

2021

# ANNUAL PROGRAMME NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY 2021 – 31 DECEMBER 2021

## **UN Joint Programme to Build and Strengthen Urban and Rural Resilience and the Conditions for Recovery in Syria**

Damascus – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022



A UN system-wide service hosted by



## UN Joint Programme to Build and Strengthen Urban and Rural Resilience and the Conditions for Recovery in Syria

### ANNUAL PROGRAMME<sup>1</sup> NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY 2021 – 31 DECEMBER 2021

<b>Programme Title &amp; Project Number</b>	<b>Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results<sup>2</sup></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programme Title: UN Joint Programme to Build and Strengthen Urban and Rural Resilience and the Conditions for Recovery in Syria</li> <li>MPTF Office Project Reference Number<sup>3</sup>: 00116116 (EC) 00118029 (non-EC)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcome 1:</b> Urban Area-based Recovery and Neighbourhoods Plans that are responsive to community’s needs, particularly the most vulnerable groups, are developed, delivered, and monitored in an inclusive participatory and conflict-sensitive manner at local level.</p> <p><b>Outcome 2:</b> Basic and social services restored, improved, and sustained to enhance community resilience and social cohesion</p> <p><b>Outcome 3:</b> Households and communities, benefit from sustainable livelihood opportunities, including economic recovery and enhancing social cohesion and community security</p>
<b>Participating Organization(s)</b>	<b>Implementing Partners</b>
FAO, UNDP, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, and WFP	TBD
<b>Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</b>	<b>Programme Duration</b>
Total approved budget as per project document: \$70,766,349 MPTF /JP Contribution <sup>4</sup> :	Overall Duration (months): 51 inc. extension till 31 June 2023

<sup>1</sup> The term “programme” is used for programmes, Joint Programmes, and projects.

<sup>2</sup> Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g., UNDAF) or project document.

<sup>3</sup> The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as “Project ID” on the project’s factsheet page the MPTF Office GATEWAY

<sup>4</sup> The MPTF or JP Contribution, refers to the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations, which is available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY

<p>FAO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ \$1,960,639 (00116116)</li> <li>▪ \$655,562 (00118029)</li> </ul> <p>UNDP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ \$4,133,346 (00116116)</li> <li>▪ \$1,298,087 (00118029)</li> </ul> <p>UNFPA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ \$1,822,188 (00116116)</li> <li>▪ \$684,625 (00118029)</li> </ul> <p>UNHABITAT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ \$2,068,887 (00116116)</li> <li>▪ \$899,625 (00118029)</li> </ul> <p>UNICEF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ \$3,068,483 (00116116)</li> <li>▪ \$1,791,186 (00118029)</li> </ul> <p>WFP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ \$2,485,569 (00116116)</li> <li>▪ \$1,270,556 (00118029)</li> </ul>
Other contributions (donors): 0
<p><b>Total:</b></p> <p>\$ <b>6,599,641</b> (00118029)</p> <p>\$ <b>15,539,112</b> (00116116)</p>
<b>Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.</b>

<p>Start Date<sup>5</sup>: 15.01.2019</p> <p>First transfer: 24.05.2019 (00116116)</p> <p>First transfer: 06.11.2019 (00118029)</p> <p>Second transfer: 23 Sep 2020 (00116116)</p> <p>Second transfer: 23 Sep 2020 (00118029)</p> <p>Third transfer: 9 April 2021 (00116116)</p> <p>Third transfer: 9 April 2021 (00118029)</p> <p>Fourth transfer: 12 October 2021 (00116116)</p> <p>Fourth transfer: 15 October 2021 (00118029)</p> <p>Original End Date<sup>6</sup>: (14.01.2021)</p> <p>Current End date<sup>7</sup>: (31.03.2023)</p>
<b>Report Submitted By</b>
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<sup>5</sup> The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY

<sup>6</sup> As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

<sup>7</sup> If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities.

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## Abbreviations

<b>ADAP</b>	Adolescent Development and Participation	<b>NFE</b>	Non-Formal Education
<b>AOC</b>	Agreement of Cooperation	<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>BTL</b>	Back To Learning	<b>OCHA</b>	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
<b>C4D</b>	Communication for Development	<b>PICC</b>	Planning and International Cooperation Commission
<b>CFP</b>	Call For Proposal	<b>PLW</b>	Pregnant and Lactating Women
<b>CFSAM</b>	Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission	<b>PMU</b>	Programme Management Unit
<b>CWC</b>	Community Wellbeing Centre	<b>PUNOs</b>	Participating United Nations Organizations
<b>DEZ</b>	Deir-ez-Zor	<b>PWD</b>	People with Disabilities
<b>DRR</b>	Disaster Risk Reduction	<b>RC</b>	Resident Coordinator
<b>ECE</b>	Early Childhood Education	<b>RCO</b>	Resident Coordinator Office
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	<b>RH</b>	Reproductive Health
<b>FGD</b>	Focus Group Discussion	<b>SLP</b>	Supportive Learning Programme (under UNICEF terminology set)
<b>GBV</b>	Gender Based Violence	<b>SLP</b>	Seasonal Livelihood Programming (under FAO and WFP terminology set)
<b>GOPA</b>	Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East	<b>SSSD</b>	Syrian Society for Social Development
<b>HH</b>	Household	<b>TWG</b>	Technical Working Group
<b>HoAs</b>	Heads of Agencies	<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>IDP</b>	Internally Displaced People	<b>UNDSS</b>	United Nations Department of Safety and Security
<b>IP</b>	Implementing Partner	<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>IECD</b>	Institute Européen de Coopération et de Développement		
<b>JP</b>	The Joint Programme to Build and Strengthen Urban and Rural Resilience	<b>UN-Habitat</b>	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
<b>JSC</b>	Joint Steering Committee	<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children Fund
<b>LoA</b>	Letter of Agreement	<b>UNRWA</b>	United Nations Relief and Works Agency
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation	<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme of the United Nations
<b>MoE</b>	Ministry of Education – Directorate of Education	<b>WUA</b>	Water Users Association
<b>DOE</b>			
<b>MoLAE</b>	Ministry of Local Administration and Environment	<b>YFS</b>	Youth Friendly Space

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The UN Joint Programme (JP) in Syria brings together six UN implementing agencies, namely FAO, UNDP, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, and WFP, to deliver coordinated resilience and recovery-oriented interventions to communities who are still witnessing massive damage to every aspect of life and livelihoods. To date, the Syrian context has largely focused on the provision of humanitarian assistance with less emphasis on resilience efforts.

The JP on Urban and Rural Resilience is underpinned by a commitment to collective programming toward resilience solutions, applying a nuanced, area-based and conflict sensitive approach, which facilitates an optimisation of community participation inclusive of targeted efforts for the inclusion of conflict affected/traditionally marginalised groups including but not-limited-to women, youth, people with disabilities and elderly. Adherence to the application of area-based approach practices, creates an appropriate space for participatory and bottom-up led processes with a focus on the rural-urban linkages, while ensuring gender-responsive/gender-transformative and inclusive planning. The complexity of the operating environments within which the JP is operating, warrants particular effort towards ensuring interventions are identified, designed, and implemented in a manner that is accommodating of effective community engagement.

The programming decisions of the JP are informed by carefully designed consultations and workshops aiming to both build the capacities of communities to ensure meaningful engagement in participatory processes and also achieve transparent processes of arriving at agreed priority interventions. The priorities which emerge through workshop processes are then analysed by the JP Participating UN Organizations (PUNOs) who consider the balance of interventions in the target area; conflict sensitivity and risk; relationships/interdependence between interventions; opportunities for gender transformative programming; wider spatial and intersectoral considerations; before finalising proposed interventions.

The Joint Steering Committee (JSC) selected Deir-ez-Zor City and Dara'a City and their rural catchment areas as the intervention locations for the JP, based on extensive technical assessments and on ground consultations with local community and local stakeholders.

For this reporting period (1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021), the JP implemented activities on the ground were primarily under Dara'a phase I, while for Deir-ez-Zor a detailed area-based workplan was developed in a participatory manner, and endorsed by the JSC, and preparatory steps toward implementation were taken. To this end, the following main items were produced under the JP:

1. JP 2-pager document was developed and co-signed between the UN and the governmental counterparts at Damascus level guaranteeing greenlight for Dara'a phase I implementation to start on the ground as well as for the Deir-ez-Zor planning validation workshop to take place.
2. Local consultations were continued in 2021 in Deir-ez-Zor and its rural catchment area in the lead up to the planning and validation workshop.
3. The participatory planning and validation workshop held in Deir-ez-Zor in April 2021, laying grounds for finalization of Deir-ez-Zor workplan.
4. Activity work plan and budget for Deir-ez-Zor to address social and economic vulnerability in Deir-ez-Zor City and its rural catchment areas were established, approved and budget disbursed to the participating UN Agencies.

5. A JP Communication workgroup (JP CWG) was setup as an entity led by the PMU Communication Officer and composed of Communication Officers at the participating UN agencies, in parallel with the Technical Workgroup (JP TWG) to cater for all JP communication and visibility matters.
6. Communication and visibility workplan for the JP was developed under the leadership of the JP communication and advocacy officer with inputs from the JP participating agencies. By the time of reporting (31<sup>st</sup> December 2021) the workplan was reviewed, shared with the communication working group members (CWG) for further elaboration, and made ready for endorsement by the upcoming first JP Joint Steering Committee meeting in 2022 (See Annex I).
7. Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for Dara'a phase I workplan was developed, reviewed by donors, and endorsed by the JSC.
8. In the lead up to developing the Dara'a phase II workplan, the PMU along with focal points of participating UN agencies and field staff from Dara'a held a JP UN in-house workshop in Damascus to discuss consultations findings and agree on needed interventions.
9. Following to the JP UN in-house consultation workshop on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021 in Damascus, a fully-fledged participatory planning and validation workshop was held on site in Dara'a on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021, laying grounds for finalization of Dara'a phase II workplan.
10. The PMU team, along with focal points from the participating UN agencies conducted a total of seven field visits to Dara'a and to Deir-ez-Zor, to meet with and appraise the local authorities and local community on JP progress, conduct two validation and planning workshops (Deir-ez-Zor in April, and Dara'a in October) and to monitor progress in the two locations, where activities kick-started on the ground.
11. One field mission for JP Donors' Representatives (EU-Norway) to Dara'a was planned, prepared for, and successfully conducted on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.
12. One Heads of Agencies (HoAs) meeting, convened in Damascus on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021, during which briefing on status of implementation was provided and scenarios for engagement with the Government were presented, besides discussion of ex-ante vetting issues.
13. One Joint Steering Committee (JSC), convened in Damascus on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021, during which the minutes of last JSC meeting were endorsed, obstacles, outstanding issues, and next steps were discussed, besides updates on JP progress in Dara'a and Deir-ez-Zor and the planned donor mission.
14. One meeting with EU member states took place in Beirut on 15 December 2021, where the JP Manager attended and provided an overview of the JP.
15. Preparations were underway to facilitate the implementation of JP mid-term evaluation, and support field missions for a team of independent evaluators commissioned by the EU during the first quarter of 2022.

## **I. PURPOSE**

The JP has been developed to enable participating UN agencies to address critical resilience needs within targeted communities while also strengthening the resilience of displaced populations and host communities, promote social and economic recovery, strengthen rural-urban linkages, support local planning and community participation, and contribute to overall social cohesion within communities. The JP adopts a flexible programming approach, at district, sub-district, city and, neighbourhood levels with strong emphasis on community consultations and decision-making to prioritize needs and activities and select areas of intervention. Under the JP, the following results will be delivered:

1. Outcome 1: Urban Area-based Recovery and Neighbourhoods Plans that are responsive to community's needs, particularly the most vulnerable groups, are developed, delivered, and monitored in an inclusive participatory and conflict-sensitive manner at local level.

2. Outcome 2: Basic and social services restored, improved, and sustained to enhance community resilience and social cohesion.

3. Outcome 3: Households and communities benefit from sustainable livelihood opportunities, including economic recovery and enhancing social cohesion and community security.

## **II. Planning, Coordination, and Implementation Highlights**

During 2021, PMU coordinated efforts with the participating UN agencies through the Technical Working Group bi-weekly meetings, while maintaining the structure of outcome lead per each JP outcome as responsible for ensuring that all interventions under the assigned outcome are coordinated and planned coherently by the agencies participating in the outcome. Consequently, UN-Habitat was maintained as leader of Outcome 1, UNICEF leader of Outcome 2, while FAO and UNDP co-lead Outcome 3 since it is the largest outcome, and it incorporates activities by all six agencies.

PMU utilized the outcome-lead structure to conduct technical discussions with the participating agencies to finalize the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for Dara'a phase I and set indicators' values, design the Deir-ez-Zor workplan, design the Dara'a Phase II UN in-house workshop, as well as the on-site planning and validation workshops with leadership and collaboration of PMU team.

UN-Habitat in its capacity as technical adviser for JP, supported PMU's leadership role and coordination efforts between UN agencies, and provided needed inputs to support joint planning.

Until early 2021, FAO led the TWG on "Agriculture and Urban-Rural Livelihood pillar" in participation of WFP and UNDP. A plan was put to provide reliable information to all the participating agencies on types of assessments conducted and available info to understand agriculture production situation, potential livelihood interventions and the local economy in rural and urban areas, then identify potential linkages in the targeted areas.

For Dara'a phase I activities, although some agencies have designed their activities in a less-joint approach based on their own assessments done using JP fund besides other funding sources, yet upon implementation on the ground and building on the TWG continual discussions on coordination matters, the participating UN agencies managed to ensure complementarity between their interventions to the best possible extent. Results were achieved on the ground and monitored through the multiple field visits conducted by PMU team as well as by the agencies technical teams.

In Deir-ez-Zor the final planning and validation participatory workshop to develop the neighbourhoods action plans, took place in April 2021 under the leadership of PMU team, with support from the participating UN agencies focal points in Deir-ez-Zor by also using the outcome-lead structure, upon which the final interventions at city, neighbourhood and village levels were agreed on in between the local community, local authorities, and UN agencies.

The coordination between FAO and WFP on designing interventions relevant to agricultural rehabilitation, livestock subsector support, and irrigation solutions in rural areas, ensured complementarity and reduced overlaps as the two agencies jointly identified target locations and planned their activities. As a kick-start on the ground and to support vulnerable farmers in Deir-ez-Zor for winter vegetables season, FAO provided vegetable seeds, training and technical follow up with beneficiaries along the cultivation season, while the WFP distributed fertilizers and sprayers for fertilizers and pesticides.

Coordination between UNDP and UN-Habitat with regards to infrastructure, street rehabilitation and lighting, and public spaces led to better mapping of interventions to effectively integrate and complement each other work on the ground. While coordination between UN-Habitat and UNICEF lead to



complementarity in interventions related to school rehabilitation as well as surrounding green spaces and safer access interventions.

Similarly, UNFPA coordinated with the participating UN agencies to design and incorporate joint activities in DEZ and Dara'a Phase II, besides its own per-mandate activities, to promote women empowerment, youth participation, gender equality and community resilience through an effective referral mechanism between UNFPA and other participating UN agencies facilities to cover for protection, reproductive health and other related aspects in an order that links rural with urban areas. UNFPA worked with FAO, UNDP, and UNICEF to align interventions relevant to adolescent and youth development and vocational training, while coordinating with UN-Habitat regarding interventions on safer access to schools and public gardens for Youth and women.

UNFPA established the women and girl safety space in Dara'a city (Vision Centre) which is fully accessible (physically and sensory) to PWDs. The centre also provides services and activities for youth.

In 2021, UNFPA also contributed the expertise of a Senior Gender Advisor to ensure the integration of a coherent gender and diversity dimension across the whole JP and the consistent adoption of gender transformative and social inclusion approach in the design and implementation of activities by all contributing organizations. This is the second time that UNFPA provide these advisory services to serve the purpose of the JP, with a view to ensure quality, effectiveness and consistency of results and impact. Such services will continue to be at disposal of all UN contributing agencies throughout 2022.

UNICEF's interventions are also guided by an equity approach, targeting of the most vulnerable children and young people including out of school children and youth, and children, adolescents, and youth with disabilities all of whom are supported by ensuring full consultation with local stakeholders.

To the extent possible, the participating UN agencies utilized the inclusive municipal and neighbourhood planning and implementation approach to jointly implement interventions that are responsive to the local context and to people's needs in the targeted cities and their rural catchment areas. The joint planning approach will support the development of sustainable local participatory planning and implementation capacity at the neighbourhood and municipal levels.

The Joint Programme has provided an opportunity to develop a common platform to promote a coordinated and multi-sector planning and implementation approach in the selected locations with a strong focus on:

- The promotion of the capacity of civil society, communities, and institutional technical service providers for responsiveness to highest priority needs. The objective is to enable them to collectively develop, implement and monitor evidence-based policies, strategies, plans and resilience programmes.
- The delivery of essential resilience interventions to the targeted population, with particular emphasis on displaced people and host communities and people facing deprivation and different forms of vulnerability.
- The provision of sustainable livelihood opportunities to foster a more resilient society, economic recovery and social inclusion, access to social care services for the most marginalized households and communities, including a comprehensive response to gender based violence.

The Joint Programme and neighbourhood planning approach is to build upon and maximize the synergies between the existing programme activities in a way that is locally owned and can overcome the challenges facing resilience. Strengthening local participation in planning, implementation, and monitoring is essential in this regard.

The JP stakeholder engagement and consultation mechanism include local technical directorates, local government authorities, community members and community leaders, amongst other stakeholders.

### **III. RESULTS**

#### **Narrative Reporting on Results**

Under the JP, collaboration between six UN implementing agencies (FAO, UNDP, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, and WFP) serves to build upon and maximize synergies between existing UN programming tools, activities, and resources to reinforce the benefits of interventions.

Between 1 January and 31 December 2021, activities undertaken by the participating UN agencies primarily built on the results achieved in 2020 with regards to the approval and implementation of the first phase of interventions in Dara'a, in addition to the consultations conducted in Deir-ez-Zor leading to the implementation of the participatory planning and validation workshop, upon which a comprehensive activity matrix was developed and endorsed by the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) by 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021. Deir-ez-Zor activities kick started on the ground in Q4 2021.

At this stage the activities' results are relevant to the achievements on the ground made through the implementation of Dara'a phase I interventions so far in addition to a couple of activities by FAO and WFP in Deir-ez-Zor that received earlier approval due to their seasonality.

In parallel, jointly coordinated preparations to develop workplans for interventions for Dara'a phase II were being undertaken by the participating UN agencies during the reporting period, including field assessments, desk reviews of situation reports, besides meetings and interviews in order to analyse and prioritize needs. Consequently, a draft workplan for interventions for Dara'a phase II was developed and prepared for discussion and fine tuning during a technical participatory planning workshop with local community and local authorities, that took place on-site in Dara'a in late October 2021.

#### **Implementation Overview 2021**

During the reporting period, the six participating UN agencies have been applying innovative joint programming and implementation approaches in the two selected locations Dara'a and Deir-ez-Zor.

In Dara'a, the UN agencies implemented the interventions approved under Dara'a phase I workplan in a complementary manner to ensure effectiveness of response, while ensuring participation and active involvement of local community members in some aspects of implementation and monitoring of the works being done.

