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### FIGURES

Population	21.4 m
# of PIN	9.3 m
# of IDPs	6.5 m
# of Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries and North Africa	2.5 m

### FUNDING

**\$ 2.3 billion**  
requested (US\$) for humanitarian assistance inside Syria

**11% funded**

**\$ 4.2 billion**  
requested (US\$) for the Regional Refugee Response Plan

**14% funded**



SARC Douma /Distribution of supplies following joint convoy on 20 Mar

## Inter-agency humanitarian convoys deliver aid to western Aleppo City and Rural Damascus

On 16 March, an inter-agency convoy to western Aleppo City delivered: NFIs for 5,000 people; medicines and medical supplies for 81,927 people; over 17,000 sets of children's winter clothes; WASH supplies such as sewage pumps, a generator and water test kits; Back to Learning supplies for thousands of children (including school bags, learning materials and recreation kits); and relief supplies for 32,000 Palestine refugees including two months of food rations, medical supplies for 4 months and 6 water tanks.

### Joint rapid assessment enables identification of needs

Two days later, an Inter-agency assessment team traveled from Damascus to Aleppo City on 18-22 March to review the humanitarian situation and modalities for delivery of humanitarian response, bolstering the over 280 national staff which have maintained a presence in Aleppo since the onset of the crisis, despite insecurity.

The team met with a number of partners and interlocutors including the Governor of Aleppo, the local SARC branch, local NGOs, the heads of the Directorates of Social Affairs, Education, WASH, Electricity and Communications, as well as spending time with national colleagues. Extensive discussions took place regarding modalities and routes for accessing besieged areas in Aleppo governorate.

Site visits to health and educational facilities and shelters were undertaken, including the 1070, Tishreen, Al Ryada, Aleppo UNI students' residence, 7<sup>th</sup> building, and the industrial school for women.



Credit: UNICEF/Zali  
Aleppo (March 2014) – An inter-agency team visits shelter and WASH programs at Al Rayda shelter in western Aleppo City.

Markets in western Aleppo city were found to be well-supplied and functioning with relatively stable prices. Bread was also available, with ten public bakeries, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Sector, producing 65,000 bundles of bread on a daily basis to support approximately 60,000 families (300,000 people) in need. However, reports of soaring inflation in the eastern districts of the city and rural areas across the governorate raised concerns. No movement took place outside of western Aleppo city due to the continued closure of the Bustan Al Qasr crossing into eastern Aleppo City.

## Limited access enables aid to reach besieged and hard to reach areas

### Relief supplies delivered to Douma for the first time since November 2012

On 20 March, an inter-agency team and SARC delivered food and NFI assistance for 3,000 people, including a limited amount of hygiene kits for women, baby milk and diapers for both children and elderly. Six thousand polio vaccine doses were also delivered. Supplies were offloaded into a SARC warehouse for later and the team conducted interviews with key informants regarding the situation on the ground, including community leaders, women and children, doctors and NGO volunteers.



Credit: UNICEF/RRashidi  
Douma (March 2014) – A young boy carries a bag of supplies during the Inter-agency convoy to Douma.

A visit to a local clinic and rapid site observations enabled a preliminary assessment of humanitarian conditions, including visible signs of malnutrition among residents, particularly children, and high food prices. The humanitarian situation was assessed to be dire across all sectors. Access to basic services is insufficient compared to the scale of need. Services, such as health and education, are being provided on a limited scale in informal locations. Heavy shelling and bombing is reported on a daily basis, as is large scale destruction of civilian infrastructure and cultivated lands.

### Food prices drop by 50 per cent following delivery of assistance

Severe shortages of basic supplies are reported in densely populated Douma. Commercial commodities are available in small quantities at extremely high prices – for example, 1 kg of rice costs 150 SYP in Damascus City and is sold in Douma for 1200 SYP. Reports indicate that following the delivery of supplies by the convoy, commercial commodity prices dropped by approximately 50 per cent.

With an estimated 50,000 people living in Douma, the humanitarian supplies delivered fall short of meeting the needs in the area, in particular as medicines were not approved for delivery. The mission was a critical step forward, however, in enabling humanitarian workers to assess needs, enhance partnerships on the ground and gather information to plan similar interventions in coming weeks.

