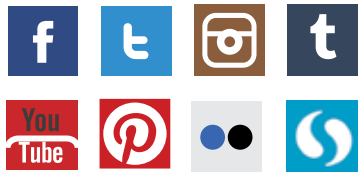


## Highlights

- UNHCR Responds Rapidly in Aleppo and Hassakeh
- November Snapshot
- 16 Days of Activism against SGBV
- UNHCR Winterization Programme
- Small Business Grants Changing Lives
- UNHCR Lead Inter-Agency convoy to Arrastan

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## UNHCR's Emergency Response to Mass Displacement in Aleppo

As a result of the intensified conflict in East Aleppo during November and December an estimated 41,000 people have left besieged eastern parts of Aleppo, including to the Sheik Maqsoud area. Many of those who have fled eastern districts are staying in unfinished or partly-destroyed buildings, suffering from unsanitary conditions and overcrowding.

UNHCR, alongside other humanitarian agencies, is delivering a comprehensive response to meet the needs of the newly displaced in areas we can access. With thousands fleeing the eastern part of the city, focus has turned to the rapidly growing shelter, NFI and protection needs. UNHCR shelter experts were immediately deployed to Aleppo to enhance the shelter response capacity, inspect shelters and liaise with partners to deliver an effective, coordinated plan. This response included the distribution of shelter kits that help IDPs fix and seal their living quarters, sealing off kits to close up openings as well as rehabilitation work and partitioning to give each family a private living space within large shelters in several locations. This will enable them to live in the temporary shelters with some dignity and to have access to utilities, humanitarian supplies, healthcare and other needed services.



One such shelter is the Mahalej transitional shelter which UNHCR and partners are upgrading to accommodate up to 3,000 displaced people. The works include covering the halls, repairing leaking roofs, sealing openings and partitioning the four main shelter spaces to give families greater warmth and privacy. Tents have been pre-positioned and can also be quickly erected in unfinished hangars to host another 3,000 people if needed.





As many of the displaced fled with nothing more than the clothes on their backs UNHCR has also prioritized the provision of NFIs. UNHCR and partners therefore distributed essential NFIs such as winter clothes, winter underwear, sleeping bags, carpets, high thermal blankets, sleeping mats and mattresses, among other items. With the onset of winter and temperatures dropping in Aleppo sleeping bags in particular are making a huge difference to thousands of displaced Syrians, inside the temporary shelters. In addition, with the assistance of humanitarian partners like Al Taulouf, SARC thousands of winter boots are being distributed to IDPs in Mahalej, Jibreen.





UNHCR and partners are trying to address the many protection issues in the collective shelters, with focus on situation of families, women and children, men and boys, registration, movement restrictions, traumatized children many of whom have missed classes/education, lost documentation (ID cards etc.). Legal assistance, psychosocial support (PSS), support to unaccompanied children, psychological First Aid (PFA), SGBV activities, risk education and the provision of information and orientation support are just some of the different types of Protection assistance that UNHCR and its partners are providing.

Although insufficient and inadequate shelter space continues to be a challenge for the speedy delivery of aid, especially with the onset of winter. UNHCR, its sister UN agencies and partners will continue to work around the clock to provide warm, safe shelter for people fleeing the fighting provide badly-needed water, food, NFIs, clothing, medical aid, psychological counselling and other services.





## Ghanem – The Grocer from Homs

Ghanem, a father of five had to flee from Al Waer in Homs city three years ago due to conflict, leaving behind the family home and a grocery shop that was their sole source of income. Ghanem, who suffers heart disease and high blood pressure, and his family moved to the Al-Khadir neighborhood where he spent three years seeking work.

Through neighbors, he became aware of the UNHCR supported Al Birr Community Center and when he sought advice he was told about the small business grant scheme. Having been in business before was comfortably put together his submission for the grant request for opening a small grocery store. After going through interviews and a feasibility study Ghanem finally obtained the approval and received the grant and opened his shop.

During a follow up visit he told UNHCR “Staying without work for three years was so hard, I lost my house, my business and even some dignity. Now I thank God I am back working again and my family’s living situation has improved and we have become self-sufficient. Thank you UNHCR and thank you Al Birr for giving me this opportunity”.



