

# Syria

October 2019

As of end of September 2019, UNHCR Syria provided community-based protection to **1,219,612** displaced persons, returnees and host community members, including **220,125** individuals provided with legal assistance, **188,716** children with social and recreational activities in community centres, child-friendly spaces, schools and other outreach activities, **56,393** students with remedial and catch-up classes, and **165,618** individuals taking part in SGBV awareness sessions.

Meanwhile, **1,202,278** individuals received at least one core-relief item, **209,016** displaced persons, returnees and host community members benefited from UNHCR's shelter activities, while **320,858** individuals were supported through UNHCR's community-based health interventions, as well as **2,531** individuals benefited from the UNHCR's livelihood programme.

UNHCR recorded **75,501** Syrian refugees having spontaneously returned between January and September 2019. An increase in self-organized returns of refugees in 2019 is expected. UNHCR will continue to respond to the needs of the displaced and refugee returnees with the same implemented community-based protection approach assisting internally displaced Syrians.

## HUMANITARIAN SNAPSHOT

**11.7 million**

people in need of humanitarian assistance

**13.2 million**

people in need of protection interventions

**11.3 million**

people in need of health assistance

**4.7 million**

people in need of shelter

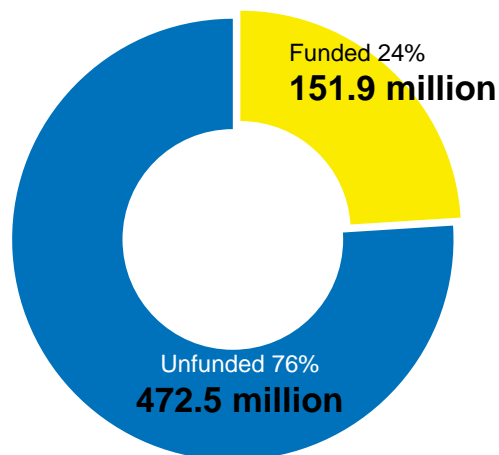
**4.4 million**

people in need of core relief items

## FUNDING (AS OF 02 OCTOBER 2019)

**USD 624.4 million**

requested for the Syria Operation



Children from Marran village and surrounding areas in eastern rural Aleppo visit UNHCR's satellite centre in Marran to learn, have fun and express themselves. Children gathered in the child friendly space to learn about inventors and their creations.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

### Internally Displaced Persons

Internally displaced persons **6.2 million**

### Returnees

Movements of Internally displaced persons **309,894\***

Syrian displaced returnees 2019 **136,000\*\***

Syrian refugee returnees 2019 **75,501 \*\*\***

### Refugees and Asylum seekers

Current population **30,855\*\*\*\***

Total urban refugees **16,425**

Total asylum seekers **14,430**

Camp population **31,144 \*\*\*\*\***

\*OCHA, 31 August 2019

\*\*OCHA, 30 April 2019

\*\*\* UNHCR, 30 September 2018

\*\*\*\*This figure excludes the camp population

\*\*\*\*\*Only 6,800 individuals that arrived to Al-Hol before the recent influx are persons of concern of UNHCR.

# Update on Achievements

## Operational Context

In the ninth year of the crisis, the humanitarian needs in Syria remained staggering in terms of scale, severity and complexity, with protection risks persisting in a number of areas. According to the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) 2019, 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. There are also 1.1 million people in need in hard-to-reach locations.

With the consolidation of government control and changing territorial landscape, there has been an increasing level and pace of return of IDPs and refugees. In 2018, 1.4 million IDPs found their way back home, while 56,000 refugees were verified as having returned. In 2019, a total of 75,501 refugees have returned, although these refugee return figures are likely to be higher. Moving UNHCR's operational focus from emergency response to durable solutions continues to be a key priority for the operation throughout the year. People are returning despite challenging circumstances, and the operation aims to provide initial support to returnees and vulnerable population through an area-based approach. It includes immediate shelter repair, legal aid/documentation, community-based protection, primary health, livelihoods and education. Increasing needs for support for returnees also require wider and more predictable humanitarian space for all actors.

## Working in partnership

UNHCR continues to serve as the lead agency for the Protection, Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs) sectors for the response within Syria and coordinating the Whole of Syria response for protection. UNHCR led sectors include 73 Protection partners, 22 NFI partners and 25 Shelter partners. Due to the size of humanitarian operations in Syria, as well as the area-specific issues in different regions, various partners and different levels of access, for NFI and Shelter and Protection there are six sub-national coordination mechanisms: Aleppo, Damascus, Dar'a/As-Sweida, Homs, Qamishli and Tartous.

