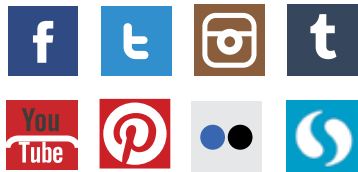


## Highlights

- Opening of a New Community Centre in Tartous
- Humanitarian Aid Delivered Throughout Syria
- UNHCR and WFP Dispatch Tents to Qamishly
- Success Stories
- Establishment of Youth Initiative Fund 2016

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## If You Build It They Will come....And in Baniyas they did!

On 26 July UNHCR Tartous joined by colleagues from Damascus attended the opening of a new community centre in Baniyas, rural Tartous run by partner SSSD. The occasion, which was swamped by hundreds of people both from the local and IDP communities throughout the city, was an occasion of great celebration and fun with hundreds of children and their parents involved in dancing and singing and having great fun. The centre was opened with the cutting of a cake by jointly by representatives from UNHCR, SSSD and DoSA.



The center which is the first of its type in Baniyas will now offer various services such as:

- Educational activities; informal learning in a participatory manner, analytical thinking, debates, etc
- Recreational activities; music, sports, painting, handicrafts, dancing, singing, competitions, acting, theatre plays.
- Vocational training; hairdressing, makeup, food production, swing, IT, maintenance.
- Psychosocial support for men and women.
- Services for people with disabilities; awareness sessions for the parents and health services.
- Activities for separated and unaccompanied children; health care, food and residence.

Community centres such as the new one in Baniyas has proved to be an effective tool to access and outreach beneficiaries in the most challenging contexts and assist persons with specific needs while promoting peaceful coexistence, social cohesion and community participation. Since the beginning of 2016, UNHCR has supported the opening of 22 new community centres in cooperation with its partners Al Nada, Tamayouz, The Syria Trust, DRC, GOPA, SSSD, SARC, Namaa, Taalouf, Al Bir, Child Care, Aoun and Al Batoul in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs, Hama, Lattakia, Tartous, Sweida, Daraa and Hassakeh. The number of UNHCR supported community centres has now reached 52 in ten governorates in Syria against the target of 80 planned for 2016. Through these community centres over 1,000 beneficiaries per month are supported by UNHCR and its partners with a variety of Protection services.



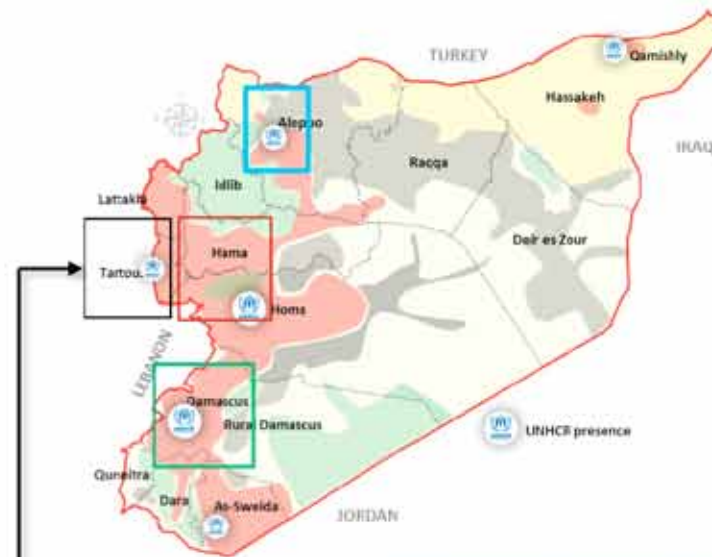
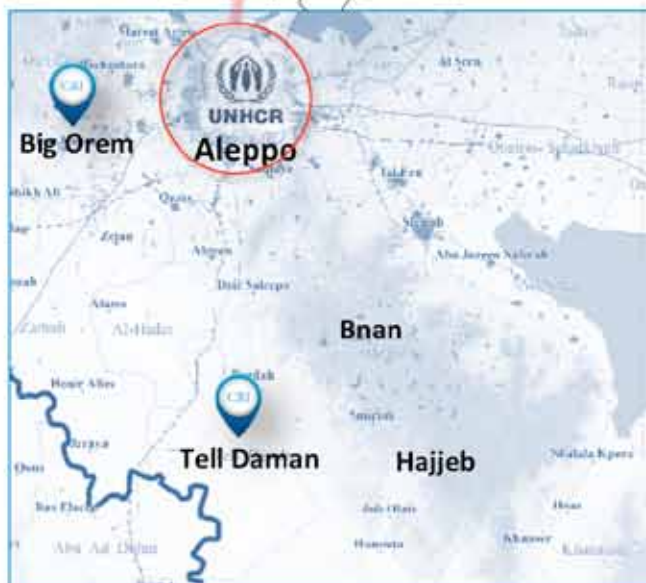
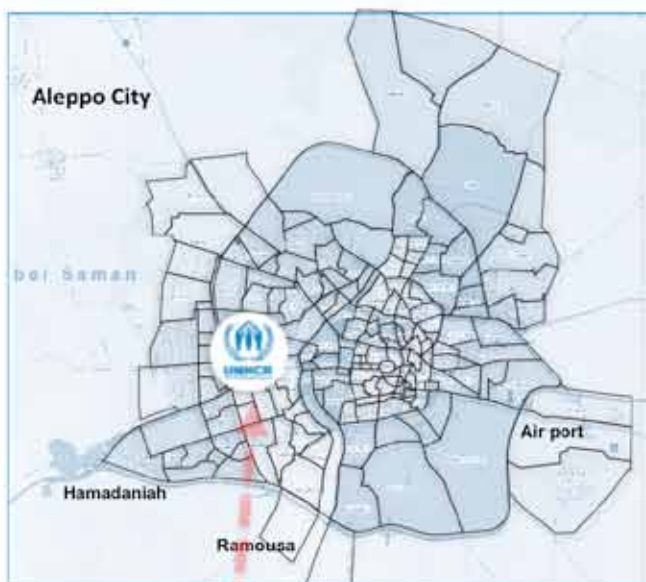


