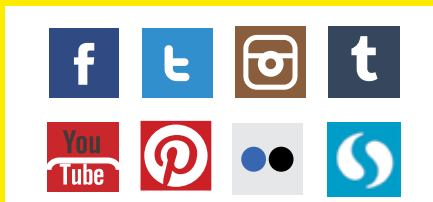


Highlights

- Beds For Tents in Tartous
- Livelihood Toolkits
- Aid Deliveries Continue
- A Fun Day for UNHCR Staff
- Helping Children with Hearing Disabilities in Sweida
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Beds For Tents A Great Success in Tartous

The winters in Syria can be very harsh with last year's one bringing floods to many camps and shelters throughout the country, bringing misery and destroying belongings. With winter once again coming, UNHCR has responded in Tartous with a number of projects, such as the replacement of tents and the setting of concrete bases. However, one very practical project was identified this year to mitigate the impact of winter on IDPs residing in tents. The project called "Beds for Tents" included the distribution of two beds for each tent as per the capacity of the tent. IDPs themselves proposed this project to UNHCR as a means of avoiding the cold ground in winter which gets damp and causes damage to IDPs belongings and health.



The project covers all IDPs residing in tents in the five different camps in Tartous: Pioneer Camp, Old Garage, Construction & Building, Al Karnak and the Al Illaqieh School. Throughout October, UNHCR partner Al Batoul distributed 756 beds which benefited 1,880 individuals in all five shelters. The IDPs expressed their happiness to UNHCR staff during field visits and that these beds shall help them clean their tents easily on a regular basis which will eventually enhance the hygienic condition in the shelter. A few days after the distribution, it rained heavily and afterwards, upon visiting the camps UNHCR observed the impact to excellent, with no belongings damaged and the camp inhabitants reporting great satisfaction. This project once again shows that communities, with a little support, can always find practical solutions to practical problems.



Livelihood Toolkits

During displacement people have to flee leaving many of their possessions behind and for tradesmen this often includes their tools which has a disastrous effect on their ability to earn a living and support their families. In order to support the protection and resilience of affected communities in Syria, UNHCR therefore decided to procure 2,000 livelihood toolkits for plumbers and carpenters. From June - October UNHCR distributed these kits to beneficiary tradesmen who had been previously identified throughout Syria as follows:

June - Oct 2016: Carpentry and plumbing toolkits

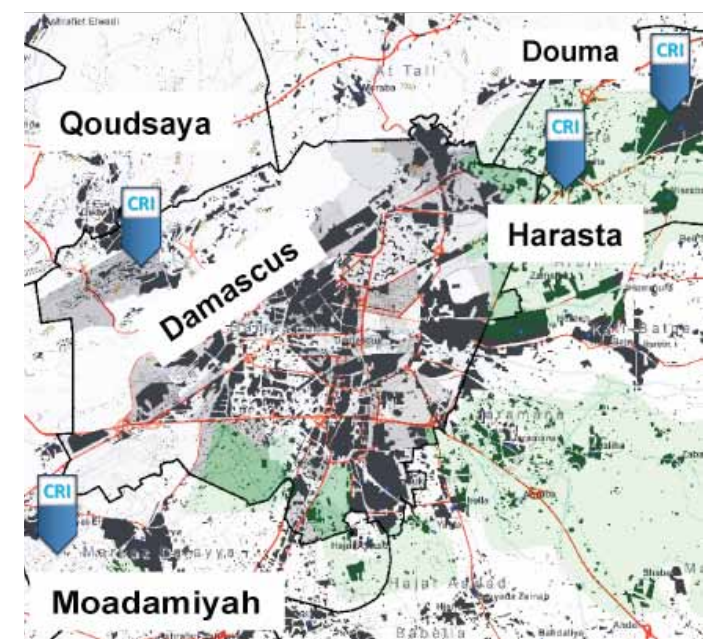
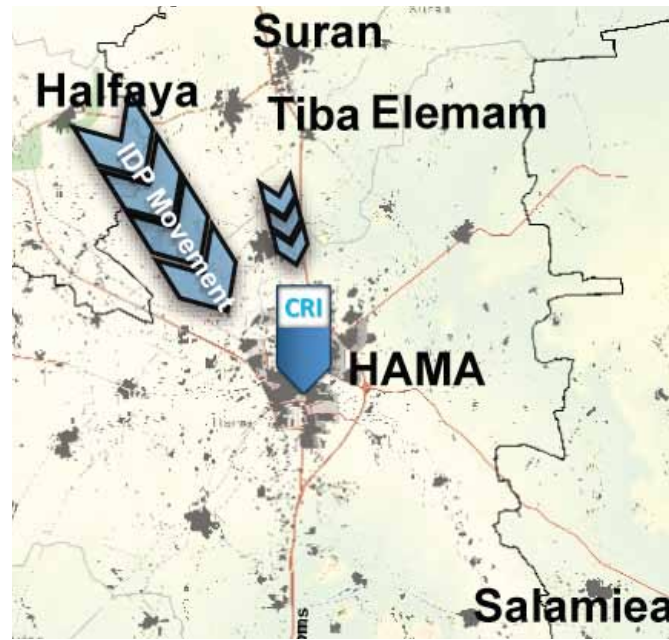
Governorate	Carpenter Kits	Plumbing Kits
Aleppo	85	145
Sweida	65	19
Dara	75	75
Hama	50	38
Homs	310	267
Lattakia	175	219
Quneitra	20	20
Tartous	182	147
Qamishly	38	62
Total Jun - Oct 2016	1,000	992

