

Project Title**“Sustaining the Resilience Momentum in the Response to the Syria Crisis”**

Implementing Partner: UNDP
Start Date: January 2021
End Date: December 2022
PAC Meeting date : 10 November 2020

Brief Description

The Syria crisis has now entered its ninth year. While inside the country, a new surge in violence has worsened the humanitarian and protection crisis, the entire sub-region continues to cope with the tremendous and lasting impacts of this crisis, particularly with regard to vulnerable populations and refugees. At the same time, host countries, particularly Jordan and Lebanon, continue to contend with a range of persisting socio-economic challenges, including sluggish economic growth, high unemployment levels, particularly among youth and women. As highlighted by the current and worsening financial and economic crisis in Lebanon, the pressures associated with difficult reforms have significant implications for poverty, inequality and social stability. These vulnerabilities have been further compounded by the Covid19 outbreak and its far-reaching health, economic and social impacts. In this context, strengthening and evolving the resilience response to the crisis remains critical, including strengthening the strategic linkages between the 3RP and the Syria Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). The UNDP- UNHCR Sub-Regional Response Facility (SRF) was established in 2013 to coordinate the 3RP Joint Secretariat, and the implementation and monitoring of the international response to the sub region in the form of the integrated Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP). The 3RP remains the single most significant global mechanism integrating humanitarian and development responses to the crisis to better address the resilience needs of Syrian refugees, host communities and national systems, in line with the Humanitarian-Development Nexus. Within this framework and with the continued support of the Government of Finland since 2015, the SRF relying on its network of UNDP Country Offices in the subregion, has also played a key role in advocating for and supporting enhanced resilience programming and monitoring within country response plans. Remarkably, funding requirements for the Resilience component of the 3RP, as a share of total requirements, rose from 28% (or US\$1.82 billion) in 2015 to 45% (or US\$2.5 billion) in 2020.

The current project builds on the developments and successes to date and intends to: (i) Guaranteeing the effective planning, management and monitoring of the international response to sub-region affected by the Syria crisis in a consistent and integrated manner through the 3RP; (ii) Strengthen and evolve the resilience response in the 3RP and respective national plans based on lessons learned to date and given the current socio- economic context and development priorities in 3RP countries (and linkages to Syria HRP); and (iii) Identify and promote innovation in the international response, with a particular focus on private sector engagement.

Contributing Outcomes:	Total resources required	€ 891,089
	Total allocated resources:	€ 891,089
UNDP Strategic Plan Outcome 3: Strengthen resilience to shocks and crisis - UNDP signature solutions #: Keeping people out of poverty); #3 Enhance national prevention and recovery capacities for resilient societies	• Regular	_____
	• Other:	
	◦ Donor	€ 891,089
	Unfunded budget:	_____0_____
Regional Program Outcome 2: Strengthen institutions to promote inclusive participation, prevent conflict and build peaceful societies	In-kind Contributions	_____0_____
Agreed by: Khaled Abdelshafi, Director, Regional Hub for Arab States, RBAS Date: 22 November 2020		

I-DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

The Syria crisis has now entered its tenth year, with tremendous and long-lasting impacts on an entire sub-region, particularly on the most vulnerable. Over half of the Syrian population has been displaced, 6.2 million of whom are displaced within Syria's borders and over 5.5 million hosted in Syria's neighboring countries.¹ The worsening situation inside Syria, with almost 1.5 million people displaced between January and June 2020 as a consequence of fighting,² and the compounding impacts of COVID-19 and related movement restrictions, suggests that there is no immediate solution to the refugee situation in the sub-region.

Rising vulnerabilities in host countries

In recent years, the two highest per-capita refugee hosting countries, both in the region and globally, Jordan and Lebanon have been confronting heightened economic and fiscal challenges, including sluggish growth, high unemployment (particularly among youth and women), widening fiscal deficits, and high debt levels. Even Turkey, the largest refugee hosting country (3.6 million refugees³), which has given refugees access to employment and social services, has also been facing heightened socio-economic pressures. Across the sub-region, both micro and macro-level vulnerabilities have been further compounded by the COVID-19 outbreak and its far-reaching health, economic, social and cross-cutting gender impacts.

The situation in Lebanon is particularly difficult given the introduction of an austerity budget on 1 May 2019 and has already given rise to significant social unrest and worsening poverty and unemployment. An immediate effect was to increase vulnerability among the Lebanese, and to worsen the situation of those already in poverty, and Syrian refugees in particular. Even prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, the World Bank had warned poverty could rise to 50 %⁴. As a result of the severe economic crisis since late 2019 and the compounding impact of COVID-19, poverty is estimated to have skyrocketed to 55 percent in May 2019 from 28 percent in 2019⁵, while poverty is estimated to affect 75 to 83 percent of Syrian refugees living in the country⁶. Reportedly also, social tensions between refugee and host communities have increased, driven primarily by a fierce competition over jobs and access to services, but also by more restrictive policies on refugees⁷. In Jordan, labor market conditions have been deteriorating in recent years, with the (annual) unemployment rate rising from 13% in 2015 to 18.6 % in 2018⁸, disproportionately affecting women and youth. As a result of COVID-19, the unemployment rate soared to 23 % in the second quarter of 2020 from 19.2 percent a year earlier, reaching 28.6% among women, 57.7% for youth aged 15-19 and 42.2% for youth aged 20-24.⁹ The economic shock of COVID-19 has further exacerbated existing structural weaknesses in the economy and recovery prospects will depend very much on the effective implementation of Jordan's reform agenda, as set forth in Economic Growth Plan (EGP) 2018-2022 and related five-year reform Matrix, which lay the foundations for inclusive and sustainable growth, with a particular focus on jobs, youth and women's empowerment. In Turkey, the unemployment among youth aged 15-24 has risen steadily since April 2020 reaching 26.1 percent in June (a 1.3 percentage point increase compared to June 2019).¹⁰

Recent assessments of the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 reveal a dramatic erosion of resilience capacities among both refugee and host communities, as well as among micro, small and

