



UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

المفوضية السامية للأمم المتحدة لشؤون اللاجئين

UNHCR Syria

In Focus

Fortnightly Update
Mar 2014



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Highlights

- **Upscaling the dispatch:** In one week, **14,967** cubic meters and **7,120** metric tons of CRIs were delivered through **327** trucks to assist **155,540** individuals in Syria
- **Cross-border assistance through Turkey:** Unreachable by road since May 2013, Hassakeh has received CRIs for the benefit of **50,000** IDPs
- **91** life-saving machines are being delivered to hospitals in Aleppo, Damascus and Lattakia

Unprecedented scaling up in the dispatch of Core Relief Items (CRIs) to IDPs



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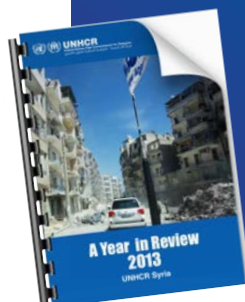
Issued by the Reporting Team in Syria

A Year in Review 2013

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This week, UNHCR almost doubled the amount of weekly CRIs dispatched as a total of 327 trucks carrying 14,967 cubic meters and 7,120 metric tons of CRIs were delivered to the field to benefit **155,540** individuals. Of note Karak and Moarabeh in Daraa was reached for the first time, through UNHCR implementing partner The Syria Trust for Development, with items for 7,500 people. Other logistical successes include the cross border assistance from Turkey and the delivery of goods to Douma. With this recent dispatch more than **2 million (2,141,737)** vulnerable displaced Syrians will have received winterized Core Relief Item packages which include, inter alia, extra thermal blankets and plastic sheeting.

Cross-border assistance through Turkey into Hassakeh provides for more sustainable assistance



As a result of Security Council Resolution 2139, written permission was granted for the transportation of goods from the Nousaybeen border crossing in Turkey to Qamishly, Syria; an area **that has been unreachable by road since May 2013**. The operation started on 20 March and was successfully completed on 25 March: 24 UNHCR trucks, along with trucks from other agencies, carried **50,000** blankets, **4,000** kitchen sets, **20,000** sleeping mats, **45,000** children's clothes and **2,400** jerry cans across the border from Turkey into

Qamishly. It is hoped that these items will eventually benefit up to **50,000** IDPs. If aid continues to flow into Qamishly through this route, it should put an end to the airlift operations that are, in any event, not sustainable due to related costs.



The initial plan is to distribute these core relief items, through implementing partners, to the most vulnerable IDP families and host communities in Qamishly, Hassakeh city, Tel-Hamees, Yaroubia, Tel-Barak, Amadua, Derbasia, Abu Raseen, Ras el Ein, Jawadia and Malika. These distributions will be monitored, where possible, by UNHCR staff through the Project Tracking Device.



Life-saving equipment and life-changing medicines provided to the most vulnerable inside Syria

UNHCR intervention in health focuses on leveraging the partners' expertise and value-added in reaching the most vulnerable people in the affected areas in Syria based on needs assessments. Accordingly, UNHCR is in the process of delivering **91** medical machines costing **US\$ 1,051,635** requested by the hospitals in Aleppo, Damascus and Latakia. 27 machines have been installed so far. One of them is an ophthalmology unit, an essential element of Primary Health Care, which has been delivered to Al Taalouf in Al Akramia polyclinic in Aleppo, last week. The provision of the equipment will cover the need for



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ophthalmology consultation in the clinic and will benefit people of all ages especially children with refractory disorders.

Furthermore, two defibrillators were delivered to al Muwasat university hospital; this equipment is life-saving equipment that will be used in the case of cardiac arrest to reanimate the patient. Al Muwasat university hospital is a general teaching hospital located in Damascus, has more than 900 beds. It is considered one of two main emergency hospitals in Damascus.

As substantial damage occurred to pharmaceutical plants in Syria which has led to a 65% decline in domestic production while sanctions limit substantially the importation of medicines and medical supplies, medicines especially psychotropic ones are not anymore available in the local market. UNHCR negotiated with the Ministry of Health the procurement of psychotropic medicines and got the approval to procure seven out of nine medicines. The remaining two drugs phenobarbital and diazepam require a more complicated import procedure. They are usually used for psychiatric patients who must not stop taking them under any circumstances for fear of severe side effects. Once procured, the medicines will be dispatched to the Primary Health Clinics supported by UNHCR or to specialized implementing partners.



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