



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

# 365 DAYS OF RESILIENCE INSIDE SYRIA

UNDP SYRIA ANNUAL REPORT 2016



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<b>AIDS</b>	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
<b>CBO</b>	Community-Based Organization
<b>ERL</b>	Early Recovery and Livelihoods
<b>FBO</b>	Faith-Based Organization
<b>HIV</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
<b>HRP</b>	Humanitarian Response Plan
<b>ICT</b>	Information and Communication Technology
<b>IDP</b>	Internally Displaced Person
<b>IMRP</b>	Internal Monitoring & Reporting Platform
<b>INGO</b>	International Non-Governmental Organization
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>PCM</b>	Project Cycle Management
<b>PWDs</b>	Persons With Disabilities
<b>TB</b>	Tuberculosis
<b>TOT</b>	Training of Trainers
<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme
<b>WOS</b>	Whole Of Syria



# FOREWORD



"Conventional approaches of 'relief now, development later' do not work in response to the Syria crisis or other similar protracted crises. Refugees, host communities and internally displaced people in Syria need livelihoods. They need basic services, like health, education, water, sanitation, electricity, and waste management. And they need hope for a better future."

Helen Clark, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

"UNDP continues to be dedicated to complementing the on-going humanitarian effort by supporting the resilience of the most vulnerable inside Syria. The UNDP response has so far touched the lives of 4.3 million people through support for early recovery, livelihoods and resilience and UNDP remains committed to supporting the most vulnerable given the many and considerable challenges."

Mourad Wahba, Assistant Administrator and Director of UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States



"I draw inspiration from the people of Syria ... their resolute spirit ... Their resilience, industriousness, pride and optimism ... Despite all that the war does, they rise above."

Ali Al-Za'tari, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Syria and UNDP Resident Representative



"The devastation the country has faced during more than six years can only be matched by the strength of the resilience of all Syrian people: to survive, to cope with loss, and to do their best to recover where conditions allow".

Samuel Rizk, UNDP Syria Country Director

# Why

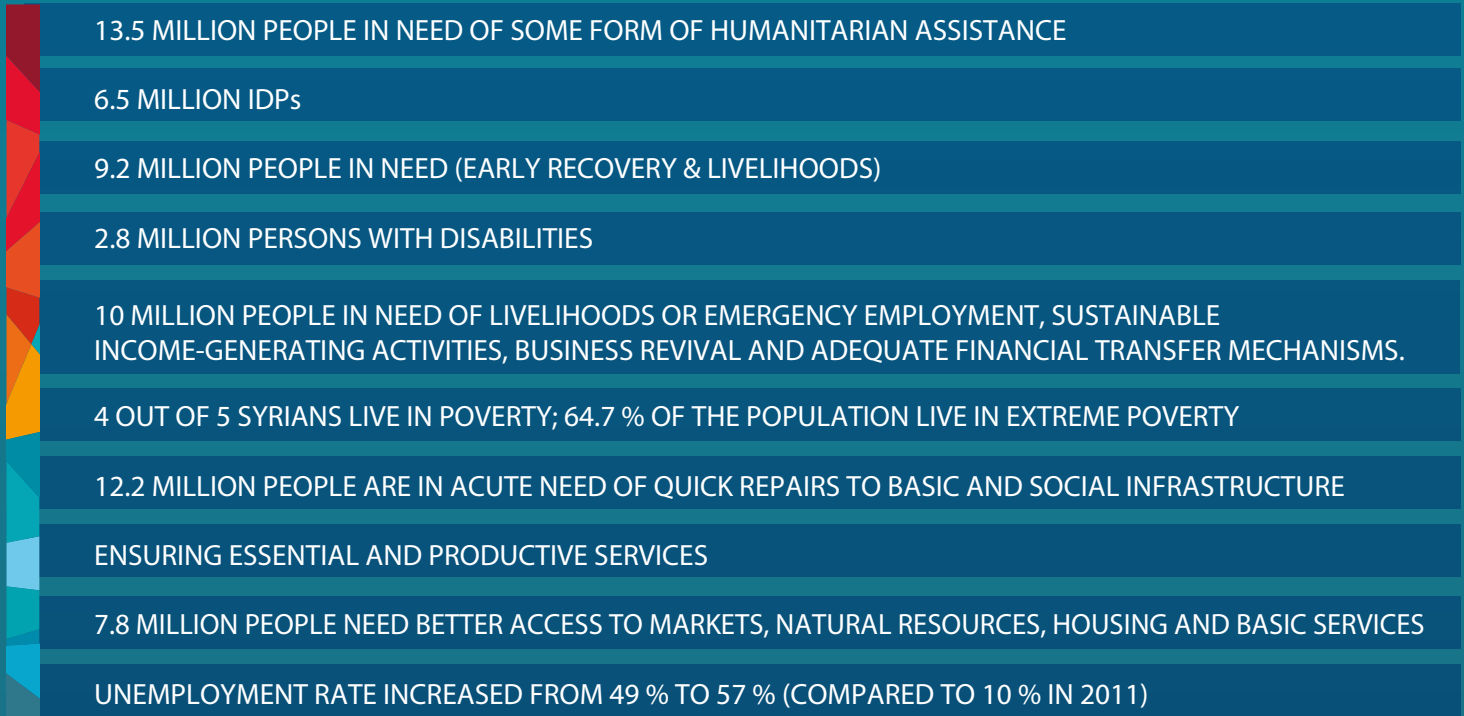


## THERE ARE 13.5 MILLION PEOPLE IN DIRE NEED

The humanitarian community estimates that 13.5 million people in Syria are in need for various kinds of humanitarian assistance. Four out of five Syrians live in poverty and 64.7 per cent of the population live in extreme poverty. A deep economic recession, heavily weakened national currency, sanctions, soaring food and fuel prices, and disrupted markets have contributed to extreme vulnerability of Syrians across the country. 6.5 million people are internally displaced due to the conflict. The pace of displacement remains relentless. More than 1.2

million people have been displaced so far this year, many for the second or third time. 10 million people need livelihoods or emergency employment, sustainable income-generating activities, business revival and adequate financial transfer mechanisms. Moreover, 12.2 million people are in acute need of quick repairs of basic and social infrastructure ensuring essential and productive services, while 7.8 million people need better access to markets, natural resources, housing and basic services.

### BEHIND THESE NUMBERS ARE REAL PEOPLE WHO HAVE HAD TO LEAVE EVERYTHING BEHIND.







*A Female Heading Household Receives a Sewing Machine to Generate Her Own Income, Al-Hassakeh © UNDP*

## UNDP RESPONSE IN 2016

The implemented interventions contributed to strengthen the resilience of the Syrian people to cope with the effects of the crisis and enable those whose livelihoods were severely disrupted to recover and rebuild their lives. Ensuring a well-coordinated response that provides IDPs and their host communities with rapid employment opportunities and access to basic services is enhanced through the rehabilitation of basic community infrastructure. Furthermore, various types of

assistance to livelihoods have been provided in view of supporting spontaneous recovery efforts and positive coping mechanisms. Special attention was paid to creating such opportunities for females heading households, persons with disability and youth. The local projects were designed to provide alternatives for Syrians to stay in Syria and ultimately to prepare the ground for sustainable returns of refugees.





Food Processing Project in Al-Hassakeh © UNDP

## HOW WE DO SUPPORT

## AREA-BASED APPROACH

In order to cater for the highly diverse situations in affected communities, UNDP Syria adopts an area-based approach throughout its interventions as a means to identify and respond to the specific needs emerging in each location. This focus, related to local governance, proves to be a major entry point for UNDP's interventions to be more effective, support the reactivation of local basic services and work on social cohesion from a pragmatic and needs based angle.

This approach supports local markets and economy, advocates for local production and local employment schemes and engages with

