An introduction to The Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP)

An integrated humanitarian and development plan in response to the Syria Crisis
Towards a more comprehensive approach to forced displacement

The Syria situation remains the largest refugee crisis in the world, with millions of Syrian refugees in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt for many years. With the vast majority of refugees residing in urban, peri-urban, and rural areas, basic public services and infrastructure in host countries quickly became overstretched and pre-existing vulnerabilities were exacerbated, particularly in affected host communities.

In 2015, recognizing the unique challenges facing host countries and communities in so generously hosting Syrian refugees, the international community instituted a new comprehensive approach. Going beyond emergency assistance, the new approach combined humanitarian and development responses to the Syria crisis into a single coherent plan in line with national plans and priorities, under the co-leadership of UNHCR and UNDP.

Now into its seventh year, the 3RP has led the way in terms of the international community’s support to national efforts to deal with the impact of the crisis. The 3RP has been at the forefront of many policy and programmatic innovations including support to national and local systems, using technology to increase efficiency and effectiveness, and supporting the self-reliance of refugees and host communities.

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Filippo Grandi
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, March 2019

The Global Compact on Refugees that the General Assembly endorsed last December, was shaped largely by experiences in this region and with Syrian refugees. And it is grounded in a commitment to responsibility sharing.

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A Syrian refugee sells vegetables at a street-side market in Mafraq, Jordan. Photo: UNDP-SRF / Jared Kohler

Trend of Registered Syrian Refugees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Urban, Peri-Urban and Rural areas</th>
<th>Refugee Camps</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2M</td>
<td>280,765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>4M</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>6M</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>95% &lt; 5.3 million</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
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The 3RP model

The 3RP is a strategic, coordination, planning, advocacy, fundraising, and programming platform for humanitarian and development partners to respond to the Syria crisis. It comprises one regional plan, with five standalone country chapters covering Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt.

The 3RP has two interconnected components. The refugee component addresses the protection and humanitarian assistance needs of refugees while the resilience component addresses the resilience, stabilization and development needs of impacted individuals, communities and institutions, aiming to strengthen the capacities of national actors.

The 3RP continues to explore synergies between humanitarian and development processes, including with ongoing current global processes, such as the Global Compact on Refugees and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

With over US$ 21 billion (as of December 2021) channeled through the 3RP since 2015, our partners have collectively supported.

3RP response in 2021

- 191,817 persons received Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) response services (85% of target)
- 857,669 households received unconditional, sector-specific or emergency cash assistance (111% of target)
- 2,200,244 individuals received food assistance (cash, voucher or in-kind) (85% of target)
- 87,543 households outside of camps received assistance for shelter and shelter upgrades (45% of target)
- 1,475,135 children (5-17 years, girls and boys) enrolled in formal general education (99% of target)
- 3,378,276 consultations for target population in primary health care services (58% of target)
- 675,817 individuals provided with short-term employment opportunities (cash for work and seasonal labour) (39% of target)

Ibrahim is a refugee from Syria’s Hasakah Governorate. When he fled to Iraq, he faced many challenges, particularly financial. Searching for a source of income, he opened a small shop selling baklava and other sweets in Erbil Governorate. To expand his business, Ibrahim applied to and was selected for the International Organization for Migration’s Individual Livelihoods Assistance (ILA) programme. “When we received the grant, we had the financial means to expand. We bought some raw materials and opened a branch for Tahini Halva. Then we opened a second branch for fruit jam. We also participated in a two-day course about how to expand any small business — we benefited a lot,” said Ibrahim.

Photo: IOM Iraq
Since its inception in 2015, the 3RP has remained a model and reference for much of the global discussion around taking a more comprehensive approach to engaging host governments and communities and others in responses to large scale movement of refugees.

**Supporting national ownership**

National leadership and capacities are at the forefront of the response, with UN Agencies, international and national NGOs, and other partners in a supporting role in terms of delivery, advocacy and resource mobilization. Through regular engagement, the 3RP complements the response of others operating outside the 3RP framework, including bilateral partners, International Financial Institutions, and the private sector, who all significantly contribute to meeting the needs of host countries, local communities and refugees.

