

# SYRIAIN FOCUS Issue 04 of 2015

## UNHCR Syria Adds Its Support to the UN #WhatDoesItTake Campaign



In 2013, the heads of UN agencies sent a message saying "ENOUGH" to the crisis in Syria. But the crisis continues, having now entering its fifth year on 15 March 2015. Currently 12.2 million people in Syria are in need of life-saving aid, 4 million refugees have fled across borders, 7.6 million are displaced within Syria and more than 212,000 people are trapped in besieged areas without access to humanitarian assistance. With no end in sight, the United Nations is asking 'what does it take' for those with political influence to end the senseless suffering of Syrians once and for all?

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On 13 March UN leaders including Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon launched the #WhatDoesItTake social media campaign, in an attempt to allow the global community to "express your frustration about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Syria, and send a message of solidarity to the people of Syria."

This week UNHCR staff throughout Syria who experience firsthand the devastating effects of the conflict added their voice and support to this global campaign. People can participate and spread the message by uploading a picture of themselves holding a paper with the #WhatDoesItTake hashtag on social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter or via http://www.syria-whatdoesittake.org/

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

- UNHCR Syria supports the UN Campaign #What-DoesItTake
- Humanitarian aid is delivered to hard-to-reach areas in Syria
- IDPs in Tartous receive support to improve their living conditions
- UNHCR Syria celebrates the International Women's Day

UNHCR 2014 END OF YEAR REPORT **"Voices from the Field"** Available Now



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#### UNHCR Delivers Humanitarian Aid to Hard-to-Reach areas in Rural Damascus, Quneitra and Idlib



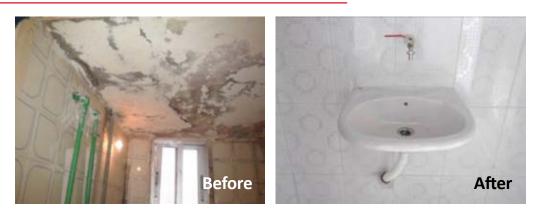
In the past fortnight UNHCR finally dispatched humanitarian assistance to the hard-to-reach Qudsaya in Rural Damascus after eight months of constant advocacy and requests. On 26 February UNHCR dispatched CRIs for **7,000** individuals while on 15 March, followed by a further delivery of CRIs for **7,500** individuals.

On 10 March, UNHCR delivered CRIs to the hard-to-reach Khan Arnabeh in the Quneitra governorate for **5,000** individuals. In addition, on 14 March, UNHCR dispatched nine trucks carrying Core Relief Items for **10,000** individuals to Idlib city after a delay of more than a month due to bureaucratic procedures.

So far in 2015, UNHCR has managed to reach **691,950** individuals with **3,327,931** CRIs in 13 out of 14 governorates in Syria.

### UNHCR Improves Conditions for IDPs in Tartous National Stadium

Forty six IDP families consisting of 185 individuals sheltering in the National Stadium in Tartous have benefited from recent UN-HCR supported renovations there including the erection of partitions, replacement of doors and locks, refurbishment of windows, installation of new electrical panels as well as the build-



ing of new bathrooms as the old ones were not fit for purpose. In addition to the renovations, the inhabitants have also benefited from full CRI kits, school uniforms and Psychosocial supports to the women and children there.

### **UNHCR Celebrates International Women's Day**

To mark International Women's Day 2015, UNHCR, its partners and its Outreach Volunteers initiated a series of activities which began on 08 March addressing refugee and IDP women. The activities which will last till the end of March include awareness raising sessions on women's rights, discussions, social and cultural events as well as recreational activities. On 08 and 09 March, two activities related to female empowerment were carried out in collaboration with SARC in central Damascus and Khan Danoun shelter in Rural Damascus addressing **100** women and girls. In addition to discussing women's rights and relevant laws and practices, the participants shared traditional costumes, handmade crafts, presented local dances and cooked traditional dishes.



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#### These are the 2013 and 2014 donors for the Syria situation

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