



EU Funded UNDP Response in Syria

Restoration and Stabilization of Livelihoods

January – September 2014



Mass Destruction - Homs

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GLOSSARY

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| CSO | Civil Society Organization |
| EU | European Union |
| 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 |



Destruction of Cultural Heritage & Historical Sites
Al Masudiya School Established 1910



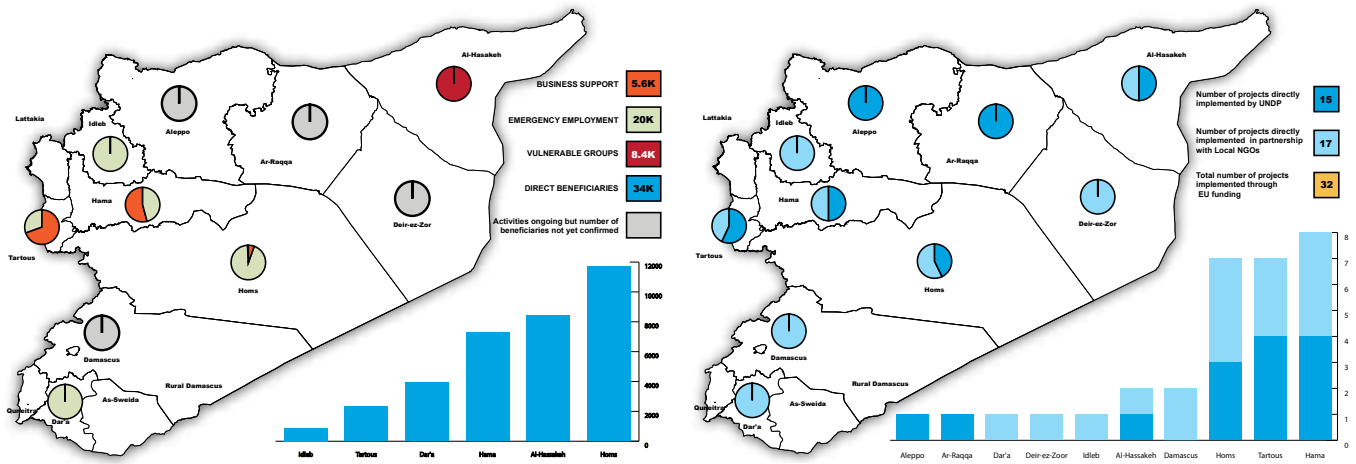
Destruction of infrastructure & Livelihoods
Aleppo - Photo by jic.org

HIGHLIGHTS

AFTER nearly four years of conflict, Syria is the largest humanitarian and protection crisis since World War II. Almost half of the Syrian population until September 2014 has been forced to leave their homes, often multiple times, generating the largest population displacement and causing further destitution of the socio-economic situation on the Syrian-population. The deteriorating

humanitarian situation prompted UNDP to continue in scaling up its early recovery and resilience interventions with the support of the generous EU contribution, targeting **10 highly affected governorates** in Syria and it is currently implementing **32 recovery and livelihoods projects funded by EU**, of which **17 projects** are implemented in partnership with local NGOs, CBOs and faith-based organizations. 15 projects are directly implemented by UNDP.

Until September 2014, a total of 691,865 affected people including 34,519 direct and 657,346 indirect beneficiaries in various communities benefitted from UNDP- EU support

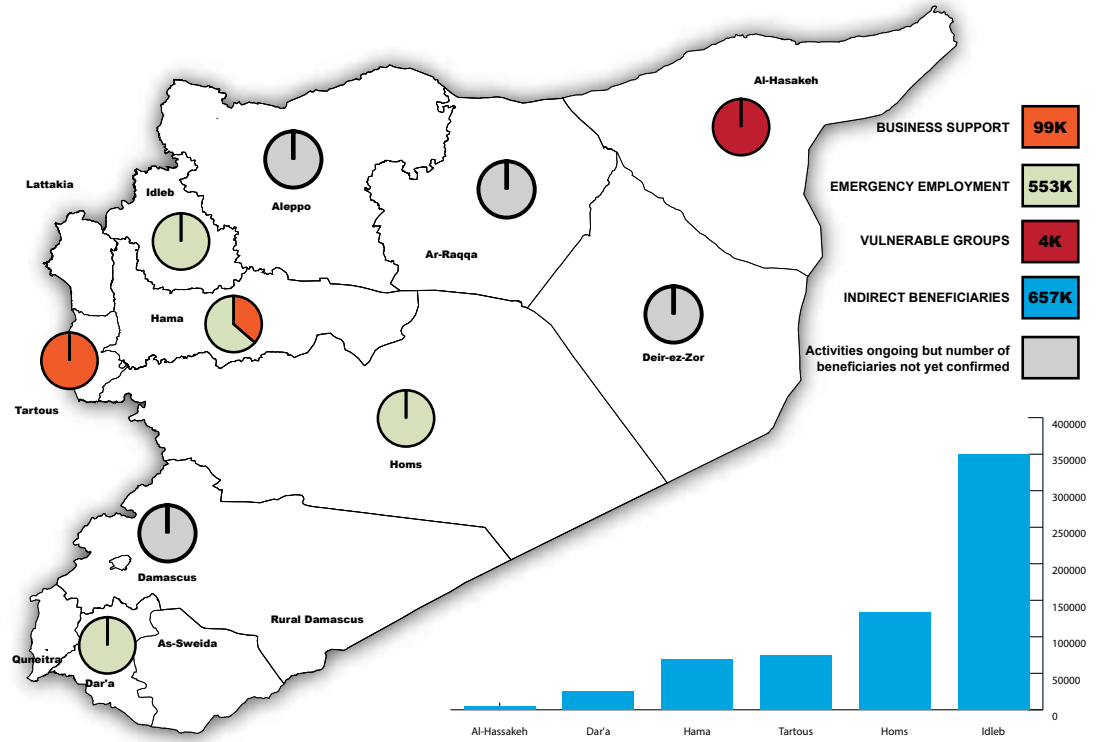


Number of direct beneficiaries reached through partnership between EU and UNDP in Syria

Number of Sub-Projects Funded through partnership between EU and UNDP in Syria

A total of 34,519 persons among the most affected population benefited directly from UNDP – EU livelihoods support consisted of providing emergency employment opportunities, small businesses restoration, and targeted rehabilitation services for

people with disabilities leading as such to an overall improvement of their dire living conditions. To-date, activities are ongoing in the governorates of Aleppo, Damascus, Dar’a, Hama, Al-Hassakeh, Homs, Idlib, Ar-Raqqqa, Deir Ezzor and Tartous.



