

Syria

In Focus

February 2017

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UN High Commissioner for Refugees Visits Syria



On January 30, the High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi began a three-day visit to Syria where he met with high-ranking Government officials, including the Minister and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Deputy Prime-Minister, Minister of Local Administration and Head of the High Relief Committee, and the Minister of Social Affairs and Labor. Also the High Commissioner's mission programme included meetings with the UN Heads of Agencies, NGOs and UNHCR staff where he was very warmly received.

In addition, accompanied by the UNHCR Syria representative, he visited Homs, where he met and discussed with the Governor a wide range of relevant humanitarian and operational issues, in addition to visiting a community centre and a UNHCR-rehabilitated IDP shelter in the Old city of Homs.

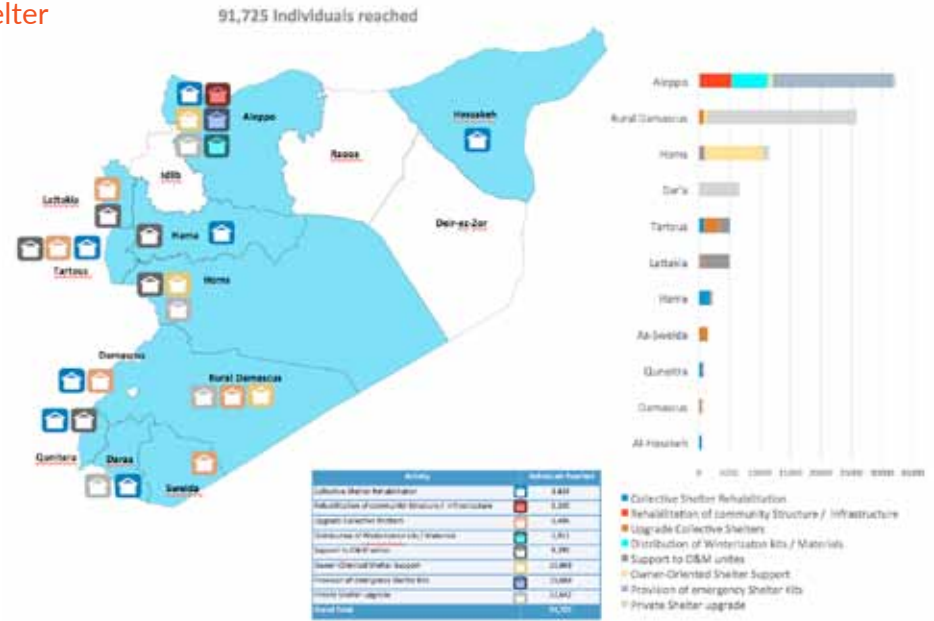
The High Commissioner and his delegation then travelled to Aleppo where he visited the damaged neighborhoods of East Aleppo and acquainted himself with the services provided to the affected population. These included the distribution of core relief items, shelter and winterization assistance in the Jibreen IDP collective shelter, legal aid services, distribution of core relief items and shelter support in the returnee area of Hanano, the polyclinic for refugees in Sakhour and the livelihood and community services in the Martini Community Centre.

After visiting these areas he expressed shock at the scale of the devastation in Aleppo, and called for accelerated and immediate humanitarian assistance for millions of people trying to rebuild their lives in across Syria saying “There are people here, some of them are returning to these ruins, who need help, immediate help. They are cold, they are hungry and they need to work to earn some money. They need the elementary things in life”. The High Commissioner went on to say “We need resources, irrespective of all the politics around this war. This is absolutely necessary and urgent for millions of people in Syria. We saw it in Damascus, we saw it in Homs, and we see it in Aleppo ... All the Syrian people need help. We cannot abandon them because the crisis is not over”.