¹ UNHCR

² <https://www.internal-displacement.org/sites/default/files/publications/documents/2020%20Mid-year%20update.pdf>

³ <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria/location/113>

⁴ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2019/11/06/world-bank-lebanon-is-in-the-midst-of-economic-financial-and-social-hardship-situation-could-get-worse>

⁵ <https://www.unescwa.org/news/Lebanon-poverty-2020#:~:text=ESCWA%20warns%3A%20more%20than%20half%20of%20Lebanon's%20population%20trapped%20in%20poverty,-19&text=Estimates%20reveal%20that%20more%20than%20year's%20rate%20which%20was%2028%25>

⁶ Lebanon, Vulnerability assessment of Syrian refugees (VASyR), preliminary data 2020

⁷ ARK/UNDP (2020). Perception Survey (Wave 8), July 2020

⁸ http://dos.gov.jo/dos_home_e/main/archive/Unemp/2020/Emp_Q4_2019.pdf

⁹ DOS 2019, 2020 <http://dosweb.dos.gov.jo/category/unemployment-rate/>

¹⁰ Turkish Statistical Institute (TÜİK) <http://www.turkstat.gov.tr/PreHaberBultenleri.do?id=33789>

medium-sized enterprises.¹¹ Moreover, existing gender norms and discrimination against women and girls have also been exacerbated with the outbreak of COVID-19. The concentration of women in informal sectors and the dominant perceptions of women as caregivers has negatively impacted women's livelihoods. Worryingly, domestic violence towards women and girls is on the rise, whilst women and girls are also bearing increased domestic and care burdens.¹²

Already stretched national health, water and sanitation systems have come under increasing strain resulting in higher health risks for vulnerable populations, particularly women, and people living in urban areas, including densely populated or crowded settlements. Municipalities, which are at the forefront of providing support for refugee and host communities are facing particular capacity challenges. The loss of jobs, increased competition over scarcer livelihoods opportunities and more limited access to services is likely to exacerbate social tensions between and among refugee and host communities and erode social cohesion.

Countries are also facing mounting fiscal pressures. In Jordan, the public debt increased from 94.4 % of GDP during 2019 compared with 60.24 % during 2008¹³. The overall fiscal balance is expected to deteriorate to 7 percent of GDP in 2020 (from 4.7 percent in 2019) with a possible rise of the public debt-to-GDP ratio from 99.1 percent of GDP at end 2019 to 110 percent in 2020.¹⁴ Lebanon declared default on foreign debt payment (9 March), for the first time in the country's history, which clearly outlines the structural and endemic challenges concerned. It was estimated that as a result of the protracted financial crisis, the unfolding impact of COVID-19 and devastating blast on the Port of Beirut in August 2020, the economy could contract by 25 % in 2020¹⁵. The debt-to-GDP ratio reached 175 per cent at the end of 2019 and is expected to rise further.¹⁶

Taken all together, these challenging socio-economic conditions unavoidably place increased pressures on host governments that further hamper ability to deliver services for both host communities and refugees and the most vulnerable as a whole. In this context, sustaining and enhancing the resilience response within the 3RP, including fostering inclusion and ensuring responsiveness to socio-economic recovery challenges and host countries' reform agendas and longer-term development priorities, is more critical than ever. This calls for stepped-up efforts to strengthen capacities of host governments, municipalities, and other local institutions, which are the primary responders to affected people's needs (refugees and host communities alike). This requires commensurate efforts to expand livelihoods opportunities for self-reliance for men, women and youth and preserve social cohesion among both refugees and vulnerable host communities. Strengthened collaborations with a broader range of development actors, including International Finance Institutions (IFIs) and private sector, which are supporting host countries within and outside the boundaries of the 3RP, will also be needed to identify complementarities and synergies for a scaled up and more impactful response.

and Syria

Inside Syria, the poverty rate is currently estimated at 86%¹⁷, whilst around 60 per cent of the working age population in Syria is without employment and nearly 75 per cent of women and more than half of men in Syria, have less income from all sources than they need to maintain moderate living standards¹⁸. The situation has been aggravated by the rapid devaluation of the Syrian Pound and the COVID-19 pandemic, with dramatic impacts on the most vulnerable sections of the

¹¹ See for instance: <https://www.jo.undp.org/content/jordan/en/home/library/covid-19-impact-on-most-vulnerable-households-in-jordan.html>
<https://www.jo.undp.org/content/Jordan/en/home/library/covid19-rapid-impact-assessment-on-micro-and-small-enterprises-b.html>

¹² See for instance: Lebanon: <https://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20arab%20states/attachments/publications/2020/06/lebanon%20gender%20alert%20issue3/update%20652020/gender%20alert%20on%20covidlebanon%20issue%203english.pdf?la=en&vs=3305>

¹³ Main Economic Indicators Report –MoPIC /Economy Division –January 2020 Release

¹⁴ <http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/895901594653936142/text/Jordan-Economic-Monitor-Spring-2020-Weathering-the-Storm.txt>

¹⁵ IMF Global Economic Outlook, October 2020

¹⁶ <https://www.ebrd.com/publications/transition-report-202021-lebanon>

¹⁷ <https://www.scpr-syria.org/download/justice-to-transcend-conflict-report-arabic/?v=10207>

¹⁸ UNDP Syria

population including PWDs, female headed households, IDPs, the elderly and the youth. In the Syrian context also, the case for a resilience-based approach (in particular strengthening service delivery and emergency but also longer-term livelihoods opportunities particularly for women and youth, social inclusion and cohesion) has also become stronger.

Also, while the continued volatility inside Syria, as well as the risks associated with the spread of COVID19 curtail the possibility of any large-scale refugee voluntary returns in the short-medium term¹⁹, the future of the resilience response to the Syria crisis also needs to anticipate and support preparedness for '*resilient returns*'. A recent study of the World Bank confirms the overarching importance of security inside Syria as a primary concern in return decisions, but also points to the significant influence of key factors such as prospects in terms of access to livelihoods opportunities and basic infrastructure and services²⁰. This has important implications for resilience programming under both the 3RP in host countries (e.g in terms of access to livelihoods, capital savings, skill development programming...), and under the Humanitarian Response Plan inside Syria.

