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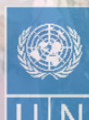
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# JP SYRIA 2.0 ANNUAL PROGRAMME NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT 2025

UN Joint Programme to Strengthen Urban and  
Rural Resilience and the Conditions for  
Recovery in Syria. JP SYRIA 2.0



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**UN Joint Programme to Strengthen Urban and Rural Resilience and the Conditions for Recovery in Syria**  
**JP SYRIA 2.0**  
**ANNUAL PROGRAMME<sup>1</sup> NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT**  
**REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2025**

Programme Title & Project Number		Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results <sup>2</sup>	
Programme Title: UN Joint Programme to Strengthen Urban and Rural Resilience and the Conditions for Recovery in Syria. JP Syria 2.0. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MPTF Office Project Reference Number:<sup>3</sup> 00140644</li> </ul>		Syrian Arab Republic  <b>Outcome 1:</b> Women, men, girls, and boys have more equitable basic services, such as electricity, water, education, and health services. <b>Outcome 2:</b> Women, men, including youth have enhanced sustainable food systems and livelihood opportunities. <b>Outcome 3:</b> Trust, cohesion, and cross-cleavage cooperation between local communities is enhanced.	
Participating Organization(s)		Implementing Partners	
FAO, UNDP, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, and WFP		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	
Programme/Project Cost (US\$)		Programme Duration	
Total approved budget as per project document: MPTF /JP Contribution <sup>4</sup> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>by Agency (if applicable)</li> </ul>	\$ 15,033,500	Overall Duration (months)	36
Revised budget:	\$ 17,554,128.75		

<sup>1</sup> The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes, and projects.

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

<sup>3</sup> 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](#)

<sup>4</sup> The MPTF or JP Contribution, refers to the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations, which is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ FAO</li> <li>▪ UNDP (including JP Programme Management Unit [PMU] budget)</li> <li>▪ UNFPA</li> <li>▪ UN-HABITAT</li> <li>▪ UNICEF</li> <li>▪ WFP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ \$ 2,097,360</li> <li>▪ \$ 5,553,830.30 (inc. \$ 1,960,290.42 PMU)</li> <li>▪ \$ 1,713,370.37</li> <li>▪ \$ 2,928,240.74</li> <li>▪ \$ 3,211,327.34</li> <li>▪ \$ 2,050,000</li> </ul>		
<b>Contributions (donors)</b>		Start Date <sup>5</sup> ( <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i> )	1 January 2024
• <b>DENMARK</b>	50,000,000 DKK Equivalent \$ 7,456,421	Original End Date <sup>6</sup> ( <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i> )	31 December 2026
• <b>ITALY</b>	4,000,000 EURO Approx equivalent \$ 4,595,330	Current End date <sup>7</sup> ( <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i> )	31 December 2026
• <b>SWEDEN</b>	40,000,000 SEK Equivalent \$ 3,726,477		
• <b>SWITZERLAND</b>	2,500,000 CHF Equivalent \$ 2,957,563		
• <b>NORWAY</b>	10,000,000 NOK Equivalent \$ 993,433		
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ 19,729,224		
		<b>Report Submitted By</b>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Name: Mohammad Taani</li> <li>○ Title: Joint Programme Manager</li> <li>○ Participating Organization (Lead): RCO</li> <li>○ Email address: <a href="mailto:Mohammad.taani@undp.org">Mohammad.taani@undp.org</a></li> </ul>	

<sup>5</sup> 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](#)

<sup>6</sup> As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

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## Abbreviations

<b>CfW</b>	Cash for Work
<b>CWG</b>	Communications Working Group
<b>CWD</b>	Children with Disabilities
<b>DaO</b>	Delivering as One
<b>DD</b>	Due Diligence
<b>EDD</b>	Enhanced Due Diligence
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>FFSs</b>	Farmers' Field Schools
<b>GBV</b>	Gender Based Violence
<b>HoAs</b>	Heads of Agencies
<b>IP</b>	Implementing partner
<b>JP</b>	The Joint Programme to Build and Strengthen Urban and Rural Resilience and the Conditions for Recovery in Syria
<b>JSC</b>	Joint Steering Committee
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>MOFAE</b>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates
<b>MOU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>MPTFO</b>	Multi Partner Trust Fund Office
<b>NGO</b>	non-governmental organization
<b>OCHA</b>	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
<b>RH</b>	Reproductive Health
<b>PMU</b>	Programme Management Unit
<b>PUNO</b>	Participating United Nations Organization
<b>PWDs</b>	People with Disabilities
<b>RC/HC</b>	Resident Coordinator / Humanitarian Coordinator
<b>ToC</b>	Theory of Change
<b>TWG</b>	Technical Working Group
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNDSS</b>	United Nations Department of Safety and Security
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UN-Habitat</b>	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children Fund
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme of the United Nations

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Syrian context during the nearly fourteen years of crisis has invoked and called for the provision of humanitarian assistance with less emphasis on recovery and resilience efforts. After the major shift of control and the fall of the previous government on 8 December 2024, the Syrian context became in a position to focus more on recovery and resilience efforts in an approach that will lay grounds for long-term development.

The UN Joint Programme to Build and Strengthen Urban and Rural Resilience (JP) in Syria (The JP Syria 2.0) brings together six UN implementing organizations, namely FAO, UNDP, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, and WFP, to deliver coordinated resilience and recovery-oriented interventions, through a unique multi-donor, multi-year, multi-agency pooled funding mechanism to communities who are still witnessing massive damage to every aspect of life and livelihoods. The JP Syria 2.0 is underpinned by a commitment to collective programming towards delivering resilience solutions through applying a nuanced, area-based, and conflict-sensitive approach, which facilitates an optimisation of community participation, thereby creating an appropriate space for participatory and bottom-up-led processes with a focus on the rural-urban linkages, while ensuring gender-responsive/gender-transformative and inclusive planning.

### ***Brief background***

*The JP kick started its first phase, which was funded by the EU and Norway, in Syria in January 2019, and ended by 31 December 2023. Throughout its implementation, the JP supported the resilience of Syrian people in Dara'a and Deir ez-Zor governorates through jointly designed, and planned interventions ensuring complementarity in action, maximizing impact in urban and rural areas, and avoiding duplication and overlap in the two targeted locations. The JP maintained its current and future donors' involvement through high-level meetings and joint field visits, while following up, monitoring and reporting on activities and making efforts in communication and advocacy.*

*The JP's first phase was complemented by a sustainability phase named JP Phase II, funded by Italy to ensure that the gains made during its first phase of implementation are sustained and built upon by the local community. This was done by maintaining and expanding on a group of approved interventions that further enhanced the resilience of people and ensured smoother exit of the JP from its locations in Dara'a and Deir ez-Zor.*

The successes of the first version of the JP Syria and its sustainability extension phase as the first flagship programme focusing on resilience and recovery led to the development of an enhanced programme document for the JP Syria 2.0, in support of which, donors including Denmark, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland and Norway have made significant contributions to be implemented from 1 January 2024 until 31 December 2026 in other locations in Syria.

### ***Aleppo the candidate location for the JP Syria 2.0***

*Aleppo Governorate is home to approximately 4.2 million Syrians<sup>8</sup>. Within this population, 2.6 million reside in Aleppo City, and according to the Syria Earthquake Recovery Needs Assessment (SERNA), 2.8 million people require humanitarian assistance. Aleppo Governorate, once Syria's vibrant economic hub, has been deeply affected by the*

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<sup>8</sup> Population figure was captured upon the development of the JP Syria 2.0 prodoc in late 2023.

*prolonged conflict, which has left its economy shattered and its social fabric fragmented. The earthquake of 6 February 2023 that happened in Türkiye and affected wide areas in north, west and northwestern Syria topped up the crises added to the suffering of many people in Aleppo city – especially the eastern neighbourhoods - and its rural surroundings. East Aleppo City (EAC) is characterized by informal neighbourhoods populated by rural migrants. EAC suffered neglect and poverty long before 2011, with an extreme gap between the rich and the poor. Destruction, lack of basic services, lack of livelihood opportunities, and weak law and order have exhausted the population’s ability to withstand shocks, negatively impacted their resilience, and impeded the large-scale return of displaced people, topped up by stark disparities in living standards and access to essential services between east and the well-off west Aleppo have fuelled conflict dynamics. The historical informality of East Aleppo City and the consequent fragility of property rights were further exacerbated by the crisis and the impact of the earthquake. As a result, housing, land, and property (HLP) challenges are highly concentrated in this area.*

*Based on extensive discussions and technical workshops, thorough context sensitivity analysis, and scoping of resilience needs based on factual data, Aleppo was identified as the candidate location for the JP Syria 2.0 workplan with a focus on East Aleppo City (EAC) neighbourhoods and surrounding rural areas. Donors approved the selection of Aleppo as the go-to location for JP Syria 2.0.*

The JP Syria 2.0 kick-started on the ground in 2024 during which, PUNOs conducted a thorough inception phase, then developed a joint workplan, which was endorsed towards the end of 2024. To this end the JP Syria 2.0 PUNOs proceeded in 2025 to implementing the workplan’s interventions in Aleppo governorate.

## **1) PUNOs’ programmatic achievements overview 2025**

The JP Syria 2.0’s design relied on a theory of change based on a problems-results’ trees’ analysis, and a thorough context sensitivity analytical approach to support urban-rural livelihoods, access to basic services, while bolstering local communities’ engagement and their local recovery planning capacities as well as strengthening the socio-economic urban-rural linkages. Gender and inclusion of people with disabilities is streamlined across the JP Syria 2.0 various interventions.

Upon the onset of 2025, the instability unrest, and accessibility in the rural areas in eastern Aleppo governorate caused the PUNOs to re-evaluate the feasibility of implementing the JP Syria 2.0 interventions in these rural locations and think of possible alternatives. The subject was tabled during the first Joint Steering Committee meeting in 2025, and a consensus was reached to seek alternative rural locations in Southeastern rural areas of Aleppo governorate, while maintaining the same urban locations in Eastern Aleppo city neighbourhoods.

Against this backdrop, the PMU coordinated efforts with the participating UN organizations to launch the JP Syria 2.0’s workplan and commence implementation on the ground in urban areas, while conducting rapid assessment of the alternative rural locations in Southeastern rural areas. The rapid assessment included dispatching field teams to collect data, desk reviews of available literature, reports, and spreadsheets, besides multiple technical meetings to verify findings so that

to identify exact locations in the Southeastern rural areas of Aleppo governorate. Consequently, PUNOs proceeded to defining their rural interventions and update the workplan accordingly. The final version of the JP Syria 2.0 workplan including urban and new rural locations was developed towards end of May 2025 and was virtually endorsed. Accordingly, the JP Syria 2.0 PUNOs continued on the implementation of urban interventions and started preparation-for and launching their rural interventions in coordination with the local communities and local government entities to evade duplicates and overlaps.

