



قطاع الحماية والرعاية الاجتماعية في سوريا
Protection and Community Services Sector inside Syria

Syria Protection and Community Services Sector Factsheet 2016 April

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

In the first four months of 2016,
677,000 persons
have received services provided by
protection and community services
partners working inside Syria.

A total of 232,000 girls and
207,000 boys have benefitted from
a variety of services.

In 2016

- **137,000 persons** have received socio-economic support to increase their capacity to minimize protection risks.
- **215,000 persons** have benefitted from awareness raising activities through direct contact with service providers.
- **179,000 persons** have received much needed psychosocial support to cope with the consequences of the crisis.
- **Over 10,000 persons** have received legal services, notably on personal and identity documentation.

In 2016

29 Syrian NGOs and 4
international NGOs are
implementing programs in
protection and community services
under the Sector and Sub-Sector's
umbrella in 95 Sub-Districts.

KEY FIGURES

An estimated **7.2 million** people in
Syria require protection and community
services.

Humanitarian actors estimate that
6.5 million persons are internally
displaced due to the crisis.

450,000 Palestine Refugees are
affected by the crisis and require
protection and community services.

Background

The Protection and Community Services Sector (PCSS) brings together protection and community services actors in Syria to ensure effective coordination of the response to the needs of the persons affected by the crisis, avoid duplication, share best practices and develop strategies and joint responses to address protection challenges. The Sector provides advice to the Humanitarian Coordinator and the Humanitarian Country Team on protection advocacy and interventions, and assists other Sectors to mainstream protection principles and standards in their humanitarian response.

The PCSS is led by UNHCR and currently has 17 members, including UN agencies, National and International NGOs. It has two sub-working groups: Child Protection (CP), led by UNICEF with 17 members, and Gender Based Violence (GBV), led by UNFPA with 19 members.

The Sector's objectives, as per the 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan, are to (1) Increase the protection of affected people at risk from the consequences of the crisis through sustained advocacy, risk mitigation and enhanced protection responses; (2) Strengthen the capacity of national community-based actors to assess, analyse and respond to protection needs; (3) Girls and boys affected by the crisis, with a focus on those most at risk in prioritized locations, have access to effective and quality child protection responses in line with the CP Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Action; (4) Survivors of GBV have access to quality comprehensive GBV services, and measures are in place to prevent and reduce risks of GBV; and (5) Reduce the impact of explosive remnants through risk education activities.

Achievements Response

- Members of the PCSS, CP and GBV Sub-Sectors continue to participate in Inter Agency Convoys. By end of April, UN Agencies participating in the convoys have identified protection issues in seven locations (estimated 374,000 persons) using tools developed by the PCSS and Sub-Sectors. Observations have established the inextricable link between different protection risks, where the very situation of besiegement significantly increases such risks and has prevented a response. The most evident impact of besiegement is on freedom of movement of civilians who remain trapped in unsafe areas. A number of families have been separated, including children from their parents, particularly when a siege has been suddenly imposed. Lack of access to safety is particularly acute in cases that require urgent medical treatment. Indications of severe trauma could be observed with children being particularly affected. People in all locations expressed the need to register civil status and get identity documentation, and records are kept at local level with the intention to eventually integrate them in the civil registry. Particular protection risks for boys and girls were noted. Access to education has been severely impacted due to destroyed or damaged schools, lack of school supplies, and qualified teachers. Constrained access to education appears to be also linked to the situation of children who have been recruited into armed groups. While early marriage was a pre-existing practice, the age of marriage has considerably decreased, particularly affecting girls. UN Protection Agencies are taking up these issues with relevant authorities and relevant parties on behalf of affected populations.
- Community-based responses by Sector partners are significantly growing. Since end of 2015, community centers have increased from 30 to 43, outreach volunteers from 520 to 1,170, child friendly spaces from 125 to 141 and women and girls safe houses from 15 to 22. This expansion is enabling partners to address needs in a more comprehensive way in more sub districts and communities. In some governorates, State services are being mapped along with those of humanitarian partners to strengthen integrated responses. These efforts will be further extended to other areas of the countries in 2016. IT tools have been developed to support the outreach and community work ensuring adequate referrals and consistency across the humanitarian protection and community services responses.
- The PCSS reviewed and endorsed a UNHCR-drafted paper on "Protection and Humanitarian Considerations for the Engagement of Humanitarian Actors in Situations of Negotiated Ceasefires and Related Humanitarian Evacuations in Syria" which aims to further improve humanitarian response in such situations from a principled and operationally sound perspective. The document was presented to the Humanitarian Country Team, which is reviewing it with a view to endorsing it.

