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UNHCR launches shelter rehabilitation in Idlib Governorate



Due to the continuous clashes in Syria, 1.2 million houses have been damaged, out of which 400,000 have been totally destroyed causing millions of people to flee and live in poor conditions. One of the shelter options that UNHCR is providing to protect displaced people is the rehabilitation of collective shelters in terms of improving the physical conditions of buildings following minimum standards to ensure that all required facilities are available for shelter residents.

This week, UNHCR completed in cooperation with its implementing partner Secours Islamique France (SIF) the rehabilitation of the first two collective shelters in Idlib governorate benefiting **975** individuals.

Since the beginning of the year so far, UNHCR has rehabilitated **79** public shelters in Rural Damascus, Deir es Zour, Quneitra, Hama, Hassakeh, Latakia, Tartous and recently Idlib for the benefit of **18,521** individuals. Other shelter options such as the upgrade of **6,771** private shelters contributed to protecting more than **34,498** individuals in different governorates in the country.

HIGHLIGHTS

- UNHCR expands its collective shelter rehabilitation response to Idlib.
- The hard-to-reach Al Ghan-to, Ter Mallah, Jaborien and Kradasniah in Homs are accessible with humanitarian assistance for the first time since six months.
- UNHCR identifies 2,000 people displaced from Kobani and provides them with core relief items.

UNHCR Syria Mid-Year Report now available



Refworld:

<http://www.refworld.org/docid/53df49044.html>

Reliefweb:

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/accessing-vulnerable-across-conflict-lines-unhcr-syria-mid-year-analysis>

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Large Scale Conflict leads to influx of IDPs from Kobani (Ain Al Arab) in Aleppo Governorate

Due to the large scale fighting in Kobani at the Syrian-Turkish border, UNHCR has monitored the displacement of people from Kobani to Hassakeh Governorate. Many people have crossed the border from Kobani into Turkey and then crossed back to Syria from the Derbasia crossing point. The total number of displaced people from Kobani has reached **2,000** people so far, scattered all around in Ras el Ein, Derbasia, Qahtania, Qamishly, Hassakeh and Amuda.

As the majority resides outside Qamishly, UNHCR urgently trained five teams of volunteers to reach them and respond to their needs. UNHCR was also able to reach and identify these families in Qamishly as well as distribute CRIs directly to them benefitting so far **410** out of the **548** IDP families. The distribution of CRI is still ongoing to support the remaining IDP families in the area.



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One example of these vulnerable people is Mahmoud, a 55- year old man who fled Kobani with his wife, three daughters, and two minor sons as well his daughter-in-law along with her two children whose father stayed in Kobani to “defend his home” as Mahmoud said.

Mahmoud was not planning to leave his place, but he could not afford putting the whole family at risk especially the little kids. They all went through harsh time arriving to the Turkish border where they spent two days until they were finally allowed to cross. It took them five days to reach Derbasia crossing point and another day until they crossed back to the north east of Syria to Qamishly where they were supported by UNHCR. Mahmoud is spending most of his time helping new arrivals from Kobani find a safe place to stay in, mentioning “As I know how it feels like to be helped when losing hope, I feel responsible for reducing the suffering of these new comers reaching Qamishly with almost nothing”. Although assuming that his home has been destroyed, Mahmoud hopes that he can return and rebuild it one day.

UN inter-agency convoy reaches towns in Homs for the first time in six months



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People in hard-to-reach areas usually have very limited services and facilities and are subject to hardship as these areas are extremely disadvantaged in terms of accessibility. Therefore, UNHCR through missions, inter-agency missions and regular programmes always works hard to deliver humanitarian assistance to those in need there.

On 13 and 21 October, UNHCR participated in two inter-agency convoy cross-line missions to the hard-to-reach areas; Al Ghanto, Ter Malah, Jaborien and Kradasniah located in the northern side of Homs city which were last reached in April 2014. The trucks carried Core Relief Items (CRI) including blankets, mattresses, plastic sheets, sanitary napkins, baby and adult diapers, jerry cans and hygiene kits for **5,800** vulnerable families/**29,000** individuals in these areas.

Since the beginning of the year so far, UNHCR has reached **93** hard-to-reach areas in Hassakeh, Raqqah, Aleppo, Homs, Hama, Daraa, Idlib and Rural Damascus including the access to **five** besieged areas in Aleppo, Homs and Rural Damascus.

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These are the 2013 and 2014 donors for the Syrian situation

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