Under these conditions, the international response to the Syria crisis not only needs to be sustained but also to carefully balance pressing humanitarian needs and longer-term development needs to effectively address both the crisis context and the growing vulnerability in the sub-region.

¹⁹ UNHCR's fifth survey of Return Perceptions and Intention conducted in early 2019 suggest that in most of the country only a tiny proportion (6%) intended to return in 2019, but still that 75 per cent of Syrian refugees in neighboring countries hope to return one day.

²⁰ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/syria/publication/the-mobility-of-displaced-syrians-an-economic-and-social-analysis>

II-STRATEGY

Overall Objectives

Strategic thrust

Given the current sub-regional context, it is critical to continue ensuring an effective management of the international response to the Syrian crisis in the sub-region and in particular, to strengthen and evolve the resilience component of the response that goes beyond humanitarian priorities and seeks to address longer term socio-economic and social stability challenges in host countries.

The Role of the SRF

The UNHCR- UNDP Sub-Regional Response Facility (SRF) was established in 2013 to coordinate the implementation and monitoring of the integrated Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP), which remains the cornerstone of international response to the Syrian refugee crisis in the neighbouring countries. It represents a paradigm shift from previous regional response plans by a) integrating humanitarian and resilience interventions in a single response platform, b) strengthening national ownership and ensuring alignment to national and local development planning frameworks, c) refocusing investment in local delivery systems particularly municipalities, and d) introducing multi-year programming to enhance financial predictability.

The SRF has spearheaded the resilience approach (strengthening capacities of national/local service providers and institutions, supporting self-reliance of affected populations and fostering social cohesion) in the regional response.

Achievements to date

The SRF has registered a number of important achievements to date in terms of managing the international response to the Syria crisis over seven years and in strengthening the substantive and financial support for the resilience component:

With the continued support of the Government of Finland and working closely with its network of UNDP Country Offices in affected countries, the SRF has played a key role in advocating the importance of supporting resilience with 3RP partners as well as international meetings with donors.

Remarkably, funding requirements for the Resilience component of the 3RP, as a share of total requirements, rose from 28% (or US\$1.82 billion) in 2015 to 45% (or US\$2.5 billion) in 2020. The resilience funding received has also increased significantly to 53% of the resilience ask (or US\$1.1 billion) in 2019 which represented only 39% of ask (or US\$ 486 million) in 2015. In addition, funding received for the livelihoods sector has increased from US\$75 million in 2016 to US\$202 million in 2017 and US\$261 million in 2019.

The main programmatic shift when it comes to resilience building started in 2016 when food security, wash, education and health 3RP sector partners began to work closely with the relevant ministries to strengthen their capacities. In Lebanon, the amount of support to public institutions increased to USD 240 million (34% of resources for programming) in 2018, up from 28% in 2017²¹. In Turkey, since 2017, support to public institutions has reached over USD500 million. In 2019, the amount is expected to reach USD190 million of a nearly 25 per cent increase from 2018 when USD151 million was made available²².

²¹ <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/69467>

²² <https://www.tr.undp.org/content/dam/turkey/UNDP-TR-3RP-PUBLIC-INST-SUPPORT.pdf>

Another major success for the SRF advocacy efforts has been the growing introduction of multi-year funding: Based on the London conference financial report in 2016, 8 donors committed multi-year financing (amounting US\$2.8 billion) 1 for the following year. In 2017, 26 donors pledged multi-year funding in the amount of US\$3.7 billion (of which US\$2.4 billion was committed)² for 2018. In 2018, 22 donors made multi-year funding pledging US\$3.5 billion of which US\$1.7 billion was made available for 2019. In 2019, 15 donors made pledge of US\$2.4 billion for 2020 and of those US\$752 million has made available. Multi-year funding is critical to better programme resilience efforts that have longer durations than humanitarian activities.

Thirdly, the SRF has been a substantive thought leader and produced some of the key knowledge products as well as organized key events that have contributed to strengthening the resilience component of the 3RP leading to the above successes (see text box below).

Key Evidence-based policy advocacy (publications)

The following publications provided evidence to strengthen resilience component within the 3RP:

- State of Resilience Programming II (forthcoming).
- Gender and Livelihoods 2020 (forthcoming): exploring the degree to which women's needs and experiences are being actively addressed in the design and implementation of livelihoods programs in the context of the Syria crisis, building on the Jobs Make the Difference report (2017)
- Jobs Make the Difference (2017): highlighting the bottlenecks and best practice that host governments are doing in relations to refugees' access to employment to meet the London conference commitment of creating 1.1 million jobs in the region. <https://www.jobsmakethedifference.org/full-report>
- State of Resilience Programming (2017): highlighting the best practices from 3RP partners that have contributed to strengthen resilience programming. https://www.undp.org/content/dam/rbas/doc/SyriaResponse/UNDP_Resilience-3RP_final-lowres.pdf
- Compendium on Good and Innovative practices in the Regional Response to the Syria Crisis (2015): a collection of innovative programs from 3RP partners. <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/44372>
- Compendium on Good and Innovative Practices Volume II (2017): update on the innovative programs within 3RP. <https://www.arabstates.undp.org/content/rbas/en/home/library/crisis-response0/compendium-on-good-and-innovative-practices-in-the-regional-resp.html>

Major Events (organized by the SRF):

- Resilience Development Forum in 2015: Host Governments, Heads of UN Agencies, Donors/IFIs, I/NGO partners and private sectors have participated in the forum to strengthen resilience support within 3RP.
- Innovation 4 Crisis (I4C) (since 2016): I4C has been featuring innovative practices and recently focuses on private sector partnerships between Finnish businesses and countries affected by the Syria crisis (including Syria) see: www.innovation4crisis.org
- Brussels Conference IV Side Event on The Resilience Response in Syria's neighboring countries (June 2020): identified strategic entry-points for strengthening the resilience response in the context of COVID-19 and other compounding crises: see

Current Cycle

The current international 3RP response will soon enter its 7th cycle (2021-2022). Reflective of SRF strategic guidance in 2019, the strategic directions of the 3RP (2020-2021) reiterate the centrality of strengthening national and local capacities and supporting self-reliance for dignified lives to promote ‘resilience for all’ (leaving no one behind), strengthening the Humanitarian-Development & Peace (HD-P) Nexus, enhancing the contribution of 3RP interventions to the implementation of the Global Compact for Refugees (GCR) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), alongside broad and inclusive partnerships²³.