As of end of September, UNHCR has partnership agreements with 25 partners including five international NGOs, 17 national NGOs and two government entities (Ministry of Local Administration and Environment and Ministry of Higher Education). Out of 11 national partners that have submitted the Partnership Project with UNHCR for the clearance of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, ten partners have received the approval so far, while the partnership agreement with one of the local partners in Homs was cancelled. Furthermore, a new procedure of the government requested faith-based NGOs to apply for a clearance for project partnership agreements.

## Emergency Response\*\*\*\*\*

### North East Syria

As of 28 October, a total of 202,4291 population movements have been recorded across Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa and Aleppo governorates following the start of the military operations in North East Syria on 09 October, including nearly 70,000 children. UNHCR is responding to the needs of the affected population through the provision of emergency assistance like shelter and CRIs (core relief items) as well as community-based protection

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\*\*\*\*\* The emergency response section reflects the latest data as of 28 October 2019

in camps, collective shelters and host communities. These activities are implemented in close coordination with five of UNHCR's local partners. While 96,855 people have returned to their areas of origin, a total of 105,574 people remain displaced and accommodated in 70 active collective shelters in Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa governorates.



*UNHCR's team holding a focus group discussion for women in Fawaz Joli collective shelter in Al-Hasakeh city. The shelter is hosting 201 individuals/49 households that have fled the hostilities in Ras Al Ain.*

UNHCR and its partners identified immediate protection needs of these families. On 27 October, legal awareness sessions and counselling were provided for 144 displaced families hosted in three collective shelters in Al-Hasakeh. As of 27 October, different protection activities took place for a total of 5,500 individuals/ 1,214 displaced families in 37 collective shelters, as well as protection assessments in five collective shelters. In Mahmoudli camp, UNHCR partners with the camp administration are working to return personal documents for 300 families. In Areesha, sorting and organizing personal documents to the former Mabrouka population is being finalized.

Additionally, UNHCR and its partners responded to the immediate shelter, and basic items needs of the displaced families. As of 28 October, an estimated number of 95,000 individuals benefitted from CRI and winter assistance. The UNHCR winter distributions have already reached nearly 43,000 people in the camps representing around nearly half of the camp population in North East of Syria. UNHCR CRI distributions are also ongoing in 112 urban areas and collective shelters to the displaced and host communities in Al-Hasakeh, Mabada and Qamishli. To date, an estimated 51,953 individuals have received UNHCR assistance. UNHCR has also completed basic shelter repairs in 15 shelters benefiting over 2,600 individuals as well work is planned in seven collective shelters with 1,200 individuals.



## Al-Rukban

In south-eastern Syria, the population in Al-Rukban estimated at 41,700 who have been stranded along the Syrian-Jordanian border for years, began to move out of the area. Close to 40% of the residents have left on their own to Homs, where screening takes place awaiting to return to their places of origin. The UN and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) have been in discussion with the government and the Russian Federation to facilitate voluntary movement out of Al-Rukban for the remaining population while advocating for continuous humanitarian assistance for those remaining inside.

From 17 to 23 August, the UN and SARC conducted an inter-agency mission where 2,887 households have been assessed in the 55 areas in Al-Rukban and the surrounding areas. On 19 August, a team of 18 UN technical staff including six UNHCR Protection and Field staff entered Al-Rukban area through an inter-agency mission and started the registration of persons wishing to leave as well as focus group discussions with persons with specific needs. The registration by SARC took place simultaneously in eight centres, where protection staff led by UNHCR were on hand to provide protection counselling. Moreover, the UN and SARC undertook a mission on 04 September to deliver humanitarian assistance to 3,000 families in Al-Rukban and the surrounding villages. The mission assisted also those who earlier expressed their interest to depart with facilitated transport. On 11 September, the UN and SARC finalized the delivery of humanitarian assistance to 15,000 internally displaced Syrians in Al-Rukban. The distribution was the second phase of an extensive operation aimed at easing the suffering of thousands of people.

As of 23 October, the total number of people who left Al-Rukban makeshift settlement became 18,301 individuals (44% of the total population). 17,972 individuals left through self-organized return while 329 individuals were supported by UN/ SARC. Families arrived earlier in Homs continue to leave from the collective shelters upon completion of requisite procedures. The total number of people who remained in the shelters became 411 individuals.

## Achievements



### PROTECTION

#### Achievements and Impact

In September 2019, UNHCR opened four new community centres and four satellite centres;

- One community centre and three satellite centres were established in Al-Hol Camp in Al-Hasakeh governorate in collaboration with UNHCR's partner Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East (GOPA).
- One community centre was opened in Al-Malikia city in Al-Hasakeh governorate in coordination with UNHCR's partners St. Ephrem Patriarchal Development Committee (EPDC).
- One community centre was established in cooperation with UNHCR's partner Social Care Society (SCS) in Al-Hamra city in Hama governorate.
- Another community centre was established in Al-Qaryateen city in Homs governorate in cooperation with UNHCR's partner Aoun.
- A new satellite centre was established in Al-Nairab in Al-Aleppo governorate in collaboration with UNHCR's partner Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI).

