

2024 UN COUNTRY RESULTS REPORT

Syrian Arab Republic



Contents

Foreword by Resident Coordinator	3
UN Country Team	4
Resident Agencies	4
Non-Resident Agencies	4
UN Key Partners of the UNCT in the country	6
Chapter 01: Key developments in the country and regional context	8
Chapter 2: UN system response to needs of people in Syria through the Strategic Framework	10
2.1. Overview of Strategic Framework Results:.....	10
2.2. Strategic Framework Outcomes.....	14
Pillar 1: Availability and Access to Basic and Social Services.....	14
Pillar 2: Sustainable Socio-Economic Recovery.....	19
Pillar 3: Enabling environment for a resilient return.....	25
Pillar 4: People resilience and institutional responsiveness.....	28
2.3. Partnerships for resilience to leave no one behind.....	31
2.4. Results of the UN working more and better together: UN coherence, effectiveness and efficiency	33
Common Premises:.....	33
Business Operations Strategy (BOS):	33
2.5. Evaluations and Lessons Learned.....	34
2.6. Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization.....	35
2.6.1. Financial Overview	35
2.6.2. Resource mobilization.....	36
Chapter 3: UNCT key focus for next year	37

Foreword by Resident Coordinator



Syria remains one of the most severe humanitarian crises in the world. Nearly 17 million people (more than three-quarters of Syria's population) needed humanitarian assistance in 2024. Fourteen relentless years of conflict have devastated lives, the economy, and the country's infrastructure. Over seven million people remain refugees outside Syria, with almost an equal number displaced internally.

Following the fall of Al-Asaad's regime on 8 December 2024, Syria is now going through a critical transition period. It presents both opportunities and challenges. On the positive side, many countries, including both traditional and non-traditional donors, have started their engagement with the caretaker authorities at a high level. Furthermore, donor countries are also now open to discussing the possibility of development and reconstruction assistance, which could significantly aid in rebuilding the nation's infrastructure and economy. Additionally, the suspension of sanctions by the EU and the UK provides a much-needed relief to the Syrian economy, allowing the flow of essential goods and services.

At the same time, Syria also faces many challenges. According to a UNDP report¹, the economy has suffered immensely, with GDP contracting to less than half of its 2010 value and inflation skyrocketing. The conflict has also led to widespread poverty, with 90% of the population living in poverty and 66% in extreme poverty.

The extensive destruction of infrastructure and housing requires substantial financial resources for reconstruction. Accordingly, it is necessary to address economic instability, widespread poverty, and food insecurity. Rebuilding state institutions and establishing effective governance are crucial for long-term stability.

In light of these challenges and opportunities, the United Nations remains steadfast in its commitment to support the people of Syria. We will continue to provide essential humanitarian aid and promote sustainable development. The UN is dedicated to working alongside the Syrian people and the international community to rebuild a peaceful, prosperous, and resilient Syria. Together, we can pave the way for a brighter future.

Adam Abdelmoula

UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator
Syrian Arab Republic

¹ UNDP, "The impact of the conflict in Syria", <https://www.undp.org/syria/publications/impact-conflict-syria#:~:text=Fourteen%20years%20of%20conflict%20in%20Syria%20have%20undone.Nations%20Development%20Programme%20%28UNDP%29%20preliminary%20socio-economic%20impact%20assessment.>

UN Country Team

Resident Agencies

Organizations	Representative
FAO	Toni Ettel
ILO	Mohamed Anas Sabee
IOM	Robert Turner
UNRWA	Amanya Michael-Ebye
UNICEF	Yasumasa Kimura
UNDSS	Saleh Tembo
UNDP	Sudipto Mukerjee
UNHCR	Gonzalo Vargas Llosa
UN-HABITAT	Hiroshi Takabayashi
UNIDO	Emmanuel Kalenzi
UNMAS	Joseph Mccartan
UNOPS	Muhammad Usman Akram
OCHA	Joseph Inganji
UNFPA	Muriel Mafico
WFP	Marianne Ward
OSE-Syria	Tareq Talahma
WHO	Christina Bethke
OHCHR	Abdelaziz Abdelaziz
UN Women	Heba Zayyan

Non-Resident Agencies

Organizations	Representative
IFAD	Thoodan Al-Eryani
UN ESCWA	Karim Khalil
UNEP	Sami Dimassi
UNESCO	Costanza Farina
UNODC	Cristina Albertin

Acronyms

BOS	Business Operations Strategy
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
EOD	Explosive Ordnance Disposal
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
HLP	Housing, Land, and Property
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
INGOs	International Non-Governmental Organizations
IOM	International Organization for Migration
LNOB	Leave No One Behind
MoH	Ministry of Health
NGOs	National Non-Governmental Organizations
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
OSE-Syria	Office of the Special Envoy for Syria
RMPS	Resources Mobilization and Partnerships Strategy
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
TAP	Transitional Action Plan
UN	United Nations
UN ESCWA	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety and Security
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency
UNSF	United Nations Strategic Framework
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

UN Key Partners of the UNCT in the country

The United Nations in Syria partnered with a broad range of stakeholders to implement humanitarian, early recovery, and resilience-building programmes in 2024. The UNCT adopted a decentralized approach, operating through six hubs across Syrian governorates, enabling flexible and localized responses to evolving needs. Programme implementation was primarily carried out through third-party agreements with contractors, national and international Non-Governmental Organizations (NNGOs and INGOs).

In 2024, amid ongoing economic collapse and persistent humanitarian needs, NNGOs and INGOs played a vital role in socio-economic support, service delivery, and capacity-building efforts. These partnerships expanded beyond traditional humanitarian assistance to include support local governance structures, and economic revitalization efforts.

Donors and the international community continued to be critical in sustaining UN operations in Syria. Funding from bilateral and multilateral partners supported humanitarian assistance, early recovery, and resilience-focused interventions under the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and the UN Strategic Framework (UNSF). The UNCT in Syria also actively engaged Member States and international financial institutions in discussions on sustainable financing and long-term recovery strategies.

To ensure adequate risk management and operational effectiveness, the UNCT strengthened its monitoring systems to adapt to the dynamic Syrian context. Common approaches to risk mitigation, financial transparency, and programme oversight ensured that the UN remained accountable, efficient, and aligned with humanitarian principles. These efforts highlighted the UN's commitment to fostering inclusive, transparent, and impactful partnerships in Syria.



Video about 13 years of conflict © WFP



Chapter 01:

Key developments in the country and regional context ²

Syria is undergoing a historic transition following the collapse of the Assad regime in December 2024 and the establishment of caretaker authorities led by opposition factions. This shift creates opportunities for national dialogue and governance reform, while regional actors, including Türkiye, the EU, the U.S., and Gulf states, have increased diplomatic and financial support for different factions.

The United Nations Country Team continues to advocate for a Syrian-led transition under UN Security Council Resolution 2254, emphasizing inclusive governance, constitutional reform, and free elections. However, progress remains slow amid security challenges, political divisions, and the risk of renewed conflict.

Syria's economy is in freefall, with 85% of households unable to meet basic needs. The Syrian pound has lost half its value in 2024, worsening inflation and unemployment (21.3%). Approximately 12.7 million people are food insecure, while 5.9 million, mostly women and children, need urgent nutritional support. In general, female-headed households are unable to meet their basic needs at twice the rate of male-headed households especially in north Syria. In displacement camps, a staggering 92 percent of women-headed households report insufficient ability or complete inability to meet the basic needs of their families (IEG Syria, 2025).

The healthcare system is failing, with only 54% of hospitals and 39% of health centers fully functional. The education sector is in crisis, with 2.5 million children out of school and 40% of schools damaged. The energy crisis has led to 20-hour blackouts daily, and 47% of Syrians rely on unsafe water sources. The lack of funding for the Humanitarian Response Plan continues to restrict life-saving assistance, with the 2024 HRP for Syria receiving only \$1.39 billion as of 21 January 2025—covering just 34.2% of the total \$4.07 billion requirement—leaving 65.8% of needs unmet.

