



UN Joint Programme to Build and Strengthen Urban and Rural Resilience and the Conditions for Recovery in Syria

ANNUAL PROGRAMME¹ NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY 2020 – 31 DECEMBER 2020

Programme Title & Project Number	Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results ²
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme Title: UN Joint Programme to Build and Strengthen Urban and Rural Resilience and the Conditions for Recovery in Syria MPTF Office Project Reference Number³: 00116116 (EC) 00118029 (non-EC) 	<p>Outcome 1: Urban Area-based Recovery and Neighborhoods Plans that are responsive to community's needs, particularly the most vulnerable groups, are developed, delivered, and monitored in an inclusive participatory and conflict-sensitive manner at local level.</p> <p>Outcome 2: Basic and social services restored, improved, and sustained to enhance community resilience and social cohesion</p> <p>Outcome 3: Households and communities benefit from sustainable livelihood opportunities, including economic recovery and enhancing social cohesion and community security</p>
Participating Organization(s)	Implementing Partners
UNICEF, UNDP, FAO, UNFPA, WFP and UN-HABITAT	TBD
Programme/Project Cost (US\$)	Programme Duration
Total approved budget as per project document: \$70,766,349 MPTF /JP Contribution ⁴ : UNDP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$450,000 (00118029) \$1,786,774 (00116116) FAO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$400,000 (00118029) 	Overall Duration (months): 42 inc. extension till 30 June 2022 Start Date ⁵ : 15.01.2019 First transfer: 24.05.2019 (00116116) First transfer: 06.11.2019 (00118029)

¹ The term "programme" is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.

² Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document.

³ The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as "Project ID" on the project's factsheet page the MPTF Office GATEWAY

⁴ The MPTF or JP Contribution, refers to the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations, which is available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY

⁵ The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$500,000 (00116116) <p>UNHABITAT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$510,000 (00118029) ▪ \$602,000 (00116116) <p>UNFPA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$302,000 (00118029) ▪ \$789,100 (00116116) <p>UNICEF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$1,198,519 (00118029) ▪ \$1,013,629 (00116116) <p>WFP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$564,306 (00118029) ▪ \$830,694 (00116116)
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⁶ As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

⁷ If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities.

Table of Contents

Abbreviations	4
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	5
I. PURPOSE	5
II. RESULTS	6
Narrative Reporting on Results	6
Implementation Overview 2020	6
FAO	7
UNDP	8
UNFPA	10
UN-HABITAT	10
UNICEF	11
WFP	14
Location Identification and Selection	17
Planning and Coordination Highlights and Key Achievements	18
Crosscutting Issues	19
III. Key Challenges and Mitigation Approaches	21
IV. Lessons Learned	23
V. ANNEXES	24
Annex A: Indicator Based Performance Assessment	24
Annex B: Selection criteria paper (Deir-ez-Zor)	26
Annex C: JP Communication Strategy	28
Annex D: Dara’a Workplan	32
Annex E: Dara’a M&E Framework	34
Annex F: Deir-ez-Zor Participatory Planning Workshop Concept Note	36

Abbreviations

ADAP	Adolescent Development And Participation	NFE	Non-Formal Education
AOC	Agreement of Cooperation	NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
BTL	Back To Learning	OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
C4D	Communication for Development	PICC	Planning and International Cooperation Commission
CFP	Call For Proposal	PLW	Pregnant and Lactating Women
CFSAM	Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission	PMU	Programme Management Unit
DEZ	Deir-ez-Zor	PUNOs	Participating United Nations Organizations
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction	PWD	People with Disabilities
ECE	Early Childhood Education	RC	Resident Coordinator
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	RCO	Resident Coordinator Office
FGD	Focus Group Discussion	RH	Reproductive Health
GBV	Gender Based Violence	SLP	Supportive Learning Programme (under UNICEF terminology set)
HH	Household	SLP	Seasonal Livelihood Programming (under FAO and WFP terminology set)
HoAs	Heads of Agencies	TWG	Technical Working Group
IDP	Internally Displaced People	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
IP	Implementing Partner	UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety and Security
JP	The Joint Programme to Build and Strengthen Urban and Rural Resilience	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
JSC	Joint Steering Committee	UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
LoA	Letter of Agreement	UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation	UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency
MoE	– Ministry of Education – Directorate of Education	WFP	World Food Programme of the United Nations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The UN Joint Programme (JP) in Syria brings together six UN implementing agencies to deliver coordinated resilience and recovery-oriented interventions to communities who are still witnessing massive damage to every aspect of life and livelihoods. To date, the Syrian context has largely focused on the provision of humanitarian assistance with less emphasis on resilience efforts. Recognizing this, the JP utilizes an urban area-based approach that is guided by inclusion and local participation to deliver multi-pronged interventions to affected communities.

The Joint Steering Committee (JSC) selected Deir-ez-Zor City and Dara'a City and their rural catchment areas as the intervention locations for the JP, based on extensive technical assessments and on ground consultations with local community and local stakeholders. For this reporting period (1st January to 31st December 2020), activities were primarily focused on the inception phase. To this end, the following main items were produced under the JP:

1. Local consultations were conducted in Dara'a City and its rural catchment area, and a paper was prepared accordingly.
2. Activity work plan and budget for Dara'a phase I to address social vulnerability in Dara'a City and its rural catchment areas were established, approved and budget disbursed to the participating UN Agencies.
3. Communication strategy for the JP was developed, reviewed, and endorsed by the JSC.
4. Monitoring and evaluation framework for Dara'a's phase I workplan was prepared and shared with donors.
5. Local consultations were conducted in Deir-ez-Zor and its rural catchment area.
6. Concept Note for a participatory planning workshop to be held in Deir-ez-Zor was prepared and shared with donors and heads of agencies.
7. The JP manager and PMU team, along with focal points from the participating UN agencies conducted two field visits to Dara'a and to Deir-ez-Zor, to meet with and introduce the JP to the local authorities and local community as well as to obtain a more detailed account of the needs on the ground in the two locations.
8. One Heads of Agencies (HoAs) meeting, convened in Damascus on Wednesday 8th July 2020, during which briefing on status of implementation was provided and scenarios for engagement with the Government were presented, besides discussion of ex-ante vetting issues.
9. One Joint Steering Committee (JSC), convened in Damascus on Monday 19th October 2020, during which the minutes of last JSC meeting were endorsed, obstacles, outstanding issues, and next steps were discussed.
10. The first round of third-party monitoring for the JP was conducted, where PMU and the participating agencies actively collaborated with the monitor and provided the needed inputs.

I. PURPOSE

The JP has been developed to enable participating UN agencies to address critical needs within targeted communities while also strengthening the resilience of displaced populations and host communities, promote social and economic recovery, strengthen rural-urban linkages, support local planning and community participation and contribute to overall social cohesion within communities. The JP adopts a flexible programming approach, at sub-district, city and, neighborhood levels with strong emphasis on community consultations and decision-making to prioritize needs and activities and select areas of intervention. Under the JP, the following results will be delivered:

1. Outcome 1: Urban Area-based Recovery and Neighborhoods Plans that are responsive to community's needs, particularly the most vulnerable groups, are developed, delivered, and monitored in an inclusive participatory and conflict-sensitive manner at local level.
2. Outcome 2: Basic and social services restored, improved, and sustained to enhance community resilience and social cohesion.
3. Outcome 3: Households and communities benefit from sustainable livelihood opportunities, including economic recovery and enhancing social cohesion and community security.

II. RESULTS

Narrative Reporting on Results

Under the JP, collaboration between six UN implementing agencies (FAO, UNDP, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, UNICEF and WFP) serves to build upon and maximize synergies between existing programming tools, activities, and resources to reinforce the benefits of interventions.

Between 1 January and 31 December 2020, activities undertaken by the participating UN agencies primarily built on the results achieved in 2019 with regards to the first phase of interventions in Dara'a, for which a comprehensive activity matrix was developed and approved by the Joint Steering Committee (JSC). Dara'a phase 1 activities are expected to kick start in Q2 2021.

In parallel, jointly coordinated preparations to develop workplans for interventions in Deir-ez-Zor were being undertaken by the participating UN agencies during the reporting period, including field assessments, desk reviews of situation reports besides meetings and interviews in order to analyze and prioritize needs. Consequently, a draft workplan for interventions in Deir-ez-Zor was developed and prepared for discussion and fine tuning during a technical participatory planning workshop with local community and local authorities, which is planned to take place in Q2 2021

The JP prodoc was first signed with the EU in December 2018 and the first Joint Steering Committee (JSC) meeting was convened in July 2019. After Norway became the second donor to the JP, a following prodoc was developed and the signature on it took place in October 2019, consequently a second JSC meeting convened in January 2019, which led to the confirmation of the inception phase work plan, terms of reference and formal establishment of the JSC, JP Technical Working Group (TWG), and Programme Management Unit (PMU). The JP Manager came on board in mid-February 2020, whilst the two national officers joined in May 2020, thus the PMU became fully staffed and actively functional as of mid-2020.

Implementation Overview 2020

During the reporting period, under the joint programme approach, the six participating UN agencies have adopted a two-pronged participatory approach for working together. On one side, at the field level the UN agencies were conducting their local consultations in both targeted locations, jointly to collect inter-sectoral information and individually to collect specific feedback related to their specialized per-mandate activities. The involvement of local community, local authorities and local NGOs was essential, by means of which, the participating agencies were able to understand needs from different perspectives and prioritize joint interventions that deliver integrated response.

On the other side, at Damascus level, the participating UN agencies' focal points coordinated efforts to set the workplan for interventions in Dara'a, lay the design of the M&E framework for Dara'a, and draft the preliminary work plan for Deir-ez-Zor under leadership, coordination and guidance from PMU, along with technical advisory provided by UN-Habitat.

This participatory approach ensured affective collaboration and highlighted the added value of joint programming expected to yield coherent and more impactful results.

The following is an overview of the results achieved in 2020, as disaggregated by agency; while it is worth noting that these results were collectively utilized to construct the key deliverable items of the JP.