In Deir-ez-Zor, the participating UN agencies coordinated efforts to timely finalize their local consultations, laid rough plans for their interventions, then under the leadership of PMU, conduct the planning and validation participatory workshop in Deir-ez-Zor. Consequently, the UN agencies jointly prepared their detailed workplan for Deir-ez-Zor building on the outcomes of the validation workshop and shared with donors for review and comments before it got finally endorsed by the JSC in September.

For Dara'a phase II, the six participating UN agencies synergized the efforts of their technical field staff in Dara'a and in the central offices at Damascus level to conduct bi-lateral and joint consultations with local counterparts including local authorities technical staff, members of the community, particularly female members of the community in advance of the participatory validation and planning workshop taking place, to establish a rough baseline understanding of needs relative to their mandates, which are taken into consideration and reflected during the design and prioritization of interventions, while building on lessons learned and realistic experience resulting from the implementation of Dara'a phase I interventions.

This participatory approach ensured effective collaboration and highlighted the added value of joint programming expected to yield coherent and more impactful results.

The following is an overview of the results achieved in 2021, as disaggregated by the three outcomes of the Joint Programme; while it is worth noting that these results were collectively utilized to construct the key deliverable items of the JP.

### **Outcome1: Urban Area-based Recovery and Neighbourhoods Plans developed, delivered, and monitored in an inclusive, participatory, and conflict-sensitive manner at local level**

#### **Dara'a:**



The collaboration between the JP participating UN agencies serves to implement high quality interventions. Initially, Participating UN agencies developed joint methodology notes using their various in-house capacities to inform the modality of joint/complimentary activities. UN-Habitat and UNDP have developed a joint methodology note for local planning and community engagement process for example, where multiple consultative and participatory workshops were held with local communities and neighbourhood representatives

as part of UN-Habitat's activities to bring together all JP partner agencies with local representatives to (a) develop neighbourhood action plans leveraging the experiences and gains of UN-Habitat's Municipal Technical Office Support (MTOS) Project, and (b) ensure the recovery planning processes under the JP is area-based and conflict sensitive in design. Furthermore, the JP through UN-Habitat has organized multiple supplementary technical joint workshops and planning activities in Dara'a with participation of local community representatives and national stakeholders including women and people with disabilities to complement the wider consultative processes as may be needed. This includes efforts to 'ready' community representatives for their engagement in participatory workshops and consultative processes, building their capacities to ensure optimised participation and the setting of expectations. This is further elaborated below.

Additionally, UNFPA undertook data collection activities in support of the JP's Outcome 1, utilizing the 'Urban Area-based and Neighbourhood Planning Approach'. UNFPA Syria Country Office (CO) and field staff conducted several independent and joint consultations with other UN agencies through inter-agency missions and focus group discussions (FGDs) as follows:

- Four inter-agency missions, including (2) two with the JP Project Management Unit (PMU) and some of the JP participating UN agencies (UNICEF, FAO, UN-Habitat and UNDP) Communication focal points, (1) one with the JP PMU and donors' representatives, and (1) one with the JP PMU and some of the JP participating UN agencies focal points to evaluate the implementation process on ground.

12 FGDs with 140 community members participated (80 females + 60 Males) in both urban and rural communities in Dara'a Governorate to identify the most important risks/vulnerabilities, the causes of the identified risks/vulnerabilities, and local capacities in addressing them. UNFPA ensured the availability of safe spaces for women to participate in the FGDs. Out of 12 FGDs, UNFPA performed seven FGDs with women only, and put in place very strict discussions standards that gave them equal and safe opportunities to participate. The results of the FGDs were used to inform the community initiatives support activity, in relation to Outcome 3.

The conducted consultations, assessments, and missions' findings allowed for greater and clearer definition of potential project interventions in relation to the identified needs. It also enabled UNFPA and the other participating agencies to prioritize activities under Dara'a work-plan for both phases I & II.

UNFPA formulated its activities to be in harmony with participating UN agencies' efforts, in order to cover current resilience needs, and maximize the benefits for the targeted communities. Furthermore, UNFPA worked on linking the market and community needs and identifying the urban and rural linkage areas, jointly with FAO and UNDP.

Throughout the reporting period, UNFPA conducted six field visits between February, May, June, August, November, and December 2021, to follow-up on the implementation on the ground, continually assess the changing needs, and follow up on emerging challenges.

Community Engagement and Community Capacity Enhancement is an approach the JP is following to strengthen the capacity of local actors to move beyond awareness-raising. In Dara'a governorate, community representative benefitted from capacity development sessions and workshops conducted by UN-Habitat and UNDP in coordination with other PUNOs aiming to enhance communication and negotiation skills as well as facilitate community decision-making processes from within. This approach has proved to be an important aspect of ensuring meaningful participation from communities across the various consultative efforts at both project and programme levels within the JP. It was also adopted during the local consultation and validation workshop conducted in Deir-ez-Zor governorate and will continue to be implemented and enhanced where opportunities exist.

The JP applies this activity to also support social cohesion through participatory planning, community dialogue and outreach to high-risk groups like unemployed youth, allowing for smaller scale and discrete discussions, where confidence and trust can be built within a small group setting, prior to undertaking wider consultative processes.

One of the JP contributions towards sustainability is the cross sectoral and multi-dimensional capacity building efforts of individuals as well as organizations obtained through the JP PUNOs. An example on these efforts is the NGO Capacity Building activity implemented by UNDP for Dara'a based NGOs. For UNDP, effective capacity development responses for NGOs begin with three fundamental questions (1) What are the gaps/what kinds of capacities need to be developed? (2) To what end do we need to develop the capacity? And (3) How can we benefit from the existing capacities? The answers to these questions were informed by the Gaps and Needs Assessment executed by UNDP as a first step. Subsequent to that, a strategic and participatory planning two-day workshop was conducted. The workshop aimed to create opportunities for well functional NGOs to take on a leadership role as well as for newly established NGOs to enhance their capacity through the twinning initiatives<sup>8</sup>. The ultimate goal of this activity is the development of an online platform that aim to support joint mapping and capacity building by obtaining, strengthening, and maintaining the capabilities of participating NGOs to set and achieve their own development objectives over time. The back-end development of the platform has been completed, and currently UNDP is in the process of developing the front-end design.

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<sup>8</sup> Twinning has been applied by UNDP Civic Empowerment Programme proved to have long and good impact on the twinned NGOs. Twinning takes place on geographic or thematic bases. The aim of twinning is to channel know-how, skills, lessons learned, it also strengthens integration and coordination among twinned NGOs

## **Deir-ez-Zor:**

Similar to Dara'a Participatory consultations sessions targeting local communities and representatives were organized to jointly collect and identify current/pressing needs, map the risks and resources and priorities activities. This work involved all agencies of the JP working collectively to agree priority needs and again leveraged the prior work of UN-Habitat in building upon previous recovery planning. The approaches used in Deir-ez-Zor, considered the learning and experiences of Dara'a in trying to ensure a strong collective vision to guide the prioritisation processes from the onset across all agencies.

The JP conducted the Deir-ez-Zor participatory planning and validation workshop in April 2021, with the participation of local stakeholders including local community representatives, Mukhtars, neighbourhoods' committees' members, and technical staff from local government. The workshop laid the grounds for the development and finalization of the Deir-ez-Zor joint workplan by all participating agencies. The workplan approval took place in September 2021 and the funds were disbursed around mid-October 2021.

Upon receiving the JSC's approval for Deir-ez-Zor workplan, the JP participating agencies in Deir-ez-Zor together worked on setting up preliminary preparations for implementation on the ground, and discussed in details areas of complementarities, coherence, and enhancement of joint work. UNFPA jointly with UNICEF and UNDP conducted two inter-agency field visits in August and November 2021 to the following neighbourhoods in Deir-ez-Zor city, Boghaliyah, Hettin, Hamiedeyah, Rushdyeh, Tishreen, Sina'a and Jebeileh. During the visits, the agencies conducted detailed technical needs assessments to identify the appropriate locations for the Community Wellbeing Centre (CWC) along with the satellite points related and the youth friendly space. The presence of the UN hub in DEZ city staffed with well-versed technical staff who are familiar with the context in the area, facilitated the technical assessments and enabled better coordination between the participating agencies due to the proximity of the offices and the ability to hold as many as needed coordination and discussion meetings.

## **Outcome2: Basic and social services restored, improved, and sustained.**

### **Dara'a:**

As a mean of providing targeted guidance in the area of vulnerability criteria and risk as may be specific for project level considerations, a joint methodology note developed through joint efforts by the PUNOs (UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP), addressed vulnerability criteria and risk dimensions that will support formulating social protection and social cohesion interventions under the JP.

UNICEF, WFP and UNFPA have reached out to about 4,700 children with disabilities through Non-Formal Education components by UNICEF, while WFP supported around 264 Out of school children by food voucher assistance as well as protection support for girls by UNFPA. Many areas in Dara'a sub-district are witnessing considerable numbers of returnees from inside and outside Syria. However, most school-aged children from among the returnees have suffered from education loss due to multiple displacement and COVID-19 precaution measures causing their low achievement in schools or even drop out.

Due to severe level of destruction in Dara'a including in Dara'a Al Balad neighbourhoods, rehabilitation of gardens and safer access activities for students through improved pathways and street solar lighting is one of the JP's interventions through both UN-Habitat and UNDP activities. The aforementioned agencies along with UNICEF are working closely to maximize the impact of support through complementary activities and synergies. The civil works and installation are near completion, and the support is expected to provide over 5,000 students, particularly girls with safer access and connectivity to schools and public gardens, among a host of wider benefits. UN-Habitat has worked to restore targeted cultural heritage and market areas of the city, through rehabilitation of the central medians, paved areas, and footpaths along the main access routes to these localities which will also be supported with solar lighting. Moreover, UN-Habitat and UNDP's wider installation of solar lighting in various targeted areas of the city have provided significant benefits including the enabling of a return to economic activity in hours of darkness.



UNDP and UN-Habitat also jointly contributed to the improvement of sanitary and hygiene conditions and the revival of key areas by providing solid waste and debris removal services and the reparation of vital streets. These interventions teamed with the installation of solar street lighting units and rehabilitation of open spaces (gardens) within the catchment area of schools has provided a significant boost to the restoration of basic and social services in Dara'a.

The inadequate management of waste and debris can pose serious threats to human health and the environment and undermine economic and social development. Dara'a governorate has limited capacity for solid waste management and debris removal, due to malfunctioning of available waste/debris collection vehicles and waste containers in Dara'a were misappropriated. Through Solid Waste Management (SWM) and Debris removal intervention, the JP through UNDP, contributed to clearing 12 neighbourhoods in both Dara'a Al Balad and Dara'a Al Mahatta by removing 9,758 tons of solid waste. UNDP's long-term objective is to support the provision of technical and municipal services to people in Dara'a and ensure its sustainability. To achieve this objective, UNDP provided more than 500 equipment and tools to local actors to support in collecting waste and planning to do light maintenance for waste collection and debris removal equipment.

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UNICEF and partners were able to finalize all Back to Learning (BTL) activities. UNICEF implementing partner (Al Birr NGO) conducted a back to learning campaign through door-to-door visits as well as phone calls with their beneficiaries. Through these activities, UNICEF raised awareness on the importance of education, informed parents, and caregivers on opportunities for education, as well as collected information about out of school children using a UNICEF-Communication for Development (C4D) survey. As a result, UNICEF partner was able to successfully reach a total of 14,000 children and caregivers (3,137 children including those with disabilities (1,252 girls and 1,885 boys out of school) and 10,863 caregivers (5,736 men and 5,127 women) in Dara'a city including Dara'a Al-Balad neighbourhoods.

The children in Syria continue to experience multiple barriers to pursue their schooling, including active ongoing military operations, displacement, and lack of available quality education services in specific areas. The project activities are focused on investing into improving access to formal schools through rehabilitation and strengthening opportunities to learn for out-of-school and at-risk children through non-formal education (NFE).

The project supported a total of 4,723 children including 1,009 out of school children (OoSC) (570 girls and 439 boys), and 3,714 at risk of dropping out (2,121 girls and 1,593 boys), including children with disabilities in NFE programme.

a) Self-learning programme

During the reporting period, a total of 335 OoSC (116 girls and 219 boys) benefited from the supportive learning programme using the self-learning materials. Out of these, 233 are out of school children with disabilities (90 girls and 143 boys) supported with tailored education interventions based on their disabilities needs. Furthermore, 674 children (454 girls and 220 boys) were provided with exam support for Grades 9 and 12.

b) Remedial classes

Under this activity implemented in Dara'a city and Dara'a Al-Balad, UNICEF was able to reach a total of 3,714 children at risk of dropping out (2,121 girls and 1,593 boys) with remedial classes including 944 children with disabilities (471 girls and 473 boys).

All the above-mentioned children benefitted from life skills activities to support their wellbeing and improve their comprehension skills through play and psychosocial support (PSS) activities. These OoSC were also provided with self-learning books and school bags with stationery. Conflict broke out between government-allied forces and non-state armed groups in Dara'a Al-Balad (population: 55,000<sup>9</sup>) on 24 June and continued until September. The fighting displaced 36,424 people,<sup>10</sup> and the resilience-related activities by the JP PUNOs had to be suspended until a reconciliation was reached around mid-September, since the suddenly emerging displacements required a swift humanitarian response by the UN agencies.

Prior to the opening of Dara'a Al-Balad, UNICEF supported a total of 502 children (248 girls and 254 boys) who benefited from NFE services including out of school children, children at risk of dropping out, as well as candidates for 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grades national examination. These services were provided in the UNICEF implementing partner building and in a school in Dara'a Al Mahatta since all schools in Dara'a Al-Balad which were used as centres for non-formal education activities became inaccessible.

To ensure the provision of quality education services to the children, UNICEF provided a total of 310 teachers (274 females and 36 males) in non-formal settings with pedagogical skills trainings including active learning, life-skills as well skills to enable them work with children with disabilities.

UNICEF is working on expanding physical access to quality learning, ensuring that children have safe access to learning spaces, including the most vulnerable children. Unfortunately, the clashes arose during June – September obliged UNICEF to temporarily suspend its activities under the JP which consequently caused some delay in implementation. The rehabilitation contract was awarded in December 2021 and UNICEF will start the rehabilitation work for the schools of Salem Al Johamani and Yarmouk in March 2022, UNICEF requested the EU's approval on the heavier rehabilitation work in Faisal Bajboj school, which was granted, and the mentioned school will also be rehabilitated.

The original plan was to rehabilitate eight schools, however, due to the increased market prices as a result of the ongoing economic crisis and based on the assessment results, the phase funds allowed UNICEF to commit in early 2021 to only five schools. Due to the difficulties experienced for vetting positively the proposed contractor, UNICEF relied on other sources of funds as sensitivity rose in the community. The crisis in Dara'a took place in July 2021, preventing UNICEF from conducting further assessments in other

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<sup>9</sup> OCHA, [Dara'a Flash Update: Hostilities in Dara'a Governorate](#), posted: 2 August 2021.

<sup>10</sup> OCHA, [Syria: Dara'a Governorate Situation Report As of 7 September 2021](#), posted 7 September 2021.

schools. The start of assessment was only possible in late September 2021 after Dara'a Al- Balad was accessible again.

### **Criteria of schools' selection for rehabilitation**

UNICEF uses the below criteria when selecting schools for rehabilitation:

- Schools affected by crisis and located in safe and populated newly accessible areas.
- Schools located in areas where the Education severity scale is 3 to 6 (As per education sector severity scale revised yearly).
- Schools located in areas with high numbers of out of school children with links to high severity scale.
- School with a level of damage distributed from light to heavy.
- Schools located in area with large concentration of returnees and displaced population and children.
- Schools with crowded classrooms or double shift.
- Schools selected for providing Curriculum B.
- Schools that have been used as shelters.

### **Scope of work**

UNICEF is currently continuing rehabilitation of schools that ensure safe return of children to their schools and learning in a safe and child friendly environment. The response includes rehabilitation of damaged schools, which might include reinforcement of some structural elements. This includes school equipment, furniture, desks, whiteboards, and other learning materials to make an enabling learning environment.

All rehabilitated schools are to be inclusive and support the need of children with disabilities and learning difficulties and also include gender-sensitive WASH facilities. The elements of the rehabilitation include:

- Major repairs. (Walls, tiles, fence, play-yard, etc.).
- Repair/rehabilitation/reinforcement of damaged slabs, beams, columns, structural walls, and other necessary structural elements to complete the rehabilitation work and make the buildings safe for use.
- Repair and/or replacement of doors, and windows.
- Special arrangements for children with special needs (handrails in the corridors of first floor, and ramps in school entrances.).
- Repair and maintenance of electro-mechanical systems.
- Repair and rehabilitation of roofs and ceilings for water tightness and restoration of the damaged drain components.
- Painting of classrooms, corridors, and main entrance where necessary with child friendly colours and constructive drawing related to education or hygiene.
- Playgrounds' improvement including installation/repair of playground equipment if applicable.
- Rehabilitation of school boundary walls.

### **Deir-ez-Zor:**

Like Dara'a, the JP PUNOs prepared their interventions guided by the processes to jointly identify needs and priorities. Projects were detailed and planned for supported by individual and joint agency missions, leveraging the presence of the UN Hub colleagues and collective in-house discussions and meetings. The



PUNO's laid plans to conduct their interventions addressing light rehabilitation of infrastructure (water, sewage, and electricity network) largely in the vicinity of schools, roads, and green spaces rehabilitation accompanied by activities such as the provision of solar lighting, solid waste management etc.

**Outcome3: Households and communities benefit from sustainable livelihood opportunities, including economic recovery and enhancing social cohesion and community security**

**Dara'a:**

FAO, UNDP, and WFP have each developed an integrated assessment methodology, which was jointly discussed to inform and support the planning of resilience-based interventions relating to agriculture and livelihoods in support of local economy and food security in urban and rural areas. For example, recognizing the urgency for rehabilitating irrigation infrastructure to restoring food production capacity and building people's resilience for food and nutrition security FAO has commenced the rehabilitation of 5 collective wells in the Green Belt area in south and east Dara'a. Also, it is working now to rehabilitate the Ghadeer Al-Bustan main canal and irrigation network. Both interventions will enable farmers and flock herders to have access to water for their crops, fruit trees and livestock. To enable good governance, collective and sustainable use of the rehabilitated resources, FAO is facilitating the establishment of 8 Water Users Associations (WUAs), while supporting the restoration of water resources to provide drinking water for important productive assets such as sheep and cows, in addition to providing irrigation water for crops and fruit trees. The intervention is expected to improve the livelihoods of 18,000 farmers and livestock keepers.

Prior to commencing the rehabilitation of irrigation structures FAO conducted assessment (Annex G.) on the natural resources in the watershed of Dara'a. The assessment included desk studies, remote sensing, and socio-economic assessment. The priority areas for interventions that ensures sustainable use of water resources were selected based on the outcome of this study.

FAO is supporting vulnerable rural women and youth to have access to sustainable agricultural livelihood opportunities through building their entrepreneurship skills and enhancing their business management capacity for agriculture related livelihood opportunities. This includes a more focus on market-oriented production to enhance their access to market to increase their profit, improve their livelihood and eventually contribute to an improved food and nutrition security. A Training programme in this regard was developed and delivered to 85 beneficiaries (51 women and 34 men). To maximise the impact of this programme in responding to the needs, UNFPA will complement the FAO activity to help respond to and address the multiple needs of local communities. The project proposals developed during the training, if supported could become a seed for future small business. The support will focus on providing seed funding and technical follow up for their starts-ups. In this regard FAO has developed a grants manual tailored to accommodate the Syrian conditions which include the steps for this training, selections criteria for beneficiaries at each step and the eligibility criteria to select the best project proposals.



