



### Joy amid uncertainty: Syrian women enter motherhood in displacement

DAMASCUS, Syria - Fatima and Rasha welcomed new children into the world on the same day - an experience that would be completely unremarkable if not for their circumstances. Both women are living in uncertainty after fleeing the conflict in northern Syria, part of a wave of displacements that continues to grow.

Rasha, 24, and Fatima, 20, and their families fled the Al-Yaroubia countryside, near Al Hassakeh, where hostilities have pushed an estimated 5,000 people to leave in the past year, according to UNHCR.

Many families have ended up in displacement camps, host communities or over the border in neighbouring Iraq.

Yet in some ways, Fatima and Rasha are fortunate.

Despite the tumult of the conflict, they were able to receive skilled medical care at a clinic in their host community. The facility, supported by UNFPA, with funding from European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), is equipped to support everything from antenatal check-ups to emergency surgery.

#### Emergency delivery

These services proved necessary for Rasha, whose last visit to the clinic took place after her due date had come and gone. The baby was in breech position, the doctor explained at the examination. Rasha would need an emergency Caesarean-section. Within minutes, a surgical room was prepared.

Rasha's daughter was soon born, weighting a healthy 3 kg. Rasha named her Shahid, which means 'honey'.

Despite the drama, it was a joyous conclusion to her pregnancy. "I'm so excited to hold my first baby," Rasha told UNFPA.

Fatima's delivery was less exciting, but no less happy.

"I have held her for nine months inside of me. It is time to hold her in my hands," Fatima told the doctor as she was in labour.

Hala - meaning 'beauty' - was born shortly afterward. It was also Fatima's first child.

#### Displacements still increasing

Displacements continue to increase in northern Syria, with over 68,000 recorded in February alone.

Women and girls living in displacement require reproductive health care, including not only services during pregnancy and childbirth, but also treatment of infections, counselling on family planning and sexually transmitted infections, and referrals to specialized health care.

## HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

DURING FEBRUARY 2017

**UNFPA Jordan continues providing life-saving services to Syrians stranded in the no-man's land, "the berm" between the Jordanian and Syrian borders.**

**UNFPA's partner Relief International completed renovation of the second floor of Al Noor maternity hospital in Nasriyeh, Syria.**

UNFPA and ECHO, with local NGOs, are working to meet these needs in the Hama and Al Hassakeh areas.

Together, they are supporting 10 mobile clinics, eight health clinics and four hospitals. UNFPA is also supporting sessions that raise awareness about the services available.

In 2016, some 47,000 people were served in the Al Hassakeh area, and some 146,000 were reached around Hama. It is part of UNFPA's broader support to women and girls throughout Syria.

#### "An adventure"

Rasha and Fatima, and their newborns, recovered at Al-Kalema Hospital in Al-Qamishli.

After returning home, they were visited by a UNFPA coordinator. Both mothers and daughters are doing well.

"It's like an adventure," Fatima said. "Having a baby is a life-changing experience."

By Kinda Katranji

Source: [UNFPA.ORG](http://UNFPA.ORG)

### Syrian Arab Republic from all channels

**198,307** reproductive health services delivered to Syrians

**17,446** deliveries supported, including **6,481** C-section deliveries

**27,644** family planning services

**9,734** gender-based violence response services provided to Syrians

**23,789** women accessed women safe spaces

### In neighbouring countries affected by the crisis

**31,188** reproductive health services delivered to Syrian refugees

**6,661** Syrians received family planning services and consultations

**2,417** clients received gender-based violence services

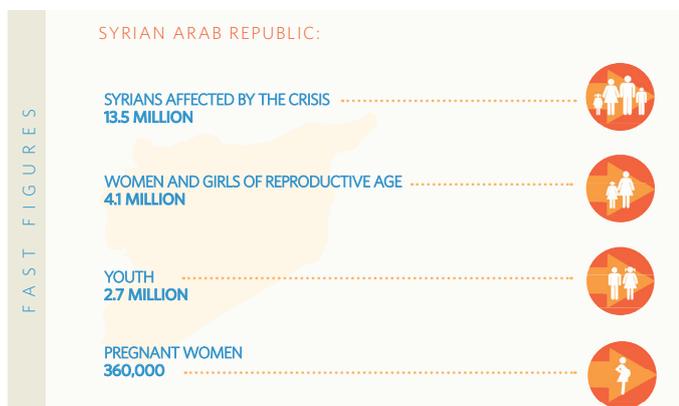
**10,801** Syrian refugees accessed women safe spaces and participated in activities in camps and host communities

