



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency
مفوضية الأمم المتحدة للاجئين

UNHCR Syria Update

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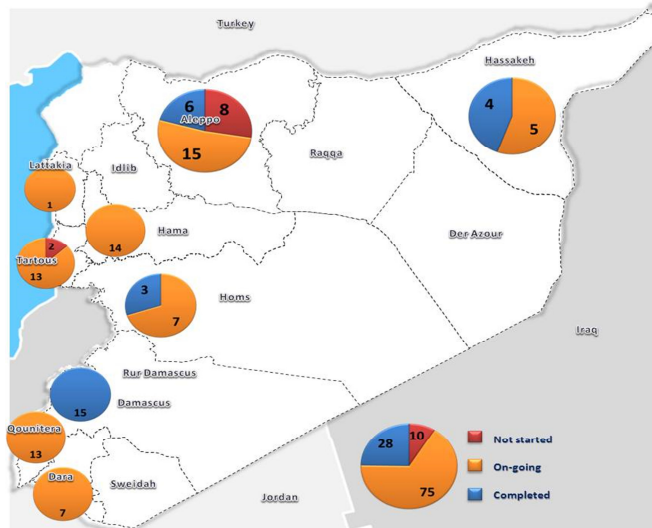
UNHCR rehabilitated 28 communal shelters in 5 governorates so far in 2013

In response to the urgent need for shelter assistance among internally displaced persons, UNHCR has committed to rehabilitate 113 communal shelters across the country in the first six months of 2013 within the framework of the Syria Humanitarian Response Plan (SHARP). Some delay due to bureaucracy and access constraints was experienced to start the programme, but it has now made progress since rehabilitation work resumed in May. Out of these 113 shelters, work on 75 shelters is on-going with some in the final stages of completion, whilst the rehabilitation of 28 collective shelters in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs, Aleppo and Hassakeh has been completed. The rehabilitation of the 113 shelters will benefit more than 42,000 vulnerable people. Through its role as sector lead for the Non-Food Items and Shelter and its partnership with the NGOs already engaged in shelter support, UNHCR aims to improve the living conditions of the most vulnerable individuals, including women, children, the elderly and the disabled, by undertaking repair and rehabilitation in 352 collective shelters in 2013. Overall, 469 shelters should to be rehabilitated by the Sector under SHARP in 2013.

Shelter rehabilitation in 2013



As of 16 July 2013



GOVERNORATES	Current Number	Not started	On-going	Completed
Damascus & Rural Damascus	15			15
Tartous	15	2	13	
Latakia	1		1	
Homs	10		7	3
Aleppo	29	8	15	6
Hassakeh	9		5	4
Hama	14		14	
Dara'a	7		7	
Al Qunaitra	13		13	
TOTAL	113	10	75	28

Gebran and Gina, twins born in a shelter

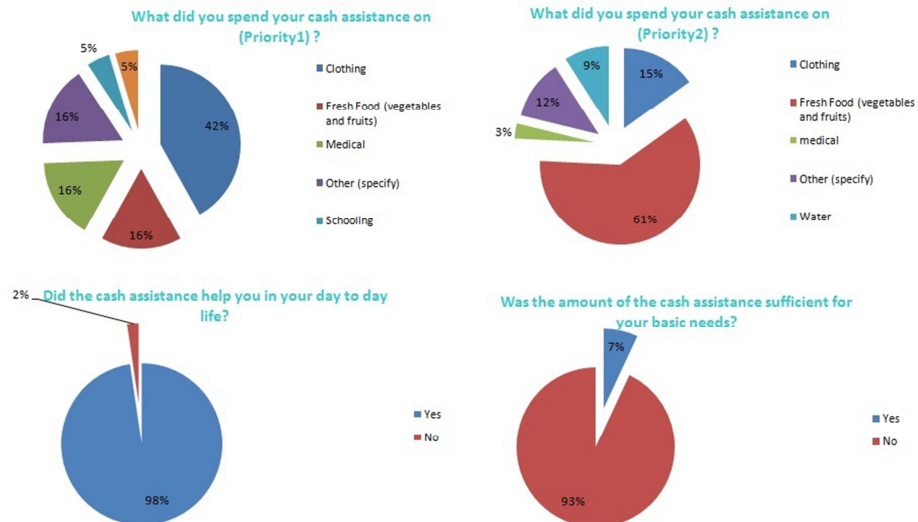
In a small room under the stairs of a high school building that has now become a collective shelter in al-Kesweh, a small town located in Rural Damascus, Gebran and Gina were born a month ago. Their parents have fled violence in Sayeda Zainab, in the southern suburbs of Damascus, over a year ago with their three other children; and as the collective shelter was overcrowded when they arrived, they had no choice but to stay in a small and humid 3x3 square meters room which they have been sharing with another family. Emad, the father is unemployed, so is the mother. Though no material assistance will ever give them their lives back, UNHCR, with the support of Secours Islamique France (SIF), one of its main implementing partners in the Shelter sector, hopes that the repair work carried out in the collective shelter will make a difference in the daily life of the family. The room now has a door, electricity and carpeting, thus looking safer and more habitable. *"We were glad the family has finally been able to enjoy some privacy. Personal privacy is crucial in traditional societies and is sometimes more important than bread itself"*, said Mays, a humanitarian worker from SIF.