FAO

Dara'a:

In support of the joint programme approach, of having interventions responding to needs raised by the community, community consultations for Dara'a has started since 2019 and continued in 2020. Upon the JSC's approval of Dara'a's workplan and receiving its budget, FAO proceeded to conduct preparatory activities to ensure immediate kick off upon securing green light for implementation on the ground. Preparations included recruiting a resilience officer in Dara'a who is entitled to represent FAO and to facilitate and monitor the implementation of planned activities.

Earlier in the year 2020, FAO commenced the Natural Resource assessment to see what is feasible in the targeted areas and identify the interventions' locations considering the sustainability of natural resources. Deskwork including analysis of satellite and GIS maps was done to produce a draft list of potential locations of irrigation structures for rehabilitation, pending validation at field level. Drafting of preliminary technical designs has also started.

FAO also started discussions with the potential implementing partners and prepared the needed draft LoAs, whilst the process of hiring national consultants to conduct planned assessments is in progress.

The prioritized interventions in Dara'a phase 1 are:

- Support women and youth agricultural entrepreneurship through building their capacity to restoring and maintaining incomes. This intervention is planned within the catchment area of Dara'a city aiming to support restoring urban-rural economic linkages.
- Rehabilitation of four ground water wells and irrigation schemes to contribute to the JP output on rehabilitating community assets including productive infrastructure and services. This will be complemented with establishing water users' associations at each group well and irrigation scheme.
- Two planned assessments: Natural resource assessment (through water shed approach) that will inform the locations for planned rehabilitation of irrigation structures; and Analysis of Food Systems through value chain approach for main agricultural products, to identify gaps and reasons for underperformance in the urban-rural linkages and proposing strategies to restore and strengthen them and improve access and availability of food.

Deir-ez-Zor:

FAO – likewise in Dara'a – commenced deskwork for the Natural Resource assessment earlier, to inform the selection of irrigation structures' rehabilitation locations. FAO started the needs assessment process for Deir-ez-Zor in 2020 through the joint country wide socio-economic impact assessment of COVID-19 and related factors in Syria in collaboration with other UN agencies including UNDP, WFP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, UN-HABITAT and UNRWA. The assessment enabled FAO to understand the immediate impacts of COVID-19 lockdown measures on agricultural activities, especially on smallholders and female-headed households, and on rural livelihoods in general. Also, further field-level assessment was conducted through a field mission to Deir-ez-Zor in June 2020. During the mission FAO teams from the field office and main office conducted group discussions with representatives of local community.

The collected information through these two assessments helped in updating the information collected through joint Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) that was conducted jointly with WFP in summer 2019 including Dara'a and Deir ez-Zor governorates to estimate crop production and to assess the overall food security situation.

Joint collaboration efforts with the participating UN agencies on needs assessments - especially with WFP to ensure complementarity in rural areas -, besides community consultations and feedback from FAO team in the field were utilized to develop Deir-ez-Zor draft workplan.

Suggested prioritized interventions for Deir-ez-Zor are:

- Enhance the capacity of villages' agricultural development committees on needs assessment and planning and raise their awareness about resilience programmes.
- Support women and youth's agricultural entrepreneurship.
- Provision of support to business ideas resulting from the agricultural entrepreneurship training in the form of grants to start up these ideas.
- Rehabilitation of small-scale irrigation schemes complemented with establishing water users' associations at each scheme. The activity will be conducted in collaboration with WFP.
- Natural resource assessment (through water shed approach) and Analysis of Food Systems through value chain approach.
- Support small scale sheep keepers through Farmer Field School approach aiming to develop the skills and knowledge of sheep keepers to help them create more efficient and profitable ways of flock management.
- Improve wheat production through provision of sowing machines, targeting the members of water users' associations, to improve the efficiency and productivity of wheat cultivation.
- Support smallholder vulnerable farmers with agricultural inputs for winter/summer vegetables besides technical training. The activity will be conducted in collaboration with WFP.

UNDP

Dara'a:

- As a joint participatory approach in line with the JP's theme, UNDP created a space for dialogue on needs and priorities between different stakeholders on the ground through conducting two workshops in December, one targeted Dara'a AlBalad neighbourhood and the other targeted Dara'a AlMahattah neighbourhood. UNDP ensured a participatory approach through inviting Mukhtars (*locally elected members of the community to represent a neighbourhood*), neighborhood committees, the municipality's line departments and local community members; to jointly map risks and resources as well as identify needs and priorities.
- UNDP laid the ground to initiate an activity aiming to rehabilitate the basic infrastructure by providing solid waste removal services to enhance hygiene and healthy living conditions in Al-Shuhada neighbourhood in Dara'a, which includes more than 1,200 shops, and this will contribute to reviving the commercial activities in the area by enabling about 400 shops to re-open.
- Also, an activity aiming to enhance the community confidence through street lighting using solar energy in residential neighborhoods and the commercial area in Dara'a city, is under preparation. It will reduce pressure on conventional electrical energy consumption and provide continuous lighting in vital axes within the targeted areas to improve the lives of people who decided to return voluntarily, provide them with needed sense of safety, support their livelihood, and improve accessibility, and to reflect positively on the environment warnings.

- A training for youth team leaders on conflict analysis, response planning, dialogue facilitation, dispute mediation and negotiation skills to be community-based peace-agents, shall be launched.
- Furthermore, UNDP has started mapping the active NGOs in Dara'a city, and laid plans to convene a joint workshop over two days with representatives from those NGOs. The workshop intends to identify challenges facing people in need in Dara'a and the ones facing civic organizations in supporting them. Two main points to be discussed: i) Lack of coordination and integration, ii) Variance between capacities of Dara'a based NGOs compared with NGOs operating in Dara'a, which presents an opportunity to create connection and exchange of expertise.
- A twinning shall be initiated between a national NGO operating in Dara'a and a newly established NGO; with the objective of exchanging hands-on expertise.
- An online application will be developed and link will be shared with Dara'a NGOs to help them apply to participate in the NGOs online training programme covering: Strategic and Participatory Planning, Rapid Needs Assessment and Proposal Writing, Managerial Finance for NGOs, Impact assessment and M&E; Essential skills for Services providers in NGOs.

Deir-ez-Zor:

UNDP has conducted local consultations with local community members, technical directorates, local councils, Mukhtars and neighborhoods committees. Also, coordinated joint assessments and consultations with other UN agencies, to jointly collect, discuss and analyze information on needs and challenges pertaining to economic, social, environmental, cultural, education income sources, youth, social cohesion, and to assess capacities of local partners for implementing high quality interventions. in addition to assessing the impact of Covid-19 on various areas, as follows:

- Ten FGDs: two FGDs for youth, six FGDs for neighborhoods and other two FGDs for general information related to the COVID-19 impact on social and economic issues in Deir-ez-Zor.
- Local Market Assessment prepared by UNDP and UNFPA.
- NGO Capacity Needs Assessment.
- Municipal Services Assessment.

Where, the key outcomes of consultations included but not-limited-to:

- The infrastructure and basic services are severely impacted, which hinders economic opportunities.
- Damaged buildings pose a key risk besides unexploded ordinance UXO and absence of lighting in the streets, whilst solid waste and debris represent another challenge.
- House rehabilitation is also one of the most difficult challenges for most of the vulnerable groups.
- There is a need to establish and rehabilitate safe spaces.
- Lack of early recovery and livelihood opportunities, as the conditions of local markets and small businesses cannot sustain income generating opportunities, besides weak demand.
- Lack of support to people with disabilities (PWDs) inclusion.
- The economic and social role of women and youth in early recovery is limited.
- The role of neighbourhood's committees should be enhanced.
- Lack of qualifications of local NGOs and the need to develop their capabilities.

The age range for the participants was between 18 and 60 years old, whilst their professional occupation varied between teachers, workers, civil servants, private sector employees, and members of neighborhood committees as well as members of local charities and NGOs.

Furthermore, UNDP created a space for dialogue on needs and priorities between different stakeholders through conducting a workshop in coordination with Deir-ez-Zor City Council targeting mukhtars, local

committees, the municipality's line department and local community to map the risks and resources as well as needs and priorities.

In addition, UNDP actively participated in coordination meetings with all the JP participating UN agencies to coordinate and ensure coherence, complementarity, and integration of interventions to respond to community needs on the ground.

UNFPA

Between 1st January and 31st December 2020, UNFPA undertook data collection activities in support of the JP's Outcome 1: Utilizing the Urban Area-based and Neighborhood Planning Approach'. Several consultations were conducted independently by UNFPA staff (from main office and/or field office) or jointly with other UN agencies through inter-agency missions and focus group discussions (FGDs), as follows:

Dara'a:

- Two inter-agency missions, one was with WFP and the other was conducted with the JP PMU and some of the JP participating UN agencies focal points.
- Three needs assessment field visit conducted by UNFPA mainly in Dara'a city.
- Three informal FGDs in Dara'a city by UNFPA in September.

Deir-ez-Zor:

- Five field visits by UNFPA, UNICEF, and WFP were done during February 2020, to the following neighbourhoods inside Deir-ez-Zor city: Boghaliyah, Hettin, Hamiedeyah, Rushdyeh, Tishreen, Sina'a and Jebeliah; to conduct needs assessments.
- Three FGDs in Al-Qosour, Jebeliah and Al-Thawrah neighbourhoods of DEZ, by UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP.
- One inter-agency mission by UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, OCHA and the RCO in Deir-ez-Zor.
- Five informal FGDs by UNFPA in Deir-ez-Zor city.
- One socio-economic assessment by UNFPA and UNDP for DEZ city.

The above listed and conducted consultations enabled UNFPA to identify and prioritize activities for Dara'a workplan; also helped UNFPA prepare draft workplan for Deir-ez-Zor tentative activities that will be discussed and finetuned during the participatory workshop with local community, planned for late Q1 2021. UNFPA formulated its activities in a way that will harmonize the efforts between the participating UN agencies, cover current resilience needs, and maximize the benefits for the targeted communities. Upon receiving the JSC's approval for Dara'a workplan, UNFPA has started preparation and relevant deskwork to be ready to start immediate implementation on ground once green light is received.

UN-HABITAT

Dara'a:

In 2020, completed longstanding work on the development of a detailed area-based recovery plan for Dara'a, using other resources, yet in support of the joint programme deliverables.