² All figures presented in the "Key Developments in the Country" section are sourced from the Common Country Analysis (CCA) Update 2024. Available for download at: [Syria Document on UNINFO.org](https://www.uninfo.org/syria-document)

Syria faces severe drought, with agricultural production declining by 35%. Over 60% of arable land is at risk of desertification, and 30% of water sources are contaminated, increasing waterborne diseases. Air pollution and improper waste disposal further threaten public health. The UNCT is prioritizing climate resilience, integrating sustainable water management, renewable energy, food systems restoration and disaster risk reduction into early recovery and resilience-building efforts. Climate change, extreme weather, and scarce, low-quality, and costly agricultural inputs have severely impacted Syria's agricultural production, particularly wheat yields. Wheat production in 2024 is estimated at 2 million tons, about 47 percent below the pre-crisis average and 16 percent below last year's level.

The year 2024 presented both challenges and opportunities. The political transition could enable reform and recovery, but governance fragmentation, security risks, and economic collapse remain serious threats. The UNCT is committed to supporting the Syrian people through humanitarian aid, early recovery and resilience-building, focusing on inclusive governance, economic stability, and climate adaptation. However, sustained international engagement and funding will be essential to ensure Syria's transition leads to peace, stability, and sustainable development.

Chapter 2:

UN system response to needs of people in Syria through the Strategic Framework

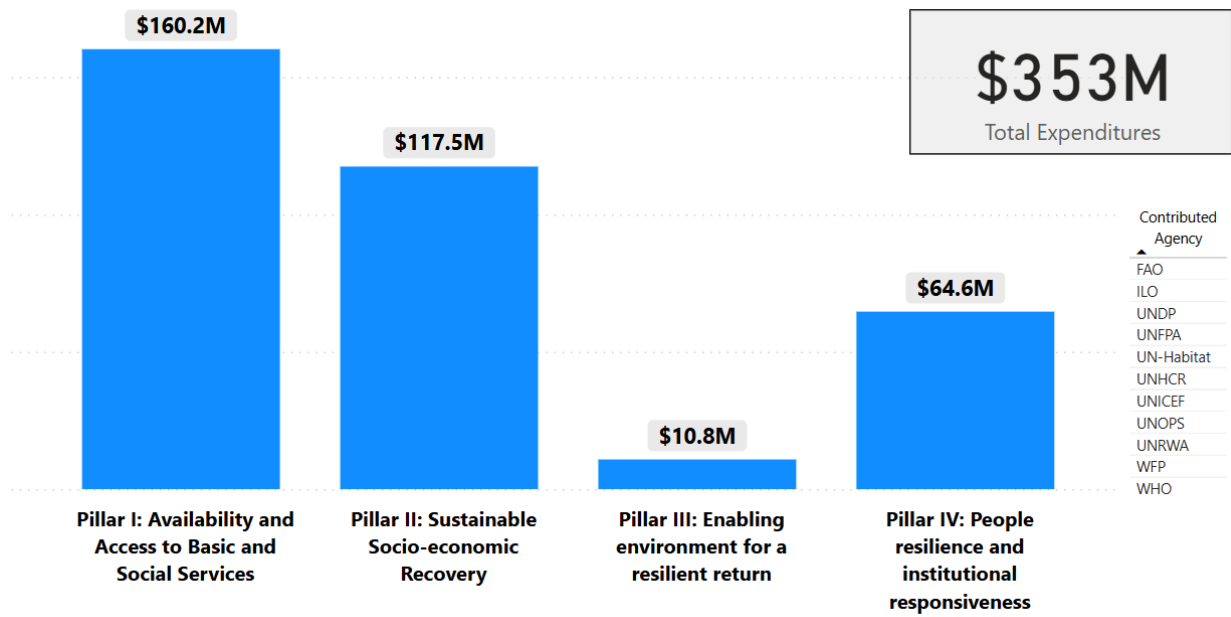
2.1. Overview of Strategic Framework Results:

In 2024, the United Nations Strategic Framework (UNSF) in Syria guided coordinated efforts across four key areas to enhance resilience and essential service delivery amid persistent challenges.

1. **Pillar 1: Availability and Access to Basic Services** focused on rehabilitating infrastructure, improving access to education, healthcare, nutrition, and water and sanitation services, and addressing urgent needs, particularly following natural disasters.
2. **Pillar 2: Sustainable Socio-Economic Recovery** supported economic stabilization and environmental resilience by revitalizing agriculture, restoring food systems, promoting entrepreneurship, boosting social protection, and expanding employment opportunities.
3. **Pillar 3: Enabling Environment for a Resilient Return** aimed to facilitate the voluntary and dignified return of displaced populations through legal support, secure housing, and community reintegration initiatives.
4. **Pillar 4: People Resilience and Institutional Responsiveness** emphasized gender equality, child protection, social cohesion, and climate adaptation, inclusive and efficient food systems and agriculture production, strengthening community resilience, evidence, and institutional capacity.

Together, these pillars not only addressed urgent humanitarian needs but also laid the foundation for long-term recovery, ensuring a comprehensive and sustainable response to Syria's evolving crisis.

2024 Total Expenditures per Pillar



4.1 million people

Benefited from UN supported services including:



Quality health and nutrition services, through functional facilities.



Improved water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) systems and services.



Enhancing access to civil infrastructure and housing for resilience and security.



More than 1.9 million Children

supported to enrol in formal & non-formal education



About **35,000 Households** received productive infrastructure and assets for sustainable food production



3.4 million Civil Documents issued by supporting national institutions



About **1,000 classrooms** benefitted from repair or rehabilitation



Over **7.8 million consultations**, encompassing psychosocial support, were delivered through public health facilities and hospitals. This includes outpatient consultations and mental health services provided by national NGOs



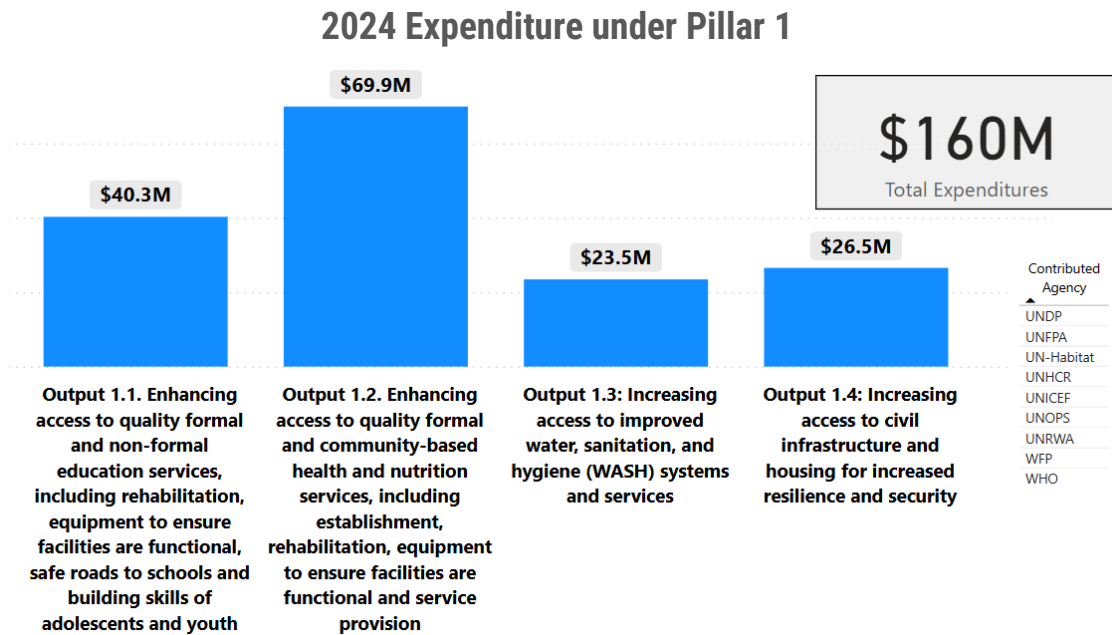
UNDP'S TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL
TRAINING EMPOWERS WOMEN IN
ALEPPO © UNDP



2.2. Strategic Framework Outcomes

Pillar 1: Availability and Access to Basic and Social Services

This pillar aims to drive the country's recovery and resilience and improve the availability and access to basic and social services.



