

# Syria

January 2019

In the beginning of the ninth year of the crisis in Syria, emergencies continue, with thousands of people fleeing Hajin enclave in North-East Syria, where UNHCR is in Al Hol camp providing core relief items, shelter and protection support to the newly arrivals.

At the same time the UN team in Syria plans the biggest humanitarian aid convoy to reach to the people in need in the South, namely in the makeshift camp in Rukban. While the convoy will provide critical humanitarian assistance to people in Rukban, the United Nations also recognizes that a dignified solution, enabling people at the site to decide voluntarily and safely how to return to normal life in a place of their choosing is urgently required.

In 2019, UNHCR will continue to provide humanitarian assistance and protection services to the most vulnerable IDPs, host communities, returnees and other crisis-affected populations in all areas where humanitarian access exists.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

**Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)**  
 People in need of humanitarian Assistance 11.7 million  
 Internally Displaced Persons 6.2 million

**Returnees**  
 Syrian IDP returnees 1.4<sup>1</sup> million  
 Syrian refugee returnees 56,047<sup>2</sup> thousand

**Refugees**  
 Current Population 45,418  
 Urban refugees 18,817  
 Asylum seekers 18,664  
 Camp Population 7,879

## OPERATIONAL CAPACITY

**Staff:** 520

National Staff: 441

International Staff: 79

### UNHCR Offices:

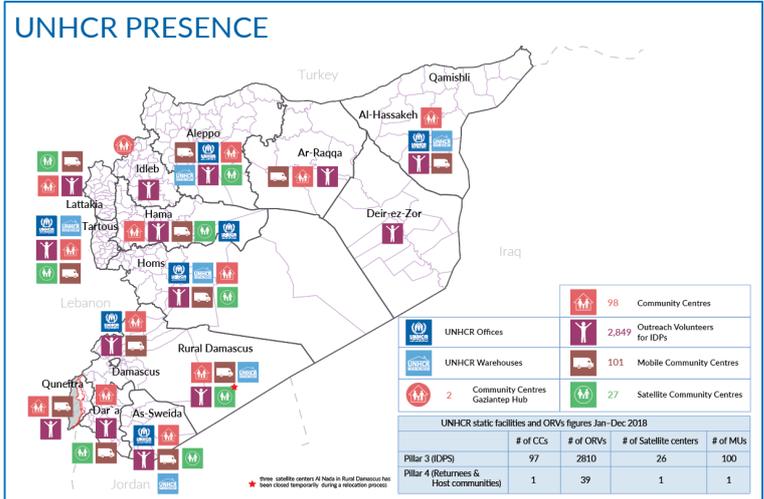
- 1 Country Office in Damascus
- 4 Sub Offices in Aleppo, Homs, Damascus and Qamishli
- 2 Field Offices in Tartous and As-Sweida

### UNHCR Partners:

30 Operational partners; including 9 international NGOs, 18 national NGOs and two governmental entities, including Ministry of Local Administration and Environment (MoLAE) and Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE), in addition to one UN agency.

### UNHCR Community Centres:

224 Community Centres, Mobile Unites and Satellite Centres  
 2,849 Outreach Volunteers



<sup>1</sup> OCHA, December 2018

<sup>2</sup> UNHCR, December 2018.

# UNHCR Syria strategic directions for 2019

Humanitarian needs in Syria remain staggering in terms of scale, severity and complexity, with significant protection risks persisting in a number of areas. A total of 11.7 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, including 6.2 million people that are internally displaced. Some 5 million people are in acute need due to a convergence of vulnerabilities resulting from displacement, exposure to hostilities and limited access to basic goods and services. The UN estimates there are an estimated 1.16 million people in need living in hard-to-reach locations. By end of 2018, 1.6 million people had moved across Syria.

UNHCR's action in 2019 will continue to contribute to the strategic objectives of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) to provide life-saving assistance, mitigate protection risks and respond to protection needs, improve self-reliance, livelihoods and access to basic services, and prepare for the shift towards returns. UNHCR will continue to deliver on these objectives through five key components as described below;

- 1) **Provision of emergency life-saving assistance** to IDPs (emergency response to new displacements such as North-East Syria, Rukban and Idlib);
- 2) **IDP protection and assistance** to support over 6 million IDPs and equally vulnerable host communities;
- 3) **Refugee protection and assistance** to some 46,000 refugees and asylum seekers who continue to need support;
- 4) **Winterization support**, will be delivered from September through March. 788,339 IDPs, returnees and host communities were provided winter items by end of December, and UNHCR is planning to reach 1,250,000 by March 2019;
- 5) **Preparing for returns and providing community based protection services and assistance support to returnees**, mostly IDPs but also spontaneous refugee returnees, through community-based assistance. In 2018, 1.4 million IDPs and 56,047 Syrian refugees returned. UNHCR will continue in 2019, to ensure that returns is included in the HRP and that resources are allocated to respond to immediate and urgent humanitarian needs of returning IDPs and refugees.

