UNDP’s Partnership with the Russian Federation
Community-based Resilience in Critical Areas of Syria project
01 January 2020 - 30 September 2021
Introduction

Inside Syria, over 13.4 million Syrians are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance - a 21% increase compared to 2020 - with needs increasingly being exacerbated by economic decline. Four out of five people live in poverty, without jobs, municipal and social services, and functioning infrastructure. The living conditions of Syrians have significantly eroded, severely increasing their vulnerability and undermining ability to cope with the consequences of the crisis.

Through a resilience-based development approach, Russia-UNDP partnership is contributing to socio-economic recovery of vulnerable Syrian women and men, restoring basic and essential service delivery and infrastructure to respond to priority needs, and creating an enabling environment that promotes social cohesion and community security, and thus enhancing the resilience of affected communities.

The US$5.7 million project is being implemented over a period of 21 months (January 2020 – September 2021) in Rural Damascus, Deir ez-Zour, Ar-Raqqa, Dara’a, Quneitra, As-Sweida, Tartous, Lattakia, and Aleppo Governorates. As of September 2021, 17,212 people have directly benefited from the project.

Crisis Impact

- 13.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance
- 6.7 million people internally displaced
- 12.4 million people are food insecure, of whom 1.3 million severely food insecure
- Close to 90% of the population live below the poverty line. 65-60% are estimated to live in extreme poverty, up from 60-50% in 2019
- 82% of households indicate decreased ability to meet basic needs since mid-2019
- 2.45 million children were out of school in 2020
- 27% of households report their children show signs of distress
- Almost half of all sub-districts lack access to basic services due to non or severely reduced

Snapshot: Key Results
Community-based Resilience in Critical Areas of Syria Project

- Grant Received: 5,767,300
- Total Beneficiaries: 1.5 M
- Direct Beneficiaries: 17.2 K
- Solid Waste and Debris Removed: 76,353 Tons
- Basic Infrastructure Repaired: 50 KM
- Social Infrastructure Rehabilitated: 10
- Productive Assets Replaced / Distributed: 224
- Solar Units Installed: 62
- Capacity Provided: 200 MW
- Start-up Kits Provided: 150
- Vocational Trainees: 260
- Short-term Emergency Jobs Created: 1,697
People Benefiting from Community-based Resilience in Critical Areas of Syria Project Across Governorates
Enhancing Local Service Delivery to Respond to Priority Needs of the Population

Activity 1.1: Solid waste and debris management through a labour-intensive scheme supporting reintegration of host communities and returnees’

Through this activity, solid waste management systems were supported in Aleppo and Tartous governorates. Around 1,697 people, including 207 women and 197 Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), benefited from the emergency job opportunities created through this labour-intensive scheme. Moreover, garbage containers, tools and materials were provided to develop the capacities of local authorities on the provision of solid and debris removal services.

As part of the COVID19- response, the project also improved hygiene conditions through sanitizing garbage carts and containers, and the provision of sterilization materials.

Target
- 1,000 jobs created for 3 months
- 40,000 tons of SW and debris removed

Achieved
- 1,697 jobs created for 3 months
- 76,353 tons of SW and debris removed
Enhancing Local Service Delivery to Respond to Priority Needs of the Population

Activity 1.2: Urgent rehabilitation of essential basic infrastructure and social services through a labour-intensive scheme

Basic and social services, including hospitals and health facilities, schools, youth centres, renewable energy systems, water and sanitation networks, agricultural assets, were rehabilitated to support socio-economic reintegration and help communities restore their livelihoods while improving their surroundings and services. Emergency income generation opportunities targeted the most vulnerable of groups including youth, IDPs, women, and persons with disability.

Two schools were rehabilitated through this intervention, providing access to education to over 33,700 students. Eight health facilities were also rehabiliated in addition to 50 km of basic infrastructure.

Target
- 5 social infrastructures (schools and health centres) rehabilitated
- 10 km of basic infrastructure repaired
- 250 solar units installed

Achieved
- 10 social infrastructures (2 schools and 8 health facilities) rehabilitated
- 50 km of basic infrastructure repaired
- 62 solar units installed
Activity 1.3: Support communities and people’s access to services

Two citizen service centres, one in old Aleppo and the second in Karam al-Qatraji area, were equipped with the necessary materials to enable their operationalization. The centres will provide individuals with several basic services including civil documentation (birth, marriage, death certificates, etc.), housing, land, and properties (HLP) documentation, copies of judicial records, as well as building and repair permits. To complement these efforts, the project will develop the capacities of the staff at both centres on the utilization of electronic systems and best practices on the provision of the above-mentioned services.

This activity will directly impact around 3,000 people, in addition to approximately 20,000 people from Aleppo’s eastern rural areas that are benefiting from the services provided by these centres on monthly basis.