Children are happy with their clean neighborhoods

Solid waste removal project - Idlib © UNDP

Number of indirect beneficiaries reached through partnership between EU and UNDP in Syria



In total, 31,067 individuals including direct dependent family members, of whom 10,200 women and 125 persons with disability benefited from the creation of 4,480 monthly job opportunities in Al-Hassakeh, Dar’a, Hama, Homs, Idlib and Tartous. 2,900 monthly job opportunities were created in rehabilitation of basic services including solid waste management and infrastructure repairs activities while 1,580 monthly jobs were created in restoration of livelihoods and supporting vulnerable groups including revival of productive workshops and local micro-to-small businesses.

5,632 persons benefited from the restoration of 1,210 micro and small businesses including 705 families provided with essential farming inputs

in Hama, Homs, Al-Hassakeh, Al-Raqqa and Tartous. UNDP- EU's assistance consisted of direct procurement from local workshops and small businesses in target governorates and the provision or replacement of productive assets, in addition to the provision of vocational training, which facilitated the revival of micro-to-small businesses. A total of **99,720 beneficiaries were indirectly targeted** through these services.

1,083 monthly job created for women-headed household, including 60 monthly jobs for women with disability, received livelihoods support directly benefiting 2,229 persons. The livelihoods support consisted of targeting women-headed households for the provision of emergency

employment in sewing and food processing workshops through cash for work initiatives in Al-Hassakeh and Hama. It is also worth noting that gender considerations were observed in all UNDP- EU's livelihoods activities.

UNDP-EU also supported indirectly 657,346 persons among the most affected population. **493,550 persons** enjoy better health and environmental conditions as a result of the removal and disposal of **37,160 tons of solid waste from more than 32 neighborhoods** in Homs, Hama, Dar'a, Tartous and Idlib and **71 collective shelters in June, July, August and September** in Dar'a, Hama and Idlib. There are also 99,720 indirect beneficiaries reached through the revival of local micro and small businesses allowing the target affected communities better access to basic survival products and services.



Solid waste removal - Homs © UNDP

SITUATION UPDATE

Throughout 2014, armed conflict in Syria continued unabated, with warring parties, including government forces, non-state armed groups (NSAGs) and listed terrorist groups, fighting aggressively to maintain and expand their areas of influence and/or gain control of main and strategic roads, large settlements and administrative centers and critical resources, including energy, water and food. Conflict dynamics have evolved and grown ever more complex. Most notably, as of November 2014, ISIL

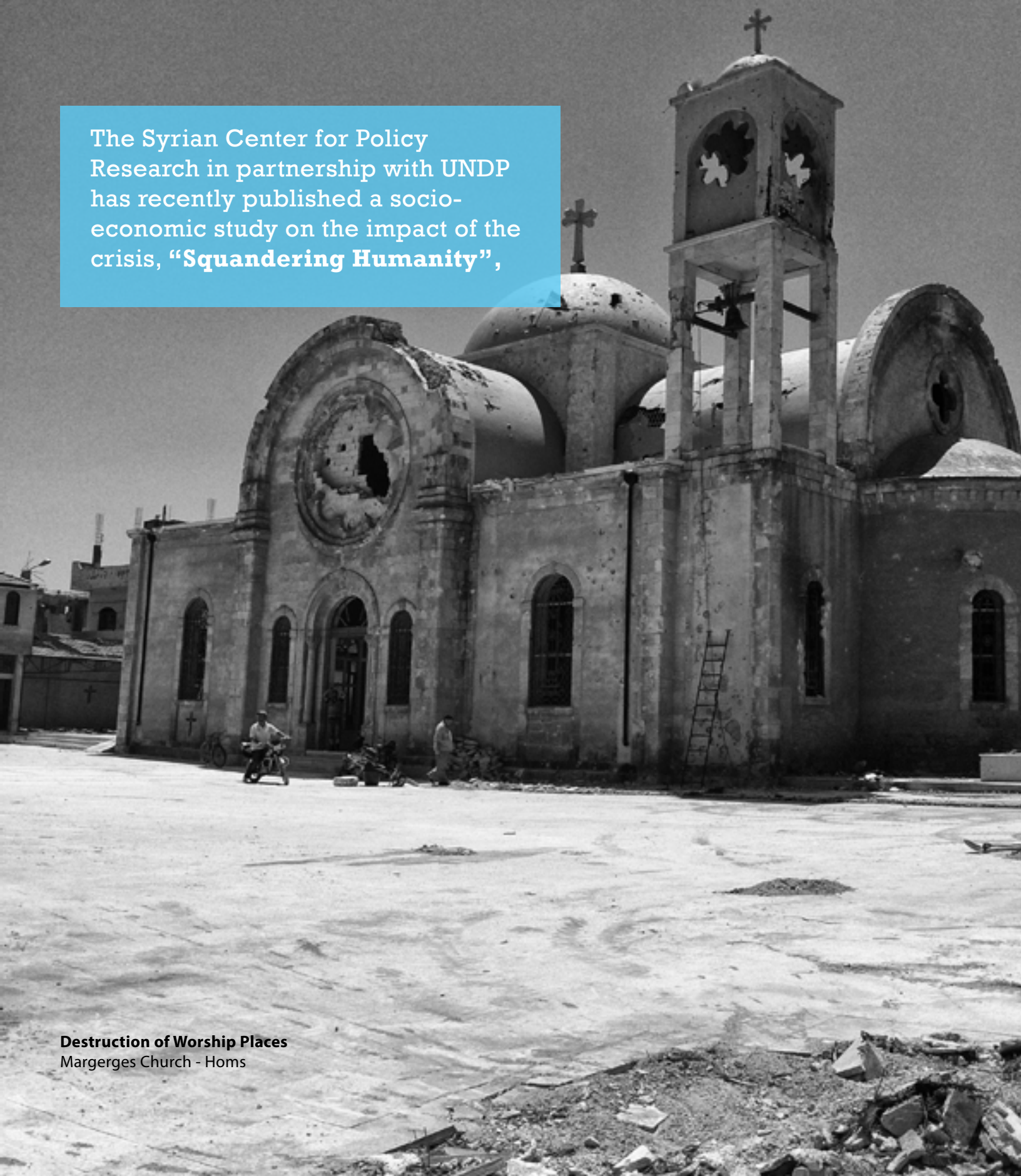
had almost completely taken over the governorate of Deir ezzor, gained influence over large swathes of territory in north-eastern Syria (Al Hassakeh, Al-Raqqa, and areas of Aleppo), and commenced an advance toward eastern Homs, Ain Al Arab, and Salamiyeh in Hama.

