



# Syria

## Scaling up Human Security Area-Based Return Support as a Catalytic Process for Achieving Transformative Resilience and Early Recovery

### Background information

Syria is one of the world's most complex and multifaceted protracted humanitarian crises, with more than 14 million refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). Since 2011, the ongoing conflict, compounded by severe socio-economic challenges and the aftermath of the February 2023 earthquake, has created a relentless cycle of insecurity and vulnerability for displaced populations and host communities. Among the displaced, many of the 6.7 million IDPs are seeking opportunities to return to their home communities and reclaim their land, property, and livelihoods. However, with evolving patterns of return and reintegration, and worsening social tensions in the face of depleted services and resources, innovative strategies are required that address immediate needs while fostering long-term resilience, stability and social cohesion at the local level.

### Goals and objectives

The programme aims to establish a participatory, area-based human security approach in Syria, improving access to essential services, livelihoods, and peacebuilding to support return and reintegration. Key objectives include: (i) developing an evidence-based inclusive human security Area-Based Return Support (ABRS) model; (ii) establishing or reinforcing the capacities of local participatory platforms and their constituencies to address multi-sectoral human security needs; and (iii) piloting the model with community recovery plans, quick impact projects, and the restoration of basic services and infrastructure.



#### DURATION

February 2024 – October 2025



#### UN IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

UNDP, UNHCR



#### OTHER KEY PARTNERS

NGOs



#### BENEFICIARIES

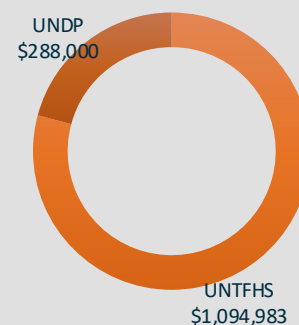
Communities in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama and Latakia governorates



#### TOTAL BUDGET

US\$ 1,382,983

#### POOLING OF RESOURCES



## Beneficiaries

The programme is expected to directly and indirectly benefit over 20,000 individuals across targeted communities in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama and Latakia governorates. This includes women, older persons, youth, children, persons with disabilities, as well as community representatives from returnee, IDP and host populations. Additionally, it will support the local authorities and other key stakeholders involved in the development and implementation of the area-based human security recovery plans.

## Applying the Human Security approach

Human security provides a powerful, people-centered approach to addressing the underlying threats and root causes of insecurity, such as poverty, social tensions, and inadequate services, in an integrated manner. It serves as a unifying framework, guiding coordinated efforts to address insecurities while ensuring active engagement with local authorities and communities. By incorporating human security into ABRs strategies, the programme can effectively tackle the complex, interconnected challenges faced by communities recovering from conflict and displacement, while promoting resilience and long-term development. This will be achieved through the creation of localized human security recovery agendas, which prioritize conflict-sensitive recovery and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

As a basis, the programme uses multi-sectoral, risk-informed human security assessments, involving diverse stakeholders including local authorities, the private sector, humanitarian and development actors, and communities themselves, ensuring recovery efforts meet the needs of affected populations. A key feature is the active participation of these actors in co-designing recovery interventions, including quick impact projects and rehabilitation of basic social services and community infrastructure. Joint training and tools such as conflict sensitivity guidelines and participatory recovery frameworks help address current and future threats while enhancing local preparedness.

The programme also emphasizes community participation through initiatives such as “cash for data” to support resilience assessments and empower local communities. It focuses on marginalized groups, including displaced populations, returnees, women, and youth, addressing issues like gender-based violence, mine prevention, and housing rights. By prioritizing community needs, leveraging local resources, and fostering social cohesion, the programme aims to build a foundation for sustainable development, improved services, and long-term peace even in the context of a governance void.



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