These interlinked high-level parameters provide renewed opportunities for UNDP SRF to advocate for and advance, in collaboration with partners, a strengthened, inclusive and gender-responsive resilience response at regional and country levels, whilst ensuring responsiveness to the evolving situation inside Syria. Remarkably, these parameters have already been integrated in new cycle of the Jordan Response Plan (2020-2022), which calls for reducing vulnerabilities of both refugees and host communities (resilience for all), strengthening longer-term resilience interventions across all sectors and aligning support with national plans, the GCR and the SDGs²⁴.

Building upon achievements and lessons learned from SRF support under the previous partnership agreement (2018-2019) with the Government of Finland, the initiative has three major concrete objectives, aiming to ‘sustaining the resilience momentum’ and contribute to development effectiveness in the sub region through:

- i. Guaranteeing the effective planning, management and monitoring of the international response to sub-region affected by the Syria crisis in a consistent and integrated manner through the 3RP, while strengthening linkages between resilience programming under the 3RP and International Financial Institutions’ support to host countries; as well as between the 3RP and the Humanitarian Response Plan for inside Syria.
- ii. Promoting the evolution and relevance of the resilience approach, as a strategic pathway for operationalizing the HDP-Nexus and to address the growing vulnerability in the sub-region by strengthening country response plans, and contributions to national reform agendas and sustainable development priorities (SDGs) to ensure the “leave no one behind” approach;
- iii. Assess and foster innovation, advocacy and partnerships in support of country response plans, including alternative partnership modalities and stronger private sector engagement.

The strategy for achieving these objectives is further detailed below (see Results and Partnerships).

²³ See: http://www.3rpsyriacrisis.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/rso2020_30.pdf

²⁴ “For the years 2020-2022, we are aiming to create a more inclusive and aligned plan in the hopes of decreasing the vulnerability of both refugees and host communities and provide longer-term sustainable solutions that will result in tangible effects on beneficiaries (...)Thus, to ensure a more aligned plan, the new plan will comprise of 7 sectors (...) Public Services, Education, Health, Economic Empowerment, Justice and Protection, Shelter, and WASH. This new combination is a result of rearranging previous sectors according to their alignment with SDGs, Global Compact on Refugees, and the National Plans of Jordan”; JRP 2020-2022, draft March 2020

Theory of Change

The theory of change that underpins the project is that,

If renewed, effective policy and advocacy efforts are made to adapt and strengthen the resilience response to the Syrian crisis, by (i) taking into account the growing challenges around vulnerability and social cohesion emerging from compounding crises, including COVID-19, as well as the structural challenges facing host countries and (ii) complementing humanitarian efforts by strengthening national and local response capacities and outlining longer term strategies, linked to national plans to mitigate effects on the most vulnerable groups (in particular women and youth) while empowering them, and to stimulate resilient socio-economic development for larger swaths of the population.

then, and building on achievements and lessons learned to date, it will be possible, in the new context, to ensure the relevance and continuity of the international support response to the countries and populations affected by the Syrian crisis.

This is *because*, poverty and vulnerability in all their dimensions affect both refugees and host communities, as both are disproportionately impacted by the multilayered crises and socioeconomic challenges that grip the sub-region. With poverty becoming widespread in some countries (such as Lebanon), tackling resilience therefore involves looking at policy and programmatic options, including through new partnerships and innovation, that can benefit large swaths of the population. Furthermore, international support remains a cornerstone in supporting the countries most affected by the Syria crisis, particularly Jordan and Lebanon as they have the highest per capita refugee numbers in the world. International support has and will continue to be a key mechanism to reduce poverty among host communities and refugees and contributing to social stability.

The ability of the SRF to draw on the UNDP Country Offices, the multidisciplinary teams located in the UNDP Regional Hub in Amman and within the broader UNDP Global Policy Network, regional Governments, other UN agencies and the large number of NGO partners within the 3RP, allows the SRF a privileged position to lead and coordinate the evolution of the resilience response across the sub-region.

Cross-cutting issues

The project will continue to place a strong emphasis on ensuring that the needs and rights of the most vulnerable, gender equality, youth and women's empowerment issues continue to be adequately captured and mainstreamed into project's support to 3RP resilience programming and related monitoring/reporting and advocacy activities, as well as other facilitation, knowledge development, policy dialogue and innovation-centered workstreams, also building on insights from recent initiatives²⁵. This will notably involve mobilizing and ensuring a fair representation of women, youth and civil society stakeholders in policy, advocacy, research and innovation activities supported by the project. Conflict-sensitiveness and contribution to social cohesion among affected communities represents a key pillar of the 'resilience lens' that has been developed early on by UNDP to guide resilience programming across sectoral intervention areas under the 3RP. Given the increase in vulnerabilities and deprivations facing refugee and host communities and heightened risks of social tensions, the project will continue to advocate for conflict-sensitive approaches and mainstreaming of social cohesion in resilience programming.²⁶ In line with the UN guidance on Resilience²⁷, the project will also continue to promote a holistic approach to vulnerability and resilience-building in crisis-affected countries and further linkages with the SDGs, including ensuring that climate and environmental sustainability are more systematically documented and

²⁵ E.g UNDP initiatives on Women, Peace and Security

²⁶ Including drawing upon past SRF guidance and new UNDP guidance on [Strengthening Social Cohesion](#).

²⁷ UN Common Guidance on Helping Build Resilient Societies: Final Advance Draft - September 2020

integrated in resilience programming and monitoring frameworks at the sub-regional and country level.

Implementation

The implementation of the project will be led the SRF Coordinator, supported by a Data Analyst and additional support capacities. The project will also benefit from other in-house multi-disciplinary expertise available within SRF network of Country Offices, UNDP Regional Hub in Amman and UNDP broader Global Policy Network.

