovery oriented approach, consisting of local procurement and manufacturing solid waste containers as part of its efforts to stimulate local economic activity and have local production and procurement replace humanitarian assistance brought in from outside. UNDP procured 2,862 locally manufactured containers



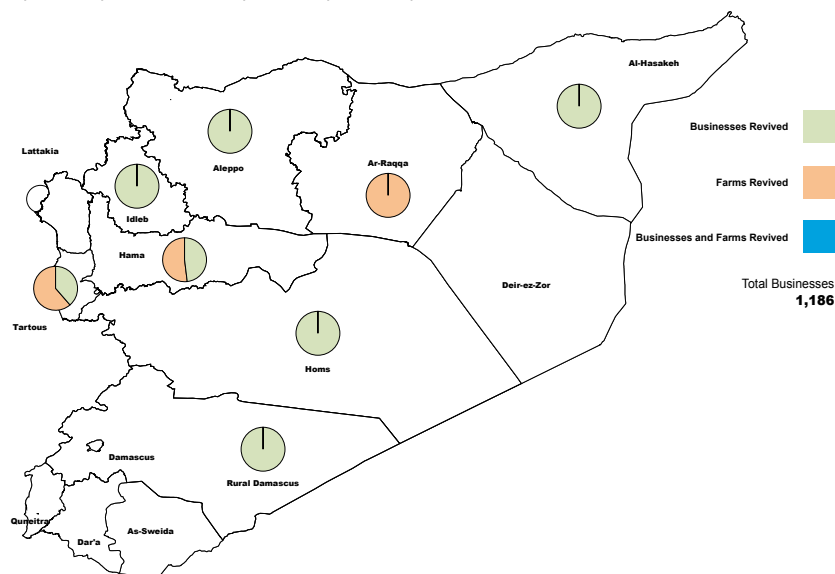
Mohammad planting safflower and okra, Homs © UNDP

from seven local blacksmith workshops in Tartous and Aleppo, maintaining jobs for 216 workers. High costs and a lack of metal materials in Tartous forced local workshops to innovate and use empty diesel barrels as cheap, lightweight and readily available items to serve as garbage bins suitable for small neighborhoods where manual collection is required instead of by compressor vehicle.

UNDP helped distribute non-food items (NFIs), such as quilts, clothes, and shoes to IDPs and host community members. This helped maintain minimum living conditions for them and revive local businesses. UNDP procured NFIs from 17 vendors, and distributed 356,321 to the affected population in Aleppo, Al-Hassakeh, As-Sweida, Damascus, Dar'a, Deir-Ez-Zor, Hama, Homs,

Idleb, Lattakia, Rural Damascus and Tartous.

Syria relies heavily on agriculture as a base for livelihoods. The agricultural sector was heavily affected by the crisis, especially in rural areas. It employs a large number of workers and ensures food security in rural areas. In order to strengthen the resilience of Syrians living in the affected rural areas, UNDP supported 799 rural households through the provision of farming inputs including livestock, seeds and fertilizers in addition to the maintenance of irrigation tools in Ar-Raqqqa, Hama and Tartous that has directly benefitted 2,455 beneficiaries, of whom 19 were people with disabilities and 742 were from female-headed households.



Businesses revived through UNDP's initiatives during 2014

Emergency support to vulnerable groups

Women-headed households

Vulnerable groups including women and people with disabilities have been disproportionately affected by Syria's humanitarian crisis. These vulnerable groups are a priority for the UNDP livelihoods restoration and resilience building programme. Due to the ongoing crisis, the displacement of the population and changes in demographics, many of the most vulnerable households today are supported by women who often lack the necessary means and skills to meet their needs and those of their children. The "feminization of poverty" takes an ominous toll not just on women but also on families and society as a whole. Therefore, UNDP designed initiatives for women-headed households through the creation of employment opportunities, the provision of vocational training, asset replacement and the provision of necessary tools and equipment to support productive activities.

During 2014, UNDP's support to women included establishing nine sewing workshops in Al-Hassakeh,

Damascus, Deir-Ez-Zor, Hama, Homs and Tartous. As well as providing work, the workshops also led to the production of clothes to sell in local markets. Also, many of the manufactured clothes were stockpiled for humanitarian support and were distributed to newly displaced people from Homs, Aleppo and Al-Hassakeh, keeping 5,000 IDPs warm in the harsh winter. Difficulties in accessing and moving goods and people between governorates makes local production all the more important. It also brings down commuting costs and lowers the possibility of theft during transportation. The project also helped employ local workers and relied on local resources, supporting as such local economy.