## Food parcels for 1,667 families distributed to Palestine refugees and Syrians in Yarmouk Camp

For the first time since 1 March, the UN gained access to Yarmouk Camp on 18 March and resumed distribution of assistance (465 food parcels and some bread and jam) to Palestine refugees and Syrian civilians. Two thousand polio vaccine doses and 800 cartons of baby milk were delivered through an NGO. On 19 March, crowds of people swarmed the distribution site, clamouring for food and assistance, forcing humanitarian actors to withdraw. Between 20 and 23 March, 1,202 food parcels and some medical supplies were delivered. Reported resumption of fighting forced the UN to depart.



Credit: UNRWA Archives  
Rural Damascus (March 2014) – Young boys huddle around a fire in a can during some rain in Yarmouk Camp.

## Assistance dispatched and delivered to IDP camps in Sarmada, Idleb

On 26 March, the UN Hub Tartous dispatched an inter-agency humanitarian convoy of 16 trucks with food, NFIs and health items for 3,500 families (approximately 17,500 people) residing in 13 camps in the Sarmada area. The interagency team accompanied the convoy up until the final government check point in Idleb City. SARC Idleb reported that the supplies were offloaded into a warehouse in Sarmada town and dispatch to intended camps began immediately. The distribution process will be implemented by the camps' management committees.

In Idleb City the UN team held meetings with the Governor and SARC regarding the current humanitarian situation, assistance provided and gaps. Around 23,500 new IDP families have reportedly moved from northern rural areas of Hama (6,500 families), rural Aleppo (7,000 families) and Khan Shaykun sub district (10,000 families) as a result of escalated violence. In total 16,000 families have been verified and registered and one-third provided with food and NFIs.

## New access route enables additional assistance to reach Al-Hasakeh

From 20 March, the Government of Syria formally approved the opening of the Nusaybin border crossing point with Turkey, close to Quamishli, for transporting humanitarian supplies. The first convoy included 78 trucks carrying WASH supplies and NFIs for up to 50,000 people; 10,000 family food rations for up to 50,000 people; and more NFIs, medicines and medical supplies.

The UN, Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), international and national NGOs are coordinating with the Governor of Al-Hasakeh and Higher Relief Committee to facilitate rapid distribution of these supplies to people in need of assistance in Al-Hasakeh and Quamishli cities, in surrounding areas, as well as rural villages in the northeast and south.

## Airlifts continue to deliver relief supplies

On behalf of UN agencies and INGOs, the Logistics Cluster organized eight emergency airlifts from Damascus to Quamishli, starting 12 March, dispatching over 900 m<sup>3</sup> of cargo, including kitchen sets, shoes, socks, dignity kits, sanitary napkins, diapers, housecleaning kits, hygiene kits, midwifery sets, diarrheal disease kits, medicines, health kits, shampoo, Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) Generators, Mobile Storage Units (MSUs), Nutributter and dry yeast. On 18 March, a second series of airlifts from Damascus carried 80 mt of medicines and medical supplies, including intravenous fluids and life-saving and chronic disease medicines, as well as other urgently needed supplies sufficient for more than 335,000 vulnerable and displaced Syrians.

## **WASH project in 14 schools in Al-Hasakeh City improves learning and hygiene environment for children**

In Al-Hasakeh City, WASH Sector partners launched a project aiming to improve the quality of educational infrastructure and WASH facilities in 14 schools, supporting a child-friendly learning environment for around 12,000 children. The project will soon launch the hygiene education component of the project.

Distribution of hygiene kits reached 4,500 families in Al-Hasakeh.

## **Escalation of conflict in Lattakia results in new displacement**

Fighting in Lattakia has escalated significantly, particularly in rural Lattakia areas surrounding the border town of Kasab, but also in Lattakia city. On 23 March, Hilal Assad, the Commander of National Defense Forces in Lattakia, was killed during fighting with armed non-state groups.