After receiving the JSC's approval for Dara'a workplan, UN-Habitat proceeded to announce Call for Proposal (CFP) for the implementation of several activities in Dara'a, under Agreement of Cooperation (AoC) modality with implementing partner, especially rehabilitation of safer access to schools and rehabilitation of open spaces within the catchment area of schools. The AoC procedures will be administered right after finalizing offers' evaluation and finalizing the AoC draft with the implementing

partner (IP), and obtention of EU clearance for the selected IP. Other deskwork preparations including technical documents, maps and plans to implement the activities of Dara'a phase one have started and ongoing to be launched immediately upon receiving green-light to start on ground.

Deir ez Zor:

During 2020, three rounds of participatory consultations, including a detailed field visit in June 2020 were conducted for Deir-ez-Zor, to jointly, with other UN agencies' field teams, identify current and pressing needs, and prioritize activities from the perspective of local community and municipality point of view. As with Dara'a, in 2020, UN Habitat completed longstanding work on the development of a detailed area-based recovery plan, using other resources an area based. Drawing from this exercise, and through dialogue with JP partners, a draft workplan for UN-Habitat interventions was prepared. UN-Habitat interventions in Deir ez Zor focused on different aspects such as:

- Environmental intervention that aims reduce the pollution of the main sewage downstream, temporary landfill.
- Restoration of safer access and open spaces with the catchment areas of schools with coordination of UNICEF and UNDP.
- Rehabilitation of some vital streets, market streets, streets within the industrial areas (with coordination of UNDP)

UN-Habitat as technical advisor for JP coordinated with PMU to facilitate when needed on issues related to planning and workshop materials, in addition to preparing collective maps of the proposed activities of all six agencies.

UNICEF

Despite ongoing security concerns, a deteriorating socio-economic context, as well as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country, UNICEF was able to maintain – and even expand in some programmatic areas – its reach in Syria in 2020 and deliver life-saving services to children and families most in need.

Dara'a:

As of the beginning of October 2020, UNICEF has laid the ground to start implementing education activities under the joint programme in coordination with the other participating UN agencies, in Dara'a targeting out-of-school children (including children with disabilities), through back-to-learning campaigns and national exam support.

Under non-formal education activities, UNICEF will – under the resilience joint programme – focus on strengthening access and quality education in newly accessible areas. The NFE programme aims to provide equitable access to quality education opportunities to children who are particularly vulnerable, and either out-of-school, or at-risk-of-dropping-out-of-school. UNICEF maintains an NFE programme, which has the below listed main components:

- Supportive learning programme (SLP): supports children who are out-of-school to return to learning by participating in non-formal education platforms such as temporary learning spaces.
- Remedial classes: provides support to children in school who are at-risk of dropping out
- Exam support: provides support to children who are out-of-school, or live in crossline or cross-border locations, and are looking to gain formal qualifications through the 9th and 12th grade exams.

- Provision of essential learning materials such as stationary and self-learning materials, which they require for their learning.

UNICEF plans to reach children, including children with disabilities, through the above-mentioned NFE components, besides other JP activities by the participating UN agencies that are targeting children (i.e WFP voucher programme and UNFPA protection activities for girls). Furthermore, to contribute to quality learning outcomes and skills development, UNICEF shall provide teachers in non-formal schooling settings who are providing non formal education programmes, with pedagogical skills trainings including active learning, life-skills as well supervision skills for education quality assurance.

Regarding school rehabilitation, UNICEF has so far undertaken a pre-assessment of eight schools in Dara'a Al Balad. UNICEF is currently conducting an invitation for contract works bidding process⁸ for the rehabilitation activity, where the selected contractor shall undergo clearance by the EU. Upon completion of works, UNICEF anticipates reaching a total of about 5,472 children who will have improved access to rehabilitated school infrastructure.

UNICEF's selection criteria of schools are based on:

- Schools affected by crisis and located in safe and populated newly accessible areas.
- Schools located in areas where the Education severity scale is 3 to 6. (As per education sector severity scale revised yearly).
- Schools located in areas with high numbers of out of school children.
- School that justify light rehabilitation investments.
- Schools located in areas with large concentrations of returnees and displaced populations and children.
- Schools with over-crowded classrooms.
- Schools that have been used as shelters.

The key elements of the Adolescent Development and Participation programme (ADAP) under the JP are:

- To provide skill-building for young people who are in the greatest danger of being left behind.
- To provide gender sensitive skill-building for adolescent and youth girls.
- Knowledge, learning and skills development (life skills and citizenship education for adolescents), adolescents' and youth's health education.
- To promote work readiness and employability skills for youth.
- To provide young people with the opportunity to lead community-based social cohesion (social and digital engagement etc.).

The ADAP in Dara'a, is already delayed due to delay in obtaining the green light from authorities, yet it may further be delayed due to the emerging suspension of UNICEF's partnership with the initial ADAP Implementing Partner in Dara'a, until new agreement with new partner is achieved and approved by relevant authorities.

The initial plan was to implement through two partners; Monastery Saint James the Mutilated (MSJM) and Syrian Mar Afram Patriarchy for Development (EPDC), however, UNICEF has since suspended agreement with MSJM and could not proceed due to programmatic and quality assurance issues.

In addition, the other implementing partner (EPDC) in Dara'a is currently facing several challenges programmatically and UNICEF planned through its Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) unit to conduct a special review and cannot proceed with a new agreement with the partner until the results have

⁸ Bidding process from UNICEF view covers the whole process until the selected contractor is cleared by EU

been received. This is to ensure that partner capacity is up to UNICEF's standards and regulations to deliver an impactful programme.

As a mitigating measure, a new partner has been identified (AHL AL SHAM INITIATIVE FOUNDATION), a new agreement was signed, and currently waiting for Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour (MoSAL) clearance of the IP. To make up for lost time, and to expedite the process, mapping of beneficiaries and service providers is ongoing while waiting for the clearance. UNICEF remains optimistic to obtain government approval for the programme agreement with the new implementing partner.

UNICEF, together with their implementing partners (IPs) that were mentioned in the workplan – with exception of MSJM and EPDC due to the earlier mentioned reasons- laid plans to conduct Back to learning (BTL) campaigns through door-to-door visits as well as phone calls with education staff and students. Implementing partners' BTL interventions shall focus on awareness-raising about the importance of education and collecting information about out-of-school children by using a UNICEF Communication for Development (C4D) survey.

UNICEF also plans for the provision of essential learning materials such as stationary and self-learning materials, which out-of-school require for their learning under non formal education and Supporting Learning Programme.

Deir-ez-Zor:

Preparations for the Joint Programme implementation in Deir-ez-Zor (DEZ) are also ongoing, with a participatory area-based planning workshop, in coordination with the other participating UN agencies, local community and local authorities, preliminarily scheduled to take place in March 2021. Furthermore, coordination with the Department of Education (DoE) in DEZ is ongoing for education and ADAP activities.

Under non-formal education activities, UNICEF will – under the resilience joint programme – focus on strengthening access and quality education in newly accessible areas. The NFE programme aims to provide equitable access to quality education opportunities to children who are particularly vulnerable, and either out-of-school, or at-risk-of-dropping-out-of-school. UNICEF maintains an NFE programme which has the below listed main components:

- Supportive learning programme (SLP): supports children who are out-of-school to return to learning by participating in non-formal education platforms such as temporary learning spaces.
- Remedial classes: provides support to children in school who are at-risk of dropping out
- Exam support: provides support to children who are out-of-school, or live in crossline or cross-border locations, and are looking to gain formal qualifications through the 9th and 12th grade exams.
- Provision of essential learning materials such as stationary and self-learning materials which, they require for their learning.

UNICEF plans to reach children, including children with disabilities, through the above-mentioned NFE components. Furthermore, to contribute to quality learning outcomes and skills development, UNICEF shall provide teachers in non-formal schooling settings who are performing non formal education programme, with pedagogical skills trainings including active learning, life-skills as well supervision skills for education quality assurance.

For school rehabilitation, In Deir-ez-Zor, the UNICEF team has identified eight schools in the following neighborhoods: Al Hamidia, Baajen, Jbela, Sheikh Yaseen, and old Airport neighbourhood -that suffered damage and has critical needs-, and the pre-assessment process is ongoing. Rehabilitation will commence

once the assessment report has been finalized, once contributions have been disbursed from the Joint Programme, and once IPs are cleared by the EU.

For the ADAP related activities, it was agreed with UNDP and UNFPA that all three agencies will implement joint activities for youth and adolescents to ensure more complementarity between agencies within the joint programme.

UNICEF, together with their implementing partners (IPs) laid plans to conduct Back to learning (BTL) campaigns through door-to-door visits as well as phone calls with education staff and students. Implementing partners' BTL interventions are focused on awareness-raising about the importance of education and collecting information about out-of-school children by using a UNICEF-C4D survey.

UNICEF also plans for the provision of essential learning materials such as stationary and self-learning materials which out-of-school require for their learning under non formal education and Supporting Learning Programme.

WFP

As part of the JP deliverables during the reporting period, WFP conducted several consultations with local authorities, local leaders (i.e. Mukhtars, heads of farmers' associations), and communities in both targeted locations in coordination with the participating UN agencies in the JP. According to the consultations, WFP agreed with all stakeholders to facilitate the Seasonal Livelihood Programming (SLP) in Dara'a District and Deir-ez-Zor District. Each SLP was attended by more than 30 participants representing all stakeholders in the targeted areas including other PUNOs. Although the SLP for Dara'a district is not included in the Dara'a activity matrix, it is conducted using other WFP resources, and it provides for and inform interventions in the matrix.

Dara'a:

Under the JP besides their other programmes, WFP's consultations and surveys in Dara'a revealed that the vulnerability profiling shows: 5% are resilient/better off, 45% meet their basic needs in absence of major shock, 40% are vulnerable/food insecure, and 10% are severely food insecure.

The participants in the SLP consultations in Dara'a, agreed on the following priority interventions areas:

	Winter	Spring	Summer	Autumn
Programming Entry Points	Overall goal: Protects lives and restore livelihoods.	Overall goal: Invest in long term assets.	Overall Goal: Restoration of livelihoods and provision of employment opportunities supported by households' productive projects. (HH) assets	Overall Goal: Safeguard lives and productive assets and invest in infrastructure and build local capacity.