In this regard, UNDP in coordination with Aleppo municipality and department of electricity, worked on rehabilitating the electricity network in Qadi Askar area including with stretching new low voltage grid and installation of mid-voltage transformers, while progressing on debris removal and recycling, through which 120 temporary job opportunities were availed. Additionally, UNDP rehabilitated the midwifery school in coordination with UNFPA who equipped the school with modern educational materials. UNFPA trained and equipped about 45 midwives to help them perform natural deliveries in different areas including rural areas, while coordinating with the department of health regarding the rehabilitation of natural birth centres. UNFPA's implementing partner (Al Ihsan NGO) progressed on provision of RH and GBV advisory for women and youth, while coordinating with FAO to provide services to female farmers enrolled in the Farmer Field Schools. FAO has implemented farmer field schools in rural areas of As-Safira, Banan, Jibreen and Al Neirab covering three technical topics including maize farming, cow breeding, and olive farming. Additionally, FAO provided specialized training to village committees on developing Community Action Plans (CAP) for local rural development. UN-Habitat rehabilitated a social facility in As-Safira city in the southeastern rural areas, where multiple workshops were implemented with the participation of other PUNOs including UNDP, UNFPA, FAO, targeting local community members in an effort to build the capacity of local communities in planning for recovery, bolstering the role of women and enhancing social cohesion. Additionally, UN-Habitat conducted an analytical engineering study to estimate the needs for solar street lighting in Qadi Askar and As-Safira in coordination with the relevant municipalities. UNICEF coordinated with UNDP for the provision of solar panels to schools that will be rehabilitated, while coordinating with UN-Habitat for implementing safer access interventions around schools, for which UN-Habitat implemented joint parent-child-school workshops to introduce the concept of safer-access. Additionally, UNICEF, implemented multiple training courses for the staff of the department of health in Aleppo on water-borne diseases, while preparing the necessary bid documents for the rehabilitation of schools, health centres, and WASH infrastructures in the selected areas. WFP conducted preliminary coordination with UNDP and UN-Habitat regarding their joint intervention to rehabilitate and upgrade wholesale rural markets, while administering a study to analyse the value chain between urban and rural areas, assess the status of existing wholesale markets and identify the preferred wholesale market site for upgrade.

## **2) JP Syria 2.0 Secretariat deliverables overview**

### ***Donor involvement and high-level meetings***

- I. Three Joint Steering Committee (JSC) meetings were held on:
  - a. 19 February 2025, from 13:00 to 15:00 at UNFPA's conference room
  - b. 2 September 2025, from 10:00 ~ 12:00 at UNICEF's conference room

- c. 2 December 2025 from 13:00 to 15:00 at UNFPA's conference room
- II. Standard Administrative Agreement discussed and signed with NORWAY, who contributed 10,000,000 NOK (equivalent of US\$ 993,433), for the JP Syria 2.0 to be programmed until 31 December 2026.
- III. One field mission organized for donor states' representatives including Denmark and Italy between 12 and 15 May, where PMU and technical focal points participated and presented the planned interventions at urban and rural levels.
  - a. Additionally, during the second half of 2026, the JP PMU supported other bi-lateral donors' missions to Aleppo for Sweden and **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)**, where the two donors also visited some of the JP interventions.
- IV. The JP Syria 2.0 hired a resolute officer based in Damascus to conduct risk assessment and due diligence processes, and to maintain a database of contractors and implementing partners.
- V. The JP Syria 2.0 hired a resolute coordination and field monitoring officer based in Aleppo to coordinate between the PUNOs technical focal points in the field, and to monitor the implementation of the JP Syria 2.0 interventions.

***Programme, planning, monitoring, and reporting.***

- VI. The JP Syria 2.0 workplan and activity matrix with new rural locations was finalized and endorsed.
- VII. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework with output indicators for the JP Syria 2.0 was finalized with targets set by the technical focal points of PUNOs.
- VIII. Monthly technical updates, and quarterly expenditure updates (*except for the last quarter of 2025 where financial updates captured on a monthly basis*) were cumulated through online spreadsheets made accessible to the PUNOs focal points.
- IX. Six monthly progress briefing reports and four financial updates covering the period from July to December 2025, were prepared and submitted to donors.
- X. Annual progress narrative and financial report of the JP Syria 2.0 were prepared and timely submitted.
- XI. Final narrative and financial reports for the Joint Programme to Strengthen Urban and Rural Resilience and Conditions for Recovery in Syria - JP Phase II (also identified as the JP Sustainability), which was funded by Italy from 1 January 2023 till 31 December 2024, were prepared and timely submitted to MPTFO.

***Field coordination and monitoring***

The field coordination, monitoring and evaluation specialist joined the JP Syria 2.0 PMU team in November 2025. During the months of November and December she managed to achieve the following:

- XII. Participation in hands-on work meetings with PMU and the PUNOs' focal points to finalize the JP Syria 2.0 M&E framework.
- XIII. Prepared monthly field monitoring and evaluation plan and regularly updated as per the situation on the ground and notable progress of interventions.

- XIV. Regular development and review of tools needed for tracking monitoring and evaluation information and to facilitate objective measurement of the quantitative indicators of the JP Syria 2.0 M&E framework.
- XV. Provision of technical support to PUNOs' field focal points to ensure efficient inter-agency information flows, including the preparation and dissemination of relevant documentation and conducting facilitation meetings.
- XVI. Conduction of intensive and detailed orientation/familiarization meetings from 16 to 20 November 2025, with the JP PMU program officer, besides conducting several field missions in urban and rural areas to comprehend the ongoing interventions and PUNOs' approach to implementation.
- XVII. Conduction of further managerial level meetings from 23 to 27 November 2025, with the JP Syria 2.0 manager. This covered strategic oversight meetings in addition to bi-lateral and multilateral meetings with the six PUNOs field focal points, and the heads of PUNOs' field offices in Aleppo to obtain overall progress and conducting multiple field visits to the JP Syria 2.0 implementation sites in urban and rural areas. Additionally, official meetings with senior governmental staff in Aleppo were held to enhance collaboration and introduce coordination approaches.
- XVIII. During November and December 2025, 18 field monitoring visits were conducted jointly with PUNOs' field focal points in addition to four field assessment visits. About 20 bilateral and joint multilateral coordination meetings with PUNOs' field staff were held to facilitate coordination and enhance complementarity and joint action during implementation.

### ***Communications and advocacy***

- XIX. In 2025, the Joint Programme updated its **Communications Strategy 2024–2026** to reflect the shifting operational context in Syria and to strengthen results-based management by incorporating a comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) section. The strategy ensures that communications activities are measurable, adaptive, and aligned with programme outcomes.

To operate the strategy, two key annexes were developed:

- a. ***Annex I – Communications Workplan***: This workplan strategically outlines key programmatic milestones led by the six participating UN organizations—UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, FAO, and UN-Habitat—across all project sites. It identifies opportunities to amplify visibility and engagement at pivotal moments throughout the programme cycle. By synchronizing advocacy efforts with programmatic activities, the Workplan ensures consistent coverage and promotes a complementary approach to both agency-specific and Joint Programme communications strategies.
- b. ***Annex II – Branding Guidance***: This strategic tool enables consistent and effective visibility of the five UNJP 2.0 donors and six PUNOs across all advocacy and communications channels. It ensures standardized visibility and tagging practices to optimize engagement with different stakeholders.

All three documents, the updated Communications Strategy, Workplan, and Branding Guidance were developed in close coordination with the JP Communications Working Group and subsequently endorsed by the five donors and the heads of the six participating UN organizations.

- XX. Additionally, a comprehensive UNJP Overview PowerPoint was produced, providing essential information on the Joint Programme's objectives, relevant internal structures, a summary of priorities, and areas for expansion. This presentation serves as a key resource for donor briefings, government briefings, and internal coordination.

***Risk management and due diligence.***

- XXI. Developed the SOPs for risk assessment and due diligence (DD) for contractors and implementing partners (Local NGOs or INGOs), along with a list of necessary documentation to be provided by IPs and contractors, so that PMU's risk expert conducts the due diligence and risk assessment.
- XXII. Developed and operationalized Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Enhanced Due Diligence (EDD) of contractors and implementing partners (local and international NGOs), including defined documentation requirements to support EDD reviews conducted by the PMU Risk Expert. During the reporting period, a total of 31 contractors were engaged, of which 15 underwent EDD in accordance with the approved SOPs. Of the contractors subject to EDD, three were assessed as moderate risk, nine as low risk, and two were not contracted following the review. One additional contractor remains under EDD review at the time of reporting. In addition to developing the EDD SOPs, the PMU established a dedicated platform and internal database for all contractors, including suppliers and implementing partners (IPs), to facilitate systematic tracking and management. Contractors were mapped against the workplan per agency to ensure alignment with programme activities, and all relevant documentation was archived on a shared SharePoint for easy access and reference.
- XXIII. The PMU also provided technical guidance to PUNOs on EDD procedures and partner documentation requirements, while continuously monitoring the status of contractors to ensure risk-informed engagement and compliance throughout the reporting period.
- XXIV. A comprehensive supplier and implementing partner mapping exercise was developed, linking each vendor/implementing partner to specific work plan activities. This strengthened traceability, improved oversight, and enhanced transparency between procurement processes and programme implementation.

## I- PURPOSE

The JP Syria 2.0 has been developed as per the original principles of the first phase of the JP to enable participating UN organizations to address critical resilience needs within targeted communities in Aleppo governorate, focusing mainly on eastern neighbourhoods of Aleppo city, and southeastern rural areas, while also strengthening the resilience of displaced populations and hosting communities, promoting social and economic recovery, strengthening rural-urban linkages, supporting local planning and community participation, and contributing to overall social cohesion aspects in the targeted areas. Like the first phase, the JP Syria 2.0 adopts a flexible bottom-up, multi-year, multi-partner, and multi-sectoral programming approach, at district, subdistrict, city and/or village, and neighbourhood levels with strong emphasis on community consultations and decision-making to prioritize needs and define required interventions to respond to community needs.

The JP Syria 2.0 utilized a theory of change based on a problems-results trees' analysis, and a thorough context sensitivity analytical approach to support urban-rural livelihoods, access to basic services, furthering community engagement and planning capacities as well as strengthening socio economic linkages.

## II- RESULTS

The Joint Programme to Strengthen Urban and Rural Resilience in Syria in its second version – JP SYRIA 2.0 – defined three outcome areas that interlinks with the original outcomes of the first version of the JP.

**Outcome 1:** Women, men, girls, and boys have more equitable basic services, such as electricity, water, education, and health services.