Gaps and Challenges

- In view of the rapid expansion of protection and community services, national partners are sharply increasing the number of staff who require specialized training.
- Identification of protection and community services needs to better respond to the situation of affected population.
- Access to persons affected has improved throughout the year, and should be further increased to respond to the existing needs in protection and community services.
- There continues to be a gap in partners working on specialized areas, such as legal assistance and issues related to GBV and long-term capacity-building initiatives continue to be required to develop expertise.

Human Interest

Najwa's Story

Najwa and her family were forced to flee their home in Al-Salheen neighborhood in eastern Aleppo three years ago eventually moving to the Tishreen shelter in western Aleppo. “We fled our home under fire and heavy shelling. My eldest son, Mohammed was five months old back then. Thank God I managed to run carrying him in one hand and a small bag in the other hand.” Her husband suffers from schizophrenia but she explains that his condition worsened after the displacement and losing his job. The rest of her family, including her parents and two siblings, were divided between Turkey and the Syrian coastal city of Jableh. She has not seen them for over three years. “My two daughters, Afifah (2), and Fatimah (1), were born in the shelter, I struggle every day to secure their needs” she says. Najwa and her family are benefiting from UNHCR’s supported health care services, psychosocial support, and recreational activities provided by the community center supported by UNHCR inside Tishreen shelter.

UNHCR community centres are the base of operations for the provision of protection services to the community as well as a safe haven and a space for socialization, mobilization and interaction among the displaced and local communities. It provides the community with educational support, awareness raising activities, vocational training, in-kind assistance, psychosocial support and social activities. Each center throughout Syria serves over 1,000 persons per week.