	<p>Key Focus areas: Food Security, nutrition, health, assets creation and rehabilitation of irrigation systems, e.g. rehabilitation of pumps for stations and wells and canals rehabilitation and cleaning; technical support, e.g. seeds, fertilizers, fodders, fuel, chemicals.</p>	<p>Key Focus areas: Restoration of communal assets, rehabilitation of irrigation systems, provision of agriculture inputs, household productive assets projects, technical support, training, support livestock, and enhance livelihoods.</p>	<p>Key Focus areas: Rehabilitation of communal assets, supporting processing of food and animal products, possible establishing small businesses and providing technical trainings.</p>	<p>Key Focus Areas: Nutrition, health, capacity development (trainings, social set ups) irrigation infrastructure along with productive assets.</p>
	<p>Consideration: limited access to imported fertilizers and pesticides.</p>	<p>Consideration: Overburdening women with work and identifying the most appropriate technical support.</p>	<p>Consideration: Marketing channels and demand from nearby areas, access to market of agri-inputs and agricultural products.</p>	<p>Consideration: Engaging local communities with activities related to the infrastructure.</p>

In Dara’a, WFP planned to support 1,000 Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) through its electronic vouchers nutritional programme. As needs are very high in the target area, WFP has increased its support to a total of 3,045 PLWs utilizing both the Joint Programme and WFP’s own resources.

WFP also plans to assist 1,700 students through its vouchers for children enrolled in the Curriculum B programme. Though, the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic crisis may hinder the enrolment process, Yet, WFP expects that during 2021 children will be enrolled but the initially planned target may not be fully reached.

Deir-ez-Zor:

In Deir-ez-Zor, participants in JP consultations agreed on the vulnerability profiling of the targeted areas as follows: 2% of the population are resilient/better off, 18% meet their needs if no major shocks occur, 70% are vulnerable/food insecure, and 10% are severely vulnerable/food insecure.

The main outcomes of Deir-ez-Zor WFP-specific consultations can be summarized as follows:

Seasons	Winter	Spring	Summer	Autumn
Seasonal Livelihoods Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased consumption of fuel for heating and pumping water High prices of some agricultural and food products High prices of feed such as hay and barley; Shortage of food for food insecure and vulnerable HHs; The season of frost; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marketing milk, especially sheep milk Season for cultivating summer crops and cotton Combating weeds, especially wild eggplant Cotton crop service operations Availability of green fodder Small sheep selling season for fattening; Availability of daily wages labour, in agriculture in particular; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wheat and barley harvesting season; Sesame and Maize cultivation; Continued marketing of milk and dairy products; Continuing work in the service of the cotton crop and summer vegetables; Khamaseen and Ajaj wind season; Sheep vaccination season (ENTERROTOXAEMI A disease); The sale season of fattened sheep; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase of school and university supplies Preparing provision for winter, such as Makdous, tomato paste and jams; Cotton harvest season; Continued manufacture and sale of cow's milk and dairy products Start of winter vegetable cultivation, such as spinach, onions, peas and beans Engaging in wheat and other crops cultivation
	Programming Entry points	<p>Overall Goal: Protect & restore livelihoods</p> <p>Key focus areas: Food Security, Nutrition, Health and labour intensive asset creation and rehabilitation especially related to cleaning irrigation canals and investment in agriculture (intensive training sessions or in the job training for cultivation of winter crops)</p> <p>Consideration: limited access to fertilizers and fuel due to high prices</p>	<p>Overall Goal: Invest in longer term assets.</p> <p>Key focus areas: Restoration of communal productive assets, rehabilitation of sector 5 irrigation system; maximize agriculture productivity and processing; this includes training on wild eggplant control, training on post-harvest, processing, storage, and marketing of agricultural products and for livestock products; support food insecure HHs with tools and equipment</p> <p>Consideration:</p>	<p>Overall Goal: protect lives and restoration of livelihood through invest in long term asset creation and protection for the coming seasons,</p> <p>Key focus areas: Health, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), reinforcing food and animal food stocks including small enterprises for food processing and preservation, agriculture production (seed, inputs and trainings)</p> <p>Consideration: own production for food is available and there is cash income also because of sell of agriculture products and the return of migrant worker</p>

		labour market is good due to agriculture works therefore less labour intensive assets creation		infrastructure development is possible.
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Location Identification and Selection⁹

Based on a 2019 comprehensive inception report that offered detailed local contextual analysis, area needs, risks, potential interventions and partner mapping; Deir-ez-Zor City / District and Dara'a City / Sub-District were eventually selected as the final locations for interventions under the JP and were approved by the JSC.

Following the selection of locations, the participating UN agencies commenced planning for their preliminary assessments to be conducted in these two locations. The participating UN agencies adhered to the locations' and activities' selection criteria as stipulated in the description of action.

From UN-HABITAT point of view, Dara'a and Deir-ez-Zor scored high levels of population vulnerability and resilience needs. Added value could be gained in terms of confidence-building and bridging differences to enhance social cohesion. Dara'a City is considered a key hub in the southern area, close to borders with Jordan, source of food basket for Damascus and the southern areas especially vegetables, and grain. Any amelioration in the situation of the city and its population shall entail positive impact on the whole southern area. Likewise, Deir-ez-Zor City is considered a main pole on the Euphrates river in the eastern area, and the source of many strategic agricultural products and livestock. Any progress of the city will have positive impact for the whole region and the eastern area.

UNFPA identified their targeted locations in Dara'a and Deir-ez-Zor based on local consultations and in line with criteria stipulated in the prodoc. Activities and services, aligned with criteria in the prodoc, will be at the city level in both locations with focus on the most critical areas as the city center and on the vulnerable groups as women, youth and persons with disabilities (PWDs). In Deir-ez-Zor, seven neighbourhoods were initially identified inside the city to conduct the assessments and local consultations (Boghaliyah, Hettin, Hamiedeyah, Rushdyeh, Tishreen, Sina'a and Jebeliah).

Also, the identified locations for intervention by FAO, considered the vulnerability of people and the levels of current and potential urban-rural linkages. Interventions were designed to respond to the identified needs and to contribute to the project objective to strengthen urban-rural linkages and recover agricultural livelihood activities.

UNICEF identified some locations in Dara'a and Deir-ez-Zor as follows:

- There are several communities, which have witnessed extensive damage during the crisis in Dara'a and are currently witnessing a gradual flow of returnees. These communities include the following: Ataman, Kherbet Ghazala, Mokhayam Dar'a and Naiyma in Dar'a sub-district; Deir Adas in As-Sanamyn sub-district; Sheikh Meskin, namer, Bosr Al Harir, and Hrak in Izra sub-district; Nahta and Al Kark in Bosra sub-district, and Al Shajara area.
- For selection of locations in Deir-ez-Zor, UNICEF's planned interventions will focus on Al Hamidia, Baajen, Jebela, Sheikh Yaseen and old airport neighborhoods.

⁹ Reference to Annex B. Selection criteria paper for Deir-ez-Zor (draft)

Planning and Coordination Highlights and Key Achievements

Since the thematic pillars established in 2019 were replaced with three JP outcome groups, PMU coordinated efforts with the participating UN agencies through the Technical Working Group to assign an outcome lead per each JP outcome who is responsible for ensuring that all interventions under the assigned outcome are coordinated and planned coherently by the agencies participating in the outcome. Consequently, UN-Habitat was assigned as leader of Outcome1, UNICEF leader of Outcome2, whilst FAO and UNDP co-lead Outcome3 since it is the largest outcome and it incorporates activities by all six agencies. PMU utilized the outcome-lead structure to conduct technical discussions with the participating agencies to finalize the monitoring and evaluation framework for Dara'a and set indicators' values. UN Habitat in its capacity as technical adviser for JP, supported PMU's leadership role and coordination efforts between UN agencies.

Until early 2020 FAO led the TWG on "Agriculture and Urban-Rural Livelihood pillar" in participation of WFP and UNDP. A plan was put to provide reliable information to all the participating agencies on types of assessments conducted and available info to understand agriculture production situation, potential livelihood interventions and the local economy in rural and urban areas, then identify potential linkages in the targeted areas.

For Dara'a phase 1 activities, despite the fact that some agencies have conducted their own assessments using other funding sources, the assessment data was circulated, and several meetings were held and facilitated, utilizing the outcome-lead structure, to consolidate assessment findings and local consultations results to establish a common base of understanding and approach for complementarity of interventions, which resulted in the development and approval of Dara'a phase 1 workplan. The monitoring and evaluation framework for Dara'a phase 1 was also designed and finalized.

While in Deir-ez-Zor and in preparation for the final participatory workshop to develop the neighborhoods action plans, PMU facilitated several meetings, also using the outcome-lead structure, to secure a joint approach for the design of proposed interventions based on assessment findings and local consultations results and to ensure effective coordination between participating UN agencies. The coordination between FAO and WFP on designing interventions relevant to agricultural rehabilitation, livestock subsector support, and irrigation solutions in rural areas, ensured complementarity and reduced overlaps as the two agencies jointly identified target locations and planned their activities. Coordination between UNDP and UN-Habitat with regards to infrastructure, street rehabilitation and lighting, and public spaces led to better mapping of interventions to effectively integrate and complement each other work on the ground.

On the same, UNFPA coordinated with the participating UN agencies to design and incorporate joint activities, besides its own per-mandate activities, to promote women empowerment, youth participation, gender equality and community resilience through an effective referral mechanism between UNFPA and other participating UN agencies facilities to cover for protection, reproductive health and other related aspects in an order that links rural with urban areas. UNICEF worked with UNDP and UNFPA to align interventions relevant to adolescent and youth development and vocational training, whilst coordinating with UN-Habitat regarding interventions on safer access to schools and public gardens.

To the extent possible, UNICEF and other participating UN agencies shall utilize the inclusive municipal and neighborhood planning approach to jointly define priorities that are responsive to the local context and to people's needs in cities and their rural catchment areas. The joint planning approach will support the development of sustainable local participatory planning capacity at the neighborhood and municipal levels.