**3,509** Syrian refugees reached with gender-based violence related messages

**8,108** dignity kits distributed

## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

### SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC FROM ALL CHANNELS



Source: UNHCR, OCHA and UNFPA January 2017

### UNFPA RESPONSE IN SYRIA

#### REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND SAFE MOTHERHOOD

##### REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

##### 159,268 reproductive health services

- 8,573 normal deliveries
- 5,476 C- section deliveries
- 11,569 ante-natal care services
- 19,267 family planning services
- 1,225 pregnancies under 18

OTHER RH SERVICES **92,963** clients

SUPPLIES **2,445** reproductive health kits distributed

#### GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

RESPONSE SERVICES **4,326** women and girls

WOMEN ACCESSING SAFE SPACES **23,789** women and girls

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES **20,977** clients

SUPPLIES **750** dignity kits distributed

#### UNFPA-SUPPORTED FACILITIES IN SYRIA



Number of women's spaces

18



Number of field reproductive health clinics or mobile teams

53



Number of health facilities

912

### RESPONSE THROUGH CROSS-BORDER MODALITY

#### REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND SAFE MOTHERHOOD

##### REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

**26,587** clients received services in the northern part of Syria:

- 1,296 normal deliveries
- 431 C-section deliveries
- 129 pregnancies under 18
- 5,372 ante-natal care services
- 173 post-natal care services
- 7,878 family planning services

**12,452** beneficiaries received services in the southern part of Syria:

- 1,096 normal deliveries
- 574 C-sections
- 506 pregnancies under 18
- 4,288 ante-natal care services
- 688 post-natal care services
- 499 family planning services

##### OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

**12,543** women reached through outreach activities in the northern part of Syria

#### UNFPA-SUPPORTED FACILITIES IN THE SOUTH OF SYRIA



Number of women's spaces

10



Number of mobile clinics

3



Number of health facilities

19

#### GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

##### RESPONSE SERVICES

**3,973** clients received gender-based violence services in the northern part of Syria

**1,435** clients received gender-based violence services in the southern part of Syria

##### GBV AWARENESS & OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

**3,056** Syrians reached through outreach and awareness activities in the northern part of Syria.

**1,004** Syrians reached through outreach and awareness activities in the southern part of Syria.

##### TRAINING

**14** persons trained in the southern part of Syria

## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

### NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS

FAST FIGURES

NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS (LEBANON, JORDAN, IRAQ, TURKEY, EGYPT):

 SYRIAN REFUGEES AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS  
**4,812,131**

 SYRIAN REFUGEE WOMEN AND GIRLS OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE  
**1,203,000**

 SYRIAN REFUGEE YOUTH  
**800,000**

 SYRIAN REFUGEE PREGNANT WOMEN  
**80,200**


SOURCES: UNHCR, OCHA and UNFPA



### REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND SAFE MOTHERHOOD

#### TURKEY

SERVICES	<b>13,649</b> services for Syrian beneficiaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 278 family planning services</li> <li>▪ 765 ante-natal care services</li> <li>▪ 634 post-natal care services</li> <li>▪ 62 pregnancies of women under 18</li> </ul>
AWARENESS SESSIONS & OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	<b>8,342</b> clients
SUPPLIES	<b>370</b> brochures distributed
TRAINING	<b>56</b> participants

#### JORDAN

SERVICES	<b>10,866</b> reproductive health services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 219 normal deliveries</li> <li>▪ 56 pregnancies under 18</li> <li>▪ 1,541 family planning services</li> <li>▪ 2,629 ante-natal care services</li> <li>▪ 558 post-natal care services</li> </ul>
AWARENESS SESSIONS	<b>3,583</b> clients

#### IRAQ

SERVICES	<b>6,673</b> reproductive health services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 4,842 family planning services</li> <li>▪ 218 normal deliveries</li> <li>▪ 79 C-section deliveries</li> <li>▪ 543 ante-natal care services</li> </ul>
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### GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

#### TURKEY

SERVICES TO SURVIVORS	<b>1,234</b> services
WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	<b>4,183</b> Syrian women and girls
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	<b>268</b> clients
SUPPLIES	<b>8,108</b> dignity kits distributed

#### JORDAN

RESPONSE SERVICES	<b>1,071</b> services
WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	<b>3,621</b> women and girls
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	<b>3,165</b> clients

#### EGYPT

RESPONSE SERVICES	<b>845</b> services
WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	<b>483</b> women and girls
TRAINING	<b>97</b> participants

#### IRAQ

WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	<b>2,325</b> women and girls
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	<b>341</b> clients
DIGNITY KITS	<b>9</b> participants

#### LEBANON

RESPONSE SERVICES	<b>27</b> services
WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESSING SAFE SPACES	<b>189</b> women and girls
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	<b>76</b> clients
TRAINING	<b>41</b> participants

#### UNFPA MISSION:

UNFPA believes that every Syrian woman and girl has the right to have access to affordable reproductive health care and be effectively protected from gender-based violence. UNFPA and partners are scaling up efforts to empower and improve the lives of Syrian women and youth and impacted communities inside Syria and in host countries, including by advocating for human rights and gender equality, to better cope with and recover from the crisis.