In Al-Hassakeh, UNDP provided livestock to support rural livelihoods and enhance access to food for women in particular. This ultimately provided 621 job opportunities for women headed-households allowing 3,115 family members to live better thanks to the income used to purchase food and fuel for heating.



Sewing workshop, Al-Hassakeh © UNDP

"For the first time in my life I feel I'm human, I'm not a burden on my family anymore, I have a beautiful relation with my colleagues and I can finally buy the necessary items to my kids."

Abir, Al-Hassakeh

People with disabilities

In line with UNDP's support to vulnerable groups, due attention was given to people with disabilities and other special needs, who are often further marginalized during crises. UNDP provided resources for them to become independent and productive members of the community.

UNDP developed a comprehensive rehabilitation approach that started with the provision of disability and medical assistance, such as prosthetics, artificial limbs, crutches, wheelchairs, medical pillows and mattresses and more. Physiotherapy sessions, vocational training and start-up kits for quick income generating activities and psychosocial support was

also provided.

In 2014, UNDP began developing an inclusive rehabilitation programme for people with disabilities and initiated a number of activities in this regard. 1,908 persons with disabilities were employed in solid waste removal, food processing and sewing workshops in Aleppo, Al-Hassakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Dar'a, Deir-Ez-Zor, Hama, Homs, Rural Damascus and Tartous.

UNDP also provided 1,000 wheelchairs for IDPs with disabilities, in cooperation with local NGOs and charities in 10 governorates: Hama, Deir-Ez-Zor, Homs, Lattakia, Tartous, Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Sweida and Dar'a.



A person with special needs spraying pest control substance, Deir-Ez-Zor © UNDP

Yousef is one of the beneficiaries from the pest control project, due to his disability he was given a customized wheelchair to be able to work with his colleagues.

People living with HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis

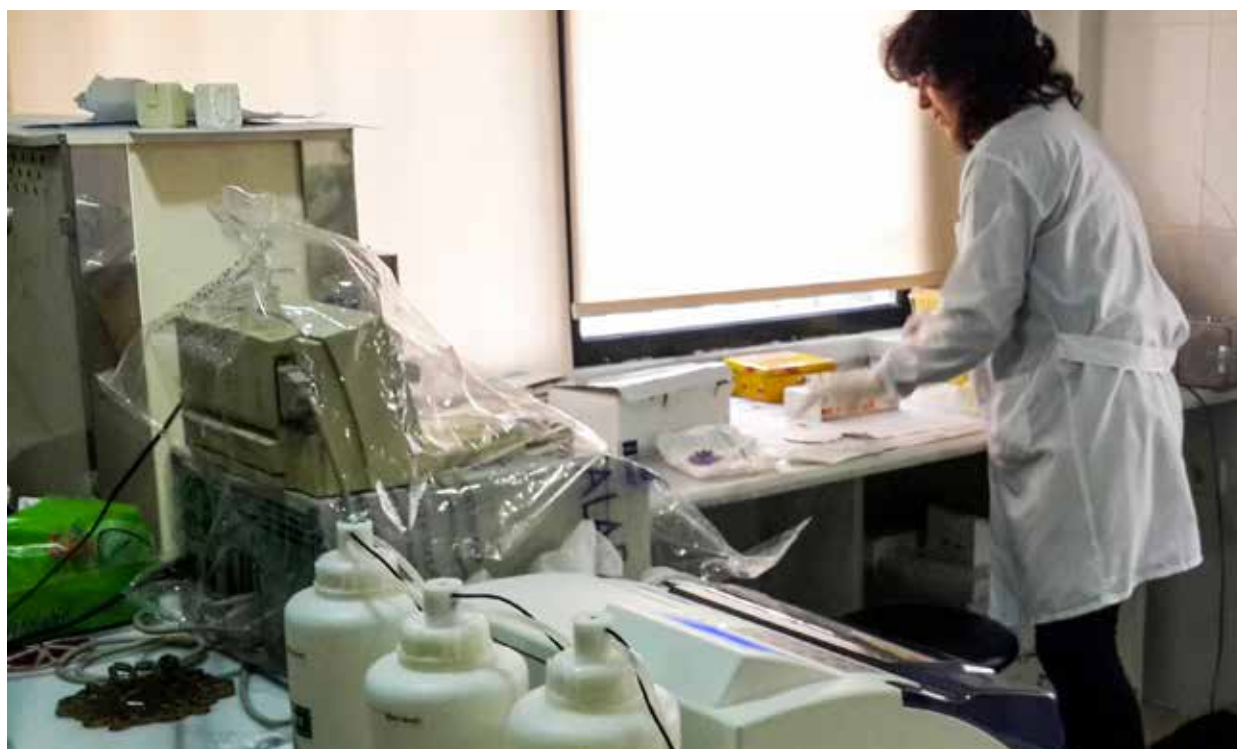
The crisis in Syria has substantially changed the country's health status and system. Non-communicable diseases have traditionally been the main cause of morbidity and mortality in the country. In times of crisis, many communicable disease outbreaks are caused by common, easily preventable and treatable diseases such as diarrhea, dysentery and measles. These diseases can become major killers if malnutrition is added to the picture.