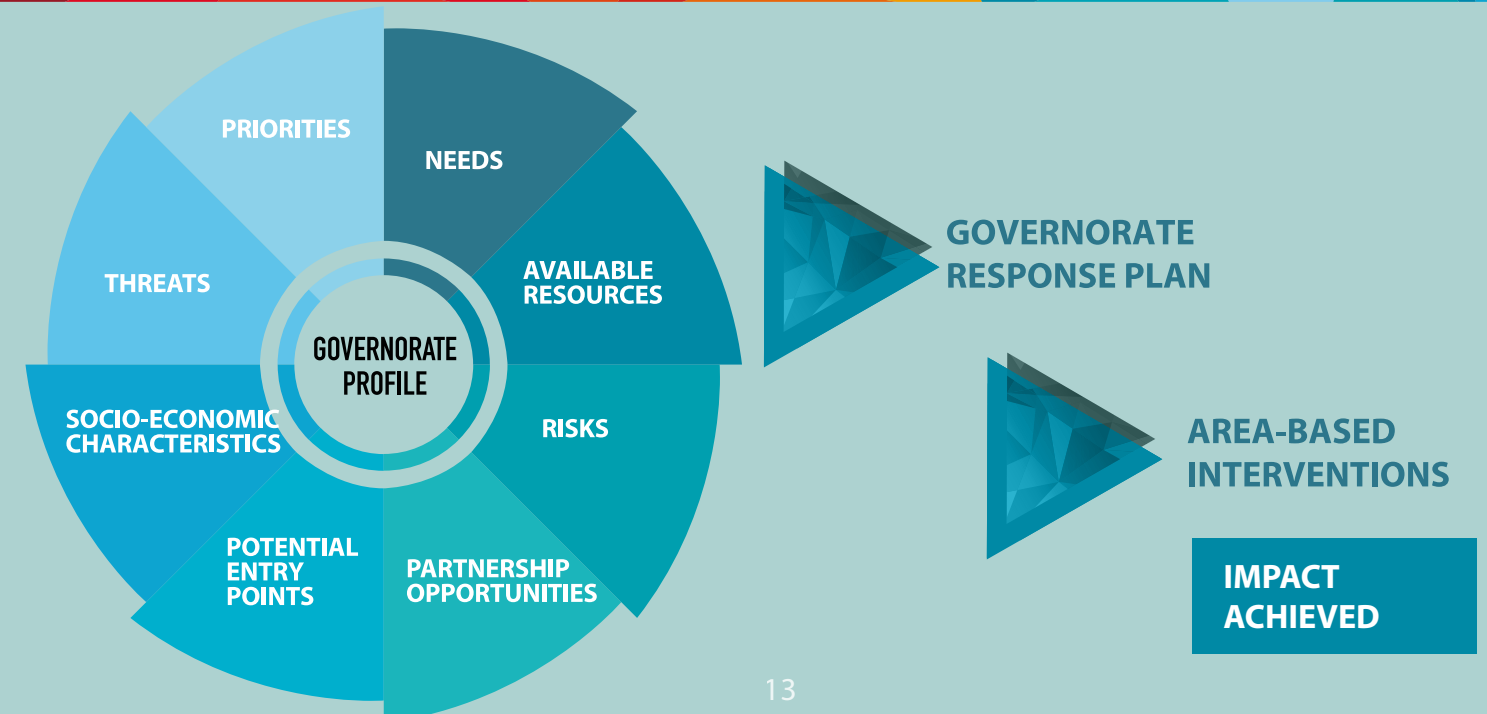
local actors and stakeholders in communities for planning, implementation and monitoring. UNDP is now actively operating in nine governorates namely, Aleppo, Al-Hassakeh, Damascus, Deir-Ezzor, Hama, Homs, Latakia, Rural Damascus and Tartous, either through field presence, outsourced personnel, private service providers and/or partner NGOs. The extended network of partners and various implementation modalities are essential to overcome operational and access challenges, and ensure higher flexibility and resilience in response to security and other shocks in the target areas.

The UNDP Syria Country Programme 2016-2017 contributes to all three pillars of the United Nations Strategic Framework for Syria (2016-2017). Institutional capacity enhancement for crisis response is embedded in all interventions while infrastructure, basic service rehabilitation, livelihoods, economic recovery, and social cohesion are the main focus areas.

UNDP Syria is implementing a unique resilience programme that supports Syrian People in their hour of need by means of employment and small business revival. The programme goes way beyond humanitarian assistance in the sense that it fosters resilience. It shows

that Syria and Syrians do not have to rely only on humanitarian hand-outs for survival. The programme is meant to decrease undesired dependencies and to incentivize Syrians to stay in Syria with livelihoods and dignity.

The implementation modalities for the programme are unique and specially tailored to the situation in Syria. Implementation is undertaken in partnership with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Community and Faith Based Organizations (CBOs, FBOs), as well as through direct implementation modality. Contracting and monitoring is done by UNDP field teams present in 9 governorates of Syria.



Resilience-based interventions are necessary to:

- Strengthen stabilization of Internally Displaced Persons and host communities while progressively shift towards development investments to address present and future shocks.
- Optimize existing resources by investing in more durable solutions.
- Strengthen infrastructures to be more sustainable over the long term.
- Strengthen the capacity of individuals and host communities to cope with and recover from possible future shocks.
- Reduce the cost of the international response in the medium term.

## GENDER MAINSTREAMING

Gender was mainstreamed in all UNDP projects and interventions within the Early Recovery and Resilience Building programme, where not only women constituted a minimum of 30% of total beneficiaries, but targeted activities were tailored to address their needs and priorities. In 2016 and across 9 affected governorates, 7,694 monthly job opportunities were created for women, 6,103 of which were provided to Females Heading

Households, in addition to specialized vocational training which targeted 1,507 women, 723 of whom received start-up toolkits to support sustainable productive activities. Moreover, and to maximize the impact of its response, UNDP developed capacity of local NGOs and provided training to women-led organizations focusing on recovery, resilience, program management and social cohesion.

## PARTNERSHIP WITH LOCAL ACTORS (NGOs, FBOs, CBOs) AND COORDINATION WITH OTHER UN AGENCIES

Various coordination fora among UN agencies and NGOs were established within the framework of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), Clusters/Sector Working Groups and various technical task forces. The Early Recovery and Livelihoods Sector Working Group led by UNDP Syria provides policy advice, monitors and reports on early recovery and resilience interventions implemented

by the UN and International Non Governmental Organizations (INGOs) and their partners. Additional coordination mechanisms among UN agencies are also in place such as the UN Country Team, the Programme Management Team (PMT) and other technical committees to ensure increasing complementarities and joint programming.

## INTERNAL MONITORING AND REPORTING PLATFORM

In 2016, UNDP Syria's Information Management Team (IMT) actively supported the Country Programme interventions through development and implementation of innovative information management solutions and approaches, which have been specifically designed to match the demanding nature of interventions in the Syrian context, where insecurity and destruction are the main challenges in the environment where UNDP operates.

The IMT's jewel of the crown is its innovative, in-house made, robust and powerful, Internal

Monitoring and Reporting Platform (IMRP), which has been designed and developed in 2015, and deployed in 2016 to the field offices, to facilitate progress reporting and internal monitoring of UNDP interventions implemented throughout the country, to allow seamless data flow and multi-direction communications among over 50 active users in all hubs. IMRP not only supports monitoring and reporting but also extends its functionality to cover other aspects of UNDP programme lifecycle in Syria.



UNDP SYRIA  
ACHIEVEMENTS  
IN 2016



- 211,565 tons Solid Waste Removed
- 56,003 tons Debris Removed
- 190 Neighborhoods Cleaned
- 36 Social / Productive Infrastructure Repaired



- 2,528,391 Total Beneficiaries
- 199 Local Projects Implemented
- 9 Targeted Governorates



- 149 HIV /AIDS Patients Reached with Medication
- 3,190 TB Patients Reached with Medication
- 110 Mobility Aids Distributed to PWDs

379 KM

Water Networks Repaired

21 KM

Sewage Networks Repaired

52

Rehabilitated Wells



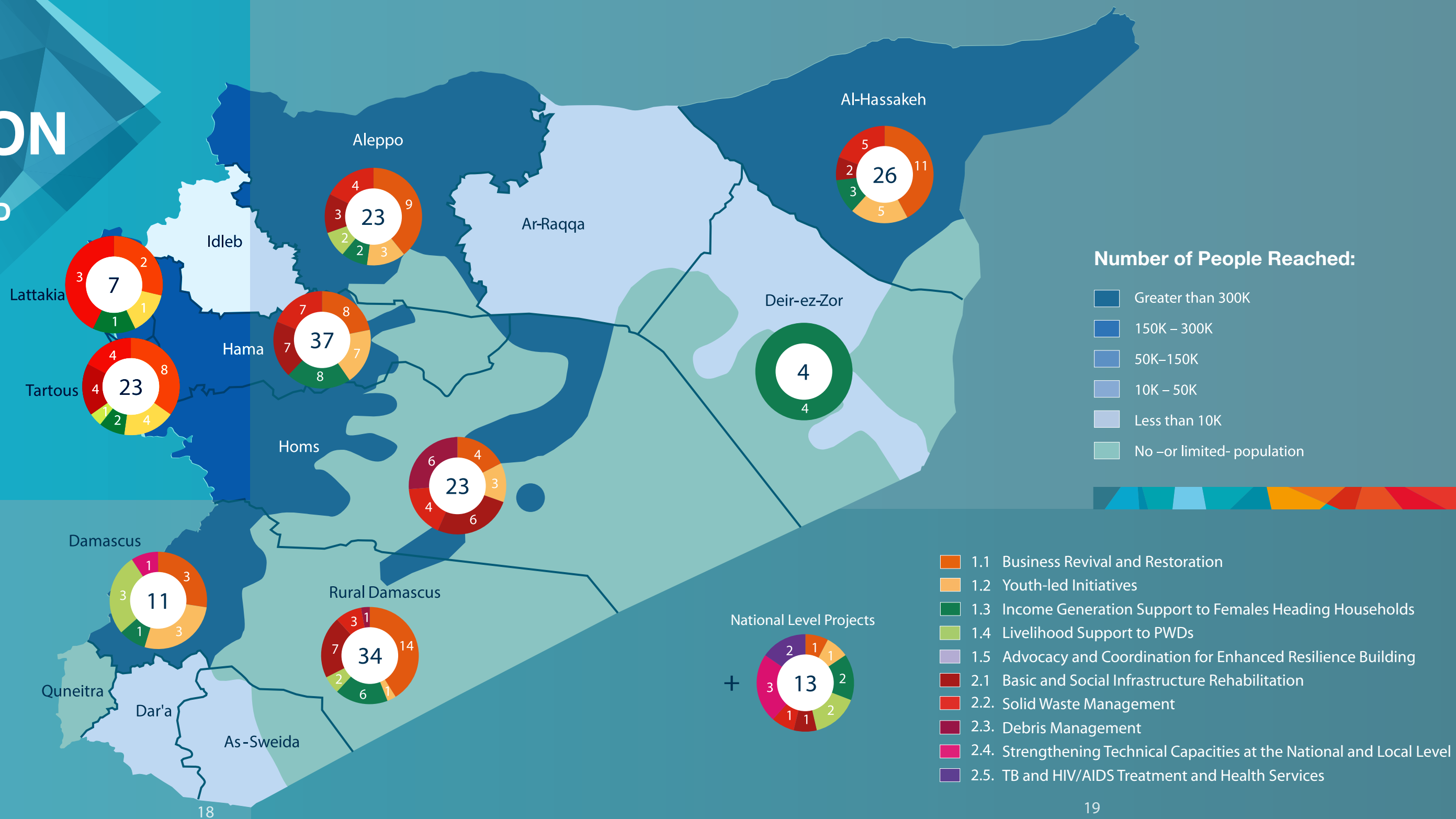
- 120 Businesses Revived
- 4,389 Productive Assets Distributed
- 16,615 Females Heading Households Targeted
- 3,596 PWDs Targeted in Different Outputs