In 2024, the UNCT in Syria contributed to improving access to essential services by rehabilitating health facilities and enhancing community-based health and nutrition services. Investments in infrastructure strengthened the operational capacity of healthcare centres, ensuring the continuity of critical services in affected regions. Efforts also focused on increasing access to formal and non-formal education, where targeted interventions facilitated the rehabilitation of schools and learning spaces, improving the learning environment for children and building the skills for adolescents and youth for enhanced employability. Additionally, the UNCT enhanced water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services, strengthening water and sanitation networks in underserved areas.

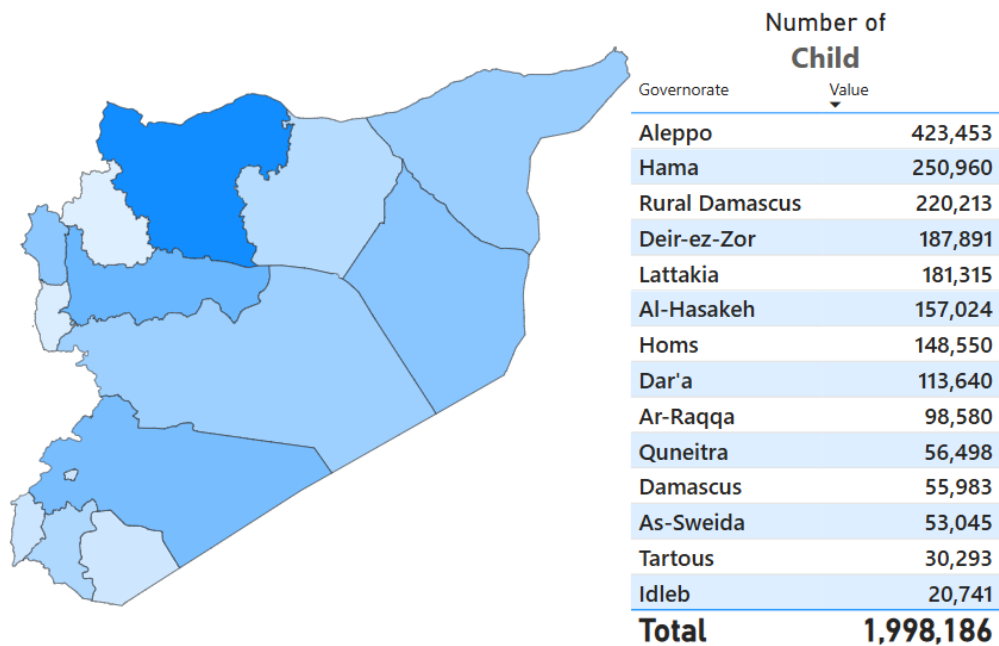
WHO and UNDP SUPPORTS ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH CARE IN HARASTA, RURAL DAMASCUS

The Harasta National Hospital rehabilitated by UNDP and equipped by WHO, the hospital now serves over 150,000 people in Harasta and its surrounding areas.

[Watch the video](#)

Despite these achievements, challenges persisted, primarily due to funding constraints that limited the expansion of rehabilitation efforts. Economic volatility, power shortages, and logistical hurdles further hampered the timely implementation of planned interventions. Security conditions in certain regions also posed risks to service delivery and accessibility. Brain drains, coupled with data gaps and the inefficient use of national data systems, remain significant challenges.

1.1.2 Number of children (5-17 years, girls/boys) supported to enroll in formal general education



**The UNCT had limited access to Idleb during 2024. However, humanitarian assistance was provided with the support of donors.*



UNICEF SUPPORTS CONTINUED LEARNING FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Despite visual impairment, Yamama, 17, finds joy in learning French at a UNICEF-supported learning centre in Dar'a. "I want to study French literature and become a French teacher for children with visual impairments. I want to help them love the language like I do now," Yamama said. [Read the full story](#)



UNFPA DELIVERS NEW SHIPMENT OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SUPPLIES TO QAMISHLI CITY

A critical shipment of reproductive health supplies has arrived in Qamishli city, providing much-needed support for women and girls across northeastern Syria.

[Read More](#)

Moving forward, priorities will focus on further rehabilitating health infrastructure and expanding gender-sensitive and inclusive service delivery models. Strengthening institutional capacities, relying on renewable energy, and fostering community engagement will be key to ensuring sustainable improvements in basic services. Integrated evidence-based planning for future projects, including rehabilitation, along with expanded partnerships, will enhance resilience and service accessibility across the country.



UNRWA STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN SPELLING BEE COMPETITION

The UNRWA Education Programme hosted a Spelling Bee competition at the UNRWA Damascus Training Centre on 2 May 2024. Forty-two top spellers (grades 2 through 8) at UNRWA schools in Damascus participated, demonstrating their impressive vocabulary skills. [Watch More](#)



ILO CREATES DECENT WORK OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN ALEPPO

The ILO's infrastructure rehabilitation works in Aleppo have created jobs for 140 people, including skilled and low-skilled workers. The project involves debris removal, drainage maintenance, and sidewalk repair. [Watch More](#)

WFP out-of-school support programme



“We arrived to Aleppo four years ago, and we cannot afford our children’s education. I had to send my sons and daughters to work. When I heard about WFP’s back to school assistance programme supporting children’s education, we took them out of work and enrolled them in schools as education will secure their future. Through WFP’s assistance we were able to meet our basic needs. Unless we redeem the assistance voucher, my family do not have enough food”.

[Link to Tweet](#)



UN-Habitat rehabilitated the road in Shaikh Saad neighborhood in Aleppo, facilitating the mobility of the residents and enhanced their safety



UNICEF IS SUPPORTING SYRIAN YOUTH BY CREATING YOUTH-FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENTS AND OFFERING JOB TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Asma is one of many women who have benefited from UNICEF’s support. After completing entrepreneurship training, she received the resources to start her own home-based business and become financially independent.

[Watch More](#)

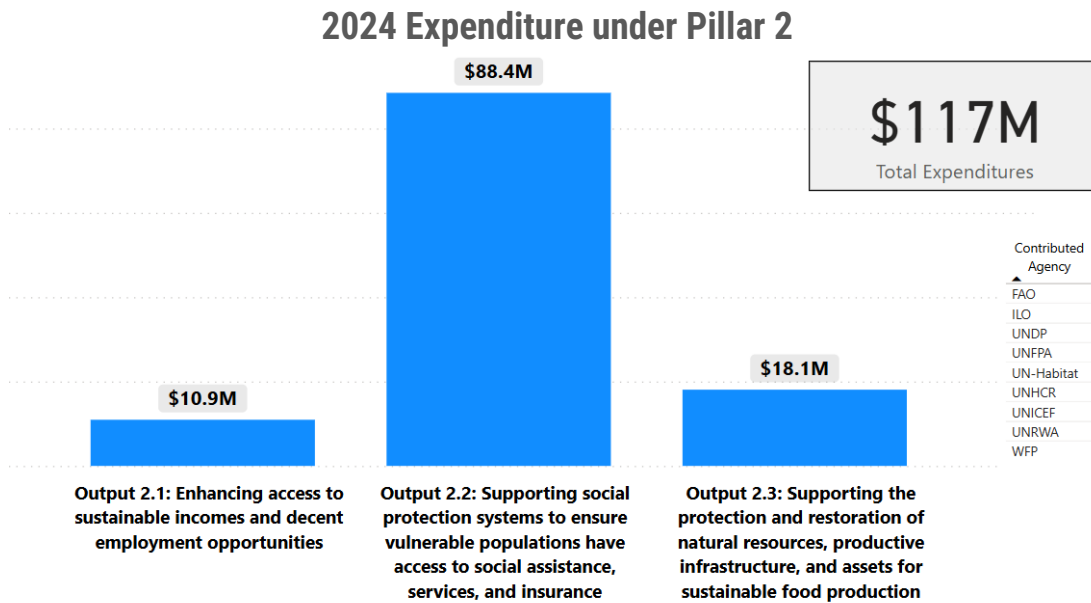


UNICEF rehabilitation project for the
water network serving Aleppo City
© UNICEF Video



Pillar 2: Sustainable Socio-Economic Recovery

This Pillar focuses on revitalizing economy and ensuring social protection. It aims to create sustainable employment opportunities, revitalize agriculture, enhance social protection systems, and restore natural resources and productive infrastructure for comprehensive food systems, resilience and recovery.



