



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

United Nations Development Programme in Syria

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CBO	Community-Based Organization	INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
CPD	Country Programme Document	MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture	NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
ER&L	Early Recovery & Livelihoods	PSS	Psycho-Social Support
FBO	Faith-Based Organization	PWDs	Persons with Disabilities
GBV	Gender-based Violence	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan	SHF	Syria Humanitarian Fund
IDP	Internally Displaced Person	T4A	Training for All
IMRP	Internal Monitoring & Reporting Platform	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

FOR A BETTER FUTURE FOR SYRIANS: FOREWORD



UNDP Syria Resident Representative a.i. visits Al-Ameryah school in Aleppo that was rehabilitated by UNDP, where more than 1700 pupils were able to resume their education ©UNDP-Syria

Syrian people have been through very difficult times in the last eight years. UNDP tried to be with them under all circumstances. In 2018, as the security situation was relatively improving, UNDP assumed a bigger role in supporting Syrians to build a better future.

In 2018, UNDP's interventions covered several geographic and thematic areas. Early recovery and resilience-supporting interventions were carried out in newly accessible areas such as East Ghouta in Rural Damascus, Deir Ez-zor, Al-Raqqa and Dar'a, where UNDP supported the livelihoods of affected people by improving

their access to basic services and providing them with emergency jobs and started stabilizing the livelihoods of people.

In other geographical areas, UNDP continued its resilience programme under the three main thematic areas of focus of the Syria Country Office: Restoration of Access to Essential Services and Infrastructure; Livelihoods and Economic Recovery, and Fostering Social Cohesion. Thematically, UNDP expanded its strategic focus into areas such as Climate Smart Agricultural Livelihood for Rural Resilience, Disability and Social Protection, and more geographic coverage in Context Analysis and Local Governance through Community Engagement to support the Humanitarian-Development nexus while addressing location-specific needs of Syrians.

Also, UNDP- Syria, targeted women in its resilience building interventions where gender perspective was mainstreamed in all its interventions.

I would like also to reiterate the importance of SDGs. I believe that even in crisis countries, including Syria, SDGs are still relevant where poverty should be eradicated, education improved, clean water made available and health services supported. Until we reach 2030, we need to work to achieve the SDGs that will go in parallel with our emergency response, early recovery and resilience programme wherever relevant and possible.

In 2018 UNDP was committed to providing support to Syrians to be more self-reliant and resilient to crisis. We will continue our commitment beyond 2018 to make sure that vulnerable Syrians are enabled to have better access to basic services, employability and to livelihoods. We need to work together to help people to adapt and recover while building a better future, where there is a place for everyone.

David Akopyan

Resident Representative a.i.

United Nations Development Programme In Syria



HUMANITARIAN NEEDS IN 2018¹



Charity kitchen for East Ghouta IDPs supported by UNDP, Rural Damascus ©UNDP- Syria

PEOPLE IN NEED OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE



¹ Humanitarians Needs Overview - Syria - 2018

9.8M

PEOPLE IN NEED OF LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT



6.1M

PEOPLE INTERNALLY DISPLACED

10.5M

PEOPLE WITH LIMITED/NO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



12.8M

PEOPLE WITH LIMITED/NO ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY



2.9M

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

69%

OF POPULATION LIVING IN EXTREME POVERTY



UNDP'S RESILIENCE PROGRAMME IN SYRIA IN 2018



The main objective of the programme was to enhance the self-reliance of Syrians to regain control over their basic needs such as housing, livelihoods and access to essential services. To this end, UNDP implemented diversified interventions in geographical locations chosen based on several UNDP criteria including the severity of armed conflict impact, the capacity for labour absorption and creation, as well as presence of local partners to support implementation.

To achieve optimal results of each intervention, UNDP adopted a local participatory mechanism for identification of beneficiaries and implementation of projects. Local committees were established consisting of local partners, UNDP

staff, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), Community-Based Organisations (CBOs), Faith-Based Organisations (FBOs), as well as beneficiaries and representatives from the host communities to ensure that the voices of all stakeholders are heard. These committees played a quality assurance role for the implemented initiatives, ensured the engagement of all concerned parties in the selection of beneficiaries, and monitored the implementation and delivery of results. UNDP field teams implemented projects in targeted geographical areas supported by a core technical team operating from UNDP Damascus Country Office.

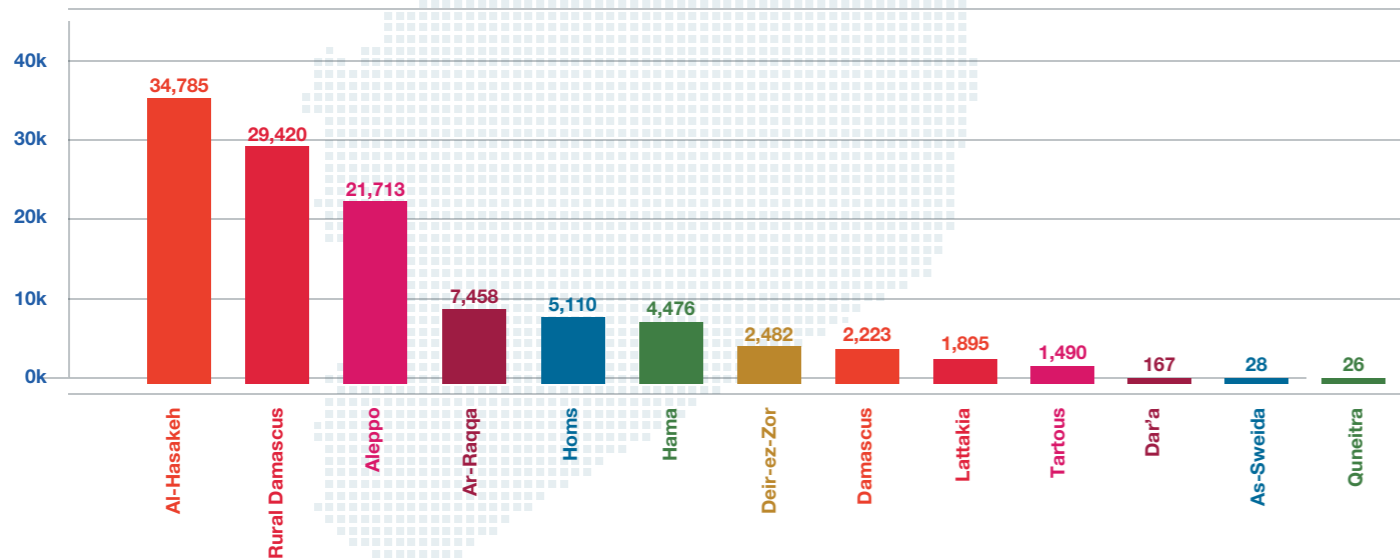
The UNDP-Syria Resilience Programme focused on the following major areas of support:

- ▶ Socioeconomic recovery, including restoring and reviving business and supporting income generation, with a special focus on vulnerable groups of women and persons with disabilities.
- ▶ Improving basic service delivery to affected communities, through water, sewage and electricity network rehabilitation at the local level, solid waste and debris management, renewable energy support, in addition to provision of electricity across lines of control.
- ▶ Enhancing social cohesion among Syrians through supporting youth-led and community-led initiatives to engage people in the community and inter-communal activities
- ▶ Strengthening the capacities of local partners including NGOs, FBOs and CSOs, empowering them to better implement UNDP's interventions on the ground.



In 2018, UNDP's interventions reached more than 2,877,555 crisis-affected persons as total beneficiaries who received improved basic services and contributed to directly support the livelihoods of more than 111,273 Syrians, both IDPs and host community members, through jobs creation, productive assets distribution and vocational training.