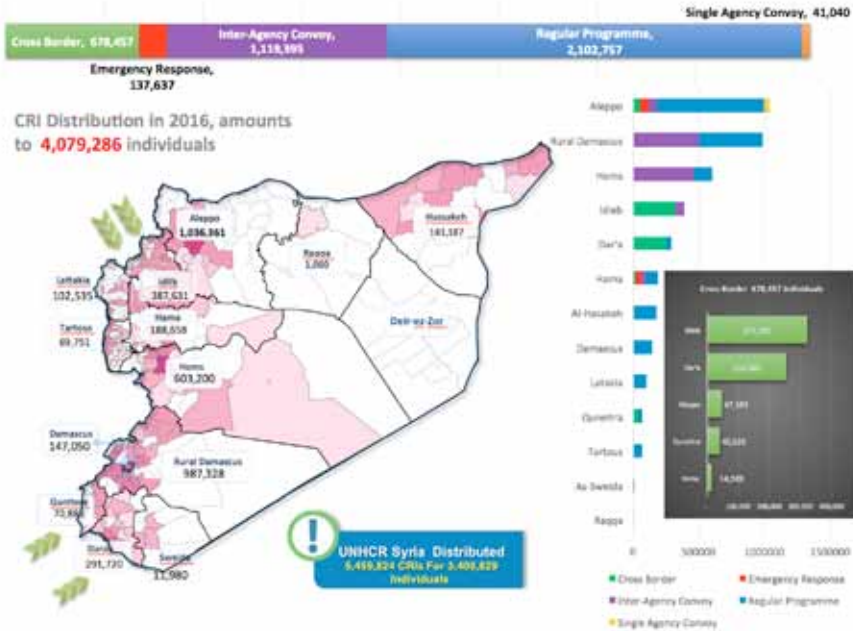


IDP Operations Summary 2016

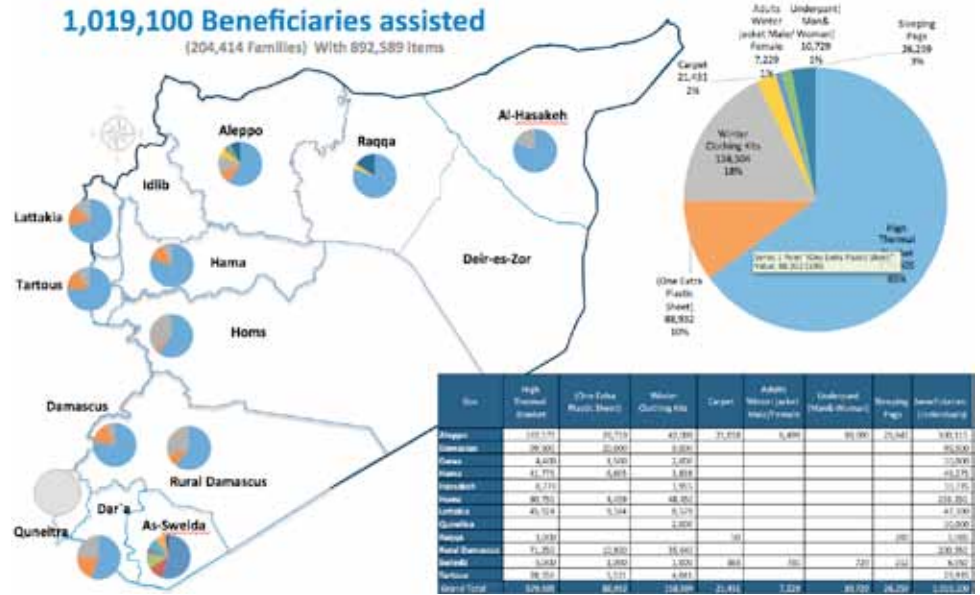
Shelter



CRI