## I. Emergency Response

### Response to emergency in North-East Syria

Since the beginning of December 2018, approximately 25,000 individuals arrived from Hajin to Al-Hol camp. At least 29 children have passed away on the way to the camp, or shortly after arrival due to malnutrition or acute respiratory infections. The situation in the camp is dire, with people being housed in the communal kitchens, schools, and child friendly spaces. As for the capacity, there are now 32,000 individuals in Al-Hol, where a total of 35,000 individuals can be hosted. UNHCR and its partners are also assessing the possibility of hosting the additional arrivals in Mabrouka camp.

With the increase of number of arrivals to Al Hol over the past weeks, the reception areas are now overcrowded. UNHCR and partners have set up a 24 hour response teams to receive the newly displaced people, quickly identify the most vulnerable cases and provide urgent assistance, especially to unaccompanied or separated children and those who require immediate medical assistance.

A number of emergency measures have been put in place in Al Hol, particularly in the reception and screening areas of the camp. Additional large size tents were set up as immediate shelter for new arrivals, UNHCR, other UN agencies and humanitarian partners also opened child friendly spaces, schools and communal kitchens for the new arrivals, so that people do not remain out in the open air till they can move to a tent of their own. UNHCR with partners have installed more than 4,500 tents and 3,600 are ready to be installed. UNHCR teams have assisted the newly arrivals with more than 23,000 with core relief items and winter assistance.

## II. Protection and Assistance to IDPs

As of end December 2018, UNHCR reached out to more than two million IDPs, returnees and host communities through protection activities in 13 governorates. UNHCR, together with its partners, established nine new community centres in Aleppo, Hama and Lattakia, 10 satellite centres in As-Sweida, Hama, Lattakia, Tartous and Aleppo as well as 29 mobile units in newly accessible areas and areas of return. UNHCR conducted 1,749,548 general protection interventions including awareness raising, material

assistance, legal services, education programmes and other socio-economic support, 339,480 child protection interventions, including, awareness raising through contact initiatives, case management/referrals, child protection and Psychosocial Support (PSS) group activities, parenting programmes, mine risk education and capacity building, as well as 248,154 sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) interventions, including awareness raising activities, dignity kit distribution, case management/referrals, specialized mental, psychosocial support activities and capacity building.

By end of December 2018, the total number of functioning UNHCR-funded community centres and mobile units stands at 97 community centres, 26 satellite centres and 100 mobile units supported by 2,810 Outreach Volunteers (ORVs).

The legal aid project in Syria expanded since the beginning of 2018 with 211 lawyers and 102 legal ORVs who provided legal services to 386,776 IDPs in 14 governorates. Out of the total, 170,080 IDPs had benefited from legal counselling, 109,160 benefited from lawyers' intervention before courts/administrative bodies, and 107,536 IDPs benefited from 4,591 awareness sessions on legal issues mainly related to civil documentation. In addition, and in coordination with the Ministry of Interior (MOI)/Directorate of Civil Affairs, UNHCR has developed a Civil Documentation Booklet that was approved by concerned authorities. UNHCR distributed 200,000 copies of the booklet through partners' community centres, civil affairs offices in 13 governorates and immigration departments. The purpose of the booklet is to assist in raising the awareness of Syrian nationals on the importance of civil documentations and the relevant procedures to obtain the civil documents. Additionally, a birth registration leaflet was developed by UNHCR in cooperation with Syria Trust and SARC. 42,000 copies were printed and sent through UNHCR legal partners for distribution through community centres.

## Shelter and Non-Food Items

UNHCR provided 2,072,440 individuals with at least one core relief and supplementary item by end of December 2018, UNHCR participated in 16 interagency convoys, delivering multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance to IDPs in 16 locations (Dar Al Kabireh, Afrin, Talbiseh, Tlul Elhomor, Duma-, Yalda, Babila, Beit Sahm, Ar-Rastan, Al Houleh, Hurbenafah, Beit Jen, Dar'a Al Balad, Erbin, Zamalka and Busra Esh-Sham) in five governorates (Homs, Hama, Rural Damascus, Aleppo and Dar'a).