**Outcome 2:** Women, men, including youth have enhanced sustainable food systems and livelihood opportunities.

**Outcome 3:** Trust, cohesion, and cross-cleavage cooperation between local communities is enhanced.

### A- JP Syria 2.0 cross-cutting aspects

Under the JP Syria 2.0, the participating UN organizations will adhere to the following principles: **1)** Community engagement inclusive of accountability to crisis-affected populations: by ensuring their voices are heard and programmatic decisions are informed by their priorities; **2)** Gender equality and conflict sensitivity by warranting that PUNOs are impartial and warrant that all individuals have equitable and unhindered access to services; **3)** Cash-for-Work (CfW) and temporary economic empowerment by ensuring the availability of temporary job opportunities for unskilled labour within the JP Syria 2.0 interventions to avail a source of income; **4)** inclusion of people with disabilities (PWDs) by ensuring that people with disabilities are included in community consultations, and incorporating aspects of some infrastructure design (e.g., special WASH facilities in schools) to accommodate the needs of PWDs; **5)** Climate Change: climate change is a challenge that is hampering efforts to revive rural livelihoods, and impacts negatively on women girls through increased cases of GBV in rural areas. PUNOs will support the rural livelihoods of affected communities through increasing their awareness on the causes of climate

change and the good practices of climate action at local level in a way that sustain their livelihoods while maintaining the natural resources; **6) Continual Advocacy**, through embedding it as a principle in each of the sustainability areas to ensure that they are committed and well-resourced to ensure sustainability of the JP intervention.

The JP Syria 2.0 workplan incorporated cross-cutting interventions in the workplan in support of enhancing community engagement and coordination, as well as bolstering local planning capacities and enhancing rural local governance, besides strengthening gender mainstreaming and gender equality at community level and across local plans. The external mid-term evaluation has been defined as a cross-cutting activity to be undertaken by PMU for all activities across the three outcomes.

## **B- JP Syria 2.0 Planning, and coordination highlights**

During the reporting period, the PMU coordinated efforts with the participating UN organizations to implement the JP Syria 2.0 workplan through the Technical Working Group (TWG) bi-weekly meetings, in addition to a series of hands-on bi-lateral and multilateral technical meetings between the JP programme management unit and the technical focal points at the six UN organizations at Damascus and Aleppo levels. An Area-based technical working group was created and composed of PUNO's focal points in the field offices in Aleppo and coordinated during the first half of 2025 by the UNDP head of field office, then by the resolute coordination and field monitoring officer who joined the JP PMU team.

## **C- JP Syria 2.0 Narrative reporting on results**

**UNJP 2.0 OUTCOME 1: Women, men, girls, and boys have more equitable basic services, such as electricity, water, education, and health services.**

### ***Output 1.1 :***

*Community infrastructure - including for: Water and sewage networks and electric grids, and municipal services including but not limited to solid waste/debris removal, street repair, street-solar lighting, is rehabilitated, functional sustained to meet the needs of women, men, girls, and boys with focus on people with disabilities and elderly.*

UNDP has made substantial progress in the rehabilitation of the electricity network in Qadi Askar in East Aleppo city, where works are ongoing for the installation of 18 electricity transformers and stretching of 25 km of cables for the renovation of the electricity grid. The medium-voltage network consisting of a combination of partially aerial and predominantly underground lines has been fully completed, while the civil works for the rehabilitation of all substation ground-mounted rooms have also been completed, pending transformers' installation and minor finishing works. In addition, the low-voltage network installation has been completed for 6 substations, while works on the 7th substation are currently in progress.

Despite minor delays related to transformers' manufacturing and delivery, the overall progress of the intervention remains on track. The identified contractor worked on preparing the needed documents for tax exemption by end of 2025, and the delivery of the transformers is expected to take place in early March 2026.

These achievements will significantly advance the restoration of electricity services, supporting household needs, public facilities including schools and health centres, besides supporting local

economic activities including commercial shops, light industrial workshops, and craftsmen shops. It is estimated that the UNDP electricity intervention in Qadi Askar will benefit approximately 40,000 inhabitants.

While for the intervention in As-Safirah Centre Sub-District, UNDP has completed a comprehensive technical assessment covering the entire As-Safira area, thus, establishing solid evidence base for future electricity rehabilitation works targeting rural communities' residential areas, wholesale agricultural produce markets, and livestock markets.



Figure 1- Electricity grid rehabilitation in Qadi Askar



Figure 2- Electricity poles rehabilitation in Qadi Askar

This achievement has enabled UNDP to better coordinate with WFP and UN-Habitat to refine the scope of work and identify electricity requirements. The assessment positions UNDP to provide electricity transformers and connections to the public grid once WFP finalizes its ongoing market study, ensuring a coordinated and needs-driven intervention.

Regarding the provision of solar energy systems in East Aleppo City and Southern Aleppo, UNDP in coordination with UNICEF, initiated the technical assessment process for renewable energy installations, where technical assessments initiated for 10 public facilities, including eight schools and two health centres.

UNDP plans to finalize all technical assessments by late February 2026, after which the procurement process for solar lighting systems will be initiated, while UNICEF completes the necessary rehabilitation works. This phased approach ensures technical accuracy, safety, and effective integration of both agencies' scopes of

work and avoids any inconvenience caused by overlapping between technical teams of workers. UNDP has achieved full implementation results under the intervention of Debris Removal, Recycling, and Production of Construction Materials, with outputs exceeding both recovery and livelihoods objectives:

- Debris removal and recycling activities commenced on 1 November 2025.
- 120 Cash-for-Work opportunities were created, including 28 women, selected through a transparent and competitive process from over 8,000 applicants.
- All logistical preparations were completed, including procurement and delivery of equipment, personal protective equipment (PPE), and spare parts.
- Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) sessions were delivered to all workers, while HALO Trust<sup>9</sup> supported site surveying and clearance of UXOs and suspected hazardous items.
- A total of 5,000 tons of debris were removed, achieving 100% of the agreed project indicator.

<sup>9</sup> Halo Trust is an INGO specialised in surveillance and clearance of UXOs

- Approximately 1,500 m<sup>3</sup> of debris were recycled, resulting in the production of around 26,000 construction materials, including bricks, blocks, and tiles.
- Workers are currently engaged in the recycling, production, and reinstallation of construction materials within Qadi Askar, directly supporting localized reconstruction efforts.

This intervention has simultaneously improved safety, restored access, generated short-term employment, and supplied affordable construction materials for community recovery.

These achievements demonstrate concrete progress toward restoring essential services, strengthening community resilience, and advancing early recovery objectives in Aleppo Governorate.



Figure 3- Debris recycling site in Al Ramoseh- Aleppo



Figure 4- Debris collection and removal.

UNICEF worked on strengthening the health system's capacity in Aleppo to prevent and respond to vector- and water-borne diseases driven by contamination and climate-related risks, while also enhancing community mechanisms to mitigate health, education, and child protection risks. By the end of December 2025, 264 health workers in the urban area of Qadi Askar were capacitated with improved practices for contamination prevention and effective interpersonal communication. In the first quarter of 2026, UNICEF plans to reach an additional 200 health workers in rural areas, including Al Nairab, Jibreen, Tal Hassel, and Tal Aran suburban and rural areas east and southeast of Aleppo city.

In parallel, two health centres in eastern suburban areas (Jibreen and Neirab) were identified for rehabilitation to improve access to essential health and nutrition services for approximately 90,000 affected people living the mentioned areas. By the end of December 2025, contracts were signed to rehabilitate these two health centres. The ongoing rehabilitation activities are planned to be completed, and the two health centres will be operationalized the centres by the third quarter of 2026.



Figure 5 (a,b) - Vector and water-borne diseases training.

Additionally, UNICEF designed interventions to support communities in addressing critical deficiencies in water and sewage systems that cause health hazards and contamination, through the rehabilitation of drainage, water, and sanitation networks. These interventions aim to improve access to safe and drinkable water for approximately 3,000 households in rural areas (Jibreen and Banan communities) and are planned to be completed and fully operational by the third quarter of 2026. In complementarity with the previously described intervention, UNICEF will ensure a safe and protective learning environment for approximately 2,500 students and educational personnel by connecting water networks to a safe and sustainable water source and providing gender-segregated sanitation facilities in two schools in rural areas (Tal Hassel and Tal Aran). These WASH interventions are planned to be completed by the end of the second quarter of 2026.

Through rehabilitation of eight schools (Four in rural areas and four in urban areas), about 5,000 children will have improved inclusive access to education, especially girls and children with disabilities (CWD) who have been deprived of education because of safety issues and social barriers. Sanitation facilities in the rehabilitated schools will be gender-segregated and connected to safe water sources and linked to public sewage networks in the urban communities.

The areas where the eight schools were identified are in high severity of educational needs since most children are either out of school or at risk of dropping out. The procurement case for rehabilitation, vetting and due diligence procedures and contracting were finalized by the end 2025, and the eight schools' sites will be handed over to contractors by early 2026. It is planned that all works will be completed and schools will be ready to receive children upon the onset of the new school year starting in September 2026. In complementarity, to ensure proper operationalization of these schools and support the accessibility of highly qualified and capacitated educational personnel especially to remote rural areas, UNICEF will secure the transportation of approximately 300 educational and health staff from/to surrounding areas by procuring and supplying 10 mini-buses to be used by the directorate of education(DoE)., for this purpose, a committee to prepare the technical specifications of the mini-buses, and by the end of 2025 a detailed tender document was finalized and ready for announcement by early 2026.

In the same discipline, UNICEF will strengthen the inclusive and protected environment for



Figure 7- Husein Ibrahim – School Rehabilitation



Figure 6- Husein Ghouri – School Rehabilitation

children with disabilities (CWD) by establishing 10 blended learning centres supported by tablet computers, projectors, speakerphones and needed accessories to support minimum 250 CWDs.

This initiative will not only promote inclusive and gender-responsive learning through developing specified learning materials, ensure safe and accessible learning environment for all genders with measure to prevent the sexual harassments and gender-based violence but also engaging caregivers and community leaders to address social and cultural norms that may restrict girls' participation, with particular attention to girls with disabilities.

Additional awareness sessions were designed to enhance understanding of bullying, its prevention, and its negative impact on children's well-being. In addition, sessions promoting the importance of education and back-to-learning initiatives were also designed, content prepared and planned to be conducted throughout 2026.

Regarding cross-cutting interventions, four community platforms will be established to enhance community engagement and empower community members to adopt sustainable approaches to positive behaviours related to improved hygiene practices, childhood vaccination, child protection issues, and Back to Learning in households in rural areas (Jibreen ,Banan, As-Safira, and Tal AlDaman communities). In addition, a field team will be formed to promote hygiene practices through community dialogues, household visits, and community led initiatives.