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## Small Business Grant Changes Fadwa’s Life



©UNHCR / Aleppo 2016

Fadwa, 36, is a widow and a mother of two children who was displaced from the Al Kallasah area to Al Aazameyah area in Aleppo. Staying with her father there, the family struggled hard financially and she ended up selling cookies and chips on the streets to try cover their basic needs.

Fadwa came to know about the small business grants program that is provided by UNHCR and after approaching the local community center she was enrolled in the candidate list. After she attended eight training sessions on feasibility studies she submitted a project proposal to open a small candy shop. She then underwent an interview which discussed and assessed her proposal and was finally approved.

After receiving the grant it was with great excitement that she opened her business and she has now expanded the types of items that she sells. The candy shop has now become quite successful and not only can she now cover the family’s basic needs, but she can also cover her children’s education costs as she is determined that the children attend school. As she says “This scheme has made a huge difference to my family’s circumstances, especially now that my children are in school again, thank you UNHCR”.

## UNHCR Continues to Deliver Assistance throughout Syria

- On 05 November, UNHCR provided urgent assistance to Palmyra, Homs including 1,000 mattresses, 1,000 blankets, 180 kitchen sets and 1,000 plastic sheets.
- On 20 November an inter-agency (IA) mission to the hard-to-reach Arrastan in Homs was aborted for security reasons. When the convoy had reached the last GoS checkpoint and was waiting for a permission to enter Ar-Rastan, shelling and gunfire were heard resulting in the abortion of the mission. However, on 23 November the UNHCR led, IA mission carrying food, flour, nutritional products, medicines and NFIs was completed successfully, with the team returning to the base at 03:00 hrs. UNHCR's contribution was 6,000 blankets, 1,500 kitchen sets, 1,500 plastic sheets, 1,000 mattresses, 6,000 sleeping mats, 1,500 jerry cans and 1,500 solar lamps.
- On 23 November, an emergency response was provided to the Adra industrial city in Rural Damascus including 3,000 mattresses for the families displaced from Al Doumair.
- On 24 November, UNHCR participated in three emergency response missions to rural Damascus benefitting 1,000 individuals/200 families in Badda, 2,500 individuals/500 families in Maraba as well as 5,000 individuals/1,000 families in Qatana to assist IDPs mainly from Al Tal.
- After a two-day delay, the four town UN humanitarian mission was conducted on 28 November. A UN escorted convoy reached Madaya and Zabadani at the same time with a SARC escorted convoy delivering the same items to Fouaa and Kafraja in Idlib governorate.







## UNHCR Leads Inter-Agency Cross Line Mission to Arrastan, Rural Homs

On 22 November UNHCR led a successful inter-agency mission to the hard to reach Arrastan in Talbiseh area of the Homs Governorate, with the team returning to the base at 3 am the next day. The last IA mission to Arrastan Area was conducted 28 July 2016. Previously, on 20 November the mission needed to be aborted due to heavy shelling and gunfire when convoy reached the last GoS checkpoint and was waiting for permission to enter. The convoy consisting of 44 trucks carried humanitarian assistance such as food, NFIs, nutrition and medicines. UNHCR's contribution was blankets, kitchen sets, and plastic sheets, mattresses, sleeping mats, jerry cans and solar lamps for 6,000 people.

In addition to delivering assistance, upon arrival, the IA team in coordination with SARC organized field visits to SARC clinics, three collective shelters, a water pumping station and the main hospital of Arrastan. In addition, the team met local community leaders to discuss the status of services, the main challenges and the needs of the IDPs and local community.



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## UNHCR Responds in Hassakeh

Throughout November and December UNHCR continued to respond to refugees displaced by fighting in Iraq and displaced Syrians in the Hassakeh governorate. To address this influx, the Al Hol camp which is located 45 km to the south of Hassakeh city and 15 km away from the border with Iraq, and its infrastructure was expanded and contingency NFI stock put in place for 50,000 people. In addition UNHCR completed a series of evacuations of Iraqi refugees and displaced Syrians to Al Hol from the Rajm Slebi border crossing point, 18km south of the camp. Due to security constraints UNHCR had limited access there. However, to help the displaced people waiting for security screening there to cope with the harsh conditions, pending transfer to Al Hol camp, UNHCR provided a range of humanitarian assistance, including tents, large plastic sheets, blankets, sleeping mats, and water tanks with daily water trucking. A mobile clinic also helped to meet urgent health needs.