The new centres started to provide a full package of protection services including community mobilization, livelihood, education, child protection, Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) prevention and response services as well as services for persons with specific needs.

By end of September, the number of operational UNHCR-funded community centres and satellite centres stands at 100 community centres and 33 satellite centres, supported with a network of 109 mobile units and 2,865 Syrian outreach volunteers who are associated with Syrian national partners.



*In cooperation with UNHCR, GOPA supported a community-led initiative in Fayrouzeh in Homs. The initiative involved engagement of young persons with specific needs in activities and games to improve their mental and physical capabilities. The initiative covered soccer, basketball, water games, aerobic games, among other activities.*

In September, the applied data management system was launched in one community centre run by SARC and supported by UNHCR in Al- Hasakeh governorate. As of end of September 2019, eight partners started running their new data management systems in 104 community and satellite centres in 12 governorates and 1,157 staff members attended 33 training sessions. Moreover, monthly statistical inputs were received from 92 community and satellite centres run by six partners.

In September, UNHCR provided non-formal education programmes through remedial classes and catch-up activities to 6,500 (56,263 January – September) displaced students at the primary and secondary levels in the community centres and other education facilities, out of whom 1,437 (6,399 January – September) children were out-of-school. Furthermore, 1,353 (14,667 January – September) displaced students benefited from the homework café activity within the network of community centres in different governorates. In September, 550 (1,984 January – September) teachers and social counsellors from the Ministry of Education received capacity building training facilitated through UNHCR partner Première Urgence Internationale (PUI) in six governorates. Moreover, 34 (322 January – September) students benefited from the homework café activity through UNHCR partner Al Ihsan in Aleppo governorate. Furthermore, UNHCR provided accelerated learning activities and remedial classes to 45 (130 January – September) returnee children through the same partner.

In September 2019, UNHCR partners; SARC and the Syria Trust provided legal assistance to 17,945 displaced persons and returnees in 14 governorates. This includes 4,373 individuals who benefited from legal counselling, 10,904 individuals who benefited from 481 awareness sessions, and 2,231 individuals who benefited from lawyers' direct intervention before courts and administrative bodies. Moreover, the lawyers' legal interventions have successfully assisted 926 individuals to obtain national identity cards, 825 children to be registered and obtain birth certificates, 351 individuals to obtain family booklets, 531 individuals to document their marriage events.

As of end of September, 220,125 displaced persons, returnees and host community members benefited from UNHCR's legal aid program on issues related mainly to personal

documentation, authentication of customary marriages, birth registrations, divorce authentication in the context of response to gender-based violence incidents, preserving rights of women and children, property documentation, lease contracts and inheritance. The legal services were provided to 95,641 individuals who benefited from legal counselling, 20,559 individuals who benefited from direct interventions before courts and administrative bodies and 103,925 individuals who benefited from 4,517 awareness raising sessions on various legal matters.

In September, UNHCR and its partners identified and supported 874 (5,883 January–September) survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV). Furthermore, during September, 1,051 (7,683 January – September) awareness sessions were conducted for 20,619 (165,618 January – September) individuals.

In September, 1,210 (7,699 January – September) awareness-raising sessions on child protection topics were organized at UNHCR's community centres, shelters, child-friendly spaces and schools addressing children, caregivers and community members. Through these interventions, children with protection risks were identified by the displaced persons and host communities. UNHCR in collaboration with Syrian partners also identified and assisted in September 1,708 (10,284 January – September) children at risk. The main protection risks were lack of birth registration and civil documentation, risk of school dropout, child labour, child marriage, crisis-related trauma, family separation and disabilities. Moreover, in September, UNHCR along with its partners and in cooperation with the Ministry of Education established three community-based child protection structures in September (179 January – September) across the country namely children clubs and child welfare committees. Additionally, during September 27,379 (188,716 January – September) children benefited from social and recreational activities conducted in community centres, child friendly spaces, schools and other outreach activities.

Moreover, in partnership with PUI, UNHCR organised two child protection training courses: Psychological First Aid for Children (PFA) and Psychological Evaluation Techniques and Emotional Support for Children (PET). The training courses addressed 150 child protection staff working with UNHCR partners along with staff from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour and the Directorate of Social Affairs and Labour.

The specific needs of older persons were addressed through the home-based training programme and older persons clubs, through which 1,063 (2,521 January – September) older persons benefited from the programmes. UNHCR continued to support children with developmental difficulties through its partners by implementing a special home-based rehabilitation programme designed to meet their specific needs and where 138 children were assisted during September, bringing the total number of children who benefitted from this assistance since the beginning of the year to 1,292 children.