In complementarity, UN-Habitat made strategic progress in rehabilitating and sustaining community infrastructure to ensure safe, inclusive, and equitable access to essential services. The agency provided technical coordination to restore safe access to key social facilities, particularly educational institutions and surrounding public spaces, through a community-driven planning and design approach in Qadi Askar<sup>10</sup> and As-Safira<sup>11</sup>. By engaging women, men, girls, boys, persons with disabilities, local authorities and community representatives, UN-Habitat ensured that interventions were responsive to protection risks, accessibility requirements, and social cohesion. In close alignment with UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA, UN-Habitat completed the soft components of safe access interventions, including participatory workshops in both urban and rural areas<sup>12</sup>. These workshops technically designed the interventions surrounding the targeted schools, tendered

<sup>10</sup> UN-Habitat planned to interfere with the safe access restoration to 3 schools out of 4 in the urban area (i.e., the schools of Hussain Al-Ghouri, Abdulkarim Al-Najar and Mahmoud Al-Ahmad.

<sup>11</sup> In rural area, the safe access rehabilitation targeted Ramzi lolo school in Tal Aran, Hussain Ibrahim school in As-Safira City and the entrance of the cultural centre where the community hall is located.

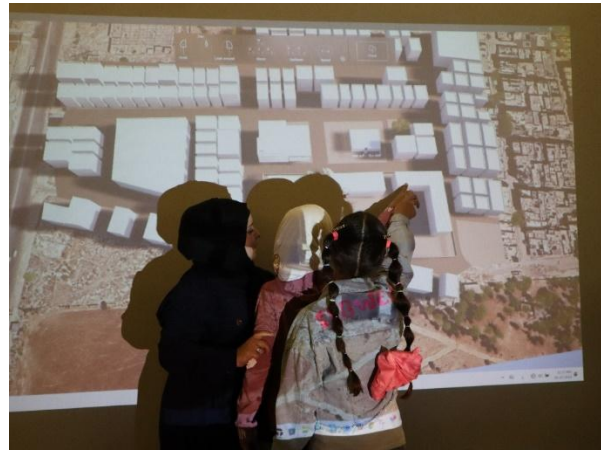
<sup>12</sup> The participants of the safe access workshops were 95 people in total, comprising (22%) 21 girls, (24%) 23 women, (27%) 26 boys, (25%) 24 men and (1%) 1 PWD.

a package for physical implementation, and safeguarded programme readiness pending the completion of UNICEF-led rehabilitation works.

Complementing these efforts, UN-Habitat delivered substantial results in strengthening the cadastral system of Aleppo City in 2025 by digitally archiving 28,859 cadastral contracts and 32,941 property records in Qadi Askar, improving tenure security and mitigating risks of data loss. Furthermore, UN-Habitat supported the institutional strengthening of land administration authorities in As-Safira, specifically the General Organization of Lands Development (GOLD) and the Directorate of Agriculture, through the rehabilitation and equipping of their offices. This support enhanced institutional capacity to improve land tenure security by archiving existing land records and collecting new field data. The intervention took into account the prevailing context, enabling the accurate revision of land boundaries and their systematic linkage to official tenure documentation.



*Figure 8 UN-Habitat - Rural safe access workshop, participants defined the challenges and priorities of schools' surrounding areas in the 3D modelling.*



*Figure 9 UN-Habitat - Urban safe access workshop, participants determined the priorities of schools' surrounding areas in the 3D modelling.*



*Figure 10 UN-Habitat - archiving labourers in the General Directorate of Cadastral Affairs.*



*Figure 11 UN-Habitat - Rehabilitation works of the GOLD offices.*

### **Output 1.2 :**

Basic services including for: Health, education, and social facilities (i.e. community centres) Are rehabilitated, functional, sustained to meet different needs of women, men, girls, and boys with focus on people with disabilities and elderly.

UNDP continues to support the rehabilitation and strengthening of essential community infrastructure to ensure reliable and equitable access to basic services including with health, education, and social services for women, men, girls, and boys, with particular attention to persons with disabilities and the elderly. UNDP has successfully completed all rehabilitation works for the Aleppo Midwifery School within the contracted timeframe, wherein complementarity with UNDP, the UNFPA provided educational equipment and teaching aids to the school while in parallel has provided technical training and toolsets to a network of around 45 midwives who are working in the city and rural areas to support normal and safe deliveries.



Figure 13- midwifery school 2nd floor corridor.



Figure 12- Midwifery school rooftop, solar panels.

Under the intervention of “Providing Necessary Support to the Citizen Service Center (CSC) in Qadi Askar for HLP Document Services,” UNDP has finalized the technical requirements for the rehabilitation of the Citizen Service Center (CSC) in Aleppo. This centre will support the provision of Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) documentation retrieval services. The procurement process started in late 2025, and a pre-bidding site visit for candidate contractors is planned for early 2026. This intervention aims to address significant challenges faced by residents particularly women and persons with disabilities in accessing civil and HLP documentation, which has been exacerbated by the protracted conflict in Syria and was even worsened by the earthquake in February 2023 that resulted in the loss or damage of official documents. Additionally, this intervention is positioned to complement the UN-Habitat’s intervention of support to digital archiving of cadastral records and real estate property documents, where future electronic links between the Cadastral Affairs department and the Citizen Service Centre(s) shall enable citizens to obtain copies of their HLP documents in a more convenient way.

UNFPA worked on addressing social norms through Pre-Marital Education. Pre-marital counselling serves as a critical, preventive intervention to promote healthy reproductive practices and equitable family dynamics. In Aleppo governorate, communities frequently face challenges related to harmful practices, including child and consanguineous marriage, as well as limited awareness regarding optimal birth spacing. These challenges are often compounded by underlying gender-based violence (GBV) risks and a lack of knowledge regarding legal frameworks surrounding marriage.

To address these intersecting vulnerabilities, UNFPA implemented a comprehensive, rights-based intervention. Moving beyond the standard provision of Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH)

information, the initiative actively addressed the social norms, legal environments, and GBV-related factors that influence the decision-making agency of prospective couples.

In partnership with the implementing partner Al-Ihsan Charitable Development Association (ICDA), UNFPA developed specialized pre-marital counselling training materials covering SRH, GBV, and Syrian family law. These resources were adapted from the established expertise of the Syrian Commission for Family and Population Affairs and other UNFPA partners. Subsequently, UNFPA conducted a Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop for 20 youth health educators, selected for their field experience and effective communication skills. From this cohort, three high-performing educators were deployed for the pilot phase, successfully facilitating 14 one-day sessions that reached 163 prospective brides and grooms.

Core Curriculum for Pre-Marital Education Sessions covered Inter-Alia the following:

- Foundations of Marriage and Family Dynamics: Equitable roles and responsibilities of spouses, with an emphasis on male engagement and men's roles in supporting women and the family unit.
- Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH): Comprehensive SRH information, menstrual health and hygiene, Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) prevention, safe pregnancy practices, and the benefits and methods of family planning.
- Legal Frameworks and Marital Rights: Mandatory pre-marital medical examinations, legal implications of the marriage contract, legal frameworks surrounding abortion, and the provision of legal counsel. It also covered the dissolution of marriage, including divorce, separation, and *Khulu'*<sup>13</sup> (mutual divorce).

Following the evaluation of the pilot phase, beneficiary feedback indicated a strong demand for more in-depth discussions on the curriculum topics. Consequently, UNFPA adapted the program design to expand the one-day sessions into a comprehensive three-day format, which will be rolled out in the 2026 implementation cycle.

Under Strengthening Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Services and to ensure uninterrupted, 24/7 access to maternal healthcare, UNFPA conducted comprehensive needs assessments at two maternity centres in Safira and Al-Neirab. The assessments identified critical gaps in medical equipment, tools, and facility furniture. Procurement processes are currently underway to fully equip these facilities to standard, with a portion of the essential supplies already handed over to the Department of Health (DoH).

Similarly, UNFPA in complementarity with UNDP, assessed the operational needs of local midwifery schools, initiating the procurement of necessary educational and medical tools to enhance the learning environment, while UNDP worked on rehabilitating the building of the midwifery school, where the rehabilitation works were completed by end of December 2025 and initial deliveries of equipment and teaching aids to the school have already been completed as well.

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<sup>13</sup> *Khulu'* is a legal terminology – in Arabic الخلع - used in courts of law where a married couple agrees mutually on a divorce and proceed through standard legal steps to register the divorce case.

To expand SRH coverage in hard-to-reach areas, UNFPA deployed 50 community midwives, equipping them with the requisite medical tools and supplies. This targeted outreach successfully facilitated 1,250 safe, cost-free deliveries for vulnerable women facing access barriers.

UNFPA prioritized capacity strengthening by delivering specialized training programs for 100 midwives. These sessions—which targeted midwifery school faculty, students, and active midwives within the catchment areas—focused on upgrading clinical skills in family planning and safe delivery protocols.

## **UNJP 2.0 OUTCOME 2: Women, men, including youth have enhanced sustainable food systems and livelihood opportunities.**

### ***Output 2.1:***

*Rural and Urban communities have improved agricultural infrastructure, and the agricultural livelihoods and food systems are revived, more sustainable and resilient to instability and shocks.*

UNFPA under its economic empowerment of rural women interventions, through its partner ICDA and in coordination with FAO, targeted 10 farmer field schools organized by FAO, with GBV awareness sessions and referral services, conducting sessions with 466 beneficiaries. UNFPA worked on integrating gender equality in the village development plans that were developed by FAO and other agricultural-focused agencies, by delivering two trainings to 50 people on GBV basics and GBV mainstreaming to build the capacity of farmers committees.

At urban level and under the same intervention, UNFPA reached 20 women in the Qadi Askar and Sakhor areas with one micro business project management training to support women in establishing their own small business ventures. ICDA convened a panel to conduct an assessment of the business plans and UNFPA will support the updated projects of these 20 women by purchasing all equipment and tools required. The procurement is ongoing and all projects are approved by UNFPA. The start of these micro projects will be initiated during Q1 of 2026.

To observe the completion of the 16 days against GBV campaign, UNFPA organized an event for the staff of UN agencies in Aleppo which participated in several activities, strengthening gender mainstreaming by advocating for women’s rights.

During the 16 days of activism against GBV, UNFPA supported two sign-language trainings for 20 staff from the Department of Social Affairs and Labour (DOSAL). This strengthened their capacity to support people with hearing and speech impairment and improve the inclusion of PWD in the project.

FAO, WFP, and UNHABITAT are working under the Food Systems framework to support all phases of the system, including food production, aggregation, processing, and marketing, as well as accompanying services such as finance, input provision, and social services.

Adopting the Food Systems approach naturally strengthens urban-rural linkages, considering the environmental, physical, societal, and economic dimensions of food systems, which align with the current connections between the targeted rural and urban areas under this project.