The Syrian Center for Policy Research in partnership with UNDP has recently published a socio-economic study on the impact of the crisis, **“Squandering Humanity”**, where the following notes were highlighted⁽¹⁾:

- 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 276 % of the GDP of 2010 in constant prices.
- Syria is blighted by joblessness and overwhelmed by unemployment with 54.3 per cent of the labour force, or 3.39 million unemployed persons. Some 2.67 million of these people lost their jobs during the conflict, with their loss of income impacting on the welfare 11.03 million dependents.
- Public debt continued to grow in the second half of 2013 reaching 126 per cent of GDP.
- 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 where they were 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 where they were unable to meet their basic food needs, with the abject poor in conflict zones and besieged areas facing hunger, malnutrition and starvation.
- 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) were dislodged from their habitat, while the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) increased by 1.19 million persons. As 1.54 million persons departed the country as non-refugee migrants, another 2.35 million people 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.

¹ SCPR http://scpr-syria.org/att/SCPR_Squandering_Humanity_En.pdf

The Syrian Center for Policy Research in partnership with UNDP has recently published a socio-economic study on the impact of the crisis, "**Squandering Humanity**",



Destruction of Worship Places
Margheres Church - Homs



Increased Numbers of IDPs
7.6 Million - Oct 2014 - OCHA

UNDP-EU RESPONSE UPDATE

To respond to the increasing socio-economic challenges, UNDP was able through the EU contribution to scale 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 the 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's 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 until September 2014 through the EU funds.

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

UNDP in cooperation with local partners provided **4,480 monthly emergency employment opportunities for the restoration of basic services** in Al-Hassakeh, Dar'a, Hama, Homs, Idlib and Tartous, **of which 2,900** opportunities were created in the area of **solid waste management** through 7 projects implemented in 5 governorates, and **120 opportunities for infrastructure rehabilitation activities** through plumbing project in Tartous.

This **benefited 31,067 direct beneficiaries, of whom 10,200 women and 125 persons with disability**, from the

Solid waste removal project - Idlib © UNDP

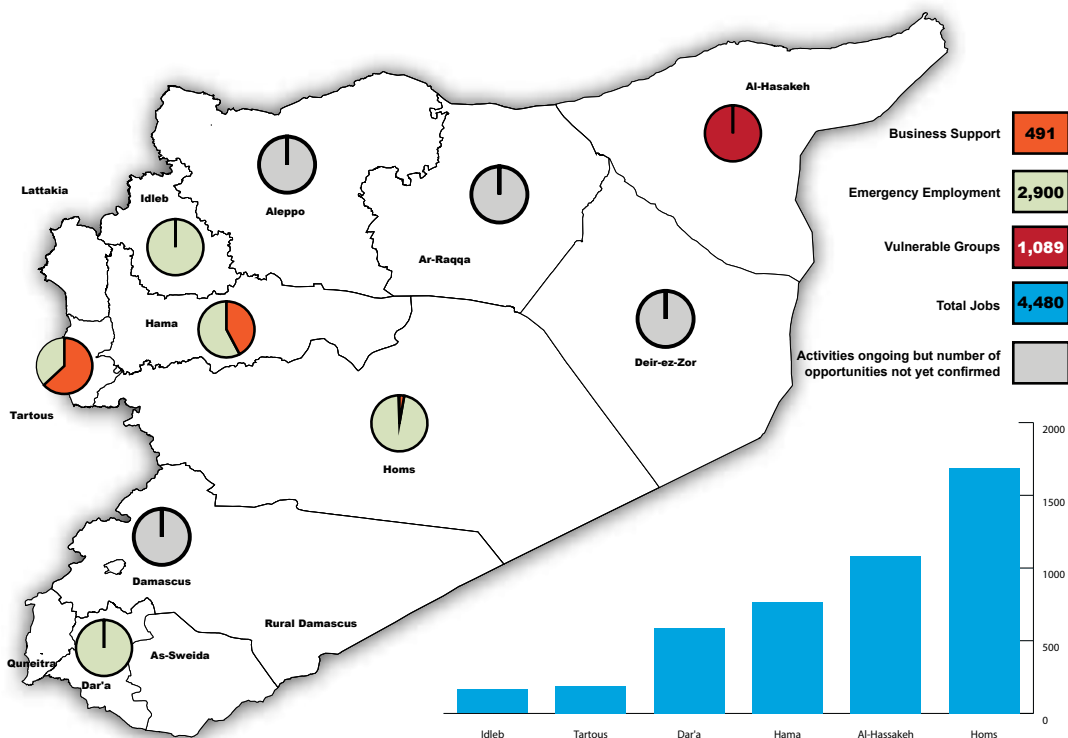


provided job opportunities under this cash-for-work scheme thrived.

Out of a total **4,480** monthly employment opportunities created through the EU funds, **64% (2,900 opportunities)** focused on restoring solid waste management services in affected communities in addition to Orontes River cleaning and pine forests activities in Hama, and maintenance workshops.

The solid waste initiatives succeeded in removing and disposing **37,160 tons of solid waste from more than 32 neighborhoods and 71 collective shelters and community gatherings in June, July, August and September**, allowing as such a total number of 493,550 residents to enjoy better health and environmental conditions in Dar'a, Hama, Homs, Idleb and Tartous.

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.



Number of job opportunities created through partnership between EU and UNDP in Syria

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

Through its work on the restoration of livelihoods, UNDP-EU 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, 1,210 micro-to-small size businesses were supported until September 2014 in Hama, Homs, Al-Hassakeh, Al-Raqqa and Tartous, benefiting at least 5,632 direct individuals and 99,720 indirect beneficiaries through productive assets replacement and agricultural input such as green houses in Baniyas, procurement of livestock in Al-Raqqa, beekeeping project in Tartous, and poultry project in Hama. Additionally reviving of local micro and small businesses with particular focus on garbage bins manufacturing and clothes production through implementing 6 sewing workshops in Damascus, Deir Ezzor, Hama, Homs, and Al-Hassakeh.

This has ultimately created and sustained 1,580 monthly jobs in food processing, sewing workshops and farming in addition to local factories and production facilities.

