

# UNDP IN SYRIA: AT THE HEART OF THE COUNTRY IN CRISIS WE STAY AND DELIVER



50  
YEARS

Empowered lives. Resilient nations.

**Five years into the crisis**, Syria is still witnessing massive destruction of infrastructure and damage to every aspect of life. More than 82% of Syrians live in poverty now and 13.5 million are in dire need of humanitarian assistance. Most of the internally displaced are living with and generously hosted by communities inside Syria, despite the heavy burden that this has placed on jobs, basic services, infrastructure, and threats to social cohesion and dynamics. The country has lost nearly four decades of human development.

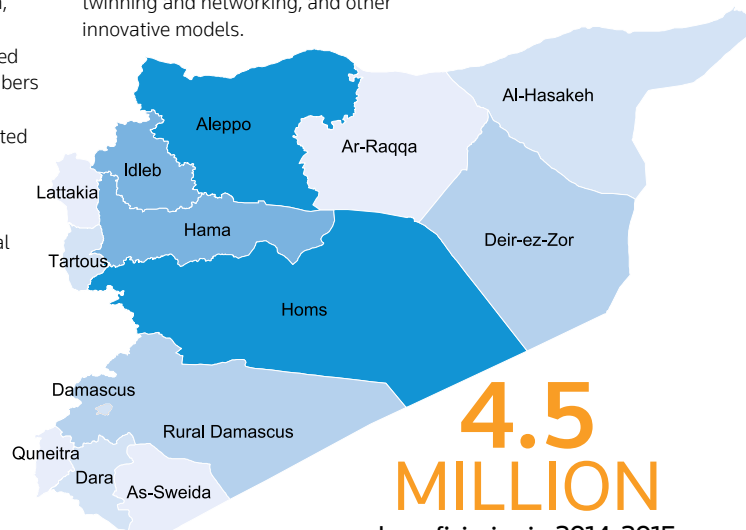
Since the onset of the crisis, UNDP continued supporting Syrians inside Syria and promoted the active engagement of Syrians in resilience building efforts, targeting both displaced and host communities affected by the crisis in all possible ways. This is mainly to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of the crisis and support an enabling environment for decent life and return of the displaced and the most vulnerable groups to their home towns where security situation allows.

In 2014 and 2015, UNDP touched the lives of 4.5 million persons in all Syrian governorates through targeted early recovery and livelihoods restoration efforts in partnership with more than 150 local actors including NGOs, CBOs and faith-

based organizations. This was achieved through rehabilitation of community infrastructure and restoration of basic services using labor-intensive approach, where a total of 44,000 emergency employment opportunities were provided to IDPs and their host community members working on solid waste and debris management and quick repairs in affected Syrian governorates. It has also facilitated the revival of at least 1,514 business through productive assets replacement, start-up grants, vocational trainings, job placements, value-chain development and market restoration. UNDP's projects have contributed to stimulating the local economy through fostering local production and procurement. Our programming supports IDPs and their host communities, and works with them to alleviate pressures brought about by strife, displacement and competition over scarce resources. Inclusive socio-economic interventions target vulnerable groups, such as women-heading households, people with disabilities, youth, and people living with HIV/AIDS and TB.

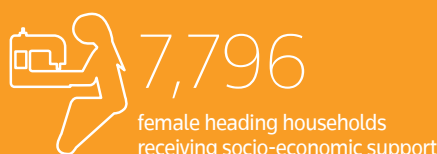
Developing local capacities for a more proactive role in recovery and service delivery is a key focus for UNDP Syria. UNDP is implementing a comprehensive

capacity development programme for NGOs/ CBOs, which comprises formal training, peer-to-peer support through twinning and networking, and other innovative models.