Direct Beneficiaries



Total Direct Beneficiaries

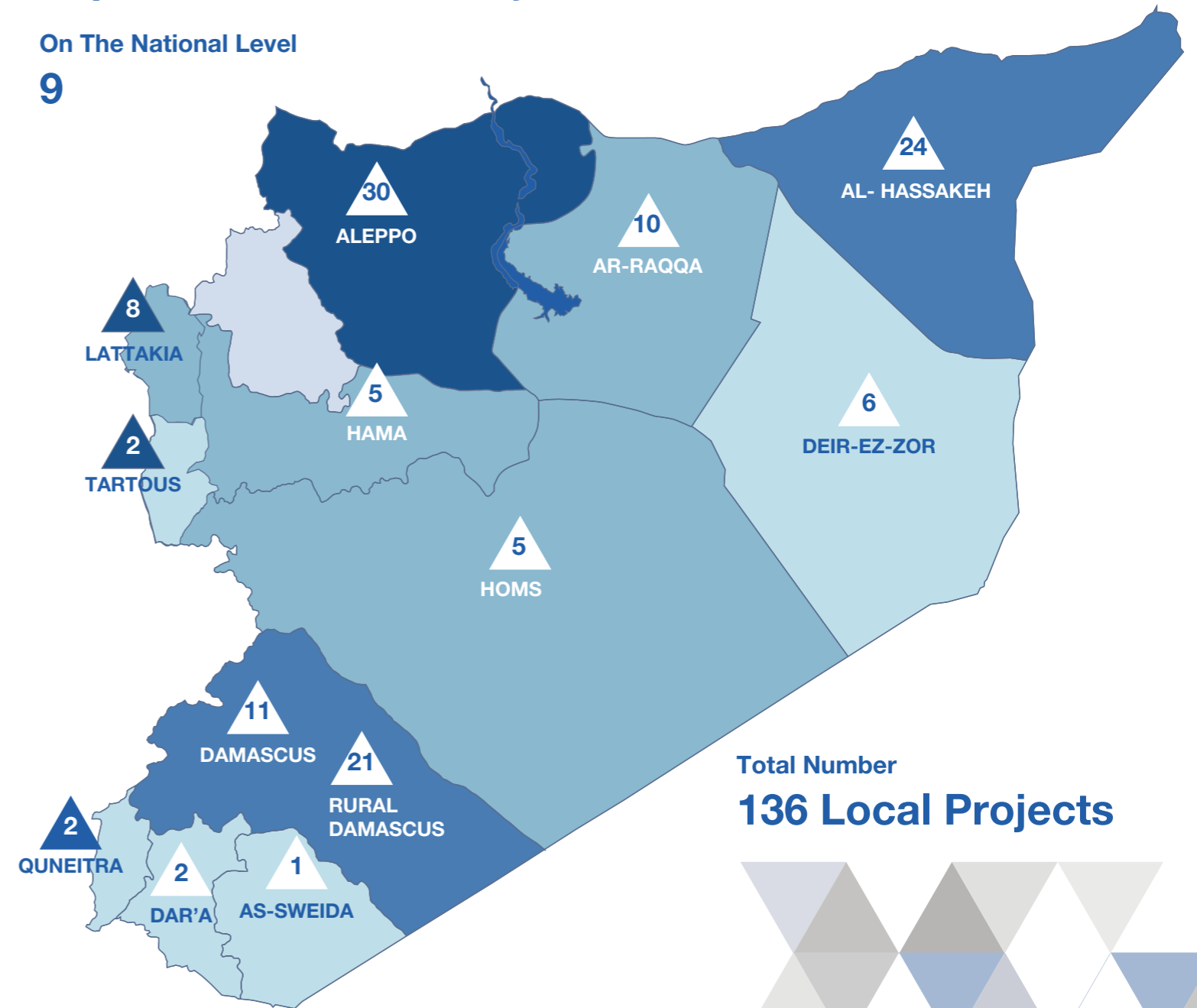
111,273



Implemented Local Projects

On The National Level

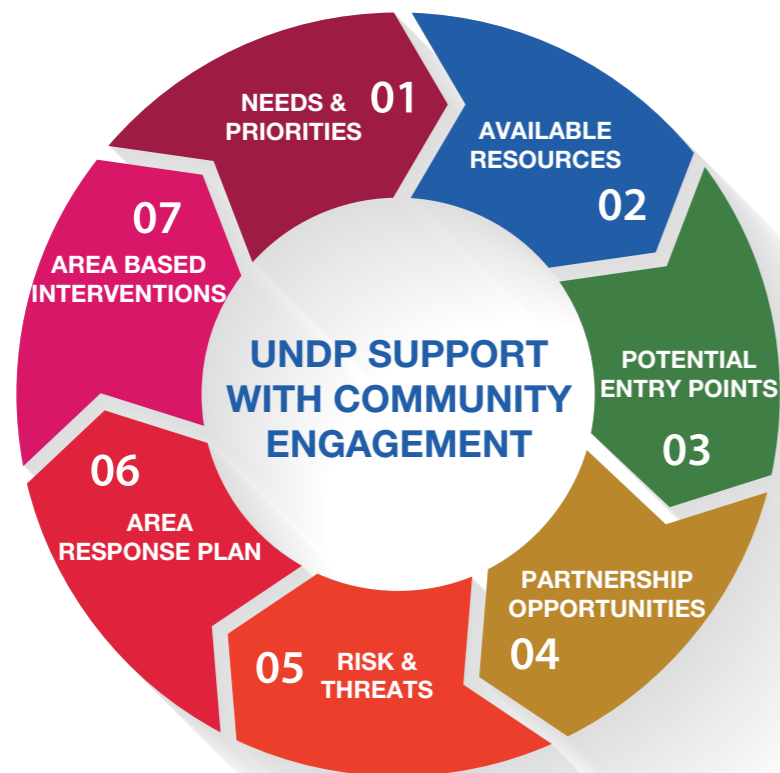
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UNDP implemented 136 local projects in 13 governorates namely, Aleppo, Al-Hassakeh, Ar-Raqqa, As-Sweida, Damascus, Dar'a, Deir-Ez-Zor, Hama, Homs, Quneitra, Lattakia, Rural Damascus, and Tartous. This was achieved in partnership with 30 local partners including NGOs, CBOs and FBOs.



Area-Based Approach



The area-based approach allows UNDP to target specific geographical areas, each of which is characterized by needs unique to its context and situation, through an integrated, participatory and flexible approach. This has proven very efficient in capturing real needs in communities and identifying the most appropriate implementation modality to promote inclusiveness, ownership and sustainability. In parallel to UNDP’s work under the umbrella of the Strategic Framework and the Humanitarian Response Plan which guide UNDP’s strategic objectives at the national level, UNDP adopts the area-based approach to address the needs of local communities.

For several years now, UNDP has been implementing the area-based approach for better engagement of different local partners and social groups at every step of the programming process, from planning to implementing and monitoring ‘their own community’ activities. This approach creates a sense of unity in affected communities and ensures constructive feedback from stakeholders and beneficiaries. Moreover, the area-based approach ensures a timely response to sudden shifts in priorities within governorates, which is a critical tool to have in a highly fluid context like Syria.

Using tailored tools such as the area-based approach enables UNDP to support the livelihoods of Syrian people by improving their access to basic services and reviving markets, advocating for local production and promote local employment schemes with increased engagement from local actors and stakeholders in communities.



UNDP'S RESPONSE IN 2018



2,877,555

PEOPLE REACHED

2.8M

PERSONS BENEFITED FROM IMPROVED BASIC SERVICE DELIVERY

27,572

PERSONS BENEFITED FROM TRAINING, EMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESS SUPPORT

18,277

PERSONS BENEFITED FROM YOUTH AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES' COLLABORATION ON SOCIAL COHESION ACTIVITIES

3,694

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES RECEIVED COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES

309

SYRIAN NGOS BENEFITED FROM CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT



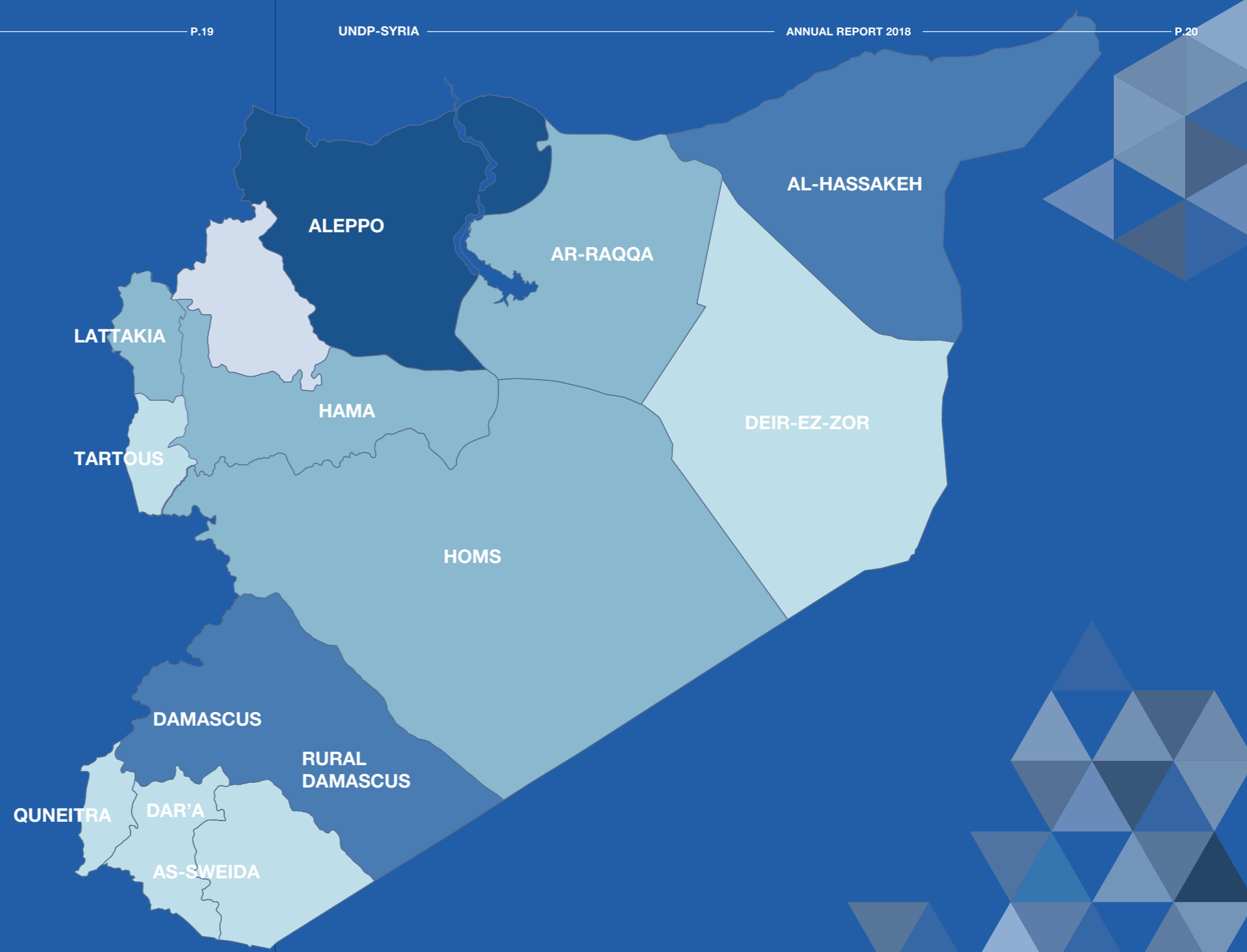
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TOTAL BENEFICIARIES REACHED

GOVERNORATE TOTAL

Aleppo	1,236,902
Al-Hasakeh	621,160
Rural Damascus	474,902
Lattakia	171,631
Homs	139,760
Hama	124,326
Ar-Raqqa	112,458
Deir-ez-Zor	2,482
Damascus	2,223
Tartous	1,490
Dar'a	167
As-Sweida	28
Quneitra	26



TOTAL

2,887,555

UNDP'S RESPONSE TO EAST GHOUTA'S EMERGENCY IN RURAL DAMASCUS GOVERNORATE

In April and May 2018, as a consequence of violent clashes, hundreds of thousands of people fled their homes, resulting in some of the highest levels of sudden displacement witnessed since the beginning of the Syria crisis where more than 158,000 people fled East Ghouta escaping from the hostilities that were taking place there and part of these IDPs took refuge in collective shelters in Rural Damascus Governorate.

Being prepared for emergency response, UNDP-Syria started immediately to respond to the dire needs of people hosted in the shelters. UNDP, among few other humanitarian partners, has prioritized its response to support the livelihoods of IDPs by providing emergency jobs and enhancing the basic services delivery in the shelters. To this end, UNDP carried out solid waste management works which provided emergency jobs to more than 749 IDPs and removed more than 6 tons of solid waste from 7 shelters namely: Al-Herjalleh, Najha centre, Al Fayhaa, Adra Electricity Institute & Adra Schools Compound, Al-Dweir and Akram Abu Al-Nasser Centre.



UNDP contributed to improving the living conditions of IDPs in shelters by removing solid waste, distributing garbage bins and providing emergency jobs to IDPs.



UNDP distributed barber tool kits to IDPs from East Ghouta who used to work as barbers. Beneficiaries started working as barbers in the shelters to improve personal hygiene among IDPs temporarily living there and generate an income to meet the needs of their families.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LIVELIHOODS



Food Processing workshop supported by UNDP in Aleppo city ©UNDP- Syria



2018 witnessed transformative shifts in UNDP’s approach to the provision of sustainable livelihoods solutions, which built upon various needs and market assessments conducted in the country. On the one hand, new and innovative approaches have been introduced in Syria to enhance sustainability and quality impact.

On the other hand, UNDP’s reach has expanded to newly accessible areas in dire need of support, such as East Ghouta, Dar’a, As-Sweida, Quneitra, Deir-Ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa, where UNDP has supported stabilization of livelihoods through the distribution of productive assets and enhanced the capacities of beneficiaries to ensure the sustainability of market access.

In this context, UNDP responded to the emerging needs under the following thematic areas:

SUPPORTING RURAL RECOVERY

With the understanding that the agriculture sector was previously a cornerstone of the Syrian economy that generated income for over 60% of the population, especially in rural areas, UNDP initiated a sustainable and climate-smart agricultural and livestock practice as a strategic focus to revive the sector. More than 2,186 farmers regained sustainable livelihoods through the distribution of critical productive assets, such as poultry, feedstuff and beehives in highly vulnerable and newly accessible areas in Al-Hassakeh, Ar-Raqqa and Dar’a governorates, and in East Ghouta, Rural Damascus governorate.