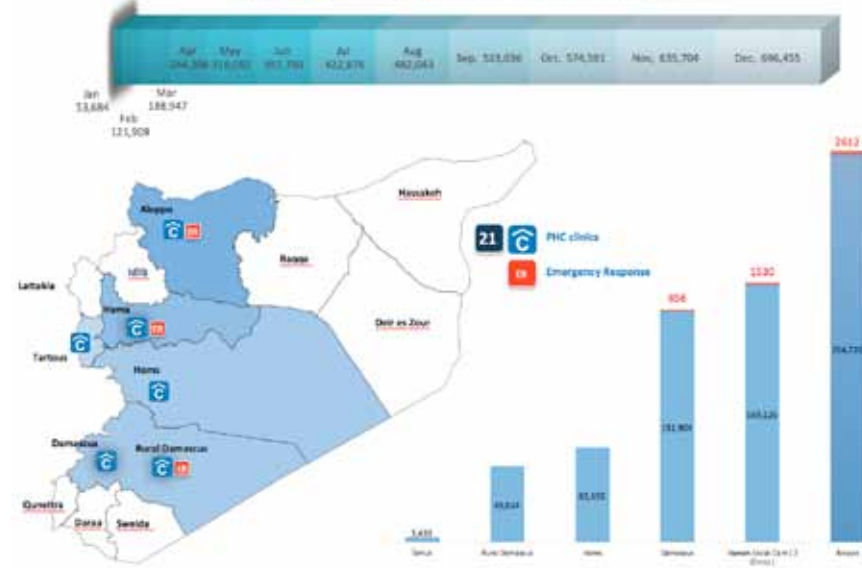
Winterization



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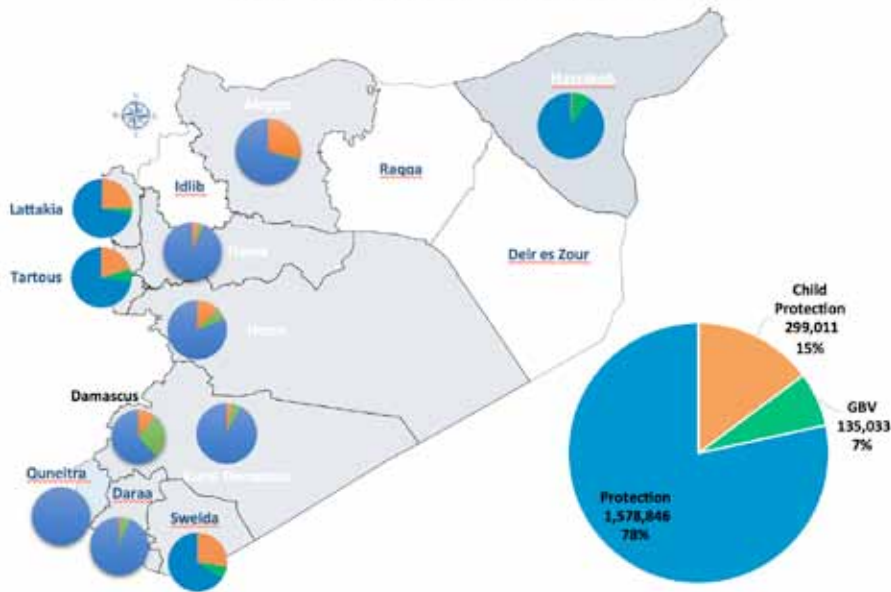
Health