The joint programme has provided an opportunity to develop a common platform to promote a coordinated and multi-sector planning approach in the select locations with a strong focus on:

- The delivery of basic essential services to the affected population, with particular emphasis on displaced people and host communities and people facing deprivation and different forms of vulnerability.
- The provision of sustainable livelihood opportunities to foster a more resilient society, economic recovery and social inclusion, access to social care services for the most marginalized households and communities, including a comprehensive response to gender based violence.

UNICEF's interventions are also guided by an equity approach; targeting of the most vulnerable children and young people; out of school children and youth; and children, adolescents, and youth with disabilities all of whom are supported by ensuring full consultation with local stakeholders.

The Joint Programme and neighborhood planning approach is to build upon and maximize the synergies between the existing programme activities in a way that is locally owned and can overcome the challenges facing resilience-building activities. Strengthening local participation in planning, implementation, and monitoring is essential in this regard.

Furthermore, stakeholder engagement and consultation include local Directorate of Education (DOE), local government authorities, and community leaders, amongst other stakeholders.

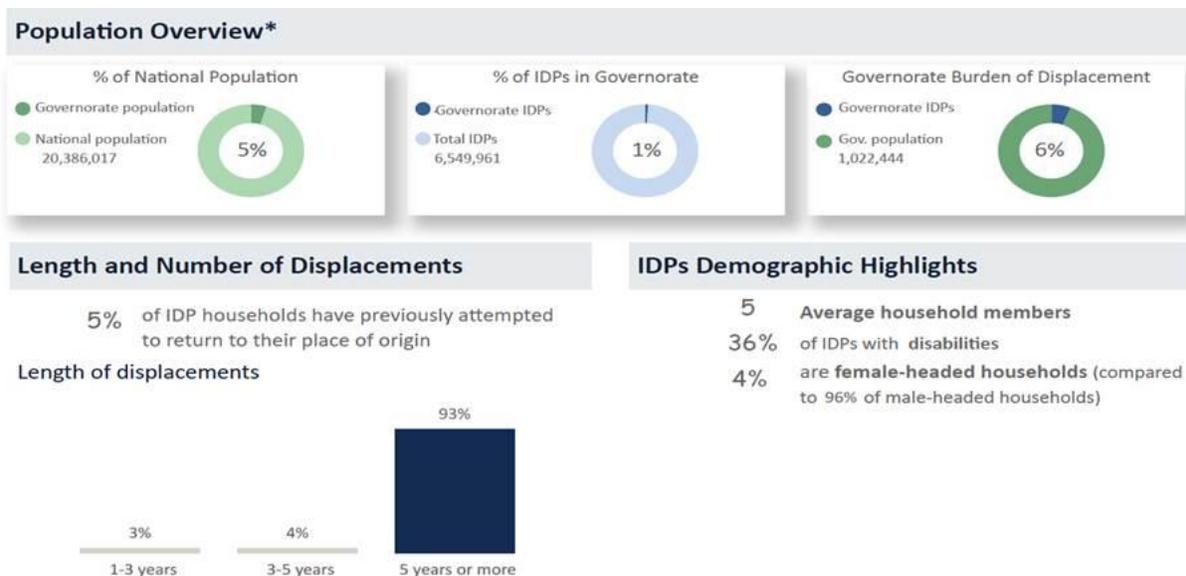
Crosscutting Issues

According to the UN population taskforce, as of July 2019, the Deir-ez-Zor city population is estimated at 124,000 people out of which around 6,572 people are returnees. According to the SARC data, the total population of Deir-ez-Zor governorate is 1,576,495 including 271,549 children under five years old; 377,152 people between 5-18 years old (48% boys and 52% girls); 859,907 people between 19-59 age (48% men and 52% women) and 67,887 people above 60 years old.

In Dara'a, women represent more than 51% of the entire population. There are critical shortages in the provision of reproductive health services – from family planning to antenatal and postpartum care – and new-born care. Yet early or forced marriage is a human rights violation, and it often leads to early pregnancy, which exposes girls to significant health risks. The most recent available data shows that child marriage was most prevalent in Dara'a where 26% of women aged 20-49 were married before the age of 18, Child marriage occurred in both rural and urban areas of Syria as of 2006.

Regarding people with disabilities, it is estimated that 45% of the injured population are expected to sustain a permanent impairment raising the rate of people with disability from the global average of 15% to 30%, which requires further attention and specialized services.

The following illustration is extracted from The GOVERNORATE PROFILES-IDP Report Series 2020:



In coordination with the participating UN agencies and the JP PMU, UNFPA focuses its efforts on leveraging gender equality, enhancing the quality of interventions and engagement of beneficiaries, empowering women, and supporting youth participation through adaptation and fine-tuning of JP activities to streamline gender and protection issues into them. This will help in addressing different types of vulnerabilities whether related to gender, youth, disabilities, and other...etc., through tailored activities to support the vulnerable groups' access to UNFPA services in particular and to other UN agencies services provided through the JP, with the long-term objective of changing social norms, and negative coping mechanisms.

UNICEF is adopting 'The Whole School Approach and Skill Building Opportunities', where schools can be an entry point for local communities, NGOs and the UN to invest and leverage resources to maximize collective efforts and results. More specifically, schools can serve as a common platform where children access protective and inclusive environments and quality learning, teachers in non-formal settings under UNICEF's non-formal education programme, shall benefit from professional development, and communities access awareness-raising activities, social protection services, as well as essential education supplies.

Within the 'Whole School Approach' model, the school feeding programme offers the opportunity to achieve multiple objectives ranging from education, social protection, increasing food production and revitalizing local economy. Local sourcing of ingredients and food commodities along with support provided to local manufacturers in food processing for use in education and social protection programming by WFP-UNICEF-FAO is at the heart of the approach to support the most vulnerable school aged children in Syria.

As part of its resilience development agenda and drawing on the experience of the 'No Lost Generation Initiative' promoted in the region, UNICEF will promote programmes aimed at increasing access to quality education for children, and at the same time supporting families with basic income to address the needs of their children. Winterization, NFE activities, community based Early Childhood Education (ECE), self-learning initiatives, as well as seed funding for social entrepreneurship promoted among young people involved in vocational and life skills training, will contribute to the injection in the selected communities of resources addressed at increasing social inclusion and social cohesion.

III. Key Challenges and Mitigation Approaches

Security and Accessibility

The security situation in Syria in general and particularly in Dara'a continues to present a challenge, which intermittently affects stability in the targeted areas, and may temporarily hinder access to implementation. Whilst the UN established a hub in DEZ, and situation in Deir-ez-Zor city and its nearby rural suburbs is considered somewhat stable for the JP implementation, yet the difficulties and lack of security on the highway leading to it, pose a challenge especially for private contractors who need to ship row materials to execute their contacts with the UN agencies.

Although security incidents are usually unpredictable, the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) maintains close connection with all relevant security parties in the country and continuously obtain security briefings about different areas in the country. Any significant information regarding road-related and/or location-related risks are immediately shared with all UN agencies. This shall enable the UN agencies to timely alert their field teams and on-site contractors. While this approach enhances the sense of safety for people on the ground, it will entail delays until the emerging security risk is cleared.

Humanitarian Situation

The scale, severity and complexity of humanitarian needs significantly worsened in 2020 due to the economic downturn resulting in some of the most challenging humanitarian conditions experienced in the past ten years of the crisis; rising cost of commodities, and devaluation of the local currency, all were compounded by the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 and ongoing hostilities. As a result, risks of GBV, the likelihood of de-prioritization of women's health, antenatal and postnatal care, hostility and criminal actions all had been severely increased, along with disrupted and deteriorated access to life-saving sexual and reproductive health services, as well as essential Gender-based Violence services.

Integration and Coordination

Whereas each of the participating UN agencies has its own mandate, expertise and specific programmes, and whilst some of the agencies' programmes share similar aspects and technical characteristics, a key challenge was to find common points of integration, where interventions are streamlined through a complementary approach. PMU utilized the bi-weekly TWG meetings approach, to share updates on the progress of UN agencies implementation of the JP, discuss challenges, and present common solutions for better coordination and more harmonized activities on the ground. This helped to a large extent in overcoming coordination challenges.

Financial

The continually widening gap between the official exchange rate of the US\$ to the Syrian Pound and the unofficial market rate, has negatively impacted the UN operations in general, since the UN agencies have to apply the official rate in their transactions with their local implementing partners, whilst, when they procure services, supplies and/or materials for projects, they are challenged with prices inflated according to the unofficial rate¹⁰. The UN agencies, especially WFP, are monitoring closely the changes in market price for many commodities and supplies and circulate frequent updates. At the moment there is no clear-cut solution for financial challenges, since the UN agencies are required to use the official rate set by the Central Bank in their transactions with implementing partners and contractors, which inevitably imposes some burden on execution of required works and services. The flexibility of the JP to absorb further

¹⁰ At the time of writing this report the official rate accounts for almost 30% of the unofficial rate.

interested donor funds, might provide a solution to cover the gap, should additional donor funding become available.

Implementing Partners (IPs) related

Some implementing partners may face several challenges programmatically and financially, where in some cases the relevant UN agency may opt to suspend or put on hold the agreement with the related implementing partner. Furthermore, should an agreement with an IP be suspended, then some time will be lost to find a new qualified IP, draft an agreement, and wait to get relevant authorities' approval of the new implementing partner. Such cases are usually dealt with through the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) unit at UNICEF, that is tasked to conduct a special review of new IPs as well as current IPs who are undergoing programmatic and financial issues, then produce results for UNICEF. Results can be shared with other UN agencies upon request. This is to ensure that partners' capacity is up to UNICEF's standards and regulations to deliver a UNICEF-specific impactful programme.

Other Challenges

The absence of a UN Hub in Dara'a governorate and the difficulties in ensuring constant UN presence, impacts direct follow up and guidance. Delays in discussions to familiarize the national and local governmental entities, with the JP's concept and objectives in order to obtain green light and facilitation for implementation, led to cumulative delays with regard to procurement, contracting and confirmation of exact locations with local authorities for implementation on the ground.

Also, the seasonality nature of agriculture production is forcing FAO and relevant agencies to amend timelines of relevant agricultural activities, which in turn impedes responding on time.

