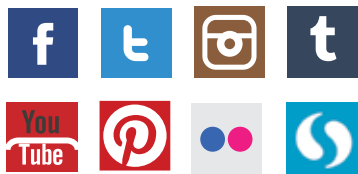


## Highlights

- Cessation of Hostilities Agreement Results in a Scale up of Humanitarian Aid by UNHCR
- UNHCR Improving Lives in Daraa
- UNHCR Smashes Winterization Targets
- Expanding Presence of UNHCR in Syria
- UNHCR Supported Remedial Classes pay Dividends

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## UNHCR Participates in Interagency Humanitarian Deliveries to Hard-to-Reach Locations in



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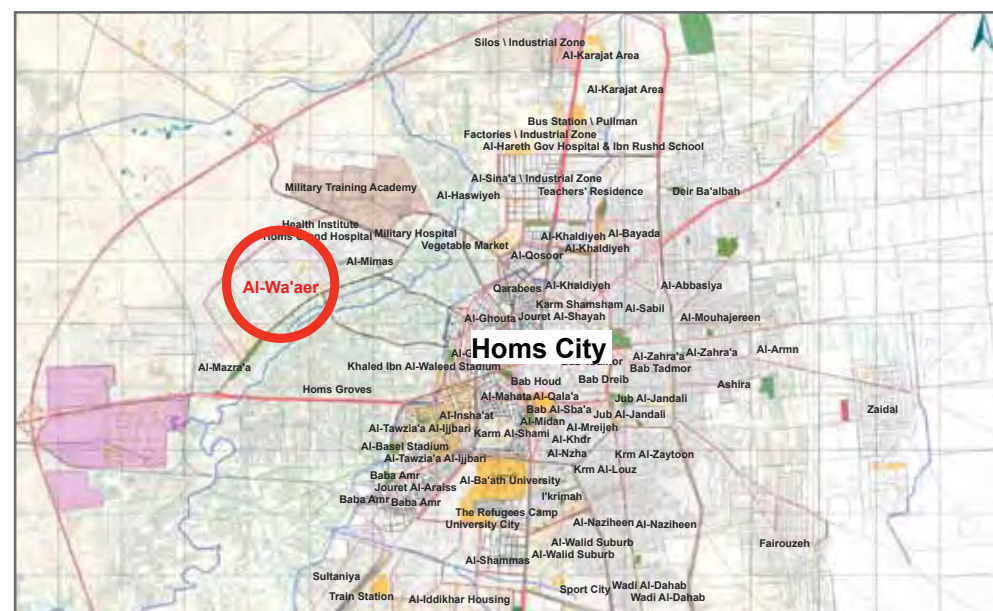
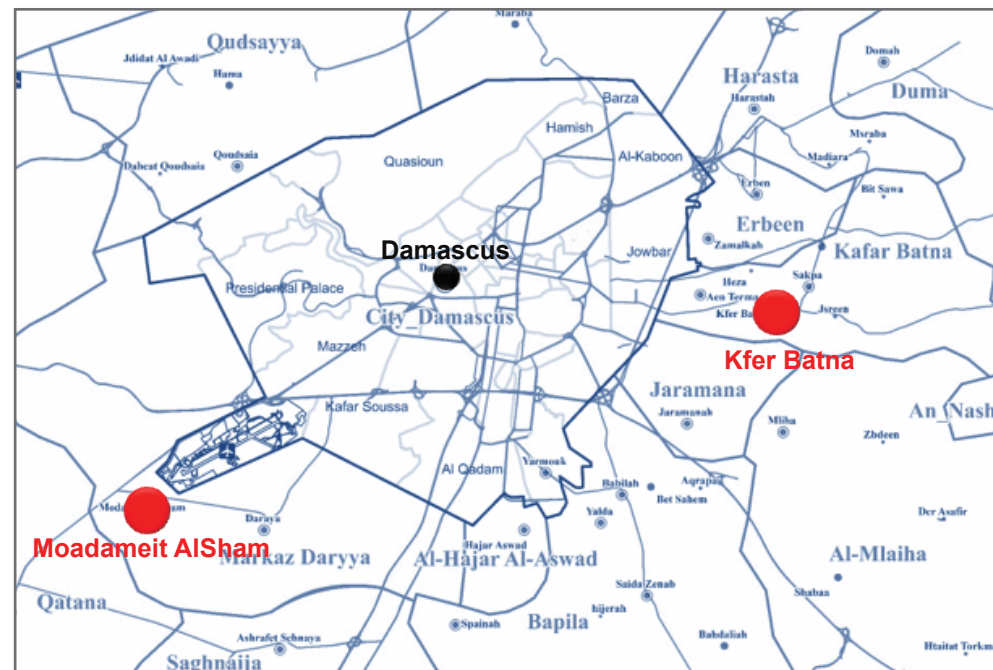
On 22 February, the US-Russia deal on the Cessation of Hostilities in Syria was achieved, which entered into effect on 27 February, following its endorsement by the UN Security Council Resolution 2268 of 26 February. One aspect of this agreement, stipulates the warring parties' obligation to "allow humanitarian agencies, rapid, unhindered and sustained access throughout areas under their operational control and allow immediate humanitarian assistance to reach all people in need", and has provided a window of opportunity for the UN to access hard-to-reach and besieged areas with humanitarian assistance. As a result UNHCR has participated in a number of Interagency cross line missions bringing much needed humanitarian assistance.