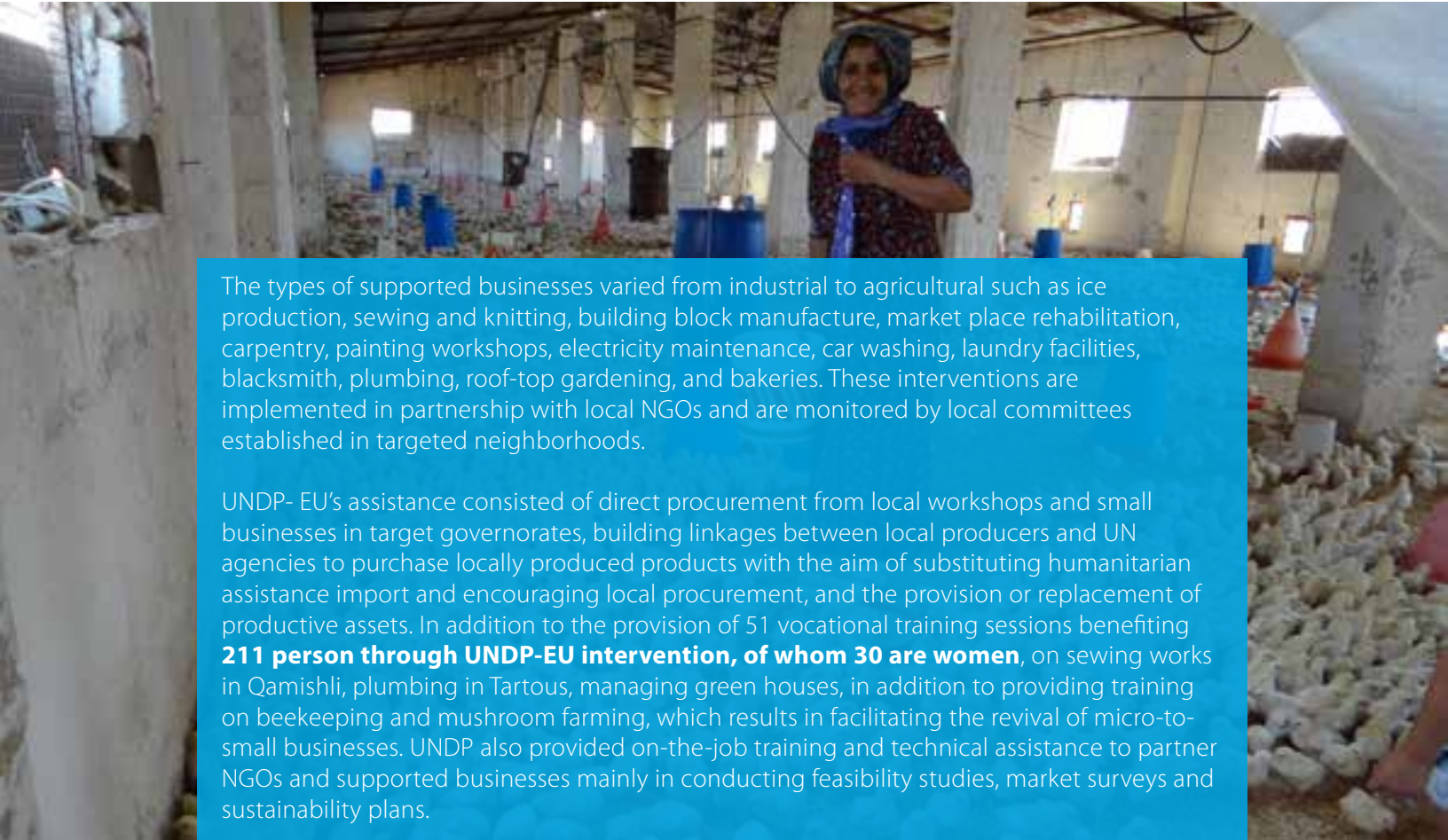
For each target governorate, UNDP developed a Governorate Profile capturing the governorate main socio-economic features and a situation analysis reflecting on the impact of the crisis with a special focus on the development indicators, the current priorities and needs of the affected population. Where **705 family provided with essential farming and agricultural inputs** were supported in the most affected neighborhoods based on their traditional and unique aspects to targeted areas and their contribution to the socio-economic rehabilitation of the affected communities.

As such, the poultry project serves as an example, where a significant number of (estimates range from 35 to 100%) ⁽²⁾ poultry factories have ceased functioning and major chicken producing farms in Homs, Hama and Idleb have been closed. The poultry production in Hama in specific has declined during the crisis up to 70% ⁽³⁾, which promoted UNDP-EU to implement a poultry project in Al-Salamia, Hama to help reviving the damaged chicken farms, and saving this important profession, benefiting directly 220 beneficiaries.



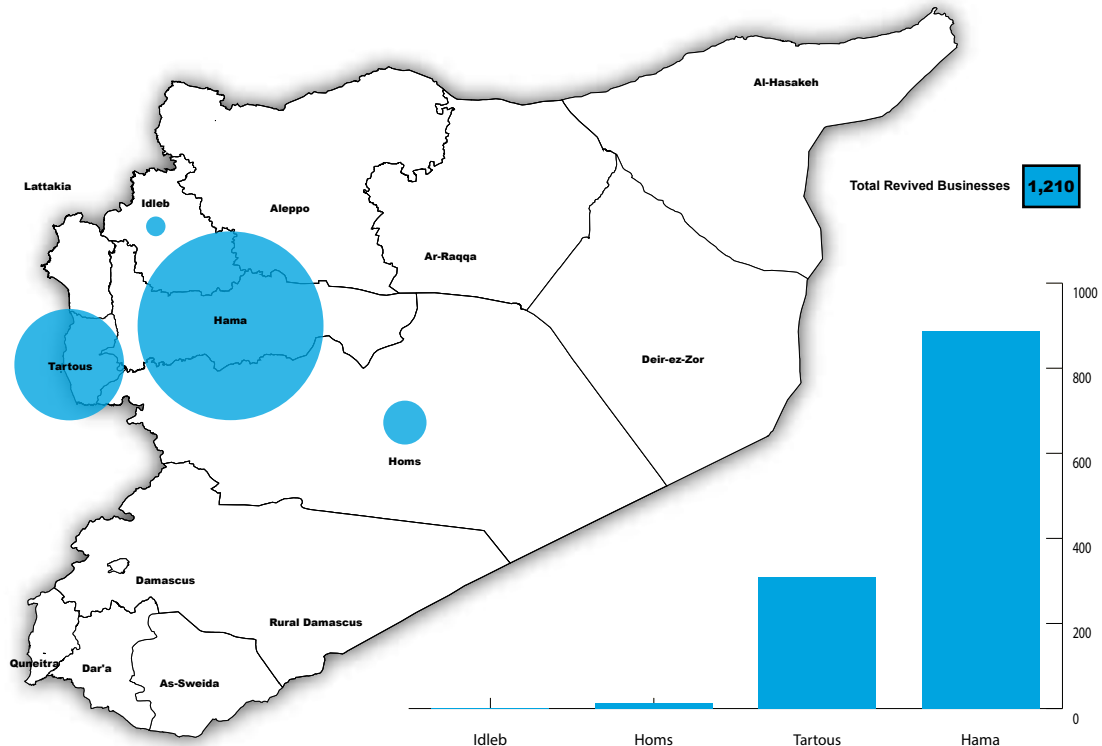
⁽²⁾ Map action, impact of the conflict in Syria economy and livelihoods, <http://www.mapaction.org/component/mapcat/download/2960.html?fmt=pdf>

