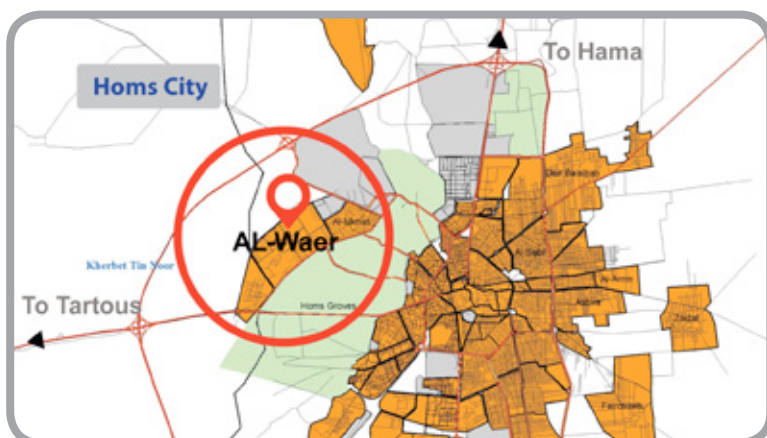


UNHCR Participates in Two Successful Interagency Missions to Al Waer

In Al Waer, in Homs city, negotiations were recently concluded with an agreement to evacuate fighters and their families from the area. The negotiations were conducted with the participation of the UN as an observer.



As part of the agreement, on 05 December, UNHCR participated in an interagency convoy to the besieged area which had not received any major humanitarian assistance since 2013. The distributed core relief items benefited 30,000 individuals and included mattresses, blankets, baby and adult diapers, sanitary napkins, plastic sheets, kitchen sets, sleeping mats, hygiene kits, jerry cans as well as winter clothing. A further interagency mission took place on 12 December with three UNHCR trucks carrying 2,500 hygiene kits for 12,500 individuals while one truck delivered 2,000 plastic sheets to the neighboring Al Rabweh area.



HIGHLIGHTS

- UNHCR Delivers Assistance to Al Waer in Homs
- Art and UNHCR Changing Lives in Hama
- UNHCR Winterization Plan Continues
- UNHCR Supports Oral Hygiene Awareness Campaign for Children



Merry Christmas & Peaceful new year

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Art and UNHCR: Changing lives in Hama



Due to the conflict sisters Nadine (16 years) and Loujain (12 years) and their family fled Arrastan in the Homs governorate to Hama city. Due to continuous explosions near their home before they left they suffered severe damage to their hearing, leaving them deaf. This led to them refusing to go to school or even mixing with other children leaving them isolated and depressed.

When the girl's mother heard about UNHCR's partner Social Care Hama she approached the case manager seeking assistance for her daughters. After referring both sisters for medical assessment, hearing aids were provided leading to them hearing again. However, this was not enough to solve the problem of their isolation and refusal to attend school. The case manager began working with Loujain engaging her in some of the regular Psycho Social Support (PSS) recreational activities conducted for different age groups. After a number of sessions, Loujain began communicating with other children and eventually even went back to school.

The older sister Nadine was a more difficult case with her continuously refusing all kinds of interactions with others. However, through one to one counselling the case manager discovered that Nadine had a talent for art.

The case manager persuaded Nadine to participate in a UNHCR supported art exhibition that Social Care was organizing. She organized art supplies and asked Nadine to prepare new drawings in addition to the old ones.

At the exhibition she had a full wall dedicated to her art. This event changed Nadine's life because during preparations, she began to communicate with the organizers, and was delighted when her drawings were praised by the visitors.