Furthermore, Covid-19 restrictions caused some limitation in sustaining continual reach to workers, work tools and materials.

In some cases, under education sector interventions, it was noticed that out-of-school children tend to be absent from their programmes – sometimes due to child labour in farms - , which hinders their access to the offered out-of-school-children non-formal education (NFE) programmes and remedial classes.

Some of the adopted measures to mitigate such other challenges include the following measures:

The JP Manager with support from the RCO and PMU staff, conducted a series of meetings with relevant national and local governmental entities, and adopted an effective approach to obtain the green light for the JP to kick start on the ground, where a 2-pager briefing about the programme was developed and reviewed by the governmental entities mainly involved in resilience and development planning. A consensus was reached on the substance and the 2-pager is expected to be duly signed in Q1 2021 by both the Resident Coordinator and the Head of the Planning and International Cooperation Commission in Syria.

The extension of the JP until June 2022 will help FAO catch the next season, whilst helping all agencies to cover for delays and other limitations caused by COVID-19.

The UNCT are considering the establishment of a UN hub in Dara'a, yet the evolving security situation there may not allow this to materialize in the near future.

The responsible agency, along with its implementing partners frequently discuss alternative approaches to enable better access for out-of-school children to their programmes (i.e. offering classes during weekends).

IV. Lessons Learned

Sharing updated assessment findings, on humanitarian status as well as on security and accessibility to projects' locations shall enable agencies to apply any needed changes in their workplans, to respond to population resilience needs under the fluid and complex Syrian context. This can be achieved through analysis and consolidation of feedback collected through regular field monitoring visits by staff, besides feedback from local coordinators, implementing partners and third-party monitors.

Joint planning, coordination and discussion among the participating UN agencies and the formulation of joint activities and services along with substantive consultations with local stakeholders leads to a more integrated design and planning of activities and more efficient allocation of resources. Whilst, having a dedicated gender specialist to focus on gender equality and gender mainstreaming in the JP shall help agencies better design interventions that address gender, protection, and other cross cutting issues.

Combining community consultations with natural resources assessment proved a good approach to help partners address the needs of the community considering what is possible (according to the current situation of natural resources). This shall ensure that interventions are environment-friendly and do not create any harm on the sustainability of the natural resources.

Continuous monitoring of local markets status with regards to availability of workforce, work tools, supplies and materials in parallel with monitoring the level of inflation and its trends, will help in better estimation of costs and lead to more efficient budgeting.

Periodical discussions with stakeholders at national level represented by the JP taskforce, and at sub-national levels with local authorities and local community, shall lay the ground for a more effective participatory approach in area-based planning and implementation, whilst simultaneously facilitating access and mitigating any emerging challenges and risks facing implementation on the ground.

Continual and periodic awareness raising campaigns and sessions with caregivers and families of out-of-school children, shall help to a large extent in highlighting the critical need for education and the importance of keeping children in school.

V. ANNEXES

Annex A: Indicator Based Performance Assessment

	Achieved Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Targets (If Any)	Source of Verification
Outcome 1: Urban Area-based Recovery and Neighbourhoods Plans that are responsive to community's needs, particularly the most vulnerable groups, are developed, delivered and monitored in an inclusive, participatory and conflict-sensitive manner at local level.	As of yet no concrete implementation's achievements on the ground, apart from conducting local consultations in Dara'a and Deir-ez-Zor to assess and prioritize needs, then develop workplans, besides laying grounds to initiate activities in Dara'a.	The JP's PMU was completely formulated by mid-May 2020, then as of July, negotiations were kicked off with relevant technical governmental entities in order to apprise them on the programme and obtain green light for implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The 2-pager JP document as agreed upon between the UN and the Planning and International Cooperation Commission (PICC), granting the green light for implementation. - Local consultations paper and workplan for Dara'a. - Local consultation paper and draft workplan for Deir-ez-Zor. - The concept note for Deir-ez-Zor participatory workshop with local community.
Output 1.1: Plans and resilience programmes formulated in a participatory manner and responsive to people's needs, particularly the most vulnerable group.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dara'a workplan and M&E framework were set - Preparations for DEZ planning workshop 	Implementation on the ground pending greenlight from relevant governmental entities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dara'a workplan - M&E Framework - DEZ workshop concept note
Outcome 2: Basic and social services restored, improved, and sustained to enhance community resilience and social cohesion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preliminary preparation to initiate activities in Dara'a - Preparations for DEZ workshop 	Delay in obtaining green light to start implementation on the ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dara'a workplan - M&E Framework - DEZ workshop concept note
Output 2.1: Educational, recreational and PSS spaces rehabilitated, and nutrition-sensitive	N/A	N/A	N/A

agriculture education sessions provided.			
Output 2.2: Social cohesion is enhanced through neighbourhood-based rehabilitation of community assets including housing, WASH, basic social and productive infrastructure, and services.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Outcome 3: Households and communities benefit from sustainable livelihood opportunities, including economic recovery and enhancing social cohesion and community security.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preliminary preparation to initiate activities in Dara'a - Preparations for DEZ workshop 	Delay in obtaining green light to start implementation on the ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dara'a workplan - M&E Framework - DEZ workshop concept note
Outcome 3.1: Income, sustainable livelihoods opportunities and inclusive local economic development are restored and maintained in both urban and rural catchment areas to increase household incomes, boost food production, and enhance local markets.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Outcome 3.2: Social and Economic needs of the most vulnerable groups are identified and addressed.	N/A	N/A	N/A

THE JOINT PROGRAMME TO BUILD AND STRENGTHEN URBAN AND RURAL RESILIENCE IN SYRIA

Selection Criteria for Locations, Activities and Beneficiaries (DEIR-EZ-ZOR Governorate)

I- Background

In 2020, the UN participating agencies conducted local consultations to define the Joint Programme's interventions in Deir-ez-Zor. Throughout these consultations, the UN participating agencies prioritized locations, activities and identified targeted beneficiaries by utilizing criteria congruent with what is stipulated in the programme document. The catchment areas are identified based on a secure and conflict sensitive context, linkages of community networks, availability and exchange of services; whereas activities are identified as per impact on socio economic resilience, bridging divides and building confidence whilst maximizing the response to the identified needs.

II- Locations

Security, accessibility and conflict sensitivity: The UN participating agencies identified locations inside Deir-ez-Zor city and in the surrounding rural areas, mainly on the west bank of the Euphrates river, where security conditions allow for continual access and safe implementation of activities, whilst ensuring that conflict-sensitive issues (if any exist) are limited to the minimum.

Equal benefits, Bridging divides: The identified neighbourhoods inside Deir-ez-Zor city and surrounding rural areas are witnessing considerable return movement, besides having an already residing community comprising internally displaced people (IDPs) and hosts of different social, economic, and political backgrounds, where divides exist and have prospects to grow. Joint interventions in these locations shall **ensure that all population are equally reached with support and benefits, thus bridging any existing divides, and leveraging socio-economic recovery for all.**

Economic impacts' added value: Identified locations such as local markets' streets and the industrial area in Deir-ez-Zor are selected, where socio-economic impacts of livelihoods, infrastructure rehabilitation and other **related activities can be seen and tangibly felt by beneficiaries to positively scale-up their confidence in being resilient and able to pursue supporting their livelihoods.**

Urban-rural connectivity: The selected locations in the rural agricultural areas, besides sharing similar benefits of urban interventions, they apprehend **interventions that will enhance the interconnectedness between rural and urban areas and strengthen socio-economic linkages.**

Community participation and capacity leveraging: The active participation of local community members through local consultations is key in identifying locations, where **joint interventions are intended to capitalize on existing resources, leverage their capacity in needs identification and analysis in addition to ensuring their involvement** in fine-tuning interventions, planning for implementation and monitoring of results.

III- Activities

Strategic integrated investment, maximizing synergies between interventions: The economy in Deir-ez-Zor is mainly agricultural and its revival is vital for the local community. **The defined activities are crafted in a strategic comprehensive approach**, where for instance, the activities that exhibit common benefit to the whole community are directly connected with those relating to households and/or individual benefit. (*i.e. rehabilitation of irrigation systems [FAO, WFP] benefit a whole rural community, whereas households benefit from agricultural and livestock inputs [FAO], and individuals benefit from agricultural entrepreneurial and vocational training [FAO, UNDP, UNFPA]*); whilst simultaneously, the children of those families and households are reached with back to learning campaigns and remedial classes offered by UNICEF, and their women are reached with GBV advocacy and reproductive health services offered by UNFPA, thus reducing the burden on families and supporting them get back to normal life.

Multi-sector/Multi agency socio-economic impact: Collaboration between two or more participating UN agencies, renders unified socio-economic results through multisectoral/multiagency interventions. An example is presented, by availing temporary cash-for-work opportunities in solid waste and debris removal to provide some sort of immediate support, whilst reviving small businesses and rehabilitation of different infrastructure networks is taking place in other areas to avail and sustain livelihoods opportunities (UNDP, UN-Habitat), congruent with capacity building for youth and entrepreneurial training is undertaken (UNFPA, UNDP, FAO).

Inclusiveness, protection: Interventions are intended to reach all population, adolescents, and adults (Women, Men, Girls, Boys,” WMGB”) in the targeted locations, regardless of their background. They shall benefit from different packages of vocational training, life skills, and entrepreneurial activities in addition to youth capacity enhancement, whilst back-to-learning campaigns target children – including children with disabilities - and parents whose children are at school-age, thus ensuring maximum coverage and enhancing the social cohesion by **leaving no one behind**, (UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF, and FAO interventions).

Complementarity in response to local needs: UN interventions are identified in participation with the local community on an **area-based approach based on UN agencies’ experiences and mandates, and whereas complementarity between interventions is justified and sought** to maximize benefit. (*i.e. School rehabilitation activities by UNICEF, complemented with greenspaces rehabilitation by UN-Habitat along with street repair and lighting by UNDP and UN-Habitat besides traffic-awareness sessions for children*).