The JP, within the scope of its livelihoods activities through UNDP, has provided critical support to reviving more than 90 local businesses and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), who lost some or all of their livelihoods' assets through provision of start-up grants to reactivate their businesses aiming to re-establish their income generating and entrepreneurial endeavours. Additionally, UNDP provided vocational training to 50 beneficiaries to enhance their skills and equip them with new ones, in order to help them engage in economic activities, access employment, and improve their coping capacities and

resilience. Also, Under Outcome 3, the JP through UNDP provided 45 prosthetic services along with psychosocial support and around 180 post treatment rehab sessions to PWD.

Young people in the targeted locations have access to package of age and gender appropriate services including skills development and social and civic engagement opportunities. Youth benefited from skills' development programme including life skills and citizenship education which focuses on domains such as relationship skills, decision making, social awareness and self-management skills, including creative and critical thinking, communication skills, dealing with stressful and challenging situations, teamwork and problem solving, in addition to social skills such as listening, communicating, understanding, collaborating, and accepting others.

During the reporting period, UNICEF and partners were able to reach a total of 9,034 young people, with youth empowerment, skill development and vocational interventions as per below in Dara'a city, Taffas, Dara'a Al Balad, and Naseeb.

Adolescents and youth in Dara'a lack opportunities for skills development. Many adolescents and youth are poorly skilled, and do not acquire adequate educational and professional assets to successfully navigate the important transition into adulthood and sustainable livelihoods. UNICEF focused on strengthening and improving access to skills-development programming, and it also promoted alternative pathways and learning beyond schools while implementing skills-development programming. UNICEF supported the development of foundational, transferrable, and technical programming (such as entrepreneurship) to prepare adolescents for a better future.

UNICEF supported the employability of female and male adolescents and youth and provided them with opportunities for economic self-empowerment. These include also creating fora for adolescents to generate economic or social value for them as individuals, or for their peer groups and communities.

1. A total of 1,008 young people including 627 females, were provided with demand-driven technical and vocational training.
2. A total of 460 adolescent and young girls were provided with gender sensitive skill-building.
3. A total of 546 young people including 308 females, benefitted from promoting work readiness, entrepreneurship, and employability skills (entrepreneurship skills training, apprenticeships and internships, job matching, employment coordination, mentoring and job shadowing).

Through Adolescent Development and Participation (ADAP) programme, adolescents, and youth (10-24 years old) have been supported through integrated package of services and opportunities. This includes providing skills-development courses including life skills and citizenship education (communication skills, problem solving, dealing with stressful and challenging situations, teamwork).

UNICEF focused on the most vulnerable adolescents and youth especially those not in schools, where:

- A total of 4,052 (1,909 females) young people provided with learning opportunities for life skills and citizenship education exceeding the target of 2,000.
- A total of 1,052 (593 females) most vulnerable young people provided with skill-building for young people.
- Over 450 young girls and female adolescents were provided with gender sensitive skill-building.

The JP PMU with JP PUNOs focal points conducted multiple field visits to Dara'a during 2021 to monitor the implementation of different activities by the JP PUNOs and visited in particular some beneficiaries from the livelihoods' interventions and vocational training, who were making good progress on utilizing the assets and/or the training provided. Further, the PUNOs field staff in Dara'a conducts regular follow up with beneficiaries of livelihoods to ensure their connection to the local business/employment market and to help address any concerns such people may face in the progress of improving their lives.

Social cohesion and resilience in Dara'a require full and meaningful engagement of adolescents and youth, to ensure that they reach their fullest potential and that they have skills and opportunities to positively contribute to society.

The ADAP programme contributed to and ensured coordination of initiatives to support the development of social, economic, and civic skills and opportunities for adolescents and youth.

- A total of 1,916 (616 females) beneficiaries benefited from social, civic, and digital engagement opportunities through volunteerism and social cohesion activities.

Unemployment risks for the youth needs attention. UNFPA and UNDP have conducted a Youth-Lead Market Assessment (YLMA) Building on that, the JP through UNFPA is working on supporting the capacity development of over 3,000 young Syrians to enhance access to livelihoods opportunities and their integration. The idea is to support them with self-reliance and the ability to generate income through skills and vocational training, hence not resorting to negative coping mechanisms and reduce dependency on humanitarian aid. Moreover, UNFPA and UN-Habitat have provided safer access through improved lighting and multi-purpose centres rehabilitated for protection services and its surrounding areas.

Through the UNFPA-supported facility in Dara'a, UNFPA's implementing partner provided social support to 878 women, 40 girls, 900 youth and 194 boys. In the next phase in Dara'a, and in addition to the social support, UNFPA will focus on provision of sustainable economic empowerment support. Besides, and in cooperation with relevant national and international stakeholders, UNFPA will support in performing research to enable communities (with special focus on women) to tackle climate change risks.



The JP through WFP has provided nutrition assistance to 1,000 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and girls in Dara'a, to prevent chronic and acute malnutrition and improve their dietary diversity, which is an increasing concern in Syria. Through WFP cash-based transfer (value vouchers), the JP contributes to ensuring that poor households, often female-headed households, are able to save and spend money on things related to livelihoods. In addition, the PLWG go through UNFPA clinics and safe space

to ensure tackling any health needs during their pregnancy, furthermore, they attend awareness raising sessions around GBV, safe space, hotlines and existent related processes and referral paths.

A focus on resilience can bolster the self-reliance of communities exposed to recurring or compounded disasters, such as epidemics or extreme events like drought hits, also strengthen institutions reliant on short-term interventions to break the cycle of crisis and recovery. Aligning humanitarian and non-humanitarian

activities around collective outcomes can provide a potent accelerator for achieving sustainable gains by reducing need, vulnerabilities, and risks.

With the socio-economic status further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the deteriorated economy, there is renewed urgency to make greater efforts to reduce needs, risk and vulnerabilities and scale up investment in resilience support through programmes like the UN Joint Programme.

Job creation and better access to jobs have the potential to increase incomes and contribute to more cohesive and equitable societies. Conversely, unemployment and poverty can trigger alienation that contributes to instability. Like many other cities within Syria, Dara'a is suffering from high unemployment rate. For these reasons, UNDP activities include an emergency job creation component. UNDP contributed to the creation of 900 temporary job opportunities over 6 months, through its Solid Waste Management Activity and 70 emergency job opportunities across various activities such as Solar Lighting, Social Cohesion etc. In the emergency employment creation predominantly, unskilled labour is employed to carry out public works schemes or other short-term activities prioritized by affected communities such as Solid Waste Management. The objective of emergency employment is to support immediate livelihood stabilization for vulnerable communities. Emergency employment interventions enable the rapid injection of cash into the local economy and mobilize activities that benefit entire community, in a step that will further support the community's resilience.

Since social cohesion plays an essential role in achieving JP main objectives, four social cohesion (SC) initiative took place in Dara'a aiming to foster community trust and cohesion. 283 people participated and 212 youth trained on community organization, dialogue facilitation to enhance the decision-making process and provide opportunities and mechanisms for participants to voice their opinions in influencing decision making and enhance their community participation motivating them to be change agents themselves rather than targets for change.

The completed activities are as follows: "Space of Peace" which includes organizing a number of social activities and events in the park such as (1) Cleaning and beautifying the park (2) Holding dialogue and awareness sessions for the residents and youth of the neighbourhood to address the issues facing youth and enhance their knowledge about their rights/duties (3) Drawing Exhibition and (4) Establishing a charitable activity to collect and offer money and children's games to the affected family.

"Take A Breath" The initiative was developed by a group of young people, local leaders, and volunteers in Dara'a who received a group of Training within the youth capacity building program. To understand the community context and to determine the need more accurately and objectively to enhance trust and social cohesion in the region. The airport district area was selected to implement the initiative as one of the densely populated areas. The initiative aimed to promote community cohesion among different social groups and engaging them in various community activities to break the ice and barriers between them and achieve integration the activities under this initiative include revival of the airport park by cleaning and beautifying the garden and equip an outdoor theatre that will bring together a lot of people from different neighbourhoods of Dara'a city through the establishment of interactive social activities and seminars dealing with different community problems. Moreover, cultural events were conducted to promote positive behaviour in addition to theatrical activity, storytellers and book sharing within the effectiveness of my book and your book.

Moreover, UNDP has two other ongoing social cohesion initiatives:

“Sports Pulse” The initiative includes (1) contributing to the reactivation of safe spaces for football and basketball sports, (2) afforestation campaign for the courtyard where the sports league will be held, (3) establishing Football League and (4) honorary friendly match for elderly.

“Tune” The initiative involves young people in organizing and implementing various musical, heritage, social and cultural events, it includes an introductory session where all participants met and opened various discussions, creation of folk art, formation of a theatrical etc.

Based on the consultations made with the women groups during the FGDs, and in partnership with its supported implementing partner The Syrian Society for Social Development (SSSD), UNFPA established a women’s and girls’ safe space (WGSS), called the Vision centre, in Dara’a city which also functions as a youth friendly space (YFS) in the afternoon. UNFPA has ensured that the centre is accessible to PWDs, both for physically and sensory disabilities. through:

- Facilitating access to people with mobility issues by ensuring no physical barrier at the entrance.
- Installing wide doors allowing passage of wheelchair.
- Providing all communications in braille, as well as audio (sound system) and written format.
- Installing rubber carpets on the floor to guide people with sensory disabilities.
- Providing awareness videos with signing language and subtitles.
- Ensuring WASH facilities are accessible for people with physical issues.

During the reporting period, the centre provided:

- a. GBV services and activities for women and girls, including PWDs, covering:
  - Awareness raising on GBV topics as early marriage, women rights, gender equality, concepts of Gender-Based Violence and types of violence.
  - Awareness raising on RH topics as sexually transmitted diseases, personal hygiene, puberty, pregnancy implications, family planning and PSEA.
  - Awareness raising on COVID-19 prevention.
  - Group and Individual Psychosocial support (PSS).
  - Case management.
  - UNFPA campaigns as breast cancer and 16 days Against GBV (including a Basketball League under the slogan “Let’s Stop Violence Against Women Now”).
  - In addition to activities for women, girls and PWDs including sign languages and Braille alphabet classes.
- b. Youth services and activities for boys and girls including PWDs:
  - Awareness raising on GBV topics such as child marriage, girls’ education, gender equality, concepts of Gender-Based Violence and types of violence.
  - Awareness raising on RH topics, such as adolescent health, sexually transmitted diseases, personal hygiene, puberty, family planning and PSEA.
  - Awareness raising on COVID-19 prevention.
  - Life skills training on topics such as time-management; conflict-management; communication skills; family relations and family planning.
  - Recreational activities.
  - Psychosocial Support Sessions (PSS).

The table below shows the number of beneficiaries reached during the reporting period.

Type of Service	Total target for the whole period (2021-2022)	Women and Girls Reached	Youth	Targeted PWDs (included)	PWDs Reached (included)
GBV services/RH awareness raising included	1600 (Women)	918 / 604 included	-	12	18 / 5 included
Life-Skills	125 (Youth)	-	98	4	1
Youth services	1500 (Youth)	-	901	45	50

In the fourth quarter of 2021, UNFPA and SSSD have finalized most of the preparatory arrangements to deliver the economic empowerment activities under Outcome 3, including but not limited to: perform youth-led market assessment jointly with UNDP, finalize SSSD's Annual Work Plan, capacity development to SSSD's staff on the market-support activities, capacity development on resilience programming, perform FGDs to inform community-led initiatives. Based on the market assessment, both UNFPA and SSSD have identified market opportunities in the following market systems: food processing, electricity maintenance, solar system installation and maintenance, beekeeping, carpentry, blacksmithing, training on International Computer Driving License (ICDL), accounting, mobile maintenance, and masonry. While women participation in the construction-related market systems pose some challenges considering that the targeted communities are highly conservative, UNFPA has identified opportunities for women to participate in the engineering, legal and business support activities related to construction. In Dara'a University, there are faculties for Laws, Engineering and Economics. Significant portion of the students are females, the matter that reflects communities' willingness to accept women participation after their graduation. The identified gaps include lack of practical experience and knowledge that are needed to enable graduated females to penetrate into the labour market.

The program design developed in quarter four (Q4) included the targeting approach that will be used to select the beneficiaries who are interested in participating. Eligibility criteria have been determined and will include, amongst others, previous experience, and fitness. The design also included those successful trainees (who completed the training successfully) will be eligible for productive grants that will be delivered by the end of the training.

#### **Deir-ez-Zor:**

Since the workplan for Deir-ez-Zor was approved later in 2021, FAO and WFP obtained exceptional approval to ex-ante conduct two of their interventions, due to its seasonality and criticality to vulnerable farmers in rural Deir-ez-Zor.

Two main value chains were selected for support to enable vulnerable farmers' households to have sustainable livelihood opportunities and income. Vegetable and livestock (sheep) were identified by communities as main income source and agriculture activities, as well identified as appropriate for the agro-ecological zone in the targeted location in Deir-ez-Zor.

To support vegetable production, FAO distributed winter vegetable seeds to 500 vulnerable farmers in rural Deir-ez-Zor and in the proximity of Deir-ez-Zor city to support their food security and enhance their sources of income, as well as to boost local food production. The composition of vegetable packages was selected based on farmers demand, climatic conditions of the targeted areas, market preference and nutritional value. This is in addition to providing technical training and follow up in the field and remotely (through WhatsApp groups) throughout the cultivation season. This training and follow up is being implemented

through a team of agronomists and technical experts in vegetable cultivation. Simultaneously, this activity was complemented by WFP. The complementarity here allowed to address the multiple needs for farmers to support their production. While FAO provided good quality seeds and capacity development, WFP provided fertilizers and fertilizers' spraying equipment to the same beneficiaries.

To support smallholder sheep keepers, FAO established 10 Livestock Farmer Field Schools, where 200 vulnerable sheep keepers are exchanging their experiences and testing new techniques on flock management skills for more productive, efficient, market oriented and profitable sheep keeping. A team of agronomists and veterinarians are implementing this activity through regular meetings and technical follow up in the field and remotely (through WhatsApp groups) along eight months. WFP will also complement FAO activity by distributing dairy production equipment-sets to groups of families of sheep keepers (e.g., 5 families per each set) to enable them to produce dairy products and sell them in the local markets, to generate income and support their livelihoods. WFP is also going to support a number of these sheep keepers with small barns to improve their sheep keeping conditions.

UNDP, UNFPA, and UNICEF utilized the remaining period of 2021 to collaborate on laying plans to establish a fully-fledged community centre under agreement with an IP to implement one major-joint multi-pronged activity in the domain social cohesion. Each agency as per its mandate and area of expertise shall implement a set of integrated interventions targeting young people to enhance their role and engagement in socio-economy recovery and resilience, through developing initiatives to solve the problems that impedes recovery, including with provision of vocational training, specialized training, case management and awareness session, besides provision of productive toolkits and seed funding. The centre is expected to be operational as of early second quarter of 2022.

Meanwhile in 2021 also, agencies commenced working on preparing their tender documents and technical specifications for tenders that will involve civil works and provision of materials and supplies.

UNFPA assessed the capacities of the IPs approved by the Donor. In the fourth quarter of 2021, UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA were planning to partner with one IP European Institute for Cooperation and Development (IECD) under the JP. As UNFPA noticed that IECDs strength is to support youth programmes but was facing difficulties to implement activities under other programmes such as GBV and RH, UNICEF, UNDP, and UNFPA decided to limit the partnership with IECD to youth supported activities only, and to engage another IP to deliver GBV and cash-for-work activities under Outcome 3. UNFPA started the coordination with Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All East (GOPA) reviewed the project modalities and addressed their questions and enquiries. UNFPA and GOPA have discussed the risks and agreed on the supported mitigation measures. As a result, UNFPA and GOPA have finalized the Work Plan for the first quarter of 2022. The approval from The Ministry of Local Administration and Environment (MoLAE) over the annual work plan of GOPA for 2022 is still in process.

IECD will establish a Youth Friendly Space (YFS) to deliver youth supported activities funded by the three agencies. IECD will put in place efficient pathways to link beneficiaries with services delivered by other agencies. To ensure sustainable income-generating opportunities, IECD will perform a rapid market assessment to inform on the livelihood support activities. Through this assessment, IECD will identify market opportunities suitable for women and PWDs. For youth-led initiatives, IECD will run a community consultative process to identify the initiatives that will contribute to building the resilience of the targeted communities with special focus on the women and PWDs. The IP has developed a detailed concept and implementation plan. The rapid market assessment and community consultative process are planned for the second quarter of 2022.

To deliver GBV related services, GOPA will manage the Community Wellbeing Centre (CWC) in Deir-ez-Zor which will provide reproductive health (RH) services, GBV prevention and response services and economic empowerment activities. GOPA will also establish satellite points to deliver RH and GBV services in remote areas and will refer beneficiaries to improved services delivered at the CWC or by other UN Agencies. GOPA will also implement economic empowerment activities enabling beneficiaries to generate income sustainably. Given the emergency nature of the cash-for-work modality, UNFPA has run an internal consultative process to generate sustainable impact to women and men through this modality, especially in terms of sustainable women participation and income generation.

All the supported facilities will be accessible and adapted to PWDs.

The purpose of the Integrated Social Protection Programme is to provide children living with severe disability with regular cash transfer (US\$ 40 per month/US\$ 120 per quarter) to be conducted by a vetted money transfer company, and case management services for 24-month period. Children with disabilities (CwD) are among the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children in Syria. Through an integrated social protection approach that combines cash transfer and case management services, the contribution addresses both economic and social vulnerabilities of CwD and their families.

The programme enhances the resilience of the most vulnerable families through an integrated response, which combines regular and un-conditional cash transfers with case management services to facilitate the referral of CwD to available social services and increase their social inclusion.

After conducting assessment of potential partners, UNICEF managed to identify a qualified partner to be able to implement the integrated programme to reach 500 CwD (40 per cent females) with regular cash assistance to be conducted by a vetted money transfer company and case management services in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate. The partnership agreement is finalized and obtained all needed official approvals and the programme is expected to be launched early March 2022. The selected partner will be responsible for the identification, registration, and verification of beneficiaries and the provision of case management services. There is a division of roles whereby UNICEF uses the services of a third-party Financial Service Provider to transfer the cash grants to families, while it uses a national implementing partner to implement the case management component.

Each child is followed throughout the period by a dedicated and trained case manager. While the cash helps families meet the basic needs of children and the households, the case management component facilitates the referral of CwD to available social services, increase their social inclusion and respond to their specific protection concerns. Therefore, the case management is a vital component that seeks to empower families to better respond to the needs of their children, beyond the life of the cash transfer intervention.

### **Location Identification and Selection**

Based on a 2019 comprehensive inception report that offered detailed local contextual analysis, area needs, risks, potential interventions, and partner mapping; Deir-ez-Zor City / District and Dara'a City / Dara'a District and Sub-District were eventually selected as the final locations for interventions under the JP and were approved by the JSC.