**4.5  
MILLION**  
beneficiaries in 2014-2015

## SYRIA KEY RESULTS 2014-2015



## LOOKING AHEAD: FUNDING AND PROGRAMME PRIORITIES FOR 2016

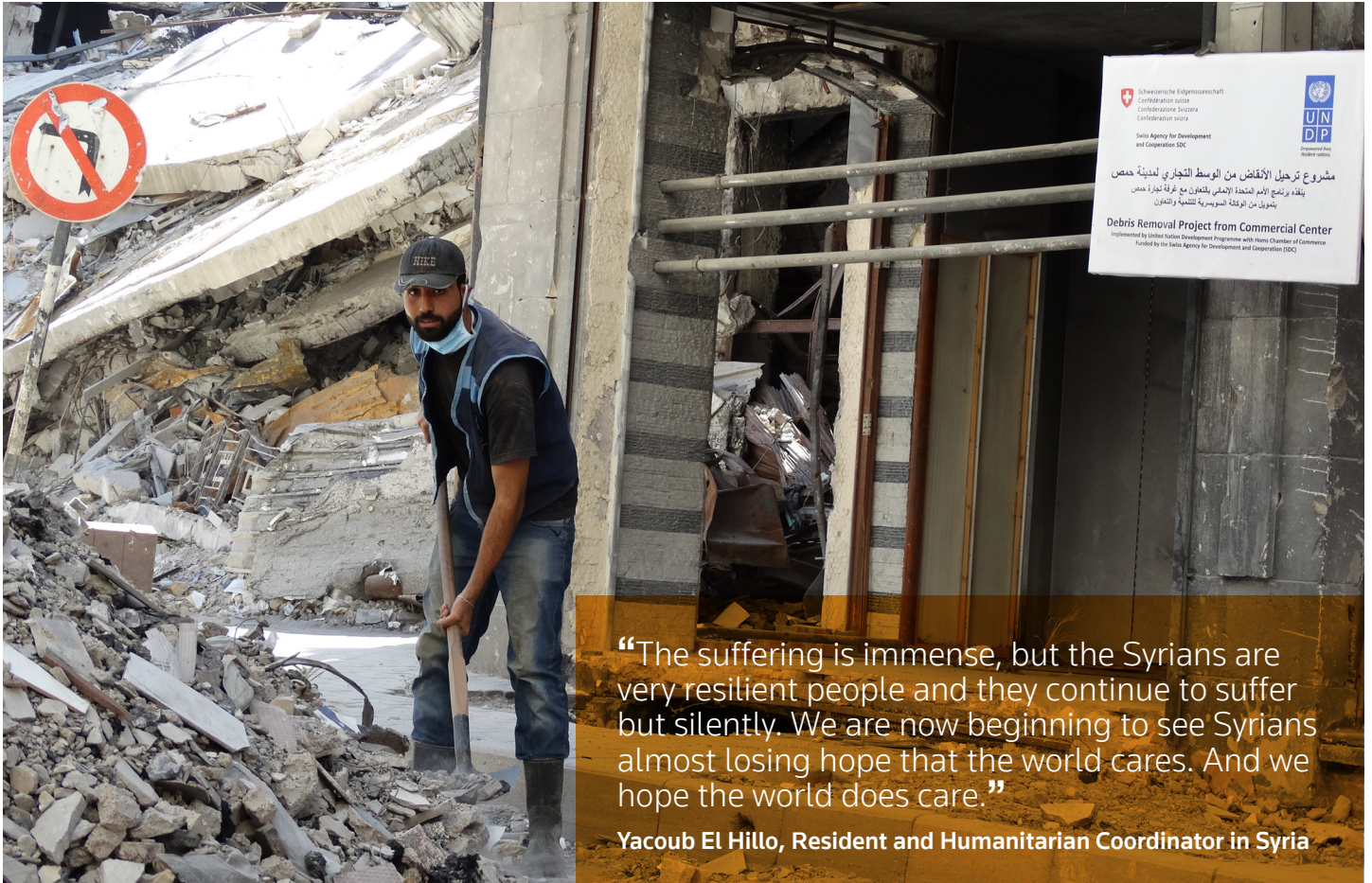
UNDP has put in place a two-year country programme that is fully oriented toward mitigating internal and external displacement through strengthening the resilience of the most affected populations inside the country. US\$ 42 million is urgently needed to expand UNDP Syria Resilience Building Programme inside Syria promoting socio-economic recovery and rehabilitation of basic and social infrastructure and fostering social cohesion particularly in view of ongoing and potential ceasefires and local peace reconciliation accords. UNDP Syria engages with Syrians to be actively involved in their own recovery pathways.

# BUILDING RESILIENCE INSIDE SYRIA, A MUST AND A NEED VOICES FROM SYRIA



50  
YEARS

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“The suffering is immense, but the Syrians are very resilient people and they continue to suffer but silently. We are now beginning to see Syrians almost losing hope that the world cares. And we hope the world does care.”

**Yacoub El Hillo, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Syria**



UNDP places the most affected and vulnerable Syrians at the center of its comprehensive resilience building programme relying on a participatory bottom up approach to tackle socio-economic crisis impact.

Since its inception in 2013, UNDP has utilized an area-based approach in its projects, relying on local solutions for livelihoods challenges. Syrians in action is the slogan of the UNDP programme where Syrians are earning their income reducing the full dependency on humanitarian aid.

**Homs:** Mohammad, a second-year student at the faculty of law in Homs, fled Al-Khalidiya during the crisis and is now living with his family in Al-Khader area. “My father is the sole breadwinner of our family, but his salary is neither enough to meet the needs of the family nor to pay my university tuition fees. Even with this meagre income, my family did not want me to quit my dream of becoming the lawyer I always wanted to be. But as a price, they deprived themselves from many basic needs. This weighed heavily on me and I was one step away from leaving the university”, says Mohammad. “After I joined UNDP’s debris removal initiative in Old Homs, I was able to support myself financially and make sure that despite of everything we have lost, I will not lose my dream.”, Mohammad happily concludes.

**Deir-Ez-Zor:** “When my Husband was alive, I did not need anything. After his death, we were devastated by hunger and sorrow. We lost everything! At first I was hesitant to join UNDP’s solid waste removal initiative, but after seeing other women working, I was encouraged. I found out that I am not the only one suffering. Sometimes seeing the misfortunes of others can ease your own woes”, says Rehab, a 37 year old mother and the sole breadwinner of her family who joined UNDP’s cash-for-work solid waste removal initiative in Deir Ez-Zor in 2015.

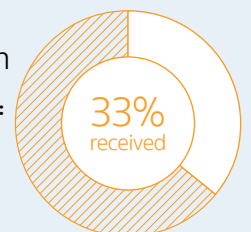
**Dar’a:** “I used to work as chief electrician. After displacement, I was jobless. I relied on all sorts of humanitarian aid but that was not enough to secure a stable life for my family. I searched desperately for a decent job but not even a single opportunity was available. The first thing I did when I received my first wage after joining UNDP’s initiative in Dar’a was to buy a roasted chicken for my children. I can’t describe how happy I was to see my children eating this meal after such a long time”, says Samer, a 38 year-old man who was forced, like many others, to leave his home seeking refuge in a safer neighborhood. He joined UNDP-supported polyclinic rehabilitation initiative in Dar’a on early February 2015.

## FUNDING

**Funding received in 2016:**  
\$20.3 million

**Funding requested:**  
\$62.3 million

**Gap:**  
\$42 million





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