By December 2018, over 456,986 individuals were served with shelter support, including 53,922 with the installation of shelter kits. UNHCR, together with its partners, responded to the emergency shelter needs in Rural Damascus, Afrin, Homs, Hama and As-Sweida, in addition to the rehabilitation of 2,586 rooms in collective shelters in the IDP sites by providing partitions, doors and windows. UNHCR also provided 6,085 family tents to the IDPs/refugees in camps in North-East Syria. In partnership with 15 governmental and non-governmental organizations, UNHCR started an initiation process in shelter projects i.e. technical assessment, obtaining needed approvals and allocating resources to achieve the 2018 overall target.

## Livelihood Support

By end of December 2018, a total of 19,070 individuals benefited from UNHCR's vocational training, life skills and on the job training courses across nine governorates. The trainees were provided with vocational and life skills in fields such as tailoring, electricity maintenance, blacksmithing, painting, hairdressing, and carpentry courses through local partners. UNHCR has also supported 2,117 individuals from the IDP and affected communities through entrepreneurship/ business training, out of whom 899 received support to start small business projects in Rural Damascus and Aleppo. UNHCR has also resumed distribution of livelihoods toolkits to 7,323 individuals, and short term employment to 99 individuals across 13 governorates. A significant portion of the beneficiaries consists of skilled IDPs and returnees who had lost their assets and are willing to resume income generating activities. The toolkits included blacksmithing, hairdressing, air conditioning, mobile and computer maintenance toolkits. As part of UNHCR's support to returnees in Aleppo, 2,042 IDPs and returnees have benefitted from laundromats supported by UNHCR in three neighborhoods in East Aleppo to improve hygiene situation of returnees which is heavily affected due to the damage and destruction in water supply and sewage. UNHCR has also equipped two carpentry workshops to be used by skilled workers from the IDP and returnee communities to repair and produce furniture without the need to procure the expensive machines or resort to pay additional cost for restoring their assets. 146 individuals benefited from this project so far in 2018. In rural Aleppo, UNHCR completed the rehabilitation of two public bakeries in Kadi Askar and Khafseh area providing thousands of IDPs, returnees and host communities with daily bread.

## Primary Health Care, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

Providing primary health care services, including mental health, and support to emergency life-saving interventions is the main component of UNHCR IDP response in the health sector. UNHCR continued its community-based health approach by establishing health points in the UNHCR-funded community centres. Through this approach UNHCR aims to raise awareness on health promotion and disease prevention, empower communities to actively influence their own health to efficiently prevent health problems, and identify diseases early to prevent serious complications, death and disability. The health workers also provide individual and family counselling, conduct focus group discussions and engage the community not only through the community centres by also through Outreach Volunteers (ORV) and mobile teams. By December 2018, UNHCR reached out and assisted 438,010 IDPs with Primary Health Care (PHC) services provided through 14 PHC clinics and 11 health points in five governorates.

Also 11,192 IDPs were reached with Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services through six SARC clinics in Damascus and Rural Damascus. 34,579 IDPs received in kind assistance with medical assistive devices such as crutches and wheelchairs through community centres in eight governorates: Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs, Hama, Aleppo, As-Sweida, Tartous and Latakia. Eleven health points (out of 18 planned) in community centres (one in each) managed by two local partners in Aleppo city including East Aleppo and Homs provided 11,859 health counselling to IDPs and 268 health awareness sessions. Additionally, 26,590 IDPs out of the total (389,004) received medical consultations; 63 percent were women, 17 percent under five years old and 11 percent were 60 years old and above. One new health point opened in May in Katerji-East Aleppo, an area of IDP return in Aleppo.

## III. Protection and Assistance to Refugees

The population of refugees and asylum seekers consists of 45,418 individuals, including 18,817 predominantly Iraqi refugees, mostly residing in Damascus and Al-Hasakeh Governorates; 18,664 asylum-seekers, mostly residing in urban Quamishli; and 7,879 Iraqi asylum seekers living in the three camps of Newroz, Roj and Al-Hol in Al-Hasakeh governorate. UNHCR's registration of the camp-based refugees in Al-Hasakeh, which has been rescheduled several times because of security reasons, is now planned.

UNHCR Syria provides monthly multipurpose cash assistance to more than 5,000 families (20,000 individuals). The cash assistance programme for refugees, which was previously composed of two components (cash for food for all refugees and additional financial assistance for vulnerable profiles) was replaced by a multipurpose cash grant (MPG) in March 2018. In line with evolving protection policy and regional practice on targeted assistance, the operation introduced a targeted approach for cash assistance in order to assist the most vulnerable groups.