Under the support to food production phase, FAO supported farmers and livestock keepers in the rural areas of As-Safira and Banan and the peri-urban areas of Al-Nairab and Jibreen through Farmer Field Schools (FFS). These FFSs covered technical topics relevant to Maiz farming, Cow breeding, and Olive farming. FFS provide platforms for farmers to exchange local knowledge and expertise, test, and validate good practices for crops and livestock production throughout the production seasons for the selected crops or livestock. By the end of 2025, FAO conducted five Maize FFSs, five Cow breeding FFSs, and six Olive FFSs, in which 400 farmers and livestock keepers in 18 villages and peri-urban communities were enrolled and benefited from information, technical training and inputs provided through these FFS. The Cow and Olive FFS will continue in 2026.



Figure 14- Women in Cow FFS in Tal Aran conducting practical session in the target keeper barn.



Figure 15- FAO women in Maize FFS conducting the ecological-agricultural analysis in FFS session.



Figure 16-Women in Tal Aran Cow FFS conducting a session in the house of the target keeper.



Figure 17- accumulation of rainwater around olive trees as farmers of Olive FFS applied the semi-circular bunds' technique of Rainwater harvesting in their fields.

The FFS intervention by FAO was complemented by UNFPA's intervention to empower rural women and raise their awareness of gender-based violence and reproductive health issues, where teams from UNFPA arranged presentations alongside the FFS to educate rural men and women on the economic role of women.

Additionally, FAO has awarded a contract to a construction company to rehabilitate the irrigation and drainage canals in public farmlands numbered 23, 25, and 26 as well as to rehabilitate the irrigation canal regulators and the administration and control building within the project area. This intervention will benefit more than 2000 farmers in the targeted areas by improving water flow and reach to the canals' end tail, thereby, ensuring farmers equitable access to irrigation water, while at the same time ensuring agricultural drainage water flow and avoiding water logging in the cultivated lands, which causes soil salinity. This intervention will be complemented by the UN-Habitat intervention to rehabilitate agricultural roads in the vicinity of the canals and farms, to enable more convenient and smooth transport of agricultural produce to wholesale markets.



Figure 19- Cleaning of the open irrigation canal.



Figure 18- rehabilitation work for the management centre of Al-Safira irrigation project.

UN-Habitat's contribution enhanced institutional preparedness and inter-agency coherence, laying a solid foundation for improved agricultural infrastructure, strengthened livelihoods and more sustainable and shock-resilient local food systems.

Through coordinated engagement with WFP, UNDP and FAO, UN-Habitat ensured that planned interventions were informed by market and value-chain analysis, recovery planning, and community priorities, thereby strengthening rural-rural and rural-urban economic linkages.

In addition, UN-Habitat provided technical pursuing on governance and Housing, Land and Property (HLP) considerations related to targeted markets and agricultural access roads. This included participation in joint field assessments, integration of inputs from local authorities and communities, and advancement of procurement and readiness of implementation. As a result, the market facility targeting was aligned with WFP-led value chain assessments, while priority agricultural infrastructure was positioned for rehabilitation to improve farmers access to markets and enhance supply chain efficiency.

In 2025, the World Food Programme (WFP), with support from UNJP 2.0, advanced its strategic efforts to strengthen food systems, enhance agricultural value chains, and improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in Aleppo Governorate. The programme focused on increasing agricultural productivity, improving market linkages, and fostering more resilient and accessible markets for rural and urban communities alike.

### ***Rural and Urban Market Assessment***

To ensure that the interventions were evidence based and aligned with local priorities, WFP conducted comprehensive needs assessments targeting smallholder farmers. This process was complemented by extensive consultations with local authorities, community representatives, and relevant UN agencies, including FAO and UN-Habitat. The outcomes of these assessments informed the design of activities and ensured their consistency with ongoing agricultural development strategies in the governorate.

To further support informed decision making, WFP commissioned Venture International<sup>14</sup> to undertake an in-depth study with the scope on “Market Dynamics and Food Systems Research in Urban and Rural Areas of Aleppo Governorate.” The study aimed to build a clear understanding of how food markets operate, examine rural–urban linkages, and identify which interventions would most effectively enhance their efficiency, inclusiveness, and resilience. The assessment focused on the two principal urban markets of Aleppo City, Souq al-Hal, the main aggregation and redistribution hub for fresh produce, and Bab al-Hadid, the central wholesale market for cereals and imported staples. It also examined five rural markets in the As-Safira area: As-Safira, Tel Aran, Tel Hasil, Abu Jurayn, and Jibreen, the latter being the primary livestock market supplying animals to slaughterhouses and butchers in Aleppo.

Between late November and early December, the research team engaged 553 respondents representing a wide range of market actors, including consumers, retailers, rural producers, herders, wholesalers, agricultural input suppliers, processors, transporters, veterinary service providers, market management committees, and officials from municipalities and the Directorate of Agriculture. The findings allowed WFP to identify one priority rural market and one priority urban market where targeted interventions could meaningfully improve the functioning of the local food system. Discussions with local authorities are ongoing to finalize the intervention models, and implementation plans for both selected market sites have already been prepared. However, the joint market rehabilitation works, and complementary interventions will be developed in coordination with UN-Habitat and UNDP, ensuring alignment with identified priorities and strengthening integrated, area-based support to market systems.

### ***Strengthening Urban and Rural Resilience and the Recovery in Syria***

In parallel, WFP continued strengthening support to smallholder farmers. To uphold transparency and competitiveness in the selection of implementing partners, WFP launched Call for Proposals (CFP) inviting qualified cooperating partners to submit technical and financial proposals. The call generated strong interest, with more than twenty-two organizations participating. Following a rigorous evaluation process, the shortlisted INGO ULUSLARARASI INSANI YARDIMLAŞMA DERNEĞİ/ Humanitarian Relief Association (IYD) underwent both WFP due diligence and UNJP due diligence processes and was cleared as “moderate risk,” with a green light to proceed with the partnership. Subsequently, WFP conducted further consultations with targeted communities, local authorities, farmers, and other stakeholders to refine the intervention package. The final set of activities was reviewed and validated jointly with FAO, the Directorate of Agriculture, and representatives of farming communities to ensure that the planned support was aligned with local needs and existing agricultural strategies.

Looking ahead, WFP will finalize the design of market interventions in coordination with local authorities, initiate the rollout of implementation plans for both selected markets, and launch the farmer support interventions through IYD. Continued coordination with FAO, UN-Habitat, the Directorate of Agriculture, and community stakeholders will remain central to ensuring coherent and impactful implementation throughout 2026.

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<sup>14</sup> Venture International is an international consulting company based in UAE, with office in Damascus, Syria



Figure 17 – WFP Aleppo FO conducting KII with trader in As-Safira Bazar.



Figure 18 – WFP, consultation with local farmers in Tal Aran



Figure 19 – Souk Al-Hal, the bad infrastructure of the market



Figure 20 – As-Safira Market, assessing the Market dynamics.

### **Output 2.2:**

*Urban Livelihoods, micro and small businesses, and the local economy are able to: Recover, Regenerate income and employment, and re-establish urban-rural economic linkages more sustainable and resilient to instability.*

During the reporting period, UNDP completed the technical evaluation of all received offers for the implementation of the livelihood's activities, covering both the rehabilitation of MSMEs and self-employment interventions. The selected implementing partner, Finn Church Aid (FCA), successfully passed the due diligence and Anti-Money Laundering (AML) checks. The procurement case has been submitted to the Country Office Procurement Committee, and the agreement with FCA will be forwarded to MoFA for approval prior to award.

Pre-award meetings were held between UNDP and FCA to clarify technical and operational aspects of the Agreement, discuss roles, responsibilities, and implementation arrangements.

In parallel, and to ensure gender mainstreaming aspect is considered in the intervention, two FCA Aleppo project staff participated in a Gender Mainstreaming Training and Analysis conducted by

UNFPA, strengthening gender-responsive implementation capacities. Awarding the agreement is expected to be finalized during February 2026.

To expand youth access to information and capacity development opportunities, UNFPA supported setting up a Youth Friendly Space in the Karm Al-Jabal area through the Al-Ihsan Charitable Development Association (ICDA). The facility features a charity kitchen run by ICDA that provides cooked meals to the most in-need families, which facilitates access to the most vulnerable youth. The facility previously operated as a Child and Adolescent Friendly Space with support from UNICEF and the current project ensures service continuity and supported beneficiary outreach.

To reach more young people, UNFPA activated a field outreach team of volunteers to provide services in areas far from the YFS or in rural areas like Tal Aran and As-Safira.

In Aleppo Governorate, UNFPA and its partners reached 7,193 young people (5,194 girls, 700 women, 1049 boys, 250 men) through 1,137 awareness sessions focusing on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH), Gender-Based Violence (GBV), and healthy lifestyles.

To strengthen awareness and prevent Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TF-GBV) a training was conducted with 51 (48 female, 3 male) teachers in coordination with the Directorate of Education in Aleppo. The comprehensive curriculum focused on understanding Gender-Based Violence (GBV), its technology-facilitated forms, underlying causes, contributing factors, consequences, effective prevention strategies, relevant legal frameworks, and support mechanisms.



Figure 21- female participants in start-up project training by ICDA

for survivors.

Following their training, these teachers played a critical role in knowledge dissemination by actively sharing the information with their students in the catchment area schools. Through this cascaded approach, the initiative successfully reached 10,345 young people, significantly expanding awareness and protection efforts against TF-GBV within the education system.

Additionally, UNFPA completed a five-day Start-up Project Development Training in Aleppo, aimed at boosting the economic prospects of the city's youth. The intensive program engaged 26 (12 female, 14 male) aspiring entrepreneurs, equipping them with essential skills in project planning, marketing, creativity, and economic feasibility studies. Beyond technical training, the initiative fostered a culture of self-reliance and facilitated vital networking between the young participants and established industry experts. Following the training, during the incubation phase one exceptional idea was selected for further development in 2025: a digital educational platform.

This platform is specifically designed to prepare Syrian youth, initially targeting final-year students and recent graduates in architecture, civil engineering, and IT from Aleppo, to meet the demands of the modern labour market and contribute to the country's reconstruction by tackling the skills gap and the poor alignment between current education and market needs. The platform aims to enhance graduates' competencies, digitize training, and provide easy access to specialized

local content. The anticipated impact is significant: economically, it is set to build a qualified workforce, create income for local trainers, and ultimately increase youth purchasing power. Socially, the project will help reduce unemployment, promote online learning, and solidify the role of young people in Syria's development.

Following discussions where young participants highlighted an urgent need to supplement information with practical application, UNFPA established an environment for experience sharing and the development of employability skills. This was achieved through the implementation of eight interest-based clubs, engaging 131 (121 female, 19 male) young people. The clubs included:

*Reading Club:* foster a culture of reading, promote intellectual and mental development, enhance critical thinking, and broaden participants' cultural horizons.