On 04 February, UNHCR participated in a fourth interagency cross-line mission to Al-Waer to deliver CRIs, including winter clothing, plastic sheeting, mats and adult diapers to 12,500 beneficiaries.

On the 17 February UNHCR trucks loaded with 16,000 high thermal blankets and 8,000 winter clothing kits reached the hard-to-reach villages Nubul and Zahraa in rural Aleppo which have not been accessible since last year due to the security situation.

On 22 February an interagency mission to the besieged Moadamiyah in Rural Damascus took place during which UNHCR delivered core relief items, including high thermal blankets, diapers, plastic sheets and winter clothing kits for 44,000 individuals. A further interagency mission to the same place was organized on 29 February, with UNHCR contributing blankets, diapers, jerry cans and plastic sheets for 34,000 beneficiaries.

On 23 February UNHCR participated in an interagency mission to the besieged Kafr Batna, Douma in Rural Damascus to carry out protection observation in order to better frame UNHCRs response which will frame its future response in further forthcoming missions.



## Running Water Brings Hope to Izraa

For more than three years the community living in the Al Balad neighborhood in Izraa in the Daraa governorate has been cut off from the main water supply due to damaged water pipes. This led to great hardship as the residents instead had to buy bottled water at significant expense. However, this month, a Community Based Initiative (CBI) was implemented there with the assistance of UNHCR's partner GOPA.

Plumbing materials were purchased with UNHCR financial support and the community and GOPA then coordinated with civil authorities in the governorate and installed new pipes as well as rehabilitating damaged pipes, resulting in the lives of over 100 people being greatly improved.

The UNHCR supported Community-based initiatives programme encourages the affected communities to design and implement, in a participatory manner, direct impact initiatives to improve their living conditions. With this concept, the affected communities are responsible for designing and implementing in a participatory manner direct impact initiatives to improve their living conditions. The CBIs have included self-managed kindergartens, community garbage management systems, clean-up campaigns, collective food conservation initiatives, improvement of living conditions in collective shelters, peer support groups, home schooling, recreational activities for children and now ... the replacement and rehabilitation of water pipes.



