

# FAST FACTS

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## UNDP RESPONSE TO THE SYRIA CRISIS

### Supporting Humanitarian Livelihoods and Community Resilience in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan

UNDP's engagement in response to the humanitarian catastrophe unfolding in **Syria** and impacting **Lebanon** and **Jordan** has been to support communities in the greatest need. Over two years into the crisis, UNDP assists communities' coping mechanisms to survive amidst the suffering of the war within Syria and to mitigate its effect among communities hosting the burgeoning Syrian refugee populations in Lebanon and Jordan.

In all three countries UNDP is fully integrated within the humanitarian framework and appeal. UNDP programmes **combine dynamic elements of humanitarian relief with livelihoods support and early recovery initiatives for community self-help and resilience**. This provides a complementary model of humanitarian assistance, which contributes to community cohesion and local sustainability. With well-established Country Offices in Damascus, Beirut and Amman UNDP is able to integrate humanitarian interventions with projects that can be continued and built upon by working directly with local communities to ensure their basic functioning and collective survival mechanisms.

In **Syria** UNDP is implementing its comprehensive **Humanitarian Livelihoods Programme**, providing emergency assistance to the most vulnerable members of communities and female-headed households critically affected by the conflict. This provides capabilities and sustenance for human security and dignity. Initiatives include targeted emergency employment, rubble removal, solid waste collection, critical infrastructure repairs, enterprise asset replacement and the provision of basic services at the heart of communities.

In **Lebanon** and **Jordan** the thrust of UNDP assistance has been targeted towards supporting communities that are absorbing and hosting increasingly vast numbers of refugees. The unrelenting flow of refugees is placing extreme strain on local communities, social systems and

local public services' ability to cope. UNDP is working through partnerships with local authorities, communities and civil society to identify and ease the greatest pressures, address issues of social cohesion, generate employment opportunities and bolster local services.

#### UNDP PROGRAMMES - CRITICAL FINANCIAL NEEDS:

##### **UNDP Syria:** 'Humanitarian Livelihoods Programme'

-Programme Budget: US\$ 42 million

**-Funds Required: US\$ 30 million**

##### **UNDP Lebanon:** 'Lebanon Host Communities Project'

-Programme Budget: US\$8.9 million

**-Funds Required: US\$8.6 million**

##### **UNDP Jordan:** 'Mitigating the Impact of the Syrian Refugee Crisis on Jordanian Vulnerable Host Communities'

-Programme Budget: US\$10.5 million (10 months)

**-Funds Required: US\$5.5 million**

### UNDP's Approach

In **Syria** UNDP is helping to bridge humanitarian and early recovery interventions to support local communities' response to the immediate challenges confronting them as result of the conflict. This approach supports community self-reliance in dire times of collective hardship and seeks to build on a common agenda of community resilience. This represents a strategic response to a comprehensive and potentially overwhelming challenge.

UNDP's dynamic Humanitarian Livelihood Programme is fully integrated within the SHARP. UNDP is also supporting the establishment of UN hubs outside the capital which are being utilized by all humanitarian agencies for the co-ordination and delivery of emergency assistance.

In **Lebanon** and **Jordan** UNDP engagement is primarily directed towards providing vital support to the most dramatically impacted refugee host communities. UNDP recognises that expanding local livelihoods options and initiatives, strengthening local service delivery, and

encouraging community self-reliance, are all vital to maintaining social cohesion and stability through the toughest phase of the crisis. This approach seeks to deepen local resilience and prevent the refugee 'burden' from undermining years of gradual development progress. UNDP's support to host communities is an essential part of the response to the Syria Crisis, and which will mitigate against the strong likelihood of a deterioration of the refugee protection environment. The UNDP host communities support programmes have been fully integrated within the RRP. Leading Host Communities Support Groups and Sectors, UNDP's overall approach has been to collaborate closely with sister UN agencies and INGOs through Humanitarian Country Teams. UNDP is working especially closely with national authorities and civil society to support institutional and co-ordination mechanisms.

## **UNDP IN ACTION IN SYRIA, LEBANON & JORDAN**

### **SYRIA: The Humanitarian Livelihoods Programme**

UNDP's Country Office in Damascus is dedicated to the implementation of the US\$42 million Humanitarian Livelihoods Programme. UNDP has so far invested US\$8 million from its own resources as well as through additional donor funding via the SHARP. Work is currently ongoing in Tartous, Homs, Deir Ezzor, Aleppo, Hassakeh and Damascus with aspects of the following programme components being implemented in each locality dependent on locally assessed priorities:

1. Emergency employment opportunities for repairs of basic infrastructure and service delivery (including rubble removal, solid waste management);
2. Reinvigoration of livelihoods through cash for work, start-up grants, vocational training and productive asset replacement;
3. Direct support to female headed households and persons with disability through employment/income generation activities for women, provision of disability aids to ensure dignity, independence and mobility;
4. Direct strengthening of local capacities for community resilience and;
5. Co-ordination systems for early recovery and longer-term sustainable livelihoods.

### **LEBANON: The Host Communities Support Project**

The joint UNDP/Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) Lebanon Host-Communities Support Programme (LHSP) is critical to helping maintain stability in the areas most affected by the Syrian crisis. The LHSP provides targeted assistance to livelihood opportunities and basic public services. The project aims to improve community security, support local economic recovery and social cohesion through community-based initiatives that bring together local authorities and civil society. In addition, the LHSP will strengthen the capacity of the national and local government, as well as civil society actors to engage in conflict mitigation and

dispute resolution, and enhance local enterprise opportunities among the most vulnerable and affected communities.

The LHSP is fully integrated with the current Government of Lebanon response strategy and the Regional Response Plan (RRP). UNDP is also providing leadership on behalf of the international community at several levels. First, **UNDP co-chairs the Task Force on Support to Host Communities**, together with UNHCR, MoSA and the Prime Minister's Office, to help better understand host community needs and formulate response strategies among 23 participant organisations. Second, within the RRP structures **UNDP co-leads the new Social Cohesion and Livelihoods Sector** which seeks to help relieve the massive pressure from the ever-increasing number of Syrian refugees on Lebanese communities. As a result, social cohesion and local livelihoods are being addressed in tandem in a consistent, coordinated and holistic manner in accordance with the objectives established in the RRP.

### **JORDAN: Mitigating the Impact of the Syrian Refugee Crisis on Vulnerable Host Communities**

UNDP is helping to maintain social cohesion and economic stability in communities which have welcomed Syrian refugees, and to respond swiftly and effectively to the urgent needs of communities affected by the very sudden increase in population and mitigate the potential for escalation of tensions between communities.

The programme is supporting employment opportunities in the most affected communities and the strengthening of basic social services delivery in an effort to maintain stability in the most-affected communities.

UNDP is also playing a leadership role in mainstreaming the Host Community Support Group within the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT). UNDP complements the efforts of the sector working groups established as part of the RRP and advocates for the refugee response to be balanced between essential support to refugees and support to the actual environment (physical, social and institutional) where they are living —in-line with the strategic objectives of the RRP, in particular the section 'assistance to non-camp refugees and host communities'.

#### **For more information:**

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