The UNCT advanced sustainable socio-economic recovery through targeted interventions that supported livelihoods, strengthened social protection systems, and promoted economic empowerment and restoration of food systems and increasing agriculture production. A national guideline for gender mainstreaming in livelihood initiatives was developed to ensure inclusivity in economic recovery efforts. Community-driven economic initiatives facilitated entrepreneurship and vocational training, equipping individuals with skills for sustainable employment. The UNCT also expanded cash-for-work initiatives, enabling vulnerable groups to access income-generating opportunities while contributing to local infrastructure rehabilitation. The UNCT managed to restore basic infrastructure such as irrigation systems. Mainstreaming of climate smart practices and capacity building are essential for the various UNCT interventions. Another major area is the generation of data for sustainable management of natural resources through various assessment conducted by the UNCT. Furthermore, cash transfer and case management programmes, coupled with integrating cash-plus interventions with child protection and education sectors, supported the most socially and economically vulnerable families, including children with disabilities, female-headed households, and orphans, strengthening social inclusion, protection, and access to essential services.

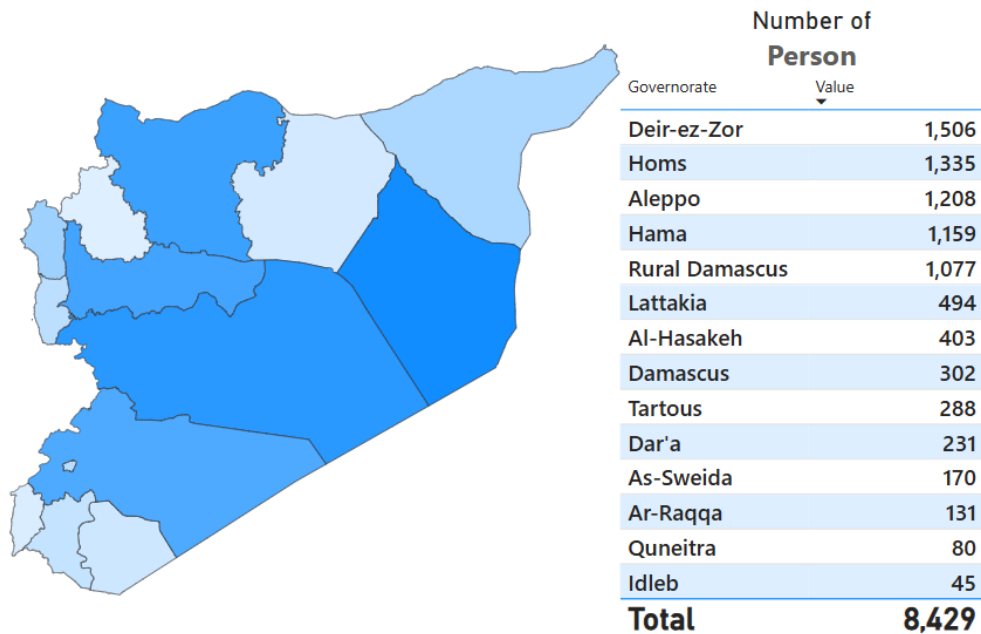


UNDP SUPPORTS VOCATIONAL TRAINING TO EMPOWER PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Jaafar, along with 84 other people with disabilities from Lattakia and Tartous, is overcoming challenges thanks to UNDP-supported project "I am Able" funded by Finland.

[Watch the video](#)

2.1.1 Number of people benefiting from income generating activities with UN support



*The UNCT had limited access to Idleb during 2024. However, humanitarian assistance was provided with the support of donors.



UNFPA'S GIRLS SHINE PROGRAMME IS EMPOWERING ADOLESCENT GIRLS IN NORTHEASTERN SYRIA

"My experience in the programme was amazing. I learned so much and made new friends." Suad, shared. Over three months, Suad and 30 other girls, along with 90 caregivers participated in the Girls Shine programme.

[Watch More](#)

Challenges in this pillar included inflation, funding limitations and shifting national priorities, particularly in the wake of emerging crises. The economic downturn further impacted the effectiveness of social protection systems, necessitating a recalibration of assistance strategies to maximize impact. Limited resources constrained the ability to scale up livelihood interventions, affecting the overall reach of recovery programmes.

Joint Efforts by WFP and FAO to Enhance Food Security in North-eastern Area

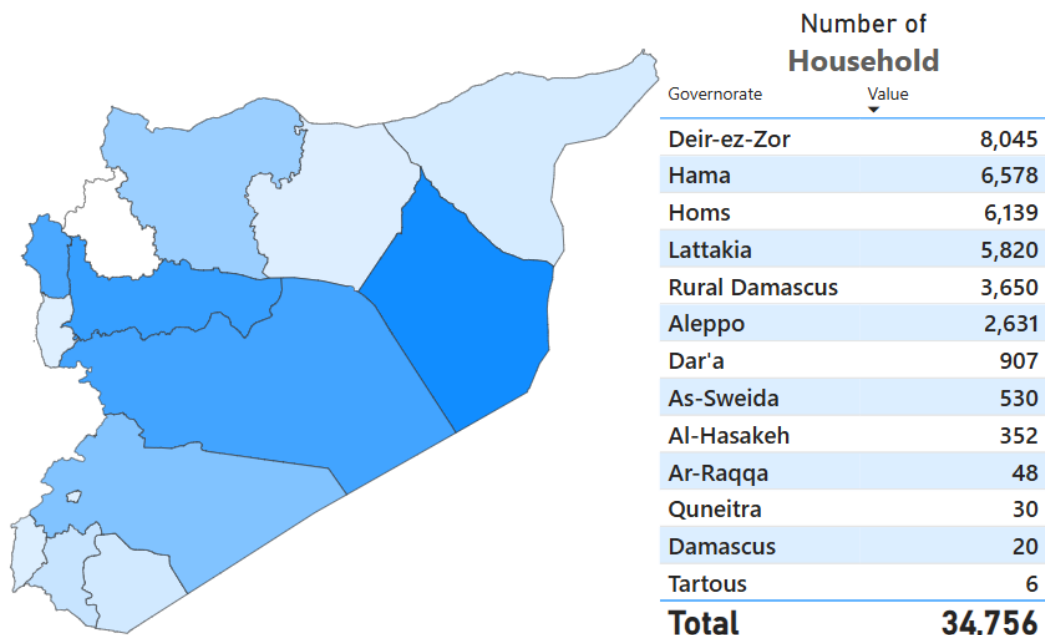
WFP and FAO have successfully rehabilitated and installed 28 pumping sets along the Al-Khabour River in the sub-districts of Areesha and Shaddadeh. This project aims to preserve natural resources, increase crop production, and enhance access to irrigation water for approximately 2,972 households, effectively irrigating a total of 1,751 hectares in Areesha and Shaddadeh sub-districts.