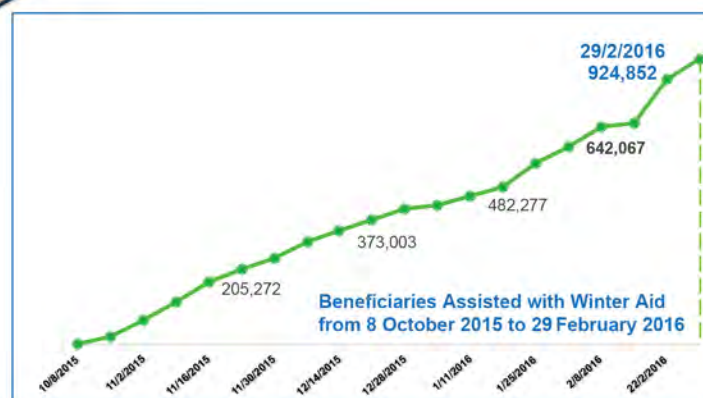
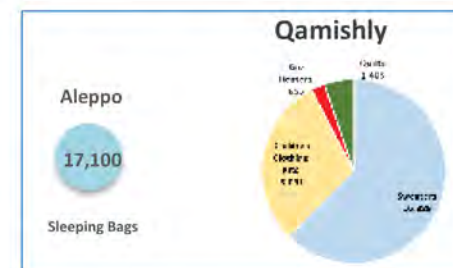
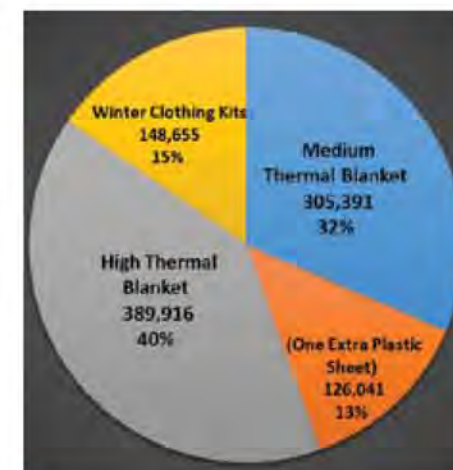
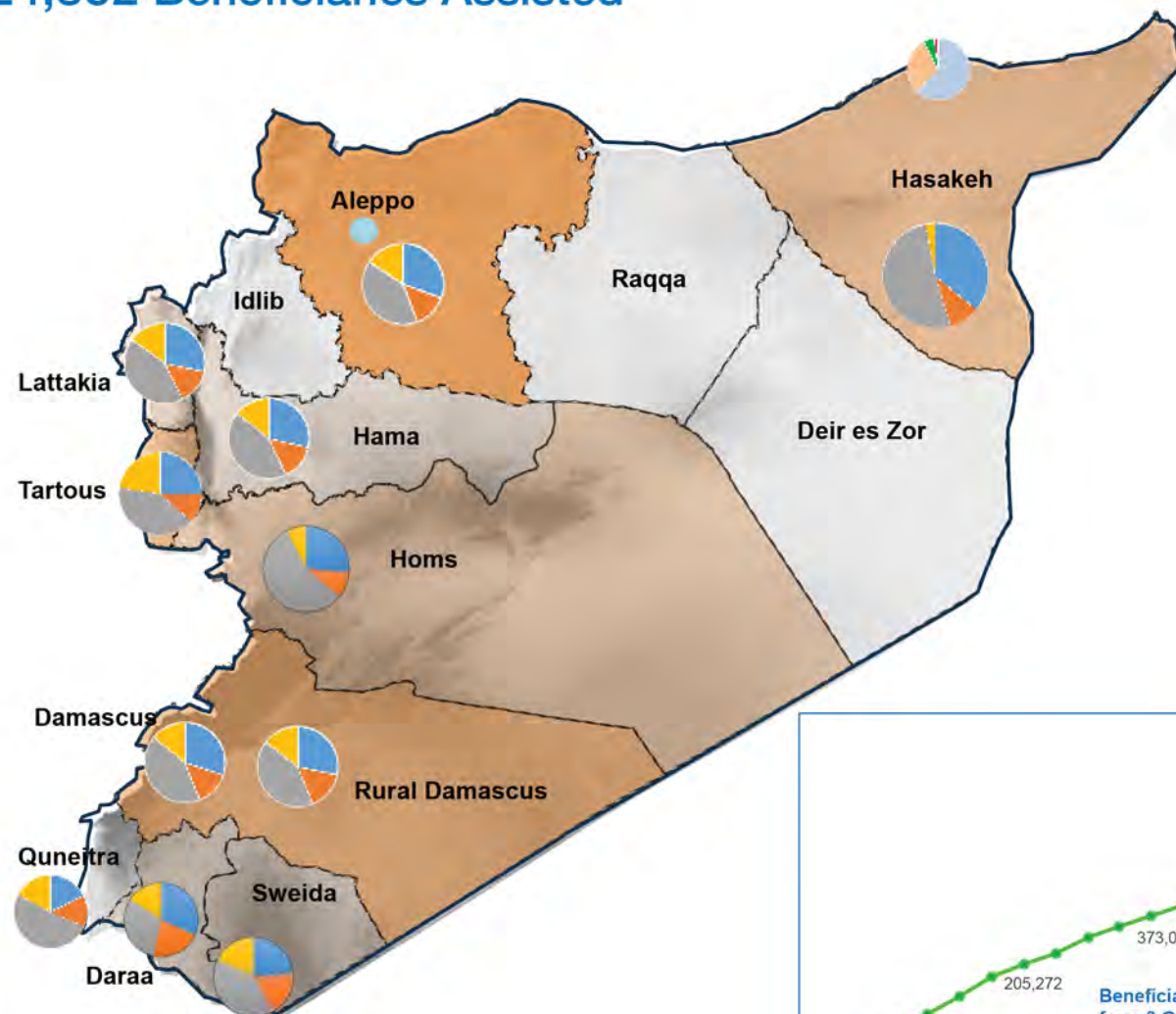
## UNHCR Winterization Programme Breaks All

By the end of February UNHCR had significantly surpassed its winterization target of 750,000 beneficiaries reaching 924,852 individuals with 1,014,143 winter items. The standard winterized kit is composed of winter clothes, high thermal blankets and plastic sheets. However in Aleppo, UNHCR also distributed 17,100 sleeping bags for IDPs residing in skeleton, unfinished and sub-standard shelters with no efficient means for warmth. These sleeping bags were sourced and manufactured locally. The winterization programme prioritizes newly displaced individuals, people in hard-to-reach areas, people with specific needs and vulnerabilities, such as unaccompanied minors or elders, single women as well as people with disability, mental health problems or serious medical conditions and chronic diseases.