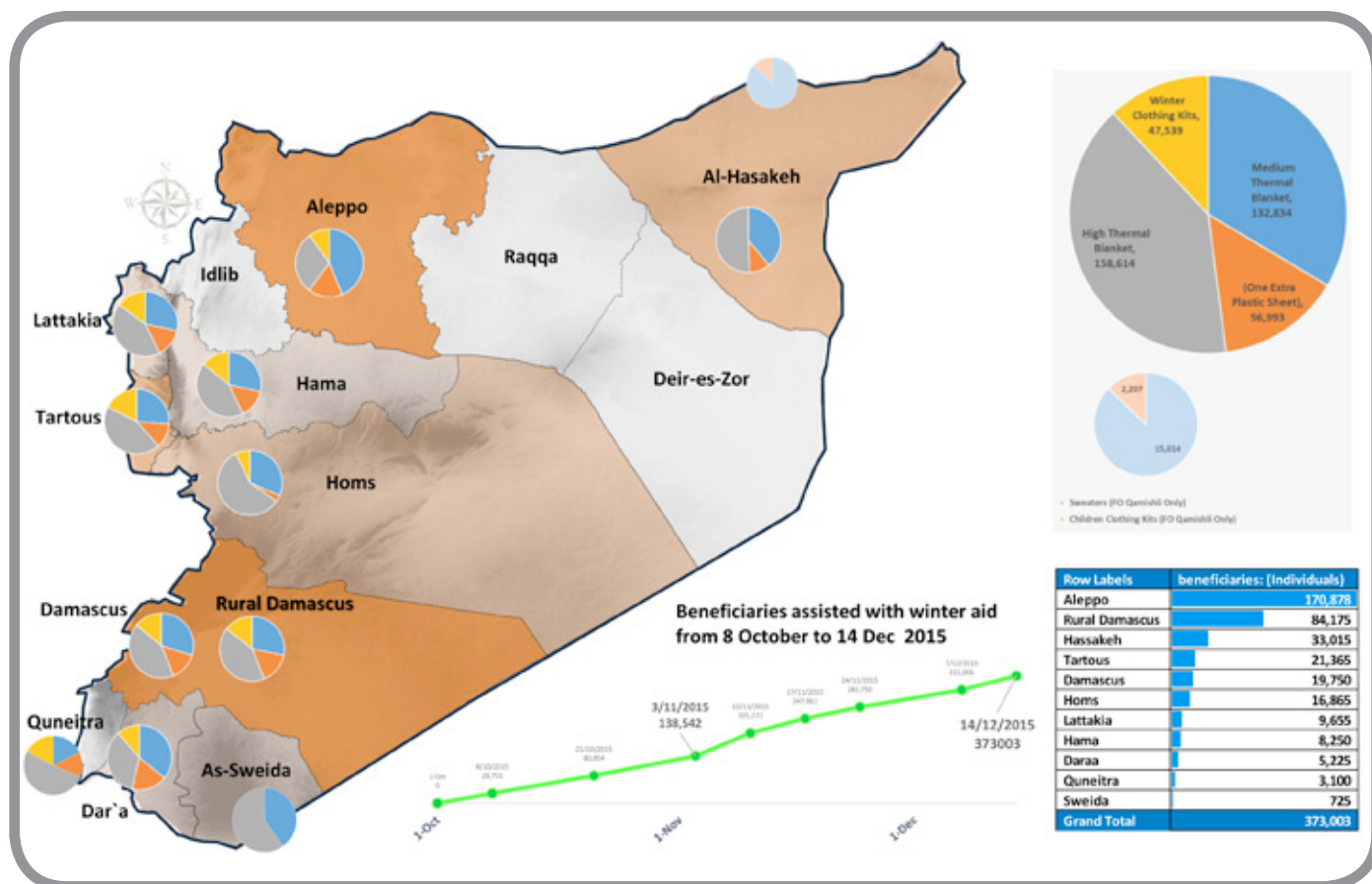
UNHCR Winterization Programme Passes 50% Mark

This week UNHCR passed the 50% mark in terms of its winterization programme assisting over 373,000 individuals with winter items. The programme which began in the second week of October has a prioritized target of 750,000 people using 150,000 winter kits. The standard winter kit is composed of winter clothes, thermal blankets and plastic sheets and priority is given to the newly displaced individuals, people in hard-to-reach areas, people with specific needs and vulnerabilities such as unaccompanied minors or elders, single women as well as people with disability, mental health problems or serious medical conditions and chronic diseases.



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In addition, in Aleppo because of specialized needs a supplementary winter package has been agreed upon to cover 20,000 individuals residing in 100 skeleton buildings, pending more durable shelter interventions. The Aleppo supplementary winter package includes sleeping bags and shelter kits consisting of timber, plywood and a tool kit which will enable the residents of the skeleton buildings to reinforce and adjust their shelters to changing climate conditions.



UNHCR Supports Oral Hygiene Awareness Campaign for Children

This week UNHCR in collaboration with its partners the Al Nour charity society and GOPA launched the Oral Hygiene Awareness Campaign for Children in order to contribute to the provision of health care for children and reduce the risk of dental diseases for children diagnosed with Diabetes and Thalassemia.



Given the fact that Oral/ Dental treatment is unaffordable by many Syrians during the crisis, a group of third year students of Dentistry in Damascus University began conducting interactive awareness raising activities about the importance of Oral Hygiene, the examination for the detection of early signs of dental disease and the provision of Dental sealants for children between 4-14 years in schools, medical Centers and the Golan Child friendly Space. In this UNHCR supported initiative which targets 1,000 children, the students in University of Damascus will additionally offer free treatment by the university to the children who are diagnosed with teeth cavities after the end of the campaign. At the end of the awareness sessions all children will receive a dental hygiene kit.



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For more information , please contact:

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