Farming inputs distribution to crisis-affected farmers in Ar-Raqqa Governorate ©UNDP- Syria



UNDP distributes poultry to revive the livelihoods of people in East Ghouta, Rural Damascus
©UNDP- Syria

Another innovative approach piloted in 2018 by UNDP was phased-based interventions, which started with the revival of the damaged orchards in Zabadani area in Rural Damascus, previously a major producer of fruits, through the distribution of 700 fruit tree seedlings. Upon measuring a tangible impact, this was followed by various long-term rural recovery support initiatives, such as reviving beekeeping and honey production which targeted rural areas in Hama, Al-Hassakeh, and Rural Damascus governorates.



Women plant seedlings received from UNDP in Al-Zabadani area, Rural Damascus Governorate
©UNDP- Syria

HONEY PRODUCTION VALUE CHAIN

To enhance the sustainability of livelihoods, UNDP studied the entire value chain of honey production to ensure that beneficiaries of the program could become self-reliant. This meant supporting the entire process, from beehives production, beekeeping and honey production, extending to packaging and marketing of the final product.



PHASE 1

UNDP implemented beekeeping projects in Al-Hassakeh, Hama and Rural Damascus governorates which provided 45 emergency jobs for manufacturing beehives.



PHASE 2

Under the same project, 103 farmers received vocational skills training in beekeeping.



PHASE 3

220 beneficiaries received farming inputs to support their income generating activities to ensure long-term jobs.

CLIMATE- SMART AGRICULTURE

The climate-smart agriculture approach aims to sustainably increase agricultural outputs and enhance the resilience of crisis-affected farmers towards achieving increased food security for their families and communities. In this context, and within its strategy for early recovery and support of rural livelihoods, UNDP organized a training of trainers to introducing the concept of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA), an approach for developing agricultural strategies to secure sustainable food security adapted to climate change, at strategy and decision-making levels. The aim was to start a policy dialogue on the adoption of this approach, which is projected to support the creation of sustainable agriculture-based livelihoods and will also open new windows for social-economic recovery and capacity development.



Climate-smart agriculture training workshop in Damascus © UNDP-Syria

ACTIVE LABOUR MARKET AND MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

In 2018, UNDP started shifting from short-term to longer-term interventions with strong linkage to market dynamics, also within a specific first-emergency response. In the case of Eastern Ghouta, UNDP provided quick vocational and skills training to 149 crisis-affected persons to learn glass installation, electrical wiring, plumbing, hairdressing, sewing and mobile phone maintenance. The training culminated in toolkit distribution which enabled trainees to start their own income-generating activities and stabilize their livelihoods.



*IDPs from East Ghouta receive vocational training, Rural Damascus Governorate
©UNDP- Syria*

Such careful designing of interventions linked to markets has resulted in unique and impactful outcomes, and specifically in Aleppo, which has been a historical economic and commercial hub of Syria and the region as a whole for thousands of years. UNDP supported 127 affected small workshops in AL-Kallaseh industrial area in Eastern Aleppo with productive assets to kick-start their economic activities. Most of these are now run by returnees and cover different activities including aluminium windows and doors installation; sewing, small textile workshops and carpentry.



*Small textile workshops supported by UNDP in East Aleppo
©UNDP- Syria*

Another unique initiative was implemented in Aleppo to support copper and textile artisans in the old city through digital channels. UNDP entered into an agreement with the International Trade Centre (ITC) to support artisanal copper craft in Old Aleppo. More than 10 women received vocational training in embroidery where long expertise and knowledge were shared to preserve these crafts and safeguard their legacy. Moreover, 16 copper-artisans were supported with advanced training in design and branding to support their abilities to promote their products in international markets. To pass down this traditional craft to the young generation, the copper artisans also trained 32 young men.



*Copper artisan workshops supported by UNDP with advanced training in Old Aleppo to enable them to export their products
©UNDP- Syria*

Looking at the market dynamics, UNDP took a systematic approach to labour market interventions for employment creation. To revive local markets, this approach incorporated vocational and skills training, coupled with employment services and entrepreneurship development targeting youth.

In the north-eastern region, UNDP supported the establishment of micro businesses in Al-Shaddai, Al-Hole, Ras Al-Ain, and Al-Hassakeh city through the provision of business management training and seed funding to promising entrepreneurs who were then able to successfully start their own ventures.

The successful pilot project was replicated in other areas such as Mara'aba in Rural Damascus, where UNDP conducted a market-driven vocational training based on a local market assessment at the area level. More than 149 persons, both IDPs and members of the host community, benefited from the conducted training in mobile phone and computer maintenance, plumbing, electrical wiring, blacksmithing, installation of aluminium windows and doors, hairdressing and sewing. The trainees were then provided with start-up kits to enable them to start their own income generating activities.



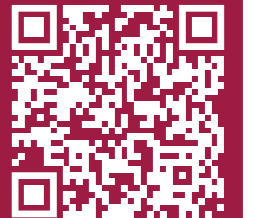
*Vocational training in sewing in Ma'araba, Rural Damascus Governorate
©UNDP- Syria*

UNDP pays special attention to the most vulnerable women in its livelihoods support programmes; UNDP sponsored the establishment of a safe house in Lattakia in partnership with UNHCR to support Gender-Based Violence survivors, who will be empowered to achieve self-reliance through vocational training in sewing and soft skills.

SUSTAINABLE EMPLOYMENT CREATION IN AL-HASSAKEH GOVERNORATE

To bridge the critical gap of quality and sustainability in vocational and skills training provision and employment services, UNDP piloted a demand-driven vocational and skills training in Al-Hassakeh Governorate. More than 150 people received vocational training in plumbing, blacksmithing, electrical wiring, carpentry etc. The provision of vocational and skills training was planned as part of a complete cycle. This incorporated several critical components, namely soft skills and career guidance services, as well as job matching with the local private sector demanding skilled and semi-skilled labour. This culminated with on-the-job-training to maximize the impact of the received vocational training.

This comprehensive approach has proven to be successful in creating sustainable and quality jobs and UNDP is committed to pursuing further outreach.



*Vocational training in Al-Hassakeh Governorate
©UNDP- Syria*

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDs) SUPPORT

3,694

PWDS TARGETED THROUGH UNDP'S INTERVENTIONS

1,802

MOBILITY AIDS DISTRIBUTED TO PWDS

In 2018, UNDP further enhanced the complementarity of its approach to disability topics through integrating novel areas of work, specifically psychosocial support, increasing accessibility and breaking attitudinal barriers. UNDP holistically addressed disability needs to enhance the eco-system surrounding PWDs.



A person with disability receives a job opportunity in a workshop supported by UNDP in Rural Damascus Governorate ©UNDP- Syria

Building on UNDP's experience and success in establishing and supporting prosthetic services in Syria, two new prosthetic workshops were established in Al-Qamishli city, Al-Hassakeh Governorate and in Aleppo; while also reinforcing the capacity of previously established workshops in Damascus and Tartous. The workshops served as hubs to provide PWDs support services to other adjacent locations. For example, Al-Qamishli workshop now provides prosthetic services to people from neighbouring Deir-Ez-Zor.



A beneficiary receives a lower limb prosthetic in a prosthetics workshop supported by UNDP in Damascus city ©UNDP- Syria

Furthermore, 115 beneficiaries of the prosthetic and rehabilitation projects were supported with jobs through the UNDP livelihoods support projects. This comprehensive package support has provided targeted PWDs with means to be self-reliant and empowered them with self-esteem and dignity.



HOPE AMID LOSS



Saher, 35, fled to Qamishli from Deir-Ez-Zor with his son, mother and two sisters. Losing his right leg (amputated below the knee) in a car accident in 2016 made life harder for him as the sole provider for his family. Saher made very little income from working in a workshop to renovate furniture and therefore had to rely on humanitarian and food aid. He even had to sell his car in order to cover rent and his family's basic needs.

“On crutches, I wasn't able to work properly and I was losing muscle strength in my right thigh. However, the real hurt I felt was when I saw the pity in people's eyes in my community, and when I realized I was unable to properly interact and play with my 8-year-old son.” said Saher.

In 2018, Saher was one of 20 people that were fitted for a prosthetic limb and received physiotherapy in a UNDP supported prosthetics workshop in Al-Hassakeh.

“I remember the moment I came home after receiving the prosthetic leg, my tears of happiness were mixed with those from my little son, mother and sisters. Today I walk down the street without seeing anyone's pity. My work at the workshop is gradually improving and most importantly, I play and go out with my son every day. Life is looking up.”



Vocational Training for persons with disabilities in Rural Damascus ©UNDP- Syria

To further create a comprehensive support environment, more than 500 persons with severe disabilities, namely spinal cord injuries, received conditional cash assistance linked to rehabilitative treatment. Family members of the targeted households will also be supported at a later stage with livelihood interventions to create a more powerful impact.

In response to the emerging needs of the newly accessible areas of East Ghouta in Rural Damascus Governorate, Afrin in north Aleppo and Dar'a, UNDP provided emergency response with disability aids including adult wheelchairs, paediatric wheelchairs, crutches, walkers and air mattresses distributed by the local partner in each location.

To ensure the development of national capacities to deliver professional services to PWDs, UNDP provided professional skills training to more than 30 persons in physical rehabilitation including prosthetic services, physiotherapy and psycho-social support (PSS), all of which proved to be one of the top priorities in the study conducted on needs for PWDs support in Syria. Part of the above activities was conducted in partnership with networks of local authorities from Italy, who mobilized the capacity of their territories to support high priority areas in Syria. This type of partnership provides technical expertise from different territories, regions and municipalities on specific thematic areas. Since this pilot project was successful, it will be replicated in other areas; especially in the field of support to PWDs.

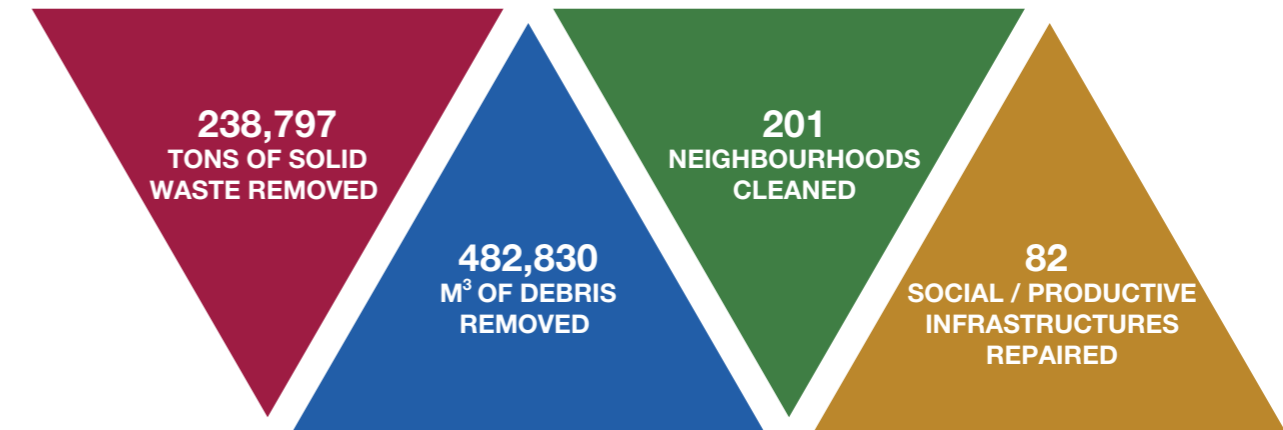
IMPROVING BASIC SERVICE DELIVERY TO CRISIS-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES



In 2018, more than 2,776,282 people benefited from improved basic services through UNDP's interventions in the areas of:

- ▶ Solid waste and debris management.
- ▶ Rehabilitation and repair of water, sewage and electricity networks.
- ▶ Rehabilitation of markets and shops.
- ▶ Supporting renewable energy solutions.
- ▶ Emergency rehabilitation of electricity infrastructure across lines of control, cross-line supply of electric power.

