



قطاع الحماية والرعاية الاجتماعية في سوريا  
Protection and Community Services Sector inside Syria

# Syria Protection and Community Services Sector Factsheet 2016 June

## MAJOR ACHIVEMENTS

So far in 2016,  
**3,100,004**  
services were provided to  
persons in need of protection and  
community services in Syria, an  
increase of **1,345,842** since May.

**43** partners and institutions are reporting  
in the 4Ws as of June, including 29 Syrian  
NGOs, **4** Governmental institutions, **4**  
International NGOs and 4 UN Agencies.

### In June 2016

Protection and community services were  
delivered in 41 additional Sub-Districts,  
covering 157 out of 272 Sub-Districts in  
Syria since the beginning of the year.

### In 2016

So far 19 besieged and hard-to-reach  
locations were accessed through inter-  
agency convoys in 2016 where Protection  
risks were identified (estimated persons in  
need of 524,000).

## KEY FIGURES

An estimated **7.2 million** people in Syria  
require protection and community services.

Humanitarian actors estimate that  
**6.5 million** persons are internally  
displaced due to the crisis.

**450,000** Palestine Refugees are affected  
by the crisis and require protection and  
community services.

Estimated **592,700** persons live in  
besieged areas with acute protection and  
community services' needs.

## Background

The Protection and Community Services Sector (PCSS) brings together protection and community services actors in Syria to ensure effective coordination of the response to the needs of the persons affected by the crisis, avoid duplication, share best practices and develop strategies and joint responses to address protection challenges. The Sector provides advice to the Humanitarian Coordinator and the Humanitarian Country Team on protection advocacy and interventions, and assists other Sectors to mainstream protection principles and standards in their humanitarian response.

The PCSS is led by UNHCR and currently has 17 members, including UN agencies, National and International NGOs. It has two sub-working groups: Child Protection (CP), led by UNICEF with 17 members, and Gender Based Violence (GBV), led by UNFPA with 19 members.

The Sector's objectives, as per the 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan, are to (1) Increase the protection of affected people at risk from the consequences of the crisis through sustained advocacy, risk mitigation and enhanced protection responses; (2) Strengthen the capacity of national community-based actors to assess, analyse and respond to protection needs; (3) Girls and boys affected by the crisis, with a focus on those most at risk in prioritized locations, have access to effective and quality child protection responses in line with the CP Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Action; (4) Survivors of GBV have access to quality comprehensive GBV services, and measures are in place to prevent and reduce risks of GBV; and (5) Reduce the impact of explosive remnants through risk education activities.

## Achievements / Response

- During the month of June, there was a significant increase in the protection and community services response throughout the county with 1,345,842 services delivered, totaling 3,100,004 for the first half of the year. The most significant increases were 962,576 services in Risk Education and 223,624 in various areas of general protection 223,624 (mostly in socio-economic support and child protection and psychosocial, including parenting programmes) with 56,390. At the same time, the number of sub-districts where services were delivered increased in 41, to reach a total of 157 of the 272 sub-districts in the country. These developments reflect that programmes and responses by Sector and Sub-Sector members and their partners are being now implemented at higher rate, progressively reaching the expected results in line with the Humanitarian Response Plan.
- Increased number of children who have received risk education is the result of awareness sessions at schools, implemented by the Ministry of Education in Sweida, Daraa, Homs, Hama and Tartous governorates. Data from governorates are received periodically and updated accordingly. In addition to schools, two NGOs in Aleppo were able to reach 3,268 beneficiaries during June.
- Community-based responses were strengthened in June, with 3 new Community Centres beginning to function in Banyas (Tartous), Al Gharbiyah (Homs) and Qara (Rural Damascus). This brings the total number of Centres to 51 in 9 Governorates, while the total number of outreach volunteers ascribed to the Community Centres reached 1,231 by the end of June. The particular strength of the centres is the community-based approach they apply throughout programme planning and implementation to ensure that the services provided respond to the most pressing needs of IDPs and affected populations, build on their capacities and resources and help to empower communities rather than creating dependencies.
- Two new two refuges for women have been established in hard to reach areas in June to provide GBV comprehensive services for survivors in the areas of Yalda, Babbila and Beit Sahem (Rural Damascus) and Al Waer (Homs).
- Legal Assistance services reached 16,527 people in the first half of the year, which is more than double of the services provided during 2015 (6,827). The increase in legal services, which includes legal counseling and advice and court interventions on documentation issues is due to two main factors. First, an increased number of lawyers now active in providing the legal services set out in the various programmes in all the agreed governorates. Since March 2016, 75 new lawyers have been recruited by the partners providing legal services on documentation. Second, the increase is due to a recent development whereby partners, in agreement with local charities and associations, provide legal services at the latter's facilities and centres, thereby expanding the reach to a significantly greater circle of beneficiaries.