# Winterization Programme 2015 - 2016

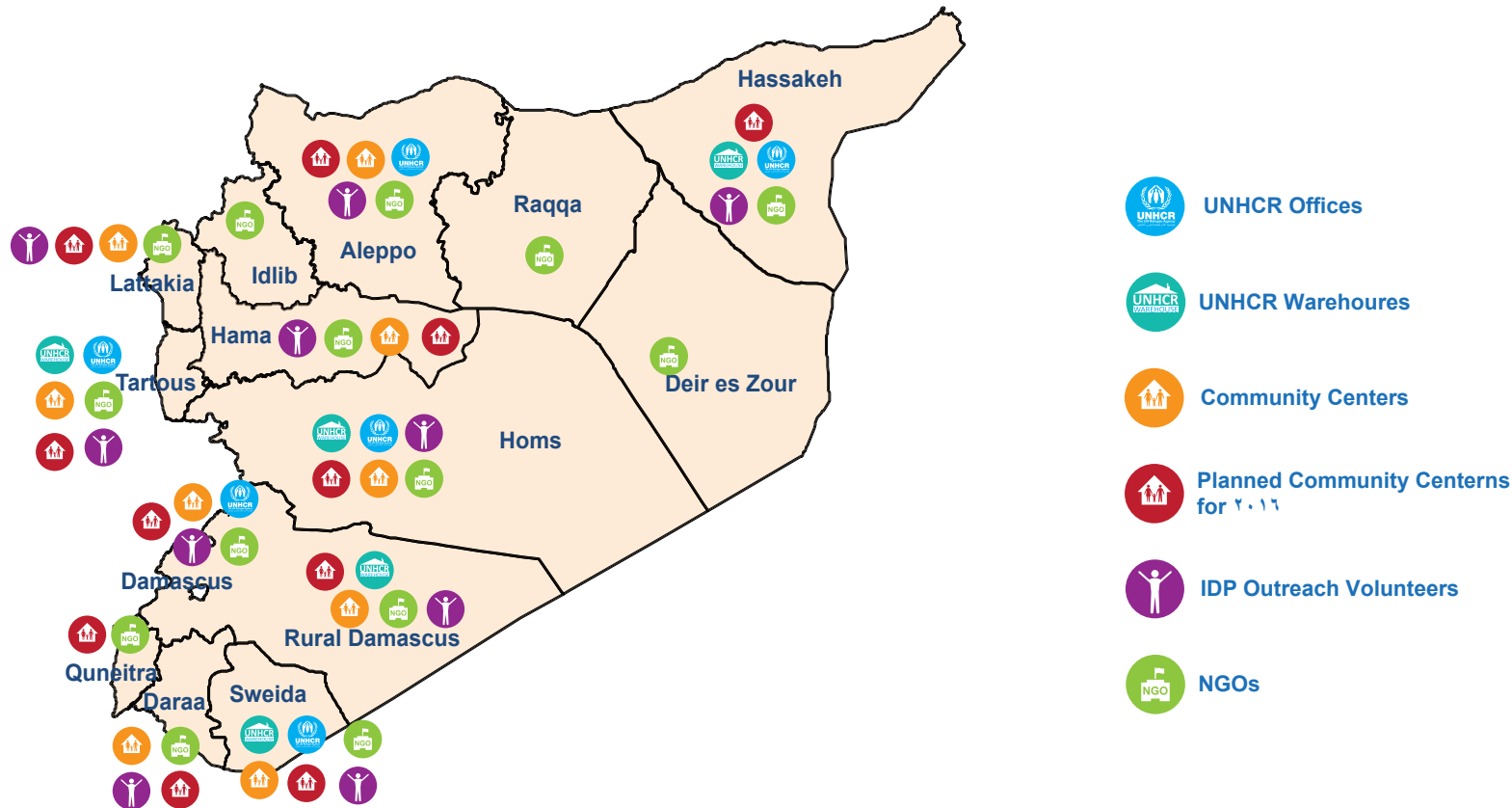
## 924,852 Beneficiaries Assisted



| Gov                | beneficiaries: (Individuals) |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Aleppo             | 302,078                      |
| Rural Damascus     | 194,015                      |
| Homs               | 183,257                      |
| Hassakeh           | 70,322                       |
| Damascus           | 51,250                       |
| Tartous            | 46,165                       |
| Hama               | 46,105                       |
| Lattakia           | 10,530                       |
| Daraa              | 10,155                       |
| Quneitra           | 6,100                        |
| Swieda             | 4,875                        |
| <b>Grand Total</b> | <b>924,852</b>               |