*Intelligence and Technology Club:* Its activities focused on:

- Training for the Bebras<sup>15</sup> competition.
- An online Sports Intelligence Championship.
- A Robotics workshop and exhibition.
- A workshop on Distance Learning and Grants.
- A city-level Debate Championship.

*Entrepreneurship and Leadership Club:* to empower youth by building skills in entrepreneurship, planning, project development, marketing, creativity, and economic feasibility studies. The club sought to promote self-employment and provide valuable networking opportunities with experts and entrepreneurs.

*Youth Talents Club:* Targeting talented high school students, this club's purpose was to nurture artistic talents and connect participants with practical, real-world opportunities. Sessions covered:

- Candle Making
- Drawing
- Music
- Arabic Calligraphy

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<sup>15</sup> Bebras is a training program for youth that focuses on developing cognitive and practical problem-solving abilities.

- Fashion Design

*Medical Skills Club:* Designed for medical college students, this club aimed to enhance medical knowledge, build essential practical and study skills for academic and professional life, increase confidence, correct medical misconceptions through awareness, teach basic nursing skills, and promote mental health.

*English Communication Skills Club:* This club focused on improving English conversation and communication through interactive and enjoyable methods. Key objectives included overcoming the fear of speaking English, supporting confident language use, and integrating education with entertainment to boost overall fluency and vocabulary in daily life.



Figure 22- Skills' building session for youth

### **UNJP 2.0 OUTCOME 3: Trust, cohesion, and cross-cleavage cooperation between local communities is enhanced.**

#### ***Output 3.1:***

*Social cohesion, community collaboration and active participation, and respect for human rights – including in particular the rights of women, girls, and vulnerable people (i.e. PWD) - are progressively strengthened at local level – contributing to greater community resilience.*

To support youth engagement and further induce dialogue and enhance social cohesion, UNFPA and their implementing partner ICDA implemented five workshops aimed at bolstering the capacity of 97 (67 female, 30 male) young people from the catchment area. These sessions provided valuable practical information and experience across diverse fields: Career Development, Academic Development, Scientific Research, Entrepreneurship, and Projects.

Two scientific research workshops equipped participants with fundamental competencies in research methodology, academic writing, research ethics, and data management. Additionally, three specific career path workshops were conducted. These trainings concentrated on essential job market skills, specifically covering CV preparation, cover letter writing, interview preparation, and the effective use of employment platforms such as Job.sy and LinkedIn.

UNFPA and ICDA implemented two Youth Dialogue Platforms on Active Citizenship and Peacebuilding to create safe and systematic spaces for dialogue with youth, listen to their opinions, and produce practical recommendations to enhance their role as active partners in peacebuilding and sustainable development.

#### ***Youth as Leaders in Peacebuilding***

This session focused on the pivotal role of youth as active leaders in building peace and preventing conflicts. Participants discussed citizenship as a "shield for society," emphasizing that awareness, disseminating accurate information, and respecting diversity are fundamental tools for safeguarding social peace. They explored the importance of differentiating between identity and belonging to build a unified national identity. The platform highlighted the dangers of false assumptions and rumours that lead to discrimination, underscoring young people's responsibility to dismantle these narratives through dialogue, community initiatives, and humanitarian work.



Figure 20- Leadership session for youth.

The platform concluded with personal commitments, marking a clear shift from theoretical discussion to practical engagement in the values of citizenship and peacebuilding.

### ***Investing Youth Energies towards Community Partnership***

The second platform addressed the critical steps of investing youth potential and forging genuine, sustainable community partnerships. Discussions covered available opportunities, the crucial role of entrepreneurship and volunteer work, and the future of youth leadership. Participants stressed the importance of meaningful youth participation in policy and decision-making, not merely confined to implementation roles. Institutions can benefit from the accumulated expertise of former humanitarian sector workers and prevent the loss of institutional achievements during management changes. The platform concluded that authentic empowerment stems from awareness, support, guidance, and creating sustainable dialogue spaces that enable youth to play an effective role in peacebuilding and community development.

### ***Challenges and Key Recommendations regarding youth-relevant interventions***

These two platforms strongly reinforced specific institutional and economic challenges while proposing practical solutions:

- Key challenges highlighted: Weak youth representation in decision-making positions, a widespread sense of political marginalization, large gap between current education and the labour market needs, institutional issues - administrative corruption, waste of former employees' expertise (especially in the humanitarian sector).
- Critical recommendations:
  - ✓ Participation: Establishing youth councils/parliaments and opening direct, accessible channels of communication between youth and decision-makers to ensure genuine involvement in policy formulation.
  - ✓ Economic: Supporting entrepreneurial and innovative projects, providing sustained vocational training, and funding programs, and linking university graduates directly to the labour market.

- ✓ Governance: Combating corruption through clear mechanisms of transparency and accountability, ensuring the continuity of plans, and actively utilizing the expertise of former humanitarian workers in recovery and development programs.

UNFPA conducted an Active Citizenship for Peacebuilding Training as part of the ICDA youth project in the Youth Friendly Space. The training reached 20 participants (13 female and 7 male), strategically selected from active members of dialogue platforms, the Qadi Askar volunteer committee, and previous trainees from other Youth Project trainings. The training covered essential topics for civic engagement, including fundamental freedoms, the definition of a citizenship state, the role of identity and belonging in social cohesion, the dynamics of assumptions, the social contract, and principles of community participation. Participants quoted: *"This training was not just a workshop — it was a journey of discovering my rights and responsibilities as a citizen. I now feel that I am truly part of the social fabric."* - Fatma Qarnoub *"I learned that citizenship is not just a word, but a daily practice. I will share what I learned with my neighbours and friends to help them understand this concept."* - Aya Sabouni *"This training opened new horizons for me to understand how to build peace in my community. I will be a peace ambassador in all I do."* - Zein Dir.

UNFPA successfully delivered five life skills training sessions as part of the Youth Friendly Space (YFS) activities, engaging 144 (108 female, 36 male) youth participants. These sessions were designed to strengthen the participants' personal and social competencies by providing practical information and exercises in several key areas, including:

- Self-Esteem and emotional management
- Time management strategies
- Effective communication skills
- Creative and critical thinking
- Decision-Making and conflict management
- Teamwork

Life skills training is crucial for youth development. It provides young people the necessary tools to navigate daily challenges, make sound decisions, build healthy relationships, and enhance their resilience. By acquiring these competencies, young people are better positioned to seize educational and employment opportunities, make positive contributions to their communities, and realize their full potential, ultimately facilitating their transition into responsible and, engaged adulthood.

UNFPA launched a call for Youth-Led Initiative proposals to engage young people. The announcement generated significant interest, resulting in over 200 proposals. Following a thorough review, 24 (18 female, 6 male) young people, whose initiatives were selected, participated in a community-based initiative training. This training aimed to strengthen their capacity, refine their initiatives, and promote strong engagement. These initiatives demonstrated a positive impact on both the community and youth, with three initiatives successfully implemented.

- **Green Print:** This initiative focused on environmental improvement and social cohesion by transforming a public garden. The key impact was improved air quality, strengthened social cohesion, and empowerment of youth to play an active community role.
- **Made by Her Hands:** This project aimed to empower breast cancer survivors by providing vocational and economic opportunities and psychosocial support, resulting in enhanced economic independence and improved mental well-being for beneficiaries.
- **Abracadabra (in Qadi Askar Sector):** Launched to address local environmental and service challenges, this initiative implemented cleaning campaigns and awareness sessions. The results were improved local environmental conditions, a strengthened sense of community responsibility, and increased youth participation in improving their neighbourhoods.

The Orange Team, a network of young volunteers established and equipped by UNFPA, was created to extend volunteer activities to unreached rural areas and populations unable to access Youth Friendly Spaces (YFS). This initiative is designed to address service gaps, foster social cohesion, and build community resilience.

To build the capacities of these volunteers, UNFPA conducted a 7-day training focused on youth-related topics, including:

- Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH)
- Gender-Based Violence (GBV)
- Technology-facilitated GBV
- Drug abuse
- Mine and Explosive Risk awareness.

The volunteers were subsequently trained on facilitation skills, enabling them to disseminate these messages to peers in the communities. A specific day of the training was dedicated to the prevention of sexual harassment and exploitation. The orange team volunteers disseminated these messages in the catchment areas (Aleppo city and rural areas) providing about 458 (297 female, 161 male) people with 50 awareness sessions.

## **Details on Adherence to Cross-cutting Aspects**

### **1) Community engagement**

UNDP continued to support the role of Volunteer Committees under Joint Programme Interventions in Qadi Askar Sector to engage the local community in all intervention in their neighbourhood. In this regard UNDP convened local committees to solicit their needs, priorities, and opinions and ideas regarding the following projects, of which some were, and some were not under the JP 2.0, yet the JP 2.0's community engagement approach proved utility to ensure community buy-in and participation.

#### ***Water Line 400 Replacement Project and Pump Installation – UNHABITAT***

Volunteer committees contributed to highlighting the issue of water not reaching the upper floors in the neighbourhoods, by clearly conveying the need and coordinating with UN-Habitat to follow up with the relevant authorities.

Visits were conducted to the Water Department in the Al-Hawouz and Bab Al-Neirab areas, as they are the main water supply points for the sector, to discuss the current situation. The committees also participated, in collaboration with the local Mukhtar, in supporting the evaluation process by facilitating access to different segments of the community to conduct necessary interviews.

During the water line replacement works, field monitoring was conducted continuously to ensure proper implementation in coordination with UN-Habitat.

Additionally, a pump was replaced at the Water Department to supply the area extending from Bab Al-Neirab to Airport Road. The volunteer committee played a role in conveying this need, based on focused sessions, field visits, and continuous coordination with the Mukhtars and UN-Habitat until the intervention was completed.

#### ***Al-Hawouz / Karam Al-Tahan Park Rehabilitation Project – Bab Al-Neirab Sector – UNHABITAT***

Volunteer committees played a key role in identifying the needs and defining the intervention framework from the early stages, in coordination with UN-Habitat. The committees, together with the local community and the Mukhtar, also launched a planting initiative inside the park to encourage community participation and promote care and maintenance of the area.

Follow-up included visits to the Parks Department to present challenges and recommendations regarding the park. The department cooperated with the volunteer committee in addressing some acts of vandalism to the fence, which were handled in coordination with the committees.

#### ***Alternative Energy- Street Lighting Support Project – UNDP***

The project was implemented in coordination with the governorate, the city council, and the United Nations Development Programme, aiming to equip five neighbourhoods in Qadi Askar Sector (Dhahret Awad, Juret Awad, Al-Helwaniyah, Al-Maysar, Al-Jazmati) with 220 solar-powered streetlights.

