

# Syria

February 2018

**At the end of its seventh year, the crisis in Syria** continues unabated, resulting in deaths, injuries, destruction of public infrastructures, degradation of public services, continued internal displacement and loss of shelter and livelihoods.

**1,626,029** displacements from affected areas in northern and southern Syria were recorded by the CCCM Cluster **in the last 12 months.**

**In 2018, UNHCR continues 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 existed and/or emerged throughout Syria.**

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

### IDPs

People in need of humanitarian assistance	<b>13.1 million</b>
Internally Displaced persons	<b>6.1 million</b>
Syrian IDP Returnees	<b>621,000 thousand</b>
Syrian refugee returnees	<b>77,000 thousand</b>
In need of acute assistance	<b>5.6 million</b>
People required health assistance	<b>12.8 million</b>

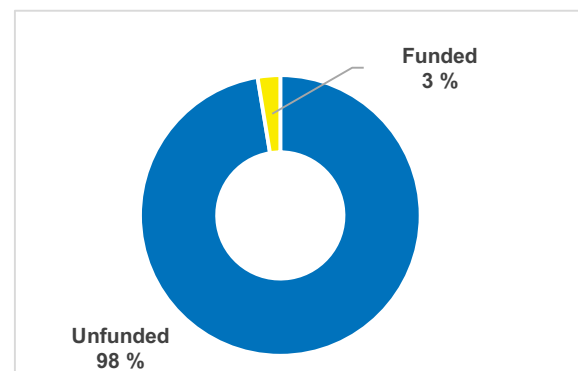
### Refugees Operation

Current Population	<b>49,117</b>
Total urban refugees	<b>18,820</b>
Total asylum seekers	<b>17,277</b>
Camp Population	<b>12,954</b>
Active Not of Concern	<b>66</b>

## FUNDING (AS OF FEBRUARY 2018)

# USD 612.2 M

requested for Syria Operation



## UNHCR PRESENCE

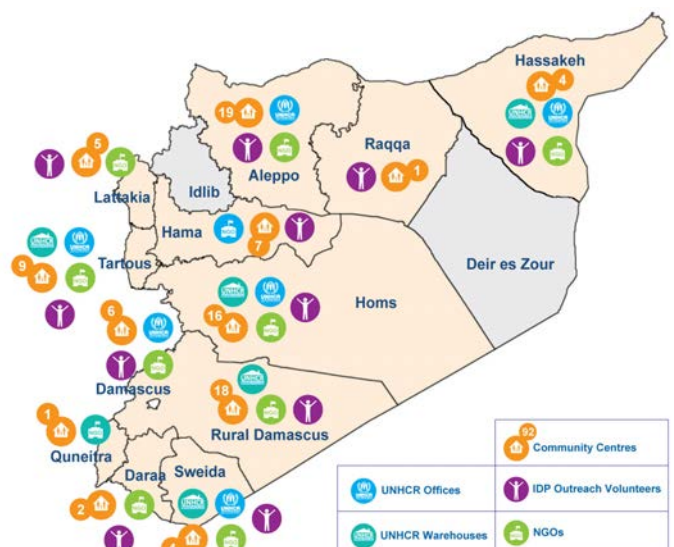
**Staff: 635**

 National Staff: **546**

 International Staff: **89**

### Offices:

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



## Working with Partners

In compliance with the policy on the selection/retention of partners, and in view of the operation's expansion, UNHCR undertook a full-fledged partner selection process at the end of 2017, leading to the retention of all existing partners and the selection of several new partners.

**UNHCR has 40 partners in 2018, of which 12 international NGOs, 26 national NGOs and two government entities (Ministry of Local Administration and Environment and Ministry of Higher Education).** The Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) is the key humanitarian agency in Syria that is entrusted by the Syrian Government with overseeing operational assistance. SARC approves international NGOs operating in Syria and plays a crucial role in facilitating delivery of aid. Since 2005, SARC is UNHCR's largest partner, implementing projects for refugees, IDPs and returnees. UNHCR also has strategic partnerships with WFP and UNICEF, as well as UNDP and FAO focusing on livelihoods and self-reliance projects, and plans to expand such partnerships in 2018.