During the distribution of these kits, it became clear that more of this type of practical assistance was needed with IDPs assisting in the needs identification of the other types of kits. This resulted in a list of 11 different toolkits, including the previous two being adopted. In 2017, UNHCR plans to distribute over 13,000 of these kits consisting of Plumbing Kits, Carpenter Kits, Electrician kits, Sewing kits (Stitching, Internal Lock, Sewing machine for Overlock), Hairdressing kits for females, Hairdressing kits for males, Painting kits, Blacksmith kits, Air-conditioning maintenance kits, Electronic maintenance kits for Computers and electronic maintenance for Mobiles for repairing using spare parts.



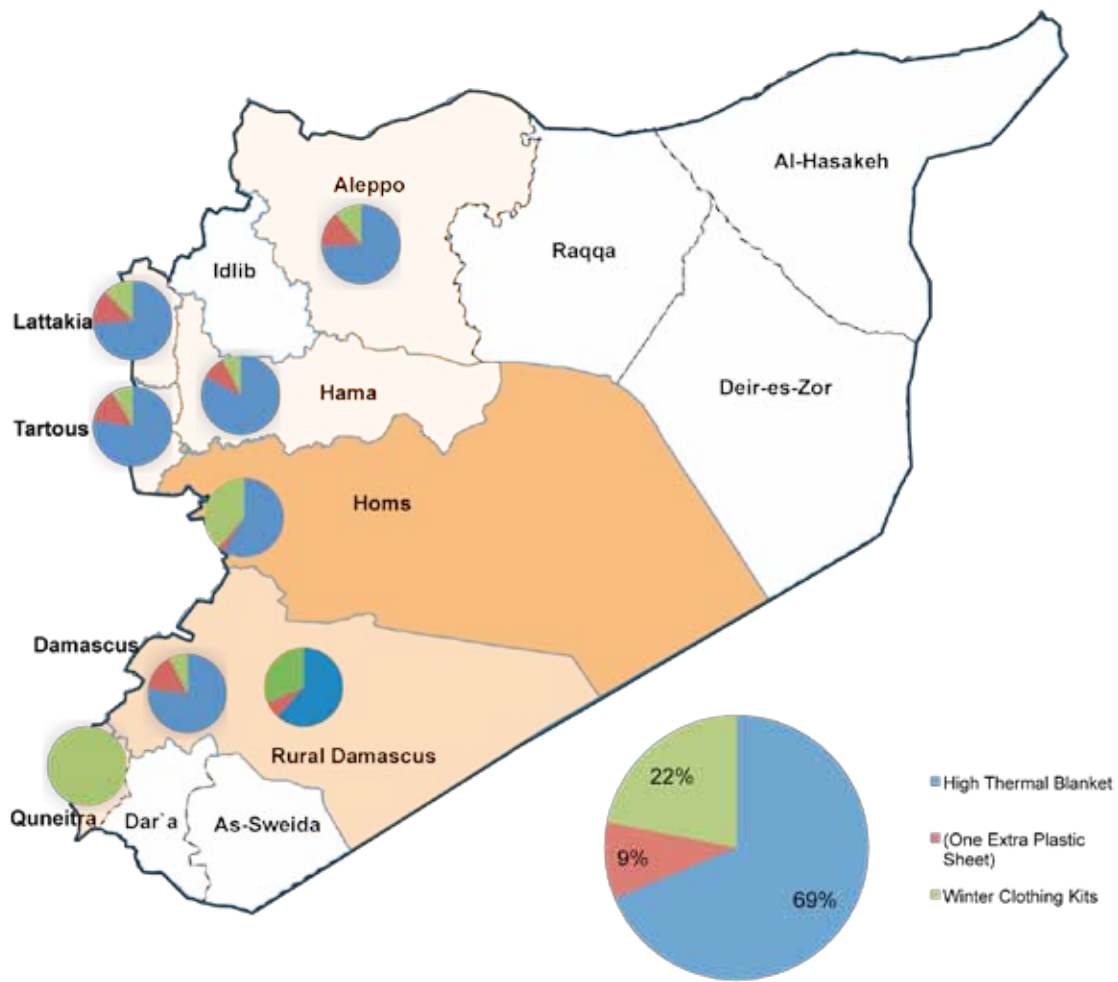
UNHCR Continues to Deliver Assistance throughout Syria