As of 25 March, approximately 1,050 families have left the Kassab area and surrounding villages for Lattakia City, including the entire Armenian population of Kassab. The majority of these IDPs are residing with family or have rented housing. Approximately 44 Armenian families are sheltering at the local church. Local religious leaders note that due to the urgency of the situation, many left behind all belongings and documentation. In addition to immediate assistance, they will require legal support to restore their proof of identity.

The UN has conducted a monitoring mission to the area and SARC Lattakia has responded to the newly displaced, including with NFI and food supplies from UN agencies and IOM. WFP assisted with family food rations for a total of 4,500 people (900 families) newly displaced from Kassab area to Lattakia city.

## **Shelter support remains a dire need for 6.5 million IDPs**

### **Monitoring missions highlight key issues for review**

Following monitoring missions to several Governorates, adequate shelter management and maintenance after rehabilitation/upgrade has been identified as a key issue. The Shelter Sector has formed a Technical Working Group (TWiG) to identify solutions for (a) systematic and comprehensive shelter maintenance and management after completion of upgrade/rehab works; (b) general improvement of quality and (c) shelter options in replacement of tents.

### **Shelter and WASH Sector coordination enables comprehensive shelter response**

Comprehensive shelter response comprises not only shelter as a “roof” but also other necessities contributing to beneficiaries’ safety, health and well-being, in particular WASH facilities. While these issues are covered within the facilities through shelter interventions, public networks and services are often incomplete, unsuitable or damaged, and coordination remains a challenge, due to magnitude of interventions and wide variety of actors involved. To address this, the shelter sector coordination maintains a coordination process with the WASH Sector and other humanitarian organizations regarding the implementation of power supply, water and sewage networks in the planned areas for private shelter upgrade.

### **24,000 IDPs in Aleppo benefit from the shelter upgrade**

Work has been completed on the shelter upgrade project in Al Hamadaniyeh in Aleppo which started in October 2013. A total of 98 buildings with 1,208 apartments have been

upgraded for the benefit of 24,000 IDPs. The apartments include 4,746 rooms, each of which is allocated to one family.

The proposed work-plans for collective shelter rehabilitation and private shelter upgrade have been approved by Governorates and Ministry of Local Administration (MoLA). MoLA is collecting information on additional possible sites for rehabilitation/upgrade, which will be assessed and allocated to partners for implementation at a later stage.

## Field missions note an increase in SGBV-related protection issues for women

Field missions to Aleppo, Homs and Tartous noted reports of child marriage, and domestic violence incidence among IDPs, as well as an increase in number of Sex and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) incidents, including rape. Verification is challenging due to limited access and lack of agreed protocol, and Protection Sector members note that the rate of incidence is likely higher as formal protocol for case management is lacking and there is a scarcity of female staff in shelters.

### Multi-dimensional approach to support women and reproductive health

Thirty members of national NGO were trained on case management and referral. In Homs, referral mechanisms were established between the mobile teams and local NGO clinics. Medical examination, psychosocial support services, legal advice and counseling for 1,600 GBV survivors have been provided through clinics and mobile teams in Damascus, Homs, Lattakia, Rural Damascus and Tartous.

Over five thousand female dignity kits, and 1,705 male kits as well as some 8,000 sanitary napkins were provided for vulnerable people in Aleppo, Homs, Idleb and Rural Damascus, helping to preserve the dignity of women and their families while maintaining personal hygiene conditions.

## Stranded migrants remain vulnerable in Syria

Almost 70 per cent of stranded migrants are at risk of being food insecure and have little access to health care services. Many lack diplomatic representation, have been displaced, lost documentation and have been subject to abuse including employer exploitation. It is estimated that 6,800 out of 120,000 migrants in the country are extremely vulnerable – over 300 of them located in hard to reach and besieged areas in Aleppo governorate.

Since January 2014, emergency evacuation and repatriation was provided to 157 vulnerable stranded migrants – 68 of them during the past two weeks.