IV- Beneficiaries

Vulnerability: Almost all population in Deir-ez-Zor are considered vulnerable at different levels and from different aspects. Youth and adolescents shall be prioritized for different life skills, vocational training, and **capacity enhancement to strengthen their roles in recovery and diminish negative coping mechanisms**. Female-headed households, and families with many members (especially with children), or families having persons with disabilities shall be prioritized for livelihood activities. Nutrition activities by WFP and UNFPA oriented at most vulnerable pregnant and lactating women.

Active Involvement of all stakeholders: As they are considered a group of the beneficiaries and participators in the programme’s planning and implementation, **the active involvement of such stakeholders** including but not-limited-to (technical directors, service departments’ personnel, community leaders, representatives of youth, ..etc.) besides service providers and different implementing partners **is a criteria that is adhered to**.

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Communication Strategy of the UN Joint Programme to Build and Strengthen Urban and Rural Resilience and the Conditions for Recovery in Syria (2020-2022)
September 2020

Goals

Strategic communications are critical to achieving development results and effectively conveying the JP's messages. Skillful communications broaden the impact of development results and build strong partnerships. Solid communications in turn reinforce effective resource mobilization and programme delivery. This JP Communication Strategy articulates how we intend to strategically communicate for, and demonstrate, concrete results of the Joint Programme and its impact on improving people's lives in Syria. The Strategy will also demonstrate JP's added value in the resilience building process in Syria through promoting linkages with the realization of human rights, gender equality and sustainable environment, while acknowledging and strengthening the partnership with key stakeholders and donor's community. Also, this Strategy will contribute towards how we communicate externally in a more coherent and coordinated way in view of the sensitivities of the programme.

Key Audiences

While the JP communicates to an array of global, regional, national and sub-regional audiences, effective and strategic communications requires making choices. It is imperative that we define the allies that we need the most to have focused messaging, resources and strategy. For this purpose, the strategy is to target the following audiences with accompanying communication outputs:

- Community stakeholders
- The donor community including capitals of key donor countries
- Relevant authorities (Damascus, governorates and municipalities)

Objectives

- Ensure effective communication of JP's shared objectives, results and impact
- Promote the innovative model of bottom-up planning in collaboration with multiple stakeholders, community-led, area-based multi-sectoral approach to build and strengthen resilience
- Effective sharing of information to enhance accountability, transparency and community-driven planning and implementation
- Extensive communication to relevant stakeholders to ensure inclusion and, buy-in and support
- Strengthen JP's positioning as a viable mechanism to support community recovery, strengthen resilience and promote social cohesion in Syria

Internal Communication

As the JP is an innovative pilot initiative bringing together six UN Agencies, it is important that a unified structure for communicating messages is put in place, with roles and responsibilities of each party clearly identified. Against his backdrop, all JP related communication materials will be coordinated with the communication focal points of the participating UN Agencies and endorsed by the JP Communication

Officer prior to dissemination to donors or GOS to avoid contradictory messages and to ensure alignment with the donors redlines and language sensitivities.

As for coordination structures, at the national level, the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) will convene regularly, at least quarterly, and will be a dynamic body that guides strategic decisions of the JSC including locations, interventions and resource allocation. The JSC will regularly discuss implementation progress, review challenges and provide recommendations for the JP. The JSC will also endorse the Area Action Work Plans for each location selected by the JP. The JSC will support the resource mobilisation and outreach for the JP and will endorse decisions to include additional donors and implementing partners.¹¹ At the technical local level, the Technical Working Group (TWG) that includes representatives from the participating UN agencies at the technical level. The TWG will meet on a bi-monthly basis to determine more specific priorities and to elaborate on programme components. The Joint Programme Manager (JPM) will chair the TWG. This TWG will directly link with the PMU in providing the necessary field-based information, inter alia priority needs, activities to be selected, sequencing of interventions, identify complementarities, etc.¹²

Expected Outcomes

Through the effective dissemination of key messages and communication activities, the expected outcomes are:

- Stakeholder engagement increased and coordination improved in support of effectively and collectively addressing priorities and needs
- Buy-in secured, confidence built, and support mobilized to amplify impact of JP's interventions

Potential Risks and Challenges

The Syrian country context presents several interlinked political, security, economic and environmental risks which need to be considered and mitigated to ensure successful achievement of JP results and communications activities. Potential risks to the implementation of the communication activities of the JP may include, but not limited to, an unstable and/or unpredictable security situation and constraints to access target populations. In addition, while it is still difficult to assess the full impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the possibility of future waves, some of the activities may have to be suspended due to the inability of organizing gatherings and meetings with beneficiaries in the field as planned.

Bearing in mind the context of the country and the long-term impact of protracted conflict on many communities, successful implementation of communication activities would require trust and community buy-in from the affected population. Prolonged conflict has severely impacted relationships between Syrians, uprooted communities, and undermined social fabric among returnees, displaced communities while also placing significant strain on host communities, which has contributed to in-group/out-group dynamics. Should communities perceive one group have more access to assistance and support under the JP, this will only further strain the fragile social fabric. As such, it is vital that communication activities under the JP are designed to ensure social inclusion, build bridges, and promote positive attitudes and behaviors among the various communities.

Last but not least, with six participating UN agencies coming together, each has its own communications, messaging and visibility strategies, coupled with the fact that the concept of joint programming is relatively new both to the country and the UN country team. This reinforces the need for concerted efforts and

¹¹ JP Syria Expanded ProDoc, pg 49

¹² JP Syria Expanded ProDoc, pg 50

coherent planning towards coordinated and joined up communication activities and unified use of language on messaging and communication.

Opportunities

Building on a wealth of experience, support and expertise available through each participating UN agency, along with the fully-fledged JP Programme Management Unit supported by a dedicated JP PMU Communication Officer, all this presents an enabling factor to further facilitate the JP communications function and disseminate JP's achievements through broadened reach and access in coordination with all six participating UN agencies' communication focal points.

Communication Activities

The main activities that will take place during the period covered by the communication and visibility plan are as follows:

- **Community Awareness Raising Sessions:** Conduct presentations to raise community's awareness of the JP and its interventions during field visits. Also, leaflets in Arabic will be distributed to community members to introduce the work of the JP in the targeted areas. The leaflet may include information such the JP model of integrated interventions and community feedback mechanism.
- **Outreach to and Engagement with the Donor Community:** invite them to field visits, provide effective and strategic briefings to the donor community in Beirut, Amman, Brussels and Oslo, in close liaison with regional offices and HQ to mobilize necessary support. JP will share periodical updates and key success stories to keep them involved and abreast of the achievements of the JP.
- **Key Messaging:** Given the political and security context of the programme and the donors' red lines, a clear, succinct, language-sensitive key messages document will be produced and shared with implementing agencies to support effective Communication with Communities (CwC), the donor community and the public, other vulnerable groups of population, including women, youth, people with disability, elderlies and children. It will ensure the synergy of information, messages and branding, and will identify areas for shared results and themes, such as inclusion, gender equality and sustainable environment. Also, such key messages will enable all participating agencies to speak with a common message and prevent mixed messaging being disseminated.
- **Key Stories:** Drafting a selection of spin-off stories, short thematic articles and case studies (as part of overall JP learning and knowledge management) around the themes covered under the JP such as gender equality and women's empowerment, youth, sustainable livelihoods, social cohesion, local engagement and resilience. The JP intends to share these stories with key stakeholders including donors, the humanitarian community and wider public. Sharing will be done via short email newsletters and through, where possible, existing social media platforms of the implementing agencies.
- **External Outreach:** Organize community outreach events to highlight JP's progress and achievements. Additionally, we seek support from implementing agencies to publish human-interest stories pertaining to JP's interventions to reach a wider audience beyond the country. Organize media contributions, where appropriate, during the commemoration of UN thematic days. Where possible, the JP will ensure regular and selective updates on existing social media platforms including of respective participating agencies, such as Facebook and Twitter, to highlight JP milestones and promote key impact stories.

Communication Tools

- Utilizing appropriate existing social media channels and platforms to promote the JP activities
- Field visits and community sessions
- Utilizing the UN RCO and UN participating agencies' websites

In all aspects of our communications and visibility implementation, the JP will ensure that protection principles are adhered to. This includes, but are not limited to, ensuring that consent is sought and provided prior to any publishing of stories, photographs or any public information that involves the beneficiaries. The JP communication messages will follow gender-sensitive and inclusive language and will avoid using gender-stereotyped images.

The JP PMU will coordinate closely with implementing agencies to ensure these principles are applied in all communication-related events and activities.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Communication Strategy will need to be constantly monitored to check that it is in line with achieving its objectives and expected outcomes. A mid-term evaluation should be undertaken in March 2021 to check that all is on track.

The monitoring and evaluation of the Communication Strategy once it moves into implementation, shall be back-stopped by programmatic monitoring of the JP activities on the ground, where the JP's M&E staff in collaboration with the M&E focal points at partnering UN agencies shall gather success and human interest stories as well as field photos to be utilized by the JP's communications staff as raw material for the JP communication products, including but not-limited-to photo stories, flyers, posters, micro-periodical-updates, and any needed live-update events and meetings with stakeholders.

The quality, coherence, and strict adherence to the EU guidelines of these communication products shall be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure continual amelioration of the final deliverables and guarantee the intended positive impact on the recipient audience.

Human Resources

JP Communications and Advocacy Officer, coordinating closely with HABITAT, UNDP, UNFPA, WFP, FAO, and UNICEF Communications focal points.