UNFPA: Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.





## SUPPORTING ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH

JORDAN	
YOUTH PROGRAMMING	<b>732</b> young people
TURKEY	
YOUTH PROGRAMMING	<b>5,230</b> young people
EGYPT	
YOUTH PROGRAMMING	<b>28</b> Syrian young people
LEBANON	
YOUTH PROGRAMMING	<b>20</b> young people
IRAQ	
YOUTH PROGRAMMING	<b>597</b> young people

## JORDAN



The Canadian high level visit to a UNFPA-supported centre in Sweileh, Jordan. Photo credit: IFH Sweileh center

### Canadian delegation visit one of the UNFPA-supported centres in Jordan

The Canadian Minister of International Development and La Francophonie Cooperation, Marie-Claude Bibeau, Rachel Harder, member of the Parliament of Canada and Peter MacDougall, Canada's ambassador to Jordan visited the UNFPA-supported clinic of IFH in Sweileh. The Minister toured the centre's departments, including the family planning clinic and counseling rooms. She attended a family planning awareness group session, where she had a conversation with Syrian women refugees on the support they receive at the centre. The Government of Canada finances core programs in the Sweileh centre and other sites in the host communities of Jordan.

## UNFPA-SUPPORTED FACILITIES



Number of women's spaces

**56**

Lebanon  
5  
Jordan  
15  
Iraq  
7  
Egypt  
5  
Turkey  
24



Number of field reproductive health clinics or mobile teams

**74**

Jordan  
18  
(8 in host communities, 10 in camps)  
Iraq  
18  
Egypt  
12  
Turkey  
24  
Lebanon  
2



Number of youth centres and safe spaces

**22**

Jordan  
11  
Iraq  
5  
Egypt  
4  
Turkey  
2

## HIGHLIGHTS

### SYRIA



Natalia Kanem with the UNFPA delegation at the opening ceremony of a new women development center in Homs. Photo credit: UNFPA Syria

### UNFPA Deputy Executive Director visits Syria for the first time after the crisis

**Natalia Kanem**, the Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA, completed a four-day visit to Syria in February, where she was accompanied by the agency's director for the Arab region, Luay Shabaneh.

The visit aimed to support UNFPA's operations in Syria through reiterating the UN agency's commitment to responding to the needs of women and adolescent girls, primarily through its partnerships with other UN agencies and international and local entities.

Massimo Diana, UNFPA's representative in Syria said that. "Working in Syria has many challenges, but we are here to stay by the thousands of women and girls whom we reach through our programs," referring to the services in maternal and reproductive health and to combat gender-based violence.

The UNFPA delegation met with senior government officials and consulted with key partner NGOs including the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and the Syrian Family Planning Association. They visited family planning clinics, safe spaces and women empowerment projects supported by UNFPA in Damascus and Homs.

The delegation met also with Syrian youth organisations including Y-PEER & TEDx.

"We will convey the true image of the Syrians' suffering to the UN and we will continue working to ensure that no Syrian woman or young girl is left behind", Natalia Kanem said at the completion of her visit to Syria.

### A new development centre to empower women inaugurated in Homs

A new women development centre was inaugurated in Homs, Syria, with a partnership between Aoun for Relief and Development and UNFPA. The centre's activities will focus on empowering and supporting women to fulfill their potential and to involve them in community-based activities, through a wide range of services, including, legal referrals, psychological support and vocational training.

The centre is the first of a kind to be established in the area and will also provide literacy, languages and computer classes.

"I was delighted to participate in the opening of the centre, which will hold training and vocational workshops. I am also proud to visit Syria for the first time," Natalia Kanem, Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA, said at the centre's inauguration.

She noted that "UNFPA is always working to empower women to fulfill their potential". She also expressed her happiness that the centre has a small green yard for future seeding; the green yard conceptualises the continuity of development, where activities are conducted in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organisation

to help women in cultivation. Women can use the products of the agricultural activities in cooking or selling them.