## Overview of coordinated humanitarian response

### Fourth round of polio outbreak response campaign in Syria reaches 2.9 million children

Analysis of final reports from partners nationwide indicate that the 4<sup>th</sup> round of polio 'national immunization days' outbreak response conducted in early March reached more than 2.9 million children (2,906,619) across the country – exceeding the 2.6 million target and representing the highest number of children reached since the launch of the response efforts. Local partners report difficulties accessing a number of areas, primarily in Deir-ez-Zor, Hama, Homs, rural Lattakia, Quneitra and Rural Damascus. For the first time since the launch of the outbreak response, the campaign reached East Ghouta in Rural Damascus with vaccine doses administered to more than 54,450 children (out of an estimated more than 145,000 children identified) in Beit Sahm, Babella, Douma, Harasta and Yalda villages.

Efforts continue to ensure the planned national outbreak response is delivered, including the procurement of one million doses of bOPV vaccine, bringing total procurement to 15 million doses (out of 18 million required). This latest procurement was imported from Damascus and is enough to cover the needs of the monthly national immunization days until April 2014. More than 4,450 health professionals, 2,620 mobile team health workers and 1,880 trained volunteers supported implementation of the campaign, while 837 vehicles were hired to transfer the vaccines across the country. Two meetings for 83 doctors from across the country, representing health authorities and implementing partners, were conducted to review the result of the third round of polio national immunization days, to expand coverage rates and improve results of upcoming rounds. Independent monitoring, conducted after each round reported that 97 per cent of households are aware of the campaign.

As of 13 March, 26 cases of wild polio virus have been confirmed in Syria, including one new case confirmed in Hama.

### **March cycle food aid dispatch rate improves**

A key strategy of the Food and Agriculture Sector is distribution of in-kind food aid to 4.25 million people in Syria out of an estimated 6 million people at high risk for food insecurity. One critical phase of the in-kind food delivery modality includes the dispatch of supplies to areas from which local partners will distribute directly to beneficiaries. By 25 March, 86 per cent of the dispatch plan for March was completed, reaching 13 out of 14 governorates, marking a significant improvement in rate compared to previous months.

February cycle distribution reached approximately 3.65 million beneficiaries in all Syrian governorates except Ar-Raqqa.

From the start of 2014 to 16 March, 82,572 newly displaced people in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs, Quneitra, Rural Damascus and Tartous, were provided with ready-to-eat rations procured in the local markets.

### **Health support provided to vulnerable people in Syria despite challenges**

Health authorities were provided with life-saving and non-communicable disease medicines and medical supplies for 2,666 direct beneficiaries in Damascus; 108,506 in Deir-ez-Zor; 229,253 in Hama; 95,571 in Idleb; and 157,507 direct beneficiaries in Tartous. Al-Rady hospital in Rural Damascus was provided with medical supplies for 2,000 direct beneficiaries. NGOs in Aleppo were provided with life-saving, non-communicable disease medicines and medical supplies for 76,011 direct beneficiaries. In Homs, a local charity was provided with dialysis sessions for 312 beneficiaries. The provision of primary health care services through mobile teams and fixed health centers continue to reach vulnerable and displaced communities with basic health care and referral services for complicated cases, including 7,000 children.

Ninety-one medical items (costing US\$ 1,051,635) have been requested by hospitals in Aleppo, Damascus and Latakia, of which 27 items have been procured and installed. An ophthalmology unit, an essential element of Primary Health Care, was delivered to Al Taalouf in Al Akramia polyclinic in Aleppo, last week. The provision of the equipment will cover the need for ophthalmology consultation in the clinic and will benefit people of all ages especially children with mal-refraction.

### **WASH Sector promotes collective standards for hygiene**

The WASH Sector has formed a hygiene promotion technical working group to ensure collective standards and guidelines are followed alongside the Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials developed for the Syrian context. Coordinated hygiene promotion training was conducted in Damascus for 26 national NGO participants from Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor.

Access to safe water in Homs is achieved through repair of damaged supply line feeding some shelters, and through provision of 10 tons of purification supplies, sufficient for about 45 days, benefitting 800,000 people. Additionally, a 1000-KVA generator was delivered to Homs wastewater treatment plant that treats sewage water for up to 1.2 million people. A national NGO distributed 88 aqua tabs boxes for 30,800 persons for one month; water containers for 2,000 families and 3,800 bags of washing powder for 3,800 families; soap for over 58,000 people; 1,500 family hygiene kits; 6,150 baby hygiene kits;

and 850 basic family water kits for 8,500 families. Just over 370 households (around 1,885 people) have benefited from hygiene promotion messaging in Homs City (181 households in Al Wa'er area and 196 households in Alidekhar area).