[See more](#)

WFP enhances access to fresh quality subsidised bread

As part of enhancing the bread value chain in Deir Ezzor, the World Food Programme (WFP) successfully rehabilitated Al-Tebni Bakery in September 2024. This facility will meet the bread needs of Al-Tebni village and five neighbouring villages (Al Bwetiye, Wesaa, Shiha, Jawasmeh, and Al Khan), providing fresh bread to 26,700 beneficiaries in the region.

2.3.2 Number of households targeted received agricultural inputs and trainings as % of planned by modality



*The UNCT had limited access to Idlib during 2024. However, humanitarian assistance was provided with the support of donors.



UNHCR OFFERS SEEDS TO FARMERS IN DEIR-EZ-ZOR HELPING THEM GENERATE A SUSTAINABLE INCOME

Returning to his home in Al-Quriyah, Deir-uz-Zor, after displacement, Ahmed - a father of five - found his once-productive land bone dry.

[Watch More](#)

To address these challenges, future priorities will focus on gender-responsive economic recovery plans, enhanced community-led initiatives, and integrating cash transfers with complementary services, along with community engagement to promote inclusion. Expanding vocational training and entrepreneurial support will be central to fostering economic resilience. Strengthening partnerships with local institutions and private sector actors will also be a priority to facilitate long-term employment opportunities and sustainable socio-economic growth.



UNICEF IS SUPPORTING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES IN SYRIA THROUGH INTEGRATED SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMME.

Khadija is a twelve-year-old girl with a severe intellectual disability, who suffered psychologically and was displaced repeatedly due to conflict. Regular UNICEF's cash support and case management services helped Khadija's integration in education and become a more confident and sociable girl.

[See More](#)



FAO's Climate-Smart Practices Boost Livelihoods and Resilience for Farmers

Small-scale farmers in Syria are enhancing their agricultural productivity by adopting climate-smart practices learned through FAO's Farmers Field Schools.

[See More](#)



UN-Habitat rehabilitated the Septic Tank in Al-Nashabieh in Rural Damascus



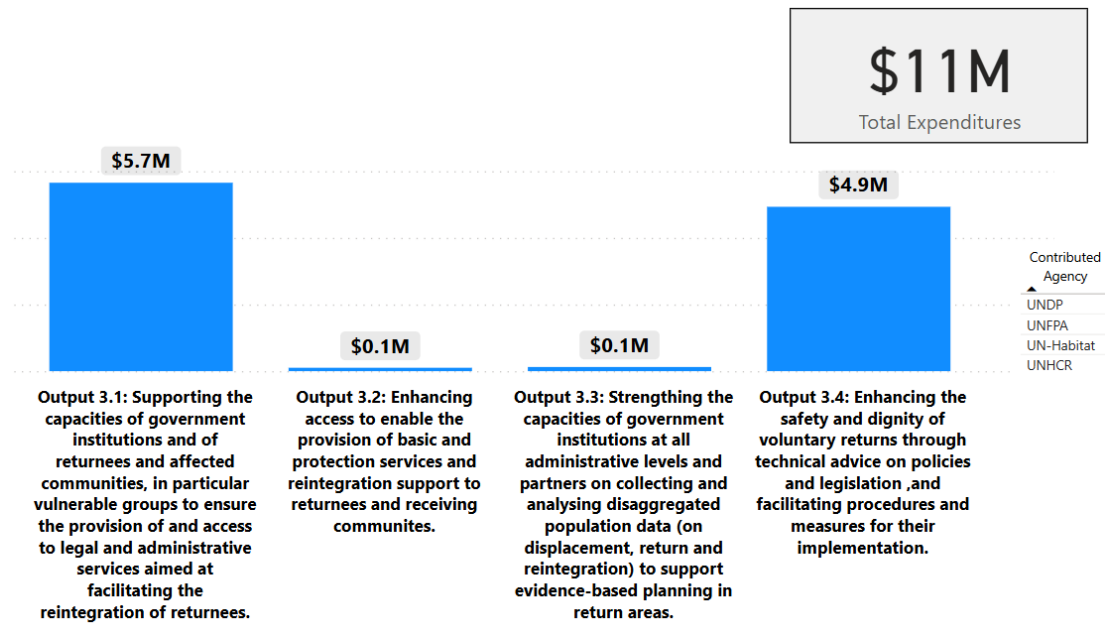
FAO AND THE ADAPTATION FUND ARE
TAKING CLIMATIC ACTIONS TO RESTORE
FRUIT TREES IN EASTERN GHOUTA © FAO



Pillar 3: Enabling environment for a resilient return

This pillar seeks to create a supportive framework for the safe and dignified return of displaced populations by strengthening institutional capacities and ensuring access to essential resources and information for effective reintegration into communities.

2024 Expenditure under Pillar 3



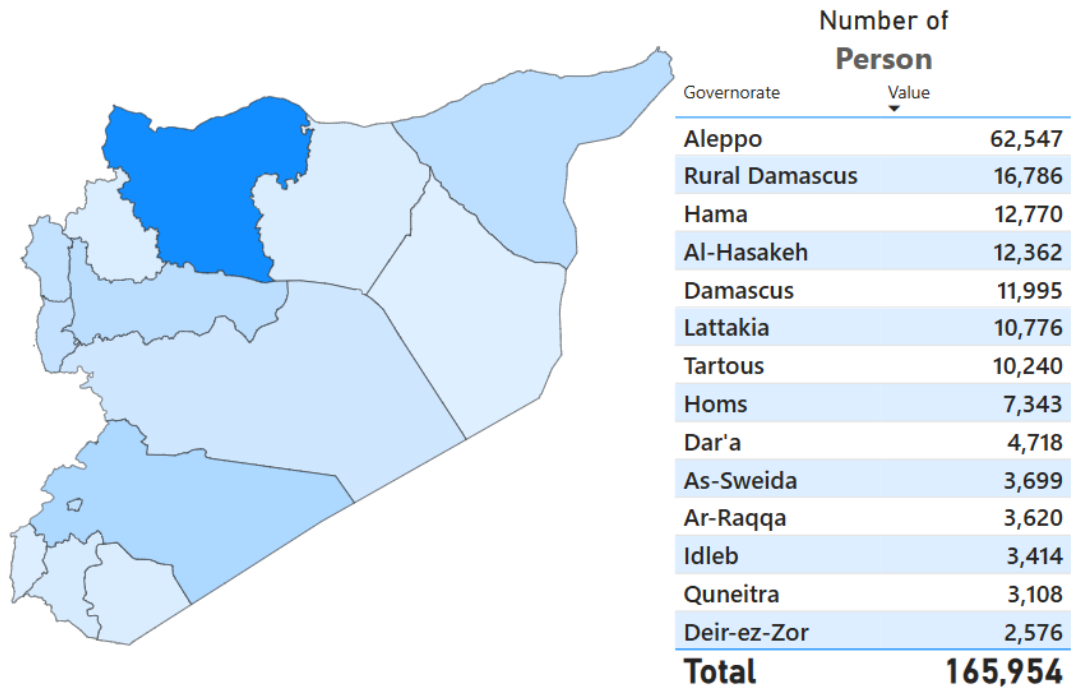
In 2024, the UNCT in Syria contributed to strengthening the enabling environment for displaced populations to return in safety and dignity. Coordination efforts supported reintegration planning, with legal and administrative assistance provided to returning populations. Capacity-building initiatives enhanced local institutions' ability to deliver essential services, including access to civil documentation and land tenure security. Community-level engagement facilitated trust-building, ensuring that returnees could reintegrate into their communities with improved access to social services and livelihood opportunities.

UNHCR SUPPORTS RETURNEES IN KAFR ZEITA NEAR HAMA WITH LIVELIHOOD INITIATIVES

Despite immense challenges, 350 displaced families in Kafr Zeita showed remarkable resilience. UNHCR and partners are supporting them with livelihood initiatives, but more support is urgently needed.