"The opening of the centre is itself a message to empowering women and expanding their options aiming to provide them more opportunities on the economic level," said Luay Shabaneh, UNFPA's Director for the Arab region.

The centre also has two mobile teams to reach women in the surrounding areas as well as to implement workshops and raising awareness sessions. It seeks to fulfill women's needs regardless of their age, especially young girls who were married at early ages can.

The centre furthermore aims to provide economic and cultural support, where volunteers from different fields are putting their efforts to professionally manage the centre and implement development-related projects.



Natalia Kanem with the UNFPA delegation at the opening ceremony of a new women development center in Homs. Photo credit: UNFPA Syria

### JORDAN

### A graduation ceremony held for youth at Zaatari camp

A graduation ceremony was hosted at the youth centre in Zaatari camp, where some 200 guests attended the event. The ceremony was patronised by Colonel Nawriz Hakouz, the camp manager and was attended by several partner organisations including UNFPA, UNHCR, the British Council and UNICEF, as well as representatives of Questscope. The ceremony featured a short film about the centre, a poem recited by one female youth participant, a speech from a member of the community leaders' committee in addition to other activities. At the end of the event, certificates of participation were distributed to volunteers and a plaque was presented to the Colonel from the youth centre's team. Also 795 certificates were prepared to be distributed to youth who completed basic training, ICDL, and or English language courses.

### UNFPA continues providing health services to Syrians at the berm

UNFPA with the support of its implementing partner Jordan Health Aid Society (JHAS) continues to provide life-saving reproductive health services at the "berm", the no-man's land on the north eastern border of Jordan, to more than 70,000 Syrian.

Services provided at the clinic include antenatal and postnatal care, family planning and treatment for genito-urinary tract infections, sexually transmitted diseases and referrals for emergency deliveries to Ruwashid hospital in Jordan. The full scale mobile maternity unit that was procured by UNFPA is expected to be installed soon in Ruwashid to provide comprehensive emergency obstetric care (CEmONC) services to the affected population. The maternity unit will be able to handle both normal and C-section deliveries. In January, 85 patients were provided reproductive health services at the clinic.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### TURKEY



Syrian women attend one of the activities conducted at IMPR Sanliurfa women's community centre, which is supported by UNFPA Turkey.

### After two miscarriages, one Syrian refugee in Turkey delivers a healthy baby

When Maria fled the ongoing conflict in Syria two years ago, she was newly married. When she arrived to Turkey, she had her first pregnancy, but had a miscarriage shortly. She tried again until she got pregnant again. After four months of her second pregnancy, the mother-to-be heard about the UNFPA-supported IMPR Sanliurfa women's community centre and started visiting the centre for medical check-ups and consultations.

When Maria then visited the centre, the ultrasound scan showed that her baby had the lethal congenital anomaly acrania. She was referred to a hospital and underwent a medically prescribed abortion. Six months after the abortion, she got pregnant for the third time and came to the IMPR Sanliurfa centre. She was in her fourth month of pregnancy. The ultrasound scan showed that the fetus was normal and health. She was recommended to take micronutrients and have periodical monitoring. She visited the center regularly during the second half of her pregnancy, and was referred to a hospital where she had a C-section. After giving birth, Maria contacted the IMPR Sanliurfa Women's Community Centre to thank them for the services, which helped her to have a healthy baby after two miscarriages.

### JORDAN CROSS-BORDER



Al Noor hospital after renovation. Photo credit: Relief International

### JORDAN cross-border

UNFPA's partner Relief International successfully completed renovation of the second floor of Al Noor maternity hospital in Nasriyeh. The hospital has been crowded over the past few months due to attacks on the surrounding health facilities. Incubators and patient beds were also furnished by UNFPA.

### LEBANON

#### LEBANON

"Before, I couldn't believe or imagine that such sessions would be of "benefit for me and my family, but I was wrong," said a participant receiving individual and group counseling in Lebanon.

"I can't imagine what could have been happened to me if I didn't meet you and your agency," said a client of one of UNFPA's partners providing individual counseling in Lebanon.



During one of the psycho-social support sessions provided to men in Lebanon. Photo credit: International Medical Corps

### EGYPT

#### EGYPT

"The friendly space gave me the chance to learn new skills," said a Syrian woman who attends activities at one of the women safe spaces in Cairo, Egypt for Syrian refugees.



Hand-made craft made by a Syrian woman in one of the women safe spaces in Cairo. Photo credit: UNFPA Egypt.

## COORDINATION & CAPACITY BUILDING

### TURKEY

UNFPA took part in the sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) working group meeting that took place in Ankara, where participants discussed child marriage and decided to establish a child marriage sub-working group.