**Promoting Access to National Systems**

3RP partners have continued working with Governments and partners towards supporting increased access of Syrians to national systems where possible, including health, education, employment and social services, in support of the pledges made by host countries at international conferences.

3RP partners have significantly helped to reduce the percentage of Syrian children born in the region without any form of identity documents from approximately 35% in 2012 to 4.3% as of end 2021.

**Helping to protect people**

Protection remains at the center of the response, from promoting registration and access to territory, supporting efforts to end violence and exploitation, and setting up referrals to specialized services. Facilitating access to civil documentation remains vital to enable access to education, healthcare and employment. Innovation has remained at the forefront throughout, such as some of the 3RP countries pioneering the use of Iris Biometrics to conduct registrations and operations before it became global standard.

*The 3RP will continue to advocate for increasing and recognising civil documentation, particularly in host countries.*
Helping national and local systems to cope

Municipalities and local authorities are among the primary responders to the Syria crisis. 3RP partners have increased year-on-year the amount of support towards strengthening public institutions across the region, helping to restore their capacity to deal with the impact of the crisis.

Since 2014, most of the vulnerable communities/localities in Lebanon have been supported with over 1,364 projects helping to alleviate resource pressure and address the immediate needs of municipalities in terms of service provision.

Number of individuals receiving unconditional, sector-specific or emergency cash assistance

Improving self-reliance

The 3RP has championed giving beneficiaries the dignity, choice and flexibility to prioritize their own needs while supporting local economies and laying the foundations for recovery and resilience, as can be seen by the increasing use of cash-based interventions wherever possible. In addition, vulnerable host community members are also targeted for vocational training, job placement and entrepreneurship programmes so that they will have better access to employment.

At the local level, 240 municipalities and local institutions received tangible support from 3RP partners, particularly in the form of new infrastructure and improved services. 309 such projects were completed in 2021, representing USD 25m in investment in solid waste and water services, roads, and public spaces.

Over 50,000 civil servants and other staff of public institutions received training and capacity support to improve the services provided to refugees and host communities, particularly social workers and other protection staff (46,400 trained on protection including child protection and GBV), education personnel (5,600) and health (1,500).
As the crisis has become more protracted, 3RP partners have prioritized the generation of knowledge and research to improve programming and policy, including regular vulnerability assessments in each country, as well as regional thematic reports which help contribute to policy and advocacy discussions. A good example is the “Jobs Make the Difference” report by UNDP, ILO, and WFP which provided pragmatic suggestions in terms of creating decent employment and expanding economic opportunities for Syrian refugees and communities hosting them, many of which were later implemented.

Learning for Policy and Programming

Promoting Durable Solutions

Given the protracted nature of the crisis, promoting and achieving durable solutions for refugees remains a priority, whether exploring local solutions and opportunities or resettlement and complementary pathways. Resettlement remains a critical option for some extremely vulnerable Syrian refugees. While there has been an overall decrease in resettlement places globally between 2013 and 2018, there was a small but critical increase in 2019, which is expected to be maintained. Meanwhile, some refugees spontaneously and voluntarily decide to return.

Resettlement Needs

- 10% of Syrian refugees are in need of resettlement and meet resettlement criteria
- 0.5% of Syrian refugees will be submitted for resettlement

Resettlement – Syrian refugee Abdel, his wife Fatima, their eight-year-old twins, Mohamad and Jomaa, and their daughter, Shahd, aged five prepare to leave Lebanon.
The Syria situation in particular underlines the urgency of adapting the way we work together … to find ways of combining humanitarian and development assistance so as to stabilize the situation and build longer-term resilience amongst host communities and refugees. …

I hope that the lessons we are learning in the Middle East today can be transferred to other crises and allow for an earlier linkage between relief and development actions in any response to forced displacement.

António Guterres
United Nations Secretary General & former High Commissioner for Refugees