Due to the prevailing extensive stress factors linked to the crisis and its effects, the psychological needs of the people of concern continued to rise. In September, a total of 1,739 individuals received Psycho-Social Support (PSS) services through community centres and outreach volunteers, out of whom 314 were referred to specialized mental health services. As of end of September, 12,759 individuals received PSS services, out of whom 1,561 were referred to specialized services. Moreover, a total of 45,632 individuals participated in 2,285 social and recreational events including awareness raising sessions. As of end of September, 314,527 individuals participated in 16,131 social and recreational events. These activities aimed at assisting people in finding relief from their inner tension, increasing their ability to deal with different types of reactions especially hyper vigilance, isolation and aggression, in addition to increasing their awareness on personal identity issues and individual characteristics, and building positive self-esteem. Different types of general and medical in-kind assistance were provided to 10,234 (50,509 January – September) vulnerable individuals in order to help them meet their various basic needs.



### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

UNHCR and the national partners are relocating a selected number of community centres based on a protection needs' assessment in order to operate in underserved areas and/or locations receiving displaced and refugee returnees. The decisions of relocating the centres are made based on thorough assessments conducted by UNHCR and its partners in the field.



### SHELTER AND NFIS

#### Achievements and Impact

UNHCR provided 93,473 individuals with at least one core relief and supplementary items during September 2019, bringing the overall individuals who received assistance since the beginning of the year to 1,202,278 individuals.

UNHCR began its 2019 winterization programme in Syria on 01 September 2019. As of 30 September 2019, UNHCR Syria provided 101,140 winterized items to 33,760 individuals/7,342 households, including high thermal blankets, additional plastic sheeting, sleeping bags, winter jackets and winter clothes kits in Aleppo, Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs, Hama, Idlib, Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor, As-Sweida, Dar'a, Quneitra, Tartous, Latakia governorates. UNHCR is planning this winter to reach 1,500,000 individuals/300,000 households throughout the country.



*UNHCR's core relief items distribution in Al-Hasakeh*

UNHCR continued to provide life-saving and life-sustaining impact solutions. In September, 35,198 individuals/7,040 families in different governorates benefited from shelter assistance such as the distribution and installation of 219 shelter kits in As-Sweida, Dar'a and Quneitra governorates. UNHCR distributed 821 tents in the camps in North East Syria during September. Moreover, UNHCR through its partners PUI and GOPA distributed 34 solid waste bins in Aleppo and Latakia governorates. Furthermore, 2,585 individuals benefitted from the maintenance of water systems in Rural Damascus, Dar'a and Aleppo governorates. Also, three projects of debris removal were completed through UNHCR's partner SIF in Rural Damascus, Aleppo and Hama governorates. Additionally, UNHCR in collaboration with its partners SIF and Syria Trust completed the removal of 45,016 cubic meters of debris in Rural Damascus, Aleppo and Hama governorates. Furthermore, projects of repairing damaged houses are ongoing in Aleppo and Homs governorates, with

eight damaged apartments rehabilitated during September. Also, 50 units of solar street lights were constructed in Hama governorate.

As of end of September, 209,016 individuals /41,803 families benefited from the shelter and infrastructure assistance through the distribution of 509 shelter kits in Dar'a, As-Sweida, Quneitra, Aleppo and Homs governorates, in addition to the distribution of 13,719 tents in various camps in North East Syria, along with the provision of technical assistance, construction of communal kitchens, installation of solar streetlights, provision of solar lights, land preparation, installation of big-size tents, fence construction and establishment of new distribution centres and reception areas.



## HEALTH

### Achievements and Impact

In September, UNHCR assisted 28,087 (265,855 January – September) displaced persons with Primary Health Care (PHC) services through 13 PHC clinics. A total of 210 (3,236 January – September) displaced persons benefited from emergency and life-saving referrals in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Hama and Homs governorates. Moreover, a total of 7,242 (51,767 January– September) individuals were reached by the community-based health activities through the health points in the community centres: 2,265 (19,698 January– September) individuals received basic medical consultation in the clinics of the health points and 44,977 (32,069 January– September) individuals participated in and benefited from the health promotion and disease prevention activities conducted by the community-health workers inside and outside the community centres. Currently 20 health points are functional in Rural Damascus, Aleppo, rural Aleppo, rural Hama, rural Homs, Tartous, rural Tartous, Quneitra, rural Dar'a, Al-Hasakeh and rural Al-Hasakah.