- On 15 October, UNHCR dispatched 4,590 mattresses and 3,000 kitchen sets to Hama in its second phase response to the fresh displacement of families from northern rural Hama. The items were delivered through UNHCR partner Social Care Society Hama.
- On 20 October, despite the deterioration of the security situation in Douma, Rural Damascus which is experiencing fresh military operations, a UN interagency mission there was conducted. UNHCR participated in the mission to assess the situation on the ground for future follow up inter-agency convoys to the area.
- On 20 October, UNHCR participated in an inter-agency convoy to Al Dar Al Kabira, Homs delivering 1,000 mattresses, 3,000 high thermal blankets, 500 jerry cans, 1,010 plastic sheets, 6,000 sleeping mats, 7,200 winter clothes and 3,600 solar lamps.
- On the 23 October, winter clothing for 20,000 individuals and solar lamps for 15,000 individuals were delivered to the hard-to-reach Moadamiyah, Rural Damascus through an inter-agency convoy.
- On 24 October, the hard-to-reach Al Houleh in Homs also received assistance through an inter-agency mission in which UNHCR contributed core relief items for 7,500 individuals/1,500 families.
- On 26 October UNHCR participated in an inter-agency convoy to Al Waer in Homs contributing 1,500 jerry cans, 1,500 plastic sheets, 7,500 sleeping mats and 7,500 winter clothes
- On 29 October, UNHCR participated an inter-agency cross-line convoy to East Harasta (Rural Damascus) with protection staff and NFI assistance for 10,200 individuals/2,040 families. The convoy delivered multi-sectoral assistance for 11,000 people.



- On 31 October an inter-agency cross-line convoy proceeded to deliver multi-sectoral assistance for 30,000 people in Qudsaya (Rural Damascus). UNHCR participated with staff and non-food item (NFI) assistance for 20,000 individuals. The last inter-agency convoy to the area was on 27 June.
- In October UNHCR's winterization programme continued across Syria. So far 633,129 beneficiaries had been reached with winterization items such as winter clothes, high thermal blankets and extra plastic sheeting.

Winterization Programme



UNHCR Damascus Retreat: A Fun Day



On 27 October, in the interest of staff welfare, a one day retreat was organized for all UNHCR Damascus and visiting staff. The retreat was held in the Four Seasons hotel and was attended by over two hundred people. It was a chance for colleagues in the various offices to mingle and get to know one another in a relaxed informal atmosphere and focused on having fun, team building activities with many staff showcasing their various talents such as Oud playing, Salsa, Self Defense and even traditional Dabke dancing. A fun day was had by all.



UNHCR Helps Children with Hearing Disabilities in Sweida

The Deaf and Dumb center in Sweida is one of the only institutions that provides educational and support services to children with hearing disabilities throughout the governorate. Recently the institution also extended its services to serve the needs of other categories of children with different disabilities.

The main goals of the institution is to provide education according to Ministry of Education curriculum, provide the opportunity for the children to participate in different activities such as exhibitions, sport championship and festivals as well as strengthen the social role of children with hearing disabilities by teaching them and their parents sign language that help them communicate with others.