- 831 People Received Capacity Development
- 80 Youth-led Initiatives Promoting Social Cohesion
- 31,293 Participants in Social Cohesion Activities

# 2.5 MILLION

REACHED  
DIRECTLY AND  
INDIRECTLY





# RESILIENCE DESPITE THE LOSS

## BAKING TO SUSTAIN A FAMILY

Making Bread on the Traditional Oven Distributed by UNDP, Deir Ezzor © UNDP

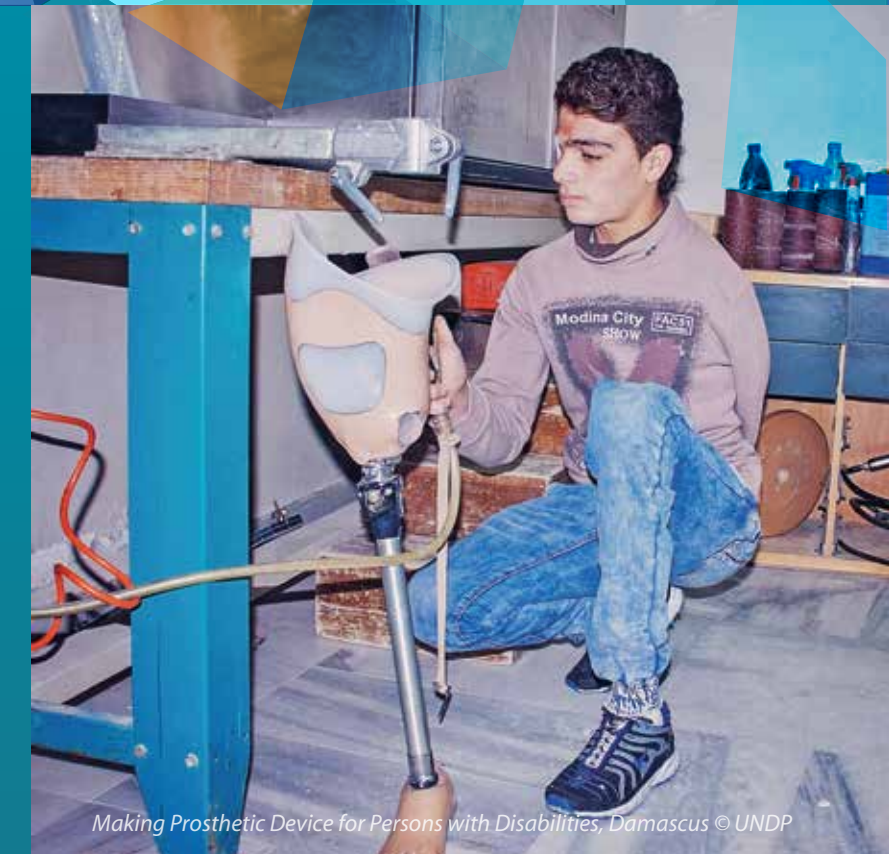
Rozkia, a 42 old woman, used to live a simple but happy life in a humble house in Deir-Ezzor with her seven children, one of whom was with special needs. Her husband used to sell vegetables for a living. Little did she know that her life was about to change drastically when Deir-Ezzor fell under siege during the crisis. "My husband's work had stopped completely and he was no longer able to meet our household needs. I was constantly looking for a job to no avail because I have no skills to meet the available job requirements", said Rozkia, "One of my neighbours who

previously received a firewood oven from UNDP's project advised me to sign up and benefit from the distribution of the second batch of ovens. Indeed, I received the oven with all necessary baking materials, such as flour and yeast. The baking experience I inherited from my mother helped me to bake and sell around 100 loaves of bread daily. Within a month, my living conditions started to improve, and I was able to buy some food, medicine, and even nappies for my disabled child."

Six years into the crisis in Syria, during which many lives have changed and many families have faced displacement, hunger, and fear. Despite his young age, Mo'tasem, 16, has experienced very harsh conditions that left him with enormous responsibilities. His losses went far beyond the death of his father and brother, when he started to lose the life he once knew. From now on, he should learn how to live with one arm and one leg.

Mo'tasem joined UNDP prosthetic workshop in Damascus as a team assistant. He is helping with the manufacturing of prosthetic limbs and showing outstanding skills in adapting and learning its different phases. To save his second hand from any unfortunate accident, he was asked not to use certain machines such as sculpting and cutting machines. He hopes that he will be able to make his own prosthetic device in the future

please see Mo'tasem's story in the following link: <https://goo.gl/MS33gz>



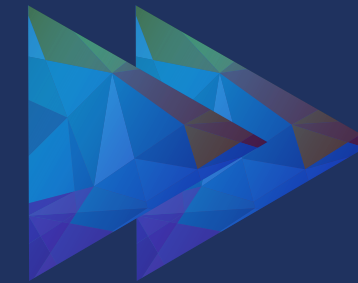
Making Prosthetic Device for Persons with Disabilities, Damascus © UNDP

**"I moved with my family out of Deir-Ez-Zor to Rural Damascus looking for a safe haven". Mo'tasem said, "I found myself the sole breadwinner of my family and despite my disability I was determined to find a job and look after my little brothers".**



Debris Removal in Aleppo © UNDP

# IN THE HEART OF CRISIS: WE STAY AND DELIVER



## UNDP PERSPECTIVE: PLACING RESILIENCE AT THE FOREFRONT

UNDP Syria will stay and deliver. It continues its endeavor to alleviate the suffering of the Syrian people. Building on its experience in early recovery support, UNDP seeks all viable and effective implementation methods to foster assistance for Syrians in need, with a forward looking approach to the end of the crisis.

UNDP builds on the strong resilience and resolute spirit of the Syrians. It will expand its livelihoods interventions to cover Syrians in need geographically and thematically, where basic services are supported, and livelihoods are provided to ensure a dignified life for all Syrians.

Considering resilience-building a guiding principle to bridge the humanitarian and development assistance, UNDP aims at scaling up its response across Syria by engaging both existing and new partners inside and outside the country. An innovative approach to partnership will be sought to strengthen the capacities of people and communities to withstand, adapt and recover from shocks.



# ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016

## In 2016 UNDP's response focused on the following main thematic areas:

### 1 - Socio- Economic Recovery, within the following five outputs:

- Business revival and restoration
- Income generation support to Females Heading Households
- Rehabilitation and Livelihood opportunities to Persons with Disabilities
- Youth-led initiatives promoting tolerance and acceptance
- Advocacy and coordination for enhanced resilience-building

### 2 - Basic and Social Infrastructure Rehabilitation, within the following five outputs:

- Basic and social infrastructure rehabilitation
- Solid waste management
- Debris management
- Strengthening technical capacities at the national and local level
- TB and HIV/AIDS treatment and health services

In its endeavor to strengthen the resilience of the Syrian people, UNDP implemented 199 local projects in 2016, that succeeded to touch the lives of 2,528,391 persons in 9 Syrian governorates through targeted early recovery and livelihoods restoration efforts in partnership with more than 45 local actors including NGOs, CBOs and FBOs. The implemented projects have provided 28,623 monthly job opportunities, which are disaggregated per target group as follows: 11,937 monthly job opportunities to IDPs, 7,694 to women, 6,103 to females heading households, 1,917 to persons with disabilities and 15,973 to youth.

This was achieved through rehabilitation of community infrastructure and restoration of basic services using a labor-intensive approach, solid waste and debris management and quick repairs in affected Syrian governorates. It has also facilitated the revival of at least 120 businesses through productive assets replacement, start-up kits distribution, vocational training, job placements, value-chain development and market restoration. UNDP's projects have contributed to stimulating the local economy through fostering local production and prioritizing local procurement.

## UNDP JOB CREATION AND LIVELIHOODS SUPPORT:

UNDP Syria has been implementing an integrated approach in the area of job creation and livelihoods, which comprises the following three dimensions: across sectors and issues (horizontal), across interventions focused on the short, medium, and long-term (temporal), and macro-micro integration (vertical). While UNDP makes a distinction between short-term or emergency jobs and long-term jobs (including self-employment), it considers all types of jobs and work arrangements (formal jobs, informal jobs, and full range of the potential status of workers: employees, employers, own-account workers, members of producer groups, etc.) as part of job creation. In this regard, a key indicator to measure job creation is: # of monthly job opportunities.

Persons with disabilities, a highly vulnerable group that is expanding due to the crisis, have been a priority for inclusion in UNDP Syria's cash-for-work, local production, and local economic recovery projects. Additionally, and among the

programmes that continued throughout the crisis, the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) has served an already vulnerable population of 3,339 individuals across the country.