Alongside tuberculosis, both HIV and hepatitis C could become major problems through deteriorating practices in terms of blood safety, injections, treatment in health care services and through the possible increased incidence of rape and gender-based violence as a result of the breakdown in the social fabric of society.

As a response, UNDP has extended its emergency and recovery services to support patients with non-communicable and infectious diseases. As such, UNDP maintained its Tuberculosis and HIV monitoring activities through the active engagement

of local partners in 7 out of the 9 affected governorates including Aleppo, Al-Hassakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Damascus, Hama, Lattakia and Tartous. UNDP also provided medication to 152 people living with HIV/AIDS and 3,525 Tuberculosis patients, which helped to maintain an incidence rate of 18 per 100,000 people, despite the dire situation in the country, its impact on detecting new cases and difficulties in accessing medication. Despite these successes, poor nutrition and poor accommodation for displaced people has aggravated the severity of Tuberculosis. This was reflected in the change of the treatment success rate, which dropped from 90% to 84% in addition to an increase in mortality from 1.4 per 100,000 to 2.1 per 100,000.

In order to reduce the spread of blood borne diseases and protect the general public from infectious diseases, UNDP provided reagents for blood screening to 25 blood bank facilities in Syria as the most crucial aspects of blood bank operation. The procurement was done through the UNDP procurement facility in Copenhagen in three shipments from UNICEF and ABBOT.



HIV/AIDS center in Tartous © UNDP

Capacity development for early recovery and resilience with national and local actors

As per its capacity development mandate, UNDP works with local actors and institutions and assists them to cope with the consequences of the on-going crisis and better address the priority needs of the affected communities. During this year, a capacity assessment for NGO/CBOs was undertaken to identify their strengths and core functional capacity gaps to inform the design of a comprehensive capacity development programme. Accordingly, 70 NGOs were assessed in all governorates.

In order to ensure a professional approach to engage with NGOs in Syria, UNDP launched a separate capacity development programme with a focused on strengthening the capacities of local NGOs and upgrading their skills and knowledge in humanitarian

and recovery work. UNDP has begun the process of unifying the training curriculum on NGO management, project cycle management, early recovery and livelihoods in crisis-affected communities. This will be finalised in close consultation with the early recovery and livelihoods sector working group and other national stakeholders.

UNDP partnered with almost 100 NGOs, FBOs and CBOs in all 14 governorates



Capacity development for NGOs, CBOs and FBOs, Homs © UNDP

Coordination, advocacy and technical assistance for early recovery and resilience

In 2014, UNDP continued its coordination and technical assistance efforts in the field of Early Recovery and Livelihoods. This allowed for greater engagement with local, national and international partners. UNDP leads the early recovery and livelihoods support in Syria. UNDP worked with more than 14 partners from UN agencies, international organizations and international NGOs within the sector forum for the identification of early recovery and livelihoods (ERL) priority needs, the planning of adequate response and monitoring the interventions. Based on the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)⁶ guidelines for ERL coordination mechanisms, UNDP took the lead in drafting the relevant chapters in the Syria Humanitarian Response Plan, developing pre-positioning plans for local preparedness, and emergency local response plans for Homs, Aleppo, in addition to managing data and updating relevant sections in plans and outreach publications published by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

For the implementation of its projects, UNDP partnered with almost 100 NGOs, FBOs and CBOs in all 14 governorates in Syria, whether through direct grants provision (financial or in-kind) or through field cooperation to ensure complementarities in the actions taken.

