

UNHCR Helps Rebuild Lives in Al Hosn, Rural Homs



Destruction in Al Hosn Village
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Krak des Chevaliers
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On the 12 May UNHCR visited Al Hosn village in rural Homs which has been severely damaged during the past few years of conflict. The village which lies below the Krak des Chevaliers, one of the most important preserved medieval crusader castles in the world, is now the scene of families, both refugee and IDP, returning to try rebuild their lives and homes.



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UNHCR in coordination with its partner SARC, are assisting with CRIs such as mattresses, blankets and plastic sheeting as well as kitchen and hygiene kits. The returnees warmly welcomed the UNHCR teams from Damascus and Homs, thanking them for the assistance and their presence on the ground. UNHCR will continue to strive to reach those in need, regardless of their location.

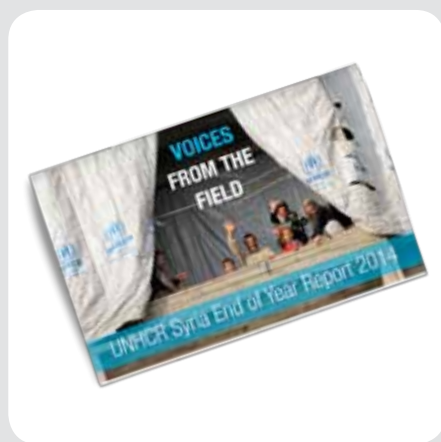


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HIGHLIGHTS

- UNHCR assists both refugee and IDP returnees in Al Hosn
- UNHCR participates in community celebrations in Homs Old City
- UNHCR goes cross-line to Orem in Aleppo

UNHCR 2014
END OF YEAR REPORT
“Voices from the Field”
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One Year On – UNHCR Continues to Assist Returnees in Homs Old City

In May 2014, a hundred or so inhabitants of Homs Old City began returning after two years of conflict which left massive destruction in its wake.

One year on, assisted by UNHCR and its partners this number has increased to over 2,000 people. Clean up operations, reconstruction and refurbishment can be seen throughout. There are even a number of small businesses opening up as the community works hard to rebuild their lives.



UNHCR from Damascus and Homs attending the Exhibition in Al Hamidiyeh
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To mark the one year anniversary UNHCR visited the old city and attended a photo exhibition entitled “After One Year” in the Al Hamidiyeh neighbourhood organized by the local community there showcasing the gradual improvement of the old city over the past twelve months. The exhibition was a ‘living memory’ of life in the old city from when the very first families came back, renovation of housing, distribution of CRIs by UNHCR, return of small businesses as well as everyday milestones such as the first marriages and the first children being born. In addition, UNHCR visited the “colour it” community based initiative which has seen the walls of the neighbourhood decorated with drawings and paintings containing messages of hope.

In addition UNHCR conducted a monitoring visit to follow up on three IDP beneficiaries of a UNHCR funded small business start-up grant, implemented by GOPA in 2014. The beneficiaries who opened stores in the Al Hamidyeh neighbourhood were recipients of the fund after enrolling in an advanced business training course at the end of which they submitted business start-up proposals which were then assessed successfully for feasibility.

Rana 27 years old, one of the recipients is a university graduate who studied e-marketing. With the grant she opened what was originally a small coffee shop. However, due to her hard work and the return of people to the area, business was good enough for her to turn it into a mini market within six months with the coffee shop incorporated. Another positive development for her is that during the business course, she met her fiancé Fadi and they are now planning to get married with the support of the business. As she says “I have been very lucky to get the grant, thank you UNHCR for giving me this chance to help me and Fadi”.



Rana and Fadi selling freshly ground coffee at the Mini Market ©UNHCR /Q.Alazroni 2015

Despite the ongoing conflict in Syria it is clear that one year after the first people returned to the old city of Homs that with the help of UNHCR and its partners there is fresh hope in Homs.



2014

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Today

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UNHCR Delivers Aid Across Conflict Lines to Western Rural Aleppo

On 13 May 2015, UNHCR participated in an interagency cross-line convoy to Big Orem in Western Rural Aleppo. UNHCR’s contribution was CRIs **10,000** individuals which were delivered to SARC warehouse from where further distribution is planned for several areas in the western and southern rural areas of Aleppo.

Thanks to Our Donors



These are the 2013 and 2014 donors for the Syria situation

For more information , please contact:

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