The implementation of the project will involve a mixture of approaches including regional/national meetings, technical assistance missions, specialized research and studies and advocacy activities. The SRF will continue to place a strong emphasis on knowledge-sharing and management and innovation and expanding strategic partnerships, drawing upon its network of Country Offices, regional Governments, other UN agencies and the large number of non-government organizations within the 3RP through the SRF. As the Syria crisis continues to evolve and the response of the global community also adapts, flexibility will remain central to project implementation.

III- RESULTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

1. Expected Results and Indicative Activities

In line with the theory of change, at the Outcome level, the project is expected to contribute to sustain and improve the international response to the Syrian crisis in the sub-region through the 3RP by evolving and strengthening the resilience approach in light of the growing vulnerabilities facing affected countries. This will be achieved through a set of three key Outputs/Activities, as detailed below. These build upon lessons learned from past activities and reflect on the priorities identified through various consultations conducted in 2019/2020 with UNDP network of country offices in 3RP countries and in Syria as well as with other 3RP partners²⁸ and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.

Project Outcome: Guaranteed management of the international Response to the Syrian crisis in the sub-region.

Output 1: The resilience response is effectively coordinated at sub-regional level and integrated and adapted in country response plans and monitoring frameworks.

The project will support SRF continuous engagement in the international response as co-chair together with UNHCR of the 3RP Regional Steering Committee and the Regional Technical Committee of the Regional Refugee and Resilience Response Plan (3RP). As the custodian of the resilience component of the 3RP, the SRF will continue promoting the rapid dissemination of up-to-date information, data, and knowledge on resilience programming in affected countries.

Activities to achieve this Output are the following:

²⁸ These include more recently, the UNDP-Finland joint side-event on the resilience response in host countries (June 2020) which brought together more than 180 attendees joined the event, as speakers and participants from host governments, UN/DP and EU agencies, the Civil Society and NGOs as well as the private sector and reiterated the relevance of the resilience-based approach as a catalyst for a greater integration and synergies between humanitarian and development action to ensure that efforts to address immediate needs of people can also support the longer-term recovery and development needs of economies and societies at large in neighboring countries. In this regard, the resilience response was seen as an important locus for the operationalization of the humanitarian- development- peace nexus. The 2021 3RP planning workshops held in September 2020 which also emphasized the need to evolve and strengthen the 3RP resilience response, including leveraging complementarities with broader response frameworks to COVID-19, and strengthening linkages with Syria Humanitarian Response plan (HRP) with respect to return preparedness.

1.1 Regular and substantive support to the annual 3RP sub-regional planning and prioritization, monitoring and reporting activities: Activities will include substantive contributions to 3RP mid-term progress report 2021, the preparation of the 3RP 2021-2022 (September-December 2021), and subsequent mid-term progress and annual reports. In line with the new strategic directions of the 3RP, the SRF will contribute to ensure that monitoring and reporting activities place a special emphasis on the contribution of the resilience response to strengthening capacities of national and local institutions, promoting self-reliance, with a particular focus on youth and women empowerment and social cohesion, as well as advancing the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus and the SDGs in affected countries.

Whilst most on-going activities under the 3RP and country plans directly or indirectly support national efforts to curb the spread and lessen the impact of COVID-19, 3RP partners, including UNDP, have developed specific COVID-19 responses, both through reprogramming some activities to specifically deal with the impact of the virus, as well as introducing new and additional activities to address the most pressing emerging challenges. In 2020, to support coordination and advocacy and resource mobilization, the SRF has facilitated, together with UNCHR, the preparation of a specific 3RP Regional COVID-19 plan/overview. As the COVID-19 crisis is likely to deepen with lasting impacts, the project will continue closely following up on this particular dimension of the 3RP resilience response in 2021 (and possibly into 2022). Special briefs/reports will be produced to reflect specifically on 3RP partners and UNDP resilience programming, including innovative approaches, to mitigate the health, including environmental health and socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 on refugee and host communities, with a particular focus on women and youth empowerment and community cohesion related issues.

1.2 Advocacy and resource mobilization support for the resilience response in major donor fora on the Syrian crisis: Specific activities will include supporting the presentation of the 3RP outreach and advocacy materials for the annual Brussels Conference – Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region and other major fora, including Core Donor Group and Top Donor Group Meetings. The SRF will conduct reviews of both implementation and resource mobilization gaps for further advocacy with the donor community in partnership with the Governments of the 3RP countries. In 2020, the aforementioned 3RP Regional COVID-19 plan/overview fed into OCHA COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP). Whilst COVID-19 specific issues are foreseen to be mainstreamed across 3RP intervention areas in the new 3RP cycle, the project will continue to support the development of specific supplementary communications and advocacy products to amplify the key tenets of the 3RP resilience response.

1.3 Coordination between 3RP resilience programming and resilience programming inside Syria. This will involve facilitating, together with UNCHR and OCHA, regular meetings of 3RP and Syria HRP stakeholders, and engaging in relevant areas for joint analysis and advocacy. The project will notably engage in regular analysis, knowledge and data sharing (regarding returns and socioeconomic conditions inside Syria and other relevant parameters) between SRF Country Offices focal points in 3RP countries and in Syria.