4,572 vulnerable people provided with cash assistance in Tartous

The first round of the provision of cash assistance in the city of Tartous has been finalized with 4,572 vulnerable people assisted from 10 June to 4 July with an average of \$150 per family. As of 16 July, a total of 45,467 individuals (8,890 families) have benefitted from cash assistance in 2013 in the governorates of Damascus, Tartous, Homs and Qamishly, out of UNHCR's target of 100,000 beneficiary families in 2013.

28 communal shelters rehabilitated by UNHCR since the beginning of the year

The total value of this financial assistance amounts to 145.3 million Syrian pounds (\$1.2 million). The figure below shows the results of a recent survey conducted by UNHCR among beneficiaries of cash assistance in Tartous.



Urgently needed relief items reach the ancient city of Palmyra for the first time

For the first time since the beginning of the crisis in Syria, UNHCR's assistance reached the ancient city of Palmyra in Homs governorate where 5,000 vulnerable individuals received urgent relief kits. As of 16 July, UNHCR has dispatched much-needed relief items to an estimated 1,360,768 individuals across all of Syria's 14 governorates in 2013. UNHCR's most recent areas of dispatch have been Aleppo, Idleb, Homs, Damascus and Rural Damascus. UNHCR Syria is in urgent need of cash to be able to procure relief items and continue their delivery without suspension.

Mental health and psycho-social support services introduced in two SARC clinics

As part of UNHCR's mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS) project, MHPSS specialized services through multidisciplinary teams of psychotherapists, sociologists and psychiatrists were introduced in two of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) clinics (Qudsaya and Mazzeh clinics) on 7 and 11 July respectively, which brings up the number of clinics providing full package of MHPSS services to three and the total number of clinics providing psycho-social support (PSS) services to five, three in Damascus (Mazzeh, Massaken Barzeh and Zahera) and two in Rural Damascus (Qudsaya and al-Nabek). A wide range of services are provided to both refugees and internally displaced persons in these clinics, including psychotherapy sessions, psycho-social assessment, support, and counselling.

Empowering young refugees and Syrians with vocational training

On 2 July, Première Urgence (PU), one of UNHCR's main partner NGOs in Syria, held a ceremony in Damascus to distribute certificates among refugee and Syrian beneficiaries who had completed their vocational training in Sewing. 31 young men and women benefitted from this three-month course aimed at enabling them to become self-reliant and financially independent within the community. The sewing training is one of various vocational and skill trainings funded by UNHCR and conducted by its implementing partners. Since the beginning of the year, 6,743 refugees and Syrians have benefitted from the education, livelihood and vocational trainings in Damascus and Rural Damascus.

Funding level of UNHCR's IDP response

As of 11 July, UNHCR has received under its IDP response US\$ 68.5 million out of US\$ 248.7 million (28%) from Austria, Canada, the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO), Japan, Luxemburg, Russia, South Korea, Switzerland, the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), the United Nations Emergency Relief Fund (ERF) and the USA. Contributions earmarked at the regional level by various donors* for the Syria situation may also benefit UNHCR's response inside Syria (*Australia, Austria, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Kuwait, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, the USA and private donors).

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