Following the selection of locations, the participating UN agencies commenced planning for their preliminary assessments to be conducted in these two locations. The participating UN agencies adhered to the locations', and activities' selection criteria as stipulated in the description of action.

From UN-Habitat's point of view, Dara'a and Deir-ez-Zor scored high levels of population vulnerability and resilience needs. Added value could be gained in terms of confidence-building and bridging differences



to enhance social cohesion. Dara'a City is considered a key hub in the southern area, close to borders with Jordan, source of food basket for Damascus and the southern areas especially vegetables, and grain. Any amelioration in the situation of the city and its population shall entail positive impact on the whole southern area. Likewise, Deir-ez-Zor City is considered a main pole on the Euphrates River in the eastern area, and the source of many strategic agricultural products and livestock. Any progress of the city will have positive impact for the whole region and the eastern area.

UNFPA identified the targeted locations in Dara'a following joint consultations and assessments with UNICEF, FAO, and UNDP, along with the nature and type of resilient and livelihood activities set out in the Description of Action document (a.k.a. ProDoc). Activities and services are aligned with criteria set out in the ProDoc. Activities will be implemented at the city level with focus on the most critical areas, including the city centre and near rural areas, and will focus on the vulnerable groups such as women, youth and PWDs. In Deir-ez-Zor, UNFPA identified the locations based on the availability of other UNFPA facilities in each district, needs, geographical reach and accessibility, security, and possibility of referrals, if needed. Five locations inside the governorate were selected to conduct the activities and services based on the approved work-plan as follows: the YFS that will be established jointly with UNICEF and UNDP as well as the CWC in the city centre, and the satellite points in Shmeiteyeh, Harabish and Marat neighbourhoods.

Also, the identified locations for intervention by FAO, considered the vulnerability of people and the levels of current and potential urban-rural linkages. Interventions were designed to respond to the identified needs and to contribute to the project objective to strengthen urban-rural linkages and recover agricultural livelihood activities.

UNICEF identified some locations in Dara'a, and in Deir-ez-Zor as follows:

- There are several communities, which have witnessed extensive damage during the crisis in Dara'a and are currently witnessing a gradual flow of returnees. These communities include the following: Ataman, Kherbet Ghazala, Mokhayam Dara'a and Naiyma in Dara'a sub-district; Deir Adas in As-Sanamyn sub-district; Sheikh Meskin, Namer, Bosr Al Harir, and Hrak in Izra sub-district; Nahta and Al Kark in Bosra sub-district, and Al Shajara area.
- For selection of locations in Deir-ez-Zor, UNICEF's planned interventions will focus on Al Hamedia, Baajen, Jebeilah, Sheikh Yaseen and old airport neighbourhoods.

### **Crosscutting Issues**

The JP is the multi-agency which builds on the experience and comparative advantages of six participating UN agencies, to provide a harmonized and integrated response to the complex challenges and essential population needs in two targeted areas: Dara'a and Deir-ez-Zor. It is a rational response to addressing the vulnerabilities of the communities in a coordinated, streamlined, and cost-effective way while maximizing synergies among implementing partners and drawing on UN agencies' expertise and field presence in the field.

According to the UN population taskforce, as of August 2021, the Deir-ez-Zor city population is estimated at 239,984 people out of which around 51,451 people are IDPs. According to OCHA sources the total population of Deir-ez-Zor governorate is 1,107,720 including 153,257 children under five years old; 411,652 people between 5-17 years old (488,355 people between 18-59 age and 54,485 people above 60 years old).

In Dara'a, women represent more than 51% of the entire population. There are critical shortages in the provision of reproductive health services – from family planning to antenatal and postpartum care – and new-born care. Yet early or forced marriage is a human rights violation, and it often leads to early pregnancy, which exposes girls to significant health risks. The most recent available data shows that early marriage was most prevalent in Dara'a where 26% of women aged 20-49 were married before the age of 18, early marriage occurred in both rural and urban areas of Syria as of 2006.

Regarding people with disabilities, it is estimated that 45% of the injured population are expected to sustain a permanent impairment raising the rate of people with disability from the global average of 15% to 30%, which requires further attention and specialized services.

The following illustration is extracted from

[https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/syria\\_2021\\_humanitarian\\_needs\\_overview.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/syria_2021_humanitarian_needs_overview.pdf)



In coordination with the participating UN agencies and the JP PMU, UNFPA focuses its efforts on leveraging gender equality, enhancing the quality of interventions and engagement of beneficiaries, empowering women, and supporting youth participation through adaptation and fine-tuning of JP activities to streamline gender and protection issues into them. This will help in addressing different types of vulnerabilities whether related to gender, youth, disabilities, etc., through tailored activities to support the vulnerable groups' access to UNFPA services in particular and to other UN agencies services provided through the JP, with the long-term objective of changing social norms, and preventing negative coping mechanisms. Furthermore, UNFPA stretches out its capacities to support women empowerment and access to markets by means of provision of vocational training, toolkits, and seed funding in collaboration with FAO and other UN agencies.

The Whole School Approach and Skill Building Opportunities by UNICEF, implies that schools can be an entry point for local communities, NGOs, and the UN to invest and leverage resources in order to maximize collective efforts and results. More specifically, schools can serve as a common platform where children access protective and inclusive environments and quality learning, teachers benefit from professional development, and communities access awareness-raising activities, social protection services, as well as essential education supplies.

As part of its resilience development agenda and drawing on the experience of the ‘No Lost Generation Initiative’ promoted in the region, UNICEF focuses on addressing the social needs of children, adolescents, and youth, by promoting an integrated package of services. Starting from the school as a place for positive social exchanges in the community – as well as a safe learning environment – UNICEF will promote programmes aimed at increasing access to quality education for children, and at the same time supporting families with basic income to address the needs of their children. Winterization, NFE activities, community based ECE, self-learning initiatives, as well as seed funding for social entrepreneurship promoted among young people involved in vocational and life skills training, will contribute to the injection in the selected communities of resources addressed at increasing social inclusion and social cohesion.

Skills-building, entrepreneurship, employment, and livelihoods will be addressed in an integrated manner. The JP will support meaningful adolescent participation and social/civic engagement of girls and boys in local communities; giving them equitable access to safe spaces to be seen and heard, where they practice acquired life skills through either social entrepreneurship initiatives, or wider citizenship and social mobilization. The ultimate objective is for adolescents and youth to improve their capacities to contribute to enhancing resilience and social cohesion in their communities and hence transition to adulthood with purpose.

Within the ‘Whole School Approach’ model, the school feeding programme offers the opportunity to achieve multiple objectives ranging from education, social protection, increasing food production and revitalizing local economy. Local sourcing of ingredients and food commodities along with support provided to local manufacturers in food processing for use in education and social protection programming by WFP-UNICEF-FAO is at the heart of the approach to support the most vulnerable school aged children in Syria.

The use of fortified date bars in the school feeding program promotes the local sourcing of raw ingredients from local suppliers and producers, who benefit from FAO’s agriculture inputs and technical support at production stage. This leads to positively impacting livelihood opportunities across the supply chain.

### **III. Key Challenges and Mitigation Approaches**

#### **Security and Accessibility**

The security situation in Syria in general and particularly in Dara'a continues to present a challenge, which intermittently affects stability in the targeted areas, and may temporarily hinder access to implementation.

The tensions and consequently emerging armed conflict in Dara'a Al Balad between Government of Syria (GoS) forces and Non-State Armed Groups (NSAG) during the months of July, August till around mid-September 2021 have hindered the activities of the participating UN agencies under the JP Dara phase I workplan, and also imposed difficulties in conducting local consultation in the leadup to developing Dara'a phase II workplan.

While the UN established a hub in Deir-ez-Zor, and the situation in Deir-ez-Zor city and its nearby rural suburbs is considered somewhat stable for the JP implementation, yet the difficulties and lack of security on the highway leading to it, pose a challenge especially for private contractors who need to ship row materials to execute their contacts with the UN agencies.

Although security incidents are usually unpredictable, the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) maintains close connection with all relevant security parties in the country and continuously obtain security briefings about different areas in the country. Any significant information regarding road-related and/or location-related risks are immediately shared with all UN agencies. This shall enable the UN agencies to timely alert their field teams and on-site contractors. While this approach enhances the sense of safety for people on the ground, it will entail delays until the emerging security risk is cleared.

#### **Humanitarian Situation**

The scale, severity and complexity of humanitarian needs significantly worsened in 2021 due to the economic downturn resulting in some of the most challenging humanitarian conditions experienced in the past ten years of the crisis; rising cost of commodities, and devaluation of the local currency, scarcity of fuel and electricity (especially towards the end of the year when winter is starting), which were also topped up by the various socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 and ongoing hostilities.

The emerging sudden conflict that took place between July-September 2021 in Dara'a Al Balad imposed a sudden influx of vulnerable population into the northern part of Dara'a city where a spike of humanitarian needs emerged, which needed immediate attention by the UN agencies. Although the conflict was resolved down through September, yet its aftermath still do reflect the need for some humanitarian response.

As a result, risks of GBV, the likelihood of de-prioritization of women's health, antenatal and postnatal care, de-prioritizing children education in return for sending them to child labour, hostility and criminal actions all had been severely increased, along with disrupted and deteriorated access to life-saving sexual and reproductive health services, as well as essential Gender-based Violence services.

#### **Integration and Coordination**

Whereas each of the participating UN agencies has its own mandate, expertise, and specific programmes, and while some of the agencies' programmes share similar aspects and technical characteristics, a key challenge was to find synergies, where interventions are streamlined through a complementary approach to tackle the most of opportunities for complementarities to maximize effectiveness and impact, as the JP is intended by nature to be conducted jointly. PMU utilized the bi-weekly TWG meetings approach, to share updates on the progress of UN agencies implementation of the JP, discuss challenges, and present common

solutions for better coordination and more harmonized activities on the ground. This helped to a large extent in overcoming coordination challenges.

### **Financial**

The gap between the official exchange rate of the US\$ to the Syrian Pound and the unofficial market rate, remained as a key financial challenge in 2021, and is still negatively impacting the UN operations in general, since the UN agencies have to apply the official rate in their transactions with their local implementing partners, while, when they procure services, supplies and/or materials for projects, they are challenged with prices inflated according to the unofficial rate<sup>11</sup>. The UN agencies, especially WFP, are monitoring closely the changes in market price for many commodities and supplies and circulate frequent updates. At the moment, there is no clear-cut solution for financial challenges, since the UN agencies are required to use the official rate set by the Central Bank in their transactions with implementing partners and contractors, which inevitably imposes some burden on execution of required works and services. The flexibility of the JP to absorb further interested donor funds, might provide a solution to cover the gap, should additional donor funding become available.

### **Implementing Partners (IPs) related**

Some implementing partners may face several challenges programmatically and financially, where in some cases the relevant UN agency may opt to suspend or put on hold the agreement with the related implementing partner. Furthermore, should an agreement with an IP be suspended, then some time will be lost to find a new qualified IP, draft an agreement, and wait to get relevant authorities' approval of the new implementing partner. Such cases are usually dealt with through the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) unit at UNICEF, that is tasked to conduct a special review of new IPs as well as current IPs who are undergoing programmatic and financial issues, then produce results for UNICEF. Results can be shared with other UN agencies upon request. This is to ensure that partners' capacity is up to UNICEF's standards and regulations to deliver a UNICEF-specific impactful programme.

UNFPA faced challenges relating to IPs capacity in implementing resilience programs and adhering to donors' standards, especially those related to conflict sensitivity. UNFPA worked closely with the IPs to deliver qualitative impactful program and ensure adherence to donors' standards without breaching Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS) and International Humanitarian Law (IHL). The above challenges are due to lack of technical and professional staff in the country because of the crisis in Syria and the IPs are facing difficulties to adapt the resilience approach which is a new approach in the country.

### **Other Challenges**

The absence of a UN Hub in Dara'a governorate and the difficulties in ensuring constant UN presence, impacts direct follow up and guidance.

Furthermore, in both targeted locations, the seasonality nature of agriculture production is forcing FAO and relevant agencies to amend timelines of relevant agricultural activities, which in turn impedes responding on time. Similarly, some specific activities by WFP planned under Dara'a phase I (i.e. distribution of summer fertilizers, was replaced by distribution of winter fertilizers since the summer portion could not be timely distributed; or postponement of the poultry distribution activity intended to support livelihoods, till spring of 2022, since it was not possible in summer due to the armed conflict that happened, which made

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<sup>11</sup> At the time of writing this report the official rate accounts for almost 60% of the unofficial rate. The UN used to have a preferential rate. Currently, the UN preferential rate is the same as the official rate.

storing (live-poultry) impossible and resulted in cancelling an already signed contract and postponement of action).

In some cases, under education sector interventions, it was noticed that out-of-school children tend to be absent from their programmes – sometimes due to child labour in farms -, which hinders their access to the offered out-of-school-children non-formal education (NFE) programmes and remedial classes.

Furthermore, under education, the school rehabilitation work has been delayed due to the pending approval on the contractor's choice. UNICEF had to change the selection of schools as the already assessed schools were funded from other donors to avoid creating sensitivity in Dara'a Al Balad. The emergency clashes which took place in Dara'a between late June-early September 2021 further delayed the process. The evaluation company was only able to finalize assessment in September, the bidding process is currently ongoing.

Also, Due to the lack of capacitated partners in early childhood education in Dara'a, no partner was able to submit a successful partnership agreement for community-based early childhood activities. Currently, it is under discussion after making collaborations with various sector partners. While signature of the agreement was expected to be earlier, however, due to human resources turn over at the level of the INGO as well as the absence of involved colleagues due to COVID-19 cases, the finalization was delayed, and it will take place end of January 2022.

UNICEF's partnerships with ADAP partners were delayed. As a result, ADAP activities with youth and adolescents only started in September 2021

**Some of the adopted mitigation measures include but not-limited-to the following:**

The JP Manager with support from the RCO and PMU staff, continued liaising with relevant national and local governmental entities, and adopted an effective approach, embodied through the establishment of the JP task force that include technical representatives from key relevant government entities, to facilitate discussions and implementation on the ground.

The JP PMU and JP UN agencies resorted to holding an in-house consultation workshop to discuss the findings of the bi-lateral/multilateral consultations conducted by the UN field staff in Dara'a during summer 2021, prior to implementing the on-site planning validation workshop.

The extension of the JP until 31 March 2023 will help the JP UN agencies that have seasonal interventions (FAO and WFP) to timely implement their activities while helping all agencies to cover for procurement-related delays and other limitations caused by COVID-19.

UNICEF, along with its implementing partners frequently discuss alternative approaches to enable better access for out-of-school children to their programmes (i.e., offering supporting classes during weekends).

**Opportunities**

Collaboration between UN Agencies creates synergies that reinforce the benefits of the interventions. The six UN Implementing Agencies (FAO, UNDP, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, and WFP) have a wealth of experience from implementing activities within Syria and in similar contexts globally. The central aspect of the Joint Programme and neighbourhood planning approach is to build upon and maximize the synergies between the existing programming tools and activities of the UN Implementing Agencies in a way that is locally owned and is able to overcome the challenges facing sustainable resilience building activities. Ongoing interventions have highlighted the importance of promoting social cohesion among population groups in targeted areas, particularly those hosting a high number of displaced.

#### IV. Lessons Learned

Sharing updated assessment findings, on humanitarian status as well as on security and accessibility to projects' locations enabled agencies to apply any needed changes in their workplans, to respond to population resilience needs under the fluid and complex Syrian context. This can be achieved through analysis and consolidation of feedback collected through regular field monitoring visits by staff, besides feedback from local coordinators, implementing partners and third-party monitors.

Joint planning, coordination and discussion among the participating UN agencies and the formulation of joint activities and services along with substantive consultations with local stakeholders leads to a more integrated design and planning of activities and more efficient allocation of resources.

The lack of continuity for gender mainstreaming impacts interventions. It is recommended to having a dedicated gender specialist to focus on gender equality and gender mainstreaming to help agencies better design interventions that address gender, protection, and other cross cutting issues.

Continuous monitoring of local markets status with regards to availability of workforce, work tools, supplies and materials in parallel with monitoring the level of inflation and its trends, will help in better estimation of costs and lead to more efficient budgeting.

Involving vulnerable segments of the society in assessments such as the Youth Led Market Assessment, besides introducing new topics for discussion such as the impact of climate change on resilience, along with combining the consultations with natural resources assessment proved a good approach to help add new dimensions to the conducted assessments. It provided the JP UN agencies with additional knowledge to design interventions that effectively address resilience needs and ensure that interventions are environment-friendly and do not create any harm on the sustainability of the natural resources.

Periodical discussions with stakeholders at national level represented by the JP taskforce, and at sub-national levels with local authorities and local community, shall lay the ground for a more effective participatory approach in area-based planning and implementation, while simultaneously facilitating access and mitigating any emerging challenges and risks facing implementation on the ground.

Continual and periodic awareness raising campaigns and sessions with caregivers and families of out-of-school children, shall help to a large extent in highlighting the critical need for education and the importance of keeping children in school.

Online session and distance learning modalities need to be identified for next project phase in response to the challenges and lessons learned from COVID-19. Using these new modalities will improve the impact of education programmes. More investments are needed in delivering a blended approach for remote learning, which requires teachers and parents of children as they play critical role in distant learning and learning recovery; mental health and psychosocial support to promote wellbeing of children.

To overcome the delays in ex-ante vetting of implementing partners, UNICEF has adopted an approach to increase the duration of project documents (PDs) signed with IPs from 12 to 24 months in order to allow for flexibility and continuity of implementation.

There is a need to strengthen digital and remote access, which also include the need to improve tools and guidance on remote monitoring and follow-up with the implementing partners.

There is a need to contribute to addressing some of the barriers of CwD to education, UNICEF (with other funding sources) aims to provide training for education personnel on best practices in Children with Disability (CwD) inclusion which also includes the provision of specialized supplies for trained personnel to ensure that the children with symptoms are supported according to their specific needs.





## Annex B: Deir-ez-Zor Participatory Planning Workshop Report

*Note: The Deir-ez-Zor participatory planning workshop, was conducted in Deir-ez-Zor over the period of two days, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021. The workshop report was annexed to the local consultations paper of Deir-ez-Zor*

### ***Beginning of Deir-ez-Zor Workshop Report-----***

The Joint Programme conducted a participatory area-based planning and validation workshop in Deir-ez-Zor city to fine-tune and finalize the plans for the JP's interventions. The workshop was prepared for and coordinated by PMU together with the participating UN agencies since late 2020. The delays in obtaining green-light for the JP, in addition to frequent COVID-19 related lockdowns, delayed the implementation of the workshop.

**Timeframe:** 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

**Location:** Deir-ez-Zor city.

**Participants:** in addition to PMU and UN participating agencies:

#### ***From local government***

The following technical directors attended as speakers: Local technical directors from the governorate including International Cooperation, Education, Agriculture, Health, Electricity, Social Affairs and Labour, Water, Operation and Maintenance of Euphrates Basin, Solid Waste, and Local Development. Other directors attended as listeners and participants in discussions. The Deputy Governor attended<sup>12</sup> the workshop for protocol purposes, as well as the head of the city council of Deir-ez-Zor.

#### ***From local community leaders in the city***

Representatives of selected neighbourhoods: Al-Hamidieh, Sina'a, Al-Haweiqua (Sharquieh: 'eastern' and Gharbieh: 'western'), Abu A'Abed, Al-Ommal, Al-Jbeileh.