# SOCIOECONOMIC RECOVERY

Sewing workshop in Aleppo city © UNDP

## BUSINESS REVIVAL AND RESTORATION

A large number of affected population, including IDPs and host communities, need to rely on humanitarian aid, as their savings and other coping mechanisms are exhausted after six years of crisis. Nevertheless, humanitarian assistance does not provide enough allowances or sustained income for meeting daily costs of living and other requirements. Host communities are also affected by the receding economic performance in all sectors and its impact on their livelihoods: host families have depleted their resources and savings as they have been overburdened with additional costs and responsibilities. Poverty and unemployment rates are on the rise, leaving a whole country in need of emergency/ humanitarian assistance and resilience-supportive interventions. To enhance the resilience of Syrians, restore their disrupted livelihoods and enable

them regain access to a dignified source of living, UNDP provides rapid and responsive assistance through mobilizing the participation of people in the social and economic rebuilding of their communities.

As a response to the emerging needs, UNDP established more than 120 micro business projects and provided 8,582 monthly job opportunities for both IDPs and host communities members including women, females heading households, persons with disabilities and youth. The implemented activities had its positive impact on more than 66,527 crisis-affected people as direct beneficiaries, who were able to secure decent income that enabled them to provide basic needs to their families and live with dignity. Beneficiaries were reached through business revival, job

UNDP approaches to socio-economic recovery include:

- Establishment/ revival of micro and small businesses, availing generation of decent income to economically vulnerable.
- Vocational Training coupled with hand over of start-up kits.
- Support to self-employment through asset replacement.



Vocational Training in a Sewing Workshop in Hama © UNDP



creation, distribution of productive assets and vocational training for affected youth, who were also provided with start-up toolkits to help them establish small businesses, as well as through implementing youth led initiatives.

Sewing and handicraft workshops proved to be high in demand, thus able to provide durable job opportunities. These workshops currently produce a wide range of products that are in demand in local markets such as denim clothing, cotton garments, and underwear. In this context, UNDP established 7 sewing workshops in Aleppo, Homs, Tartous and Rural Damascus, as well as 2 handicrafts workshops in Tartous and Damascus.

Furthermore, five cow farms were established in Tartous, Rural Damascus and Al-Hassakeh with dairy production units, to respond to the vital needs for affordable nutritious products for the affected communities in the target areas.

The food processing support was also enhanced through establishing five bakeries and production of traditional bread and pies in Al-Hassakeh, Aleppo and Hama governorates, as well as two food processing workshops in Rural Damascus. A charitable productive kitchen was also established in Damascus, in addition to production and bottling of agricultural products, such as apple vinegar production, which was successful, especially that the project is located in apple farming areas in

Lattakia Governorate, where the apples left over after the harvest season were processed, thus generating income and job opportunities.

Additionally, support was provided for the establishment of small businesses that provide vocational services related to reconstruction such as carpentry, blacksmithing, building blocks, aluminum works, glass works, electric wiring, sanitary and plumbing services, as well as construction works. The workshops were established in the vicinity of affected areas to help restoring damaged houses and workplaces.



Vocational Training in Homs © UNDP



Food Processing Project in Rural Damascus © UNDP

Moreover, small workshops were established in several governorates producing a wide range of products. The small workshops included two shoemaking workshops in Al-Hassakeh and Aleppo and one furniture manufacturing in Rural Damascus. Wood furniture industry used to be flourishing in Rural Damascus through small and medium workshops, most of which were disrupted during the crisis. Thus, the established workshops were able to absorb skilled workers who had lost their livelihoods in this industry. A building blocks manufacturing workshop was also established in Tartous, in addition to carpet and rugs manufacturing workshop, as well as establishing a shopping mall in Homs.

Recognizing that youth are key for early recovery, UNDP identified entry points to mobilize and empower youth as positive agents of change. The identified entry points include: emergency employment, entrepreneurship support, skills development, access to finance and production assets. Engaging youth and women in socio-economic recovery is important for strengthening positive coping mechanisms of affected communities.

UNDP conducted a series of community-based initiatives to build capacities of Syrian youth through providing vocational training. The training covered a wide range of skills and handworks including carpentry, blacksmithing



and aluminum works, electric wiring, internal decoration, maintenance of mobile phones, repair of home appliances, in addition to traditional crafts, such as basket and carpet making, baking and sweets production, and many more. These skills were selected based on labor market surveys in targeted areas to make sure that the training can improve employability or independent career paths for the beneficiaries. Partners supported the labor market needs assessment in their areas and the development of a hand-on training material. Training initiatives took place in Rural Damascus, Homs, Hama, Tartous, Aleppo and Al-Hasakeh, targeting over 1,750 beneficiaries. By the end of this training, beneficiaries received 394 start-up toolkits to help them start their independent career path and generate income.

Taking into consideration the negative impact of the crisis in terms of loss of productive assets which are vital to sustain businesses, UNDP provided direct support to restoration of disrupted livelihoods in Aleppo, Hama, Al-Hasakeh, Homs, Rural Damascus and Tartous through providing 3,150 productive assets including productive tools and equipment and farming inputs, which contributed to support the livelihoods of the target beneficiaries.

Since agriculture is the main source of livelihoods in many affected governorates in Syria, UNDP gave special attention to supporting



Farmers Supported by Farming Inputs in Tartous © UNDP

livelihoods of agricultural workers through distribution of agricultural inputs that helped small farmers restore their production cycle, providing livestock and small agricultural equipment such as ploughs, weed cutters, and sprayers. The distribution process created jobs for administrative workers and technical support staff, in addition to agricultural workers who performed seasonal farming activities such as ploughing, weeding, and crop collection. These initiatives targeted vulnerable farmers in addition to affected and unemployed people who used to make living from seasonal agricultural work.

Mohammad, a 22 year-old young man who joined UNDP's vocational center in Homs earlier this year to learn basic skills in metal works. He said:

**"The price inflation is causing a lot of financial difficulties to all of us, and it's becoming necessary for me to learn new skills so I can help my father in securing the needs of our family. Through this center, I learnt new skills in metal works from experts in this field. I was so enthusiastic when I first joined the training that I even went to the center one day during the weekend forgetting that it was closed!"**



Hekmat is one of the crisis-affected merchants who benefited from UNDP's local procurement initiative to restore his livelihood. He says: "I worked as oven-manufacturer for 30 years.

But due to economic losses and disrupted businesses interruptions due to the crisis in Syria, I was afraid that my profession will no longer exist. Thanks to UNDP, I'm now working again".



## INCOME GENERATION: SUPPORT TO FEMALES HEADING HOUSEHOLDS

### UNDP addresses the needs of women as one of the primary target groups, through:

- Job opportunities through the workshops established or supported by UNDP.
- Vocational training and emergency employment opportunities in areas of their expertise.
- Productive assets that enable women to start their income generating activities.

The increasing number of females heading households in shelters and host communities, due to the protracted crisis in Syria, made this group a priority target to UNDP's interventions. As such, and as part of its approach to enhance equality, participation, and empowerment, UNDP worked with stakeholders on women's economic empowerment, especially in terms of creating income generation opportunities for women to support their families. In this regard, UNDP supported establishment/revival of 32 micro-small businesses such as food

processing, sewing and handcrafts where more than 70% of work force is female, in addition to launching tailored support programmes targeting skilled female workers who received productive assets and start-up toolkits in order to be economically independent.

Nine sewing workshops were established or revived in Aleppo, Hama, and Rural Damascus with wide range of products including denim, cotton wear, under wear, uniforms and other types of readymade garments.

Six food processing businesses were successfully launched in Al-Hassakeh, Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Damascus and Tartous, where production lines included food preserving, dairy products and other types of processed foods. The established businesses have provided sustainable job opportunities, as well as contributed to protecting and maintaining the traditional knowledge of food preservation methods that are passed over generations, and play an important role in processing agricultural products, especially in rural areas. Two-phased projects for establishing small traditional bakeries were implemented in the city of Deir Ezzor,

where 100 women found employment opportunities at the bakeries that supply traditional bread to the local markets.

A wide range of handcrafts production has been revived through the establishment of small workshops in addition to providing training, toolkits and raw materials, including: wool-knitting, crochet, glass painting, wood-works, clay products, among others. Special attention was given to creating marketing channels to ensure sustainability of these initiatives, and in many cases supporting each other by sharing knowledge, experience and exchanging of relevant products.







Vocational Training in Hama © UNDP

Additionally, 61 females heading households had benefitted from distribution of a wide variety of productive assets including sheep, goats, cows, hairdressing sets and sewing machines in Homs, Aleppo and Rural Damascus. By supporting women, especially females heading households, through livelihood activities and economic empowerment, UNDP is supporting the resilience of the whole family and effectively contributing directly or indirectly to other sectors such as protection, education, nutrition and food security, among others.

Meet Khawla, the sole breadwinner of a child living with paraplegia due to shrapnel injury to the head sustained during the crisis. She says: **"Before the crisis, I used to work in packaging business, but the low income and the increasing needs of my family forced me to start working for long hours in local private workshops. This was inconvenient to me as I couldn't leave my child alone for this long due to his situation. Thanks to UNDP, I got a job in jeans tailoring workshop. I learnt to work with different machines and mastered many sewing skills. The positive and family-like atmosphere in this workshop has encouraged me to work. I am also generating a good income through which I can afford to medical expenses needed for my child".**



## REHABILITATION AND LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

UNDP carries out a comprehensive rehabilitation project for persons with disabilities in Syria, using a twin-track approach to ensure achievement of results and impact:

- Societal track: Mainstreaming disability issues in all sectors of early recovery and livelihoods responses by ensuring that services are inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities.
- Disability-specific track: Empowering PWDs and their families along with supporting NGOs and community-based organizations to address their specific needs.

2016 was the second year after the launch of UNDP dedicated project to support PWDs in Syria. The broader impact of the achievements of 2015 PWDs' targeted projects was felt at the level of UNDP country office, local partners and community by raising the awareness of staff, personnel and community members about the rights of PWDs and the added value from inclusive socioeconomic environment. This was reflected in 2016 with higher level of integration of PWDs in cross-cutting activities with other portfolios, and PWDs' inclusion has been mainstreamed throughout UNDP Syria's work.

