



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

INITIATION PLAN

FINAL REPORT

2014

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I. Highlights:

UNDP assisted in total **278,063 affected population in Syria** including direct beneficiaries and indirect beneficiaries as follows:

In total, **145,950** direct beneficiaries were reached with either access to employment opportunities, assets replacements, or hygiene awareness sessions as per the following:

- 142,650 affected people including IDPs and host community were supported by assets replacement and NFIs in 12 Governorates
- 206 women-headed households were provided with emergency employment opportunities benefiting in total at least 1,030 persons in Hama and Hasakeh.
- 10 businesses were revived generating employment for 434 worker and benefitting 2170 direct beneficiary in Homs and Damascus
- 100 women benefitted from vocational training and were provided with toolkits to start their own business.

132,113 indirectly benefitted from UNDP's interventions, including 97,613 indirect beneficiaries reached through the revival of local micro and small businesses in Homs, 32.000 in Qamishli and 2500 in Rural Hama

Total Budget : (US\$ 2,000,000)

Total Expenditures : (US\$ 1,400,762)

II. Background:

Since March 2011, Syria has been witnessing an internal civil unrest that has directly resulted in losses of human lives, significant displacement and migration, weakened social services, destruction of basic social and productive infrastructure and significant loss of livelihoods, destruction of homes and property, and the deterioration of the rule of law and security. The international sanctions, the sharp decrease in the exchange rate of the Syrian pound and capital flight to neighboring countries have also contributed to serious deterioration in the conditions of living and soaring unemployment. A notable increase in the demand for humanitarian assistance, the erosion of assets and resources, and increasing dependency on aid have further exacerbated poverty and vulnerability in communities.

UNDP redesigned its programme to provide an urgent response to the basic communities needs through humanitarian assistance and livelihoods creation and/or stabilization in affected areas, for both IDPs and hosting communities who have overstretched their resources. UNDP aimed at building the resilience of the Syrian people to cope with the consequences of the conflict. Additionally in order to enhance synergies and complementarities and maximize the use of resources and access to affected people, UNDP's response included strengthening coordination among the various stakeholders involved in emergency livelihoods rehabilitation and early recovery, including with NGO's and civil society.

In 2013, UNDP piloted its Humanitarian and Livelihood programme, and mobilized its own teams and resources to kick-start relevant emergency initiatives. The initiatives are focused on quick impact projects that create jobs, provide emergency livelihoods support, restore critical community infrastructure and community capacities, and create a resilient local economy. As non-food items mainly households durable assets, hygiene kits and clothes are considered a priority need for internally displaced people (IDPs), particularly when people are continuously on the move fleeing from one place to another, UNDP adopted a livelihoods approach to revive small local business facilities through procuring necessary items from the local market and distributing them to the affected communities, thus contributing to maintaining jobs and stimulating local economy.

III. UNDP response objectives:

UNDP's overall goal is to contribute to strengthening the resilience of the Syrian people to cope with the effects of the current unrest and enable those whose livelihoods were severely disrupted to recover and rebuild their lives. The specific objectives are to ensure a well-coordinated response that provides IDPs and their host communities with rapid employment opportunities to enhance service delivery and rehabilitate basic community infrastructure; and creates/ stabilizes basic livelihoods in view of supporting spontaneous recovery efforts. Special attention is given to creating such opportunities to women headed household and disabled people.

IV. Thematic areas of intervention:

1. Emergency employment for infrastructure rehabilitation and solid waste management.
2. Emergency support to the restoration of disrupted livelihoods focusing on reviving small businesses and providing short term jobs opportunities to affected population and provision of assets and tools.
3. Emergency support to vulnerable groups including female headed households and people with disability focusing on emergency employment, tools and assets replacement.
4. Capacity development of national and local actors and stakeholders for community resilience focusing on empowering local NGOs to better respond to the emergency needs and address the livelihoods priorities of the affected population.

5. Coordination mechanisms for livelihoods initiatives focusing on mainstreaming the early recovery and livelihoods elements in various sector response and ensuring that relevant assessments are informing the response plans and immediate interventions.

V. Main results achieved in 2013:

1. Emergency support for restoration of disrupted livelihoods

The majority, if not all of the IDPs, have fled violence in their homelands with no significant assets or belongings. It has been repeatedly reported that people had left their villages and cities with “their clothes only”. Syrians, including the poor, have lost their livelihood assets, food and non-food items, including emergency survival kits (blankets, mattresses, heaters, etc.), and savings.