## Increased UNHCR Presence Planned in Syria

At present in Syria UNHCR maintains adequate capacity to respond to the needs of internally displaced persons and other civilians affected by the crisis through the country representation in Damascus as well as five field offices: in Aleppo, Qamishli, Homs, Tartous and Sweida. In addition, UNHCR supports a network of 32 community centres in 9 governorates of the country, and 420 outreach volunteers, serving as a link between UNHCR programmes, partners on the ground and beneficiaries in remote, besieged and hard-to-reach areas.



However, in 2016 due to the massive protection needs of the population UNHCR is planning to recruit 3,000 community outreach workers and increase the number of community centers it supports to 100. This will strengthen the protection referral system as well as the overall service delivery of humanitarian aid and will anchor the community based protection system and provide beneficiaries with 10 top essential services selected by the IDP community after consultations. These 100 hubs and 3,000 ORVs will service up to 1.5 million people throughout the year.

# What Happens in a community Center

Although activities and services provided at community centres depend on the local context, needs and funding situation, some of the following services are commonly available in UNHCR community centres in Syria:



## Community Mobilization & Outreach

- Outreach volunteers
- Mobile activities
- Youth/Disability/Children/Older persons groups & clubs



## Education

- Remedial education and catch up
- classes
- Day care



## Legal protection

- Legal counselling
- SGBV and Child Protection
- Case management and referral



## Recreation

- Sport activities
- Child friendly
- space Cultural activities



## SkillsDevelopment

- Small startup business grants programs
- Vocational training



## Livelihood

- Livelihood projects
- Community-based interventions



## Awareness Raising & Information Sharing

- Awareness sessions on health, education, child protection, SGBV
- Information on services and assistance provided



## Specialized Services

- Mental PSS
- Psycho-social counseling
- Services for persons with specific need

## Ahmad Insists on Excellence in Education

Displacement affects families in many different ways: Protection Issues such as lost or destroyed documentation, SGBV, child protection, Trauma and Psycho Social problems and loss of livelihoods. Also loss of belongings with people often fleeing fighting with little more than the clothes on their backs, lack of shelter and lack of access to social services such as health and education.

To respond to the education needs of IDPs, UNHCR organizes educational programs for preparatory and secondary grades including remedial classes, preparatory lessons for the 9th and the 12th grades, summer camps and lessons for children with learning difficulties in collective shelters, public schools, private institutes and community centres in various governorates in cooperation with PU, GOPA, Al Nada, SARC, Social Care, Al Tamayoz, Al Birr, Aoun, The Syria Trust, Child Care Society and Namaa.

Fifteen year old Ahmad, was displaced a number of occasions to different locations in Rural Damascus badly affecting his education. As he says: "We were displaced more than once. The first time from Masraba to Jairoud, then from Jairoud to Maaret Saidnaya. Every time I got used to the new environment, I become forced to move to another place which affected my study negatively." In order to catch up, in particular in the areas of mathematics and English, Ahmad enrolled in UNHCR supported remedial classes run by partner GOPA and after assistance there he achieved an amazing 282 out of 310 in his final exam. He says 'I wished to enroll in the course organized by GOPA and UNHCR because I have problems with mathematics and the English language. Teachers helped me a lot and thanks to UNHCR support I managed to achieve my score.'

**Well Done Ahmad from us all**



UNHCR Syria End of Year Report 2015 entitled 'Protecting and Supporting the Displaced in Syria' in both English and Arabic which provides an overview of UNHCR Syria's operations and achievements during 2015.

It can now be accessed and downloaded from both ReliefWeb and REFWORLD at the following links:

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/protecting-and-supporting-displaced-syria-unhcr-syria-end-year-report>

<http://www.refworld.org/docid/56cac3254.html>





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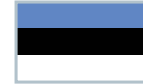
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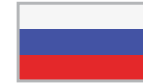
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Qatar



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Russia



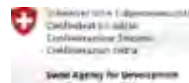
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United States

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