As of December 2016, the Al Hol camp accommodated over 8,000 individuals the majority of whom were Iraqi refugees. All refugees or IDPs coming from Rajm Selebi are assisted by UNHCR with full NFI kits. In addition, winterization distribution is taking place this week with both new arrivals and current residents receiving mattresses, high thermal blankets, baby diapers, kitchen sets, jerry can, sleeping mats, plastic sheets, winter clothes and solar lamps. In addition UNHCR and partners have launched protection activities in the form of capacity building activities targeting the camp management team which addressed the issues of governance, documentation and adherence to international law, in addition to education activities, psycho-social support activities, SGBV, recreational activities for children, awareness raising and recruitment of refugees outreach volunteers. In addition UNHCR partners also provided WASH, Health services, Food and nutrition assistance.

For Further information please follow the link below:

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/flash-update-iraqi-refugee-response-hassakeh-syria-21-november-2016>

## UNHCR Syria November Snapshot

Provided legal assistance through its partners the Syria Trust, SARC, DRC, and Al Ta alouf to 21,781 IDPs in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Has-sakeh, Qamishli, Homs, Hama, Sweida, Tartous, Daraa, Quneitra and Latta-kia. This included legal counselling to 6,660 IDPs and 939 awareness ses-sions attended by 9,330 IDPs on various legal issues. Furthermore, 5,791 IDPs benefited from lawyers' direct intervention before courts and admin-istrative bodies.

Reached a total of 499,933 individuals with CRIs, including 7,500 in hard to reach and besieged areas, while 162,500 individuals were reached by cross border deliveries pursu-ant to UNSC resolution 2165.



In  
November  
2016  
UNHCR

Recruited 147 new Out-Reach Volunteers (ORVs) bringing the total number of ORVs to 1,683 operating in 10 governorates.

Continued to assist with winteriza-tion items such as winter clothes, carpets, high thermal blankets, sleeping bags and extra plastic sheeting. As of 30 November over 880,000 beneficiaries had been reached.