To enable access to safe drinking water, the WASH Sector has installed 76 water tanks in Damascus University Dormitory and provided 40 water tanks to Dar'a bakeries to facilitate continued production of food products. More than 100 household tanks were distributed in Damascus and Rural Damascus.

7,200 hygiene kits, including 5,700 dignity kits, were distributed in As-Sweida, Hama, Homs, Lattakia and Tartous. 23,000 anti-lice treatment shampoos with brushes were also distributed in Rural Damascus.

### **1,650,752 people have been provided with NFIs in 13 governorates in 2014**

Essential Non-Food Items (NFIs) were distributed to 209,981 IDPs from 13 governorates living in host communities and shelters, relying significantly upon local NGO partners for distribution. The NFIs included blankets, mattresses, sleeping mats, jerry cans, sanitary napkins, kitchen sets, solar lamps, hygiene kits, plastic sheets, adult and baby diapers, plastic mats, winter wear, sock kits and house cleaning kits.

Since January 2014, 1,650,752 individuals have been assisted by distribution of 3,792,230 NFIs in 13 governorates in Syria.

### **Around 270,000 Palestine refugees have been provided cash assistance in 2014**

Reaching the fourth week of distribution, the first round of 2014 cash and food assistance has delivered almost 2.5 billion Syrian pounds (\$US16.8 million) to 65,509 families (approximately 270,000 people), achieving an implementation rate of 69 per cent. 72,529 monthly food parcels have been distributed to 39,610 families (approximately 198,050 people).

Over 41,000 students are attending designated schools. Additional remedial classes have been established for over 5,000 ninth grade students to prepare them for their end of year exams in May, and distance learning materials are being developed to help those refugee children who are unable to attend regular classes. Several challenges, including closure of schools, overcrowded classrooms and shortages of teaching and learning materials has hindered delivery of remedial education.

Over 1,300 students are currently attending short term vocational training courses in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs and Lattakia, including courses on accountancy, electronics, hair and beauty, cooking, human resources and nursing. 1,125 students are also receiving psychosocial support, first aid training and life skills.

Since the beginning of the year 6,500 family hygiene kits, 9,384 packages of diapers for kids, 1,380 packages of diapers for adults, and 31,344 packages of sanitary napkins were distributed to displaced Palestine refugees sheltering in temporary collective centres.

### **Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) continues through capacity building and daily activities**

Out of over 200 applicants, 29 Syrian professionals (20 women and nine men) working for international and national humanitarian agencies and organizations were selected along with six Lebanese professionals to benefit from the Master's Degree course on 'Psychosocial Support and Dialogue' organized in collaboration with the Lebanese University.

Since January 2014, direct assistance to 81 caregivers, volunteers, and community workers was provided through MHPSS consideration training and non-violent communication training directed towards children, youth and their families affected by the crisis.

In Damascus and Rural Damascus, MHPSS assistance has been provided to 3,788 IDPs and ten collective centers were provided with mental health/PSS services and activities. A total of 1,134 IDPs residing were provided with MHPSS services in the shelters in Damascus. More than 1,200 IDPs have benefitted from visits of the mobile teams in

different shelters in Damascus and Idleb, in addition to other PSS projects running in Dar'a and Tartous.

The series of community services activities continue with the organization of various recreational and psychosocial support (PSS) activities as well as education, group and individual counseling, vocational training, literacy classes, and mentoring programmes. Various activities were organized in cooperation with the national NGO partners in Aleppo, Damascus, Homs and Rural Damascus, benefitting around 7,854 children, mothers and people with special needs. Orientation and mapping workshops for managers were conducted in which 28 participants from six local NGOs working in Aleppo, Al-Hasakeh, Damascus, Homs and Tartous, participated.

In addition, a workshop on basic Gender Based Violence GBV was organized for 30 frontline workers. Moreover, 169 parents/caregivers have also started ECD programme through Barzeh clinic and RAC Jaramana.

