

Emergency livelihoods through community infrastructure and debris/solid waste management

United Nations Development Programme



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In Syria, UNDP supports workers to clean up debris and solid waste from the streets. The work in crisis time enhances community resilience and improves living conditions. Photo: Child Care Association/UNDP Syria

Community Infrastructure and Management of Debris/Solid Waste

Natural disasters and man-made conflicts often destroy or severely damage community infrastructure and houses, generating huge volumes of debris and displacing large numbers of people. Debris can pose serious safety and health threats to the affected populations and hinder their access to humanitarian aid and public services. This in turn severely impacts on local authorities who are faced with significantly higher volumes of debris and waste as well as destroyed infrastructure, overwhelming their capacity to manage the emergency and take swift action to recover from the crisis.

In 2014, **UNDP Syria** scaled up its interventions to improve the living conditions of more than 2.3 million people, including Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), in 14 governorates. More than 1.8 million people benefited from better health and environmental conditions as a result of the removal and disposal of debris, solid waste and infrastructure rehabilitation in more than 82 neighborhoods and 149 collective shelters in Aleppo, Dar'a, Deir-Ez-Zor, Hama, Homs, Idlib and Tartous.

Debris management, municipal waste management and community infrastructure rehabilitation interventions in emergencies are critical to restore access to essential, and sometimes lifesaving, basic services and humanitarian aid. Such interventions can reduce safety and health threats to affected populations that are generated by debris and waste, whilst also stabilizing livelihoods through emergency employment.

UNDP Crisis Response Package

UNDP's Crisis Response package for Emergency Livelihoods through Community Infrastructure and Debris/Solid Waste Management will provide Country Offices with the specific programming advice, operational processes and technical capacity to address these challenges. This Crisis Response package will include guidance notes on debris management, municipal solid waste management and community infrastructure rehabilitation, as well as assessment and project management tools such as questionnaires, monitoring guidelines, and sample project documents and budgets.

Through UNDP rosters and stand-by partners, deployable capacity will be available to support Country Offices in implementing the Crisis Response Package. Areas of expertise will include environmental

and civil engineers, livelihood experts, and enterprise development experts. UNDP will put into place Long Term Agreements (LTAs) for procurement of essential goods and services like work and protective gear, assessment services, and cash transfers. Fast Track processes in procurement, financial management and human resources will also ensure rapid implementation of the interventions supported by this package. Communication and advocacy tools tailored to this specific package will also be available to UNDP managers and national counterparts.

With this package Country Offices will be able to design and implement time-critical interventions that support debris and solid waste assessments and consultations with communities. Interventions will also include safe removal, disposal of debris and waste as well as its recycling and re-use. Other key activities will include the rehabilitation of basic community infrastructure that provides essential services to crisis-affected communities, such as health centers, schools, local markets, food storage facilities, water and sewage lines.

These activities will activate local economic recovery through the creation of emergency jobs to remove and dispose of debris and to

rehabilitate community infrastructure, as well as through training in recycling and green enterprise development.

UNDP implements debris, solid waste and community infrastructure projects using its 3-track approach that ensures the link between immediate relief and stabilization, mid-term local economic recovery and a rapid return to inclusive and sustainable development pathways. UNDP's crisis-response approach brings strategic solutions that bridge relief with development from the very start.

UNDP will be supporting local governments' ownership of recovery processes through direct support on coordination, information management, and development of policy frameworks on waste management.

Where needed, UNDP will also use these activities as an entry point to support social cohesion through participatory planning, community dialogue and the targeting of high-risk groups like unemployed youth, displaced and host community members, and so on.



Workers clearing debris in Haiti following the 2010 earthquake. Photo : UNDP Haiti/D. Klein

Following the 2010 earthquake, **UNDP Haiti** supported the creation of more than 400,000 temporary jobs through debris clearance. UNDP also supported vocational training in debris management, recycling, earthquake resistant construction and river bank protection. More than 90% of the 10 million cubic meters of debris was removed from the streets and 20% recycled. Six of the largest IDP camps have now been closed and more than 11,000 people have been enabled to return to their homes.

In a short-term intervention in the **oPt** in 2013, UNDP helped create more than 346,250 workdays directly benefitting almost 6,000 men and women through land development and reclamation activities, debris removal, and infrastructure rehabilitation. With UNDP's support in 2010-2013, an UXO removal and improvement of solid waste management project resulted in the creation of over 242,000 working days, the clearing of 12 km of community streets and 280,000 m³ of debris.



Workers clearing debris in Haiti following the 2010 earthquake. Photo : UNDP Haiti/D. Klein

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