In the summer of 2014, due to the displacement toward Sweida from different governorates including Daraa, the institution was used as a shelter to host displaced families and as a result conditions there deteriorated with its infrastructure now in bad need of rehabilitation. Now with the Institute running again, UNHCR in coordination with the Department of Social Affairs (DoSA) have therefore began the process of rehabilitation of the WASH facilities, heating system, and electrical maintenance.



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In addition UNHCR is equipping the center with special tools and computers which are essential in enhancing the children's opportunity in education as well as strengthening child protection. For example in October UNHCR Sweida delivered 15 computers with its accessories to the deaf and dumb management in the presence of the UNHCR Head of Sweida Field Office, DoSA manager and a representative from the Governor's office. In addition, the playground is being rehabilitated according to the child friendly space criteria and will give children the opportunity have a safe space to relax, play and improve their skills.

Provided legal assistance through its partners Syria Trust, SARC, DRC, and Al Taalouf to 22,419 IDPs in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Hassakeh, Qamishli, Homs, Hama, Sweida, Tartous, Daraa, Quneitra and Lattakia. This included legal counselling to 7,709 IDPs and 8,900 IDPs men, women and adolescents have attended legal awareness sessions. Furthermore, 5,810 IDPs benefited from lawyers' direct interventions before courts and administrative bodies.

Reached a total of 710,891 individuals with CRIs, including 199,865 in hard to reach and besieged areas, while 127,500 individuals were reached by cross border deliveries pursuant to UNSC resolution 2165.

Recruited 95 new Out-Reach Volunteers (ORVs) bringing the total number of ORVs to 1,536 operating in 10 governorates.

In
October
2016
UNHCR

Continued to assist with winterization items such as winter clothes, carpets, high thermal blankets, sleeping bags and extra plastic sheeting. As of 31 October over 700,000 beneficiaries had been reached.

Launched in coordination with partners Syria Trust, Taalouf, SSSD, Al Birr and Aoun eight new community centers: Nahr Eisha (Damascus), Qatana (Rural Damascus), Forgan (Aleppo), Hassakeh city, Hasyaa and Maskaneh (Rural Homs), Qtelbiyeh (Rural Lattakia) and in Qadmous (Rural Tartous) bringing the total number of operational community centers to 65.

Supported 67 new Community Based Initiatives (CBIs) bringing the total of achieved initiatives to 267, benefiting more than 41,000 people in 10 governorates.

UNHCR Legal Assistance Making a Practical Difference

With 6.1 million displaced in Syria, massive numbers have lost their personal status documents such as birth certificates and identification cards. In addition, more and more children are being born in areas where they are not registered due to lack of services, access or insecurity. This often results in people being subject to harassment, extortion, exploitation and loss of access to basic services such as education and health. UNHCR in cooperation with its partners Al Taalouf, The Syria Trust, DRC and SARC, provides IDPs with legal aid through trained lawyers and advocates with the Directorate of Civil Affairs of the Ministry of Interior in order to ease the procedures of re-issuing critical documents that have been lost or destroyed. Accordingly, UNHCR's legal support projects assist IDPs to obtain, renew and restore their critical civil documents, including personal IDs, family booklets, birth certificates, etc. UNHCR and partners also organize legal counselling, legal interventions and legal awareness sessions throughout the country.

Since the start of 2016, UNHCR has provided legal aid with the assistance of 114 lawyers to 93,137 IDPs from the affected population as follows:

Legal Counselling

35,681 beneficiaries were provided with legal counselling services

Legal Awareness Sessions

42,164 men, women and adolescents have attended legal awareness sessions

Legal Interventions

15,292 individuals benefited from UNHCR legal interventions before courts and other administrative bodies

Personal Identity Documents: Challenge for Many Displaced People in Syria - Ayman's Story

Ayman is a 15 year old boy who lost his father who died before the crisis as well as his mother who passed away lately. As Ayman is the eldest brother, it has fallen to him to take care of his two younger brothers. When UNHCR volunteers visited the family in the Salah Al Deen neighborhood, a frontline area in Aleppo, they observed the lack of official identity papers them including an ID for Ayman's, the family's main breadwinner. The lack of these documents meant that the family could not access basic social services or even move around freely for fear of arrest. The volunteer accompanied Ayman immediately to take a personal photograph, get civil proof and proceed with the administrative documents. Moreover, Ayman met with the UNHCR's recruited lawyers to get legal support. Accordingly, the lawyer help Ayman complete the process with the Civil Registry, thus he received an official receipt and then got his ID issued.