[Read More](#)

3.1.1 Number of people reached with legal assistance including civil documentation and HLP issues



**The UNCT had limited access to Idleb during 2024. However, humanitarian assistance was provided with the support of donors.*

However, challenges remained in fully implementing reintegration programmes. While the UNCT played an active role in advocacy and policy discussions, limited access to resources and fragmented institutional coordination hindered the scale-up of return assistance. Security concerns in some regions, coupled with infrastructure gaps, further constrained efforts to create conditions conducive to voluntary, safe, and dignified returns.

UNMAS HELD THE FIRST HUMANITARIAN EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL COURSE IN SYRIA

UNMAS has successfully delivered the first Humanitarian Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Course in Syria.

[Read More](#)

Looking ahead, the UNCT will focus on strengthening institutional frameworks for reintegration, prioritizing legal support and housing, land, and property (HLP) rights. Efforts will also be directed towards improving access to reliable data and evidence-based planning for return areas. Collaboration with national authorities and local stakeholders will be reinforced to enhance community acceptance and social cohesion.



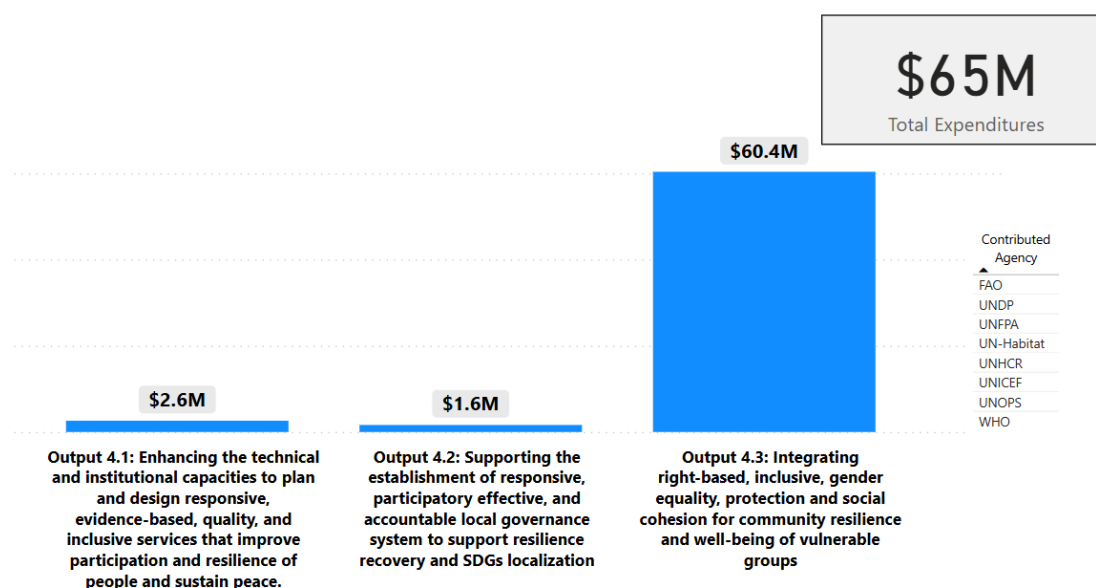
WFP STEPS UP TO ASSIST 1.4 MILLION
PEOPLE IN SYRIA WITH EMERGENCY FOOD
RELIEF © WFP



Pillar 4: People resilience and institutional responsiveness

This pillar aims to foster participatory governance, integrate comprehensive protections, and ensure the well-being and resilience of vulnerable populations. It also aims to build the capacities of institutions and communities to deliver inclusive, evidence-based, and quality services. It also aims at building the capacity of institutions to have climate smart, inclusive and efficient food systems and agriculture production.

2024 Expenditure under Pillar 4



In 2024, the UNCT reinforced resilience-building by strengthening participatory governance and enhancing institutional capacities for inclusive service delivery. Targeted initiatives improved the technical skills of local institutions, enabling them to respond more effectively to emerging challenges, particularly in sectors such as education, health, agriculture and food security, energy and water management. Child protection programmes, including gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, parenting, risk education, and mental health and psychosocial support services, were expanded to address the needs of vulnerable populations. Additionally, awareness campaigns and capacity-building programmes promoted inclusive governance and enhanced local decision-making processes. The UNCT provided support to the institutions through designing of strategic (food systems for example) and plans (investment plan for the recovery in agriculture).

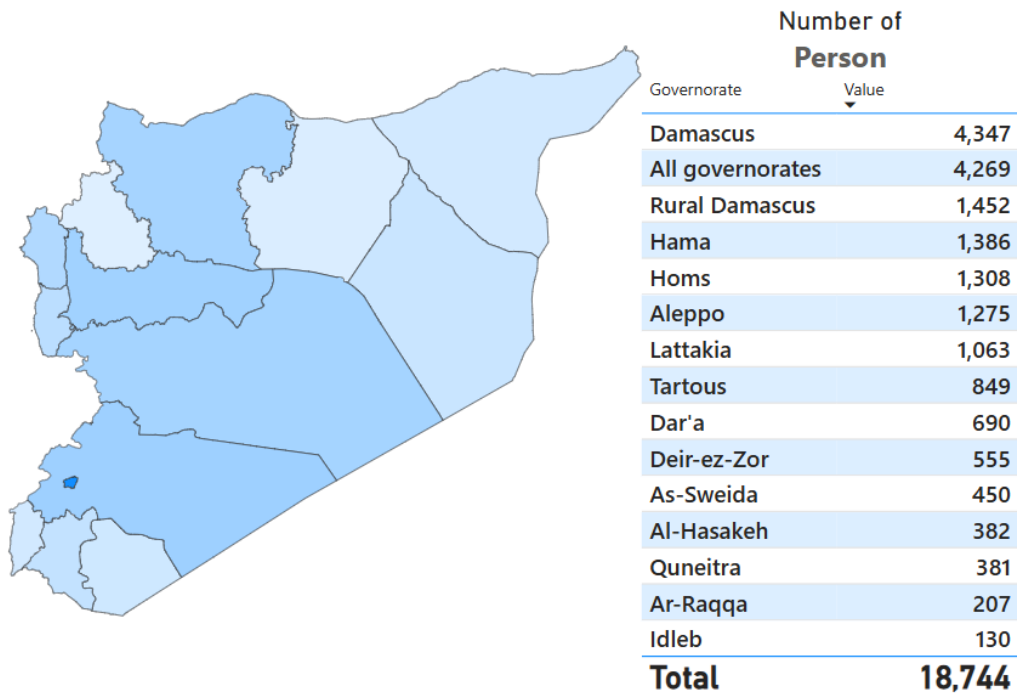
WHO PROVIDES CRUCIAL SUPPORT TO SYRIA'S NATIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM AS IT STRIVES TO ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

The WHO joined forces with the Ministry of Health (MoH) for a one-day workshop focused on rebuilding Syria's healthcare system.

[Read More](#)



4.1.1 Number of technical staff with enhanced capacities at national/sub-national level



Challenges in this pillar were primarily linked to security concerns and operational constraints. The ongoing instability in parts of the country posed risks to service accessibility, while economic conditions affected institutional capacity-building efforts. Limited funding also impacted the scalability of resilience-building programmes, restricting the reach of child protection mechanisms.



UNFPA'S PILOT PROJECT ON CHANGING HARMFUL SOCIAL NORMS

UNFPA successfully completed the initial testing phase of its innovative curriculum designed for community leaders.

[Read More](#)

Moving forward, the UNCT will prioritize strengthening the technical capacities of institutions to enhance informed service delivery and protection systems. Expanding locally driven resilience initiatives and integrating climate adaptation strategies will be key to sustaining progress. Greater emphasis will be placed on fostering inclusive governance structures and ensuring that social cohesion and social behaviour change remains central to resilience-building and advocacy efforts.



FAO and MAAR Discuss with Stakeholders Involved in the Olive Value Chain

FAO and Syria's Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform (MAAR) conducted a workshop with key stakeholders to address challenges and opportunities within the olive value chain.