## UNHCR Continues to Deliver Assistance Throughout Syria

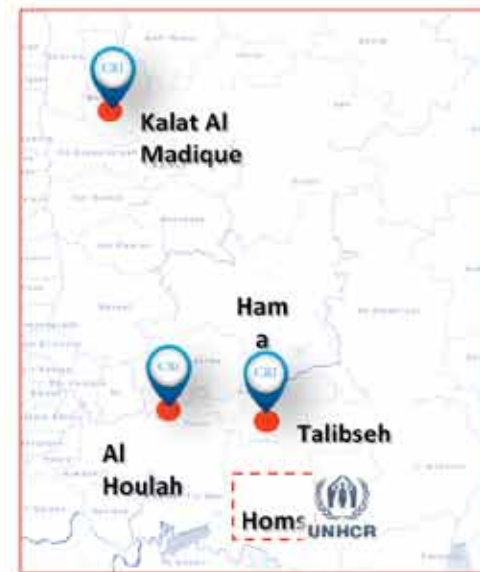
- On 07 and 17 July, 7,000 individuals/1,400 families in the New Aleppo area of Aleppo city received CRIs including mattresses, blankets, baby and adult diapers, kitchen sets, sleeping mats and solar lamps.
- On 10 and 18 July, in Aleppo, the Sryan area received assistance benefiting 5,000 individuals/1,000 families.
- On 11 July, 6,000 individuals/1,200 families in Jadydet Artouz in Rural Damascus benefited from UNHCR assistance.
- On 16 July UNHCR joined an UN inter-agency mission to the hard-to-reach Al Waer neighbourhood located in north western side of Homs city providing 4,355 solar lamps and 1,500 plastic sheets. Another mission there took place on 20 July with UNHCR accessing local shelters, meeting with SARC and local community leaders as well as identifying the needs of persons of concern.
- On 19 July, UNHCR reached Serghaya in Rural Damascus and distributed 15,000 blankets, 1,500 kitchen sets, 1,500 plastic sheets and 1,500 solar lamps. This town was last reached in February 2016.
- On 21 July UNHCR participated in an inter-agency (IA) convoy targeting 33,500 individuals/6,700 families to the Hard to Reach Kala at Al Madique in Northern Hama. UNHCR's contribution was 12,800 mattresses, 19,200 Blankets, 6,400 plastic sheets, 12,800 sleeping mats, 6,400 kitchen sets, 6,400 jerry cans and 3,200 solar lamps.
- On 21 July, Big Orem in Rural Aleppo was reached with core relief items for 10,000 individuals/ 2,000 families.
- On 24 July a cross line mission took place to Tal Daman in Rural Aleppo where core relief items were delivered for 10,000 individuals/2,000 families.
- On 28 July, the hard-to-reach Talibseh in Homs, which has not been reached since March last year, was assisted with core relief items including 2,125 solar lamps, 1,000 kitchen sets, 3,000 plastic sheets and 1,000 jerry cans.
- On 31 July UNHCR participated in an joint UN IA convoy to Kafr Laha in the Al Houlah area of the Homs governorate. UNHCR contributed 3,000 plastic sheets, 7,100 jerry cans, 2,700 solar lamps. In addition, the UN team met with SARC, focal points of health, shelter and education, representatives of the municipality and local community leaders in order to identify needs and concerns of POCs.
- On all these missions, in addition to delivering aid, UNHCR conducted protection monitoring in the visited locations.