Provision of life skills training for shelter beneficiaries has been supported through authentic service providers. A total of 233 beneficiaries participated in the following life skills training courses: Make up course for women, hairdressing for men and women, Electronic course for adolescents, Mechanic course for men, Mobile and computer maintenance, sewing and ICDL courses.

### **Rapid Nutrition Assessment set to launch across Syria**

The Nutrition Sector is currently targeting up to 91,000 children each month with supplementary feeding initiatives which aim to support positive nutrition during key developmental stages. The supplementary product Plumpy'Doz® is currently being distributed to children aged 6-59 months in collective shelters and host communities in the central and southern governorates, while Nutributter® to address micronutrient deficiencies, is supporting children aged 6-23 months in the northern governorates. Access constraints in the north-east and a shortage of technical partners have hindered a rapid scale up of the intervention. In February, distributions of supplementary feeding products reached 127,498 children in both collective shelters and host communities, exceeding by 34 percent the target for the cycle, as some supplies which were dispatched in January were distributed only in February and increased coverage of the blanket feeding programme in Rural Damascus in concert with on-going national polio vaccinations. Monthly rations of the supplementary product were split to reach a larger number of children than planned, however additional dispatches are ongoing to ensure each child receives a full ration.

32 pediatricians and nutritionists at primary health level from As-Sweida, Damascus, Dar'a, Hama, Quneitra and Rural Damascus were provided with training towards integrating breastfeeding into the provision of health services during emergencies.

Review and analysis of data gathered from a pilot phase of the field data collection for the national Rapid Nutrition Assessment in Lattakia indicated a need for strengthening the capacity of enumerators and revision of the questionnaire. On 20 March, 60 enumerators from Damascus and Rural Damascus were trained further on the edited version of the questionnaire and were subjected to more practice on the anthropometric measurements.

### **More than 4,000 women are provided with reproductive health services**

Through provision of Reproductive Health vouchers, 4,200 women in As-Sweida, Damascus, Hama, Homs and Rural Damascus were provided with reproductive health services, including emergency obstetric care for 2,000 women and safe deliveries for 400 women. Through the recognition that local community social acceptance and coordination is essential to ensuring optimal provision of life saving reproductive health services, the Health Sector strategy aims to engender this element in its approach. In Hab Nemra neighborhood of Homs, the community provided furniture for one clinic which will enable provision approximately 10,000 people to benefit from reproductive health services, including family planning – this donation complements the provision of needed staff, equipment and medicines provided by humanitarian actors to the clinic.

## **Early Warning and Response System strengthened through training of local health professionals**

The early warning and response system (EWARS) launched in 2012 to strengthen the national surveillance system, detect epidemic threats early, respond and control outbreaks and monitor epidemic-prone diseases. In addition to increasing from little more than 100 to 363 'sentinel' surveillance sites to collect data and report on case counts of selected diseases which are diagnosed by health care providers on the basis of a case definition, the Health Sector continues to strengthen the capacity of the system.

50 pediatricians working in public health centres at central level and 34 health professionals were trained on sample collection techniques, reporting and diagnosis to reinforce sample collection management under the EWARS. 37 health professionals Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Homs, Lattakia and Rural Damascus were trained on sample collection, and sputum smears and cultures to ensure effective tuberculosis monitoring and response. A workshop for 60 health professionals, from Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, As-Sweida, Dar'a, Deir-ez-Zor, Hama, Homs, Idleb, Lattakia, Quneitra and Tartous, aimed to reinforce the brucellosis surveillance system by re-activating the routine surveillance of brucellosis and ensuring all cases are registered and reported through the routine surveillance and the EWARS.

40 medical workers in As-Sweida were trained in Damascus to using the Health Resources And Services Availability Mapping System (HeRAMS). 45 health professionals were trained on leishmaniasis case management and the leishmaniasis surveillance system.