Moreover, many lost their houses and shelters as a result of the continued armed conflict in many regions across Syria. Host families have started to experience depletion of their resources and savings as they have been overburdened with additional costs and responsibilities.

Therefore, in 2013 UNDP launched a rapid initiative for socio-economic restoration of disrupted livelihoods in Homs and Damascus, reviving 10 businesses in Damascus and in Homs) generating 434 job opportunity and benefitting 2170 direct beneficiaries.

In Homs, UNDP signed a grant agreement with a local NGO, and supported the NGO in reviving 3 micro-to-small size businesses generating more than **340** jobs. The businesses were prioritized by the local community, particularly in the neighborhoods of Al Inshaat and Al Waer, where markets are relatively dysfunctional and shops closed as a result of the crisis. The support to businesses varied from direct provision of equipment and materials to emergency employment schemes. With the aim of preserving local heritage in food among other specialized industries, the revived businesses are selected to represent local food industry that is traditional and unique to Homs. UNDP relied on communities’ representatives to prioritize beneficiary businesses and market places to be restored. The project is implemented by a local NGO and monitored by the local committee established in the targeted neighborhoods. The revived three businesses are as follows:



The establishment of a sewing workshop in Homs

With the aim of preserving local heritage in food among other specialized industries, the revived businesses are selected to represent local food industry that is traditional and unique to Homs. UNDP relied on communities’ representatives to prioritize beneficiary businesses and market places to be restored. The project is implemented by a local NGO and monitored by the local committee established in the targeted neighborhoods. The revived three businesses are as follows:

- 1- The establishment of a sewing workshop for the production of bed sheets and clothes, the workshop which employed 12 IDPs (9 of them are women), produced 12,000 bed-sheets and children clothes. To support the marketing of the products, UNDP promoted for procurement of the products by UN agencies and as a result the bed sheets and children cloths were distributed to 27,113 internally displaced people

- 2- Roof-top gardening for the production of home-grown vegetables, more than 2,000 square meters of top-roofs and spaces between shelters and surrounding buildings, were cleaned and planted with lentil, beans, lettuce and parsley. This project provided jobs for more than 313 workers in the agricultural field benefiting 1565 direct beneficiary and providing vegetables and beans for more than 4500 internally displaced families/22500 IDPs/
- 3- The establishment of cold storage rooms and equipment to preserve meat, yogurt and vegetables, particularly that access to these commodities is not always possible. The procured freezers were utilized to preserve meat, yogurt, milk, vegetables and chicken which were distributed benefiting around 48,000 persons in Alwaer and Inshaaat areas. The initiative created 15 job opportunities benefiting 75 IDPs.

It is worth mentioning that the NGO used the revenues of above projects, to revive additional 3 micro businesses for IDPs (i.e. barber, kiosk and cooking gas provider)

Through its work on the restoration of livelihoods, UNDP promoted local procurement and supported asset replacement. Adopting the local procurement option aims at reviving local markets and vital economic cycles through local production which employs a significant number of local labor. As such, 7 businesses were revived in 2013, in Homs and Damascus, generating employment for 40 worker in Homs and 44 worker in Damascus benefiting directly 420 beneficiary. The procured items were distributed to affected population including IDPs and host communities in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs, Hama, Aleppo, Lattakia, Hassake, Deir Ezzor, Tartous, Idlib, Daraa, Sweida. The distribution was conducted with 25 local NGOs and included the following items:10,000 quilts, 4,000 rugs and mats, 55,650 pieces of summer and winter clothes for women and children, 4,000 hygiene kits, 10,000 kitchen sets and 3,000 bed sheets, pillows and towels. More than 28,530 affected families (approximately 142,650 IDPs) benefited from the NFIs and assets distribution.

2. Emergency support for women-headed households and people with disabilities

During the reporting period UNDP was able generate emergency employment opportunities in Hassake and Hama, for 206 female heading their households, thus benefiting directly 1030 affected people.

Moreover, UNDP in partnership with local partners launched a women-tailored vocational training programme targeting more than 100 displaced women living in different shelters in Damascus. Trainings on hairdressing and other home-based crafts chosen and prioritized by the women themselves were provided in the NGO center in Damascus. Start-up kits were provided to the trained women to help them establishing their own micro businesses.