Output 2: Strengthened and evolved resilience approach to improve programming at regional and country level and better respond both to the crisis and rising vulnerabilities in the sub-region;

To achieve this Output, the project will focus specifically on evolving and developing the resilience component of the 3RP response through the following set of inter-related activities:

2.1 Strengthening Vulnerability and Resilience Tracking and Measurement: The strengthening regional and country-level capacities to better track programmatic and financial support to resilience-building and measure resilience outcomes in Syria crisis-affected countries is essential to identify progress, gaps, including on inclusion and gender issues, and to support advocacy efforts

under the 3RP. This is a major recommendation of the latest State of Resilience Programming Report II²⁹ and has been identified as a common priority for support by SRF Country Offices and other 3RP stakeholders. The ability to define and measure resilience at individual, community and institutional levels particularly against a volatile background and growing vulnerability and poverty will also be key to achieving the UN Policy of ‘leaving no one behind’. Under the current partnership agreement with Finland, the SRF has been supporting initial activities to review and promote knowledge sharing on recent approaches to vulnerability and resilience measurement and monitoring, including gender dimensions and develop an initial framework of relevant resilience indicators for Jordan and the 3RP (‘Regional Resilience Tracker’). The project will consolidate these efforts, through the development of relevant guidance materials and the organization of annual knowledge-exchange and capacity building events on vulnerability and resilience monitoring and measurement approaches for 3RP resilience partners and practitioners. In this process, the project will also explore the potential for data innovation (use of satellite, cell phone, social media) and linkages with the monitoring of the SDGs. Partnerships will notably be sought with WFP, FAO, UNWOMEN and other institutions (including civil society and the academia) engaged in vulnerability/resilience measurement in the region and beyond.

2.2 Additional briefs/reports and consultations on selected emerging issues for the resilience response, including, COVID-19 medium- and long-term impacts and inclusive recovery prospects in the sub-region. In 2020, various UN agencies, and in particular UNDP have engaged in the conduct of rapid assessments of COVID-19 socioeconomic impacts in 3RP countries, as well as in Syria. With variations across countries, a special focus has been placed on the impact of containment public health measures on labor markets, businesses (MSMEs)/the informal sector, vulnerable households, gender issues and social cohesion. Whilst these assessments commonly adopt a nation-wide perspective³⁰, within the framework of the 3RP, some focus more specifically on local socio-economic environments and challenges facing refugee and host communities³¹. The SRF has spearheaded special consultations on COVID-19 with members of the RTC committee including initial overviews of COVID-19 socio-economic impacts and the establishment of a depository of data on 3RP partners’ socio-economic assessments³². These assessments will be key to informing both immediate responses to the crisis as well inclusive medium-term resilience-building strategies under the 3RP. Over the two-year project period, the SRF will actively engage in the review of findings and will help distil and consolidate these into sub-regional overviews to promote consistency in 3RP COVID-19 related responses and broader resilience planning, monitoring and advocacy work (cf. Output 1). As needed, the SRF will support additional analysis that might be under-covered by existing assessments, including on specific COVID-19 impact areas (e.g. inclusive service delivery) and/or impacts on specific vulnerable groups among refugee and host communities (e.g. youth, women, the elderly, people with disabilities) and related empowerment issues, as well as social cohesion. Based on initial consultations with SRF network of country offices and other partners and initial collaborations at regional level³³, other areas may include Durable solutions with a focus on the relevance of resilience programming in relation to return preparedness, notably in the context of COVID-19, which are an important part of the resilience debate and the UNDP-UNHCR relationship and joint management of the 3RP; and area-based approaches to resilience programming.

2.3 Regional Future of Resilience Meetings: the events will bring together Government and other national and regional partners, including representative of the civil society, to jointly take stock and look into the future of the resilience response to the crisis, notably in light of changes in host

²⁹ The Report (forthcoming) which specifically recommends: “Developing a coherent measurement framework, with clear, effective and agreed-upon outcome measures of resilience that can advance resilience at the individual, household, community and institutional levels” (p.7).

³⁰ E.g. Iraq, Lebanon

³¹ Under the 3RP Covid19 response, UNDP Jordan engaged in a SEIA that covers vulnerable households, with focus on refugee host communities as well as MSMEs jointly with ILO); UNDP Turkey planned assessments cover, MSMEs, including Syrian businesses; In Syria, UNDP is also conducting an assessment to inform livelihoods and recovery programming

³² <http://www.3rpsyriacrisis.org/covid/>

³³ Under the Regional Durable Solutions Working Group

countries' environments namely; on-going existing economic and financial crises, COVID-19, reform agendas etc., and their impact on poverty, inequality and social stability. Drawing upon the discussion outcomes of the UNDP-Government of Finland joint Side Event on the Resilience response organized in the run-up to the fourth edition of the Brussels Conference on Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region (B4C) in June 2020, which identified important building blocks for an enhanced resilience response in the region, follow-up meetings will be conducted in the first half 2021 to discuss advances and develop a concrete roadmap, and in the first half of 2022 to take stock of progress, challenges and opportunities.

2.4 Dialogue with IFIs: As we move to evolve and strengthen the resilience approach, it is critical to engage the IFIs in these discussions and to ensure a coordinated and complementary effort both on the policy front and with regard to resource allocation for resilience building in affected countries. Whilst some 3RP partners have engaged in collaborations with IFIs, dialogue has not taken place in a more coordinated manner and it is highly opportune. To inform and support such a dialogue, the SRF will continue to analyse IFIs support to host countries and identify complementarities (and overlaps) with the 3RP resilience response as well as opportunities for joint analysis and potential partnerships.

The project will contribute to a shared concept of the type and scope of resilience support that is required to ensure no one is left behind and that we are effectively mitigating persisting and emerging vulnerabilities while contributing to social stability. This will allow moving towards strengthening the national resilience strategies and programmes for the individual countries.

The analysis, consultations and events supported by the project under this Output will contribute to 1) reflecting on the challenges and opportunities for enhanced, gender responsive and innovative resilience-programming in the response to the Syrian crisis, including refugee “accommodation” options and opportunities in host countries, 2) engaging with relevant stakeholders around development shifts and priorities to strengthen host countries’ commitment and capacities to ‘leave no one behind’, and 3) developing the future of resilience agenda, engaging both government, development actors, IFIs in moving towards a consolidated collective effort to transition and reform.

Output 3: Fostering knowledge, private sector engagement and innovation

Building upon and supporting activities conducted under Outputs 1 and 2, the project will focus on producing selected analytical products as well as consultations on critical and emerging issues with a view of strengthening the international and national policy and programmatic response. An important part of activities will involve leveraging past initiatives to more actively mobilize the private sector, as well as the use of digital technologies in the management of the crisis. Building upon lessons learned,³⁴ the project will also seek to move forward the Innovation4Crisis initiative (I4C).