696,455 Beneficiaries Have access to Health Care

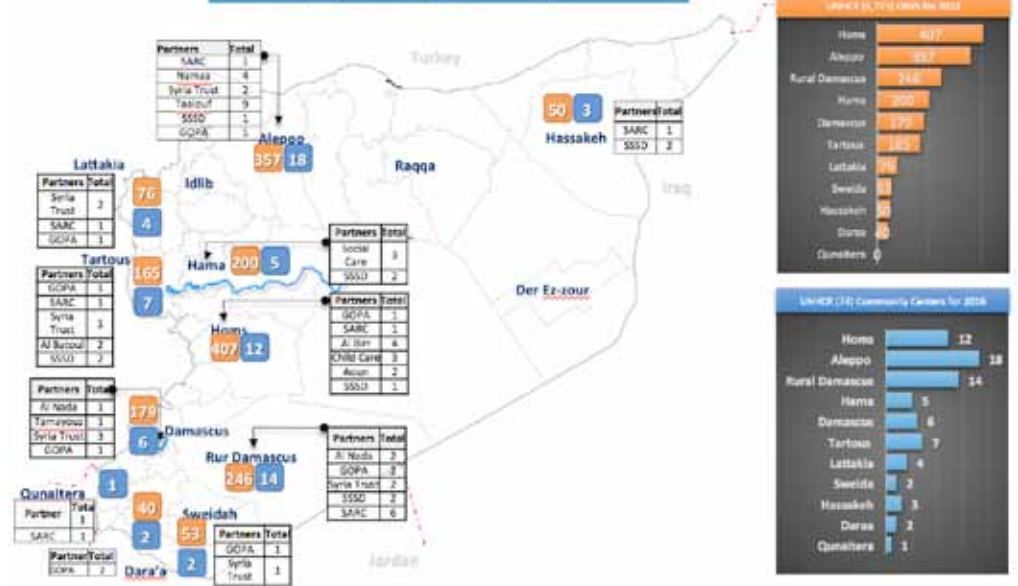


Protection

2,012,890 Beneficiaries Reached by Protection & Community Services Interventions



UNHCR (1,773) ORVs and (74) Community centers 2016



Mohammad: Now Working With Dignity



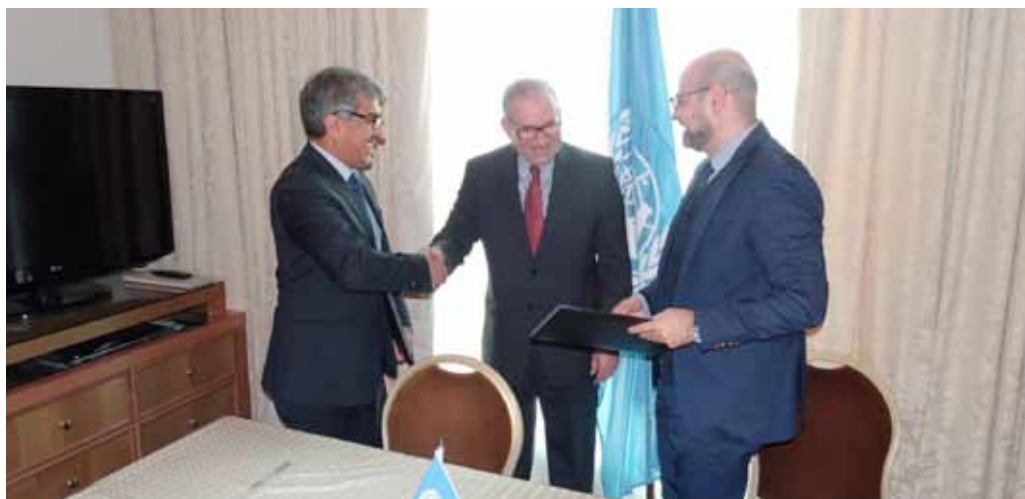
Mohammad was displaced from Aleppowith his wife and daughter due to the conflict. He had previously lost his arm in an accident in Aleppo and after his displacement to Banyas in the Tartous Governorate, Mohammad suffered huge financial hardship and ended up begging in the streets to provide for his family. Upon hearing about the start-up small business grants supported by UNHCR, he contacted SSSD for assistance. Subsequently he enrolled in a business training course and submitted a project proposal to open a small shop. Mohammad was approved for the grant after completing a successful interview and opened a mini-market in Banyas. “I can finally work with dignity and make a decent living to provide for my family”, said Mohammad gratefully.

From Fouaa to Lattakia: Fahima’s Story



Fahima used to live with her family in Fouaa in the governorate of Idlib and with her mother, father and sister was recently evacuated to Lattakia. Before she was evacuated, her house was hit by mortars a number of occasions which injured her sister and mother with splinters. In addition, a mortar hit her father resulting in paralysis in his arm and a hearing impairment. Fahima lost her sight completely. Despite these tragic circumstances Fahima was determined to look to a brighter future and upon hearing about the UNHCR-funded Vocational Training centre run by MSJM in Lattakia, she approached those seeking training and empowerment opportunities. As a result Fahima enrolled in a wool knitting course. During a visit to the centre she tells the UNHCR team “I want to help my family, and this course makes me feel valued. At last, I feel like a human being”

UNHCR Expands Partnership with UNDP



On 18 January the UNHCR signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to confirm their commitment on working cooperatively together throughout the displacement cycle inside Syria from emergency to stabilization, early recovery, livelihood, and resilience.

UNHCR and the UNDP will strengthen the capacity of existing vocational training centres, identify joint projects and support the self-employment through the start-up grants, and link it with the local markets. In order to advance their operational cooperation, the two agencies will formulate programmes to meet internally displaced and local population needs as well as enhance the involvement and development of local civil society and private sector in partnership with international and local NGOs. UNDP will coordinate with the UNHCR's existing community centres and ensure referring its beneficiaries to these centres for better benefitting from the services provided by each agency.