"Thank you all, now that I got my personal ID I can move freely around the city", Ayman gratefully said. UNHCR assistance did not stop at this point as Ayman and his brothers were also referred to the Child Protection Unit to get the support needed.



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Legal Awareness Helping People Practice Their Rights: Seba's and Salma's Stories

Seba, is a 20 year old displaced woman and a mother of a young boy and was unaware of the importance possessing a family booklet which is an official Identification Document with the details of all family members contained within. However, during a legal awareness session in Tishreen community centre in Aleppo one of UNHCR's recruited lawyer became aware of her situation. During the counselling provided, the lawyer identified the challenges facing Seba in obtaining the booklet and took action. After the lawyer worked for three consecutive days in the Civil Registry of Aleppo, Seba was finally issued the booklet and a record of the child. "I can't believe what happened", Seba said while thanking the lawyer. "I can now register my child and get assistance in these difficult circumstances in Syria".

Salma is an eight-year old girl from Aleppo whose parents are separated. Salma's father did not acknowledge his daughter neither through registering his marriage event nor the divorce. Hence, she was not registered in Aleppo's civil records. Things became more complicated when her mother got remarried lately and authenticated her new marriage while the child remained unregistered and the mother kept trying unsuccessfully to register the child. During a legal awareness session a UNHCR lawyer heard about the case, met with the family and worked on it for over one month after which the divorce was authenticated and Salma finally registered in civil records. "I had the fear that my daughter would have to stay out of school because of being unregistered" Salma's mother said. 'Through the great efforts and follow-up of the UNHCR lawyer we finally reached this fantastic outcome'



UNHCR Expands Services with Official Opening of first Legal Aid Clinic in Tartous

In Tartous on 24 October UNHCR and partner the Syria Trust inaugurated the new legal aid clinic which was attended by official representation from the Governor's Office, the civil registry department, a number of judges and staff from UNHCR Tartous. This legal aid clinic will provide a wide range of free legal services, counseling and legal interventions for displaced persons. The clinic consists of nine legal staff who will ensure beneficiaries receive high-quality services and advice in a timely fashion. Planning has already begun for expanding the service in 2017.



Kinana: Determined to Succeed

Kinana is a 26 year old married woman living at Al Kisweh Shelter with her two kids. Her husband went missing during the conflict and she has been living with her in-laws in the shelter after they were displaced from Daraya, forced to leave everything behind.

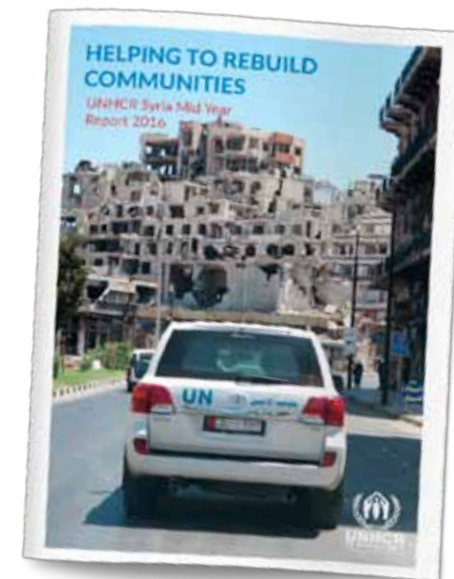
Through the UNHCR supported ORVs in the area, Kinana became aware of the vocational training courses Al Nada offers, and eventually she enrolled in the Detergent Making course, determined to learn a new profession in order to provide for her family. While undertaking the training, she met Thana, a divorced mother of two and together they decided to start a small business making products and selling them to their relatives in Lebanon, Egypt, and Turkey. A local merchant heard about their initiative and Kinana and Thana succeeded in making a deal with him to sell their products in the market. When speaking to the UNHCR/Al Nada team both women were optimistic and thanked UNHCR and Al Nada for their support.



UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR),
Helping to Save Lives and Rebuild Communities
Mid Year Report 2016

available at:

<http://www.refworld.org/docid/57c6dccc4.html>



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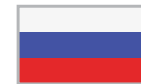
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