2,800 PWDs have benefitted from mainstrea-

ming disability in income generating and emergency job employment activities. Moreover, UNDP Syria continued to deliver targeted activities aiming to support and enhance the physical well-being and livelihood of PWDs affected by the crisis in six governorates, namely Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Tartous, Hama and Al-Hassakeh.

Physical rehabilitation support included providing 110 PWDs with high quality lower limb prosthetic devices through its comprehensive prosthetic services. While the workshops were established in Damascus and Tartous to invest on available technical skills and local market for



raw materials, UNDP encouraged and ensured serving affected beneficiaries coming from remote locations in other governorates by providing logistic support during prosthetic fitting and physiotherapy.

More research is being done to explore innovative solution to overcome accessibility and increase reach out considering scarcity of technical expertise in remote areas. UNDP incorporated capacity development initiatives to train young prosthetic technicians in which 8 health workers benefitted from training on prosthetic technology, 5 of whom were recruited in UNDP ongoing projects.



Rehabilitation Session for Persons with Disabilities,  
Damascus © UNDP

Furthermore, UNDP provided tailored vocational training for 110 PWDs who had received mobility aids in Aleppo, Al-Hassakeh and Hama to help them integrate into the community and gain the skills needed for a career, such as embroidery, accessories handicraft, mobile maintenance, power generator maintenance, candle making and backpack making. Moreover, 245 monthly job opportunity were provided to PWDs in Aleppo, Hama, Rural Damascus and Al-Hassakeh.

In addition, 2016 witnessed success in achieving complementarity and integration between the two main pillars of PWDs rehabilitation and livelihood support projects. Beneficiaries of UNDP interventions in physical rehabilitation such as providing prosthetic devices, wheelchairs and crutches were rostered for linking them to livelihood support projects. Several examples and success stories have been reported in different governorates of Al-Hassakeh, Hama, Aleppo and Damascus.

In 2016, UNDP also initiated efforts to induce systemic changes in terms of policy at the national level and it is expected to upscale this process during 2017 by implementing national assessment on disability situation in Syria and by promoting innovative partnerships to expand the social model of integration applied to disabilities.

**Rinas, 32, has a left lower limb paralysis. He benefited from the project of distributing disability aids in 2015. Through the vocational training project for PWDs in Qamishli, Al-Hassakeh Governorate, implemented in 2016, Rinas received training on mobile phone maintenance. After completing the training course, Rinas received a start-up toolkit and he currently runs his own successful business.**



**Abd-Alrahman, 19, from Hama, has suffered from left lower limb amputation and was provided with crutches and prosthetic device through UNDP support. Later, Abd-Alrahman received vocational training through UNDP targeted project to support PWDs livelihood in Hama. He was trained on embroidery skills and was employed after completing the training period in the same workshop that started production and served the local market in Hama, providing 11 sustainable job opportunities to PWDs.**





## YOUTH LED INITIATIVES PROMOTING TOLERANCE AND ACCEPTANCE

Conflict in Syria has transformed the relationships between Syrians. Displacement has uprooted entire communities, undermining displaced communities' social fabric and placing significant strain on host communities. Across the country, many communities have banded together in response to pressures and insecurity, contributing to increased in-group/out-group dynamics. The social divisions, along which groups have coalesced, differ significantly depending on the dynamics in the local area.

In this context, and despite the instable security situation, UNDP managed to implement 80 youth led initiatives in 8 governorates, namely, Al-Hassakeh, Homs, Hama, Rural Damascus, Latakia, Aleppo, Damascus and Tartous.

The implemented projects provided 903 monthly job opportunities, 597 of which were for youth. The monthly job opportunities provided a decent income for 2,940 direct beneficiaries, that met their basic needs. Moreover, 31,293 participants joined these interventions from diverse backgrounds including areas where inter-religious co-existence prevail. Additionally, 3,347 volunteers joined the implemented activities.

These initiatives were implemented in multiple locations and have covered activities such as the rehabilitation of social spaces like common spaces and community centers, in addition to supporting cultural and sporting events aimed at providing opportunities for Syrians to work together.

In line with UNDP Syria strategy for resilience building, including a component for promotion of social cohesion and NGOs capacity development, UNDP aims to create a better understanding of inter/intra-communal reconciliation processes to nurture positive attitude and engagement between IDPs and host communities.

In this context, UNDP developed a social cohesion strategy that outlines the basis for UNDP's programming on this theme in Syria

by identifying ways in which a realistic and achievable contribution to support peace now can be made. The strategy was developed focusing on three main pillars; the first one is to strengthen the ability of the Syrian communities to respond to local conflict events in ways that minimize violence and de-escalate tensions. The second pillar focuses on enhancing the capacity of the Syrian communities to identify and reduce the drivers of conflict relating to inter-group relations at the local level, through measures addressing structural

Youth Day Celebrated in Aleppo © UNDP





barriers to social cohesion and strengthening structural connectors between groups. The third pillar focuses on strengthening the networks of social cohesion actors in Syria to support each other through shared experience as a foundation for community-led social cohesion efforts after a political settlement.

Furthermore, UNDP developed 8 local conflict analysis papers related to eight areas in Homs, Hama, Tartous, Dar’a, Al-Hassakeh and Rural Damascus governorates. The developed papers were intended to be used as tools for identifying the early recovery and resilience

building programming in the post agreement planning process and as a pilot project development for stabilization and reconciliation.

In order to obtain informed inputs to be used as a solid basis to develop the strategy, two workshops on social cohesion and conflict analysis were conducted for UNDP field staff working in nine different governorates. The workshops reviewed UNDP social cohesion activities and identified UNDP’s lessons learned and planning for social cohesion activities for 2017, as well as conflict analyses of a number of governorates and areas.



Grape Festivity for Enhancing Social Cohesion in Al-Hassakeh © UNDP

# Hasakah Governorate

Local Analysis  
December 2016



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

## Summary

- Hasakah is a key part of the Rojava Self-Administration, a predominantly Kurdish dominated autonomous political area established in 2013 in the North of Syria. While claiming continued responsibility over the whole governorate, the Government of Syria, which controls small pockets in Qamishli city and in and around Hasakah city, has appeared to accept the *de facto* existence of the Rojava Self-Administration, at least while its strategic priorities lie elsewhere in the country. Occasional skirmishes continue to occur between the predominantly Kurdish YPG and Government forces, affecting communities.
- The existence of the Rojava Self-Administration also has repercussions regionally, particularly related to regional Kurdish aspirations in Turkey. Turkey rejects moves towards Kurdish autonomy within Syria and may oppose such moves more aggressively in the future.
- Within Hasakah, the changing political landscape, perceptions of favouritism of the Kurdish community within the Rojava Self-Administration and discrimination by security forces, fears of demographic change, and longer-term socio-economic inequalities have contributed to divisions between ethnic and cultural groups. Without addressing these, such divisions may harden and contribute to conflict.
- Hasakah has also experience the operations of Daesh which, while gains have been made against it, continues to pose a threat to communities.

## Background and Situation Overview

### Geography

Hasakah governorate is located in North Eastern Syria bordering Turkey to the North, Iraq to the East, Syria's Deir az-Zor governorate in the South and Ar-Raqqa governorate in the West. It comprises 23,300 square kilometres, 12.6% of Syria's land area.

Key Area Indicators	
Est. Pop. HNO 2016	944,507
People in Need	436,863
HNO 2016 Severity	3.14
Community Safety Severity Indicator	2(A)
Social Cohesion Severity Indicator	4(A)

See methodology notes at end of report for explanation of indicators.

# COMMUNITY BASED INITIATIVES PROMOTING SOCIAL COHESION

Aiming at strengthening social cohesion, UNDP targeted 4 geographical areas which host a large number of IDPs from diverse backgrounds, such as Hama and Tartous, in addition to areas where inter-religious co-existence prevails, such as Al-Hassakeh and Homs. Relying on the integrated comprehensive resilience building approach, UNDP implemented four comprehensive approach projects

that combine livelihoods and basic services rehabilitation activities in selected areas, coupled with community based initiatives employing sport, music, drama and food as common denominators or tools to bring people of different religious and social backgrounds together, particularly in identified areas/neighborhoods of existing or potential disruptive social conditions or dynamics.



## GREEN COMMON SPACE IN LATTAKIA

As a part of its social cohesion activities, UNDP implemented an initiative of “green common spaces” which contributed to strengthening the ties among residents of the target neighbourhood. UNDP refurbished a garden in Lattakia city to serve as a creational facility where people from different backgrounds can meet and share responsibilities and goals to develop and maintain the facility which everyone can utilize. The job opportunities generated through this project, had a positive impact on IDPs, females and host community members through supporting their livelihoods. The refurbished garden provided a common space where social fabric is rebuilt and enhanced. The garden became the main place for children to receive their school lessons by their own school teachers, as an initiative from both teachers and local community to attract students to study, and ultimately encourage children to study more to improve their education achievements.

A student called Hasan said: “it was a very good experience to be involved with other people to do the same work which will eventually serve our neighborhood and friends, the garden was there all the time, but we could not see it as a place to work on and develop, especially with different kinds and types of people”.

A film was prepared to document all the steps through which the initiative was going; participants felt empowered by seeing themselves in that film helping each other and doing the best for their community.