#### ***From members of local rural community***

Rural women representative from western rural areas (Masarab); and rural women representative from eastern rural areas (Al-Hussiniya).

#### ***From local and national NGOs***

Representative of GOPA (Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and all the East) - a faith-based NGO based in Damascus and operates at national level. Representative of the Islamic Charity, which is a local NGO based in Deir-ez-Zor since the 1930s and officially registered in the 1950s. Representative of SARC (Syrian Arab Red Crescent).

### **Workshop Objectives:**

- To re-present the local resilience needs in a more structured approach from the views of the local government technical directorates and local community in Deir-ez-Zor.
- Apprise the UN agencies with more recent updated information on current pressing needs and priorities, and to understand the gaps in the local government plans.
- To present the UN agencies' assessment results and suggested interventions, which will respond to the assessed and presented resilience needs and address the gaps in local plans.

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<sup>12</sup> Deir-Ez-Zor Deputy Governor attended the workshop intermittently for protocol purposes, while local technical directors shared an overview of the needs. PMU staff with support from JP UN agencies steered and moderated the meeting to ensure the discussions and recommendations were evidence-based, inclusive and participatory, neither steered nor influenced by staff of local authorities.

- Fine-tune, finalize and agree on the presented UN agencies interventions, to start preparing on the ground and conclude the activity matrix that will be presented to donors.

## **Main Topics**

### **DAY 1 – Overview of Assessed Needs**

#### Overall situation and vision of Deir-ez-Zor governorate by the international cooperation director.

- Continue opening roads and linking the towns and villages of the governorate.
- Rehabilitation of infrastructure, and completion of infrastructural works in the city neighbourhoods, besides initiating interventions in other districts (AL-BouKamal, Northern countryside),
- Rehabilitation of commercial markets and industrial zones,
- Demolishing of structurally damaged buildings that are posing threat of collapse,
- Rehabilitation of health facilities,
- Continue connecting neighbourhoods and rehabilitation of roads and bridges,
- Continue rehabilitation of irrigation structure,
- Street solar lighting and,
- The need for integrated project for solid waste management.

#### Sectoral needs presented by local technical directors.

- Director of operation and maintenance of Euphrates basin
  - o There is a keen need for support with mechanical equipment for the discharge wells in the areas identified as sector 7 and sector 8.
- Director of water: water networks were rehabilitated in some villages that witnessed return movement besides some neighbourhoods in the city. A total of 63 water stations were rehabilitated.
  - o There are still needs for rehabilitating water network in other neighbourhoods in the city, especially AL Mrei'ieh station, which is a priority.
- Director of Industrial Regions: studies and cost estimates have been prepared, there is a need for:
  - o Rubble removal, rehab of electricity, water, sewage, and telecom networks.
  - o Street and side-walk repair.
  - o Rehabilitation of craftsmen shops and support to craftsmen with tools and work assets.
- Director of Education: there are 355 schools and 133 thousand students distributed between, basic, secondary and vocation education.
  - o There is a need to rehabilitate schools in Al-Hamidieh, Al-Ommal, Rushdieh, Abu Abed, Ghasan Aboud and old Airport neighbourhoods) and the provision of solar lighting to operate computer halls and science laboratories, as well as lighting for the surroundings of the school.
  - o Support schools with educational materials, computers, and water tanks, while supporting vocational schools with lab equipment.
- Director of health: There is only one hospital in operation and the pressure on its services is high; there is a health centre in Al-Hamidieh, that's been rehabilitated, but still needs:
  - o Finishing the coating of first floor and connecting the two building, setting up a special room for medical gases and provision of medical furniture and equipment including (CR, Cardiac echo, and monitoring unit, besides other cardiography equipment. Also, a need for provision of medical gases unit.
  - o There are other needs relevant to supporting the health institute with educational furniture to support medical education.
  - o Some modification at the current hospital to isolate paediatric from the delivery section.
- Director of Social Affairs and labour: some projects were conducted (i.e., centre for rural development, youth enabling centre, mental disability centre rehab, and other similar). There're needs for:
  - o Rehab of elderly house and juvenile centre, as well as finishing the girls' orphanage house.

- Director of Electricity, the needs for electricity are keen in Deir-Ez-Zor Rehab of Al-Omran station
- Rehab of network in Al-Jbeileh neighbourhood
- Additional voltage line to Al-Shmeitieh village and Al-Hamidieh neighbourhood, with additional transfer centres.
- Repair of heavy equipment
- g) Director of Solid Waste: near 300 tons of solid waste are generated daily, there is a need for
  - Solid waste processing station and vehicles for transporting waste.

#### Neighbourhoods needs presented by the local community members and representatives.

- a) Mukhtar of Al-Hamidieh neighbourhood: there are 625 families (about 3500 people).
  - Needs are summarized by solar lighting, rubble removal and demolishing dangerous damaged building, fumigation of the neighbourhood for insects and rodents, continuing the electricity network rehab, and rehab of a public park.
- b) Mukhtar of Al-Jbeileh: identified similar needs, besides the lack of health centre to serve the area.
- c) Mukhtar of Al-Ommal: echoing similar needs to the other Mukhtars, he also stressed the need to rehab the sewage network in his neighbourhood. Currently there are 645 people residing compared to 10,000 before.
- d) Mukhtar of Abu Abed neighbourhood re-iterated the infrastructure rehab needs, besides raising the point of livelihoods and need to support shop owners to re-open their shops.
- e) Mukhtar of Al-Haweiqa (Sharquieh: 'eastern'); highlighted the need to repair bridges connecting Al-Haweiqa with the city in addition to the infrastructure needs.
- f) Mukhtar of Al-Haweiqa (Gharbieh: 'western'); presented a new need relevant to the environment, which is cleaning the stream of the river from wild plants. There is an equipment that needs repair called (DRKLINE) and enabling agricultural livelihood opportunities.
- g) Mukhtar of Al-Sina'a: the industrial zone needs complete rehabilitation including streets, sidewalks, and infrastructure to help people restart work and support livelihoods.
- h) Rural women representative from western rural areas (Al-Masarab)
  - Support rural women with mini food manufacturing projects, and provision of loans
  - Vocational training for rural women (sewing, hair dressing etc.); Training for cattle owners and farmers,
  - Small projects ideas to recycle plants and animal waste into fertilizers,
  - Literacy courses,
- i) Rural women representative from eastern rural areas (Al-Hussiniya): Al-Hussiniya is on the other side of the river and most of the bridges are destroyed. People from Al-Hussiniya are using boats to commute to the main city. There is a need for safe and reliable means of transport until bridges are repaired. She echoed similar livelihoods needs to those resented by her fellow citizen from the western rural areas.

### **DAY2 – More on Assessed Needs, Suggested Interventions, and Final Agreed-on Actions**

#### Needs at the city-level presented by the head of the city council

- j) The head of the city council provided an integrated account of needs at the city level, which to a large extent mirrored the earlier presented sectoral needs, however, the linkage of needs at the city and neighbourhood level was highlighted in his presentation. The presentation also included some highlight of work already conducted by the municipality using its own modest resources.

#### Assessments and suggested resilience interventions by UN agencies

- k) The JP PMU started the UN presentation by explaining about the conducted assessment efforts – described earlier in this document – and highlighting the areas where the results of such assessments are in line with what was presented in Day 1 of assessed needs by the local community and local government; a space of time was relayed to attendees to discuss complementarity of assessment

results and areas of exact matching. No deviation was noticed between assessment results presented earlier by all stakeholders and the UN agencies' results.

- l) The UN agencies each presented a set of interventions as per its mandate and area of expertise while highlighting complementarities with other agencies' interventions at the area level and stressing the non-duplication aspect that will ensure the best impact and render results positively reflecting on the resilience of people in the targeted areas and neighbourhoods.

Open session: technical detailed review, discussion to fine-tune and prioritize interventions.

- m) During this session, the presented interventions were re-visited on the screen and validated at the area level by the local community and local technical directors against the needs in the targeted area, where fine-tuning was required to precisely describe the activity and specify the location. The focal points of the UN agencies considered the needed modification for some activities, while they justified their positions on other requested interventions that cannot at the time being fall under the JP. Very few activities – near one – were deemed unneeded at the time being as its contribution to people's resilience currently was considered minimal (The Environment Centre by UN-Habitat)

**Key Outcomes:**

**DAY1**

It was made clear for all and by all attendees that the governorate of Deir-ez-Zor and particularly the city of Deir-ez-Zor is in dire need for all sorts of interventions to support the resilience of its population. The key observation was the interlinkage between different needs and the clear dependency relation, where the sustainability of livelihoods relies on the availability of solid infrastructure services, and quality education leans on availing safer access. At the country-side level and rural areas, the revival of agriculture relies on availability of water and inputs to support small vulnerable farmers, while the protection aspects of interventions require further attention to youth, women, girls, and children in general.

**DAY2**

The results of the assessments conducted by UN agencies were in line with those of the local government and local community. The proposed interventions were thoroughly discussed and agreed on by all stakeholders from local government and local community and concurred to by the UN agencies' focal points. A re-iteration and stressing from the local community and local government representatives that other sectoral needs (i.e., transport, heavy electricity network repair, and heavy medical equipment), which are not covered currently by the JP, should be attended to if further funding was availed since the governorate services in general suffered severe damage.

**Impact on JP Planning:**

The JP's list of interventions for Deir-ez-Zor shall be populated with activities based on the agreed-upon interventions at the area level to address and respond to the assessed multi-sectoral resilience needs at the neighbourhoods and villages levels. The draft table of articulated activities shall be discussed by the JP Task Force at the Damascus level for appraisal, better horizontal and vertical coordination and minimizing duplication and overlap.

----- *End of paper*





#### Annex D: Dara'a Phase II in-house workshop report

*Note: Due to the prevailing security situation in Dara'a during summer 2021, and to effectively use available time, the JP UN field staff conducted several rounds of bi-lateral/multilateral needs identification and analysis with different stakeholders in Dara'a, then brought the results to The Dara'a Phase II, JP participatory planning in-house workshop, which was conducted in the UNDP premises in Damascus on 20<sup>th</sup> ~ 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021, where together with PMU, JP UN colleagues at Damascus level did preliminary planning and prioritization of interventions. The in-house workshop report was annexed to the local consultations paper of Dara'a Phase II*

#### **Beginning of Dara'a Phase II JP In-House Workshop Report**-----

### **JP Participatory Planning In-House Workshop Report**

**Damascus 20 – 21 September**

#### **Background**

The main principle of the Joint Programme on “**Building and Strengthening Rural and Urban Resilience and the Conditions for Recovery in Syria**” is to promote a community-led multi-sector integrated resilience response through coordinated and bottom-up planning and implementation in collaboration with multiple local stakeholders, building on an area-based approach at the level of the municipality and neighbourhood as well as rural sub-districts. JP Participating UN Organizations (PUNOs) are currently implementing a set of Dara'a phase 1 activities. In addition, the JP PUNOs are conducting a series of consultations on the ground to identify and prioritize Dara'a phase 2 interventions. The whole-of-society workshop with a range of stakeholders to validate the workplan for Dara'a phase 2 was planned for mid-August 2021, but it has been put on hold due to the unfolding security situation in Dara'a. As a contingency approach, the PUNOs and PMU agreed to conduct an in-house workshop in Damascus to reflect on the current situation including vis a vis relevance of the phase 1 activities, validate the priority interventions for Dara'a 2 and internally finalize the Dara'a phase 2 workplan given we have some left-over funds to be programmed for the remainder of the programme duration (referred to as 'Dara'a phase 2').

#### **Objectives:**

- Review the current context and discuss as to whether any adjustments are needed for the Dara'a phase 1 activities in light of the current situation.
- Review the needs and sectoral analysis.
- Discuss and agree on the rationale for selecting target locations and priority interventions for Dara'a phase 2.
- Finalize the activity matrix for Dara'a phase 2.

#### **Participants**

Representatives from the JP participating UN agencies (one from Damascus and one from Dara'a), Resource participants (from UNDSS and UNDP), and the PMU team.



#### **Main Discussion Points**

### ***Security Status Update:***<sup>13</sup>

Following two rounds of unsuccessful negotiations, GOS forces initiated on 29 July a military operation in Dara'a Al-Balad by targeting the neighbourhood with machine guns, mortars and missiles, this escalation was accompanied with attacks by local armed groups on GOS posts and checkpoints in other areas in the governorate.

Heavy clashes and mortar shelling were reported as well in other areas like Tafas, Mzeirib, Yadudeh which are under the local agreement since 2018, tension spilled over other areas in the governorate, attacks on GoS posts were reported in Jasim and Ash-Shajara (western Dara'a) as well as Al-Hrak, Um Al-Maiathen and Saida (eastern Dara'a).

The military encirclement continued during the military operation as well, where Sijneh and Al-Saraya crossings were completely blocked on 28 July

Since the start of the military operation several rounds of unsuccessful negotiations were held between local committees and GOS security committee under the supervision of Russians, during which two batches of NSAGs fighters who refused the reconciliation were evacuated to NWS on 24 (where 8 fighters were evacuated) and 26 August (where 79 of NSAG fighters with their families left Dara'a Al-Balad)

An agreement was reached on 5 September in Dara'a Al-Balad, the agreement stipulates:

- Establishing nine security checkpoints and posts inside Dara'a Al-Balad, under Russian military police's supervision, where the Russian and the Syrian flags will be raised.
- Settling security situation of suspects and people who passed their date of joining the military service.
- Evacuation of everyone refusing these terms to north Syria.
- Every person kept weapons in his possession after the deadline for the new reconciliations would be prosecuted

Following the agreement, Al-Saraya crossing which separates Dara'a Al-Balad and Dara'a Al-Mahatta was opened on 8 September when the return of people from Dara'a Al-Mahatta to Dara'a Al-Balad started, and GOS forces withdrew from their positions on 9 September.

Reconciliation agreements were reached in Yadoudeh, Mzeirib and Tafas, negotiations are ongoing in Inkhil.

Missions are still on hold as per the earlier recommendation from UNDSS, where a mission for the UNDSS to Dara'a will be conducted soon to assess the situation and the M5 highway.

### ***Humanitarian Update:***<sup>14</sup>

According to SARC reports, over 38,619, mostly women and children have displaced from Dara'a Al-Balad, 1,449 of whom were accommodated in six shelters (4 schools and 2 mosques) and the rest took shelter with relatives or friends in the surrounding areas.

About 70% of displaced people were from Dara'a Al Balad neighbourhoods and the rest were from Al-Sad Road neighbourhood and Dara'a camp, they were divided as follows: 45% women, 35% children and

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<sup>13</sup> Provided and presented by UNDSS

<sup>14</sup> Provided by OCHA, presented by PMU



students, 15% elderly and 5% people with disabilities. An estimated 5,000 to 6,000 families remained in Dara'a Al-Balad.

Following the agreement reached as of 5 September and opening Al-Saraya crossing on 8 September, the return movement of IDPs back to Dara'a Al-Balad started, according to SARC and UNHCR majority of displaced people have returned to Dara'a AL-BALAD, unconfirmed reports mentioned that 10% of those remained displaced, people whose houses are affected and may need rehabilitation are assumed to be among those.

Students started attending as of 12 September in the same schools that were designated as collective shelters during the escalation and the displacement movement.

Due to access limitations, no assessment was conducted by humanitarian actors in Dara'a Al-Balad, however, following information circulated on media outlets, access to services and goods within Dara'a al Balad was extremely challenging; food shortages, lack of medical services and electricity outages have been reported. Due to continuing insecurity, delivery of flour to two bakeries (Tishreen and Al-Balad) was suspended and the two bakeries were unfunctional until 12 September.

During the escalation, humanitarian partners were providing emergency assistance to IDPs residing in shelters and with host communities in Dara'a city and surrounding areas, including ready-to-eat rations, medicines and health supplies, dignity kits, core relief items, and WASH, nutrition, and protection support. Partners continued to implement their regular programmes in other sub-districts across Dara'a Governorate where the security situation permitted.

SARC supported by WFP managed to send one convoy of 15 trucks carrying food parcels, flour bags and supplements to the due families in Dara'a Al-Balad on 16<sup>th</sup> July and managed to provide first aid to 406 cases and we evacuated nine people to hospitals in Damascus.

#### ***Context Analysis:***

#### ***Damage Assessment:***

In 2019, a rapid field damage assessment, that involved local community members, was conducted in Dara'a City in 2019 and concluded that:

- 5 neighbourhoods suffered severe damage to structures: The Palestinian Camp and neighbourhoods in Dara'a Al-Balad.
- 2 neighbourhoods are partially damaged in terms of structural integrity: Al Kark and Tal Al-Sultan.
- 2 neighbourhoods have minor damage to structures: Shuhada and Ghurnata.
- 17 neighbourhoods have no damages to their structures, mostly in Dara'a Al-Mahatta.
- Changes to damage levels in Arba'een, Bahar and Al-Sad Road neighbourhoods.
- New accumulations of debris and raised risks of UXOs in Dara'a Al-Balad.
- The five schools in Dara'a Al-Mahatta that accommodated IDPs during the escalations need light repairs.

#### ***Urban Functionality layers***

- **Sewage & Sanitation** (lower in Al-Manshiyeh)
- **Water Supply** (lower in Al-Manshiyeh)
- **Health** (lower in central neighbourhoods)
- **Education** (lower in Dara'a Al-Balad and the camps). A school in Arba'een neighbourhood was recently damaged.

- **Electricity** (lower in Al-Manshiyeh, central Dara'a Al-Balad)
- **Solid Waste Management** (lower in Dara'a Al-Balad and the camps)

### Local stakeholders' feedback on needs and UN Plans

Detailed feedback of relevant government technical departments (Agriculture, Irrigation, Social Affairs, Health, electricity, Water and Sanitation, Environment and Culture) in Dara'a was presented by UN Agencies field staff and was extensively discussed and analysed by the participants, to verify what is feasible under the JP Dara'a phase2.

An overview of the needs expressed by local community represented through separate meetings with:

- a) The service committee of Dara Al Balad,
- b) Several neighbourhood committees meeting,
- c) The Dara'a Response NGOs meeting, and
- d) Principals of Dara Al Balad schools meeting (specific for education activities)

UN Agencies activities and plans were being discussed in parallel with the provision of feedback related to sectors to validate intended activities against presented needs, while highlighting and stressing complementarity of action between participating agencies.



### Outcomes

- a) Situation in Dara'a Al Balad and Dara'a city in general is getting better and life is back to normal.
- b) There are huge needs in Dara'a Al Balad, as well as in rural areas east and west of Dara'a city.
- c) Most of the activities in draft zero of the Dara'a Phase II activity matrix were validated against needs, some needed minor amendment and very few (1) to be removed.
- d) Targeted locations in Dara'a Al Balad were clear, but not finally determined.
- e) Targets in Rural areas for FAO and WFP were left at sub-district level, due to the wide distribution of small villages that can be targeted.

### Next Steps:

- f) UN agencies with PMU support to hold bi-lateral/multilateral meeting to further optimize the activity matrix and decide on locations.
- g) UN-Habitat to hold a workshop in Dara'a tentatively on 6~7 October (TBD) to prepare community representatives to participate in the planning workshop.
- h) PMU to plan and implement the Dara'a phase 2, planning workshop tentatively on 13~14 October (TBD), with presence of UN agencies FPs and field facilitators, and local stakeholders.