“Resilience building initiatives will be designed in an inclusive participatory manner engaging both internally displaced people and host communities, and will provide protection services to empower their resilience to cope with the consequences of the on-going crisis and address negative coping mechanism”, said Sajjad Malik, UNHCR's representative in Syria.

This is the second of time UN sister agencies have cooperated in such a manner. In August 2016 a joint project between the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and UNHCR was agreed. The objective of the project was to encourage and to facilitate cooperative action between FAO and UNHCR to provide appropriate responses to the livelihood needs of IDPs and host communities, thereby reducing their vulnerabilities by contributing to local economic development, poverty reduction and strengthening social cohesion between IDPs and host communities. Since then, UNHCR in collaboration with both the FAO and the Directory of agriculture, has completed the distribution of plastic rolls for 4,000 farmers benefiting 20,000 beneficiaries throughout Tartous and Lattakia.

UNHCR plans to expand such strategic partnerships focusing on livelihoods and self-reliance projects with other UN agencies in 2017.

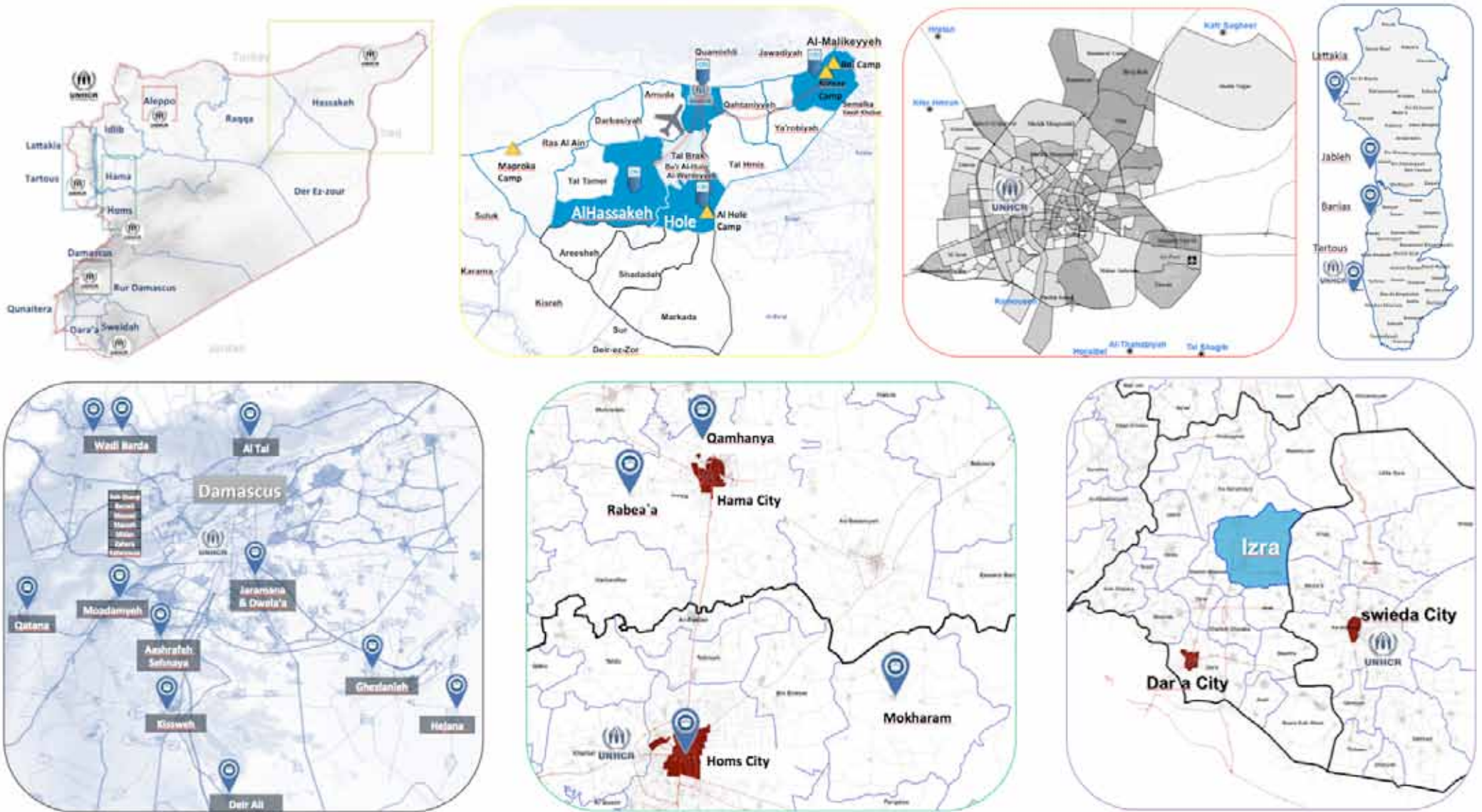
CRI Distribution



In January UNHCR Syria reached a total of 240,006 individuals with CRIs, including 15,000 in hard to reach and besieged areas, while 15,000 individuals were reached by cross border deliveries pursuant to UNSC resolution 2332. This included:

- The emergency response to the situation in Wadi Barada, Rural Damascus, where UNHCR, in cooperation with SARC, provided CRI assistance, including mattresses, high thermal blankets, kitchen sets, and plastic sheets and sleeping mats for 8,500 people.
- The UN Inter-Agency mission which took place on 08 January to Moadamiyah, Rural Damascus which included food, NFIs and medical supplies. UNHCR's contribution consisted of 3,000 solar lamps and 2,000 winter clothing kits.
- The continued distribution of CRIs to the vulnerable families in Aleppo where UNHCR assisted over 10,000 individuals in different locations. Since the beginning of the recent displacement from East Aleppo in December, UNHCR has assisted over 150,000 individuals. The distributed items included mattresses, high thermal blankets, kitchen sets, jerry cans, plastic sheets, sleeping mats, winter clothing kits, solar lamps, thermal underwear, rubber boots and carpets.

In January 2017 UNHCR Dispatched 661,342 CRIs



UNHCR Conducts Two Day Mission to Daraa