Garden Before Rehabilitation in Lattakia © UNDP



The Garden After Rehabilitation, Lattakia © UNDP

## ENHANCED ADVOCACY AND COORDINATION FOR RESILIENCE-BUILDING

After several years of conflict, activities related to Early Recovery and Livelihoods (ER&L) continued to expand, with UNDP, in its capacity of lead agency for the sector, continuing to provide coordination support to sector partners, and this within the Whole of Syria (WoS) structure.

UNDP achieved a significant milestone by organizing in September the first Early Recovery mainstreaming and strategy workshop. The overall objective of the workshop was to build capacity and share knowledge among ER&L sector partners/members, by providing hands-on skills and tools to effectively integrate and mainstream early recovery across the work of not only the ER&L sector, but all sectors in Syria. The usefulness of this workshop was confirmed by all participants.

In 2016, the ER&L sector was also able to surpass previous years' performance. Coordination of - and in - the sector became much more active, with 10 sector meetings held in the Syria hub as well as 6 held in Gaziantep following the appointment of a Sector Coordinator there in September 2016. A sharp increase in the number of partners was witnessed in the latter hub, with 22 proposals uploaded in the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) through 18 partners from that hub.

Another milestone in 2016 was the completion of the Economic Opportunities Assessment, undertaken by UNDP and WFP for the purpose of exploring options and opportunities for job creation, for both Syrian refugees and their host communities. An Expert Consultative Group was formed, composed of UNCT members, technical experts, INGOS, NGOS, think-tanks, private sector representatives and academics to provide technical assistance and quality assurance at different stages of the assessment. Several technical meetings were held with partners in the Syrian hub to discuss the assessment and to formulate country-specific observations, conclusions and recommendations for the (Multi-Country) Economic Opportunity Assessment.

Challenges facing the ER&L sector remained similar as in previous years, and specifically relate to: shortage of funding (with less than 40% of funding requirements met); limited number of partners working on early recovery issues; access to areas of implementation and programme implementation. Restrictions ('sanctions') related to Syria also to a large extent affect the volume and scope of the current response, including the one provided by the ER&L sector.



# BASIC AND SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE REHABILITATION

Debris Recycling and Road Rehabilitation in Homs © UNDP

Massive destruction of basic infrastructure and deterioration of social services within all Syrian governorates continue to be one of the most visible impacts of the crisis. Rubble accumulated in severely affected neighborhoods, and garbage piled up in the streets, in addition to deteriorating municipal capacity to maintain efficient delivery of basic local services. Moreover, unemployment rate increased, as many businesses were scaled down or even disrupted.

UNDP continued to align its support to respond to the urgent needs by prioritizing interventions for restoring, rehabilitating and maintaining sustainable basic services and infrastructure in damaged areas, as well as host communities' areas, to pave the way for the return of IDPs.

In this context, UNDP launched its Infrastructure Rehabilitation Programme in 2016 to address major service delivery issues. UNDP adopted and implemented a comprehensive rehabilitation initiative in the old city of Homs and the old town of Ma'loula in Rural Damascus Governorate. The main objective of the implemented interventions is to contribute to the early recovery of the target communities and improve the living conditions of people living in the affected areas. This was supported through the rehabilitation of basic and social infrastructure which contributed to revival of basic business services in the target areas.

UNDP is working with local NGOs and communities to help rehabilitate basic and social services to recover from the crisis. It strengthens the electric, education, sanitation and healthcare systems. It also helps IDPs and host community members to cope financially by providing emergency employment and by improving access to basic health and educational services. In the long-term it will promote the use of renewable energy sources (wind, solar and biogas) as Syria transforms itself.



Solid Waste Management Project in Al-Hassakeh © UNDP



Covering six governorates, namely Rural Damascus, Homs, Tartous, Hama, Aleppo and Al Hassakeh. UNDP implemented 16 basic infrastructure local projects and 10 social infrastructure local projects, as well as 31 solid waste projects. Moreover, 7 debris removal and management local projects were implemented in addition to 4 local projects for renewable energy in Homs, Tartous and Rural Damascus governorates, where 155 lighting solar units were installed.



Solar Lighting Project in Hama © UNDP

UNDP scaled up its interventions into overall solid waste and debris management initiatives that included sorting, recycling and reuse of solid waste, fuel briquettes and bio-gas production, landfill upgrading and equipment maintenance. Support was provided to local capacity of communities and related municipalities and to ensure sustainability and quality of delivery of basic services.

Through the implemented interventions in 2016, 211,565 tons of solid and 56,003 tons of debris were removed. Moreover 142,400 fuel briquettes were produced from recycled waste

which reduced the amounts of solid waste sent to the final dumping sites and provided alternative source of energy to the affected communities.

Three illegal dumping sites in Homs, Hama and Aleppo, were rehabilitated and 145 municipal service equipment/vehicle were repaired to contribute to strengthening and enhancing the capacity of the municipalities in delivering effective public services which will ultimately allow residents to enjoy better health and environmental conditions.

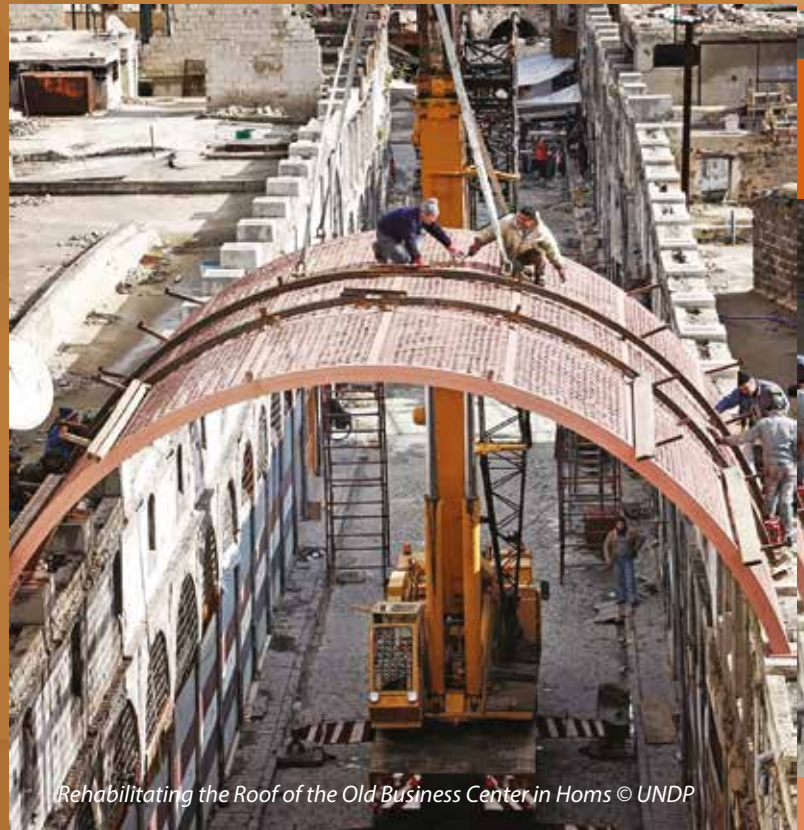
UNDP Syria succeeded in addressing major service delivery issues in the affected and hosting communities within targeted 8 governorates, where 2,466,804 people from the affected communities benefited from services provided through the implemented activities. Moreover, UNDP's interventions supported emergency employment through providing 19,138 monthly job opportunities to affected host communities and IDPs. The services supported through the implemented local projects included repairing 402 km of

basic network, out of which 379 km of water network were rehabilitated in Aleppo, to address the drastic water shortage in the city. Furthermore, 36 social/productive infrastructures were rehabilitated. Five health facilities were rehabilitated in cooperation with UNFPA and WHO to ensure an integrated multi-sectoral response, enabling 100,956 direct beneficiaries as well as 2,365,117 people to benefit indirectly from the services provided by the rehabilitated facilities.



Fuel Briquettes Manufacturing in Hama © UNDP





Rehabilitating the Roof of the Old Business Center in Homs © UNDP

## RECOVERY OF OLD HOMS BUSINESS CENTER

UNDP contributed to revitalize basic business services, restoring the economic activities and enhancing the resilience of communities through the comprehensive approach of infrastructure and basic services. In the city of Homs where the historic old city commercial (old souk) district was destroyed due to the conflict, UNDP Syria removed solid waste, debris and rehabilitated the basic infrastructure of the area. As a result, 20 shops have returned to the old city to reopen their business.

Manhal used to sell clothes in his small shop which is located in the ancient market area in Old Homs. During the crisis, most of Old Homs was under rubble, and was deserted by the majority of its inhabitants. Manhal says: **"Once I heard that UNDP is removing accumulated debris from the ancient market area, I was so excited to do some repairs to my shop and reopen it. I'm happy that I was finally able to restock my shop with merchandise and start working again".**



## THE HISTORIC TOWN OF MA'LOULA IS BACK TO LIFE

Ma'loula is a historic old town in Rural Damascus where inhabitants still speak the ancient "Aramaic" language. The historic town was heavily damaged and people fled their home town when IS took control of the town. After security situation was settled, UNDP Syria initiated a comprehensive infrastructure and services rehabilitation programme, provided employment opportunities for people from nearby villages, including those who fled from Ma'loula. As the restoration of the old town and infrastructure progressed, the people started returning to Ma'loula, totaling 1,200 persons. The implemented interventions in the old town included debris management, rehabilitation of Mar Takla monastery, and the town mosque, in addition to the cultural center. Moreover, the basic infrastructure were also rehabilitated.