The operation continued improving its cash delivery systems and processes, ensuring convenience and ease of use for recipients as well as efficiency and cost-effectiveness for the organization. A new software application was developed to manage assistance planning, disbursement, reconciliation and reporting. UNHCR is gradually phasing out of the cheque-voucher modality and has prepared the ground for a transition to ATM cards for non-Iraqi refugees to streamline it with the card-based delivery mechanism used for Iraqi refugees. For the past several years, the non-Iraqi group of refugees has been receiving entitlements through a cheque, which had to be collected at UNHCR premises and then cashed at a bank branch within a specified time period. This cumbersome procedure incurred high transport costs for recipients and demanded significant staff time from the UNHCR team. In July, all eligible families will be issued rechargeable, prepaid ATM cards that can be used at ATMs throughout the country at the family's convenience.

During the first half of the year, refugee families received approximately USD 92 per month for the head of household and USD 23 for each additional family member. While the number of targeted families decreased compared to 2017, the average transfer value for a family of three increased from USD 117 per month to USD 138. Particularly vulnerable urban asylum-seekers in Al-Hasakeh governorate eligible for cash received USD 16 for each individual to cover monthly food needs.

In 2018, 1,535 refugees were supported with education grant, which is a conditional grant with targeted

entitlement paid to families who have children enrolled in primary or secondary public education institutions to encourage continued enrollment of children in school. Additionally tertiary level education grant (pocket money) was also paid to 45 selected university students to enable them to purchase books, stationery and other related needs over the course of their studies.

During the months of November and December, the entire target population of refugees and asylum seekers (7,163 HH, 22,958 individuals) benefited from the winterization cash assistance, a multi-purpose grant to cover increased basic needs during the winter season, in particular heating fuel and winter clothes.

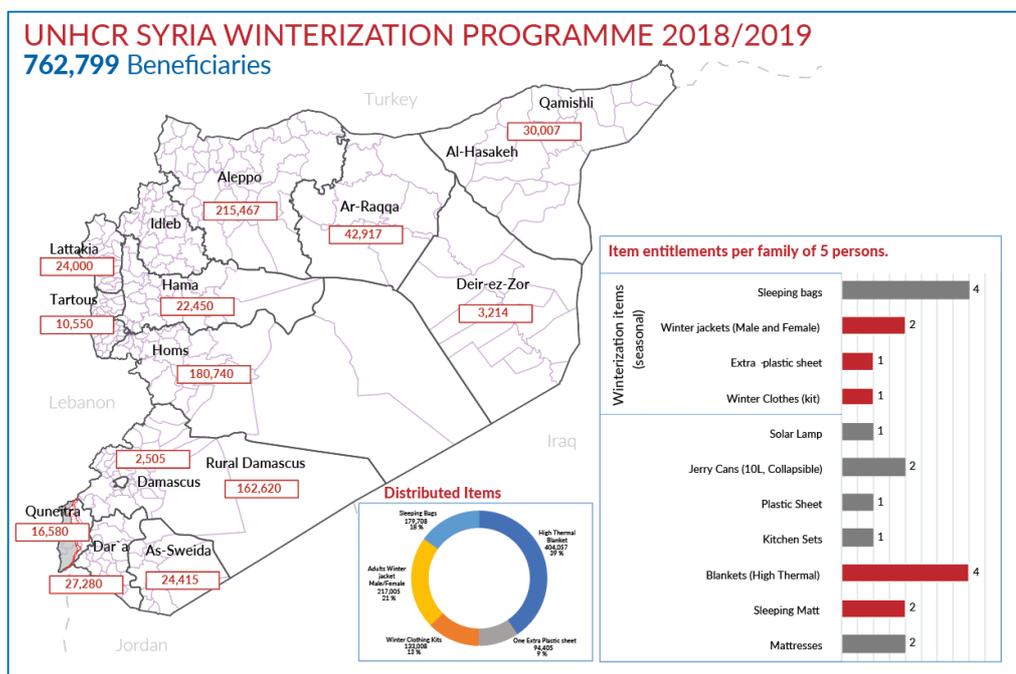
In 2018, total number of refugees supported with Multi-Purpose Cash Grant - MPCG was 29,356 (6,447 households) while 7,859 asylum seekers (1,521 households) were supported with Cash for Food – C4F assistance.

As of end of December, 376 refugees were submitted for resettlement consideration to Australia, Sweden, Canada and the United Kingdom. Further, 219 individuals departed for resettlement to Australia, Sweden and the Netherlands. UNHCR also facilitated the departure of 68 individuals under humanitarian or family reunification programs to Australia, Canada and Sweden. UNHCR office continued to provide support to resettlement countries through facilitation of digital video conferencing interviews, biometric collection, and hand-delivery of documents to various locations.

Moreover, 580 asylum seekers underwent Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews and 634 RSD case reviews were undertaken. UNHCR submitted 640 decisions at different stages. 282 individuals were recognized with 194 rejected. UNHCR has also carried out a training project to build the capacity of Protection staff in order to improve data collection and reporting.