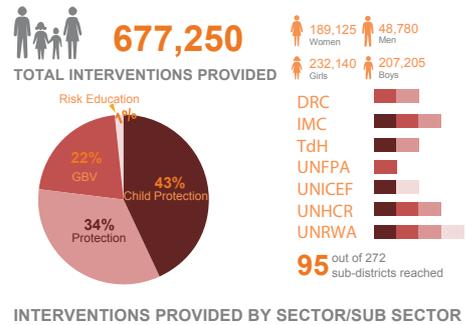
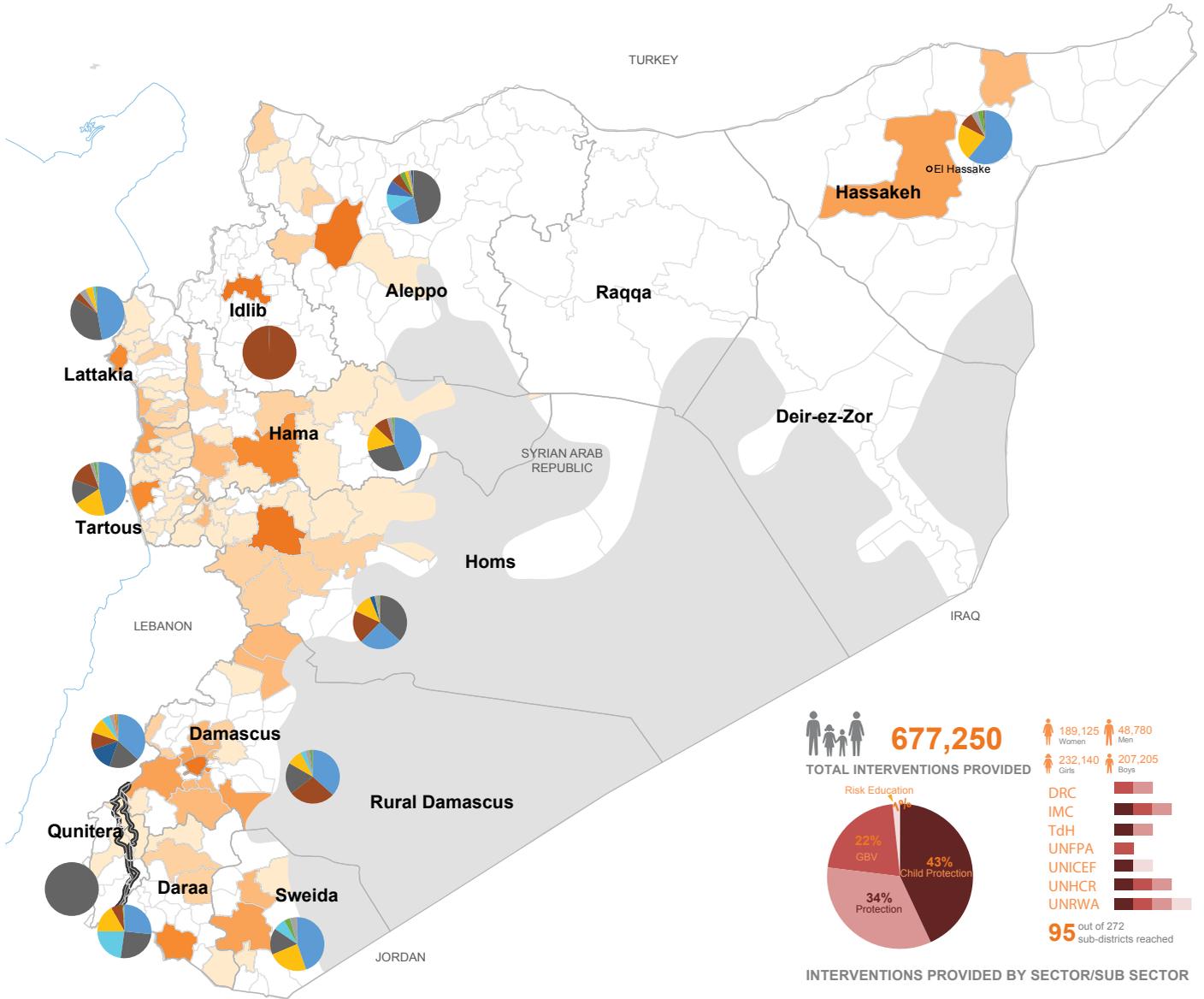


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Sector Leader	Partners of the Protection Sector
 <p>UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency مفوضية الأمم المتحدة للاجئين</p>	

Protection and Community Services Sector

April

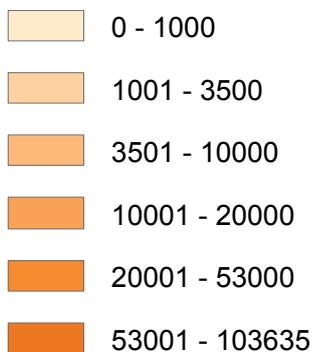


PROTECTION
230,745 beneficiaries

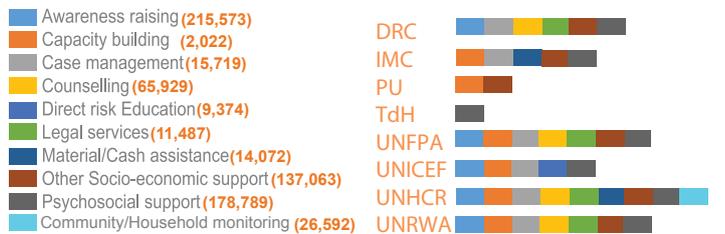
GENDER BASED VIOLENCE
144,945 beneficiaries

CHILD PROTECTION
301,560 beneficiaries

TOTAL_REACHED



INTERVENTIONS BY CATEGORY OF PROTECTION ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS



Protection partners also provided group and community activities like Focus group discussions and awareness campaigns (49 campaigns organized had taken place over the reporting period). 2,854 recreation and early childhood development kits were also distributed. Two organizations from the community were supported for self management in addition to 04 small business associations supported to improve