- During June, Sector and Sub-Sector members undertook preparatory work for the identification of protection and community services needs in the context of the Humanitarian Needs Overview. Sets of indicators were discussed and methodologies were outlined with a view to identify needs that will serve to improve protection, community services, child protection and GBV programming in 2017. Initial discussions with relevant authorities took place to ensure a coordinated and inclusive approach.
- Partners operating in Aleppo have significantly enhanced community-based initiatives throughout the year to provide integrated services to the population and increase their response capacity. To date, 14 Community Centres, 51 Child Friendly Spaces, and 2 Women Safe Spaces are operational by partners of the Sector and Sub-Sectors.
- The GBV task force on capacity building finalized the profiling of GBV training activities planned in the response inside Syria, according to the Sub-Sector action plan. This will help create synergies amongst partners undertaking GBV training activities and maximize their impact and reach. Through the Sub-Sector, GBV minimum standards have been shared to be used by members and partners undertaking GBV response in Syria.
- During June, members of the PCSS, CP and GBV Sub-Sectors participated in 7 Inter-Agency Convoys to 5 locations. Four of these locations were accessed for the first time. By end of June, participating UN Agencies have identified protection risks in 19 locations (estimated 524,000 persons) using tools developed by the PCSS and Sub-Sectors. Protection risks were identified in the locations newly accessed in June, while on-going access to some of the locations previously accessed is providing more insight on the protection of the populations living in these areas.

## Gaps and Challenges

- In view of the rapid expansion of protection and community services, initiatives underway to increase the capacity of national partners to provide specialized services need to be further supported, particularly to strengthen the capacity on specialized areas, such as legal assistance, child protection and issues related to GBV.
- Structured mechanisms in coordination with duty bearers for the identification of needs on protection and community services to better plan and respond to the situation of affected population.
- While access to persons affected continues to improve throughout the year, notably in besieged and hard-to-reach areas, it should be further increased to respond to the existing needs in protection and community services. The security situation in parts of the country prevents partners from developing protection responses in these areas, and a streamlining of required approvals to implement projects would increase the implementation of service for persons in need.

## Human Interest

### Muhammad Abbo: Future Engineer

Muhammad Abbo is a 10-year-old boy who lived with his family at Al Shaar neighborhood in Aleppo. When Muhammad was seven, he and his family left their home to visit relatives, and that was the last time he saw it due to the escalation of fighting there.

Recently he enrolled in a Mentoring Programme run by UNHCR partner the Syrian Society for Social Development (SSSD) in Aleppo, which targets children from 6 to 18 to build confidence, gain a deeper self-awareness and knowledge of the child's capabilities as well as better integration and interaction with community. In addition, this programme targets the children's mothers in order to assist in these aims. In a safe space, Muhammad established a good relationship with a volunteer and began expressing himself through drawing. It was observed that Muhammad's drawings were gloomy, his outlook on life was gruesome and recurrent thoughts about death were on his young mind a lot of the time. Many of his drawings were of graves and tombs with messages of death. Other drawings included macabre elements, such as rockets, shells, blood and corpses.

The SSSD team therefore decided to meet Muhammad's mother individually to try to get to know him better and she informed the team that 'he was deeply affected by leaving his home'. Through further sessions, Muhammad began to open up, explaining his drawings and ideas and putting his inner thoughts into words. Later "Express Your Emotions" sessions witnessed a major breakthrough for Muhammad, who now found an outlet for self-expression. His grim outlook began to fade gradually and his drawings started to reflect more and more optimism. For example, in a session entitled 'What do I want to be in the future', he drew a picture of an engineer and wrote next to it, 'When I grow up I want to be an engineer.' He also wrote 'Since childhood I've been dreaming to become an engineer because it is my intention to put every poor person in a decent house, I hope that my dream will come true!'.