⁽³⁾ Tishreen newspaper, Agriculture directorate in Hama <http://tishreen.news.sy/tishreen/public/read/307618>



The types of supported businesses varied from industrial to agricultural such as 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, and bakeries. These interventions are implemented in partnership with local NGOs and are monitored by local committees established in targeted neighborhoods.

UNDP- EU'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 51 vocational training sessions benefiting **211 person through UNDP-EU intervention, of whom 30 are women**, on sewing works in Qamishli, plumbing in Tartous, managing green houses, in addition to providing training on beekeeping and mushroom farming, which results in facilitating 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.



Number of businesses revived through partnership between EU and UNDP in Syria

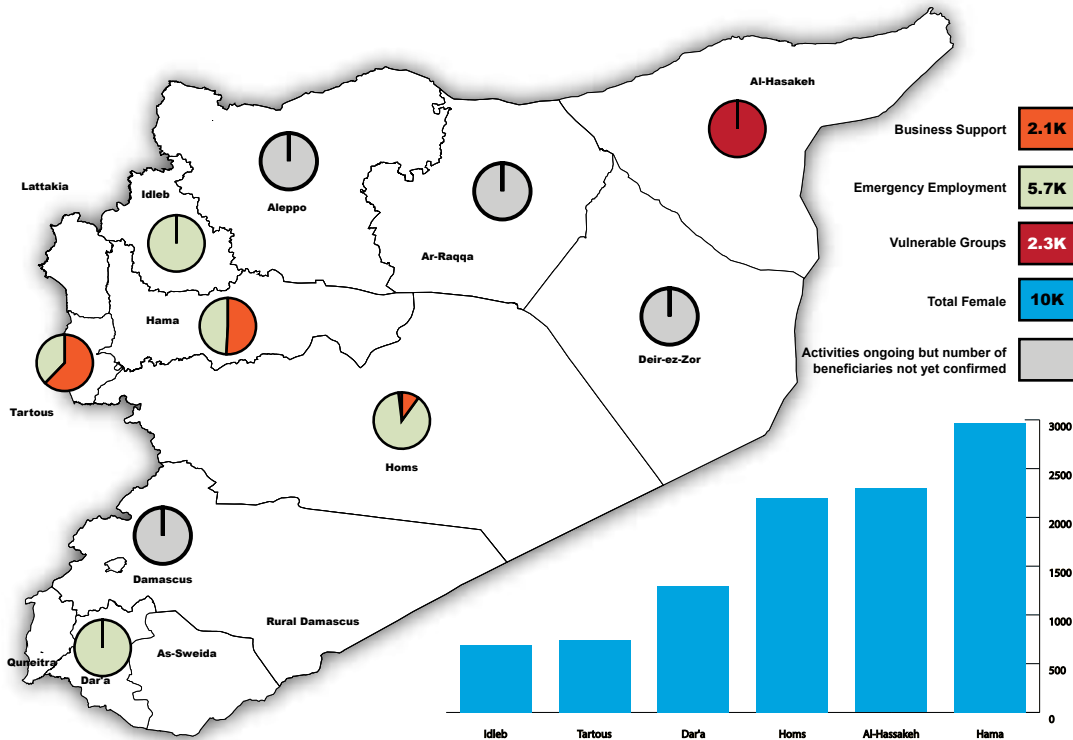
3. Livelihoods restoration and emergency employment targeting women-headed households:

Women today suffer throughout the world because of poverty, discrimination, violence and exploitation. They are now account for a growing percentage of the world’s poor. The “feminization of poverty” sounds an ominous toll not just for women, but also for the family and society as a whole. Therefore, women-headed households were given special attention in UNDP-EU’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 such as food processing projects. 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.



UNDP-EU succeeded in providing 1,083 monthly Jobs and income generation opportunities for women-headed households in Al- Hassakeh and Hama benefiting 2,229 persons, including dependent family members.

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.



Number of work opportunities created for women through partnership between EU and UNDP in Syria

4. Comprehensive support to persons with disability:

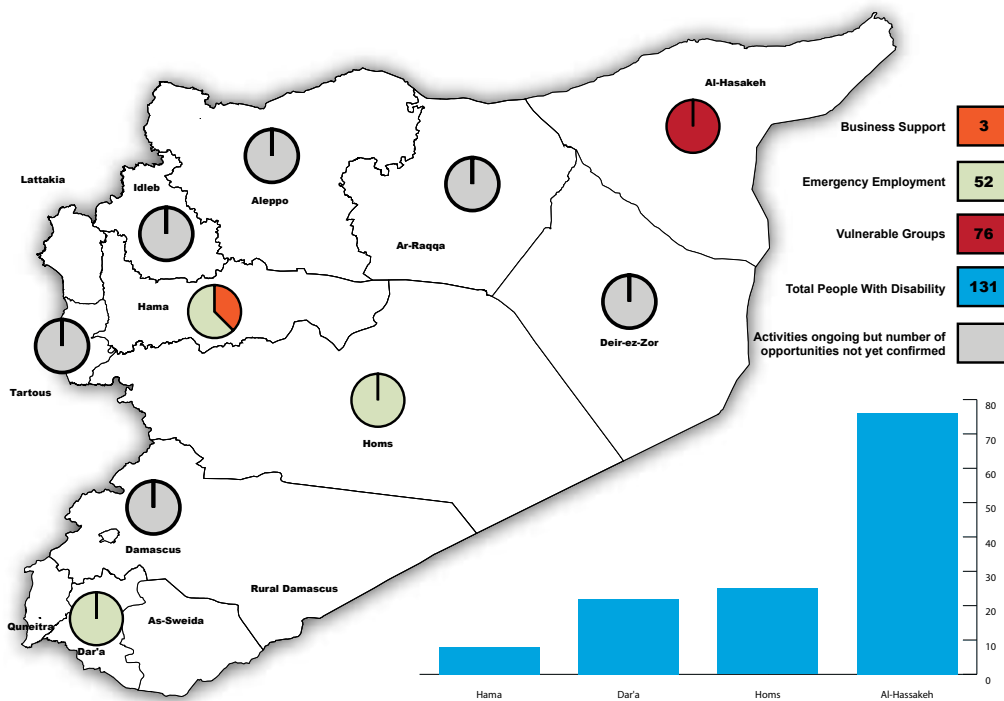
The conflict in Syria is resulting in persons with disabilities facing gross violations of their rights on a daily basis and these individuals need to be afforded much greater protection. There is a large number of refugees and internally displaced persons who are disproportionately at risk of being neglected, excluded or even abused because of their impairments and traumas, particularly the most vulnerable women and children with disabilities.⁽⁴⁾