Target
- 17 municipal services provided to communities and people
- 2,500 people benefited from improved access to services

Achieved
- During the coming months of the project, UNDP will support the capacity building programme staff
- The estimated number of direct beneficiaries is around 3,000 persons while the indirect beneficiaries may reach 20,000 per month
Activity 1.4: Urgent rehabilitation of Al Furat Hydroelectric Dam

Vital spare parts were provided through this activity as part of the rehabilitation of the hydroelectric plant in Tabqa, Ar-Raqqa Governorate. Maintenance works are being carried out to ensure continuity of electricity production and prevention of a shutdown. Once rehabilitation works are completed, energy production capacity will increase to reach 200 MW. Through this intervention, thousands of Syrians will benefit from an improved electricity service while rural areas will greatly benefit from the rehabilitation of pumping stations and irrigation systems that will help restore agricultural production and improve livelihoods.

Target
- 100 MW capacity provided

Achieved
- 200 MW capacity provided
Activity 2.1: Rapid livelihood support for crisis-affected households

This intervention is providing rapid self-employment support to affected households, as well as young men and women. Livelihood start-up grants or packages are provided as seed money to jumpstart income-generation projects such as agricultural activities in rural areas or entrepreneurial endeavours including micro-enterprises.

The project provided agricultural support to 374 households who received 224 agricultural inputs and 150 start-up kits such as beehives and beekeeping equipment. 260 people received vocational training in beekeeping to ensure the sustainability of the beekeeping input. Fruit tree seedlings and organic fertilizers were also distributed in season.

**Target**
- 450 productive assets replaced/distributed
- 150 start-up kits provided
- 160 people receiving vocational and skills training

**Achieved**
- 224 productive assets replaced / distributed
- 150 start-up kits provided
- 260 people receiving vocational and skills training
Activity 2.2: Enhance sustainable livelihoods and local economic recovery

Market-driven vocational and skills training and placement services were provided through this activity to prevent the deterioration of human capital, to expand quality job opportunities, increase competition, and raise enterprise productivity. Start-up and acceleration support was also provided for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), particularly that access to finance and markets, value chain linkages, and infrastructure—are damaged, destroyed, or in an early stage of development in most of the places in Syria.

Organic farmers received training in regenerative farming practices. In-kind grants will be provided to around 105 farmers in Quneitra and As-Sweida to support winter crops, in addition to marketing activities. In the fishing sector, a workshop for the maintenance of fishing boats in Banias port was established, in addition to 14 shops being rehabilitated in the fishing market. Fishing gear was also provided to 261 fishermen to enable them to secure a living.

In Aleppo, Lattakia, and Tartous governorates, 81 young entrepreneurs from engineering disciplines were provided with seed funding and mentoring services to establish their business start-ups. The “Women on Action” and “From Idea to Enterprise” initiatives were also launched to support 118 women economically to start or support their businesses.

**Target**
- 160 people receiving employment services
- 160 people (businesses) provided with business development support (start-up and acceleration)

**Achieved**
- 197 people receiving employment services
- 261 people (businesses) provided with business development support (start-up and acceleration)
Enhancing Local Social and Economic Recovery and Socio-economic Support to Vulnerable Population

Activity 2.3: Establishment of a returnees’ reintegration Information and Data System

This activity focuses on the development of a reliable database where refugees, who are considered potential returnees on both community and household levels, can access information that would assist them to make an informed decision of voluntary return based on realistic, simplified analysis about life conditions and services available in their returning destinations. Two pilot community information centres were established in the targeted areas.

**Target**
- Two centres / hubs upgraded and/or established
- One data management system on returnees’ reintegration is established and running

**Achieved**
- Two centres were established
- System is currently under development
Revival of the industrial zone in Daraa

The industrial zone was at the heart of Daraa's economy, hosting many professions such as carpentry, mechanics, and welders. The decade-long conflict in Syria has rendered it out of service.

With UNDP's support through Russian funding, 50 workshops were revived. The project also provided 50 young men with toolkits and on the job training.

Rufaida's story: Women empowerment

“To everyone who has a talent and passion, invest in doing what you love. Despite all the circumstances that stand in our way, don’t let anything stop you from doing what you love”

Meet Rufaida from Suwayda and learn how she succeeded in overcoming her disability and was able to fulfil her dreams. Rufaida is one of 60 women who received training and financial support to start their business.

UNDP continues to support community resilience and help the most vulnerable effectively respond to shocks to Build Forward Better.
“With this I can make ends meet and provide a better life for my family”
Ala’a, 33, Beekeeper
Support to Local Value Chain for Honey, Quneitra

“I love my job and strive to do it perfectly, It’s my source of income & happiness”
Fadwa, 36, Nurse
Maternity ward, National Hospital, Dara’a