To achieve this Output, the project will focus on the following set of activities:

3.1. Analyzing good practices/success stories (private sector engagement, use of digital technologies) in building resilience in response to the Syrian crisis. An important activity will be to review and analyze recent trends and identify concrete good practices in private sector engagement in the 3RP countries, as well as challenges and opportunities for scaling-up. In the context of the Syrian crisis and in light of the additional challenges arising from the COVID-19 outbreak, the project will also review and distil experience and lessons learned from 3RP partners’

³⁴ Lessons learned leads to emphasize the importance has been the small size of some of the participants/companies and their lack of understanding of the crisis environment/context

efforts to leverage digital and other innovative solutions to mitigate impacts on local economies and institutions and to empower the most vulnerable in refugees and host communities alike, including women, youth, people with disabilities, the elderly) to cope and recover sustainably. Efforts will be made to assess innovative solutions from a multidimensional, systems lens. Innovative thinking and digital technologies have been at the heart of the programmatic adjustments made by 3RP partners, including UNDP, in the response to COVID-19 in many critical sectors such as health, education, jobs and livelihoods and local economic recovery, social assistance and social cohesion. These experiences, if successful and brought to scale, could also trigger longer term transformative changes that could help address the broader vulnerabilities facing the region.

3.2 Disseminating findings on good practices and success stories in the aforementioned areas and organizing demand-driven multi-stakeholder in-country and regional workshops to further discuss risks, challenges and opportunities for scaling up in specific sectors, particularly in areas of engagement that are of critical relevance to the network of UNDP Country Offices' work in 3RP countries (municipal resilience, inclusive, gender responsive and environmentally sustainable/climate resilient economic recovery, jobs and livelihoods and social cohesion), including under 3RP Covid19 response priorities³⁵.

Building on lessons learned, this could also involve organizing a 'new generation' of demand-driven and issue-based I4C workshops, engaging UNDP regional and country offices, other UN agencies and I/NGOs from 3RP countries in a structured dialogue with innovative businesses - including youth and women-led businesses from the subregion as well as businesses from Finland familiar with the crisis context and/or already engaged in 3RP countries.

Finland and UNDP will notably explore new ways to engage with private sector actors, including through discussions with relevant networks in Finland, such as the UN Global Compact Finland, UNTIL Finland and Finland's Developing Markets Platform. Efforts will also be made to link the activities under this Output to other established UNDP led innovation related initiatives and expertise at country, regional and global level such as established Innovation and Acceleration Labs³⁶;

2. Partnerships

The project is based on the premise that no single actor can deliver comprehensive approaches to resilience-building in the response to the Syrian refugee crisis and on the need to reconcile a broad range of perspectives so that the resilience of people, community and systems affected by the Syrian crisis and compounding crises can be strengthened. As highlighted above, across all its outputs and activities, the current initiative is predicated on a strong partnership with multiple actors at national, regional and global level. At the country level, the UNDP SRF network of UNDP Country Offices will continue to play a key role in supporting the development of SRF directions and implementation of the Project while also supporting the national authorities and relevant stakeholder platforms in strengthening and developing resilience approaches under national response plans. At the regional level, the partnership with UNHCR and the 3RP network of 270 humanitarian and development partners (including UN agencies, INGOs)³⁷ will allow for the development, coordination and implementation of region-wide initiatives with multi-country impact and facilitate improved coordination with the HRP platform inside Syria. The academia, research institutes and think tanks, and networks working on resilience-related issues will be mobilized as needed, to generate new evidence on resilience building. In line with the outcomes of recent consultations on the future of the 3RP international response, efforts to stimulate dialogue

³⁵ https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/hiv-aids/covid-19-undp_s-integrated-response.html (Priorities are Strengthening of health systems, Inclusive and Integrated Crisis Management and Response; Socioeconomic Impact Assessments and response,

³⁶ <https://acceleratorlabs.undp.org/>

³⁷ Including the Syria International NGO Regional Forum <https://sirf.ngo/>;

with and expanding partnerships with IFIs, as well as to engage with the private sector have been made an integral part of the project. The Project will also engage with UNDP regional and global programs and initiatives, as well as other relevant interagency platforms that have been established in the region, such as the Issue-based Coalition on the Humanitarian-Development Nexus that are of special relevance to the resilience agenda. At the global level, new linkages will be established with relevant global platforms, particularly the Global Compact for Refugees.

3. Risks and Assumptions

The Government of Finland and UNDP sub-regional partnership has been ongoing since 2017. Through this partnership much has been achieved. This partnership has been the most sustainable in terms of resilience-building policy and advocacy in the Syria crisis response, and the activities in this proposal will build on these achievements.

While risks exist in policy shifts regarding rapid population movements or in regard to the Government of Finland and the Syrian Government, UNDP is present and highly visible in the region and continues to coordinate the 3RP and advocate for resilience policy and programming for the foreseeable future of protracted crisis response – and is expected to continue for the duration of this project.

UNDP will also discuss the on-going management/implementation of the proposal in a close and frank manner with Finland, particularly as key challenges and or risks arise. In this manner, both parties can bring their collective capacity to address and resolve risks.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk • (type and examples) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likelihood • (scale: lowest 1, highest 5) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact • (scale: lowest 1, highest 5) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk management approach
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Institutional Context risks: e.g. The combination of growing socioeconomic crisis, compounded by the outbreak of the COVID-19 epidemic, could overwhelm the capacity of national structures and delay various aspects of the programme.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The risk is medium, and higher in some countries (Lebanon) than others. Through UNDP COs, the SRF will monitor developments closely and look at additional capacity requirements and or the need to forge political consensus’.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The outbreak of COVID-19 and uncertainties regarding the duration of the crisis place additional logistical challenges on the holding of meetings and consultancies. • Programmatic risks. In the current context, discussing, agreeing and ensuring strengthened resilience approaches in national programmes may prove more challenging given the focus on COVID-19. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SRF will endeavour to organize consultancies and meetings and virtually for business continuity and to reschedule meetings and activities as the impact of COVID-19 in the 3RP countries becomes clearer. <p>Again, the SRF will work closely with UNDP COs to monitor the situation and ensure all available opportunities are used to to strengthen resilience in national programming in the foreseen two years of this programme.</p>

IV-PROJECT MANAGEMENT

UNDP shall receive and administer the contribution from the Government of Finland (the Donor) in accordance with the rules, regulations, policies and procedures of UNDP. The SRF, a sub-regional policy unit in the Regional Bureau for Arab States will program the contribution based on a cost-sharing agreement with the Government of Finland.