©UNHCR / Aleppo 2016



community center in Banyas





## UNHCR Airlifts Tents to Qamishly in Coordination with the WFP



©UNHCR / Qamishly 2016

As mentioned previously, because of the closure of the Nusaybeen border crossing and the inaccessibility of the Hassakeh governorate by road, UNHCR emergency stocks there were dangerously low. Also, as reported previously in June UNHCR carried out five airlifts from Jordan to Qamishly carrying 160 tons of blankets, plastic sheets and kitchen sets. Carrying on from this in July, through close coordination with its sister agency the WFP, UNHCR delivered 1,500 tents and 10,000 solar lamps there via a WFP airlift. The tents are being distributed for the refugee families in Al Hol camp with some being kept as an emergency stock.

## Rouqia - IDP, Graduate, Outreach Volunteer and Now PSS Coordinator

When we met Rouqia in November 2015 she was working as an Outreach Volunteer in Sweida. Rouqia who has a degree in psychology from the University of Damascus was displaced from Daraa to Sweida in 2012. During her time in Sweida she spotted a massive need for Psycho Social Support (PSS) amongst the displaced there and she decided to help. In 2013 she became an outreach volunteer and for three years worked in the community, a role she loved and is extremely proud of. This year however, when the position of Coordinator of the Psycho Social Support Programme came up from UNHCR's Partner GOPA, she applied for the position and was successful. When we caught up with Rouqia she was in the middle of a PSS session for men on how to identify and deal with stress. Afterwards she tells us 'I am delighted with the extra responsibility that comes with my new position as it is allowing me to help even more people in the community.' She goes on to say that 'many people are often unaware that they are suffering from depression or stress and are often shocked with this realization when they come to our PSS activities which are geared for men, women, teens and children'. She tells us that due to the conflict the fear she sees in the children is heartbreaking. They react very badly to loud sounds, many of them suffering from wetting themselves and many more becoming withdrawn and afraid. Amongst the elderly she encounters depression, high pressure and constant worry. When she comes across these cases she provides support and often refers them to counselling at the UNHCR funded GOPA community centre and for the most difficult cases, a psychiatrist for further assistance.



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## Maher Overcomes His Loss



Maher Marouf had been working in the footwear business for ten years when he rented a 16 m2 shop in Mar Elias neighborhood in Tartous and launched his business as a retailer for women's shoes. When his business began flourishing, he suffered an armed robbery with his merchandise stolen while being dispatched to Tartous due to insecurity. However Maher refused to stay down and enrolled in the UNHCR supported beginners and advanced business administration course. After passing these courses UNHCR and its partner GOPA took the decision to support Maher with a loan to compensate his loss. "I was so desperate and I thought that I would never be able to carry on. I almost lost everything, yet I managed to stand up thanks to the support I received from GOPA and UNHCR", said Maher with gratitude. "Business is now good and I am hopeful for the future"

## And The Winner is..... Musaab!

Having heard of the stories of the refugees who are participating in the Rio Olympics, Musaab was enthusiastic to participate in the refugee race organized by UNHCR in Sweida in support for the refugee team competing there.

Musaab was born to an Iraqi refugee family in Syria and lived his early childhood in Erbin city in Rural Damascus before conflict forced his family to flee on two occasions finally reaching Sweida two years ago. Since he was a few years old, Musaab has had passion for sports; especially for soccer and after he moved to Sweida, he started to play soccer regularly at the city's National Stadium.

After the 13-year-old Iraqi champion won the 100m race, Musaab whispered to us that his biggest dream is to lead a refugee soccer team in the Olympics. As for today, Musaab cheers for #TeamRefugees and wishes them the best of luck! "They made me more enthusiastic, determined and hopeful" said a happy Musaab.





## UNHCR Syria Establishes Youth Initiatives Fund

In order to give a voice to young Syrians, UNHCR Syria has established a dedicated fund to support initiatives designed and led by young people that address protection challenges that they themselves identified within their communities. The initial pilot phase of the 'Youth Initiatives' supported thirty protection projects in addition to one project supported by UNHCR Headquarters as part of the global Youth Initiative Fund in 2015. These projects focused on protection issues such as Sexual and Gender Based Violence, child protection, and education and livelihood opportunities.

The objective of the Youth Initiatives programme is to build on the existing capacities of young people, and provide them with the support necessary to become active participants in their communities. The programme also aimed at assisting young people in unlocking their potential and building life skills that strengthen resilience and participation among youth groups.

Read the full report: <http://bit.ly/2aNobhV>



### Further Reading

UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Syria Protection and Community Services Sector Factsheet, June 2016, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/57a032384.html>

UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Syria - Emergency Shelter Sector Factsheet, June 2016, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/578e42c14.html>

UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Syria - Emergency NFI Sector Factsheet, June 2016, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/578e42c14.html>

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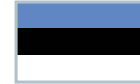
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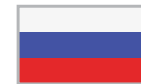
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For more information please contact: The Reporting Unit at UNHCR Syria  
Damien Mc Sweeney, Reporting Officer  
[@syrdareporting@unhcr.org](https://twitter.com/syrdareporting)