## LIVELIHOODS AND SELF RELIANCE

### Achievements and Impact

During September 2019, UNHCR in collaboration with national partners distributed livelihoods toolkits to 242 persons of concern in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Tartous, As-Sweida, Quneitra, Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqah governorates. UNHCR also supported 262 individuals with entrepreneurship/ business trainings carried out in seven governorates, and 99 individuals received in kind support enabling them to establish or operate small business projects. Furthermore, 1,044 individuals have completed vocational training courses in ten governorates.

In September, UNHCR in collaboration of UNIDO has completed the rehabilitation of the Industrial electricity laboratory in Aleppo's Public Vocational Training Centre. The laboratory will be providing free vocational training courses for at least 40 trainees each year.

As of end of September, a total of 2,531 persons of concern in 12 governorates received livelihood assistance. Moreover, UNHCR supported a total of 1,250 individuals with entrepreneurship/business trainings, out of whom 475 individuals were supported to open and run small start-up business projects. Since the beginning of the year, 3,060 individuals completed vocational training courses in 11 governorates, the majority of targeted groups were youth and women. The training courses were designed based on market demands covering a wide range of professions including Aluminium joinery, painting, carpentry, computer maintenance, programmable logic controller (PLC), solar/alternative energy, sewing, hairdressing, beekeeping, in addition to engines' maintenance and other courses.





## PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES

### Achievements and Impact

In 2019, UNHCR continued to provide multi-purpose cash grants (MPCG) to the most vulnerable refugee families, including cash for food (C4F) for asylum seekers. However, asylum seeker families were discontinued from UNHCR cash programme, effective in March 2019, following a two-month notice period.

During September, UNHCR assisted a total of 3,365 refugee households/10,314 individuals with MPCGs. The eligibility for the MPG is determined on a bi-monthly basis and entitlements are provided on a monthly basis to the most vulnerable refugee households in Syria in line with the MPG's standard operations procedures. As of end of September, UNHCR assisted a total of 4,134 refugee households/12,714 individuals with MPCGs, and 1,011 asylum-seeker households/5,331 individuals with C4F. UNHCR also provided cash-related counselling to 2,235 families, as well as hotline support to 2,118 families. Furthermore, in addition to the tertiary education grants provided to university students.

Furthermore, in September UNHCR started the verification of school documents for school aged children in order to provide them with the education grant which aims to encourage and financially support refugee families to send and / or keep their children in school. The education grant programme targets refugee students between the ages of 5 to 18 years. Its value was determined following a market survey conducted in September, the education grant will be transferred in October following the completion of verification. Additionally, UNHCR has started the preparations for the winterization assistance which is a seasonal unconditional multi-purpose cash grant provided to all off-camp refugees in Syria in November. The aim of the winterization grant is to help families meet their increased needs and expenditures during the winter months, e.g. heating costs and winter clothing. A market survey has been conducted in September to thoroughly assess the financial needs of persons of concern in the winter season.

As of September, the cases of 122 refugees have been submitted for resettlement considerations by Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom. While UNHCR aims at submitting the cases of 380 vulnerable refugees this year, no additional quota has been allocated to the operation. In 2019, 1,900 refugees are considered to be in need of resettlement in Syria, 6% of whom have found access to a durable solution through a resettlement submission so far this year. As a result of the insufficient resettlement slots, UNHCR continues to identify and prioritize its advocacy for highly vulnerable cases in need of resettlement as a protection tool. UNHCR Syria has also facilitated so far in 2019 the resettlement departure of 238 refugees to Australia, Sweden and to the United Kingdom. The operation is also supporting humanitarian and private sponsorship programmes through assistance in order to obtain the exit clearance of accepted cases. This support has so far allowed the departure of 70 persons to Canada and Australia for this purpose. During the reporting period, UNHCR received the confirmation of its first quota in 2020, allocated by the United Kingdom. By offering 110 resettlement slots for next year, the UK remains a major resettlement partner for Syria, in a context where third solution options remain very limited to refugees.

Furthermore, in September, 30 individuals/17 families (499 individuals/261 families January– September) underwent Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews by UNHCR at different stages, and decisions were submitted for 40 individuals/25 families (413 individuals/226 families January– September). As of end of September, reviews were undertaken for 213 individuals/124 families, of whom 66 individuals/26 families were recognized as refugees.

During September, UNHCR through the education dedicated hotline, provided information to 211 (444 January – September) refugees and asylum seekers about school registration procedures in public schools and placement tests, in addition to the provision of counseling

for dropout of school cases and students interested in remedial classes and other education programmes provided by UNHCR partners.

During September, UNHCR in cooperation with its partner Syria Al Yamama opened a new community centre in Tal-Hamees in Al-Hasakeh. This community centre provides wide range of protection services to refugees including child protection, SGBV prevention, services for persons with specific needs, community mobilization and livelihoods. This make two community centres currently available to provide protection services for refugees.