In January UNHCR conducted a two-day mission to Daraa in order to assess the situation on the ground there. The mission began with a meeting with the Governor and his staff. The Governor expressed his gratitude for the assistance provided by UN agencies, including UNHCR and provided the team with an overview on the general situation of Daraa governorate, including figures on IDPs, Persons in Need and Persons with Disabilities (PwD). He also stressed the urgency for new shelters to accommodate IDPs as Daraa City is over-crowded, the renewed distribution of CRIs, the importance of the rehabilitation and expansion of the capacity of schools and the improving of services targeting PwDs, who he added, were in high numbers in the city.



UNHCR Team Meets the Governor



SARC Warehouse



UNHCR-Funded Community Centre

During the two days the UNHCR team also met with the Director of the Department of Social Affairs, the Director of the Department of Education and to discuss shelter and education needs and visited a number of collective shelters, schools, the SARC warehouse, a vocational training centre and a UNHCR supported Community Centre run by partner GOPA. It was clear the needs in Daraa are many and the mission findings were now fed back to the relevant UNHCR units in order to best assist the persons of concern there.



Green School Collective Shelter



Institute for Children with Disabilities



Staff Showing UNHCR the need for new furniture at Al Qusoor School

Anessa Becomes Active in the Community in Aleppo

Anessa and her family were displaced by the fighting in Aleppo which also claimed the life of her father. As she suffers from Polio, life was particularly tough for Anessa as the disease also impacted on her socially and psychologically.

Determined to improve her situation she approached the UNHCR supported Al Sabeel Community Centre run by partner Al Taalouf and was delighted to learn that this centre provides in kind medical assistance for free.

Anessa received a wheelchair with its help she was able to start a new chapter of her life. Now, she is socially active, making new friends and participating various campaigns the centre runs. “Now I move easier and can leave my home anytime I wish. I am so happy for this new life and becoming an active member in the community” she says with a smile.



SGBV Campaign in Tartous

In January UNHCR and partner SSSD in order to raise awareness, ran a SGBV campaign on early marriage in Banyas and rural Tartous entitled “Do Not Take My Childhood Away,” The campaign included 15 sessions in Banyas City, Altoon Al Jerd, Al Qadmous and Taleen town. They targeted 178 women, adolescents and children highlighting the negative impact of early marriage on the life cycle of the individual.

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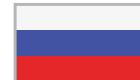
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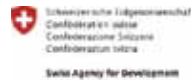
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