## **Education Sector prioritizes procurement of school supplies for overcrowded classrooms**

Due to the ongoing conflict and the continued internal displacement, many schools across Syria report permanent and temporal dropouts, lack of teachers, disrupted teaching hours and congested classrooms due to an influx of internally displaced children. Furthermore, the schools which accommodate an influx of new arrivals face a shortage of school furniture, textbooks, teaching and learning materials. Under SHARP 2014, the Education Sector has prioritized facilitating sufficient quantity of textbooks and other education materials before schools begin in the new academic year 2014/15 procurement of textbooks, and teaching and learning materials. Over the past two weeks, efforts are focused on ensuring timely and efficient procurement of English textbooks for more than two million primary school students in Syria.

Induction sessions on psychosocial support for children in need were provided to 136 government officials, social counselors, and teachers to benefit more than 5,600 children at 7 target schools in Damascus and Rural Damascus need of assistance for remedial education and psychosocial support.

Financial scholarships were provided to 288 university students, over 70 per cent of whom are girls, to enable them to continue their formal education during the crisis. Over 30 students were supported to attend English language sessions and IT courses.

## **More than 1,200 adolescent girls and boys in shelters in Tartous were provided with support**

Over 1200 girl and boy adolescents and 162 women in two shelters in Tartous were provided with vocational training courses, cultural activities, psychosocial and other activities focused on strengthening life-skills. 4,500 Palestinian adolescents were provided with life skills and vocational training in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs, Lattakia and Rural Damascus IDP camps. Additionally, in cooperation with national and international partners, 127 youth workers and volunteers in Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor and Idleb received 'Training of Trainers' in regards to various vocational and life skills, including electricity, office management, 'communication for development' and health education.

## **In 2014, psychosocial support services continue to reach over 9,175 children**

The Child Protection Sector response included provision of essential psychosocial support services for 1,210 new child beneficiaries, including 239 in Hama, 104 in Quneitra and 836 in Rural Damascus, though delivery of the response was hindered in some areas, such as in Yabrud in Rural Damascus.

Some cases require focused and more specific care, beyond the basic psychosocial support activities which are designed to provide children in emergencies with comfort, reassurance and support. Specialized psychological and psychiatric services were provided to 38 children in Damascus and Rural Damascus and 376 children in School Clubs. Also support was provided to 30 adolescents and 33 mothers through groups in Damascus and Rural Damascus.



Credit: UNICEF/OSanadik  
Homs (March 2014) – Children laugh and play during recreational activities provided by Protection Sector partners and national NGO at a shelter in Homs.

Progress has been made by the Child Protection Technical Discussion Group and members to establish the systems which underpin protection of children. The Alternative Care Draft Law Committee, which is led by the Ministry of Social Affairs and supported by Child Protection Sector members, has successfully submitted the Alternative Care Draft Law Project to the Minister of Social Affairs for her to present to the Syrian Cabinet for discussion prior to the submission to the Parliament as the legislative body in the country.

Continuing the initial progress in 2013, over 1,170 teachers from Damascus, Dar'a, Quneitra and Rural Damascus received training and risk education materials in March. As a result of this Risk School Based approach, each teacher beneficiary of the training has been equipped with the training kits in order to cover a total of 4,100 children (300 children by teacher) in different schools in the above mentioned Governorates.

### **Early Recovery and Livelihoods initiatives support micro- and small businesses**

In Homs, the Early Recovery and Livelihoods Sector aims to support restoration of livelihoods towards enabling vulnerable Syrians to meet their basic needs through the revival of micro and small businesses. Since February, four projects were initiated in Homs City, including a sewing workshop, ice factory, roof gardening and a brick manufacturing workshop. Following renovation of a location and procurement and

distribution of supplies, the women's sewing workshop launched, enabling women, mostly those living in collective shelters, to begin to earn an income. With the revenue generated by the workshop, the local NGO partner will be able to support four additional micro businesses, including a barbershop, mobile charging shop, gas filling and distributing vendors, for internally displaced Syrians.

In order to contribute to poverty reduction, improving nutrition and food security in Homs City, an initiative to promote roof gardening was launched, where roofs and basements of shelters are utilized to plant beans, lentils, vegetables, and other such produce. This project provides low cost products, where the price of vegetable has increased drastically in the local markets as a result of growing insecurity, cost of transportation, scarcity of raw materials and hard accessibility of traders from different governorates. Subsequently, this initiative aims to cover the shortage in supply in the market.