As of end of September, the number of refugee outreach volunteers increased to be 122 representing the refugee communities of Iraq, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Yemen, Afghanistan, Chad, Guinea and Eritrea who continued to support their communities in four governorates; Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo and Al-Hasakeh. The increase was mainly in Tal Hamees area in Al-Hasakeh governorate. A team of 17 Iraqi volunteers was established along with the new community centre to be run by UNHCR's partner Al-Yamama.

In September, 8 (94 January – September) new SGBV survivors were identified and assisted with the needed services, such as PSS, health care, legal aid and material assistance. Some were provided with urgent financial grants due to their vulnerability and poor living conditions. In addition, during September 36 (115 January – September) SGBV awareness sessions were conducted in Damascus, Rural Damascus and Al-Hasakeh governorates. The sessions covered various topics such as dealing with adolescence, sexual violence, women empowerment, domestic violence, early marriage and sexual harassment for women reaching out to 481 (2,436 January – September) persons of concern.

Furthermore, during September, a total of 4184 (35,136 January – September) refugees and asylum seekers received free-of-charge comprehensive primary health care including mental health services through nine UNHCR-supported primary health care clinics run by two NGO partners in Al-Hasakeh, Damascus, Rural Damascus and Aleppo governorates. Secondary and tertiary health care was provided to 324 (2,397 January – September) refugees and asylum seekers through designated public, charitable and private contracted hospitals in Syria.



#### **SUPPORT TO SPONTANEOUS RETURNS**

Self-organized returns of IDPs and refugees from neighboring countries continue to several areas where stability has been restored, hostilities declined or ceased, and which have become newly accessible. It should be underlined that the Government of Syria has taken a number of decisions that helps and facilitates the return of Syrian returnees.

Regional UNHCR figures report the 75,501 verified refugee returnees to Syria at the end of September, of which 7,803 Syrian refugees were reported as having returned through the organized group returns facilitated by the General Security Office of Lebanon and spontaneous returns from Jordan, as well as 97 self-organized returns took place from Jordan during September. It should be underlined that these are the numbers that are registered refugees with UNHCR. It is perceived that the number of returnees is higher than those registered with UNHCR. The movements of IDP returnees is estimated at 309,894. UNHCR field teams conducted over 87 missions to assess conditions and needs of returnees and IDPs. Through these missions as well as follow up over the phone with families who have recently returned to Syria from Lebanon and Jordan, the top three key concerns identified by returnees included destroyed homes, lack of livelihood opportunities and lack of civil status documentation.

During the reporting period, the Syria operation developed a new multi-year protection strategy in line with the operational shift of focus from emergency humanitarian response towards return and reintegration and expanded its services to the Syrian returnees. In order to effectively implement its protection strategy, UNHCR is investing in strengthening the collaboration with existing and new partners, including national partners and government line ministries and departments to enhance preparedness and increase response capacity.



*UNHCR team conducted a visit in northern rural Latakia to monitor UNHCR's shelter activities implemented by its partners PUI and GOPA in the return areas, as well as meeting the returnees and assessing their shelter needs.*

UNHCR and its partners gathered information at the community level to produce 91 sub-district profiles in key areas of returns in 2019. These profiles provide a snapshot of gaps in infrastructure and services and highlight the key needs of the population.

UNHCR developed a document to inform different stakeholders on recent developments that may have an impact on Syrians' return. It is a living document summarizing the various laws and regulations issued by the Syrian government (such as the decision of the Council of Ministers regarding the facilitation of return which includes the requirements of the reinstatement of resigning staff, the circular of the Minister of Interior related to the good reception of Syrian citizens who have left the country through informal crossings, decision of the Prime Ministry excluding Syrian refugees in Jordan from the requirement of the proof of residency and its termination to process the custom clearance for their furniture, etc.). Through its close work with the Regional Durable Solutions Working Group, UNHCR Syria continues to update the questions and answers developed in coordination with UNHCR offices in the region to answer the frequently asked questions by Syrians abroad.

UNHCR supported 290,120 individuals (approx. 58,024 returnee families) with Core Relief Items (CRIs) and seasonal items. A contingency stock of 5,000 family kits is maintained in logistic hubs to respond to the needs in the area of potential return i.e. Idleb, Deir-ez-Zor and Dar'a and/or any potential emergency in the north of Syria.