An estimated 0.6 – 10 percent of IDPs living in collective shelters have special needs and require a range of health services, including physical rehabilitation, wheelchairs, crutches, assistive and prosthetic devices and splints. IOM reported that at least 4,573 persons with disabilities and/or special needs necessitating physical rehabilitation live in Homs governorate, as of September 2013.⁽⁵⁾

As the UNDP-EU early recovery and resilience interventions scaled up in Syria, it was essential to implement inclusive assistance programmes for people with special needs in order to enhance their disturbed livelihoods, help them receive the necessary rehabilitation and empower them in the community as active social citizens.

During the first half of 2014, and based on the socio-economic integration approach, UNDP-EU employed 131 persons with disability, of whom 24 are female heading households, through its emergency employment interventions. They were engaged in different projects such as solid waste removal, food processing and sewing workshops.



Number of work opportunities created for people with disability through partnership between EU and UNDP in Syria

⁽⁴⁾ UN committee, Sept 2013

⁽⁵⁾ SHARP 2014

5. Support to Social Cohesion and Community Resilience

UNDP through the generous EU funding 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 **16 local NGOs and CBOs in 10 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.

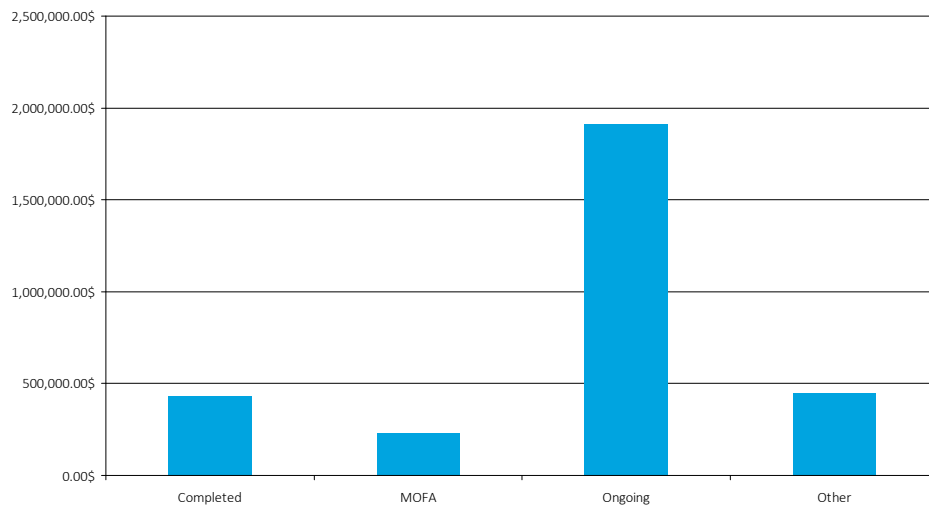
On another note, UNDP is currently developing the guidance note for social cohesion in Syria to be adopted and translated into action for relevant interventions promoting for youth engagement in inter and intra communal activities.



Promote Social Cohesion & Reconciliation

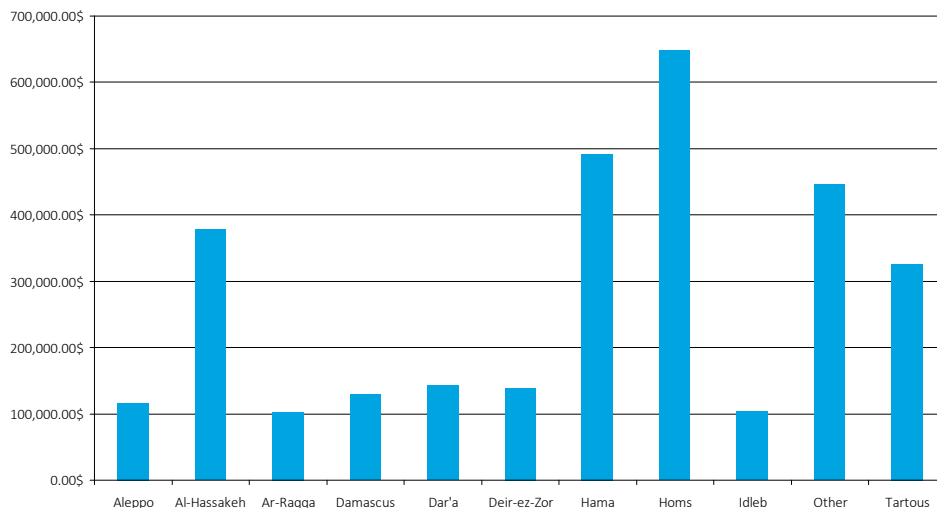
FINANCIAL UPDATE

Throughout 2014, and thanks to the generous EU Funding, UNDP expanded its humanitarian livelihoods initiatives in the various affected governorates aiming at strengthening the resilience of the Syrian population in order to cope with the disastrous impact of the crisis. It succeeded to implement **32 projects in 10 governorates, with a value of \$ 3,022,732** of the total grant \$ 6,793,000 of which 63% are still ongoing.