Credit: UNDP/  
D (March 2014) – Primary school aged children participate in a remedial education session in Ar-Rastan, Homs.

## Logistics Cluster enables improved efficiency and effectiveness through common storage space

In the past two weeks, over 1,396 m<sup>3</sup> of WASH, health, food, protection and shelter, education, electronic/logistics items were temporarily stored at the Cluster's common warehousing facilities in Rural Damascus and Quamishli on behalf of UN and international NGO partners.

## More than 2.5 million Syrian refugees

Country	Refugees registered and/or assisted awaiting registration as of 26 March 2014
Egypt	135,499
Iraq	221,791
Jordan	587,308
Lebanon	985,346
Turkey	649,302
North Africa	19,697
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,598,943</b>

Source: UNHCR as of 26 March 2014. For updated figures and more information: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>. The above figures are based on numbers registered in each country and/or those who are assisted while waiting for registration.

## Funding overview

The 2014 Syrian Humanitarian Assistance Response plan (SHARP) seeks US\$ 2.28 billion to meet the needs of 9.3 vulnerable people. This represents an increase of 61% compared to 2013 requirements of US\$ 1.4 billion.

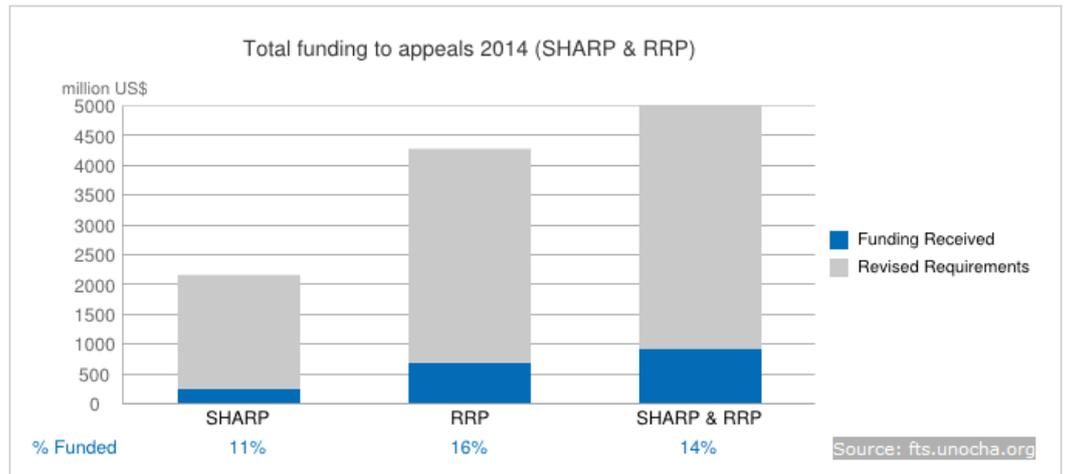
SHARP 2014 envisages expanding humanitarian space and preserving the gains that have been made through a collaborative approach among actors. In addition, it is recognized that, wherever possible, it is vital to support community coping mechanisms, rehabilitate vital public services, strengthen individual and collective resilience and reinforce preparedness. Due to the protracted nature of this multi-dimensional crisis, the humanitarian community in country will accompany the life-saving humanitarian interventions early recovery and development investments to restore the services, to stimulate employment, assuring long-term macro-economic support.

Immediate and compelling protection risks are on the rise. This includes, amongst other things, protection from family and children separation, prevention and response to sexual and gender based violence, psycho-social support to extreme traumatized cases. Responses to these risks are life-saving which can't be achieved without adequate human resources and funding.

### Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan funded 11 per cent

The Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan 2014 has received funding up to 11 per cent. The humanitarian response inside Syria requires \$786 million in the immediate and medium term (March-August 2014), to meet some of the top priority lifesaving needs.

A key operational challenge is that many relief items are no longer produced in Syria and are increasingly difficult to source locally. Timely funding is essential to ensure an uninterrupted supply of items and to plan for the most economical means of transport.



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