UNFPA took part in the protection working group meeting in Ankara, where updates on the case management and the activity information roll out were presented.

UNFPA attended protection and health working group meetings and co-chaired the SGBV sub-working group meeting in Gaziantep.

### TURKEY- CROSS BORDER

UNFPA took part in the sexual and gender-based violence sub-committee meeting, where priorities and challenges were discussed. The sub-cluster worked on finalising the 2017 strategy.

The sexual and reproductive health sub-committee finalised the midwifery strategy to be launched in March 2017.

## COORDINATION & CAPACITY BUILDING

### JORDAN

UNFPA chaired the reproductive health sub-working group (SWG) meeting, where members stressed the need to involve males in supporting the available sexual and reproductive health services in camps and urban settings among other issues of concern.

UNFPA provided support to the National Council for Family Affairs (NCFA) to conduct a stakeholder workshop to review the standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the National Framework for Family Protection.

UNFPA also supported CARE international to launch its global report "She is a Humanitarian". The report includes two case studies on Jordan and the Philippines and explored gender mainstreaming in humanitarian settings.

### SYRIA

UNFPA carried out a preliminary needs assessment mission to Aleppo.

### LEBANON

UNFPA, together with UNHCR and the Ministry of Social Affairs, held the 2017 annual retreat of the national sexual and gender-based violence task force, where they reviewed the 2016 achievements and challenges and agree, on 2017-2018 priorities and tasks.

## CHALLENGES

### TURKEY

Economic problems faced by Syrian refugees still hinder them from reaching or participating in activities.

The security threat outside the borders of Turkey has had an indirect negative impact on the on-going programme.

The language barrier is still limiting access to some of the services especially in the field of health (lack of Arabic speaking psychologists, social workers, doctors, etc.).

### EGYPT

More Syrian families entered to Egypt through Sudan and are in need of specialized services.

### JORDAN-CROSS BORDER

The security situation in southern Syria has escalated since the signing of a ceasefire at the end of December. Air strikes, mortars and shelling and ground clashes have increased the level of displacement and interruption of supplies.

### SYRIA

Service providers and affected people, including women are unable to access the services.

Difficulties to access hard-to-reach areas continue.

Depreciation of the value of the Syrian pound.

Interrupted electricity and fuel, together affect the capabilities of agency and its partners' to provide services.

## DONORS & PARTNERS

### UNFPA IS GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING DONORS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE SYRIA CRISIS:

UNFPA IS GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING DONORS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE SYRIA CRISIS: Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, European Commission, Germany, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Netherlands, Norway, OCHA/CERF, Saudi Fund for Development, Sweden, United States, United Kingdom, UNDP.

Private sector: MBC

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS IN SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC: Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MOSA), Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE), Syrian Family Planning Association (SFPA),

Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) IN LEBANON: Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Social Affairs, Lebanese Family Planning Association, Palestinian Red Crescent Society, Humedica, Makhzoumi Foundation, Amel Association, International Medical Corps and Caritas Lebanon, KAFA ("Enough Violence and Exploitation"), Akkarouna, INTERSOS, SHEILD, LOST, Heartland Alliance, Makassed Primary Health Care Centres, Mazloum Hospital and International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

IN JORDAN: Ministry of Health (MOH), Institute for Family Health (IFH), International Medical Corps (IMC), Jordanian Health Aid Society (JHAS), Family Protection Department (FPD), Jordanian Women's Union (JWU), Youth Peer Education Network (YPE), NCFA (National Council for Family Affairs), Questscope. JORDAN Cross border: Relief International and Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS).

IN IRAQ: Ministry of Culture, Sport and Youth (MCSP), Ministry of Labor & Social Affairs (MLSA), AL Massela, START NGO and Harikar.

IN EGYPT: Ministry of Health (MOH), CARE International Arab Medical Union and Regional Centre for Training.

IN TURKEY: The Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) of the Prime Ministry of Turkey, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), and Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Family and Social Policies (MoFSP), ASAM (Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants), BUHASDER (The Association for the Prevention of Infectious Diseases), HÜKSAM (Hacettepe University Women's Research and Implementation Center), IMPR (International Middle East Peace Research Centre), KAMER (Women's Center Foundation), CVF (Community Volunteers Foundation), Osmangazi University, PYD (Positive Life Association), SPoD (Social Policies, Gender Identity, and Sexual Orientation Studies Association), Bilgi University.



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### RELEVANT RESOURCES

[www.unfpa.org](http://www.unfpa.org)  
[www.ocha.org](http://www.ocha.org)  
[www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org)  
<http://syria.humanitarianresponse.info>