

UNHCR Succeeds In Crossing Conflict Lines to Provide Life Saving Assistance in Eastern Aleppo



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On 8th March 2015, UNHCR Syria led by the Representative Mr Tarik Kurdi successfully undertook another historical cross-line mission to Eastern Aleppo. In response to the dire humanitarian situation of the population in Eastern Aleppo, UNHCR and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) negotiated a humanitarian truce with the aim to deliver urgently needed humanitarian relief items to the people-in-need there. The six-hour humanitarian truce, which was fully respected by all parties, enabled UNHCR and SARC to access the hard-to-reach areas of Bustan Al Qasr, Al Ansari, Al Firdos, Al Sukari and Mwasalat, neighbourhoods of Eastern Aleppo and deliver humanitarian relief items.

UNHCR will continue its efforts to provide aid and protection to the vulnerable, not only in Aleppo, but throughout Syria.

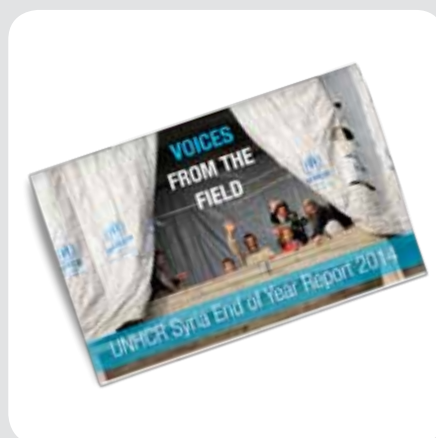
During the six-hour humanitarian truce, UNHCR delivered urgently needed medicines and medical equipment for 5,000 patients to the Al-Zarzour hospital in Bustan Al-Qasr, one of the busiest health centers in that part of the city, which, in return, will coordinate further distribution of the medical supplies to six other hospitals and medical centers in Eastern Aleppo. In addition, UNHCR delivered winter clothes for 2,000 children in Jisr Al-Haj as well as directly distributing winter clothing to 335 children in one of the schools still functioning there.

The population in the eastern Aleppo is estimated to be around 600,000 people, for whom humanitarian assistance was last delivered in October 2014. The humanitarian aid items were offloaded from UNHCR trucks stationed at the last crossing point and loaded on 45 small pull-carts and, thereafter, taken to the hard-to-reach areas. With this historic mission providing some relief to the people in Eastern Aleppo, UNHCR took the opportunity to impress on all parties the need to scale up humanitarian assistance there and will continue its efforts to provide aid and protection to the vulnerable, not only in Aleppo, but throughout Syria.

HIGHLIGHTS

- UNHCR provides assistance in eastern Aleppo through cross line mission
- UNHCR has vaccinated **6,774** children against polio in 2015
- UNHCR responds to the influx of families from Tel Tamer in Hassakeh
- **5,725** individuals have benefitted from CRI distribution in hard-to-reach towns in Qamishly

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UNHCR Resumes the Polio Vaccination Campaign for 2015



Ever since polio was detected in Northeastern Syria in October 2013, UNHCR has been participating in all phases of the national campaign against this disease through organizing awareness sessions, airlifting vaccines and administering vaccines shots. This year on 15 February, through its outreach volunteers, UNHCR resumed the polio vaccination across the country. Jointly with the Ministry of Health team in Hassakeh, UNHCR health volunteers were able to vaccinate a total number of **6,774** children in three consecutive days.

UNHCR Responds to Influx of Families from Tel Tamer in Hassakeh Governorate



As a result of the fierce clashes which started on 23 February in Tel Tamer, located 40 km west of Hassakeh city, the displacement of 5,605 individuals (1,121 families) mainly Assyrians, has taken place.

UNHCR has rapidly responded providing humanitarian assistance to; **900** individuals (180 families) in Qamishly, **4,250** individuals (850 families) in Hassakeh, **145** individuals (29 families) in Amuda, **220** individuals (44 families) in Derbasia as well as **90** individuals (18 families) in Ras el Ein. In Hassakeh city, which has seen the largest influx, UNHCR used the Mother Syria Gathering centre as an identification and distribution site.

The distribution of CRIs continues especially with the foreseen continuation of the influx from Tel Tamer.

CRIs Distributed to Hard-to-Reach Areas

On 16, 19 and 22 February, UNHCR delivered humanitarian assistance to the hard-to-reach Amuda, Derbasia, Jawadia in Qamishly. More than **5,725** individuals / 1,145 vulnerable families/have benefitted from **29,856** core relief items including mattresses, blankets, baby and adult diapers, sanitary napkins, jerry cans, hygiene kits, kitchen sets and sleeping mats.

During 2014 through missions, inter-agency missions and regular programmes, UNHCR had access to 104 hard-to-reach areas in Hama, Homs, Daraa, Aleppo, Idlib, Raqqa, Hassakeh, Quneitra and Rural Damascus resulting in 1,129,801 vulnerable beneficiaries getting assistance.



Building the Capacity of Humanitarian Workers

By means of enhancing the protection delivery capacity of UNHCR staff and its partners, a three-day training course on counselling techniques was conducted from 27 February to 1 March targeting 22 staff and volunteers directly engaged in PSS and SGBV case management in the community centers run by GOPA. Similarly, a two-day workshop from 16 to 17 February was conducted on Child Friendly Interviewing techniques, Best Interest Assessment (BIA) and Best Interest Determination (BID) for 32 UNHCR staff from Damascus and the Field Offices in Hassakeh, Aleppo, Homs, Tartous and Sweida.



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