SOLID WASTE AND DEBRIS MANAGEMENT



In 2018, UNDP continued addressing the issue of accumulated debris and solid waste in crisis-affected urban and semi-urban areas by implementing local debris and solid waste management projects. UNDP targeted Al-Hassakeh, Hama, and Homs governorates and expanded its areas of coverage to newly accessible areas in Ar-Raqqa Governorate, Eastern Aleppo and Deir-Ez-Zor City, in addition to Al-Zabadani and East-Ghouta in Rural Damascus Governorate. Consequently, more than 238,797 tons of solid waste and 482,830 M³ of debris were removed from 201 neighbourhoods in the targeted governorates. The local solid and debris management projects provided more than 7,540 job opportunities under the cash-for-work scheme that supported the livelihoods of crisis-affected people.



Around 180 women benefited from the cash-for-work opportunities that UNDP provided through its solid waste management project in As-Salamieh, Hama Governorate
©UNDP- Syria

In the old city of Aleppo, UNDP implemented an integrated debris management project where more than 5,979 M³ of debris were sorted. The old stones were collected on site to be reused in the old city rehabilitation works, the priority being allowing residents and returnees to access their homes and the very essential services while preserving the cultural heritage of the targeted areas.



Old stones sorted out of the debris that were removed from Bab Al-Hadid neighbourhood and collected on site to be reused in future rehabilitation works of the same neighbourhood, Old city of Aleppo ©UNDP-Syria



Old Aleppo neighbourhood before UNDP's intervention ©UNDP-Syria



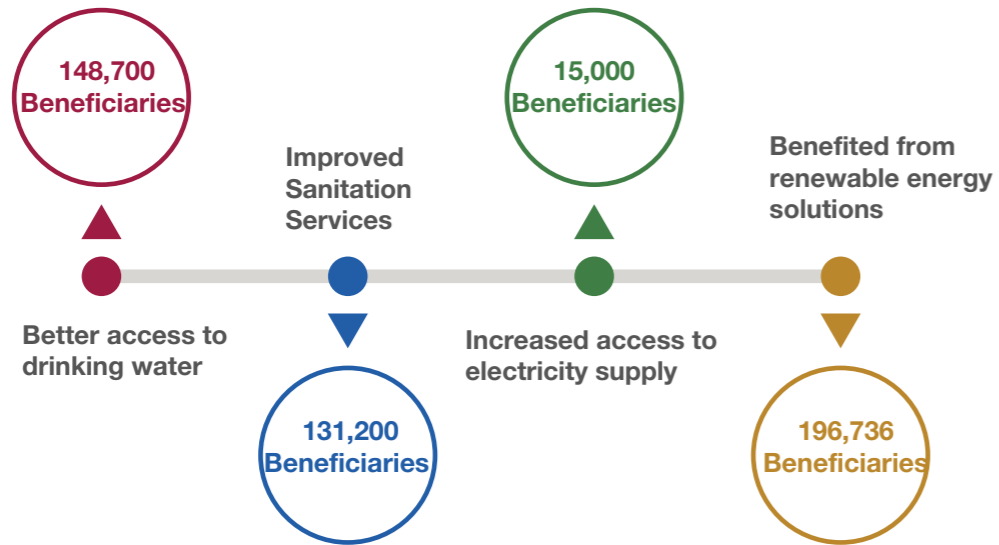
Neighbourhood in Old Aleppo cleared of debris with the support of UNDP ©UNDP-Syria

In Al-Hassakeh Governorate, a local solid waste management project was implemented where more than 723 tons of solid waste were sorted, and more than 777 emergency jobs were provided to crisis-affected people, including 175 women.



UNDP provides cash-for-work opportunities to women in solid waste management project in Al-Hassakeh Governorate ©UNDP-Syria

IMPROVED ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICE DELIVERY



To alleviate the suffering of people who were in dire need of drinking water, sanitation and electricity, UNDP supported the repair of 19 km of water networks and 33 km of sewage networks in addition to 35 km of electricity networks in Aleppo, Al-Hassakeh, Homs, Dar'a and Rural Damascus governorates.



Rehabilitation works of a water network in Aleppo

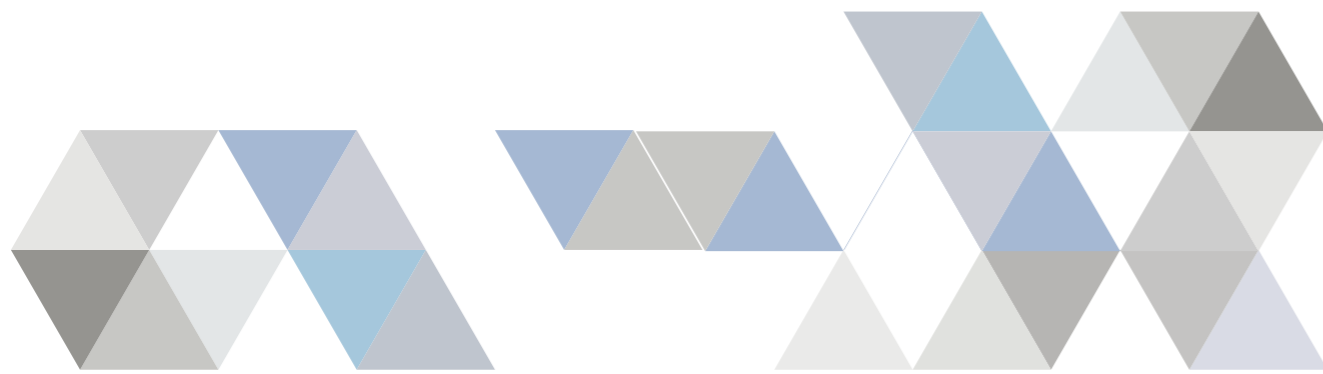


Sewage network rehabilitation works in Aleppo city



Rehabilitation of an electricity network in Al-Hassakeh Governorate

MORE THAN 294,900 PERSONS IN THE AFFECTED COMMUNITIES HAD IMPROVED ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER, SANITATION AND ELECTRICITY, AS A RESULT OF REHABILITATION AND REPAIR WORKS SUPPORTED BY UNDP



REHABILITATION OF DAMAGED HEALTH CENTRES AND SCHOOLS

Nearly 17,000 students went back to school thanks to UNDP's efforts to rehabilitate education service delivery for local communities: 18 damaged schools were rehabilitated in Aleppo, Al-Hassakeh and Ar-Raqqa Governorates.



Rehabilitation works of school in Ar-Raqqa Governorate ©UNDP-Syria



MOHAMMAD BACK TO SCHOOL REHABILITATION OF DAMAGED SCHOOLS IN ALEPPO CITY



Having safe schools and a conducive learning environment is one of the main factors affecting the return of IDPs to their areas of residence. Many schools were completely or partially damaged in Syria due to the conflict, and Aleppo's schools were no exception, especially in areas in proximity to military conflict lines.

Other schools were transformed into temporary shelters to host IDPs, making it impossible for students to complete their studies and adding pressure on functioning schools to take in the surplus, overcrowding them up to 200% of their original operational capacity.



“My new school is close to my home and I can easily walk there with my sister every morning. It’s where I met my best friend Bilal, and where we share a chair and play together. I’m a good student and I want to progress to a higher class next year” said Mohamad, a 1st grade pupil who lost his hand in the conflict.

Mohamad now attends “Shajarat Al Durr” School in Aleppo city which was rehabilitated by UNDP in 2018.

In 2018, UNDP rehabilitated 5 damaged schools in Aleppo, providing 202 job opportunities for returnees and host communities. The schools are housed in both historical and modern buildings, making the rehabilitation work extremely delicate, especially in heritage sites. The rehabilitated schools have 138 classrooms that accommodate more than 5,600 students. The project ensured that rehabilitated schools accommodate persons with disabilities (PWDs) through the installation of stairs and bathrooms accessible to wheelchairs, returnees and host communities. More than 113,500 people received improved health care through the five health centres rehabilitated by UNDP in Al-Hassakeh and Deir ez-Zor Governorates.

SUPPORTING HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE REHABILITATION OF DEIR-EZ-ZOR HOSPITAL



The crisis had a tremendous effect on the health sector in the country. Many hospitals and health centres were severely damaged and went out of service. By 2014, when the so called "Islamic State" terrorist group started the siege on Deir-Ez-Zor city, only one functional hospital remained, and even that was partially damaged in 2016, as the third and fourth floors were destroyed. The hospital, which had previously served nearly 300,000 people from Deir-Ez-Zor city, in addition to the eastern rural region of Raqqa governorate, was now seriously incapacitated. In 2018, UNDP rehabilitated the damaged third and fourth floors, providing the capacity to accommodate 44 Patients' rooms, 4 Resident doctor rooms and 4 Nurses rooms. The project provided more than 100 emergency job opportunities. UNDP is currently cooperating and coordinating with World Health Organization (WHO) to fully refurbish and equip the two rehabilitated floors to ensure they regain optimal functionality.

REHABILITATION OF DAMAGED MARKETS AND SHOPS

Knowing that market places are the beating heart of a community, UNDP focuses its support on the rehabilitation of damaged markets and shops in affected areas to pave the way for more sustainable livelihoods activities. In this context, UNDP rehabilitated 50 shops in the Old Souq of Homs city through the provision and installation of new signboards, shutter doors and metal windows.



Commercial activities are revived in the Old Souq rehabilitated by UNDP in Homs City ©UNDP-Syria

SUPPORTING RENEWABLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS



More than 198,521 people benefited from UNDP's interventions in supporting renewable energy. Under these interventions, 1,917 solar lighting and heating units were installed that generated 101 kWh and lit 48 km of streets, in addition to providing hot water and a reliable source of electricity to many health services facilities

In response to the dire need of people who suffered from long hours of power outage due to the damages inflicted to the national grid, UNDP initiated the integration of renewable energy sources into power grids, namely solar photovoltaic technology which converts sunlight into current electricity. Using this as an entry point to enhance the resilience of crisis-affected people, UNDP supported the installation of 1,854 solar lighting panels which lit 48 km of streets. Approximately 101 kWh of clean electricity were generated across Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Lattakia, Rural Damascus and Tartous governorates. Additionally, UNDP installed 63 heating panels in Damascus and Hama governorates to provide constant hot water to health centres which had previously suffered from electricity outages. To ensure the longevity of the project, UNDP supported the maintenance of the solar energy equipment and facilitated the capacity building of technical staff.





Installation works of solar heating units in the University Hospital in Damascus ©UNDP-Syria

Moreover, UNDP used solar energy production to increase employment opportunities, taking into consideration that solar photovoltaics (PV) works create more jobs per megawatt of capacity than any other energy technology. Jobs created included the areas of solar installation, maintenance of equipment and sales.