## IV. Winterization

Winter assistance is delivered every year from September through March. As more areas become accessible, winterization support becomes even more pressing because many of the newly accessible areas have not been assessed or assisted for a long period of time and their residents are extremely vulnerable. Seasonal items include additional



blankets, jackets, undergarments, sleeping bags, and additional plastic sheeting. UNHCR began its 2018 winterization programme in Syria on 01 September. As of end of December, 1,028,183 winterized items, including high thermal blankets, extra plastic sheeting, winter jackets and winter clothes kits were distributed to 762,799 individuals in Tartous, Hama, Homs, Damascus, Aleppo, and Lattakia. UNHCR is planning this winter to reach 1,250,000 individuals from inside Syria by providing winterization support through distribution of items such as high thermal blankets, plastic sheeting, sleeping bags and winter clothing kits, prioritizing the newly displaced vulnerable families (including people displaced multiple times), people living in hard-to-reach areas and in sub-standard shelters, spontaneous returnees, as well as the newly accessible locations which have not been assisted in the past.

## V. Support to spontaneous returns

Self-organized returns of IDPs and refugees from neighbouring countries continue to several areas where stability has been restored, hostilities declined or ceased, and which have become newly accessible. As of December 2018, 1.4 million IDPs in Syria are estimated to have returned to their homes (according to OCHA), while UNHCR recorded 56,047 Syrian refugees having spontaneously returned. An increase in self-organized returns of refugees in 2019 is expected. UNHCR will continue to respond to the needs of the IDP and refugee returnees with the same community based protection approach as it has been implementing to assist internally displaced Syrians. While building on its significant capacity to respond to the needs of the returnees, UNHCR is also expanding its capacity and its programmes to assist IDP and refugee returnees as well as the affected population, including the host communities. In 2019, UNHCR will continue to support refugee and IDP returns in the same way as in 2018, where UNHCR Syria's interventions inside Syria on refugee and IDP return were informed by:

- **Humanitarian Response Plan (2018)** which presented the inter-agency coordinated humanitarian response, and which included UNHCR's projection of the return of 200,000 refugees;
- **UNHCR Syria's Country Operations Plan for Pillar 3** which provided the programmed activities for IDP and refugees returnees (with planning figures of one million IDP returnees and 200,000 refugee returnees for a total budget of USD 259.2 million OP);
- **UNHCR's Comprehensive Protection and Solutions Strategy: Voluntary Return to Syria**, that set out the programmatic and policy guidance on UNHCR's engagement in the return of Syrian refugees (phase 1/phase 2);

Under phase 1, UNHCR's support to returnees inside Syria is limited to humanitarian assistance, whether the returnees were IDPs or refugees, self-organized or organized by the Syrian Government and other stakeholders. Return and reintegration support is community-based, provided to all population groups on the basis of needs, not status. UNHCR's community-based programmes include the village support model in rural areas, and neighbourhood support programme in urban areas. UNHCR continue to expand in-country staff and office capacity for both IDP programmes and in places of actual or potential refugee and IDP return.

### In 2018, UNHCR Syria focused on the following priority areas:

**1. Coordination:** Under the UN Country Team (UNCT), the Return and Reintegration Working Group was established for which UNHCR was the secretariat in support of the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC). UNHCR was also the lead on the Refugee Return pillar. In collaboration with the RC/HC and the 3RP Regional Directors' Group, the RRWG was also the main point of contact between the UNHCR-run Durable Solutions Working Groups in neighbouring countries on refugee return.

**2. Information Management:** As part of return planning, UNHCR Syria initiated setting up capacity to assess conditions in return areas, identify return movements, and answer key questions being asked by refugees in neighbouring countries.

**3. Return Protection Thresholds:** UNHCR was the primary UN interlocutor for the Government of Syria (GoS) on refugee return. UNHCR continued pursuing talks with the GoS on core protection principles that should facilitate the return. UNHCR aimed to further elaborate these principles into a legal framework of cooperation with the government of Syria that would help respond to the needs of the returnees as well as provide humanitarian support and social protection. UNHCR also sought to 'unpack' the principles with the GoS into concrete actions to remove obstacles to return and address refugees' own concerns for their legal, physical and material safety, and assess progress towards these goals through analysis and field visits.

**4. Civil registration and documentation:** UNHCR recognized the importance of civil documentation, freedom of movement, accessing to the humanitarian aid and basic services, as an enabling factor for return, to prevent statelessness and to mitigate risks of SGBV and exploitation.

Furthermore, as a part of its role in developing a return protection strategy, UNHCR involved extensively in analysing the legal challenges for return, and in providing comments and answers to the "protection-returns monitoring toolkit"; based on the Syrian legal framework concerning the protection of returnees and how to facilitate their return.