UNDP-EU Projects Status until September 2014

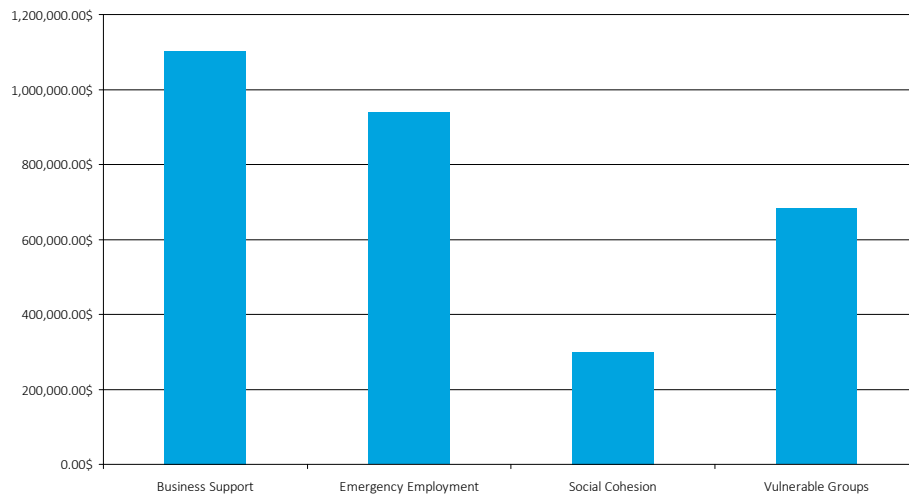
For each governorate, UNDP developed a Governorate Profile, which focuses on the crisis effects on each province and its main socio-economic needs. This enabled UNDP to carefully plan and design the utmost effective disbursement of the EU Funding, targeting those areas that will contribute the most to economic recovery. During 2014, **Homs** was the most benefited governorate from the EU grant, where 7 projects were implemented with a total value of \$ 648,216 (21% of the total used grant).



UNDP-EU grant distribution on syrian governorate until September 2014

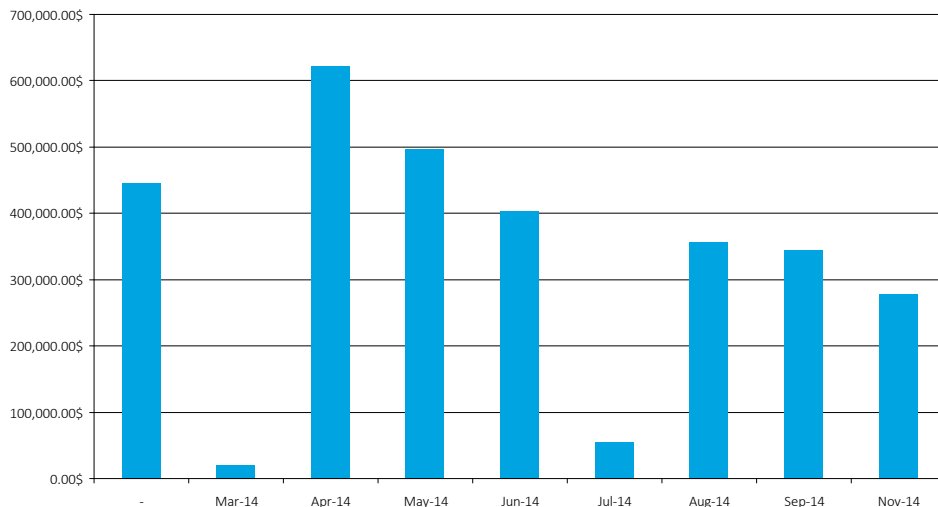
Out of total \$ 3,022,732 spent on UNDP projects through the EU funds, 36% (\$ 1,102,725) focused on **emergency support for restoration and stabilization of disrupted livelihoods** through reviving business, distribution of NFIs and productive tools, and vocational and skills development trainings. Furthermore, 31% of the grant (\$ 937,813) focused on **emergency employment opportunities** created for improved service delivery and repair of basic community infrastructure.

The other 33% of the grant (\$ 982,194) was used in emergency support for vulnerable groups' projects and social cohesion, where special attention was given to women headed household and people with disabilities.



UNDP-EU grant distribution on output until September 2014

The distribution density of UNDP-EU projects varied through the months of 2014 depending on the governorate security situations, and the time needed to take the necessary approvals and authorizations for each project. The implementation reached its highest level in April and May, and lowest in March and July.



UNDP-EU throughout 2014



32 projects implemented in partnership with 16 local NGOs in 10 governorates

MONITORING MECHANISMS

In order to ensure the utmost compliance with transparency and accountability towards the affected Syrian population and the EU, UNDP is currently applying three main modalities for field activities monitoring as described below. Combination of these modalities is envisaged depending on the local context and demands of the project activity.

I. Community-based Monitoring:

This is ensured through local project committees responsible of following up and supervising the implementation of the activities at the field level in addition to the monitoring role played by UNDP field teams. Moreover, volunteers from the local communities are also playing a major role in spot-checking on the ongoing and completed activities after receiving detailed information about the projects, its performance indicators and success/failure factors from the UNDP field teams and local committees. Information about the project is made public and, as such, feedback is solicited on its relevance, importance and contribution to the recovery and livelihoods of the affected communities. Human interest stories are also collected and drafted by UNDP field teams, volunteers and UNDP Communication and Reporting officers reflecting the impact of the projects on the beneficiaries with photos of the beneficiary in action.

II. Site visits and reports from the field:

This is ensured through regular field visits by various UNDP staff including the field teams, technical teams and monitoring officer to monitor the implementation process, progress, milestones/results achieved, and validate the progress and technical reports submitted from the field. Stories and photos reflecting progress of activities are also captured in the reports.

III. Third Party Monitoring

This is ensured through facilitators and field personnel working on following up and monitoring UNDP's activities in the field according to agreed-upon key performance indicators. The data is triangulated by comparing the monitoring data from the local implementing partner and the local projects committees in addition to the field reports. Moreover, UNDP closely liaises with other UN agencies operating in the same geographical areas in order to exchange information on needs and priorities, work plans, approaches and actions. This avoids duplication of activities and targeting same beneficiary groups and ensures complementarities of actions. The Early Recovery & Livelihoods sector working group, both at the national and field level, facilitates such information sharing.

Finally, UNDP is developing an electronic database capturing all projects implemented in the field and managed remotely by the team in Damascus based on inputs coming directly from the field. The same system will be piloted at the area level allowing UNDP field teams to closely manage and monitor their field activities, partnerships, financial delivery and contribution to the overall programme of livelihoods, recovery and resilience.