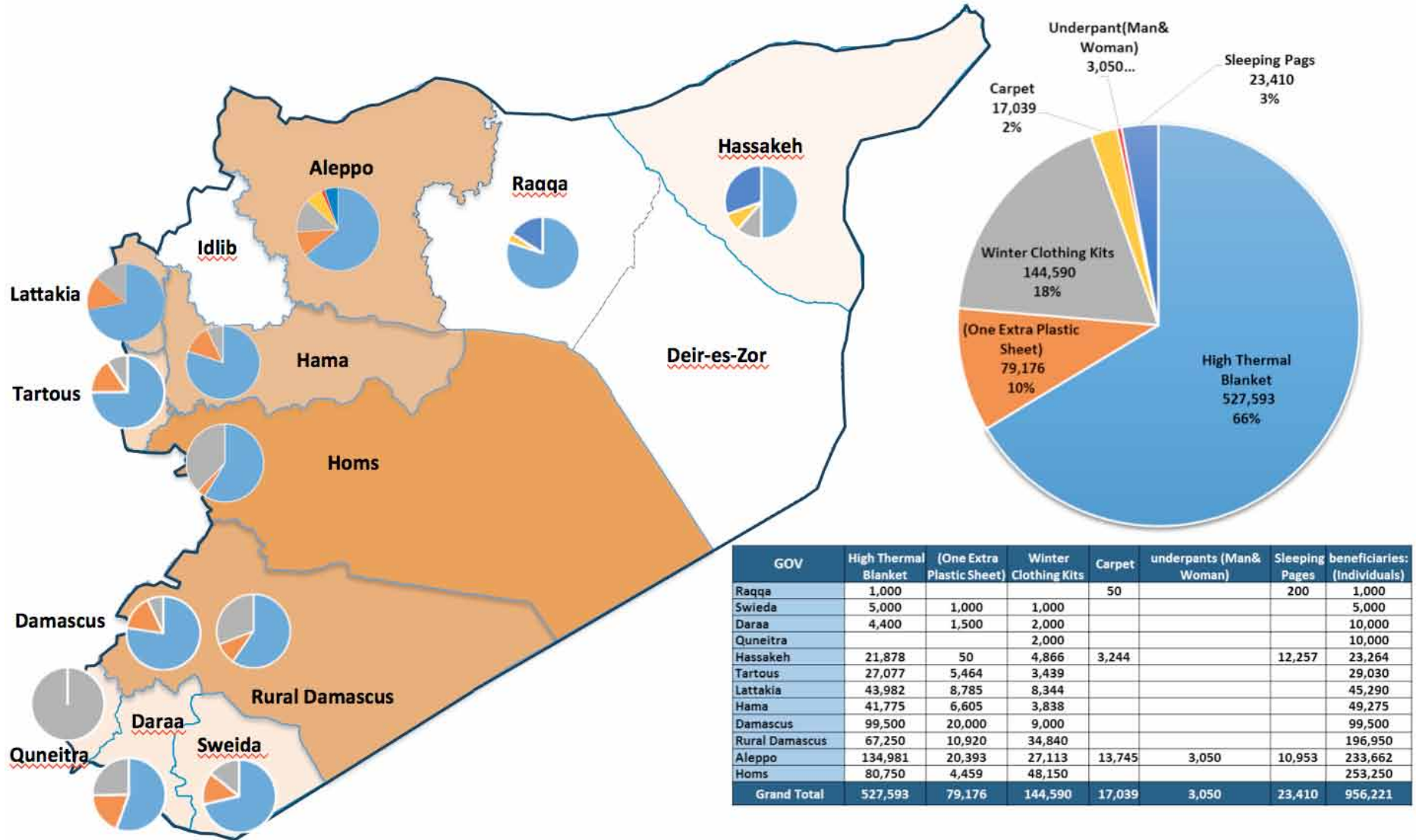
Launched in coordination with its partners, Namaa, SSSD, MSJM, the Syria Trust, Al Taalouf and SARC, eight new community centres in Aleppo and its Rural areas (Jaberiyah and Sfeira), Rural Homs (Al-Hesn and Tal Kalakh), Ru-ral Lattakia (Saquoubin), Damascus (Dummar), Rural Damascus (Deir Ali) and Quneitra (Khan Arnabeh), bringing the total number of operational com-munity centres to 73.

Supported 65 new Community Based Initiatives (CBIs) bringing the total of achieved initiatives to 332, benefiting more than 49,800 people in 10 governorates.



# UNHCR Winterization Programme Continues

With temperatures dropping across Syria, UNHCR’s winterization programme continued making a huge difference to those most in need. So far 956,221 beneficiaries have been reached with winterization items such as winter clothes, high thermal blankets, carpets, rubber boots, sleeping bags and extra plastic sheeting.



## Wajib from Watta Al Khan

Wajib is a sixty-year old man from Watta Al Khan who fled his house when it was attacked, and for a while had to rent a small room in Lattakia City which exhausted his savings. In March, 2016, He returned to his village and borrowed money from friends and neighbors to carry out repairs on his house, including the windows and doors. “The winter is harsh in my area and all I wanted was to be able to keep warm” he said to the UNHCR team on the ground. There was a dire need in the area for winter clothes and thick blankets so I am delighted today to receive these items. They will make a big difference to me and others, thank you so much UNHCR” he added.



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## Basirah from Blatta

Basirah is a woman in her forties UNHCR met in Blatta in Rural Lattakia. Basirah told the team that due to conflict she had to leave the village but could not stay away for long and eventually returned. My husband died in the crisis and I currently have two injuries in my leg, one bullet and one splinter. I am living alone now and everyone in the village is in need of support. Life is getting harder every day but UNHCR's winter assistance will make life a bit easier for us she says.