CROSSLINE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES



Rehabilitation works in Al-Tabqa hydroelectric plant in Ar-Raqqa Governorate ©UNDP-Syria

In 2018, UNDP expanded its efforts to restore reliable electricity to communities affected by the crisis in Syria, across lines of control. UNDP continued its support to the rehabilitation of Baniyas power plant in Tartous governorate and Al Zara power plant in Hama Governorate, as well as Jandar power plant in Homs Governorate.

Under the rehabilitation project of Zara and Baniyas power plants, UNDP provided critical components required to keep the plants operational, producing 160 MW, avoiding a sudden short-term shut down of both power plants and preventing a total reduction of 750 MW of electricity in the national grid. This project alone provided sustainable access to an essential service for almost 3 million Syrians in need, among which around 1 million in Syria northwest, with a cross-line life-saving intervention sustained throughout the last three years.

Moreover, due to the damage of the generator's rotor in Jandar power plant in Homs Governorate, the gas turbine had stopped, causing a loss of 150 MW of electricity (or 6.8% of the total electricity supply), leading to an increase



*Technician checking parts after replacement at Zara Power Plant in Hama Governorate
©UNDP-Syria*

in the hours of electricity outage in 2017. UNDP secured the spare parts needed to complete repairs and restore functionality to the turbine. During 2018, the procurement process of the new rotor with relevant spare parts was finalized. These will be installed in Jandar power plant by June 2019, restoring it to its urgently needed full operational capacity.

UNDP expanded cross-line work in newly accessible areas also in Ar-Raqqa Governorate to secure sustainable electricity supply to crisis-affected people in the northern region. In this context, UNDP supported the rehabilitation of Al-Tabqa Hydroelectric plant, one of the largest renewable power-generating stations in Syria at an original capacity of 800 MW. The plant is situated on the Euphrates Dam, 50 km upriver from the town of Ar-Raqqa and was repeatedly damaged during the offensive to oust the IS terrorist group from the area. Several units of the station went out of service without the spare parts necessary for repair work, and with the skilled labour fleeing the dangerous areas. To respond to the urgent needs of technically skilled personnel and a supply of spare parts, UNDP supported the replacement and installation of High Voltage Cables 230 KV, that will ensure the continuous injection of 140 to 400 MW of electricity into the national grid.

In 2018, 60% of the work was completed, providing 28 to 80 MW of electricity, and alleviating the needs of 340,000 Syrians.



*UNDP supports the rehabilitation works of Al-Tabqa hydroelectric plant in Ar-Raqqa Governorate
©UNDP-Syria*

Furthermore, UNDP supported the training of five engineers and technicians who are responsible for the replacement of the High Voltage Cables.

Because of the relatively low cost of hydroelectricity, these kinds of powerplants are a competitive source of renewable electricity, especially when taking into consideration that they produce no direct waste and a lower level of greenhouse gases compared to gas power generation plants.

The completion of this crossline project will have a marked positive, and durable impact on hundreds of thousands of people in Aleppo city and its rural area, Al Hassakeh.

The humanitarian situation will be sustainably improved in the following areas:

- ▶ Reliable supply of drinking water to Aleppo City and part of Rural Ar-Raqqa.
- ▶ Operation of pumping stations for irrigation in northern and eastern Aleppo and western Ar-Raqqa.
- ▶ Increased and sustained electricity supply for the north-eastern areas.

Training for All Project:

Under the Training for All (T4A) project, UNDP has been enhancing the capacity of electrical engineers and technical staff to deliver better services to affected communities.

In 2018 alone, UNDP supported the training of 205 engineers and technicians who received highly professional training in the field of repair/rehabilitation of electric power plants facilities. UNDP also provided training equipment to Jandar Power Plant training centre in Homs Governorate.

UNDP'S INTERVENTION FOR ENHANCING SOCIAL COHESION



Sports activities in Lattakia Governorate as part of UNDP's social cohesion activities
©UNDP-Syria

103

COMMUNITY-BASED INITIATIVES PROMOTING SOCIAL COHESION

15,628

PARTICIPANTS IN SOCIAL COHESION ACTIVITIES

In line with UNDP strategy for resilience building, UNDP is engaged in fostering social cohesion to create a better understanding of inter/intra-communal reconciliation processes which will nurture a positive attitude and engagement between IDPs and host communities.

Social cohesion enhancement was achieved through the following thematic areas:

Community-based Initiatives Promoting Social Cohesion



Candlelight vigil organized by youth and local community celebrating the International Day of Peace in Qamishli, Al-Hassakeh Governorate with the support of UNDP
©UNDP-Syria

To encourage effective community participation, understanding and respect, UNDP directly engaged Syrian communities in planning and implementing activities that enhance social cohesion, and that focus on strengthening the resilience of youth and women and enabling them to act as agents of change and peace.

In this context, UNDP supported the implementation of 103 community-based initiatives employing sports, music, drama and food as a common denominator to bring people of different religious and social backgrounds together, particularly in the identified areas/neighbourhoods where disruptive social conditions and dynamics existed or were latent. UNDP's interventions contributed to reducing barriers among participants, engaging more than 15,628 participants from host communities and IDPs, 6,874 of which were women.



International Day of Peace celebration organized in Ar-Raqqa Governorate ©UNDP-Syria



Young people working to beautify their neighbourhoods in Al-Hassakeh Governorate ©UNDP - Syria



As part of supporting youth-led initiatives, UNDP implemented “Aleppo Iwan” (Iwan is an Arabic word which means a big meeting hall) initiative to create a safe space for youth within the neighbourhoods of the old city of Aleppo to interact, share ideas and discuss their needs unreservedly. More than 483 persons from the local community benefited from discussions and dialogues conducted in workshops supported by UNDP but led by local youths. They conveyed their local communities’ needs to the decision makers in their city; while strengthening the participatory approach experience with community leaders.

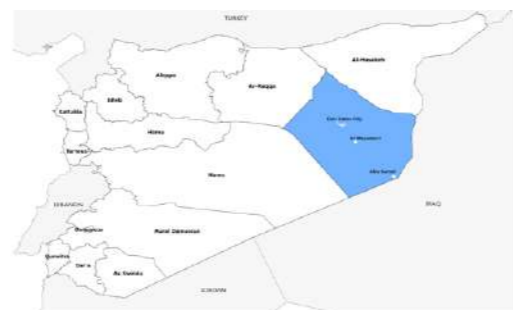
UNDP also supported “URBAN THINKERS CAMPUS” initiative, where youth received training on a variety of topics including local peacebuilding and conflict management. They also organized a series of activities including a marathon that conveyed messages advocating for social cohesion. The Aleppan youth have been given the opportunity to share and express their issues and concerns and think together for the future through special platforms that built upon the TEDx approach.

CONTEXT ANALYSIS

Building on its global expertise in context analysis and context sensitivity, UNDP since 2016 integrated these two approaches into its programming, all while continuously developing the Context Development Analysis (CDA) framework. This approach facilitated a better understanding of the context of the geographical areas (in terms of potential or historic conflict drivers and dividers focusing on governorates, cities or thematic issues) where UNDP is working and planning to work in the future. This allows a more informed and sensitive for planning and programming of the interventions that can effectively respond to contextual needs while taking into account sensitivity issues

In 2018, UNDP conducted 13 context analyses in different areas in Aleppo, Raqqa, Al- Hassakeh, Deir-Ez-Zor, Hama, Homs, Lattakia, Tartous, and Rural Damascus. The conducted analyses, which are regularly updated, help to design humanitarian, early recovery and resilience programmes that address local dynamics and unique concerns in targeted areas, promoting peacebuilding and stability. UNDP drew from its strong presence on the ground in its field offices to conduct these analyses.

Deir Ezzor Governorate Local Context Analysis 2018



Deir Ezzor Governorate Dynamics

Deir Ezzor Governorate is located in Eastern Syria on the Euphrates River, bordering Iraq. It is part of the Eastern Plateau and has a desert climate. The Euphrates runs through Deir Ezzor and onto Iraq. The area above its Northern bank is known as Al-Jezeera and the Southern bank - as Al-Shamiya. Al-Khabour river flowing through Hassakah governorate joins the Euphrates in Deir Ezzor. There is a narrow fertile belt flanking these rivers, which is farmed. Beyond this, Deir Ezzor is largely desert. The governorate occupies the area of 33,000km², or 17.9% of Syria's territory with the majority of the residents living on the fertile lands on the banks of Al-Euphrates and Al-Khabour rivers. The urban population lives in the main cities of Deir Ezzor, Al Mayadeen and Abu Kamal and the rest are rural dwellers. The Governorate is split into three districts.

- Deir Ezzor, which is divided into 6 subdistricts, one province's administrative capital, 8 towns, 21 municipalities and 48 villages.
- Al Mayadeen which is made up of 2 subdistricts with one city, 7 towns, 14 municipalities and 10 villages.
- Abu Kamal which contains three subdistricts with 2 cities, 10 towns, 5 municipalities and 18 villages.

Deir Ezzor is a home of some prominent archaeological sites where relics of pre-historic times have been discovered and from where the urban planning system in the ancient Syrian civilizations has evolved. Settlement of tribes and clans in Deir Ezzor has taken place over centuries, having undergone various stages of social and economic evolution.

	Score				
	1	2	3	4	5
Public safety				4	
Hosting of IDPs				4	
Actions/inaction of local administrations				4	
Media & Communications				4	
Security situation					5
Return & Reintegration					5
Access to education					5

Rank scale guide
 1 Positive
 2 Slightly Concerning
 3 Concerning
 4 Issue
 5 Big Issue



Context Analysis workshop conducted by UNDP in Aleppo city ©UNDP-Syria

UNDP enhanced the capacity of more than 202 staff members from UNDP Country Office and other UN agencies on how to conduct a conflict-sensitive context analysis and ensure that the “do no harm” principle is consistently applied on the ground.

UNDP, as a leading agency in the context analyses and context sensitivity approach, supported the establishment of a context sensitivity technical network within the UNCT and across the Syria response. This network brought together focal points of UN agencies, NGOs and donors responsible for promoting context sensitivity outcomes in their organisations.

The working group on context analysis was activated, 6 partner network meetings and workshops were held, including all UN agencies, to share expertise and advice on context sensitivity. These meetings and workshops reflected effective interaction among participants in an atmosphere conducive for knowledge sharing and the identification of best practices to reinforce systemize the context analysis and context sensitivity approach across the Syria response.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND RESILIENCE

UNDP supported efforts to restore safety at the community level and rebuild a relationship of confidence and trust between authorities and communities. In this context, 10 area-based assessments were successfully conducted in 2018 in Rural Damascus, and Al-Hassakeh in partnership with community-based partners and private consultants through which safety challenges and needs of local communities were identified for better informed interventions.

The initiatives included implementing community advocacy and awareness campaigns on topics such as Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), violence against children and drug addiction among youth. Specialized training empowered 40 community leaders from Rural Damascus to become actors of change in their communities, while and building the capacities of 30 young men and women from the coastal area of Baniyas helped them promote inclusion of IDPs.