LESSONS LEARNED

Over the past three years, UNDP gained valuable experience in developing and implementing area based interventions to enhance the resilience of the affected population and their ability to cope with the impact of the crisis and address the arising 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 accessibility to critical areas in need of support and assistance enforced the importance of the role of local partners (NGOs, CBOs, FBOs, local committees, etc...). Working through local partners, building their capacity, acknowledging and enhancing their role as service providers are key factors in achieving tangible results and reaching desirable impact.
- This highlights the importance of conducting capacity development for local NGOs who proved over the past three years to be the key players in reaching out to the people in need, addressing the impact of the crisis and enhancing their coping mechanism. Furthermore, following principles such as, the “do no harm” principle, and ensuring conflict sensitive planning are other key elements in ensuring successful end result. Relying on local partners and assigning local staff at the field level whether directly through UNDP or through local recruitment agencies are additional factors of success ensuring accessibility, addressing sensitivity and allowing for better monitoring of implemented activities.
- At another level and while mass procurement of non-food items which are of high need for the affected population is much easier and cheaper from international resources, it became evident that taking the effort to map local disrupted industrial facilities, exploring their capacities and conducting local procurements through those small facilities is an effective element in reviving local businesses, restoring disrupted livelihoods, enhancing local economy, maintaining and creating longer term jobs, providing demand to disrupted industries, encouraging return to relatively secure areas and discouraging displacement, which is in many cases triggered by economic factors and not only security issues. Furthermore, establishing a link between international organizations, INGOs and local sewing workshops supported by UNDP in partnership with local NGOs, proved very effective in providing a market and creating demand for those facilities; thus ensuring durability and continuity of activities beyond the project duration.
- The importance of following an area based planning approach, which relies on needs expressed from the field is also another lesson learned. While UNDP is working under the umbrella of the SHARP document with already established objectives, the importance of the involvement of local communities in planning and designing of activities is crucial. Local communities include affected population, host communities, internally displaced and other key representatives, their role in planning, designing, implementing and monitoring, ensured success of interventions and created an ownership of projects at the community level.



Enhance Resilience



Shereen Shlar, Solid waste removal - Idlib © UNDP

ANNEX I: Human Interest Stories

Social services restoration: A community effort to save the environment from the pollution caused by the accumulation of solid waste.

As the crisis persists in its fourth year, causing further deterioration of socio-economic situation, Syria is now the world's leader in forced displacement, with 9 million people having fled their homes, 6.5 million of whom are displaced within the country. The Syrian governorates have overflowed with IDPs, which have caused severe pressure on the available resources and weakened the social services.

Idlib has witnessed the harshest battles between the conflicted parties. The deteriorated security situation and access problems especially in the rural areas have led in effect, to a dramatic increase in the humanitarian caseload reflected in the recurrent displacement influxes within the governorate, where it approximately hosts 708,000 IDPs. The IDPs influx is from neighboring governorates, such as Hama, Rural Damascus, Aleppo, and Lattakia, as well as from within Idlib, which has increased the accumulation of solid waste, causing a serious environmental pollution and spread of various epidemics and diseases.

These conditions have promoted UNDP in its emergency response programme to scale up its early recovery and resilience interventions targeting the most affected neighborhoods in Idlib governorate by providing job opportunities in the field of solid waste removal to a number of affected IDPs and host community members.

This initiative has created job opportunities for approximately 165 workers whose livelihoods were severely disrupted.

Shereen Shlar was one of the female workers who had to flee with her ill husband and her children from the devastating situation in Homs and took refuge in Idlib Governorate.

In her critical situation with a husband who suffers from neurological brain disease, and three young children, Shereen; the breadwinner of her family, started to work in cleaning the houses and buildings' stairs, but this unstable income wasn't enough to fulfill her family's basic needs.

Shereen joined the solid waste removal project in Idlib since its second week, working 8 hours a day in a field she believed would bring effective health results to the community, through reducing the environmental pollution and the spread of epidemics and diseases.

"When I look to other women begging for money in the streets, I feel pleased by working in this project," she said adding, "This project has saved my dignity and introduced me to other people who share the same problems and worries with me, so we can provide support to each other". The project has provided a stable income to Shereen and the other workers, enabled her to continue sending her children to the school, and enhanced her livelihoods significantly.

Plumbing project in Tartous Governorate: The resilient women of Syria.

The region of Tartous has been relatively peaceful during the Syrian civil war. However, while a significant portion of the Governorate is not directly affected by major armed conflict, it has continued to register a huge inflow of families fleeing other parts of the country, mostly from Homs, Hama, Idleb, Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, and Deir Ezzor, with women and children accounting for the largest percentage.

The governorate received about 452,000 IDPs and around 200,000 of them are in need of humanitarian assistance, mainly in Tartous city, Mashta Hellou and Banyas. Around 1,600 families reside in 21 collective shelter, 14 of them are located in Tartous city and 7 in the other districts in the governorate.

The resources of the governorate are completely overstretched and reported to be reaching breaking point as a result of sustained IDP influx and pressures from the existing IDP population.

This increased number of IDPs in Tartous has weakened the social services and limited the capacity of the local municipalities and administrative units to conduct the periodic maintenance and repairs to the sanitation in shelters and host communities, which led to waste large amounts of water as a result of water pipes breakdowns and the formation of water swamps in shelters. Additionally, the spread of diseases, insects and rodents increased.

All that has been mentioned above has motivated UNDP to support an initiative to

provide job opportunities **in the field of plumbing** to a number of IDPs and host community members, and giving them the necessary toolkits for this work.

Aisha is one of the female workers who had to flee with her husband and her five children from the devastating conditions in Aleppo and took refuge in Tartous governorate, in Al-Karnak area.

At the beginning she lived with her family in a very small room they barely fit in, their living conditions were devastating. "Necessity is the mother of invention" she said, adding "there is nothing wrong if a woman worked to help her husband, together we can make a more productive outcome."

Aisha has joined the plumbing project from its early beginning and started benefiting from the drainage tool kit that was given to her in fixing some water foists within the shelter. Her main concern was to be able to buy the necessary needs to her children along with educating them, buying their school uniforms and other school necessities. "The most important thing for me is to be able to send my children to school; I'll use the money to buy their school uniforms." she said. Using the money she earned from working in this project, she was able to build a second room with her husband, which significantly enhanced their living situations. **"Syrian women are strong and they are capable of working in any field, there are no exclusive jobs for men"** she said with a smile in her face.



Aishay while working Plumbing Project, Tartous © UNDP



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

EU Funded UNDP Response in Syria
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