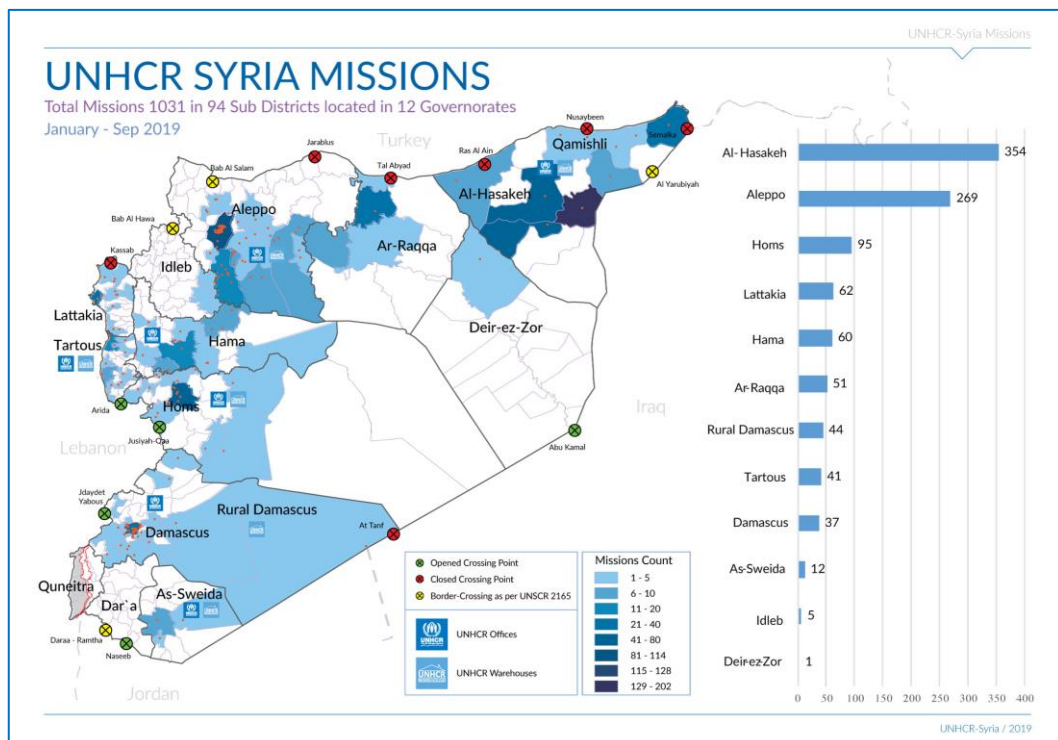
As part of a community-based approach, UNHCR supported returnee communities in Aleppo, Dara'a and Rural Damascus by removing 231,016 cubic meters of debris to provide safe and easy access to their own shelters. 150 solid waste bins have been provided in 10 returnee communities in Aleppo, Rural Damascus and Latakia governorates, supporting 7,930 individual/1,586 families.





UNHCR and its partner Namaa provided a mobile maintenance vocational training at Kalaseh community centre in Aleppo City in order to provide new livelihood opportunities to support Syrian families with no income.

**UNHCR MISSIONS IN THE FIELD**



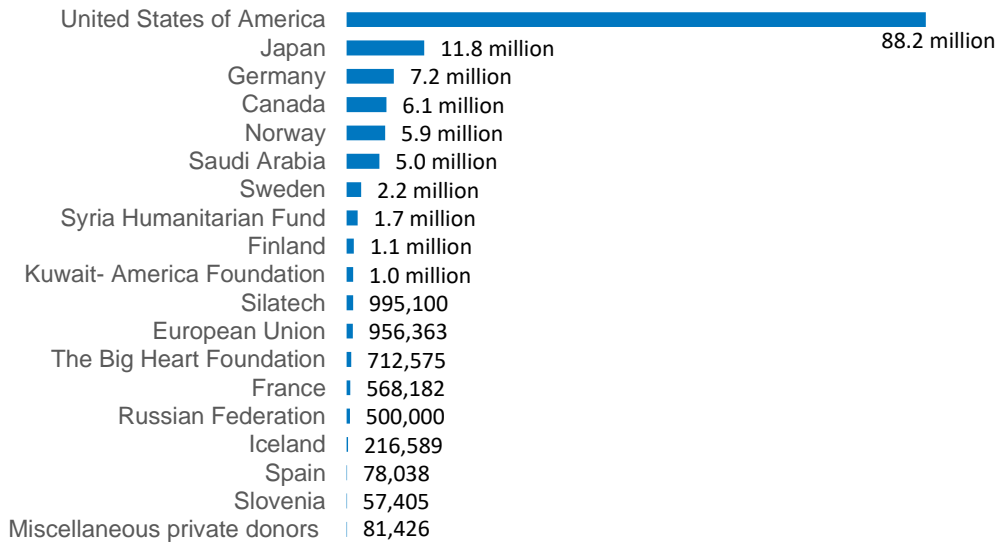
UNHCR conducts daily missions to the field in Aleppo, Idleb, Homs, Hama, Tartous, Lattakia, As-Sweida, Damascus, Rural Damascus, Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa and Deir ez-Zor. The missions took place through multi-functional teams, including colleagues from Protection, Shelter, NFI, Health and Livelihood units. The purpose of the missions is to follow up on the work of the partners and the outreach volunteers on the ground, visit high returns areas to meet with returnees and produce sub-district profiles, monitor NFI distributions and assess the overall needs in the different sectors. By end of September, UNHCR conducted 1,031 missions to 94 sub-districts across Syria.

