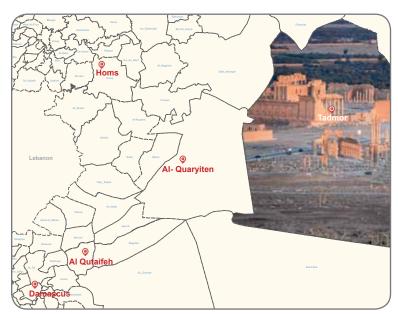


### SYRIAIN FOCUS

Issue 08 of 2015

# UNHCR Responds to the Fresh Displacement of Thousands of Families Throughout Syria

On 20 May the city of Palmyra was seized by ISIS causing many families to flee to the Al Quaryiten area south east of Homs. On 22 May ISIS closed all exits preventing the inhabitants from leaving the city. UNHCR responded with CRIs for **7,000** individuals, in addition to holding CRIs for a further 500 people in a warehouse there as contingency stock. On 27 May, another urgent delivery of CRI family kits was sent to Al Quaryiten to serve **7,500** individuals displaced from Palmyra city.



In addition, UNHCR in cooperation with its implementing partner SARC has prepared a contingency plan for the potential influx of people from Palmyra. So far, Core Relief Items (CRIs) for **1,500** individuals have been dispatched to Al Qutaifeh which is located on the main road towards the Homs governorate as it is considered the assembly point for IDPs fleeing the Northern areas of Rural Damascus. All families so far that have reached Al Qutaifeh have been assisted with CRIs by UNHCR.

On 29 May, AOGs seized Ariha in the Idlib governorate which has a strategic location overseeing the main highways between Aleppo, Hama and the coastal area in Syria. The fighting in Ariha and the surrounding towns has led to a significant influx of civilians towards the Al Ghab area in rural Hama. UNHCR is continuing to provide emergency humanitarian assistance to the IDPs there.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- UNHCR Responds to Mass Displacement
- Safe Road Use Campaign Launched
- Hope alive in IDP Camp

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



#### Refworld:

http://www.refworld.org/docid/54f814604.html

#### reliefweb:

http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/voices-field-unhcr-syria-end-year-report-201

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### **UNHCR Distributes its Five Millionth Core Relief Item (CRI)**

At the end of May, UNHCR reached another milestone when it distributed its five millionth CRI in 2015. As of start of June **5,229,392** CRIs had been dispatched to **1,184,230** beneficiaries, despite the many challenges such as insecurity faced on a daily basis by UNHCR staff.





### **UNHCR Participates in Inter-Agency Mission to Northern Aleppo**

On 04 June, UNHCR participated in an Inter-Agency (IA) cross mission to the villages of Kafr Hamra and Maaret Al Artiq, located 10 km away from Aleppo city and controlled by AOGs. UNHCR's contribution was Core Relief Items for **5,000** individuals.

### Despite Displacement from Aleppo to Tartous Mohammad Remains Optimistic

During a recent visit by UNHCR to Al Karnak IDP camp in Tartous the team met Mohammed Amin Ahmad who was displaced from the Karm Al-Nahhas Neighborhood in Aleppo city due to insecurity over a year ago.

Fearing for the lives of his wife and ten children he sent them to Tartous over a year and a half ago and later joined them in the Al Karnak IDP camp. Mohammad described exiting the neighborhood under the cover of night "like a smuggler" so as not to be caught by the armed groups there.

However, despite all this Mohammed continues to be optimistic and has even opened a little business repairing household appliances which has proven to be a great help to both inhabitants of the camp and other people from the area. He was very grateful for the assistance provided by UNHCR such as the family tent and its CRI kit as well as the recreational and PSS activities organized by UNHCR's partners that his younger children usually participate in.





ONHCR Syria 2015





### Safe Road Use

#### **Campaign Launched by UNHCR**





This year as part of the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety, UNHCR Syria participated in the campaign "Vision Zero" on safe road use launched on 10 June 2015. The campaign raises awareness and underlines the actions that should be taken to prevent road crashes and ensure safety of UNHCR staff on the road and the success of UNHCR operations, effectiveness and reputation with governments, partners, and the local community. The campaign comprises workshops and material highlighting safe road use together with activities imbedding safe road use firmly in the operations.

The UNHCR Safe Road Use Campaign is the beginning of a long-term strategic effort to reduce the number and impact of road crashes involving UNHCR staff and all people with whom it works. This campaign is especially welcomed in Syria because on 28 July 2014, a UN Armored Vehicle which was returning from a mission in Aleppo was involved in an accident several kilometers past Nabek on the way to Damascus, as a result of a burst tyre. The car flipped over several times, resulted in the sad death of one of the UN family members who was well known and well liked amongst all his UN colleagues and is sadly missed.

More information about the campaign could be found at: dev-saferoaduse.unhcr.org/

Globally, road crashes constitute the 8th biggest cause of death and are the leading killer of 15-29 year olds. More than 1.24 million people lose their lives and another 50 million are injured on the world's roads every year. Half of those killed are pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists.

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### **Thanks to Our Donors**



These are the 2013 and 2014 donors for the Syria situation

For more information, please contact

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