To ensure evidence-based programming and the suitability of its response, UNDP developed a livelihoods damage assessment methodology to set baselines in affected governorates and to inform the design of a comprehensive livelihoods strategy in support of durable solutions and the protection of the affected and most vulnerable population. A final validation workshop will take place in early 2015. UNDP also developed profiles for seven governorates that reflect the impacts of the crisis in target areas, priority needs and opportunities for recovery and livelihoods support, and key partners and resources. The profiles form the backbone of UNDP's area-based plans and



Members from Syrian Ministry of Local Affairs attending debris workshop, Damascus © UNDP

⁶ The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) is an inter-agency forum for coordination, policy development and decision-making involving the key UN and non-UN humanitarian partners. The IASC was established in June 1992 in response to United Nations General Assembly Resolution 46/182 on the strengthening of humanitarian assistance. General Assembly Resolution 48/57 affirmed its role as the primary mechanism for inter-agency coordination of humanitarian assistance.

serve as an evidence tool for informed planning, prioritization and allocation of financial resources. An interactive database was established in 2014 to capture the changing socio-economic trends. It will enhance coordination mechanisms and lay the ground for informed and coherent decisions for humanitarian and recovery response.

For a wider understanding of the crisis, an annual update of the socio-economic impact of the crisis report is published with the Syrian Centre for Policy Research (SCPR). The updates provide evidence, track and monitor socio-economic indicators. The most recent report “Squandering Humanity” reflected on the impact of the crisis in 2013. The 2014 impact of the crisis report is finalized to be published early 2015.

UNDP has developed the methodology for a rapid and

Two workshops were conducted on debris management

comprehensive assessment of the impact of debris waste on resilience and socio-economic recovery in the affected areas. It will help responding immediately to needs in hard hit areas. UNDP also developed a strategy for debris management (recycling, removing, sorting, etc.). Two workshops were conducted for UNDP field personnel coming from different governorates, members from the Syndicate of Engineers, the University of Damascus and technical staff from local authorities.



UNDP staff attending debris and solid waste management workshop, Beirut © UNDP



Fatima, growing tomatoes in green house, Tartous © UNDP



Woman next to traditional bread ovens, Al-Hassakeh © UNDP

Monitoring mechanisms

To ensure full transparency and accountability for its programmes, UNDP is applying three main modalities for field monitoring. Combinations of these modalities are adopted depending on the local context and the nature of the activities. Information on UNDP programmes are publicly available and feedback is solicited from a range of stakeholders and partners on the relevance, importance and contribution to the recovery process.

I. Community-Based Monitoring

Community based monitoring is ensured through the establishment of local project committees that are responsible for following up and monitoring the implementation of activities in the field. This complements the monitoring role played by UNDP field teams. Volunteers from the local communities are also playing a major role in providing feedback on both ongoing and completed activities, especially in terms of public perception and the factors that have brought about successes and failures.



UNDP's Adeeb with one of the solid waste workers in Idlib © UNDP

II. Site visits and reports from the field

UNDP staff undertake regular field visits. Field teams, technical teams and monitoring officers visit project sites to monitor the progress and validate reported results. Stories and photos showcasing beneficiaries are collected. These are also used as part of the remote monitoring undertaken by technical teams in Damascus.

III. Third Party Monitoring

Third party monitoring is undertaken by partner NGOs and other UN Agencies that are not involved in the projects. The information is compared with monitoring data received from sub-contractors, partners, local project committees and regular field reports. The early recovery and livelihoods sector working groups, both at the national and field levels, facilitate the exchange of information between NGOs and UN Agencies. This also avoids the duplication of all actions.



Field Visit, Tartous © UNDP

UNDP also developed an electronic database to document and track all projects and relevant information from the field.



Marwa, a worker in pine forests cleaning project, As-Salamyia © UNDP

Lessons learned

Over the past four years, UNDP gained valuable experience in developing and implementing area based interventions to enhance the resilience of affected population and their ability to cope with the impact of the crisis and address the rising challenges. UNDP extracted several lessons learned from the above-mentioned experience, which fed into its ongoing programme and interventions at the field level.

The deteriorating security situation and the difficult access to critical areas in need of support reinforced the importance of local partners (NGOs, CBOs, FBOs, local committees, local institutions, etc.). Working with local partners, developing their capacity, acknowledging and enhancing their role as active actors in service provision and recovery, are key factors in achieving tangible results and reaching desirable impact. Having this network of partners facilitated the application of the “do no harm” principle through ensuring conflict sensitive planning in affected communities, bringing people together on non-threatening issues, and nurturing the sense of ownership.

To ensure optimal absorption capacity and performance of local NGOs, it is important to conduct targeted capacity development as an integral part of the response. This has proven essential to shift the role of local NGOs from aid distribution to actual service delivery and contribution to local resilience, namely through assisting people to cope with the

impacts of the crisis and enhance their positive coping mechanisms.