----- *End of Dara'a Phase II UN JP In-House Workshop Report*

## Annex E: Dara'a Phase II, Participatory Planning and Validation Workshop Report

Note: The Dara'a participatory planning and validation workshop, was conducted in Dara'a on the 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021. The workshop report was annexed to the local consultations paper of Dara'a Phase II

### Beginning of Dara'a Phase II Workshop Report-----

## THE JOINT PROGRAMME TO BUILD AND STRENGTHEN URBAN AND RURAL RESILIENCE IN SYRIA - Dara'a Phase 2

### AREA-BASED PARTICIPATORY PLANNING VALIDATION WORKSHOP

#### Workshop Summary Report

The Joint Programme conducted a participatory area-based planning and validation workshop in Dara'a city to validate, fine-tune and agree-on the JP's interventions in Dara'a under the second phase of JP implementation. The workshop was prepared for and coordinated by PMU together with the participating UN agencies since July 2021. Delays related to the unrest that took place in Dara'a during summer 2021, delayed the implementation of the workshop.

**Date and Timeframe:** Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021; from 9:00 a.m. till 2:30 p.m.

**Location:** Dara'a city, **Venue:** Grand Hall in Dara'a Gate Restaurant

**Participants:** In addition to PMU and UN participating agencies:



- 1. From local government:** The following technical directors attended as speakers: Local technical directors from the governorate including International Cooperation, Education, Agriculture, Irrigation, Health, Sewage, Social Affairs and Labour, and Water. Other directors attended as listeners and participants in discussions. The Deputy Governor attended<sup>15</sup> the workshop for protocol purposes, as well as the head of the city council of Dara'a.
- 2. From local community leaders in the city:** Representatives of selected neighbourhoods: Yarmou, Abbasieh, Al Menshieh, Sejnah, Al Arba'een, Al Bahar, Al Shuhada, Al Zahraa, in additions to local community members from Dara Al Balad, Dara'a Camp, Tariq Al Sad and Dara'a Al Mahatta.
- 3. From members of local rural community:** Representative from eastern rural areas (Nassib); and western rural areas (Al Na'eemah, and Ataman).
- 4. From local and national NGOs:** Representative of Al Birr Charity, which is a local NGO based in Dara'a, officially registered with Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour (MoSAL); and representative of Mar Ephram a faith-based NGO based in Damascus and operates at national level.

#### Workshop Objectives

- To re-present the local resilience needs in a more structured approach from the views of the local community and the local government technical directorates in Dara'a.

<sup>15</sup> Deputy Governor attended the workshop partially for protocol purposes, while local technical directors shared an overview of the needs. PMU staff with support from JP UN agencies steered and moderated the meeting to ensure the discussions and recommendations were evidence-based, inclusive and participatory, neither steered nor influenced by staff of local authorities.

- Apprise the UN agencies with more recent updated information on current pressing needs and priorities, and to understand the gaps in the local government plans.
- To present the UN agencies' suggested interventions, which will respond to the assessed and presented resilience needs and address the gaps in local plans.
- Validate, fine-tune, and agree on the presented UN agencies interventions, to start preparations on the ground and finalize the activity matrix that will be presented to donors.

## Main Topics

### Session 1 – Overview of Assessed Needs from local technical directors and local community views

Opening remarks by the Deputy Governor and the JP manager, and a brief overview of the situation and status of needs in Dara'a governorate by the member of city council responsible for relations with international organizations.

#### Sectoral needs presented by local technical directors.

- 1) Director of Education
  - a. There is huge number of schools that went out of service in the war, that concluded in creating extra load on the performing ones and extra need for equipment like furniture for example. There is also a need for supportive classes for students who are missing some classes due to the difficulty in finding transportation.
  - b. There is also huge need in the rural areas (Al Yarmouk and Northern rural) where a lot of schools were damaged and been out of service.
- 2) Director of Water: The main issue in providing drinking water is the electricity and the lack of fuel, which led to getting water wells to be out of service. Water sector in Dara'a has been affected heavily during the war where 80% of it is out of service.
  - a. Sewage networks in Wadi Al Zaidy need lots of maintenance as being out of service for long time caused blockages.
  - b. Two main water tanks in Al sad area and Al Dahieh area are damaged and need rehabilitation.
- 3) Director of General Company of Sewage: studies and cost estimates have been prepared, there is a need for: talked about the huge need in Dara'a mainly:
  - a. The damage of Ibta'a pumping station which led to an environmental disaster
  - b. The damaged sewage network in Da'el city
  - c. Rehabilitation of Dara'a water treatment plant
- 4) Director of Environment: talked about the damaged water treatment plant in Dara'a and how farmers are watering plants from the sewage water as replacement.
  - a. the need for repairing the sewage networks as they locate next to the irrigation water which is leading to pollution
  - b. The need to rehabilitate the solid waste factory
  - c. The need for distributing number of waste sorting containers to help in the recycling process
  - d. The need for raising environmental awareness between people in the residential areas
  - e. Most gardens need rehabilitation and afforestation



- 5) Director of Agriculture: Dara'a needs the rehabilitation of the green belt from Tal Shehab to eastern borders of Dara'a which contain 1 million olive plant that have been affected heavily due to getting the wells out of service.
  - a. there is lack of power source and fuel (we need solar panels to run these wells)
  - b. Farmers need fertilizations and seeds
  - c. Support local community in transforming the plants to composite fertilizer
  - d. Need to support the fodder inputs or distribution of fodder and vaccines
  - e. Rehabilitation of water channels in the western rural (most important Saham dam)
- 6) Director of Al Badieh (Steppe):
  - a. Critical need for the rehabilitation of water wells. There are 20 wells, only one of them is performing. Priority is to Ghasam well and Maaraba well.
  - b. Need to rehabilitate the reserve.
- 7) Director of Water Resources: Dara'a is an agricultural governorate that depends mainly on water which has decreased dramatically recently due to the inability to fix the dams that led to getting most of them out of service.
  - a. Priority is to rehabilitate the pumping stations.
  - b. Second priority is to rehabilitate the irrigation channel of Sahem Al Golan dam.
  - c. Cleaning Wadi Al Zaidy streamline or rehabilitate the water treatment plant.
  - d. Rehabilitating the bridge in Dara'a dam as it is the main corridor for local people.
- 8) Director of Social Affairs and Labour: there is increasing numbers of people with disabilities, widows, divorced ladies, orphans, and poor people in Dara'a, where women became the bread winners of the family.
  - a. There are two institutes for people with disabilities that have 100 students. These institutes need huge support with training, equipment, and financial support
  - b. Children friendly spaces are very few in Dara'a and need support
  - c. There are 1008 orphans registered in the association, that also need support
  - d. Elderly people need social centres
  - e. Divorced and widowed women need more support like SMEs for instance.
- 9) Director of Health: There are 6 hospitals in Dara'a, 1 of them are out of service, 4 are working with the minimum capacity, and 1 fully fledged working in addition to the national hospital that has 120 beds.
  - a. 9 health centres are still out of service.
  - b. The medical compound in Dara'a Al Balad is a priority and needs a whole renovation.
  - c. The national hospital needs more renovation and restoring 400 beds into service
  - d. Jasem hospital needs dialysis unit.
  - e. There is a need for an Oxygen generating station
- 10) Representative of the governorate council Mr Fawzi Masalmeh, talked about the agricultural needs in terms of repair of agricultural roads and its importance for the society besides rehabilitation of water wells.
- 11) Needs at the city-level presented by the head of the city council: Dara'a is divided to three hubs:
  - The heavily damaged markets with more than 6000 shop, while now there is only 10% of them performing
  - Al Balad, Al sad, and Al Mukhayam neighbourhoods, in which we have started working as the damage is huge
  - Wadi Al Zaidy as it is in the centre of Dara'a city
 there are also huge numbers of unemployment, poverty, disabilities, and injuries. In addition to out of school's students. We are seeking to increase the social cohesion activities in Dara'a.

### Neighbourhoods needs presented by the local community members and representatives.

- Mukhtar of Yarmouk neighbourhood: there are 625 families (about 3500 people).
  - o Needs are summarized by solar lighting, rubble removal and demolishing dangerous damaged building, fumigation of the neighbourhood for insects and rodents, continuing the electricity network rehab, and rehab of a public park.
- Mukhtar of Al Menshieh: echoing similar needs to the other Mukhtars, he also stressed the need to rehab the sewage network in his neighbourhood. Currently there are 645 people residing compared to 10,000 before.
- Mukhtar of Al Shuhadaa, Al Zahraa re-iterated the infrastructure rehab needs, besides raising the point of livelihoods and need to support shop owners to re-open their shops.
- Mukhtar of Al Arba'een, Al Bahar: identified similar needs, besides the lack of health centre to serve the area.
- Rural people representative from eastern rural areas (Nassib); highlighted the importance of support to education and the need to support agriculture and irrigation as well as sewage for rural areas.
- Mukhtar of Ataman (rural area); highlighted the infrastructural needs, and municipal services and interventions in electricity and water, as Ataman was a nearby rural area, and now almost considered part of the wider city of Dara'a.
- Mukhtar of Al Naa'eimah (rural area); highlighted the infrastructural needs and municipal services, besides support to agriculture as Al Naa'eimah was a nearby rural area, and now almost considered part of the wider city of Dara'a. There are about 900 building blocks damaged on 34 were rehabilitated. There is need for community water tanks as 3 are already out of service and need for alternate electric power solutions.
- Member of local community from Dara'a Al Balad Dr Ziad Mahameed, highlighted the general needs in Dara'a Al Balad, and talked about the measures and initiatives taken by the community to prevent the spread of COVID19.
- Member of local community from Dara'a Al Balad Dr Abdalla Aba Zaid highlighted the keen need for social cohesion interventions especially in Dara'a Al Balad and psychological support to students in schools.



### Local NGOs representatives attended and participated in the discussion, through

- o Al Birr local NGO in Dara'a, talked about their experience with UN agencies in general, and their support to some of the JP activities undertaken by UNICEF and WFP through the NGO. He highlighted the need for vocational training for people with disabilities.
- o Mar Ephram (FBO), talked about the activities of the FBO in general, and their readiness to support the JP

## **Session 2 – More on Assessed Needs, Suggested Interventions, and Final Agreed-on Actions (UN Agencies)**

### Assessments and Suggested resilience interventions by UN agencies

- The UNFPA presented a briefing about the results of conducted FGDs.
- The UN agencies each presented a set of interventions as per its mandate and area of expertise while highlighting complementarities with other agencies' interventions at the area level and stressing the non-duplication aspect that will ensure the best impact and render results positively reflecting on the resilience of people in the targeted areas and neighbourhoods.



Open session: technical detailed review, discussion to fine-tune and prioritize interventions.

- During this session, the presented interventions were re-visited on the screen and validated at the area level by the local community and local technical directors against the needs in the targeted area, where fine-tuning was required to describe the activity and specify the location. Furthermore, some additional requests were made through the discussion. The focal points of the UN agencies considered the needed modification for some activities and acknowledged to examine the possibility of responding additional request, while they justified their positions on other requested interventions that cannot at the time being fall under the JP.



**Key Outcomes:**

***From Session 1***

It was made clear for all and by all attendees that the governorate of Dara'a and particularly the city of Dara'a is in dire need for extensive multi-sectoral efforts to support the resilience of its population, especially in Dara'a Al Balad areas and nearby rural areas. The key observation was the interlinkage between different needs and the clear dependency relation, where the sustainability of livelihoods relies on the availability of solid infrastructure services, and quality education leans on availing safer access. At the country-side level

and rural areas, the revival of agriculture relies on availability of water and inputs to support small vulnerable farmers and cattle (cows and sheep) breeders, while the protection aspects of interventions require further attention to youth, women, girls, and children in general. Support to the health sector in terms of rehabilitation and equipping of health facilities was requested as a cross cutting critical need provided the outbreak of COVID-19, and possible spread of water-borne diseases resulting from contamination of drinking water with sewage water due to damage on both networks.

***From Session 2***

The results of the assessments conducted by UN agencies were in line with those of the local government and local community. The proposed interventions were thoroughly discussed and agreed on by all stakeholders from local government and local community and concurred to by the UN agencies' focal points.

**Impact on JP Planning:**

The JP's list of interventions for Dara'a phase II, shall be populated with activities based on the agreed-upon interventions at the area level to address and respond to the assessed multi-sectoral resilience needs at the neighbourhoods and villages levels. The draft table of articulated activities shall be discussed by the JP Task Force at the Damascus level for appraisal, better horizontal and vertical coordination and minimizing duplication and overlap.

----- *End of Dara'a Phase II Workshop Report*



**Beginning** -----

**THE JOINT PROGRAMME TO BUILD AND STRENGTHEN URBAN AND RURAL RESILIENCE IN SYRIA**

**Selection Criteria for Locations, Activities and Beneficiaries, for Dara'a Phase II interventions (Dara'a Governorate)**

**I- Background**

In 2021, and during the implementation of Dara'a Phase I interventions, the UN participating agencies conducted local consultations to define the Joint Programme's interventions for Phase II in Dara'a. The participating UN agencies employed solid criteria to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable communities, based on which they have identified neighbourhoods inside Dara'a city besides suburban and rural areas at sub-district and district levels, based on consultation with local community and local authority technical representatives during several rounds of assessments, which was confirmed in the joint-participatory area-based planning and validation workshop, where joint area-based interventions by UN agencies were best exhibited, discussed and validated by local stakeholders.

**II- Locations**

**Security, accessibility and conflict sensitivity:** The UN participating agencies identified locations inside Dara'a city, mainly in Dara'a Al Balad, and in the suburban and rural areas in the eastern and western countryside of Dara'a city, where security conditions allow for continual access and safe implementation of activities.

**Population dynamics:** The identified locations are witnessing considerable return movement besides having an already residing community comprising IDPs and hosts, where joint integrated interventions shall equally benefit all targeted population, strengthen their resilience, and leverage economic recovery.

**Economic impact:**

Local markets and the industrial area are identified where economic impacts of activities can be visible.

**Urban-rural connectivity:** The selected locations in the rural areas and agricultural suburbs, besides sharing similar benefits of urban interventions, they apprehend interventions that will revive the interconnectedness between rural and urban areas and strengthen the supply chain of agricultural products and other economic and social linkages.

**Community participation and capacity leveraging:** The active participation of local community members through local consultations is key in identifying locations, where joint interventions are intended to capitalize on existing resources, leverage their capacity in needs identification and analysis in addition to ensuring their involvement in fine-tuning interventions, planning for implementation, and monitoring of results.

**III- Activities**

**Interventions have a Multi-sector/Multi agency socio-economic impact:** Support to livelihoods opportunities through availing temporary cash-for-work opportunities, E-voucher, and empowerment through vocational trainings, while reviving small businesses and rehabilitation of different infrastructure networks is taking place, (UNDP, UNH, UNFPA, WFP, UNICEF interventions). Activities in the agricultural areas focus on reviving the agricultural economy, through promotion of agricultural production

and entrepreneurship, rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructure and assets and support to livestock subsector, (FAO and WFP interventions).

**Complementarity:** UN agencies' interventions are defined on an area-based approach, where beneficiaries in the targeted areas shall benefit from an integrated set of activities, and whereas complementarity between interventions is sought. (i.e., School rehabilitation activities by UNICEF, complemented with greenspaces and public gardens rehabilitation by UN-Habitat along with street repair and lighting by UNDP and UNH, besides traffic-awareness sessions for children).

**Community involvement:** Identified interventions, are a result of extensive local consultations with a wide range of members of the local community and municipality technical officials to leverage the capacity of the community and ensure its active participation in, assessment, planning, and implementation.

**Community vs Household/individual impact:** Activities relating to common benefit to the whole community as well as Households and individuals (i.e., irrigation structures); while Households benefit from agricultural inputs, whereas individuals benefit from possible agricultural livelihoods opportunities<sup>16</sup>.

#### **IV- Beneficiaries**

Beneficiaries of the JP interventions under Dara'a phase II are selected likewise, under Dara'a phase I, based on their vulnerability and need for resilience-related interventions, besides their active involvement in the JP activities.

**Vulnerability:** A high percentage (more than 60%) of the population in Dara'a are considered vulnerable at different levels and from different aspects. Children shall be given special attention under different education interventions by UNICEF since there is a high percentage of dropouts and notable child labour, while youth – male and female- shall be prioritized for different life skills, vocational training, and capacity enhancement to strengthen their roles in recovery and diminish negative coping mechanisms. Female-headed households, and families with many members (especially with children), or families having persons with disabilities shall be prioritized for livelihood activities. Nutrition activities by WFP and UNFPA oriented at most vulnerable pregnant and lactating women.

**Active Involvement of all stakeholders:** Since they are considered a group of the beneficiaries and participators in the programme's planning and implementation, the active involvement of such stakeholders including but not-limited-to (technical directors, service departments' personnel, community leaders, members of local community, representatives of youth, representatives of rural women...etc.) besides service providers and different implementing partners is a criterion that is adhered to.

----- **End**

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<sup>16</sup> JP Criteria-Locations-Activities-Beneficiaries

## **Rehabilitation of small-scale irrigation systems in Dara'a, Syria**

Under

**UN Joint Programme to Strengthen Urban and Rural Resilience and the Conditions for Recovery in Syria**

### **Abstract about the Natural Resource Assessment report**

More than ten years of the Syrian crisis has caused serious damages to the key socio-economic infrastructure deteriorating people livelihood and stability. This crisis, combined with frequent drought events, has resulted in negative impacts on all sectors especially the irrigation and agriculture sectors. Rehabilitation of these sectors is a resilient action to regain agricultural production, improve livelihoods and prevent further deterioration of the country's natural resources. Since natural resources assessment can give a detailed picture needed for suggesting sustainable resilient interventions, FAO-Syria has recently played a pioneering role in assessing natural resources in different areas of Syria. An analysis of the state of natural resources in two severely damaged areas of Syria, Dara'a and Deir-ez-zor were produced in order to determine the feasibility of interventions for sustainable agricultural production and rural livelihood support.

This NRA report covers the natural resources assessment in Dara'a district. Great reliance was placed on remote sensing techniques and hydrological modelling in carrying out this work. While remote sensing offers a large opportunity to monitor and manage natural resources at multi-temporal and multi-spatial resolution, hydrologic modelling helps in understanding, predicting, and managing natural resources at watershed and sub-watershed scales. The integrated use of remotely sensed data and the hydrologic modelling, especially the use of physically based models, helps in prioritizing and characterizing the appropriate interventions, developing plans for effective and sustainable management of natural resources, and predicting the long-term impacts of the proposed interventions as well as the impacts of climate change on natural resources. The methodology used in this project adopted the concept of the integrated use of remote sensing and hydrologic modelling. It can be summarized in making use of all available ground data, remotely sensed-derived data, and hydrological modelling outcomes to prioritize interventions regarding their potential impact on increasing agricultural production on the one hand and sustaining existing natural resources on the other.

A set of well-defined criteria was selected to assess the feasibility of each potential intervention, the optimal sites for implementation, estimated cost-benefits and potential social and environmental impacts. Among the most important criteria that have been relied upon in selecting the most priority interventions are: i) the sustainability of water resources, particularly ensuring that groundwater is not depleted; ii) promoting sustainable environmental utilization of seasonal surface water resources through rainwater harvesting structures; iii) and sustainable use of land resources through promoting best land management practices.

The Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) was used in this study to simulate the different hydrological processes and quantify the impact of land management practices at watershed /sub-watershed scales. SWAT relies on physical equations to describe the relationship between input and output variables; therefore, it can legitimately be proposed for modelling watershed with little monitoring data. SWAT was successfully run on a daily time step covering the time period 1991-2019 (29 years). The required land use map for running the model was derived from high-resolution satellite imageries, whereas the required soil type map was produced using 94 soil profiles in combination with landform units and slope. Monthly measurements of storage volume from about 20 reservoirs were used to assess the simulated surface water balance in

Dara'a district. Comparing the measured values with the simulated ones showed good agreement. Besides, groundwater model was also developed to represent the groundwater system and develop future predictive scenarios that reflect the impact of human activities and climate change on the available water resources.

In addition, FAO' databases and portals were also widely used in this project, for example, *Gross Biomass Water Productivity (GBWP)* and *Total Biomass Production (TBP)* were taken from the *FAO Water Productivity Portal (WaPOR)*, whereas valuable remote sensing derived indices for monitoring the drought and agricultural health, such as *Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)* and *Mean Vegetation Health Index (VHI)*, were obtained from the FAO-GIEWS (*Global Information and Early Warning System*). The FAO CropWat software was also used for calculating water and irrigation requirements of the crops cultivated in the study area based on soil, climate, and crop data. On the other hand, the results of the chemical analyses of groundwater in the study area showed values that are within the permissible limits (standards) for most of the collected samples, and it can thus be used for drinking, agricultural, industrial, and household uses. Information about the socio-economic conditions and humanitarian needs were also collected and analysed at the community and sub-district levels.

A number of possible interventions have been proposed based on the analysis of the results of the natural resources assessment in consultation with farmers as well as specialists from the relevant entities. As examples of the proposed interventions, we mention the rehabilitation of wells (in areas that do not suffer from groundwater depletion), rainwater harvesting structures, pumping stations and irrigation canals.

Finally, the optimal sites and characteristics for the proposed interventions were chosen using the suitability analysis (overlay analysis) that relies on integrating the normalized weights of the parameters affecting the selection of each intervention. For example, the groundwater depletion was supposed to be the most affecting parameter in producing the suitability map for rehabilitating groundwater wells, whereas the potential runoff was considered the most affecting parameter in producing the suitability map for building/or rehabilitating rainwater harvesting structures.

In conclusion, the integrated use of remotely sensed data and the hydrological modelling implemented in Dara'a district has greatly assisted in identifying appropriate interventions for increasing agricultural production through sustainable use of natural resources. Application of this approach has resulted in identifying locations for sustainable use of surface and groundwater resources for agricultural investment. This encourages further development and application of this approach in other areas of the country.

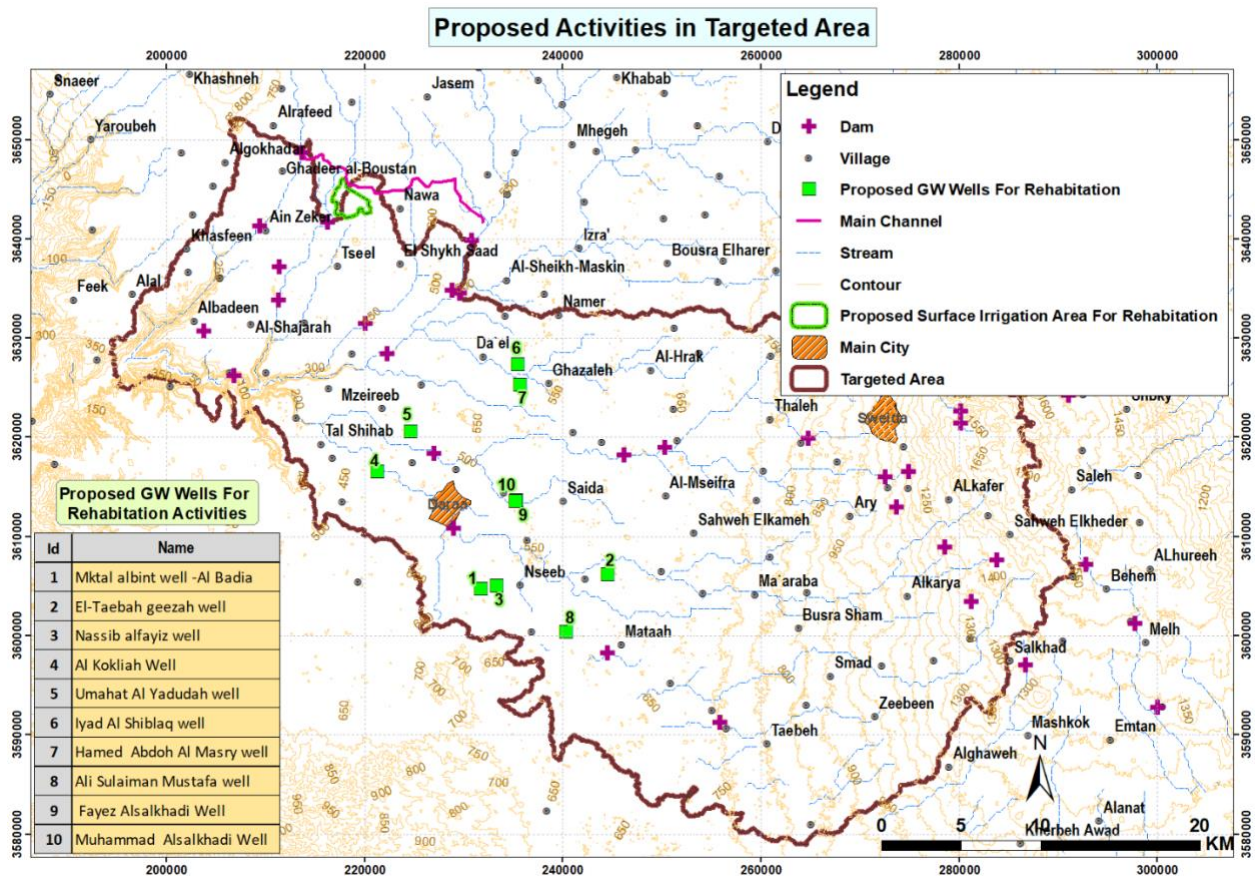
**Project summary**

<b>Intervention/subproject title</b>	Rehabilitation of small-scale irrigation systems in Daraa, Syria
<b>Project title</b>	UN Joint Programme to Strengthen Urban and Rural Resilience and The Conditions for Recovery in Syria
<b>Project symbol</b>	UNJP/SYR/022/EC
<b>Implementing agencies</b>	FAO
<b>Budget</b>	425,000 USD
<b>Implementation period</b>	3 months
<b>Targeted Areas</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The following 5 locations: Al Kokliah, El-Taebah geezah, Mktal albint, Nassib alfayiz and Umahat Al Yadudah for the rehabilitating 5 groundwater wells within the green belt area</li> <li>2. Gadeer Al Bustan for the main/branch canals and Nawa for the field irrigation canals</li> </ol>
<b>Direct beneficiaries</b> <b>Indirect beneficiaries</b>	Direct: 18,500 HH
<b>Activities</b>	<p><b>Activity A:</b> Rehabilitation of farmers' field irrigation system in Gadeer Al Bustan</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Light rehabilitation for the main open channel flow (1.5 m<sup>3</sup>/s, length 25 km, flume structure, rectangular, and trapezoidal sections), and the water intakes on the main canal in order to let water flow through and reach branched field irrigation canals</li> <li>2. Rehabilitation of field irrigation canals downstream Nawa</li> </ol> <p><b>Activity B:</b> Rehabilitation of 5 groundwater wells for farmers of small-scale agricultural activities in the Green Belt areas: Al Kokliah, El-Taebah geezah, Mktal albint, Nassib alfayiz, and Umahat Al Yadudah groundwater wells.</p>
<b>Linkage to FAO's Strategic Framework:</b>	The project is in line with the two regional Initiatives on Water Scarcity (WSI) and on Small-Scale Family Farming (RI SSFF)

## Rehabilitation of small-scale irrigation systems in Daraa, Syria

### Background:

Priority areas for sustainable interventions were identified within Dara'a district based on desk studies and remote sensing assessment for Dara'a watershed<sup>17</sup>. Small-scale irrigation structures that require rehabilitation works were listed based on the field survey findings and analysis of the assessment in consultation with local stakeholders. Two types of activities were proposed: Rehabilitation of groundwater wells and rehabilitation of surface irrigation canals. Figure 1 shows the proposed activities in the targeted area.



**Figure 1.** Proposed activities in the targeted area

<sup>17</sup> FAO carried out a natural resource assessment for the whole watershed that contains Daraa district

### Assigned activities:

FAO studies the stakeholders proposed activities for vulnerable farmers and advised of rehabilitation of the groundwater wells located in suitable areas in terms of the needs, soil and sustainable use and the surface field irrigation system in the target district.

Further discussion with the donor (EU) resulted in the agreement to implement two the following activities:

#### **Activity A:**

##### **Rehabilitation of farmers' field irrigation system in Gadeer Al Bustan**

The targeted area is within the irrigation scheme of Ghadeer Al Boustan Dam (10.8 MM<sup>3</sup>). The work includes:

3. Light rehabilitation for the main open channel flow (1.5 m<sup>3</sup>/s, length 25 km, flume structure, rectangular, and trapezoidal sections), and the water intakes on the main canal in order to let water flow through and reach branched field irrigation canals
4. Rehabilitation of field irrigation canals downstream Nawa

#### **Activity B:**

Rehabilitation of 5 groundwater wells for farmers of small-scale agricultural activities in green belt areas: Al Kokliah, El-Taebah Geezah, Mktal albint, Nassib alfayiz, and Umahat Al Yadudah groundwater wells. The Green belt wells were drilled and equipped by the local Directorate of Agricultural in the 1980s in order to provide water through tankers to farmers and householders for supplementary irrigation and to herders for livestock drinking use. The wells and green belt area (olive trees mostly) are located within farmers' lands.

Table 1 below gives some details regarding the proposed activities. They will be supported through establishing water users' associations and running a number of trainings to manage irrigation in targeted areas, fairly distribute water among beneficiaries, operate and maintain the water distribution systems.

<b>Proposed Activity (Figure 2)</b>	<b>General information</b>
<b>A. Rehabilitation of farmers' field irrigation network: Ghadeer Al Boustan irrigation network</b>	<p><u>The canal requires light rehabilitation works to be refunctioned. The work includes:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Light rehabilitation of the main open channel, 25 KM, 1.5 m<sup>3</sup>/s, mainly the first part (5km) and the flume structure that supply water to the downstream irrigation networks.</li><li>2. Rehabilitation of the field irrigation network downstream Nawa. The work includes rehabilitation of the pipeline system and its field water intakes.</li></ol> <p>With this work, the surplus water can flow down to Shakh Maskeen dam, downstream the canal</p> <p><u>Rehabilitation works would:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Allow groundwater recharge through surface/flood field irrigation</li><li>2. Prevent evaporation from the dam lake (10.8 MM<sup>3</sup>) and allow farmers to use it for irrigating their crops This would in turn reduce amount of pumped groundwater and sustain aquifers from depletion. Water flow with earthen canals will also allow shallow groundwater recharge (Wells in the surrounding area will indirectly be recharged)</li></ol>

	<b>3. Improve farmers' livelihoods and reduce agricultural input costs (costs of pumping ground water)</b>
<b>B. Rehabilitation of groundwater wells: green belt wells</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The wells were drilled and equipped by the local directorate of agricultural in the 1980s. They used to provide water through tankers to small-scale farmers, householders and herders for supplementary irrigation and livestock drinking use.</li> <li>2. Activity will be supported through establishing water users' associations and training to fairly distribute water among beneficiaries, operate and maintain the rehabilitated wells</li> <li>3. Sustainability is ensured through selecting wells within groundwater promising aquifers</li> <li>4. Solar powered pumping system will be implemented</li> <li>5. Farmers' cooperation will be encouraged through establishing WUAs for operating and maintaining the system</li> <li>6. Herders and local farmers' livelihoods are expected to be improved</li> <li>7. Improving agricultural production and increasing number of opportunities for labour works is expected</li> </ol>

**Estimated costs, beneficiaries and target area:**

Proposed Activity	No. of proposed wells to be targeted	Area proposed to be irrigated/or supplementary irrigated, ha	Beneficiaries, HH	Estimated cost, USD	Remarks
<b>A. Rehabilitation of farmers' field irrigation network: Ghadeer Al Boustan irrigation network</b>					
1. Rehabilitation of main open channel	-	<b>3700 ha</b>	15,000 HH (direct) including livestock keepers 10,000 HH (indirect)	105,000	
2. Rehabilitation of field irrigation canals	-	<b>600 ha</b>	At least 1,500 HH (direct) including livestock keepers 4,000 HH (indirect)	120,000	This work cannot be implemented without rehabilitating the main canal
<b>B. Rehabilitation of groundwater wells: Green Belt wells</b>					
<b>For 5 wells</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>350 ha</b>	Expected No of beneficiaries for each well: 400 HH (direct) including livestock keepers 500 HH (indirect) Total: 2000 (direct) 2500 (indirect)	200,000	Beneficiaries include herders and householders

**Table 1** details regarding the proposed activities in Darra



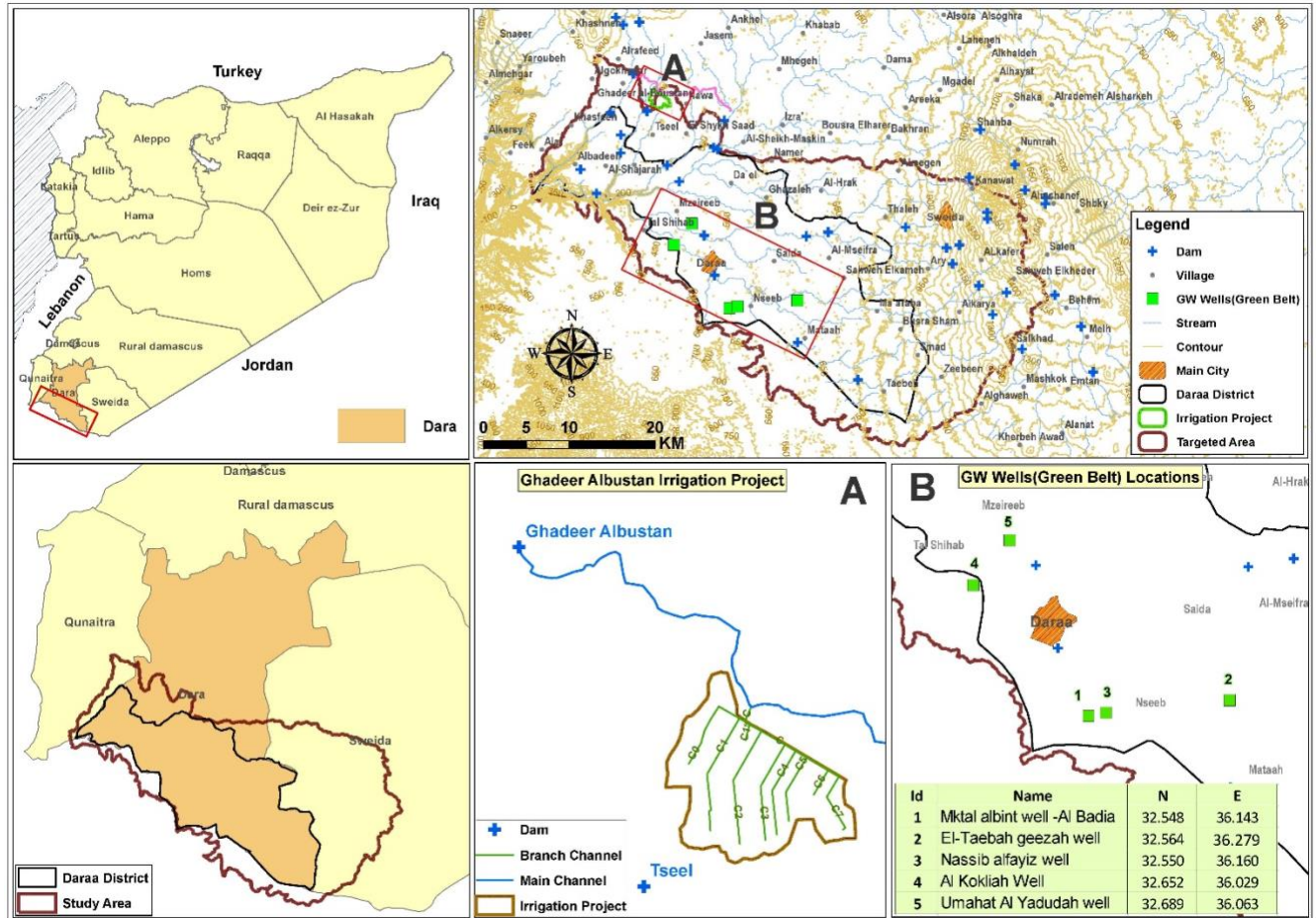


Figure 2 Location of the assigned two activities in Daraa

### Sub-activities for the activities A and B:

#### Activity A:

#### Rehabilitation of farmers' field irrigation network: Ghadeer Al Boustan irrigation network

The targeted area is within the irrigation scheme of Ghadeer Al Boustan Dam. The work includes rehabilitation for the main open channel, the water intakes on the main canal for the field irrigation network in Nawa. District: Darra, Sub-district: Nawa; Figures 3 and 4. Figure 5 shows example o of the damaged pipelines.