In October, an amnesty for crimes related to military service committed prior to 9 October 2018 was issued through the Legislative Decree no.18. The amnesty constitutes an additional positive step initiated by the Syrian government towards encouraging return and reconciliation, which expected to have an impact on the return of Syrian refugees.

In coordination with Syria Trust, UNHCR conducted a workshop on the importance of civil documentation to prevent statelessness where challenges encountered by returnees in relation to civil documentation were discussed. UNHCR legal partners, relevant ministries and governmental departments attended the workshop.

**5. Housing, land and property (HLP) – legal support:** In cooperation with the GoS, other UN agencies and Syrian NGOs, UNHCR initiated its support to returnees to reclaim their property and resolve legal obstacles through analysis and advocacy around specific legislation and regulations, legal assistance and civil documentation. UNHCR's interventions were a part of a close inter-agency collaboration on HLP, with UNHCR co-chairing an HLP working group.

## 6. Community-Based Programming

a. **Community Centres:** By the end of 2018 UNHCR managed through its partners to open a community centre, a satellite centre and a mobile unit under pillar 3 (Returnees and host communities). UNHCR also continued to support returnees through the other functional facilities under pillar 4 (Internally Displaced Persons) including 97 community centres, 26 satellite centres and 100 mobile units in 12 governorates.

The community centres provided women, men, boys and girls of diverse backgrounds with safe spaces where they can interact, integration protection services and tailored assistance, this included legal counselling/aid, supplementary education, livelihoods activities covering skills training and provision of start-up business kits, primary health care, psycho-social support, programmes on prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), child protection interventions, awareness raising activities and in-kind assistance to persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups. The same services were expanded to cater to the returnees either in the already existing centres or in new centres established in return areas.

b. **Outreach Volunteers:** This program aimed at mobilizing and empowering the PoCs and the most vulnerable members from the host communities to assume leading roles within their communities and to bridge them with UNHCR services.

In 2018 UNHCR Syria in cooperation with 17 partners mobilized a network of 2,849 ORVs from the IDP, return and host community in 14 governorates, out of this 39 ORVs were under pillar 3 (Returnees and host communities), managed by two partners and linked to a community centre in Aleppo and a satellite centre in Rural Damascus. The outreach volunteers (ORVs) provided a range of protection services, linked people in need to the community centres and provided information related to services. The ORVs organized focus group discussions and actively engaged in recreational and awareness-raising activities, building a two way communication fora and trust with communities. The ORVs were trained on basic community-based protection concepts.

c. **Community-Led Initiatives:** In 2018, 4 CLIs were implemented in Aleppo governorate in cooperation with UNHCR partner Al Ihsan, the implemented CLIs were managed by 60 returnees, benefiting 2,200 beneficiaries.

Two CLIs were tackling wash-related issues such as awareness raising sessions, securing toilets by implementing locks and repairing doors, and providing a safe and a secure water sources. The other CLI was about manufacturing wagons for returnees to bring goods from the nearby shops of their residents, as their return areas are still not accessible for transportation and people are suffering from lifting goods every day.

**Communications with Communities:** UNHCR Syria initiated its expansion on a feedback mechanisms including community-based structures and social media platforms, through partners and inter-agency working groups. A country strategy on Communication with Communities and Operational Plan was developed and endorsed by all field offices at the end of 2018. New partnerships with media organizations will be explored in 2019 to establish interactive programmes that would foster two-way communication between humanitarian actors and persons of concern.

**7. Livelihoods:** UNHCR worked closely with FAO and UNDP to support small scale livelihoods projects through small start-Up Business Grants/Projects (SSBG) and Livelihood Tool-kits Programme.

**8. Back to learning and integration of education certificates:** In collaboration with the education sector, UNHCR advocated for and support to expand access to education for returnees. Arrangements were initiated with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher Education to set up systems and procedures to integrate education certificates of returning students. As part of UNHCR's role in supporting quality education and safe learning environments, UNHCR through its partner PUI, completed psychosocial training workshops for 2,183 social counsellors and teachers coming from different governorates. The training sessions were organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MoE) and the trainees' were selected based on an assessment carried out by the MoE. As the rehabilitation of schools is the top priority of the Education Sector given the fact that many schools were out of service or partially damaged as a result of the protracted crisis, UNHCR participated in rehabilitating 38 schools through its partners SIF, ADRA and PU in Rural Damascus, Hama, Homs, Dara'a, Lattakia and Aleppo governorates. Additionally, 89 children benefitted from other forms of educational support such as remedial classes and accelerated learning program in Aleppo governorate.