While mass procurement is much easier and cheaper from international sources constraints in movement between governorates due to security risks, and difficulty of access to certain hard to reach areas have highlighted the importance of local procurement. It became evident that local procurement, where possible, is not only critical for economic recovery but also as a logistical mitigation measure.

Given the highly diverse context in affected communities in terms of security, impacts of the crisis, needs, local actors and general dynamics, the area-based approach has proven very efficient in capturing real needs in communities, and identifying the most appropriate implementation modality that promotes inclusiveness, ownership and sustainability. While UNDP is working under the umbrella of the Syria Strategic Response Plan (formerly known as SHARP) which identifies strategic objectives, the importance of the area-based approach is in addressing differences among communities that cannot be captured in a strategic national plan, and to ensure engagement of various social groups in planning, implementing and monitoring “their own community” activities. This would hopefully contribute to re-creating a sense of “community” in affected areas and ensuring feedback from the affected people themselves.



Our Stories

Aleppo: A father's hope to save his daughter's life

No one has escaped the deleterious impacts of the ongoing crisis. The rapid deterioration of the situation since 2011 is reflected in the increasing number of people fleeing their homes. Situated in the north of Syria, Aleppo was one of the most affected governorate. The hard to reach areas in Aleppo have more than 1,300,000 people in need, living in extremely difficult conditions especially due to the lack of basic goods and medicines, the deterioration of health care, and ongoing violence. Mohammad was one of the citizens who never thought that the escalating hostilities will force him out of his home ending up in a shelter within a relatively safer area in Aleppo with his wife and six children.

Two years without job, Mohammad's family lived in extreme poverty with no beds or blankets to protect them from the cold winter. *"My 3 year old daughter has cancer, and she needs radiotherapy in Damascus which I*

can't afford," he said.

A year ago, he joined the solid waste project, implemented by UNDP in Aleppo. The received wages have significantly improved his living condition and helped him provide the basic needs for his family.

"It was impossible for us to find a proper job in this dire situation, thanks to the solid waste project I'm capable now of traveling to the medical center in Damascus so my little daughter can finalize her radiotherapy sessions. This will save her life." He said, adding, "We hope that this project will continue; we appreciate the benefits we have gained so far. Our surroundings have also become cleaner."

The solid waste project in Aleppo helped providing 2,945 one month job opportunities and removing 36,207 tons of waste, allowing 16 neighborhoods to enjoy better and healthier environment.



Mohammad, solid waste project, Aleppo © UNDP

"Thanks to the solid waste project, I'm capable now of traveling to Damascus to treat my daughter and save her life."

Mohammad, Aleppo

⁷OCHA governorates profile June 2014

As-Salamyia: The desire to live with dignity

Rural Damascus is witnessing fierce fighting; most areas previously considered as peaceful are now totally destroyed. Most residents were forced to relocate to safer areas.

Maher, one of many others, found himself homeless after watching his house, where he used to live with his wife and six of his family members, burn down as a result of direct hits by mortars, forcing him to flee and take refuge in rural Hama in As-Salamyia.

Maher and his wife are both deaf and mute since childhood. Their disability never prevented them from living happily in the past, where the income earned from his job as a construction worker allowed him to fulfill the needs of his family. After displacement, finding a new source of livelihoods became a huge challenge.

"We left our home without taking anything with us. Everything is expensive; I couldn't buy milk for my six-month old son or provide heating fuel to warm my family during the cold winter. It was impossible for me to find a job. I was suffocating!" he said using sign language.

As-Salamyia is considered one of the most important poultry production areas in Syria, where the estimated

average of chicken production constituted up to 30% of the total national production. Poultry farming has been severely affected by the crisis causing up to 50% decline in production due to bankruptcy and changes in economic activities. UNDP in partnership with a local NGO are implementing a project to revive poultry production and provide job opportunities to affected IDPs and host communities, focusing on vulnerable groups such as women-headed households and people with disabilities.

Maher among many other benefited from this project. Working eight hours a day, he was able to buy basic needs for his family.

The poultry project has helped providing 179 one month job opportunities making significant improvements to the lives of IDPs and host communities in As-Salamyia.

"I was praying to God and asking for a decent job. Thanks to this opportunity, I don't have to borrow money anymore." He said using sign language, with a smile on his face.