## Main Activities

### Protection activities provided for IDPs

In 2017, **protection activities reached out to 2.6 million affected people in 13 governorates**, including Raqqa, where a new community centre was opened. UNHCR, together with its partners, established 27 new community centres and 30 mobile units in newly accessible areas and areas of return, including in Deir Ezzor, where legal assistance was provided through UNHCR's legal partner. UNHCR conducted **1,899,370 general protection interventions, 331,941 child protection interventions**, including, awareness raising through contact initiatives, case management/referrals, child protection and PSS Group activities, parenting programmes and capacity building, as well as **374,876 sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) interventions**, including awareness raising activities, dignity kit distribution, non-specialized psychosocial support activities.

**By February 2018, the number of functioning community-based protection structures was 92 community centres, 10 satellite centres and 58 mobile units supported by 2,190 Outreach Volunteers (ORVs), operating.**

### Protection activities provided for Refugees

The population of refugees and asylum seekers consists of 49,117 individuals, including 18,820 predominantly Iraqi refugees (some 83%), mostly residing in Damascus and in Hassakeh Governorates; 17,277 asylum-seekers, mostly residing in urban Qamishli; and 16,896 Iraqi asylum seekers sheltered in three camps (Newroz, Roj and Al Hol) in Hassakeh governorate.

In 2017, all refugees received cash-for-food assistance, 6,600 refugee households received conditional cash grants or vouchers for education, 800 children enrolled in accelerated learning programs, 3,297 refugees and asylum-seekers benefitted from legal counselling, interventions and awareness-raising. 8,022 families (25,905 individuals) benefitted from the one-time winterization grant.

In 2017, resettlement submissions were made for 227 individuals under the following categories: Survivors of Violence and/or Torture (35%), Women and Girls at Risk (32%), and Legal and Physical Protection Needs (30%), in addition to six individuals who were submitted under Medical Needs. In 2017, three individuals/three families were submitted under 'Emergency' submission priority to Sweden. The total acceptance decisions covered 383 individuals, while 406 individuals departed for resettlement.

Since the beginning of the year 2018, 173 asylum seekers underwent RSD interview and 137 RSD case reviews were undertaken. 11 refugees were submitted for resettlement and 15 refugees were accepted for resettlement, while 34 refugees departed for resettlement and 11 refugees were transferred to the Emergency Transit Centre in Romania.

## Shelter and Non-Food Items

UNHCR, through the Shelter/NFI sector it leads, provided around 835,000 people with **adequate quantities of core and supplementary items**.

Over 481,000 individuals were adequately served with **shelter support**, such as installation of over 10,000 shelter kits, rehabilitation of over 4,500 emergency rooms, and rehabilitation of 4,000 damaged houses for the returned population.

During 2017, UNHCR participated in 16 interagency convoys (IACs) through 29 rounds, delivering multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance to IDPs in (21) locations in (5) governorates (Rural Damascus – Damascus - Homs - Idleb – Deir Ez-Zor), assisting 76,381 families / 381,905 individuals.

## Winterization

UNHCR started its 2017-18 winterization programme in Syria on 01 September. As of 19 February 2018, UNHCR distributed 1,645,173 winterized items, including high thermal blankets, extra plastic sheeting, and winter clothes kits to 949,762 individuals/ 198,873 families in Deir-ez-Zor, Ar-Raqqa, Al-Hassakeh, Quneitra, Hama, Homs, Aleppo, As-Sweida, Lattakia, Tartous, Dar'a, Damascus and Rural Damascus governorates. UNHCR is planning by the end of February to reach 1,000,000 internally displaced persons throughout the country, representing the 2017-18 target for the winterization programme.

## Health

Providing primary health care services, including mental health and support to emergency life-saving activities is one of the main interventions that UNHCR conducts through its partners in the health sector. In 2017, UNHCR reached out and assisted 551,304 IDPs with PHC services, out of which 4,987 were in a besieged location. In 2017, 4,200 IDPs were supported for emergency interventions, through 4 NGO local partners.

In 2018, UNHCR requirements to assist IDPs, returnees and refugees in Syria is **\$ 612.2 million**.

As of February 2018, UNHCR has received **only 16 million in funding, equal to 3 % of total needs**.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR DONORS:

**Canada 7.4 M | Sweden 3.1 M | CBPF 3 M | Private donors Qatar 1.3 M | Private donors USA 1 M | UNICEF 96, 000 |**

## CONTACTS:

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