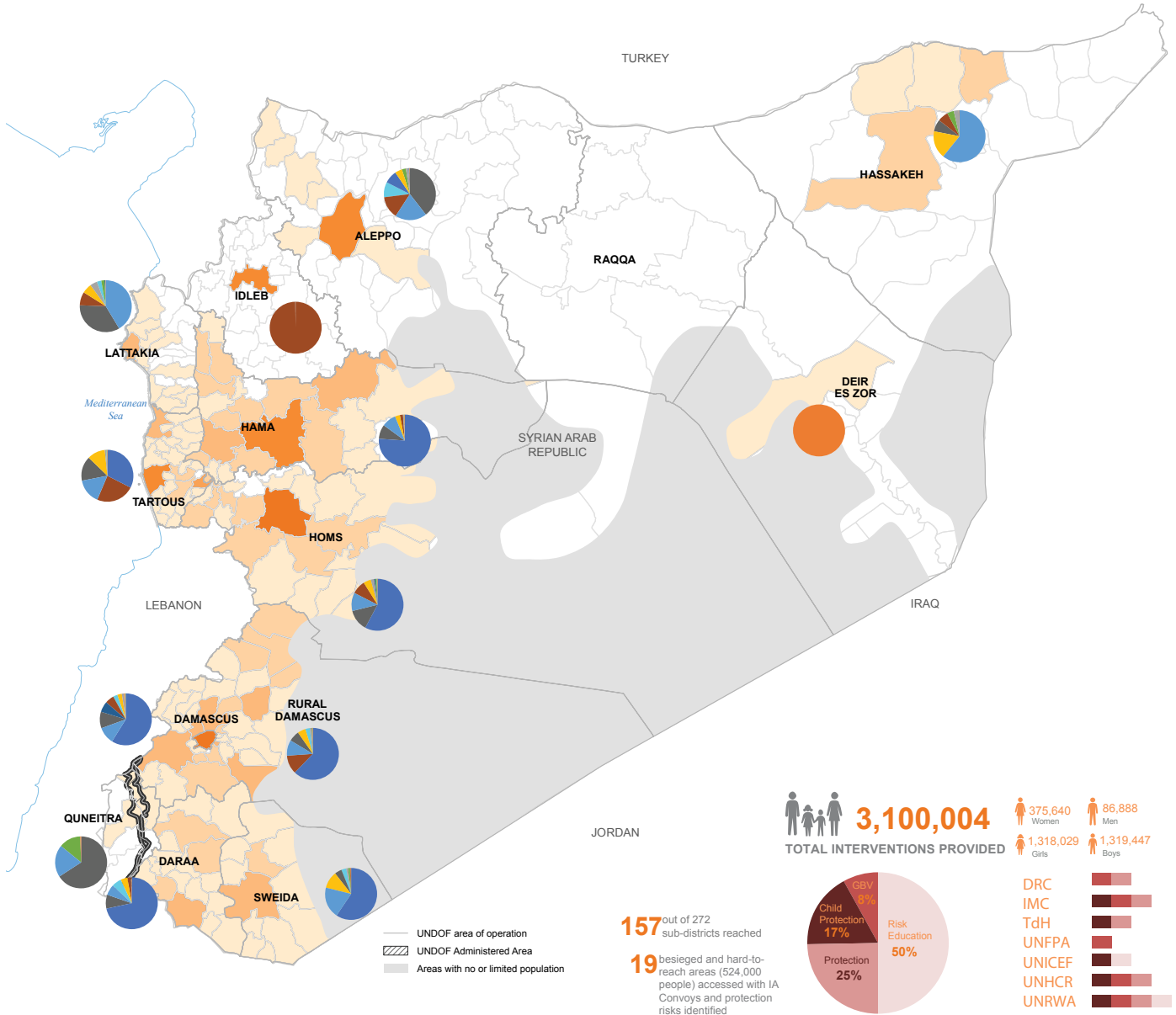
During the current humanitarian crisis in Syria, many children have been traumatized due to the loss of people and/or things dear to them. Fear and painful experiences have led to a very bleak view of the world and outlook of the future. However, with timely support, encouragement, motivation, as well as supportive relationships, children like Muhammad draw more joy in their childhood and are more willing to contribute to the creation of an integral community and a better future.

SSSD is implementing its programmes in the community centres, collective shelters, special care centres (juvenile centres, cerebral palsy centre) and in schools in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs, Hama, Aleppo, Tartous, Lattakia and Hassakeh.



Sector Leader	Sector Members and Partners
 <p><b>UNHCR</b> The UN Refugee Agency مفوضية الأمم المتحدة لشؤون اللاجئين</p>	

# Protection and Community Services Sector Activities Overview as of June 2016



**PROTECTION**  
763,904 beneficiaries

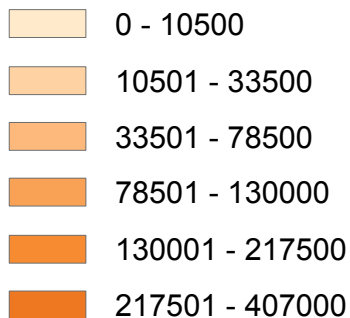


**GENDER BASED VIOLENCE**  
243,305 beneficiaries

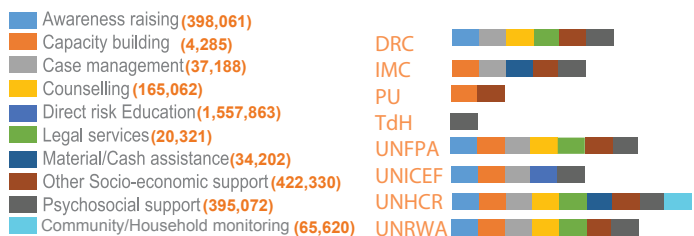


**CHILD PROTECTION**  
2,092,795 beneficiaries

## BENEFICIARIES REACHED BY SUB - DISTRICT



## INTERVENTIONS BY CATEGORY OF PROTECTION ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS



Protection partners also provided group and community activities like focus group discussions and awareness campaigns (559 GBV campaigns had taken place over the reporting period). 5,273 recreation and early childhood development kits were also distributed. More than hundreds organizations from the host and affected communities were supported for self management in addition to 128 small business associations supported to improve resilience of the community. 367,764 protection leaflets were distributed in 24 sub districts to raise rights awareness.