## Financial Information\*\*\*\*\*

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors that have contributed to this operation as well as those that have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

### EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Earmarked contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 151,962,716**



### BROADLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

United States of America 27.4 million | Private donors Australia 9.2 million | Germany 5.4 million | Kuwait 5 million | Private donors Germany 4.5 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 3.5 million | Sweden 3.3 million

### UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Sweden 99.8 million | Private donors Spain 54.5 million | Norway 44.5 million | Netherlands 37.5 million | United Kingdom 31.7 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 27.6 million | Germany 26.7 million | Denmark 24.4 million | Private donors Japan 16.1 million | Switzerland 15.1 million | France 14 million | Private donors Italy 12.7 million | Private donors Sweden 10.4 million | Ireland 10.2 million

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### LINKS

[www.unhcr.org/sy](http://www.unhcr.org/sy)

<https://twitter.com/UNHCRinSYRIA/status/1118150319341436928>

\*\*\*\*\* As of 02 October 2019, please find attached more details in Annex 1.

# Annexes

**Annex 1**

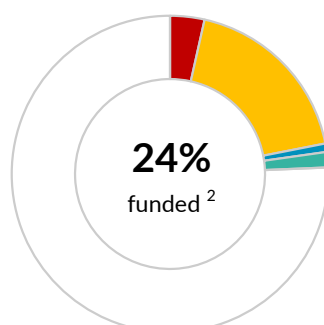
Syrian Arab Republic Funding Update – as of 02 October 2019

**Annex 2**

UNHCR main activities as of end of September 2019



# \$624.4 million

 UNHCR's financial requirements 2019 <sup>1</sup>


## SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

as of 2 October 2019



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

	■ Unearmarked	■ Softly earmarked	■ Earmarked	■ Tightly earmarked	Total
United States of America	-	-	88,150,000	-	88,150,000
Japan	-	-	-	11,815,267	11,815,267
Germany	-	-	7,196,970	-	7,196,970
Canada	-	-	6,055,031	-	6,055,031
Norway	-	-	5,871,991	-	5,871,991
Saudi Arabia	-	-	-	5,000,000	5,000,000
Sweden	-	-	2,199,978	-	2,199,978
Country-Based Pooled Funds	-	-	-	1,685,894	1,685,894
Finland	-	-	1,112,347	-	1,112,347
Kuwait-America Foundation	-	-	1,000,000	-	1,000,000
Silatech	-	-	-	995,100	995,100
European Union	-	-	-	956,363	956,363
The Big Heart Foundation	-	-	-	712,575	712,575
France	-	-	568,182	-	568,182
Russian Federation	-	-	500,000	-	500,000
Iceland	-	-	216,589	-	216,589
Spain	-	-	-	78,038	78,038
Slovenia	-	-	57,405	-	57,405
Miscellaneous private donors	-	-	-	81,426	81,426
<b>Sub-total</b>	-	-	<b>112,928,493</b>	<b>21,324,663</b>	<b>134,253,156</b>
Indicative allocation of funds and adjustments	9,797,099	5,366,279	1,957,664	588,518	17,709,560
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,797,099</b>	<b>5,366,279</b>	<b>114,886,157</b>	<b>21,913,181</b>	<b>151,962,716</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

United States of America 27.4 million | Private donors Australia 9.2 million | Germany 5.4 million | Kuwait 5 million | Private donors Germany 4.5 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 3.5 million | Sweden 3.3 million

Estonia | Finland | Luxembourg | Malta | Norway | Poland | Russian Federation | Private donors

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

Sweden 99.8 million | Private donors Spain 54.5 million | Norway 44.5 million | Netherlands 37.5 million | United Kingdom 31.7 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 27.6 million | Germany 26.7 million | Denmark 24.4 million | Private donors Japan 16.1 million | Switzerland 15.1 million | France 14 million | Private donors Italy 12.7 million | Private donors Sweden 10.4 million | Ireland 10.2 million

Algeria | Argentina | Australia | Austria | Azerbaijan | Belgium | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Indonesia | Islamic Republic of Pakistan | Kuwait | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | Sri Lanka | Thailand | 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 (24%) and total funding amount (\$151,962,716) are indicative based on the methodology described above. This leaves an indicative funding gap of \$472,419,977 representing 76% 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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