Another successful initiative was launched in Qamishly. In partnership with a local NGO, 158 women were employed benefiting 79- affected people. Among the employees, 27 women were with disabilities. The impact of this local workshop went beyond its economic benefit, it also contributed socially to support local affected people by distributing the production to IDPs, 25,000 bed sheets and winter cloths, were distributed through local NGOs to approximately 32000 internally



Mariam is a disabled woman displaced from Deir Ezzor to Qamishli. She is 23 years old and joined UNDP's project as a worker in the workshop. Mariam confirms that she is finally a productive, self-dependent person, supporting herself and her family. With this job she re-gained her self-confidence and sense of dignity.



displaced person in Qamishly. More than 30 volunteers were mobilized to support the activities of the workshop. Among other activities, the volunteers assisted in distributing the raw materials and collecting the produced items from disabled women working from home. The project proved to be successful from economic and social perspectives, it earned a good reputation in Qamishly due to the dire need for such initiatives that allow internally displaced and conflict affected women to generate their own income, regain their dignity and recover their disrupted livelihoods.

Additionally, in Salamieh which is located in Hama governorate, UNDP in cooperation with a local NGO supported the revival of a small enterprise, a sewing workshop for women headed households, which employed 48 workers to produce winter and summer clothes. UNDP support included the provision of raw materials and sewing machines in addition to the wages of the locally employed workers. More than 2,500 IDP children in rural Hama, benefitted from the workshop production.

Development of national and local capacities for community resilience

Resilience is defined as a transformative process that builds upon the innate capacities and knowledge of all people, communities and countries to anticipate, manage, and recover from shocks minimizing their impact and maximizing their (transformative) potential to promote and sustain human development gains (UNDP). Relying on this principle of community resilience, UNDP is mobilizing a large network of local and national actors including NGOs and CBOs to engage not only in the humanitarian response but also in livelihoods and early recovery mechanisms.

The capacity and needs assessment of the NGOs currently operating in Syria is proceeding as an ongoing process. Results obtained so far from the assessment provided the foundation for identification of gaps and training needs. To date, the assessment covered 67 NGOs, and this number will potentially increase as this is a dynamic exercise and more NGOs are being surveyed. As a follow up, a comprehensive capacity development package was developed in order to empower these local actors to assume their roles and responsibilities in civil society mobilization and actions.

3. Enhancement of coordination systems for emergency livelihoods

During the reported period UNDP expanded coordination mechanisms for early recovery and livelihoods and allowed for larger engagement with local, national and international partners. UNDP is the sector lead of Early Recovery and Livelihoods in Syria engaging with more than 14 partners from UN agencies, international organizations and local NGOs. Preparations are underway to develop an interactive database for capturing the socio- economic impact of the crisis and infrastructure damage. A study on the impact of the crisis is updated on quarterly basis to track and monitor the changes in the socio-economic indicators of major sectors of the Syrian economy and social infrastructure.

VI. Challenges and mitigation measures:

- UNDP approach focuses on the delivery of sustainable services through various programmatic approaches as opposed to aid distribution mechanisms. UNDP developed various partnerships at the local level to ensure that the implementation of the planned activities are endorsed by the local communities and respond to their priority needs, not to mention that this approach enhance local engagement. Identifying local partners in the current working environment was not an easy task given the limited capacity of local NGOs and CBOs. Moreover, the accredited NGOs are limited and overwhelmed with high demand in addition to their limited absorption capacity. However, UNDP established an on job training for local NGOs partners in order to mitigate this challenge. The on job training was delivered on subjects related to financial management, and institutional set up with the aim of developing local partners' capacities for a better delivery for local community.
- Operating in an insecure environment while planning for livelihoods interventions is also challenging; nevertheless innovation and localized solutions are implemented at the lowest administrative level resorting to community-based response planning. Insecurity has not only complicated work but also

halted or delayed certain initiatives. However, given the scope and the extent of needs; UNDP was able to shift its interventions to other 'relatively more stable areas' in dire need of livelihoods assistance.

- Funding remains the biggest challenge in Syria, particularly that many basic and social services and infrastructure are heavily affected and more than 2.3 million jobs are lost with more Syrian population slipping into poverty. However, funding advocacy efforts continue with the aim of highlighting both the success and effectiveness of resilience activities on the ground and the need for more funding to meet with the increasing demand.

Annex I - Donors' Funds received & expenditures per Donor

1 January – 31 December 2014

Donor	Date of receiving funds	Amount of funds received US \$	Expenditure Amount 2013	Expenditure Amount 2014	Total expenditure	Total remaining
Kuwait I	15 Feb 2013	1,000,000	868,278	130,693	998,971	1,029
TRAC		1,000,000	392,153	9,638	401,791	598,209*
Total funds received		2,000,000	2,546,614	140,331	1,400,762	599,238

**The remaining funds from TRAC will be transferred to the Humanitarian and Livelihoods Project and the project will be closed*