The SRF through the SRF coordinator will lead the implementation of the initiative in close cooperation with the UNDP Country Offices in the 3RP countries and including UNDP Syria.

The SRF coordinator will be responsible for updating and reporting on the initiative to the Finland and in scheduling dialogue between the SRF and the Finnish MFA for the length of the project to ensure timelines, vision and advocacy objectives – including high level representation – will be implemented as in the previous partnership agreements.

UNDP and Finland will establish a Project Board (Steering Committee) to meet every six months and jointly review the progress on implementation and any outstanding challenges, bottlenecks that need to be taken into account given the volatile nature of the region and addressed. Discussions also include the plans for the next implementation period and review of risk management.

V- Monitoring & Evaluation

UNDP proposes to provide to the Donor the following reports in accordance with UNDP accounting and reporting procedures.

- (a) From the SRF unit in the Region an aggregated annual status report of programme progress for the duration of this Agreement, as well as the latest available approved budget, latest by 31st March of the following year
- (b) From UNDP Bureau of Management/Office of Finance and Administration, an annual certified financial statement as of 31 December every year to be submitted no later than 30 June of the following year.
- (c) From the relevant unit at headquarters in the case of regional project, within six months after the date of completion or termination of this Agreement, a final, aggregated report summarizing Programme activities and impact of activities as well as provisional financial data.

In addition, in mid-2022, UNDP will conduct UNDP-Finland partnership evaluation (since 2016) to assess the effectiveness of the partnership in advancing resilience in the context of the Syria crisis.

VI-Work Plan and Budget (2021-2022) see Annex

For the SRF 2021-2022 programming cycle, two tranches will be dispersed. The first tranche will be transferred after agreement and signature in January 2021, and a 2nd final tranche in early 2022, once the annual report has been approved and upon a formal request from UNDP.

VII- Legal Context

This Project shall be the instrument referred to as the Project Document in Article I of the Cost-Sharing between the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland and the UNDP.

ANNEX – WORKPLAN AND BUDGET (IN EUROS)

OUTCOME: Guaranteed management of the international Response to the sub region affected by the Syria crisis.												
EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	YEAR 1				Y1 BUDGET	YEAR 2				Y2 BUDGET	Budget
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
OUTPUT1 : The resilience response is effectively coordinated at sub-regional level and integrated and adapted in country response plans and monitoring frameworks												
Indicators												
# of 3RP reports completed and published (MYR, AR and Appeal); including on 3RP 2019 Covid19 response/contribution to the HDP nexus	1.1 Regular and substantive support to the annual 3RP sub-regional planning and prioritization, monitoring and reporting activities	X	X	X	X	55,000	X	X	X	X	55,000	
# of international events on Syria-crisis attended # of specific advocacy and communication materials produced	1.2 Advocacy and resource mobilization support for the resilience response in major donor fora on the Syrian crisis	X		X		35,000	X		X		34,500	
# of technical coordination meetings on resilience programming in 3RP countries and within Syria	1.3 Coordination between 3RP resilience planning processes and the resilience response inside Syria (incl. Joint 3RP-HRP meeting..)			X		35,000			X		35,000	

SUB TOTAL FOR OUTPUT 1						125,000					124,500	
		YEAR 1					YEAR 2					
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
OUTPUT 2 Strengthened and evolved resilience approach to improve programming at regional and country level and better respond both to the crisis and rising vulnerabilities in the sub-region;												
Indicators												
# of regional and/or country-level workshops on vulnerability/resilience held (at least one per year) Regional Resilience Tracker fully operational ; # of 3RP Resilience briefs produced	2.1 Vulnerability and Resilience Tracking and Measurement workshops and reports	X	X		X	50,000	X	X		X	25,000	
# briefs/discussion papers (at least one per year) and technical meeting (one per year) on specific/emerging issues	2.2 Selected briefs/discussion papers and consultations on specific emerging issues (incl. on Covid19 MT/LT socioeconomic impacts, Durable Solutions)		X	X	X	53,582		X	X	X	40,000	
Annual Regional Future of Resilience meetings held	2.3 Annual Regional Future of Resilience Meetings		X			42,000				X	42,000	
# of consultations with IFIs held, as part of RTC/RSC activities	2.4 Consultations with IFIs on synergies between the 3RP resilience response and IFIs' response		X	X		17,000		X	X		12,500	

		YEAR 1				YEAR 2						
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	BUDGET Y1	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	BUDGET Y2	
SUB TOTAL OUPUT 2						162,582					119,500	
		YEAR 1					YEAR 2					
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	BUDGET Y1	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	BUDGET Y2	
Output3: Forstering Knowledge and Innovation												
<u>Indicators</u>												
# of report on good practices / successes stories produced (at least one per year)	3.1 Analyzing good practices/success stories (private sector engagement, use of digital technologies) in building resilience to the crisis	-	X	X	-	55,000	-	X	X	-	41,500	
# of workshops to discuss/share about innovative practives and private sector engagement in the resilience response, incl. Covid19 (at least one per year)	3.2 Disseminating findings on good practices and success stories and organising demand-driven multi-stakeholder in-country and/or regional workshops (including under I4C initiative, and mobilization of other private sector networks)			X		17,000			X		15,000	
SUB TOTAL OUTPUT 3						72,000					56,500	
Total I (Program)						359,582					300,500	660,082
Programme management and operations (i)						55,000					55,000	110,000
Finland - UNDP partnership evaluation (ii)											55,000	55,000

GMS (iii)						33,167					32,840	66,007
Total II (i+ii+iii)						88,167					142,840	231,007
GRAND TOTAL (I+II)						447,749					443,340	891,089