Volunteer committees were involved from the beginning in conveying the needs for street lighting through focused discussion sessions and participated in selecting locations in coordination with Mukhtars and neighbourhood committees.

Their involvement covered all project stages, from identifying needs, selecting sites, monitoring installation, and supervising implementation. The committees also developed their tools and used digital maps to accurately determine locations and were present during the handover of the devices to the Lighting Department to ensure proper receipt.

#### ***Solid Waste Management and Debris Recycling Project – UNDP***

The project was implemented in two phases over four months. In the first phase, volunteer committees, in collaboration with the project manager, identified sites where debris needed to be removed, achieving a significant level of clearance.

In the second phase, the committees supported the project by providing supervisors and workers from within the local area to facilitate implementation and ensure effective and sustainable operations.

#### ***School Rehabilitation Project / Abdul Karim Najjar School – Abi Firas Al-Hamdani - UNICEF***

The role of the volunteer committees in this project was limited to identifying the targeted schools through focused discussion sessions and conveying the needs, as the schools were completely damaged and required full rehabilitation and restoration.

It is worth noting that the level of coordination with committees varies among organizations; some limit communication to the need's assessment stage only, while others maintain continuous coordination from the beginning through to the final stages of implementation and supervision.

### ***Safe Access to Schools Project – UNHABITAT***

Volunteer committees coordinated with UN-Habitat to define safe routes for students and to prepare a virtual map illustrating the expected condition of the area after project implementation, including schools and surrounding streets. The committees also considered safety factors and identified locations for lighting poles to ensure safe access to schools.

UN-Habitat advanced a comprehensive profiling and recovery planning process to establish a solid analytical and participatory foundation for resilient, integrated, and inclusive recovery in As-Safirah City and its surrounding rural towns. The multi-sectoral, area-based approach was designed to inform recovery priorities, strengthen institutional coordination, and support locally driven interventions under UNJP 2.0 and its sustainability phase.

Key achievements included the completion of a community-based building damage assessment, which rapidly assessed 13,208 buildings, the operationalization of a Community Participation Hall to formalize local engagement, the launch of a series of recovery planning workshops<sup>16</sup> in coordination with Participating UN Organizations (PUNOs), and the conduct of a rapid assessment of the local economy and social cohesion across Aleppo’s eastern rural corridor. These processes strengthened the evidence base for recovery planning, enhanced understanding of rural–rural and rural–urban linkages, addressed cross-cutting issues such as gender mainstreaming, and reinforced the role of the As-Safirah City Council in the governance recovery.

This activity is complemented with FAO bottom-up approach by utilizing Community Action Planning (CAP), FAO is actively restoring village-level governance. This mechanism has gained significant traction among local authorities as a legitimate framework for the communication and execution of development and recovery plans within the villages affiliated with As-Safira City.

This mechanism has gained traction among local authorities as a legitimate way to communicate and execute development and recovery plans in As-Safira villages. Despite the formal urban governance structure still transitioning due to pending national decree adoption and regulations,

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<sup>16</sup> The participants of the recovery planning workshops were 195 people in total, comprising (4%) 7 girls, (32%) 62 women, (63%) 122 men and (2%) 4 PWD.

the pilot local committees mark a significant step in strengthening rural urban governance under UNJP 2.0.



Figure 24- UN-Habitat - Kick-off workshop of As-Safira City profiling and recovery planning



Figure 25- UN-Habitat - HLP workshop of As-Safira



Figure 26- UN-Habitat - gender mainstreaming workshop of As-Safira

Complementing the UN-HABITAT recovery planning workshops, FAO is supporting the local rural governance through the Community Action Planning (CAP) intervention which implies multi-sectoral recovery and development planning at village level. The training topics covered: a) resilience and development; b) village and local community resources; c) forms of community participation; d) problem and solution trees; e) identification of priorities; and f) developing a village development multisectoral plan. Approximately eight participants from each village participated in the training. The majority were nominated by the As-Safira municipality with consideration given to selecting active and influential persons from each village with good

educational level as well as ensuring the inclusion of at least one female member in each committee. The total number of trainees was 164 representing 20 villages in As-Safira sub-district centre and Banan sub-district. Following the training, these villages' committees are tasked with developing their own CAPs with direct mentorship and follow up by the trainers. To date 10 draft CAP plans have been developed and reviewed by the trainers. A workshop is planned for implementation in the second quarter of 2026 bringing together representatives from the local government, UN agencies, INGOs and NGOs where these village committees will present their plans and can advocate for support for their implement.



Figure 27- Delivering CAP training to Abo Drikh & Om Al-Amad villages.

Moreover, it is worth noting that the CAP trainings and Farmer Field School sessions have served as important platforms for communication and the rebuilding of social cohesion among different groups within and between villages. Conflict, mistrust, and competition over resources have been noticed between the new returnees and those who remained in their villages during the years of conflict.

Moreover, it is worth noting that the CAP trainings and Farmer Field School sessions have served as important platforms for communication and the rebuilding of social cohesion among different groups within and between villages. Conflict, mistrust, and competition over resources have been noticed between the new returnees and those who remained in their villages during the years of conflict.

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## 2) Cash-for-work, temporary economic empowerment.

UNDP led the design and full implementation of the Cash-for-Work (CfW) modality under the Solid Waste Management and Debris Recycling Project in Qadi Askar in Aleppo city, ensuring an integrated approach that linked livelihoods support with tangible early recovery outputs. The intervention was structured to address urgent debris clearance needs while enabling short-term income-generating opportunities and promoting resource-efficient reconstruction.

Under UNDP's direct oversight, 120 temporary employment opportunities were created, including 28 women, selected through a transparent, vulnerability-based process from more than 8,000 applicants. UNDP established clear selection criteria, ensured gender inclusion, and maintained accountability throughout the recruitment process, responding to high socio-economic demand in the target area.

UNDP coordinated all operational and logistical components, including procurement and distribution of equipment, spare parts, and personal protective equipment (PPE), in line with occupational health and safety standards. Prior to commencement, UNDP facilitated Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) for all workers and coordinated site surveying and clearance of UXOs in partnership with specialized actors, ensuring safe and compliant implementation.

Through structured supervision and community engagement mechanisms, UNDP guided site identification, sequencing of activities, and quality control. The intervention achieved 100% of its

debris removal target, clearing 5,000 tons of debris and recycling approximately 1,500 m<sup>3</sup> into 26,000 construction materials, which are being reinstalled locally to support reconstruction efforts.

By linking income generation with measurable recovery outputs, UNDP ensured that the CfW intervention delivered both immediate livelihood support to 120 households and sustainable early recovery results, contributing to improved safety, restored access, and strengthened community resilience in Aleppo Governorate.

### **3) Gender mainstreaming**

Gender mainstreaming was systematically integrated into UN-Habitat's recovery planning process for As-Safira as a cross-cutting priority under UNJP 2.0. UN-Habitat advanced an inclusive approach that strengthened the visibility, participation and voice of women and other vulnerable groups in shaping recovery priorities, while aligning interventions with local social norms and institutional frameworks.

Through a multi-stakeholder, inter-agency workshop co-facilitated with local authorities and supported by UNFPA and UNDP, UN-Habitat promoted a shared understanding of gender mainstreaming as a core enabler of resilient recovery. The process facilitated dialogue between local authorities, UN agencies, and community representatives to ensure that gender considerations were embedded across key recovery sectors, including housing, land and property, livelihoods and access to infrastructure and services.

The engagement generated context-specific insights into gender-based vulnerabilities and barriers affecting access to rights, resources, and decision-making, particularly for female-headed households and women in rural and agricultural settings. These findings informed recovery planning by highlighting the need for equitable access to housing and land rights, inclusive livelihood opportunities, gender-sensitive infrastructure and strengthened local governance mechanisms.



Figure 28- UN-Habitat – gender mainstreaming outputs of As-Safira, tree of root causes, problems, and solutions of the HLP group

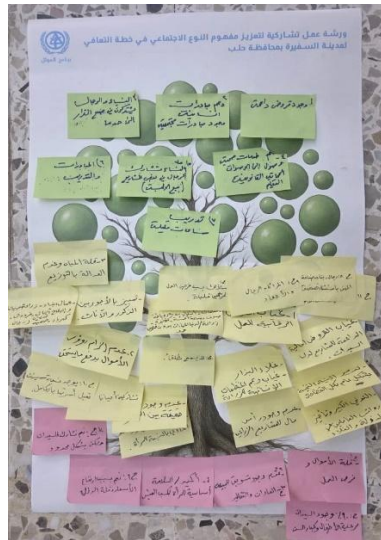


Figure 29- UN-Habitat - gender mainstreaming outputs of As-Safira, tree of root causes, problems, and solutions of the livelihoods group

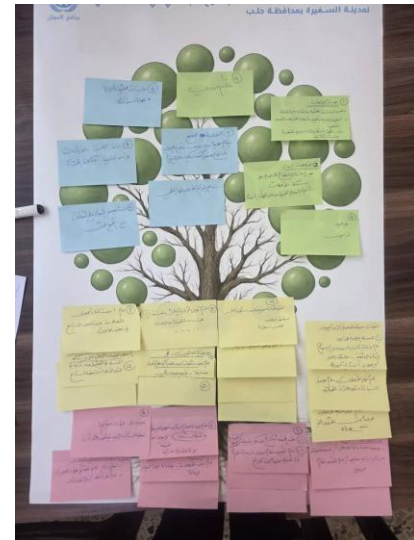


Figure 30- UN-Habitat – gender mainstreaming outputs of As-Safira, tree of root causes, problems and solutions of the infrastructure and public services group

UNFPA conducted a three-day training workshop on Gender Mainstreaming and Analysis in Aleppo, bringing together 19 participants (15 female, 4 male) from UN agencies and NGOs. The workshop enhanced participants' understanding of gender concepts and the integration of gender perspectives in programming. It covered the fundamentals of gender dynamics and equipped participants with practical tools and methods to incorporate gender considerations across all phases of program design and implementation, with a focus on achieving gender-transformative results.

UNFPA conducted a series of bilateral meetings with partner UN agencies to support the integration of gender considerations across all interventions. These meetings served as a platform to align on concrete actions, review proposed gender-responsive activities, and identify opportunities for transformative implementation. UNFPA drafted a gender mainstreaming strategy and action plan for the JP and is providing ongoing technical support and oversight to ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment are meaningfully embedded within the programme's design and delivery.

#### 4) People with Disabilities' inclusion

UNFPA and its partners reached and engaged 84 (45 female, 39 male) People with Disabilities (PWDs) through the 3 Community-Based Initiatives (CBIs described under Output 3.1). An initiative offered vocational and economic opportunities to survivors, leading to enhanced economic independence. Another initiative included children with hearing and speech impairment, fostering social cohesion and inclusion for PWDs in community and social activities.