Debris Removal in Ma'loula in Rural Damascus © UNDP



Rehabilitation of the Historic Mar Takla Monastery in Maloula, Rural Damascus © UNDP



# EMERGENCY REHABILITATION OF ELECTRICITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Spare Parts for Jandar Power Plant in Homs © UNDP

## Jandar, Baniyas and Al Zara Power Plants

The reliable and sustainable electricity supply is essential to respond to the immediate humanitarian needs of crisis affected communities, for the operation of essential services such as water supply, hospitals, schools, sewerage treatment plants and other community services. Electricity is essential for socio-economic recovery and for the return of displaced people to their homelands. It contributes to improve the living and security conditions in affected areas, as well as throughout the country. Due to the damages inflicted on electricity infrastructure in Syria, many power plants were not able to work at full capacity at all time. The first emergency response for the rehabilitation of the Electricity Sector in Syria was developed in 2015 targeting the Jandar power station in Homs. The target plant is one of the major power plants in the country, which used to have a total capacity of 630 MW in 2011 that

covered 12-15% of the total power supply in the country (4800 MW). During the crisis, the plant covered 25% of the total supply (1600 MW), due to the fact that many power plants had been damaged. The rehabilitation plan has focused on providing key spare parts to avoid sudden shut down of the power plant and to meet the needs for spare parts for operating the power station for the next 4 years. All urgently required spare parts were delivered by the end of 2016, and will be installed during 2017. Supplying necessary spare parts to the power plant to avoid its shutdown was a cost-efficient way to respond to the urgent needs of the affected Syrian people. The total number of beneficiaries of Jandar power plant in May 2016 was estimated at 4,500,000 people (25% of 18,000,000), since the contribution of Jandar Power plant in the national grid is 25% of the total power generated.

Nevertheless, an essential part of the rotor in Jandar Power Plant was unexpectedly damaged. This halted operations, and thus reduced the power production by 130 MW which reduced the production to 22% of the total power generation. Consequently, the total number of beneficiaries of Jandar power plant in June 2016 was 22% (3,960,000 of 18,000,000).

Rehabilitation of Jandar power plant has increased the production of the power plant at around 60 MW, which is expected to improve the production by around 4% by the end of the project and will prevent a reduction of 260 MW that could be resulted from a shutdown of two gas turbines.

The electricity infrastructure is deteriorating further as the life span of essential mechanical and electrical parts of power plants is coming to an end while still operating at maximum capacity to ensure electricity supply to affected communities. In this context, UNDP supported

the rehabilitation of two additional plants: Baniyas power plant in Tartous Governorate and Al Zara power plants in Hama Governorate.

In 2011, the two power plants provided around 16% (Al Zara: 10% and Baniyas: 6% ) of the national electricity supply (4800 MW). Currently, Al Zara and Baniyas power plants combined provide around 30% of the present national electricity supply (1600 MW). These percentages are constantly changing depending on the level of production of each power plant. The electricity supplied by all power plants is affected by many different factors such as logistics, security or technical related issues.

The method established during the first phase of the project has been adopted as guidelines for the implementation of the second phase. Furthermore, an assessment of the power plant was conducted to validate and verify support in terms of technical expertise, studies, equipment and spare parts, as well as to prioritize with national counterparts the emergency interventions to be undertaken within the framework of this project. Procurement of spare parts and other equipment was carried out, while delivery will be made in several lots during 2017 and 2018. Consequently monitoring the installation of spare parts will be conducted in due course, in addition to providing support to the engineers in Baniyas and Al Zara power plants to implement the installation plan, as needed. Stabilized electricity supply positively contributed to improving living conditions, to poverty alleviation and income generation opportunities in the covered areas.



Gas Turbine Maintenance, Homs © UNDP





NGO Capacity Building Workshop in Tartous © UNDP

## CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL PARTNERS FOR RESILIENCE BUILDING

UNDP strengthened the capacities of 104 NGOs on Early Recovery Programming and Activities

As UNDP increases its capacity as a responsive partner and a more effective provider of value-added policy advice and development services, the organization supports the strategic partnerships and productive engagement with key constituencies, particularly civil society organizations and non-governmental organization.

NGOs/CSOs are often uniquely positioned to ensure quick response, to reach communities at grassroots level, and to engage with excluded or marginalized population groups. The cooperation with NGOs/CSOs in the development and implementation of UNDP program-

mes and projects aims also at increasing and strengthening their technical and managerial capacity, as well as relationships and networks that allow the organization to multiply its programme impacts

Under the current NGO policy, UNDP Syria started the process of engagement with an NGO/CBO as Implementing Partners responsible for the overall management, including financial management, of an entire project and delivery of all its results (based on a capacity assessment and risk analysis). A roster of NGOs/CBOs was created where rostered organizations may be contracted immediately as

Implementing Partners, or as Responsible Parties, especially when the engagement based on the comparative advantage rather than competition is warranted.

UNDP prioritized capacity development of local NGOs in Syria, where a training program covered 58 trainees distributed on two cohorts, in Homs and Tartous. Furthermore, three focus groups for NGOs, CBOs, and FBOs were conducted in five governorates: Damascus, Homs, Hassakeh, Hama and Tartous with a total participation of 40 NGOs that aimed to explore the networking channels and mechanisms, information sharing and exchange of practices to reinforce the culture of knowledge sharing and promote twinning, consortia and partnerships among NGOs in different geographical locations. Additionally, 3 focus groups for NGOs, CBOs, and FBOs were conducted in Damascus, Homs and Al-Hassakeh governorates to develop an online network for know-

ledge sharing and facilitate on-the-job training among local partners to foster a rapid skills development and knowledge absorption and application. They also benefited from this face-to-face activity to initiate a relationship among participant organizations, where representatives of each NGO, including executive members, shared their common ideas and goals, discussed differences and created common ground for their new joint initiatives.

Instructional materials were developed to facilitate self-directed learning as well as peer group interactions. In this regard, a unified curriculum for Early Recovery and Livelihoods was developed with the support of an international expert using appropriate languages so that the learner finds the materials easy to read and understand, to maintain sustained interest.



Training Workshop on Volunteerism and Civic Engagement in Homs © UNDP



Two training materials and trainer's manual for NGOs capacity development on NGO Management and Project Cycle Management (PCM) were developed with the support of a national expert. These manuals include facilitation techniques for mentoring and coaching learners, presentations and small group activities.

In order to achieve optimal strengthening and development of the capacities of local partners in Syria and reach the desirable impact, UNDP developed a twinning partnership tool through which it focused on continuous peer-to-peer collaboration to achieve specific, measurable goals.

As such, UNDP developed and initiated two twinning programmes in Homs and Tartous governorates, where three NGOs from Tartous, and six from Homs were involved in this activity. The concept of the twinning programme is to pair two organizations that are implementing similar initiatives in different governorates and enable the most experienced one to build and strengthen the capacity of other organizations. This is achieved by creating a joint working environment containing a combination of the following activities: exchange of staff, education and training workshops, as well as providing expertise by benefiting from short-term consultants.

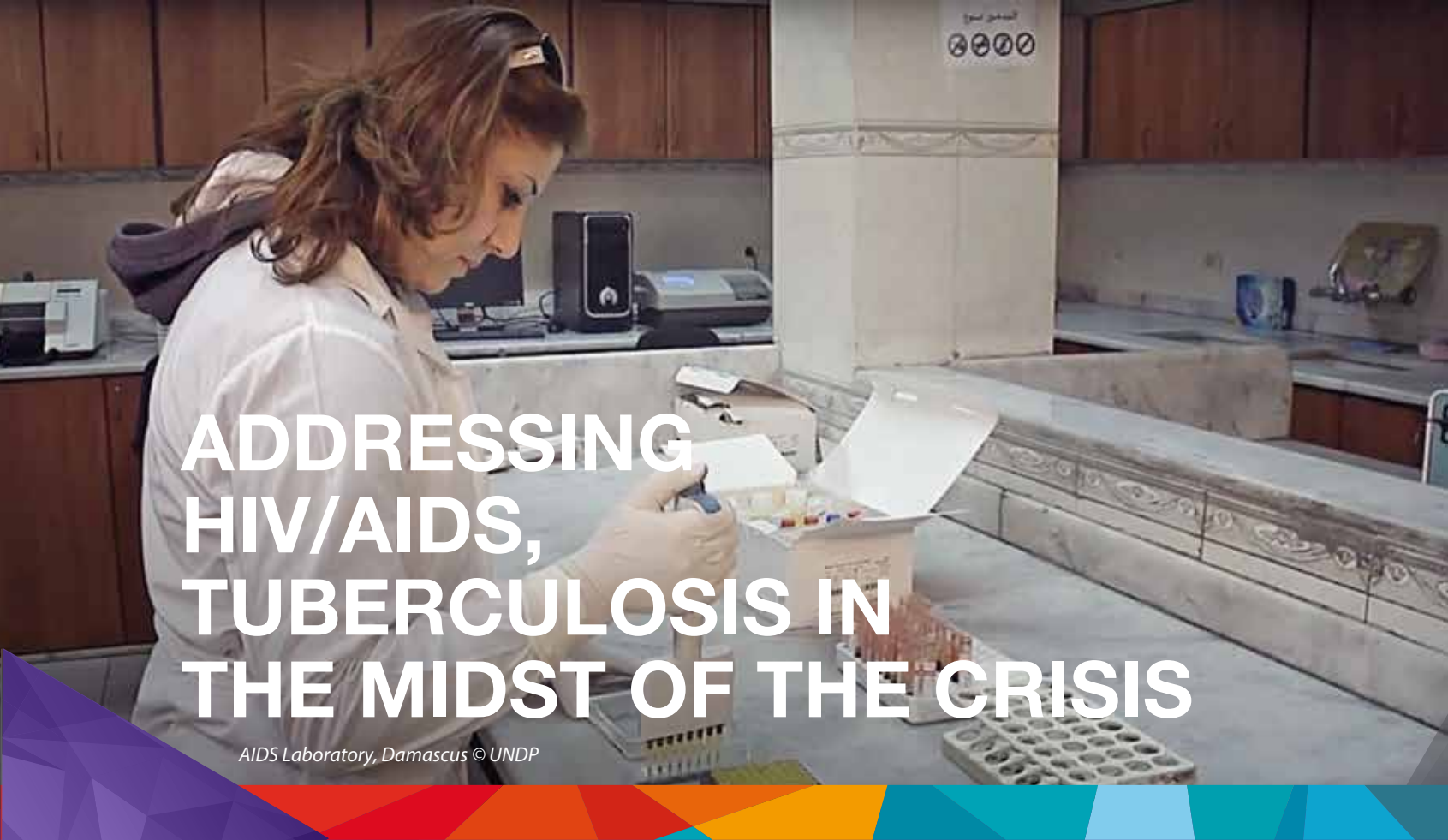
In 2015, UNDP expressed an interest in compiling and developing a standardized training kit for Project Cycle Management in preparation to qualify a pool of trainers to become responsible for NGO capacity building each in his/her area whenever or wherever a need is identified. Participants, carefully selected from various NGOs and governorates, had already attended the aforementioned PCM training. The program started with a Desk Review to examine existing materials from various sources and to compile a training of trainers (ToT) training curriculum.