Maher, As-Salamyia © UNDP

"I couldn't buy milk for my six-months old son or heating fuel to warm my family during the cold winter. Now I can as I receive my wages from UNDP's project"

Maher, Al-Salamyia.

AL-Hassakeh: The hope revived



Mariam, Al-Hassakeh © UNDP

The population of Al-Hassakeh governorate has been increasingly vulnerable and has slipped into poverty. The humanitarian situation in Al-Hassakeh continues to deteriorate as it hosts over 350,000 IDPs from neighboring governorates. It hosts IDPs in addition to returning migrants who left during the drought only to return fleeing violence. Currently, Al-Hassakeh governorate is home to half a million persons, of whom 258,000 are IDPs from neighboring Deir-ez-Zor, Ar-Raqqa and Aleppo, who are in critical need for livelihood support.

UNDP was the first UN agency to implement a recovery project in Al-Hassakeh governorate in partnership with a local NGO. It established a sewing workshop in Qamishli city, providing 405 job opportunities for affected women, of whom 23 were persons with disabilities. A team of volunteers was responsible to deliver the raw materials to disabled women and train them to work from home, then to deliver the finished products to the sewing workshop. Around 31,000 pieces of clothing were produced and distributed to local residents in need.

Mariam, a 23 year old lady from Deir-ez-Zor, was one of the beneficiaries. She was able in spite of her disability to work; she was trained by a sewing specialist. She now

"I'm finally a productive person and I earn an income"

Mariam, Al-Hassakeh

"I always felt that I'm a burden on my poor family"

Mariam, Al-Hassakeh

works and contributes to the production chain from home.

"When a volunteer team from the sewing project visited me, I couldn't imagine that I might become a productive person" she said, adding "I told them: as you see, I can't walk!"

After a short period of time, Mariam received a wheelchair from UNDP, which allowed her to move around and gave her the opportunity to join the workshop workforce and meet with her co-workers. *"I also have a better social life"*.

"I lived my whole life with no hope, I always felt that I'm a burden for my poor family, and I was reluctant to ask for anything I needed. With this job I've become more self-confident, and I can finally help my family especially in this difficult situation," she said happily adding "now everyone is looking at me differently including my family and my relatives. I'm finally a productive person and I earn an income."

The workshop produced high quality items which encouraged other UN agencies to buy its products. Recently, it became self-sustained and expanded its work to meet the demand of the local market.

Homs: From depression to new life ambition



Mohammad, confection of arab sweets , Homs © UNDP

Homs governorate has experienced fierce hostilities since the beginning of the crisis, which resulted in massive damage to buildings and infrastructure, and significant reduction in the delivery of basic and social services. Approximately 699,000 people from host families, returnees, IDPs and local communities are in need for humanitarian assistance. Many of the local residents have suffered from significant losses in their livelihoods due to destruction and vandalism of factories and stores especially in the commercial center of Homs. This has further exacerbated unemployment rate.

Mohammad was one of those affected people who suffered from tremendous losses shortly after the outbreak of the crisis. He had to flee with his family from their small house in Al-Bayadah to a shelter in Hashem Al-Atasi school, where his father died from a heart attack. *"My Father was a street vendor, and I used to help him financially by working at a furniture and carpentry workshop. After his death, I found myself the sole breadwinner of a family of four members with no job and no home"*

Mohammad accumulated debts as it was nearly impossible for him to find a job, particularly without a school certificate. He suffered from hunger, cold and all forms of misery. *"I had to leave school"* he said, adding

"My mother was too sick, and my little brothers and sisters were suffering from poor living conditions at the shelter, I even thought of committing suicide but to whom shall I leave my family?"

In order to restore livelihoods in Homs and prevent negative coping mechanisms, UNDP in partnership with a local NGO are implementing a project to revive the manufacture of traditional sweets and provide job opportunities to affected IDPs and host community members.

Mohammad was one of the beneficiaries who joined the project from its early beginning, working eight hours a day; he was finally able to provide medication and basic needs to his family. *"I was so desperate until I found this job that changed my entire life. I saw other workers with common concerns and problems working hard to survive and cope with the negative effects of this crisis."* He said. Adding with a smile on his face: *"I can never forget the first wage I earned; it has saved me from destitution and humiliation and helped me to provide a decent life for my family."*

After working for a short period in this project, Mohammad saved a small portion of his wages and signed up for educational courses. He is planning to return to school next semester.



Mohammad while attending educational course, Homs © UNDP



Woman removing weeds from planting area, Ar-Raqqa © UNDP



A worker welding a shovel, metalwork workshop, Idleb © UNDP





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