In selected locations across Syria, 61 solar lighting systems were installed to light streets, squares and public areas and improve citizens' safety, especially in the evenings. Support was also provided to a community mediation committee in Qamishli, North East of Syria, comprising 10 community leaders from different religious and ethnic backgrounds who are actively involved in mediation and reconciliation.

These community security initiatives provided a space for dialogue among local conflict resolution actors to address sources of conflict, brought IDPs and host communities together, and fostered social cohesion, all while providing critical services for improving safety at the community level.

UNDP supported initiatives to strengthen alternative approaches for dispute resolution and expand the accessibility to legal services for women and communities in remote or conflict-affected areas. Three legal counselling and referral help desks in Rural Damascus, Al-Hassakeh and Al-Qamishli city were established with UNDP's support in 2018. Over 2,500 people (65% women) received legal awareness on critical legal topics, such as civil documentation, inheritance rights, and other family status law provisions such as marital affairs, and provided pro bono counselling to the most affected populations. Nearly 50 more complex cases were referred to external service providers for judicial representation.

UNDP supported legal awareness programmes and worked directly with academic institutions, community leaders as well as local branches of lawyer's associations to address the needs of disadvantaged groups in accessing justice and enhance community sensitization.

In commemoration of International Women's Day and Social Justice day, eight community-based awareness initiatives were supported to build community awareness on women's rights, including their rights to freedom from violence and abuse.



Legal awareness activities supported by UNDP in Al-Raqqa Governorate ©UNDP-Syria

ENHANCING THE RESILIENCE OF MA'ARABA COMMUNITY



The population of Ma'araba, Rural Damascus Governorate numbered 25,000 people before the crisis. Due to the large influx of displaced persons, that number dramatically increased, reaching approximately 200,000 people and creating a number of challenges. Tensions were running high between IDPs and the host community as people competed for what limited resources were available.

Using a community-based participatory approach, UNDP conducted a series of workshops, involving community members to analyse the situation and identify acute needs on which UNDP built its response.

link to video



Nearly 1,200 people participated in various project activities which provided around 50 emergency jobs, strengthened the socio-economic fabric and enhanced the resilience of the community in Ma'araba

"They restored my faith that there's still some good left in the world. I'm no longer worried about my kids" said Mahasen who escaped to Ma'araba with her two children after losing her husband and parents in Homs.

UNDP helped Mahasen through legal awareness sessions, social counselling and vocational training.

Watch her tell her story:



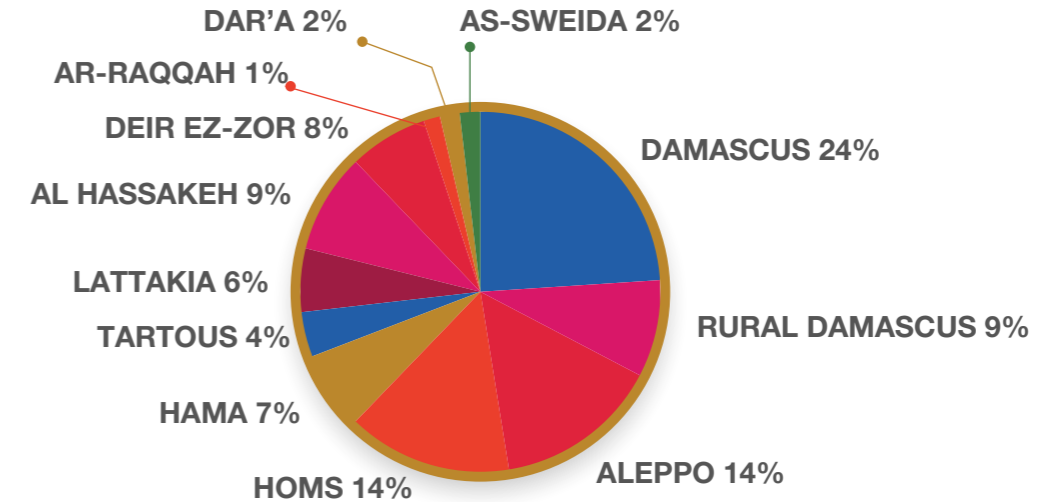
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CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL PARTNERS FOR RESILIENCE BUILDING



To enhance the robust role of civil society organizations during the crisis, taking into consideration the SDGs, the 2030 Strategy, and UNDP’s NGOs capacity development strategy, UNDP continued its support in building the capacities of Syrian NGOs/CSOs under its resilience programme.

NGOS SUPPORTED WITH CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT



In 2018, capacity needs assessments were conducted for 85 NGOs/CSOs. Based on the results of the needs assessment, UNDP targeted 1,514 staff members and volunteers from 309 NGOs/CSOs. Through 63 interactive training workshops covering more than 15 thematic topics, they benefited from technical and soft skills that would increase their efficiency and viability as UNDP implementing partners on the ground.



Furthermore, 12 NGOs/CSOs in Aleppo, Damascus and Rural Damascus received a focused in depth training tailored to their needs. The programme included twinning activities and four exchange visits. UNDP also provided self-based learning opportunities through an e-learning platform for more than 400 subscribers from 105 NGOs across Syria where four e-learning modules were developed, tested and disseminated covering Project Cycle Management, Monitoring and Evaluation, Managing NGOs in conflict, and Warehouse management for NGOs.

T4A - “TRAINING FOR ALL” PROJECT

Human capacities’ development is one of the most effective means to enhance the resilience of men and women, improve their adaptability to changing contexts and their capacity to recover from shocks. In 2018, UNDP in partnership with World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UN-Habitat, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) scaled up the capacity development interventions under the “Training for All” project to address dynamic capacity development priorities to enable Syrians to have an effective response to the dire needs of the affected population in the current crisis context.

This UN partnership project took a multi-sectoral approach to address the human capital deficit in the country by maintaining and upgrading Syrian human capital in various fields for mid- and long-term resilience building. It also contributed to improving preparedness and ensuring the preservation of human and institutional capital for recovery in the future.

In 2018, UNDP also supported a professional skills training for 756 technical staff in water treatment, electricity generation, transmission and distribution, rehabilitation services for PWDs and sustainable approaches for enhancing agriculture-based livelihoods, in addition to preserving cultural heritage. UNDP also supported more than 84 NGOs with capacity development opportunities provided by the “Training for All” project.



Training session for health workers in wheelchair services in Damascus
©UNDP-Syria

SAFEGUARDING SYRIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE



Technical staff receive advanced training for the restoration of Syrian artefacts
©UNDP-Syria

The widespread destruction of archaeological sites across Syria due to the crisis has been devastating. Heritage sites such as Palmyra, the old cities of Aleppo and Homs that have been a source of pride for many Syrians for generations and at the heart of social and economic life have been severely damaged provided.

UNDP in partnership with the Kashihara Institute, a Japanese archaeological institute, supported the capacity development of 98 female and male Syrian experts in cultural heritage, covering various thematic areas such as the documentation of artefacts, their delicate restoration and the analysis of their materials and structural components, in addition to professional methods of transporting artefacts. UNDP provided needed equipment to create a sustainable impact of the project and ensure that staff benefiting from the training have the necessary tools to apply their skills.

In order to advocate for the importance of preserving cultural heritage and increase public interest and engagement on Syria’s rich history, UNDP supported the re-opening of the Damascus National Museum in October 2018, which was attended by many Syrian archaeologists and included seminars by experts from the Kashihara Institute.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN UNDP'S RESILIENCE PROGRAMME



Women are supported and empowered in UNDP's interventions, East Ghouta, Rural Damascus Governorate ©UNDP-Syria

UNDP supports gender equality, where the interests, needs and priorities of both women and men are taken into consideration, ensuring that they have equal access to income generating activities.

In 2018, 34% of the total beneficiaries targeted in UNDP's interventions were women and female-headed households. Women benefited from job opportunities, vocational training and start-up toolkits that UNDP provided to them, ensuring they have access to sustainable income-generating activities. Women were also encouraged to participate in social cohesion and community resilience activities. In this context, more than 11,632 women participated in the implemented community-based initiatives.

At the community level, gender was well synthesized during the conflict analysis that the programme conducted to ensure that needs of men and women, with a focus on youth, are well defined, and that interventions are responsive to the needs and aspirations of different segments of the community.

UNDP boosted the capacity of its Country Office staff by enhancing the understanding and mainstreaming of gender-related issues and including core Gender Equality and Gender-Based Violence topics in UNDP programming. Moreover, basic gender concepts were mainstreamed in UNDP's thematic areas through online training with local partners.

In November 2018, during the sixteen days of activism against gender-based violence, UNDP-Syria conducted a radio campaign on three of the most heard radio stations in Syria, a social media campaign on several platforms in addition to six awareness sessions on the Gender-based Violence (GBV) for 120 participants from 43 active NGOs.



UNDP-Syria staff participated in the 16-day of Activism against Gender-based Violence campaign conducted by UNDP Country Office in December 2018 ©UNDP-Syria

MONITORING AND EVALUATION



Under the Results-Based Management framework where linkages between Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation were enhanced, there has been remarkable progress made towards ensuring the desired high quality of delivery and efficient use of resources alongside with transparency and neutrality.

In this context, four main modalities have been identified and consistently applied by UNDP:

Third-Party Monitoring: Since one of UNDP's highest priorities is to ensure effective implementation of its projects on the ground, engagement with an independent qualified firm was made to provide additional support in verifying, monitoring and assuring the quality of implementation and efficient use of resources. The monitoring process started with 17 site visits conducted in 2018 to a combination of diverse projects and locations including Rural Damascus, Homs, Hama, Lattakia, Aleppo, Al-Hassakeh including Qamishli, Deir-Ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa governorates with a clear focus on relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact.

Third-Party Evaluation: A Country Programme Evaluation at the Outcome level was initiated during the fourth quarter of 2018 to provide in-depth analysis and an evidence-based assessment of what has been achieved through UNDP's interventions in the target areas during the past few years. The evaluation was conducted by an independent experienced consulting firm targeting different implemented projects across eight Syrian governorates based on the five criteria from the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD/DAC) which include Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact and Sustainability. Two separate but complementary evaluation reports will be produced in 2019 with actionable recommendations for future programming on how to better address the changing needs and maximize the desired results.