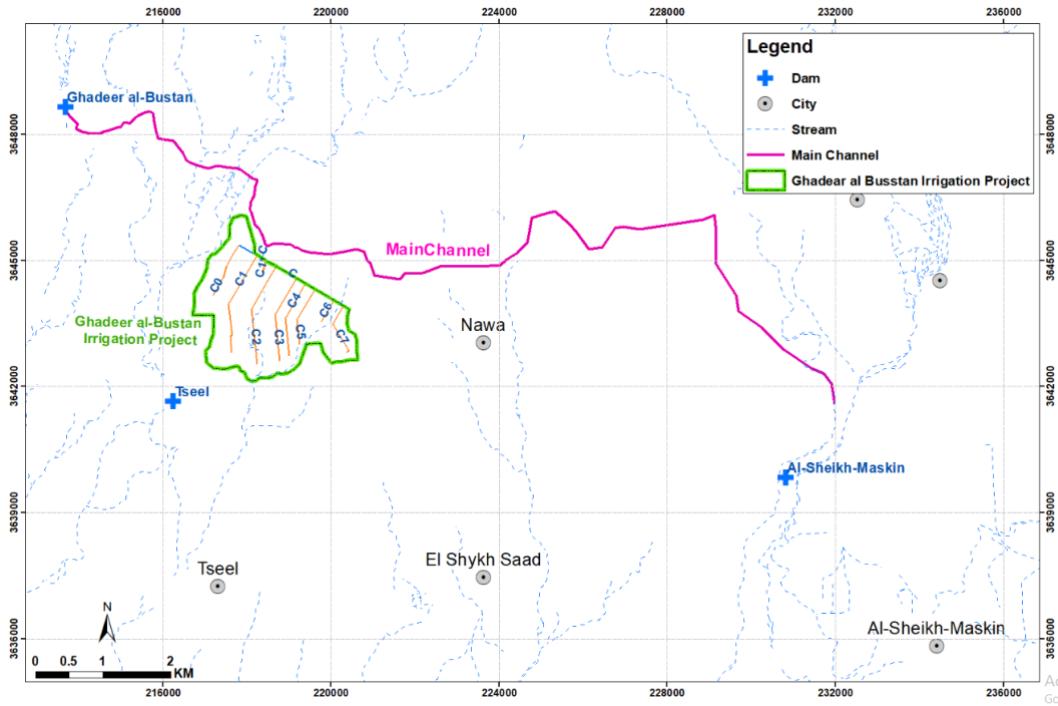


Figure 3: Map of the field irrigation system and main open channel flow

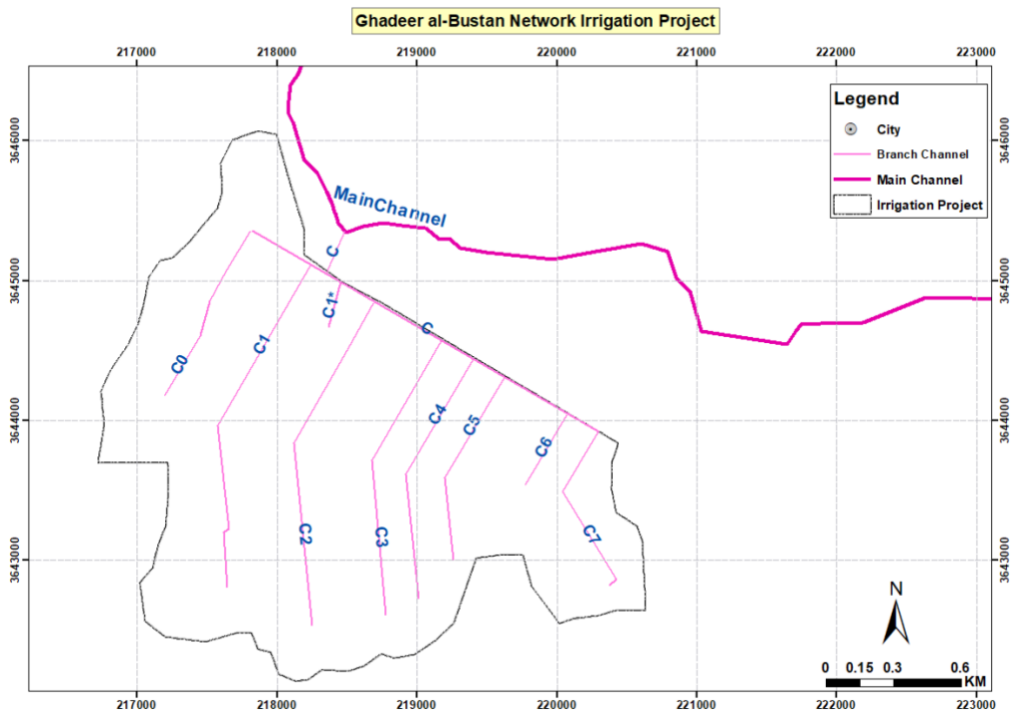


Figure 4: Targeted field irrigation network in Nawa

Activity	Sub-activity
1. Supply and install reinforcement concrete works. 2. Supply and install concrete works. 3. Supply, install and carry-on hydraulic tests for all (GRP, P.V.C) pipes, joints, reducer, flange and assemblies 4. Metal/steel works.	1. Rehabilitation of the main open channel flow (Length 25 km, flume structure, rectangular, and trapezoidal sections) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Earth work</li> <li>Reinforcement concrete work</li> <li>Plain concrete work</li> <li>Metal works for the vertical control gates</li> </ol>
	2. Rehabilitation of the field irrigation system <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Earth work (excavation and backfill): 13810 M.L</li> <li>Supply, install and hydraulic tests for all GRP pipes, joints, reducer, flange, and assemblies: 385 M.L</li> <li>Supply, install and hydraulic tests for all P.V.C pipes, joints, reducer, flange, and assemblies: 13005 M.L</li> <li>Metal works (gates, fittings): 1600 kg</li> </ol>



**Figure 5:** Damages in the main open channel flow within the field irrigation system

## Activity B:

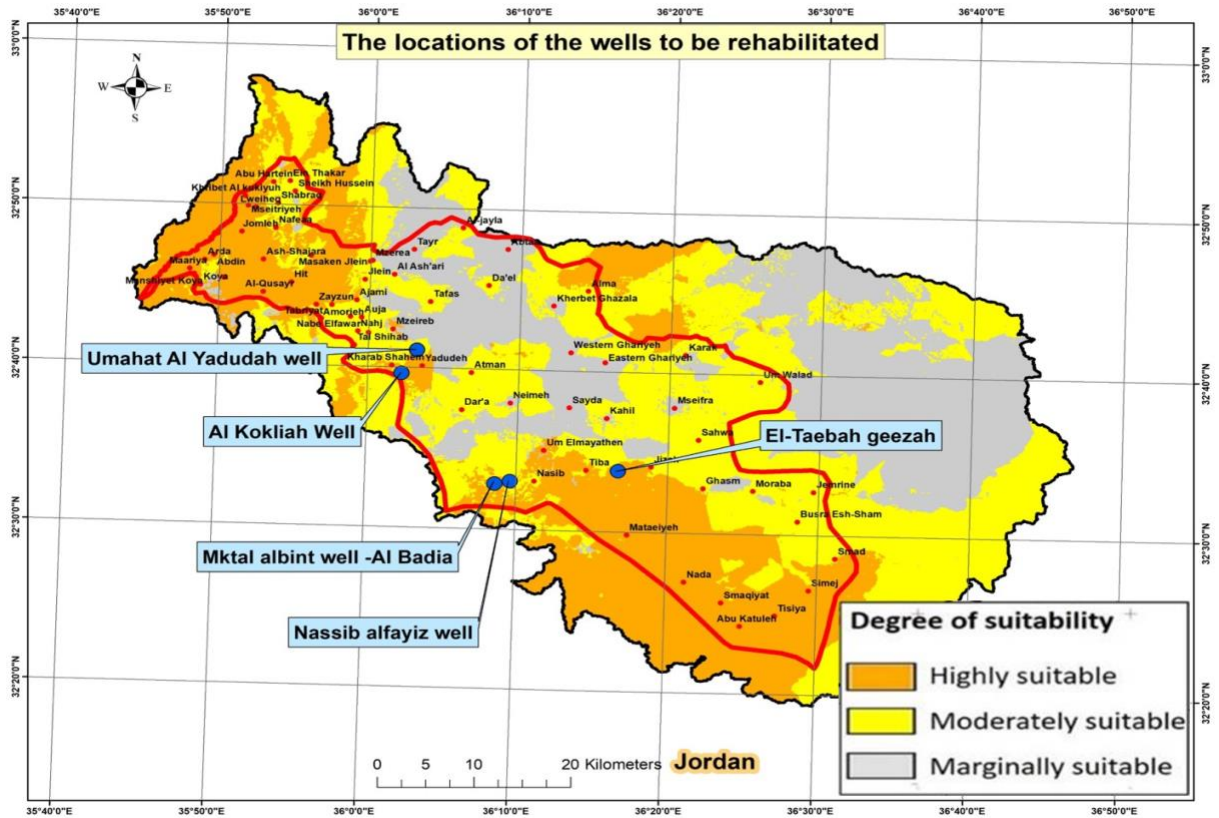
### Rehabilitation of groundwater wells: Green Belt wells

#### B.1. Main criteria for selecting the groundwater wells

- The well shall be located in a promising area for sustainable use of groundwater for agriculture based on the produced map of suitable areas for the rehabilitation of groundwater wells in Dara’a, Figure 6
- Farmers shall agree to establish a water users’ association/group to operate and maintain the rehabilitated system. The management board shall be elected to be responsible for fair and efficient

distribution of water. A signed and stamped declaration that the implemented system shall be managed by the members of the WUA that will be established.

3. Farmer who owns the groundwater well shall agree to share the water resource with neighbouring farmers and herders.
4. Farmers should belong to vulnerable groups (low income, family member with special need...)



**Figure 6:** Locations of the 5 green belt wells on the map of the suitable areas for the rehabilitation of groundwater wells in Dara'a,

**B.2. Coordination of selected groundwater wells for rehabilitation activities and establishing WUAs:**

	Name of the selected groundwater well (green built well)	Geographic coordination		Main activities
		N	E	
1.	Al Kokliah Well	32°39'5.73"	36° 1'44.77"	1. Rehabilitation of the groundwater well including the mechanical and electrical equipment 2. Civil work: Service room and the water tank
2.	El-Taebah geezah well	32°33'48.69"	36°16'43.46"	
3.	Mktal albint well -Al Badia	32°32'51.47"	36° 8'35.84"	
4.	Nassib alfayiz well	32°33'1.72"	36° 9'35.85"	

5.	Umahat Al Yadudah well	32°41'19.84"	36° 3'46.98"	3. Solar power energy for pumping the water 4. Establishing of Water Users Associations and training
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### B.3. Beneficiaries:

The area to be served by irrigation is in total 350 ha, Table 2 presents details for every well.

	Name of the selected groundwater well	Beneficiaries	Area to be irrigated/supplementary irrigated	Volume of water to be made available M <sup>3</sup> /day
1.	Al Kokliah Well	Direct 2000 HHs Indirect 2500 HHs	350 Ha	216 m <sup>3</sup> /day
2.	El-Taebah geezah well			480 m <sup>3</sup> /day
3.	Mktal albint well -Al Badia			240 m <sup>3</sup> /day
4.	Nassib alfayiz well			240 m <sup>3</sup> /day
5.	Umahat Al Yadudah well			240 m <sup>3</sup> /day

**Table 2** Details for targeted wells

### B.4. Sub-activities for every selected groundwater well:

1. Kokliah groundwater well.

Location: District: Darra, Sub-district: Mzeireb

Activity	Sub-activity	Estimated cost
1. Rehabilitation and installation of submersible pump with electric motor and related fittings and accessories 2. Solar power system for pumping ground water	1. Conduct well cleaning and development (405m)	
	2. Supply, install and test the discharge pipe (18 bar -170m)	
3. Supply, install and test a submersible pumping unit: Q=18 m <sup>3</sup> /hr., H=200 m with all needed fittings and accessories		
4. Supply a solar pumping system for the submersible pumping unit		
5. Repair, fix and rehabilitation all required civil works for the service room		
		<b>47,000 USD</b>



**Figure7:** Kokliah groundwater well

2. El-Taebah geezah groundwater well.

Location: District: Dara'a, Sub-district: Jizeh

Activity	Sub-activity	Estimated cost
1. Rehabilitation and installation of submersible pump with electric motor and all related fittings and accessories	1. Conduct well cleaning and development (300m)	
2. Solar power system for pumping water	2. Supply, install and test the discharge pipe (20 bar -230m)	
	3. Supply, install and test a submersible pumping unit: Q=40 m <sup>3</sup> /hr., H=190 m with all needed fittings and accessories	
	4. Supply a solar pumping system for the submersible pumping unit.	
	5. Repair, fix and rehabilitation the civil work of service room	
		<b>46,000 USD</b>



**Figure 8:** El-Taebah Geezah groundwater well

3. Mktal albint groundwater well -Al Badia.

Location: District: Darra, Sub-district: Dara'a

Activity	Sub-activity	Estimated cost
1. Rehabilitation and installation of submersible pump with electric motor and all related fittings and accessories 2. Solar power system for pumping water	1. Conduct well cleaning and development (288m) 2. Supply, install and test discharge pipe (20 bar -225m) 3. Supply, install and test a submersible pumping unit: $Q=20 \text{ m}^3/\text{hr.}$ , $H=225 \text{ m}$ with all needed fittings and accessories 4. Supply a solar pumping system for the submersible pumping unit. 5. Repair, fix and rehabilitation the civil work of service room	
		<b>39,000 USD</b>



**Figure 9:** Mktal albint groundwater well -Al Badia

4. Nassib alfayiz groundwater well.

Location: District: Dara'a, Sub-district: Dara'a

Activity	Sub-activity	Estimated cost
1. Rehabilitation and installation of submersible pump with electric motor and all related fittings and accessories	1. Conduct well cleaning and development (285m)	
2. Solar power system for pumping water	2. Supply, install and test discharge pipe (20 bar -185m)	
	3. Supply, install and test a submersible pumping unit: Q=20 m <sup>3</sup> /hr., H=210 m with all needed fittings and accessories	
	4. Supply a solar pumping system for the submersible pumping unit.	
	5. Repair, fix and rehabilitation the civil work of service room	
		<b>34,000 USD</b>





**Figure 10:** Nassib Alfayiz groundwater well

5. Umahat Al Yadudah groundwater well.

Location: District: Darra, Sub-district: Mzeireb

Activity	Sub-activity	Estimated cost
1. Rehabilitation and installation of submersible pump with electric motor and all related fittings and accessories	1. Conduct well cleaning and development (380m)	
2. Solar power system for pumping water	2. Supply, install and test discharge pipe (20 bar -190m)	
	3. Supply, install and test a submersible pumping unit: $Q=20 \text{ m}^3/\text{hr.}$ , $H=200 \text{ m}$ with all needed fittings and accessories	
	4. Supply a solar pumping system for the submersible pumping unit.	
	5. Repair, fix and rehabilitation the civil work of service room	
		<b>34,000 USD</b>



**Figure 11:** Umahat Al Yadudah groundwater well



## WOMEN AT THE CENTER

### Joint cash-based assistance for women’s food security, nutrition, health and protection in Syria

#### 1. WFP and UNFPA are working together to meet the needs of PLW in Syria

Since 2015, WFP and UNFPA have worked together to prevent malnutrition among pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLW) in Syria. To counter the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the deteriorating economic, food security and nutrition situation, this collaboration was expanded further in 2020 to protect the health and nutrition of PLW. WFP and UNFPA have joined forces to support the dietary diversity and health of PLW from vulnerable food insecure households through the provision of fresh and nutritious food, hygiene items, nutrition and health awareness, and sexual reproductive health services.

PLW receive a joint cash-based transfer (CBT) delivered by WFP, which can be spent on fresh food and selected hygiene items at contracted retailers across Syria. The value voucher provides beneficiaries with flexibility to collect their entitlement when they want and with an informed choice to purchase the items that they require according to their preferences and needs, thereby putting the beneficiary and their needs at the centre of humanitarian programming. The voucher value is regularly adjusted based on market price trends in order to preserve the beneficiaries’ purchasing power.

Participants not only receive a monthly value voucher for fresh food and selected hygiene items, but also benefit from a variety of other services that accompany their pregnancy and breastfeeding period. These include sensitization on healthy nutrition, reproductive health and gender-based violence (GBV), antenatal and postnatal services in UNFPA-affiliated clinics and access to UNFPA-supported Women and Girls Safe Spaces for integrated reproductive health and GBV-related services. The UNFPA-WFP partnership in Syria, covering 12 of Syria’s 14 governorates, is currently the largest joint CBT initiative implemented in Syria.<sup>1</sup> It is also the largest among similar partnerships implemented by UNFPA globally.

#### 2. 81,572 PLW benefitted from joint assistance in the third quarter of 2021

WFP has implemented the programme since 2014, already in close coordination with UNFPA. In 2020, WFP and UNFPA agreed to top-up WFP’s voucher portion with additional transfer value provided by UNFPA to cover beneficiaries’ hygiene needs. Following a successful pilot project in Dara’a governorate between May and August 2020, WFP and UNFPA expanded this collaboration to all PLW beneficiaries in Syria beginning in September 2020.

From July to September 2021, 81,572 (unique beneficiaries) PLW were reached through the joint WFP/UNFPA programme.

Figure 1: Cumulative unique number of beneficiaries figures per governorate (July–September 2021)

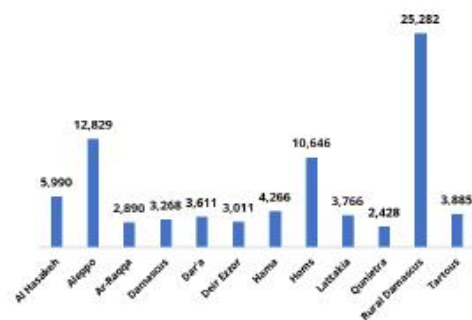


Table 1: Total value of vouchers distributed to targeted beneficiaries (July–September 2021)

	SYP	USD
Total Transferred (WFP + UNFPA) <sup>2</sup>	13,602,624,100	5,441,050

Annex I: JP Communication and Visibility Joint Workplan

No.	Activity	Timeline 2022				Status	Responsible
		Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022		
<b>1.</b>	<b>Outreach to and Engagement with the Donor Community</b>						
1.1	Invite donors to field visits (3)	1 to Dara'a1	1 to DEZ (May)	1 to Dara'a2			PMU
1.2	Share periodical updates and key success stories (4) by email	1 update	1 update	1 update	1 update		PMU
1.3	Produce photo albums for the implementation in Dara'a and DEZ (3)	1 album for Dara'a1	1 album for DEZ		1 album for Dara'a2		Agencies Comms Focal Points & JP Communications and Advocacy Officer
1.4	Produce biannual flyer about the programme recent highlights (2)		1 newsletter		1 newsletter		Agencies Comms Focal Points & JP Communications and Advocacy Officer
<b>2.</b>	<b>Key Messaging</b>						
2.1	Create bilingual one-pager key messages document for donors' community outreach (1)	1 document					JP Communications and Advocacy Officer
2.2	Provide on-going support to communication focal points on preparing relevant messages relating to the JP	Continuous through the year					JP Communications and Advocacy Officer
2.3	Prepare a two-pager bilingual fact sheet of the JP to be shared with interested donors, and other stakeholders (1)	1					JP Communications and Advocacy Officer
<b>3.</b>	<b>Key Stories</b>						

<b>3.1</b>	Identify key JP events/ achievements and prepare relevant impact stories (in coordination with communication focal points) (9)		3 stories	3 stories	3 stories		Agencies Comms focal points & JP Communications and Advocacy Officer
<b>3.2</b>	Produce short videos disseminating key success stories (2 to 3 minutes video highlighting partnership between UN agencies in Dez and Dara'a)		1 for Dara'a1	1 for DEZ			Agencies Comms focal points & JP Communications and Advocacy Officer
<b>4.</b>	<b>External Outreach</b>						
<b>4.1</b>	Prepare social media updates highlighting the JP updates and progress to be published on UN Syria website (2)		1 update on Dara'a1 & DEZ		1 update on Dara'a1, 2 & DEZ		Agencies Comms Focal Points & JP Communications and Advocacy Officer
<b>4.2</b>	Organize field visits to identify story hooks and draft human-interest stories (in coordination with communication focal points) (3)		1 visit on Dara'a1 interventions	1 visit to DEZ interventions	1 visit to Dara'a2 interventions		Agencies Comms Focal Points & JP Communications and Advocacy Officer

Annex J: Additional documents will be uploaded in the JP shared drive; link will be sent.

**UN Joint Programme to Build and Strengthen  
Urban and Rural Resilience and the Conditions for  
Recovery in Syria**

**END OF REPORT  
2021**