## 16 Days of Activism Against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence



I feel safe

at home • at school • in my community •



The 16 days of Activism campaign against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) was launched on 25 November with the theme “From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Step Up for Freedom and Equality”. UNHCR Syria and its partners participated heavily with many different activities taking place throughout the country focusing on raising awareness on the concepts of SGBV, women empowerment, early marriage and deprivation of resources, violent and non-violent communication, integration at schools and the role of parents and teachers in problem solving. The activities took place in public schools, shelters, and community centres in Syria.

## Activities Which Took Place Included:

### Damascus:

- UNHCR partner GOPA conducted an outdoor photo exhibition to raise public awareness on SGBV. The event took place in Arnouss Square, one of the major squares in Damascus. Over 18 large photos were placed on the sidewalk in the square where many pedestrians walk and cross, to engage the public. The photos were explicit and each had a specific theme were plenty, stop early marriages, stop domestic violence, stop harassment at the workplace, stop the abuse of women, stop rape and assault on women, and stop the abuse of children. The exhibition had a special board, where people can write their messages and opinions on what they saw. This photo exhibition was repeated also in the Al Madfaa public garden.
- UNHCR in cooperation with GOPA also organized a marathon “We run for you”. The marathon took place on 09 December and was designed to raise awareness about the messages of this year’s #16Days of activism campaign against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence.



## Sweida:

UNHCR in cooperation with GOPA, the Syrian Family Planning Association and Al Wafaa for Persons with Disabilities implemented numerous activities. The first one was in Al Yarmouk Public Park addressing children with two stage shows. Around 82 beneficiaries attended the show and the children participated in recreational games at the end of the activity. The second activity was an awareness session in collaboration with SFPA and GOPA with 45 students.

## Tartous and Lattakia:

74 different activities took place addressing over 2,000 people in both Tartous and Lattakia. The campaign was integrated into the community centre's activities with sessions tackling different aspects of violence.

## Homs:

In the Al Hosn community centre through presentations, video shows and role playing, the concept of SGBV was introduced to over 1,000 people from all age groups. In addition, the Social Care SGBV team ran a campaign in three community centers in the Al Helem area entitled 'From Peace in the Home to Peace in The World: Make the Education Safe for All'. These activities were carried out both out inside and outside the community centres and targeted 1,200 people from all age groups.

## Aleppo:

Under the theme 'healthy relationships in the Home, School and Community' UNHCR and partners Namaa and Al Taalouf covered different areas in Aleppo with various activities targeting all the community. These included awareness raising sessions, focus groups, recreational activities, and marionette shows which benefitted 800 people from all age groups.





## Determined Baian: A Future Teacher

Baian, seven, was forced to flee Iraq with her family due to conflict and after a long hard journey facing hunger and the cold along they finally reached the Syrian border. After suffering five nights of cold and uncertainty Baian and her family they finally crossed and are now living with her family of eight (father, mother, four siblings and grandmother) in a UNHCR tent in Al Hol camp in the Hassakeh governorate in Northern Syria.

She tells UNHCR staff “ We were scared after ISIS came closer and closer to our town. I fled with my family. My grandmother could not walk which forced my father to carry her all the way. My toys, clothes and books stayed in our home. I could not bring anything with me”.

She compares her life and circumstances in the camp with those of her life in Iraq saying “I don’t like my life here, but I am hoping to return to my village ... being with my family and my friends gives me hope... I even have new friends and a new school here. All these things make me stronger.”

Despite the difficult circumstances, Baian’s smile did not leave her face during the conversation. She is an ambitious girl who loves learning and added ‘I will be a teacher. I will achieve my dream’ in a fiercely determined voice.





میلاد مجید وسنة مباركة  
*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year*

المولد النبوي الشريف  
*Elmawlid Enabawi Elcharif*



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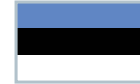
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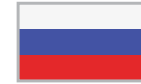
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For more information please contact: The Reporting Unit at UNHCR Syria  
Damien Mc Sweeney, Reporting Officer  
[#syrdareporting@unhcr.org](https://twitter.com/syrdareporting)