**9. Services for persons with specific needs:** The psychological needs of returns were addressed through two local partners in Aleppo and Rural Damascus. In 2018, Around 268 returns were provided with PSS case management services, individual, and group counselling sessions. 21 returnees who suffered from severe mental disorders were referred to specialized MHPSS services carried out by psychotherapists and/or psychiatrists. In addition, 6,676 persons of concern participated in 252 social and recreational events and awareness sessions. Furthermore, UNHCR's partners provided different types of medical and general in-kind assistance to address identified needs of 586 individuals aiming at reducing the risks they were facing and to prevent their resort to harmful coping mechanisms.

**10. Child Protection:** The Child Protection risks of returnees were addressed through two local partners in Aleppo and Rural Damascus. In 2018, 176 awareness raising sessions were conducted targeting children, caregivers and community members (with approximately 3,520 targeted children and their families). Through these interventions, children with protection risks were identified from the returnee and host communities, and referred to a comprehensive case management process conducted by trained CP case workers/managers. By the end of 2018, a total number of 89 children exposed to various types of protection risks were assessed and assisted through the case management process. Regular counselling and assessments were conducted for children at risk to ensure their well-being and to respond to their specific needs directly or through referrals.

Moreover, UNHCR along with its partners and in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, established two community-based child protection structures in Aleppo.

**11. SGBV:** UNHCR in partnership with its local partners and in close coordination with its field offices in Damascus and Aleppo; launched an SGBV prevention and response program targeting the returnees in the returns areas. Also, UNHCR helped in building the capacity of 39 frontline workers from partners including 19 staff from the Syrian Commission for Family Planning and Affairs (SCFA) on basics of SGBV prevention and response. On another hand, case management was delivered to 78 survivors in order to address their needs with the appropriate referrals. SGBV prevention activities continued to reach out 2,248 individuals through 129 campaigns where 165 risk reduction kits were distributed.

**12. Shelter and Social Infrastructure:** UNHCR helped returnees with minor rehabilitation of shelters through the provision of doors and windows, shelter kits, or repair tool kits, or tools for removal of debris etc. This support aimed to provide most vulnerable returnee families with basic standards of accommodation in terms of safety and protection from the elements. UNHCR supported small-scale businesses/workshop for the local production of doors and windows to rehabilitate the partially damaged houses. Additional interventions included capacity building of Ministry of Local Administration and Environment to train and equip governorates' and municipalities' technical staff on structural safety assessment. This programme was expanded to include rehabilitation of basic health clinics, bakeries, installation of solar street lights to prevent risks of harassment; and other essential social infrastructure – linked to the Community-Led Initiatives above - in collaboration with the concerned sector, and only where there was a gap that could be filled by UNHCR in the short-term.

**13. Core relief items and Winterization:** UNHCR's Core Relief Items (CRIs) were distributed to persons in need in order to reduce their vulnerabilities and enhance resilience. Standard CRI packages for a family of five included high thermal blankets, mattresses/sleeping mats, kitchen sets, plastic sheeting, jerry cans and a solar lamps. CRI programmes were expanded to address seasonal needs, including a substantial

winterization programme, including adult winter jackets, waterproof floor covering, winter clothes set, and sleeping bags.

### Special thanks to our Donors<sup>3</sup>:

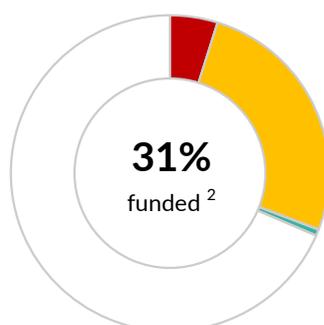
Bulgaria | Canada | Denmark | ECHO | Educate A Child Programme (EAC/EAA) | Finland | France | Germany | IKEA Foundation | Italy | Japan | Kuwait-America Foundation | Lithuania | Netherlands | Norway | Opec Fund for International Development | Private donors Australia | Private donors Germany | Private donors Italy | Private donors Republic of Korea | Private donors Spain | Private donors Switzerland | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Sweden | Switzerland | Syria Humanitarian Fund | The Big Heart Foundation | UN Children Fund | United Kingdom | United States of America |

**CONTACTS:** Toloe Masori, Reporting Officer Syria, [masori@unhcr.org](mailto:masori@unhcr.org)

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<sup>3</sup> For more details on funding received by our Donors, please see Annex I – Syrian Arab Republic Funding Update – as of 8 January 2019.