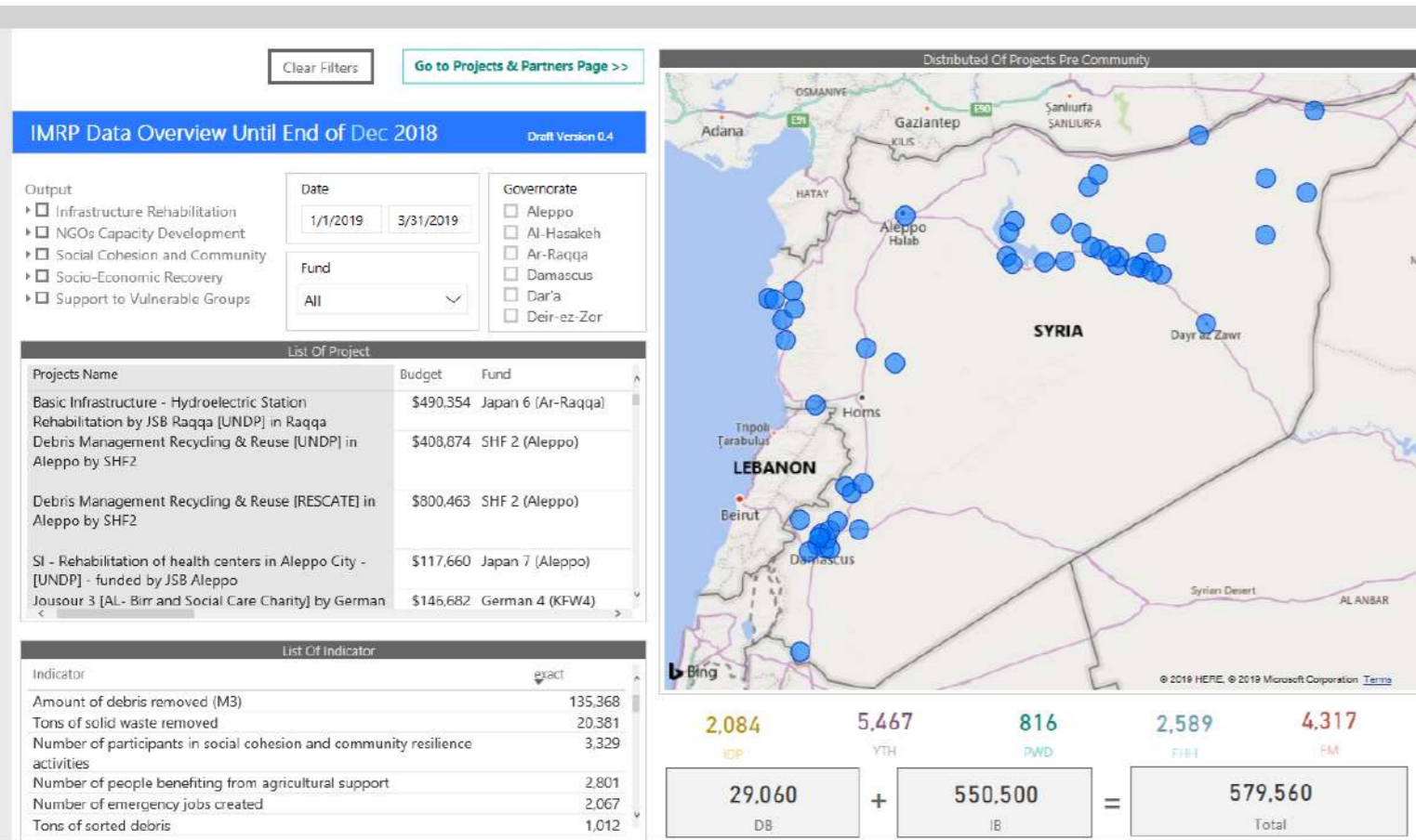
Site Visits: Regular and ad-hoc missions have been undertaken by the Country Office and Field teams to keep track of performance and progress of the projects' implementation by identifying key results and challenges as well as perceiving feedback from beneficiaries directly on the service delivery.

Community-based Monitoring: in line with its persistent efforts to empower the Syrian Youth, UNDP has continued its unique partnership with youth and volunteers from the local communities who were selected based on pre-set transparent criteria and then received a simplified training on project cycle and monitoring techniques followed by on-job training opportunities to provide regular spot check and feedback on the projects progress.

UNDP SYRIA'S IN-HOUSE PLATFORM FOR INTERNAL MONITORING AND REPORTING (IMRP)

UNDP has established an in-house platform in 2015 which served as a pro-active tool initially thought for monitoring and reporting purposes. Through continuous innovation and update applied to the platform, the IMRP i be transformed into a powerful, accurate and versatile tool also for data analysis, archiving information on specific projects, and more importantly, for planning new interventions. In 2018, the Information Management Team worked proactively on updating the web-based in-house developed solutions and platforms, to support the programme planning and reporting, monitoring and communication's accessibility to digital records. A bundle of upgrades has been deployed to UNDP Information Management System to collect data besides developing interactive dashboards to enhance visualization for supporting informed decision-making mechanism. Files and photos management has been embedded in the system to assure linkage between the quantitative data with the qualitative ones for promoting evidence- based approach.

In sum, the IMRP has evolved from a mainly quantitative data repository into a tool capable of balancing quantity with quality data and analyses.



Dashboards from UNDP's Internal Monitoring and Reporting Platform ©UNDP-Syria

ENHANCED ADVOCACY AND COORDINATION FOR RESILIENCE-BUILDING

The Early Recovery and Livelihoods (ER&L) Sector Group worked during 2018 both inside Syria as well as under the Whole of Syria humanitarian architecture to highlight the challenges and opportunities for going beyond the immediate lifesaving assistance to the affected population. ER&L interventions expanded to over 109 sub-districts in 2018, with 28 partners reporting to the sector.

The ER&L sector conducted more than 30 consultative and capacity building events for the sector partners, established five ER&L working groups in five governorates, as well as in Gaziantep and Amman where, other UN hubs exist. At the same time, the sector supported the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment (MOLAE) offices by providing basic office equipment.

The most significant challenges faced by the sector were under-funding, under-reporting by the partners, and lack of regular and sustained access to some areas.

TOWARDS THE LOCALIZATION OF THE SDGS IN SYRIA



The UN system in Syria believes that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2030 are relevant particularly in severe crisis contexts like Syria, as they allow a longer-term planning perspective that focuses on root causes of the crisis and on the most affected areas and communities as well as vulnerable groups.

The UN Country Team in Syria tasked the UNDP to establish an SDGs Task Force at country level to promote the synergy of the actions carried out by the various agencies in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through the formation of a joint initiative.

The Syria United Nations Country Team embarked on a collective outcome- exercise by linking Humanitarian to Development and Peace Nexus to support developing strategic priorities for Syria. From UNDP Country Office participated in of the Global Community of Practice on the Humanitarian to Development and Peace Nexus.

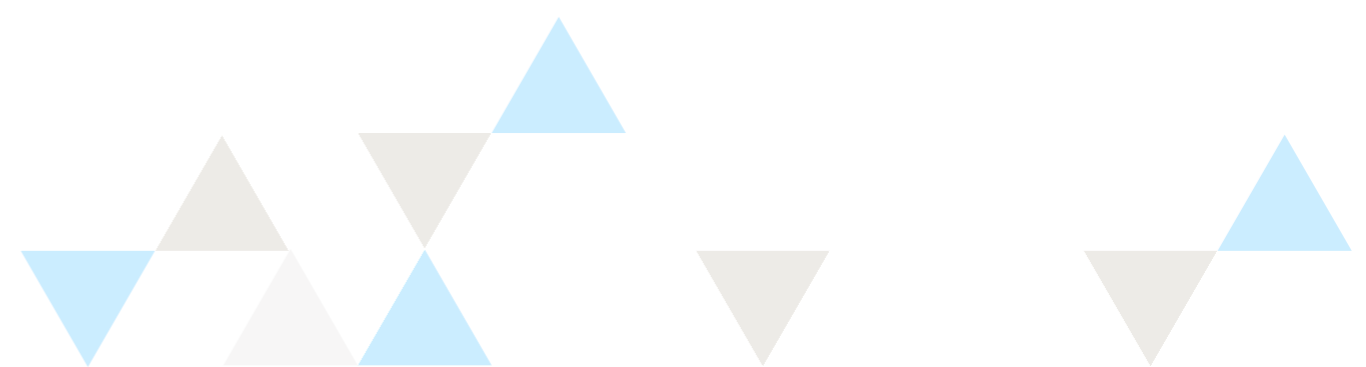
UNDP has provided technical and logistical support to SDGs Report preparation. The First National SDGs Report was finalised at the end of 2018. Prior to this, UNDP provided technical and logistic support to SDGs Report preparation process by conducting three consultation workshops at the sub-national level with local authorities, civil society, the academic community and the private sector. The report preparation, paved the way for the SDGs localisation process and offered a good opportunity to discuss and advocate for critical issues, such as data availability, reliability, and disaggregation.

Under its SDG localization activities, UNDP supported the establishment of the First SDGs Hub for Youth in As-Sweida Governorate where different activities were implemented including SDGs advocacy activities and SDGs Weekends-with youth and local communities. UNDP also conducted a workshop that focused on SDGs and the role of the Private Sector in SDGs implementation and financing.



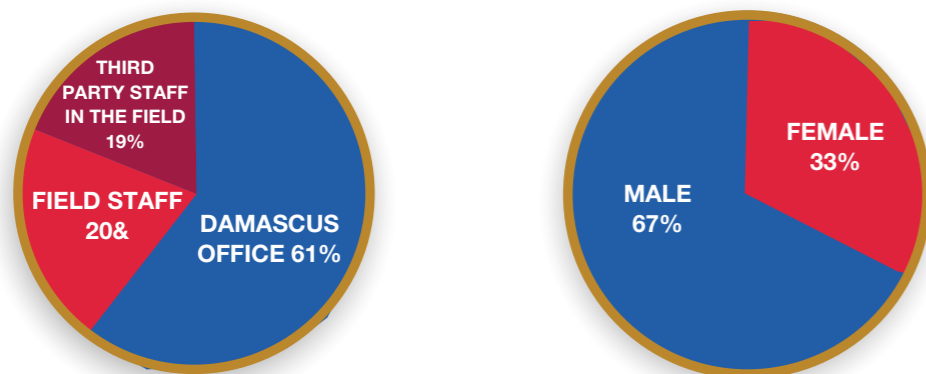
SDGs Hub for Youth in As-Sweida Governorate ©UNDP-Syria

Furthermore, UNDP facilitated setting up of the Arab Development Portal at the Planning and International Cooperation Commission (PICC) to link it to UNDP regional network of SDGs.



UNDP PRESENCE IN THE FIELD

To facilitate and ensure quality implementation of UNDP field activities, UNDP is physically present in 12 Syrian Governorates namely, Aleppo, Al-Hassakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Damascus, Dar'a, Deir-Ez-Zor, Hama, Homs, Idleb, Lattakia, Rural Damascus and Tartous. UNDP is present on the ground through its area offices within UN Hubs where there is one, standalone office or through the presence of personnel.