Financial Resources TBD

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Annex D: Dara'a Workplan

Page1 Overview

Programme Title: UN Joint Programme to Build Urban and Rural Resilience and the Conditions for Recovery in Syria										
Duration: 24 Months										
Start and end dates: 15 January 2019 - 14 January 2021										
Participating UN Agencies: FAO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN-HABITAT, WFP										
Total Budget: USD 6,640,248 (Dara'a Phase 1 only)										
Geographical Target Areas: Dara'a and Deir Ez Zour										
JP Specific Objective:										
Joint Programme (JP) Outcomes					Disbursement Tracking (Overview)					
Outcome	Indicators	Baseline	Target Number of Beneficiaries	Allocated Budget	Agency	Total Requested Amount (USD)	Disbursement 1 (Amount)	Date Transferred to Agency	Disbursement 2 (Amount)	Date Transferred to Agency
Outcome 1: Urban Area-based Recovery and Neighbourhoods Plans that are responsive to community's needs, particularly the most vulnerable groups, are developed, delivered and monitored in an inclusive, participatory and conflict-sensitive manner at local level					FAO	600,000	600,000		0	
Outcome 2: Basic and social services restored, improved and sustained to enhance community resilience and social cohesion					UNDP	1,340,000	1,340,000		0	
Outcome 3: Households and communities benefit from sustainable livelihood opportunities, including economic recovery and enhancing social cohesion and community security					UNFPA	791,100	791,100		0	
					UN HABITAT	812,000	812,000		0	
					UNICEF	1,912,148	1,912,148		0	
					WFP	1,095,000	1,095,000		0	
						TOTAL	6,550,248	6,550,248	0	
Requested Amount Per Agency Per Donor										
Agency	Requested Amount (USD)	EU	Norway							
FAO	600,000	500,000	100,000							
UNDP	1,340,000	1,190,000	150,000							
UNFPA	791,100	789,100	2,000							
UN HABITAT	812,000	602,000	210,000							
UNICEF	1,912,148	1,013,629,000	898,519,000							
WFP	1,095,000	830,694	264,306							
TOTAL	6,550,248	4,925,423.00	1,624,825.00							

Annex F: Deir-ez-Zor Participatory Planning Workshop Concept Note

Note: The Concept note was developed late Nov 2020, and workshop planned for December 2020. Due to delays in obtaining greenlight, the workshop was postponed till early April 2021. No changes occurred on the substance

Beginning of paper -----

30 November 2020

DRAFT: Concept Note of the joint participatory workshop for local planning in Deir-ez-Zor (DEZ)

Date: Mon 14th December 2020 ~ Wed 16th December 2020

Location: TBD (Tentatively Ta'alilah Restaurant – Grand Hall)

The main principle of the Joint Programme “**Building and Strengthening Rural and Urban Resilience and the Conditions for Recovery in Syria**” is to promote a community-led multi-sector integrated resilience response through coordinated and bottom up planning and implementation in collaboration with multiple local stakeholders, building on an area-based approach at the level of the municipality and neighbourhood as well as rural sub-districts. UN JP participating agencies have thus far conducted or/and are planning to conduct several consultations, as well as situational and sectoral analysis and assessments in Deir-Ez-Zor governorate. It has been agreed that there is a need to jointly present, reflect and discuss the findings of the consultations and assessments to collectively agree and prioritize on the way forward.

Workshop Objectives and Expected Outcomes:

- a) Presenting an integrated pack of pre-identified local needs articulated through 1) Situation analysis and municipality’s plan, 2) sectoral plans and areas of investment as per the line departments’ plans, and 3) critical needs raised and echoed by neighbourhoods committees’ representatives, local communities and other relevant local stakeholders.
- b) Present key findings of the assessments conducted by the JP UN Agencies, including inequalities, vulnerabilities and disability issues as well as identified gaps and draft interventions based on the prior local consultations for prioritization, verification, and validation;
- c) Consolidate and agree on the joint gender responsive and inclusive area-based Neighborhood Action Plans for Deir-ez-Zor City with a set of prioritized interventions and work plan for implementation.

Workshop Timing and Location: A three-day workshop, preliminary planned for late October, early November 2020, will take place in Deir-Ez-Zor, between **Mon 14th December 2020 ~ Wed 16th December 2020** following the non-objection from the authorities

Workshop Participants: The workshop will bring together approximately 39 participants representing the following agencies, entities, and groups. The participants will attend certain sessions depending on the relevance and level of discussions.

The selection of attendees shall ensure the inclusion of a wide spectrum of community representatives taking into consideration gender balance aspects as well as the different levels of vulnerability and disability.

- DEZ Municipality technical officers: count (3); attending

- Technical staff from DEZ Governorate¹³ local technical department count (2); attending (Day: 1,2,3)
- Technical staff from the sector-relevant local departments in DEZ count (10) (1 Department of Planning; 1 Department of Social Affairs and Labor DoSAL; 1 Department of Education DoE; 1 Department of Agriculture DoA; 1 Department of Water DoW; 1 Department of operation and maintenance Euphrates basin; and 1 Department of Health, Director of industrial regions, Infrastructure sector supervisor, Social Affairs sector supervisor]; attending (Day 1,2,3)
- Neighborhoods committees' representatives: count (5); attending (Day 1,2,3)
- Moukhtars (Officially elected members of community representing an area of more than one neighborhood)): count (6); attending (Day 1,2,3)
- Representatives of the national and local NGOs working in DEZ: count (2); attending (Day 1,2,3)
- Representatives of the Syndicate of Engineers: count (1); attending (Day 1,2,3)
- Civil society volunteers: count (2); attending (Day 1,2,3)
- Representatives of the JP PMU and UN participating agencies: count (8); attending (Day 1,2,3)

Summary of attendees' numbers:

- ✓ The total expected attendees for (Day 1,2): 39 persons including 8 UN staff
- ✓
- ✓ The total attendees from local government entities in DEZ is 15
- ✓ The total attendees from the local community, NGOs, volunteers, and independent bodies (i.e. syndicate of engineers) is 16.

Workshop Preparatory Work:

- a) UNDP in coordination with PMU to coordinate the JP's conducted, ongoing, and planned assessment efforts amongst the six agencies in Deir-Ez-Zor to ensure that field assessments are coordinated, and analysis is made jointly and transferred into coherent planning. UNDP to work closely with PMU to consolidate and share the field assessment results, whereas UN-Habitat with support from PMU shall reflect available assessment data including gaps and needs from all agencies to update the Municipal Technical Office Support (MTOS) action plan, and use the MTOS+ plans as a tool to facilitate participatory consultations during the workshop to consolidate neighbourhood action plans;
- b) JP participating UN agencies to commence preparing inputs from their on-ground consultations for PMU to consolidate them into the joint local consultation report;
- c) JP participating UN agencies to meet at the JP outcome level to discuss draft interventions by outcomes, to maximize synergies and joined-up programming, in consultation with relevant stakeholders as necessary;
- d) JP participating UN agencies, per each outcome, to prepare presentations (PowerPoint slides) that outline the analysis of needs, prioritization process, rationale for the choice of draft interventions in response to the identified needs and realities. Each presentation, containing the identified needs and suggesting possible solutions/interventions, will be followed by the question and answer session and thorough discussion among the workshop participants for validation and verification with stakeholders by the end of the workshop;
- e) UNDP and UNH to conduct some preparatory capacity enhancement for the attendees from neighborhoods' committees, civil society volunteers and Moukhtars to actively participate in the workshop and professionally articulate and present their needs;
- f) Non-objection from the authorities for such workshop to be obtained. UNDP, UNH and PMU joint effort.

¹³ Costs related to participants from DEZ Governorate will not be covered by the Joint Programme

Workshop Proceeding:

Day 1

- a) Presentation of the situation analysis and municipality plan by municipal technical staff; then the sectoral needs, plans and areas for investment from the local directorates' point of view to be presented by relevant-directorate's technical staff;
- b) Presentation of the identified needs by the local communities from a community stakeholder point of view to be presented by Moukhtars and/or neighbourhoods committees' reps;

Day 2

- a) Presentations by UN agencies, per JP outcome, to present, based on prior consultations with stakeholders, the analysis of needs and vulnerability, the rationale for the choice of the draft interventions and a set of draft interventions per neighbourhood and per rural sub-district, in response to the assessed needs as per the local consultations conducted to date.
- b) Verifying and validating the above presented by UN participating agencies, relevant sectoral needs, gaps challenges, target groups and targeted neighbourhoods and rural sub-districts;
- c) Discussion of the linkages between the urban component of the suggested interventions and Urban Recovery Plans to ensure complementarities to the recovery process at DEZ city level, to be endorsed by the City Municipality.

Day 3

A roundtable focused-discussion will enable the main actors in DEZ to consolidate and endorse the final area-based neighborhood action plans. The expected participants are, as clarified above, composed of representative of the line departments, selected representatives of the neighborhood committees and civil community volunteers, representatives of the Municipality and governorate, JP PMU staff, and JP participating UN agencies focal points in DEZ.

Workshop Deliverables:

- a) Identified needs, JP targeted neighborhoods and rural sub-districts and joint integrated interventions validated and confirmed by the key stakeholders (Day 1 and 2)
- b) Area-based neighborhood action plans streamlined with integrated interventions, consolidated, and endorsed by the municipal authorities (Day 3)

Workshop-related Costs:

UN Habitat will cover the costs of travel, venue, refreshment and per diems for the workshop participants; whilst the UN JP participating agencies will cover their participation-related costs, including travel and per diem expenses.

ANNEX A – COVID-19 Prevention Measures

Number of participants

Considering the unfolding situation and restrictions in place, it was decided to reduce the number of attendees, to 39 participants inclusive of 8 UN staff and 31 representatives of local community, municipalities and other local departments. 39 participants will be divided with a maximum of 5 persons at a table, while maintaining safety distance between seats on a table as well as between tables.

Venue

The workshop will be hosted in a spacious conference hall and will be properly ventilated, while ACs are maintained at a comfortable temperature. The WASH facilities of the conference hall shall be maintained clean and disinfected throughout the workshop days and supported with sanitization-gel bottles.

Safety and preventative measures

- All attendees shall be subject to temperature check and hand sanitization upon entry;
- All attendees are required to wear face masks;
- If an attendee does not have a face mask, then he/she can receive one at the registration table;
- At half-day of each of the workshop days, the used face masks shall be replaced with new ones. The replaced ones will be disposed of properly as per health rules;
- Each table will have a sanitization-gel bottle on it, to be re-filled every morning of the workshop days;
- At the end of each day, the conference hall shall be cleaned and sprayed with disinfecting material. This include floor, tables, chairs, podium, microphones, IT equipment and projectors, and any other items;
- Hospitality items will be served in disposable supplies (carton cups, plastic cups, plastic dishes etc.), while the hospitality staff shall wear masks and gloves.

Costs

UN Habitat shall cover the relevant costs and shall dedicate a special amount for the sanitization, hygiene materials, masks and gloves.

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