**\$612.2 million**

 UNHCR's financial requirements 2018 <sup>1</sup>

**SYRIAN ARAB  
REPUBLIC**

as of 8 January 2019


**CONTRIBUTIONS <sup>3</sup> | USD**

	■ Unearmarked	■ Softly earmarked	■ Earmarked	■ Tightly earmarked	Total
United States of America	-	-	111,300,000	-	111,300,000
Germany	-	-	24,715,909	148,683	24,864,592
Norway	-	-	11,497,614	-	11,497,614
Canada	-	-	7,473,842	-	7,473,842
Japan	-	-	-	5,381,869	5,381,869
Saudi Arabia	-	-	-	5,000,000	5,000,000
European Union	-	-	-	4,705,128	4,705,128
Country-Based Pooled Funds	-	-	-	3,822,593	3,822,593
Sweden	-	-	3,172,589	-	3,172,589
Educate A Child Programme (EAC/EAA)	-	-	-	1,302,907	1,302,907
Finland	-	-	1,234,568	-	1,234,568
IKEA Foundation	-	-	-	1,179,655	1,179,655
Belgium	-	-	-	1,165,501	1,165,501
Switzerland	-	-	1,016,260	-	1,016,260
Kuwait-America Foundation	-	-	-	1,000,000	1,000,000
Republic of Korea	-	-	1,000,000	-	1,000,000
France	-	-	580,720	-	580,720
Russian Federation	-	-	500,000	-	500,000
Opec Fund for International Development	-	-	-	500,000	500,000
Italy	-	-	-	478,150	478,150
The Big Heart Foundation	-	-	-	222,605	222,605
Private donors Germany	-	-	144,718	-	144,718
UN Children Fund	-	-	-	96,862	96,862
Bulgaria	-	-	92,025	-	92,025
Spain	-	-	-	81,871	81,871
Lithuania	-	-	47,574	-	47,574
Miscellaneous private donors	-	-	7,052	12,834	19,886
<b>Sub-total</b>	-	-	<b>162,782,870</b>	<b>25,098,658</b>	<b>187,881,528</b>
Indicative allocation of funds and adjustments	3,724,923	358,295	(3,941,679)	4,527,739	4,669,278
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,724,923</b>	<b>358,295</b>	<b>158,841,192</b>	<b>29,626,397</b>	<b>192,550,806</b>

Methodology: Unearmarked funding is allocated and reallocated multiple times during the year to allow UNHCR to fund prioritised activities. This funding update includes an indicative allocation of funds so as to accurately represent the resources available for the country. The contributions earmarked for Syrian Arab Republic shown above are combined with an indicative allocation of the softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions listed below. This allocation respects different levels of earmarking. Adjustments relate to programme support costs and carry-over.

**OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS <sup>4</sup> | USD**

Germany 45.4 million | Private donors Australia 14.9 million | Private donors Germany 9.6 million | Denmark 5.7 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 5 million | Sweden 4.4 million | Finland 4.3 million | United States of America 4.3 million | Private donors Switzerland 3.2 million | Norway 3.2 million | Private donors Sweden 2.8 million | Private donors USA 2 million

Holy See | Iceland | Japan | Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Malta | Poland | Romania | Russian Federation | Slovenia | Spain | Private donors

**UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS <sup>5</sup> | USD**

**Sweden** 98.2 million | **Private donors Spain** 71 million | **Netherlands** 47.1 million | **United Kingdom** 45.3 million | **Norway** 42.5 million | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 38.7 million | **Japan** 26.5 million | **Denmark** 25.5 million | **Private donors Japan** 20.3 million | **Private donors Italy** 18.7 million | **Switzerland** 15.8 million | **Private donors USA** 14.2 million | **France** 14 million | **Germany** 13.7 million | **Private donors Sweden** 13.2 million | **Italy** 11.2 million

Algeria | Argentina | Austria | Belgium | Bosnia and Herzegovina | Bulgaria | Canada | Chile | China | Costa Rica | Cyprus | Estonia | Finland | Holy See | Iceland | India | Indonesia | Ireland | Israel | Kuwait | Latvia | Liechtenstein | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Monaco | Montenegro | Morocco | New Zealand | Philippines | Portugal | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private donors

Notes:

1. The financial requirements for Syrian Arab Republic include requirements for the Iraq Situation Response and the Syria Situation Response.
2. The percentage funded (31%) and total funding amount (\$192,550,806) are indicative based on the methodology described above. This leaves an indicative funding gap of \$419,638,194 representing 69% of the financial requirements.
3. Contributions to Syrian Arab Republic are shown by the earmarking modality as defined in the Grand Bargain.
4. Due to their earmarking at the region or sub-region, or to a related situation or theme, the other softly earmarked contributions listed are those which can potentially be used for Syrian Arab Republic. Where a donor has contributed \$2 million or more, the total amount of the contributions is shown.
5. Contributed without restrictions on its use, unearmarked funding allows UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach refugees and other populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. Where a donor has contribution \$10 million or more, the total amount of the contribution is shown.

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