This was followed by the conduction of two ToT workshops in Damascus. The 'train-the-trainers' course, aiming to support the embedment of capacities within organizations, should help enable this process. ToT is a process that addresses not only the transfer of knowledge, know-how and skills to the trainees on mastering a particular topic, but also on how to transfer that knowledge and know-how to others through appropriate methodological and pedagogical tools. Such training ensures that there is a tripple or multiplier effect in creating more trainers that cover all parts of the country on a regional basis.

Furthermore, an online E-learning tool was developed through establishing the NGOs E-space through which the NGOs work to strengthen their capability to collaborate with one another, and promote more dynamic engagement with the supported communities in terms of planning, development of interventions and their implementation. Information and communications technologies (ICTs) furnishes NGOs with new options to access data, increase connections, and ramp up/strengthen constituencies, while ushering in new forms of organizing, advocacy, and accountability. The NGOs will be able to utilize this important tool in 2017.





# ADDRESSING HIV/AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS IN THE MIDST OF THE CRISIS

AIDS Laboratory, Damascus © UNDP

It was a challenge to continue implementing a project to contribute to the reduction of Tuberculosis and HIV, particularly among poor and vulnerable population, during the crisis. However, concrete results have been attained.

During 2016, UNDP continued its emergency and recovery services to support patients with non-communicable and infectious diseases in Syria, where it succeeded to provide support

to 149 HIV /AIDS patients with treatment and tests(Reagents), as well as provided reagents for HIV laboratories (50,000 test for Aleppo, Homs, Hama, Dar'a, Al-Sweida, Lattakia, Tartous, Rural Damascus and Damascus governorates). The reagents were provided to HIV laboratories and operating blood banks to reduce the spread of blood borne diseases in eleven Syrian Governorates, namely: Aleppo, Al-Hassakeh, As-Swaida, Damascus, Dar'a,

Hama, Homs, Rural Damascus, Lattakia, Tartous, and Qunietra. The reagents are used for blood screening which ensure safe blood transfusion and reduce the prevalence of diseases such as HIV/AIDS and endemics such as Hepatitis B and C.

Moreover, 3,190 Tuberculosis (TB) patients were provided with treatment and tests, as well as 21 Multi Drug Resistant to TB patients. To support patients and their supporters, incentives were provided to 1,278 TB patients and 817 patients supporters in eleven Syrian Governorates: Aleppo, Al-Hassakeh, As-Swaida, Damascus, Dar'a, Hama, Homs, Rural Damascus, Lattakia, Tartous, and Qunietra.

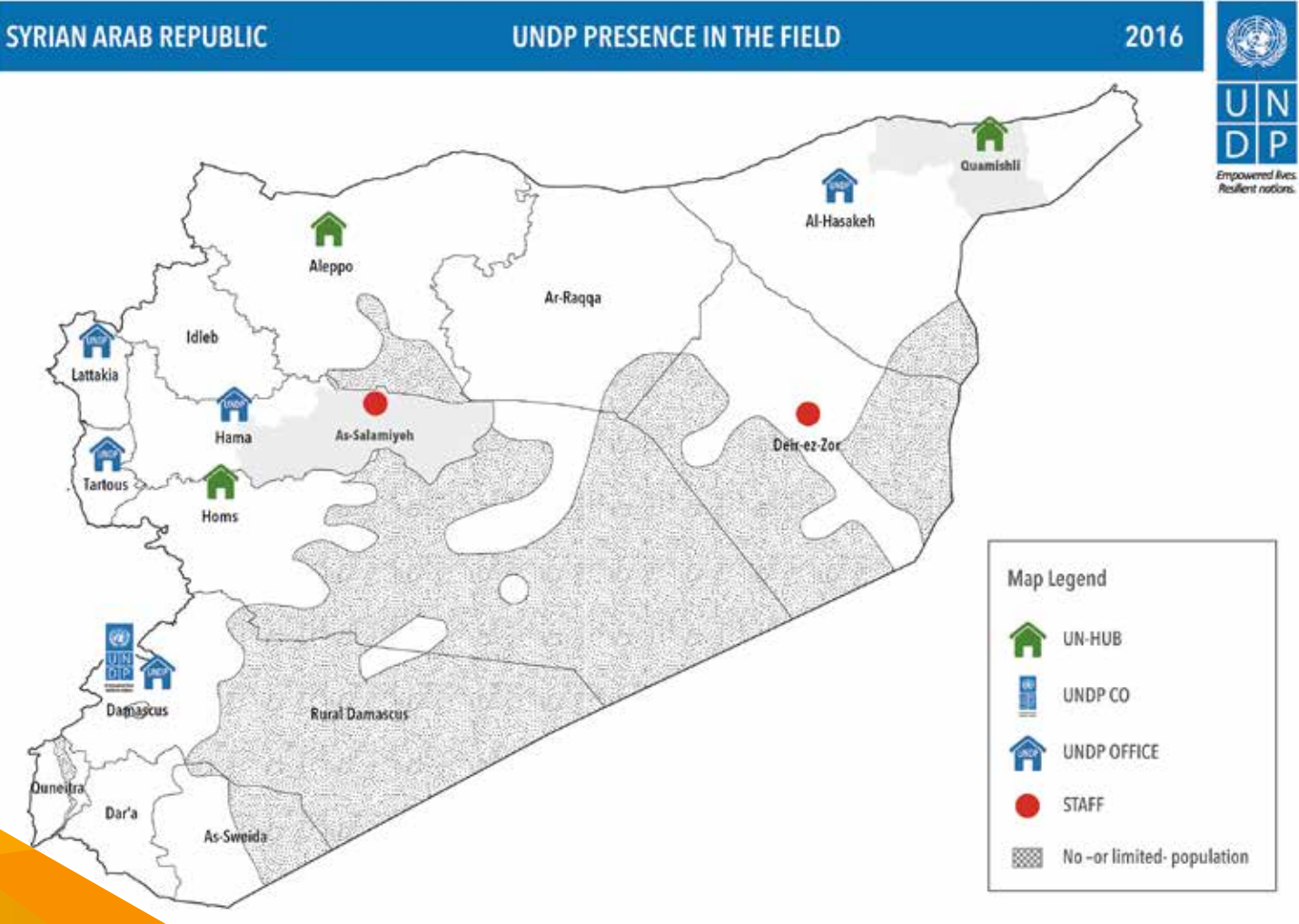
Furthermore, a health facility in Damascus was rehabilitated. The facility is a storing house for medication of 3,500 TB patients and 350 people living with HIV. Another TB Treatment health facility was rehabili-

tated in Homs. The support also included data base records establishment for 350 people living with HIV/AIDS, as well as creation of a website dedicated for raising awareness on HIV/AIDS, in addition to provision of IT equipment and hardware.



Storehouse for HIV Medication in Damascus © UNDP





# UNDP PRESENCE IN THE FIELD

To facilitate and insure quality implementation of UNDP field activities, UNDP is physically present in 9 Syrian Governorates namely, Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs, Hama, Aleppo, Tartous, Latakia, Al-Hassakeh, and Deir Ezzor. UNDP field offices are located either in UN hubs, or in other office locations where a UN hub is not yet established. UNDP deployed field staff covering the above-mentioned areas since early 2014, and today our field team comprises of 33 highly qualified personnel including dedicated technical officers in the areas of infrastructure rehabilitation and socio-economic recovery. In addition to the field teams, a dedicated field management unit in the country office was created in 2015 to support and coordinate between field teams and relevant country office units within the programme and operations teams. As UNDP field activities are continuously expanding to cover larger geographical

areas as well as broader thematic approaches, our field team structure was designed not only to insure adequate representation, but to also ensure a flexible and timely response to the volatile situations in the field such as hard to reach and newly accessible areas. Given the bottom up – Area based - approach adopted by UNDP, our field teams are engaged at the very early stages of project design, they are the primary source of information that feed into area profiling, assessments, area planning, implementation, and monitoring & evaluation. Moreover, with UNDP leading the early recovery sector, our field teams act as Sector Coordinators in each area for the early recovery sector, continuously in touch with local partners, stakeholders, and local communities, as well as other national and international sector members including UN Agencies and INGOs.



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SINCE 2015 TILL THE END OF 2016

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