[Read More](#)

2.3. Partnerships for resilience to leave no one behind

By March 2025, the Syria crisis has reached its 14th year—a prolonged conflict that has profoundly reversed the country’s development trajectory. The UN remains at the forefront of relief and recovery efforts, engaging a wide range of stakeholders to address immediate humanitarian needs while laying the groundwork for long-term development.

The political shift in Syria in December 2024 has had significant implications for the UN’s operations. The Caretaker Authorities have sought to build new partnerships, recognizing the UN as a strategic partner in implementing activities. The new landscape in Syria has also created opportunities to engage new partners who were previously absent. For instance, some non-resident UN agencies are now establishing a permanent presence in Damascus. National and international NGOs that were active only in certain parts of Syria are now extending their reach across the entire Syrian territory. The transition of the Whole-of-Syria (WoS) structure, expected to be completed by June 2025, will also allow for more efficient resource management under the unified leadership of the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Damascus.

In line with the principle of “Leave No One Behind”, the UN has continued to advocate with the caretaker authorities at national and governorate levels for the inclusion of Syrian women in the transition and beyond, and their appointment as leaders, experts, and advisors in processes and mechanisms related to the transition, as well as the inclusion of women-led civil society organizations.

As the UN prepares for Syria’s transitional phase, the UNSF 2022-2025 remains the principal planning framework until the finalization and endorsement of the new Transitional Action Plan, which will take immediate effect upon approval.

The UNSF 2022–2025 recognizes the need to forge and strengthen a wide range of partnerships at the local, regional, and international levels. Under its four pillars, several UN AFP formed various kinds of partnerships in the implementation of the UNSF:

Pillar 1: Availability and Access to Basic and Social Services

On International Day of Education (24 January), UNICEF reaffirms its commitment to ensuring every child’s right to education. After nearly 14 years of conflict in Syria, almost half of school-aged children are out of school, and a third of the country’s schools are in ruins, depriving children of both learning opportunities and a chance for a better future. Recognizing education as a fundamental human right and a pillar of a just society, UNICEF, alongside its partners, remains dedicated to restoring access to learning through formal and non-formal education services, including school rehabilitation, remedial classes, digital learning platforms, and accelerated education programmes.

 [Read more](#)

Pillar 2: Sustainable Socio-economic Recovery

With support from Japan, UNDP's "Path to Empowerment" project has helped 70 women in rural Quneitra achieve economic independence by providing access to finance, markets, and decent working conditions. One success story is Fatima Babat, who, after receiving training and seed funding, launched her own crochet business. Now, she aspires to empower other women by training girls and fostering a culture of entrepreneurship and self-reliance in her community.

 [Read more](#)

Pillar 3: Enabling Environment for a Resilient Return

Hamad, a 34-year-old farmer from Deir-ez-Zor, has rebuilt his life after years of displacement, returning to Al-Asharah city with his family, including his two sisters with disabilities. With UNHCR's agricultural support, he has successfully cultivated potatoes, okra, and tomatoes, achieving self-sufficiency. Farming remains a lifeline for many in Deir-ez-Zor, and UNHCR supports these communities by providing grants to restore livelihoods and promote self-reliance through agriculture.

 [Read more](#)

Pillar IV: People Resilience and Institutional Responsiveness

WHO has launched its 2024 Humanitarian Health Appeal to provide vital healthcare to over 87 million people worldwide, including nearly 15 million in Syria, as humanitarian needs escalate due to conflict, climate change, and economic instability. The appeal focuses on delivering life-saving medical supplies, maintaining essential health services, and ensuring access to healthcare in hard-to-reach areas. In Syria, priorities are outbreak prevention, healthcare access, and critical infrastructure improvements, strengthening the resilience of the health system in collaboration with local organizations.

 [Read more](#)

2.4. Results of the UN working more and better together: UN coherence, effectiveness and efficiency

Through joint efforts, participating UN entities are delivering early recovery and resilience programming that enhances basic social services, facilitates safe access to essential services, and creates livelihood opportunities. Moreover, the UN activities play a critical role in strengthening social cohesion and resolving local disputes by empowering local stakeholders and promoting accountable and inclusive decision-making.

The lessons learned from this joint programming model are instrumental in shaping future programming. By leveraging insights from joint planning and implementation, UN agencies can refine their approaches, enhance inter-agency coordination, and maximize the impact of future initiatives. This experience underscores the importance of sustained collaboration in driving long-term recovery and resilience in Syria.

On the operational side, in 2024, the United Nations in Syria has made significant strides in optimizing its business operations to improve efficiency and achieve cost savings. Through the implementation of a comprehensive Business Operations Strategy (BOS), in addition to the common premises, the United Nations has realized substantial efficiency gains across various operations departments.

Common Premises:

One of the key initiatives undertaken by the UN was the consolidation of office spaces and the establishment of common premises (UN HUBs) for multiple agencies and entities operating in the same geographic area. By co-locating offices and sharing facilities, the UN has reduced overhead costs associated with leasing, utilities, maintenance, and security measures.

Business Operations Strategy (BOS):

Another significant initiative has been the implementation of shared services across different functional areas, such as procurement, human resources, administration, and ICT. By centralizing certain administrative functions and standardizing processes, the United Nations has streamlined operations and reduced administrative overhead.

As a result of these efforts, the UN achieved an estimated annual cost savings of US\$ 1 million, while also improving efficiency and compliance with policies.

2.5. Evaluations and Lessons Learned

In 2024, the UNCT in Syria conducted a rapid assessment of the UNSF³. It aimed to enhance accountability to stakeholders and foster learning by analyzing the framework's implementation and providing actionable recommendations for future planning. It evaluated the impact of UNSF programming from 2022 to 2025, assessing the UNCT's performance and identifying enablers and bottlenecks.

The rapid assessment focused on UNSF's Relevance to population needs, Effectiveness in achieving outcomes, Efficiency in resource use, Sustainability of benefits, and Coordination within the UN system and with external partners, Coherence with other relevant frameworks and adherence to UN Programming Principles such as Leave No One Behind. It identified the following recommendations:

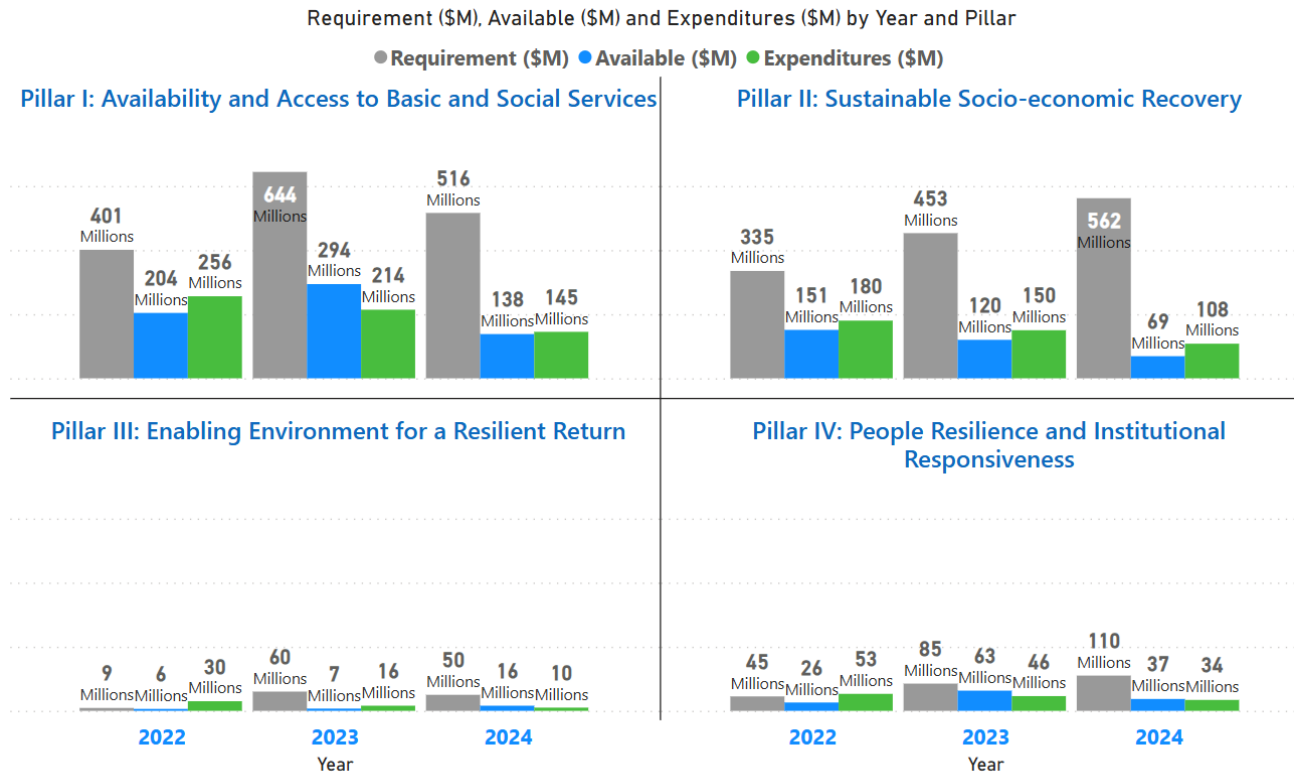
1. **Enhance sustainability and community resilience** through community engagement and accountability; capacity-building and sustainability; and environmental sustainability.
2. **Mainstreaming of leave no one behind (LNOB), gender equity and human rights** by integrating core principles; enhancing coordination and coverage; strengthening capacity and data usage; and strengthening institutional processes and advocacy.
3. **Strengthen engagement with NGO, private sector, academia and Syrian diaspora** through stakeholder mapping and analysis; strengthening NGO partnerships; enhancing operational and financial support; and private sector engagement.
4. **Increase national ownership, political and operational space** through unified advocacy; collaboration with national authorities; advocacy for resilience and sustainability; and inclusive planning and data collection.
5. **Enhance joint programming and minimize duplication to maximize impact and facilitate transition from humanitarian aid to resilience** through strategic visioning and transition; joint programming and proposals; efficient implementation; knowledge management and collaboration; context-responsive programming; and ensuring operational efficiency.
6. **Strengthen resource mobilization and advocacy for early recovery and resilience building, while maintaining crucial humanitarian response** by securing flexible funding; demonstrating UN added value; building trust and managing risks; expanding resource mobilization; enhancing joint programming; ensuring strategic advocacy; using innovative communication; and resourcing communications.
7. **Strengthen strategic positioning of the UNCT in the next UNSF with a focus on sector integration and medium-term resilience** through the planning of the next Strategic Framework; sectoral focus and economic recovery; inclusive programming and reporting; risk management and data collection; legal reforms and addressing operational challenges; and risk-informed and resilient programming.

³ <https://syria.un.org/en/286923-rapid-assessment-report-united-nationhealth-centers-strategic-framework-syria-2022-2025>

2.6. Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization

2.6.1. Financial Overview

Required and Expenditures Figures for 2022-2024



The chart illustrates the financial requirements, available funds, and expenditures across the four pillars of the UNSF from 2022 to 2024. It highlights significant funding gaps, particularly in basic services (Pillar I) and socio-economic recovery (Pillar II), where needs have grown while available resources remain insufficient. Resilient return (Pillar III) consistently received the least funding.

Key Insights:

- **Funding Gaps:** Required funding far exceeds available resources across all pillars, with Pillar I and II facing the largest shortfalls.
- **Utilization Efficiency:** Expenditures closely match available funds, demonstrating effective use of resources despite limited allocations.
- **Strategic Focus:** Increased resource mobilization is needed for Pillar III (Resilient Return) and Pillar I (Basic Services) to meet urgent needs.
- Strengthening donor engagement and flexible funding mechanisms are critical to bridging these gaps and sustaining recovery efforts in Syria.

2.6.2. Resource mobilization

In 2024, the UNCT developed the **Resources Mobilization and Partnerships Strategy (RMPS)** to jointly mobilize resources for the implementation of the last mile of the 2022-2025 UNSF. The RMPS outlines the catalytic role of the UNCT in leveraging SDG financing, while recognizing the unique challenges in Syria's financial landscape. Given the previous limitations imposed by sanctions and donor restrictions, the UNCT has primarily focused on mobilizing resources to sustain critical humanitarian interventions.

However, as the political and economic context evolves especially after 8 December 2024, the UNCT will work toward integrating new sources into the future resource mobilization strategies. This includes addressing barriers to development financing, identifying new funding sources—including regional and thematic funds—and matching the use of existing resources to support national priorities.

The forthcoming **Transitional Action Plan (TAP)** will present an opportunity to reassess the financial engagement framework and ensure a gradual transition toward long term financing sources in alignment with Syria's recovery and long-term development needs.

During the reporting period, the UN Joint Programme to Build Urban and Rural Resilience and the Conditions for Recovery in Syria (JP 2.0) commenced in January 2024 for a duration of 36 months. The programme, which will be implemented in Eastern Aleppo, has managed to mobilise a total of approximately USD 18 million from Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland and Italy.

In continuation to support the earthquake response, the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) through UNFPA (management entity) rapidly channelled funding to pre-identified CSOs to address the needs of women and girls. The initiative focused on two priority areas: 1) enhancing women's participation and leadership in humanitarian response; and 2) strengthening protection mechanisms, including safety, security, mental health, and gender-based violence prevention.

Through this emergency funding, CSOs are empowered to provide direct support, integrate a gender perspective into crisis response, and promote women's leadership in humanitarian planning and decision-making. For this purpose, USD 684,263 were allocated and disbursed. Additional USD 541,683 were also disbursed as top up to the CSOs funded through allocations of 2023 of emergency earthquake response.

Chapter 3: UNCT key focus for next year

Following the events of 8 December 2024, Syria stands at a pivotal moment that presents both challenges and opportunities for sustainable peace, justice, and development. In response, the UNCT in Syria has prioritized the development of a Transitional Action Plan (TAP) under exceptional circumstances, designed to align UN support with national priorities while complementing the efforts of the Office of the Special Envoy in facilitating an inclusive and credible transition. The TAP builds on the Early Recovery Strategy, integrating humanitarian response with longer-term resilience efforts. The UNCT's engagement is structured around three key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): ending poverty (SDG 1), reducing inequality (SDG 10), and fostering peace, justice, and strong institutions (SDG 16). To comprehensively address Syria's transition, the plan identifies 12 thematic areas, including financial sector reform, socio-economic development, refugee and IDPs return, security sector reform, constitutional reform, transitional justice, and media reform. Once endorsed, the TAP is expected to replace the UN Strategic Framework and will be valid until the end of 2026, with the possibility of further extension based on evolving needs. It will provide a structured approach for the UN's advocacy, policy, and programmatic efforts at outcomes level. Coordination with national and local counterparts will ensure a demand-driven, nationally aligned approach that bridges humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding efforts, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC).

A central pillar of the UNCT's approach is localization and inclusion, ensuring that Syria's transition is Syrian-led and Syrian-owned, with broad participation from national and local institutions, civil society, and marginalized groups, especially women. The TAP emphasizes a human-rights based, conflict sensitive, and environmentally sustainable approach, prioritizing gender equality, social protection, economic recovery, and access to justice and social services for all. The Leave No One Behind principle remains at the core of all interventions, ensuring that vulnerable populations – including women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, and displaced communities – are actively included in decision-making processes. Through this structured framework, the UNCT is poised to provide agile and responsive support, balancing immediate recovery with long-term peace and development, while ensuring coherence across humanitarian, development, and political efforts. The coming year will focus on operationalizing the TAP, strengthening national capacities, and fostering inclusive governance structures, laying the foundation for a stable, just, and sustainable future for Syria.



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