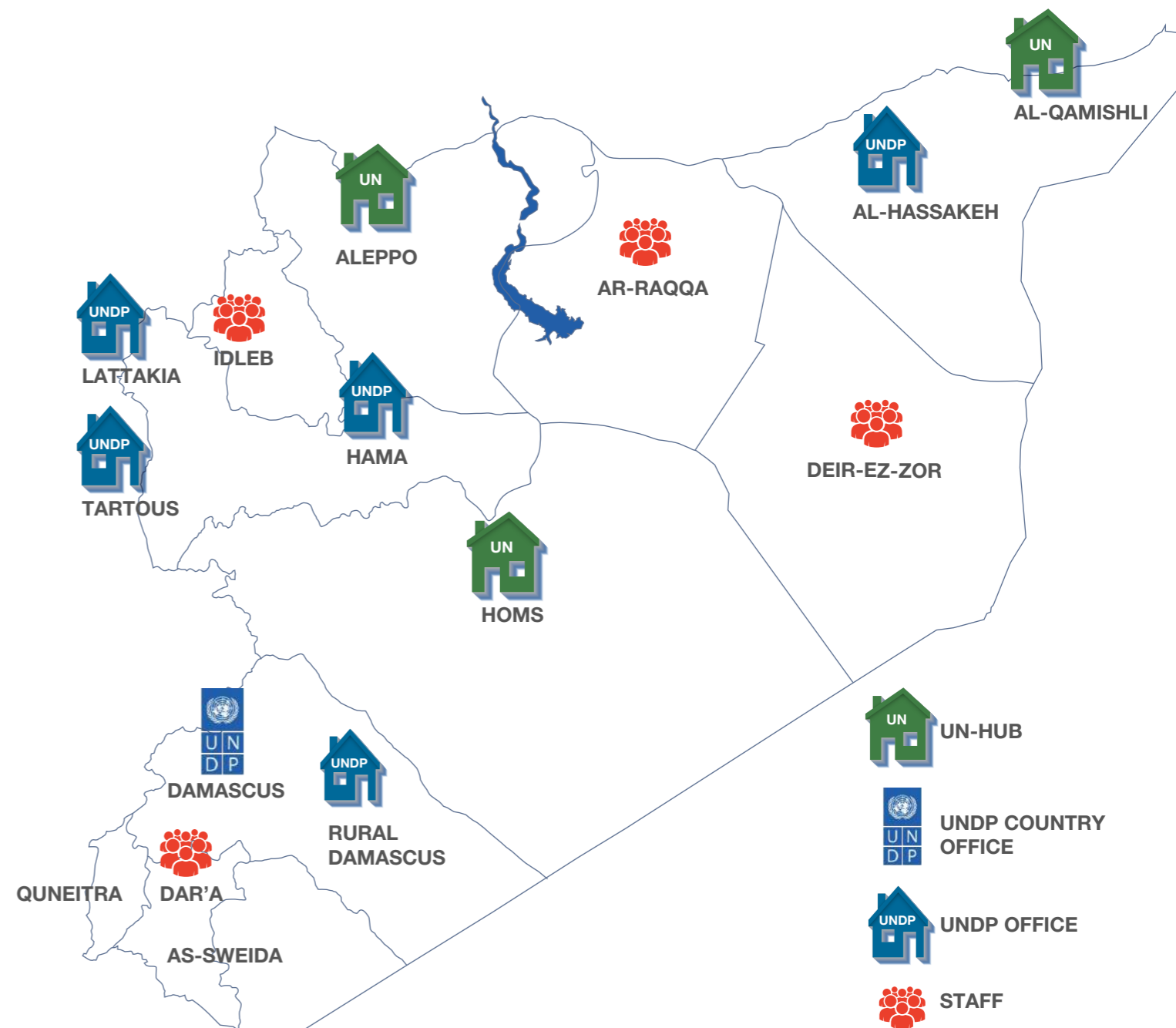
Total Number of UNDP's Country Office Staff = 147

UNDP field teams comprise of more than 55 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 within the country office in Damascus supports and coordinates field operations between field and relevant country office programme and operations teams.

As UNDP field activities are continuously expanding to larger geographical coverage as well as broader thematic areas, field teams structures are designed to not only ensure adequate representation, but also provide flexible and timely response to the volatile situations, hard-to-reach and newly accessible areas.

Given the area-based approach adopted, UNDP field teams are engaged at the early stages of project design and serve as the primary source of information that feeds into area profiling, assessments, planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.

Moreover, as the early recovery sector lead, UNDP field teams include subnational sector coordinators in five areas who are continuously in touch with local partners, stakeholders, and local communities, as well as other national and international sector members including UN Agencies and INGOs.



WAY FORWARD...



In 2018, UNDP continued scaling up its resilience building assistance as articulated in the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and the County Programme Document (CPD), through the three pillars of Essential Services and Infrastructure Restoration, Livelihoods and Economic Recovery and Social Cohesion. In 2019 and beyond, UNDP will expand more in its strategic focus into areas such as Climate Smart Agricultural Livelihood for Rural Resilience, Disability and Social Protection, targeting more geographic coverage in Context Analysis and Local Governance through Community

Engagement to support the Humanitarian-Development nexus while addressing area-based needs of Syrians.

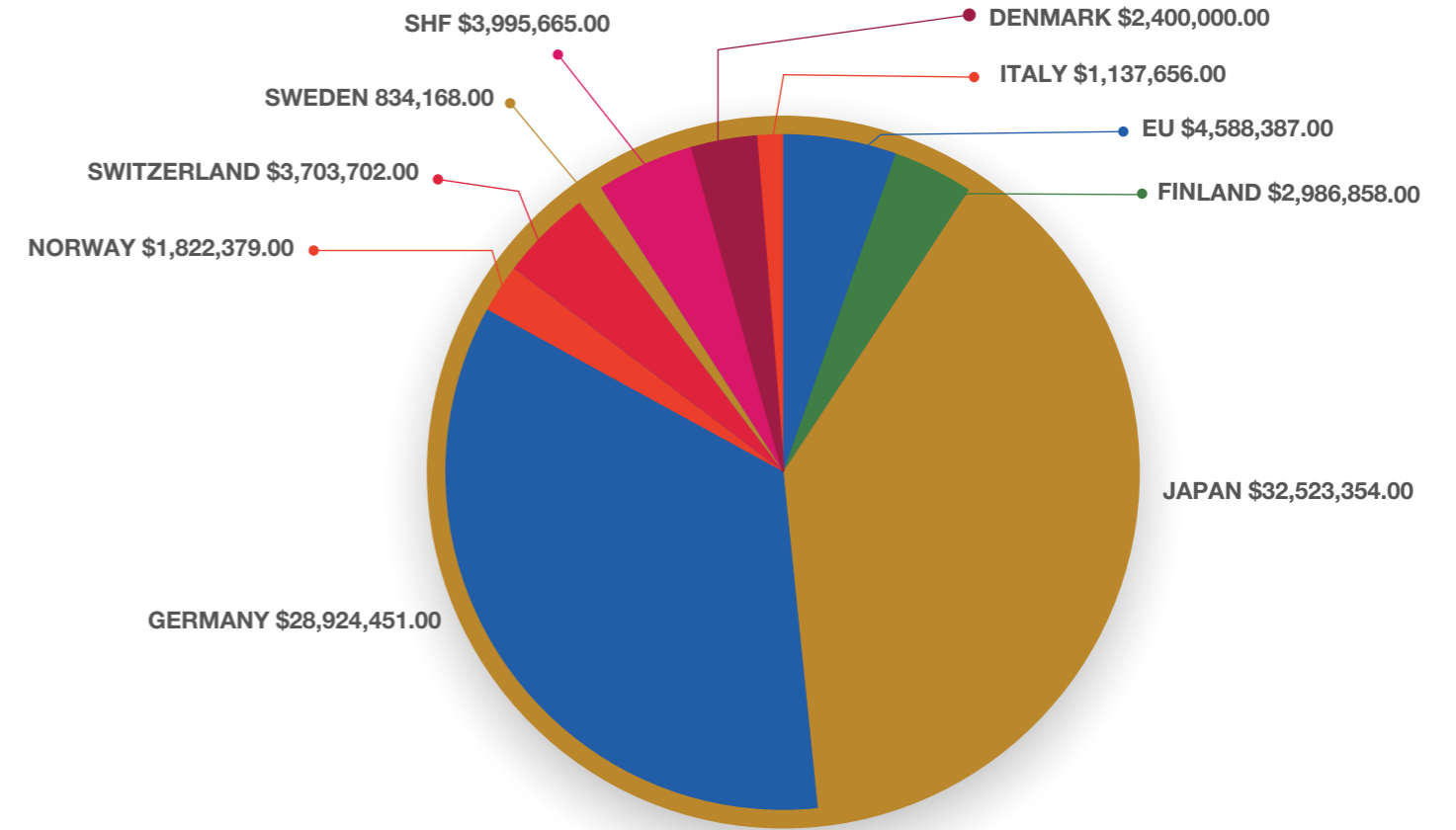
UNDP will make an effort to integrate the Resilience work into a durable solutions framework to address internal and external displacement of Syrians and the increasing spontaneous returns. Additionally, the country office aims at deepening its presently light-touch work on strengthening the Syrian Civil Society organizations at various levels.

To enhance its commitments in strengthening its resilience programme, UNDP started attracting longer-term funding, for a period of two years in 2018 and will work to reinforce this trend in 2019 and beyond to make sure that more beneficiaries are reached with no one left behind.



DONORS

In 2018, UNDP reached **2,877,555 Beneficiaries** Inside Syria, thanks to the financial support of our donors:



TOTAL 2017 | 2018
USD 82,916,620



SOCIAL MEDIA AND OUTREACH

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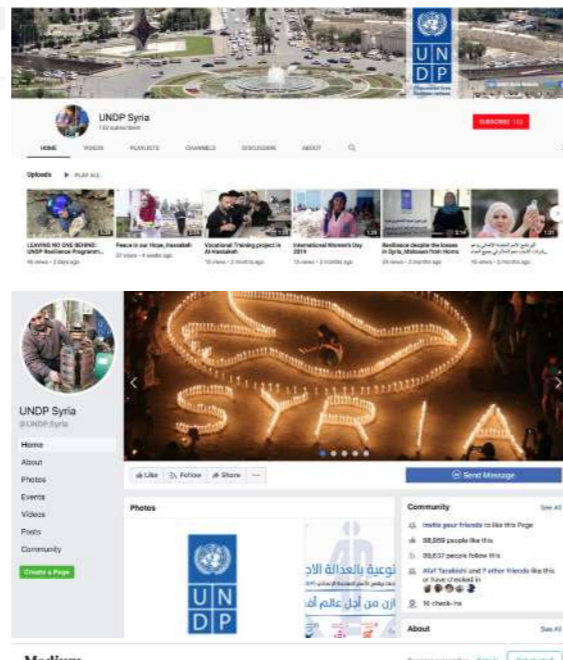
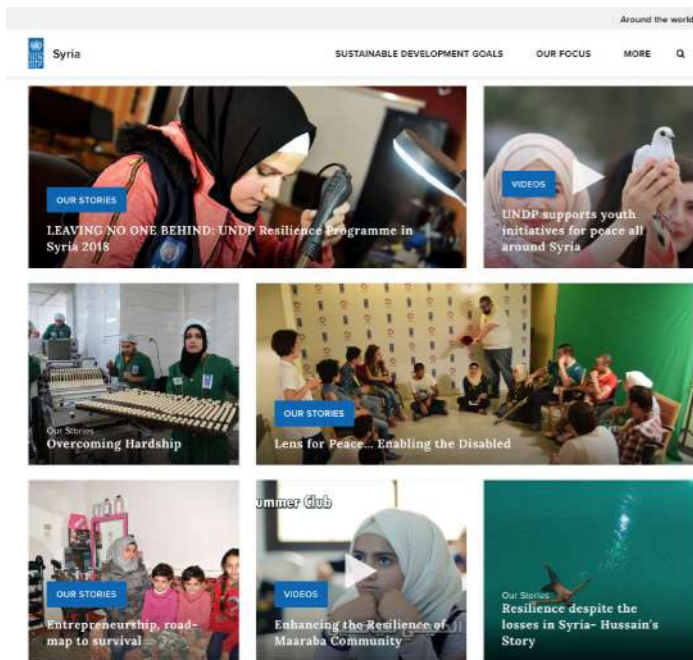
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