Figure 31- people with disabilities inclusion

## **5) Climate change adaptation and resilience**

To ensure that planned interventions are environmentally sustainable, climate - sensitive and water-efficient and considering the severe impact of climate change to the agricultural sector over the last two decades, FAO introduced Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) approach and practices through its Farmer Field Schools. These CSA practices include the water-use-efficient techniques such as c drip irrigation instead of flood irrigation, composting of organic residues and use of organic pesticides instead of chemical ones. They also include measures to adapt with climate change driven diseases on cows and measures to mitigate the impact of heat waves on cows.

In addition, under the Community Action Planning component the village committees are increasingly recognizing climate change as a key driver of agricultural related challenges and incorporating climate adaptation in the solutions they proposed in their CAP plans.

### III- LESSONS LEARNT

- ✓ Strengthening local government institutions emerged as both a prerequisite for implementation and a key outcome of recovery programming. Regular advocacy and dialogue with local government, while aligning central government stakeholders' ambitions with local institutional capacity-building requirements are essential to enhance trust, ensure ownership, accountability, and sustainability of the achieved results, and increase impact in post conflict settings.
- ✓ In post conflict contexts, integrated urban-rural analysis, triangulated data collection and participatory recovery planning improve targeting, reduce conflict risks, and strengthen community's acceptance.
- ✓ Conflict dynamics amplify social cleavages and diversity of norms across communities. Effective gender mainstreaming, therefore, requires gradual, culturally informed engagement, supported by institutional anchoring and sustained dialogue, to achieve meaningful inclusion without exacerbating social tensions.
- ✓ In post conflict contexts, physical and economic investments can either mitigate or exacerbate tensions. Explicitly integrating social cohesion considerations at programme level strengthens equity, acceptance, and long-term stability.
- ✓ Addressing environmental and climate risks at a strategic level strengthens the resilience and durability of livelihoods and infrastructure recovery gains.
- ✓ The formation of local committees and building their capabilities is a legitimate intermediary between rural communities and municipal councils, programs can effectively decouple local recovery from national policy delays. This convergence transforms fragmented local needs into a cohesive governance roadmap, demonstrating that sub-national governance can be restored and stabilized through inter-agency synergy even during periods of structural transition.
- ✓ In 2024, UNFPA conducted a training to establish a team of young volunteers in the Deir Hafer area of eastern Aleppo to disseminate essential messages on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH), Gender-Based Violence (GBV), and other youth-related topics. This intervention was temporarily paused due to prevailing security conditions. However, the youth were recently re-energized upon learning about the establishment and training of the current Orange Team in Aleppo Governorate. This news served as a strong catalyst, motivating the previous group of volunteers to resume and expand awareness-raising efforts in their hard-to-reach communities, where organizational access remains severely limited due to the



Figure 32- young volunteers for UNFPA messaging on GBV.

security situation. This highlights the positive, re-energizing effect of peer-to-peer inspiration, especially in communities where organizational access is severely limited due to the security situation.

- ✓ The adoption of a theory of change (ToC) approach and problem tree/result chain analysis enhanced the design of joint JP Syria 2.0 interventions between the participating UN organizations.
- ✓ Maintaining engagement with the local community enabled better apprehension and prioritization of the resilience needs in east Aleppo city and its eastern rural areas.
- ✓ Continuous monitoring of local markets status with regards to availability of workforce, work tools, supplies, and materials, in parallel with monitoring inflation and the exchange rate fluctuations and its trends, will help to better estimate costs and lead to more efficient budgeting.
- ✓ There is a keen need to continually monitor and address the climate change effects on people's resilience in the targeted locations, especially since rural livelihoods depend on the availability of water resources, which are hampered by several drought-like conditions. This helped addressing some of the sustainability interventions.
- ✓ Continual engagement with donors and provision of updates regarding the progress of the inception phase of the JP Syria 2.0 and development of workplan, through JSC meetings and through bi-lateral discussions helped in bridging any gaps of understanding and enhanced the development of the workplan.
- ✓ Continual coordination between the JP PUNOs' technical field staff in Aleppo and the JP PUNO focal points in central offices leads to achieving more solid complementarities and triggers innovative ideas to further enhance planning efforts at PUNO central offices. Furthermore, it fosters closer monitoring and sharing of findings to troubleshoot and resolve any emerging technical issues or obstacles in implementation in a timely manner. Additionally, field staff have better comprehension of access and security aspects and can provide timely information to central offices to manoeuvre implementation and field missions.

## **IV- GENERAL CHALLENGES**

### **Security and accessibility**

The security situation in Syria in general and particularly in the eastern rural areas of Aleppo governorate presented a challenge during 2025 due to few sporadic security incidents. The current security situation in eastern rural areas – especially in the selected three rural locations - of Aleppo after the fall of the previous government paused a critical concern that led the Syria JP 2.0 to identify alternate rural locations in the southeastern rural areas.

UN field missions to implementation sites required approval from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates (MoFAE) of the previous government and the requirement remained the same with the current MoFAE, where the purpose, location, and participants, whether national or international staff, should be defined.

Although security incidents are usually unpredictable, the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) maintains coordination with relevant security entities in the country and stays abreast of developments. Any significant information regarding road-related and/or location-related risks are immediately shared with UN agencies, enabling the UN agencies to take necessary measures.

## **Humanitarian situation**

The scale, severity and complexity of humanitarian needs persisted during 2025 due to the economic turbulence resulting from the change of government and consequently resulting in some of the most challenging humanitarian conditions experienced in the past fourteen years of the crisis: the rising cost of commodities and stagnant lack of cashflow in local currency during 2025; scarcity of electricity, which were also topped up by various protracted impacts of sanctions; and climate change-induced events such as droughts.

As a result during 2025, risks of GBV; the likelihood of de-prioritization of women's health, antenatal and postnatal care; de-prioritizing children's education in return for sending them to child labour; hostility; and criminal actions all had severely increased, along with disrupted and deteriorated access to life-saving sexual and reproductive health services, as well as essential GBV services. Additionally, the severe increase in financial burdens on families to maintain their access to basic needs on top of the increased costs of agricultural inputs and other livelihood sources may disrupt the gains made to sustaining livelihoods that were achieved through the previous JP's interventions.

## **Financial**

*Exchange rate related:* The gap, although it became small, between the official exchange rate of the US dollar to the Syrian pound and the unofficial market rate, yet it remained as a financial challenge in 2025 and continued to negatively impact the UN operations in general. After the fall of the previous government in early December 2024, the UN organizations were challenged with prices inflated according to an inflated unofficial rate.<sup>17</sup> The UN agencies, especially WFP, are closely monitoring the changes in market prices of many commodities and supplies and circulate frequent updates. The UN agencies are required to use the official rate in transactions with IPs and contractors, which inevitably imposes some burden on execution of required works and services. The flexibility of the JP to absorb further interested donor funds might provide a solution to cover the gap should additional donor funding become available.

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<sup>17</sup> Towards the end of 2024 and before the fall of the previous government, the official exchange rate accounted for nearly 70 percent of the unofficial rate. However, during 2025, although the unofficial rate averaged around 11,500, while the official rate at the central bank upon was around 11,000, yet various commodities, supplies and market items were priced at a more inflated rate than the unofficial rate.









Project ID	Project Name	Project Description	Project Status	Project Manager	Project Start	Project End	Project Budget	Project Risk	Project Impact	Project Location	Project Type	Project Category	Project Sub-Category	Project Phase	Project Milestones	Project Deliverables	Project Metrics	Project KPIs	Project Risks	Project Opportunities	Project Challenges	Project Lessons Learned		
001	Project A	Initiating phase of project management...	Completed	John Doe	2023-01-01	2023-03-31	\$1,000,000	Low	High	North America	Software Development	Product Development	Phase 1	1.1.1.1	1.1.1.2	1.1.1.3	1.1.1.4	1.1.1.5	1.1.1.6	1.1.1.7	1.1.1.8	1.1.1.9	1.1.1.10	
002	Project B	Planning phase of project management...	In Progress	Jane Smith	2023-04-01	2023-06-30	\$2,500,000	Medium	Medium	Europe	Hardware Development	Product Development	Phase 2	2.1.1.1	2.1.1.2	2.1.1.3	2.1.1.4	2.1.1.5	2.1.1.6	2.1.1.7	2.1.1.8	2.1.1.9	2.1.1.10	
003	Project C	Execution phase of project management...	On Hold	Mike Johnson	2023-07-01	2023-09-30	\$1,800,000	High	Low	Asia	Service Development	Product Development	Phase 3	3.1.1.1	3.1.1.2	3.1.1.3	3.1.1.4	3.1.1.5	3.1.1.6	3.1.1.7	3.1.1.8	3.1.1.9	3.1.1.10	
004	Project D	Closing phase of project management...	Completed	Sarah Lee	2023-10-01	2023-12-31	\$950,000	Low	High	South America	Software Development	Product Development	Phase 4	4.1.1.1	4.1.1.2	4.1.1.3	4.1.1.4	4.1.1.5	4.1.1.6	4.1.1.7	4.1.1.8	4.1.1.9	4.1.1.10	4.1.1.11
005	Project E	Initiating phase of project management...	In Progress	David Kim	2024-01-01	2024-03-31	\$1,200,000	Medium	Medium	Africa	Hardware Development	Product Development	Phase 1	5.1.1.1	5.1.1.2	5.1.1.3	5.1.1.4	5.1.1.5	5.1.1.6	5.1.1.7	5.1.1.8	5.1.1.9	5.1.1.10	5.1.1.11
006	Project F	Planning phase of project management...	On Hold	Emily White	2024-04-01	2024-06-30	\$2,100,000	High	Low	Oceania	Service Development	Product Development	Phase 2	6.1.1.1	6.1.1.2	6.1.1.3	6.1.1.4	6.1.1.5	6.1.1.6	6.1.1.7	6.1.1.8	6.1.1.9	6.1.1.10	6.1.1.11
007	Project G	Execution phase of project management...	Completed	Chris Brown	2024-07-01	2024-09-30	\$1,500,000	Low	High	Europe	Software Development	Product Development	Phase 3	7.1.1.1	7.1.1.2	7.1.1.3	7.1.1.4	7.1.1.5	7.1.1.6	7.1.1.7	7.1.1.8	7.1.1.9	7.1.1.10	7.1.1.11
008	Project H	Closing phase of project management...	In Progress	Alex Green	2024-10-01	2024-12-31	\$1,100,000	Medium	Medium	Asia	Hardware Development	Product Development	Phase 4	8.1.1.1	8.1.1.2	8.1.1.3	8.1.1.4	8.1.1.5	8.1.1.6	8.1.1.7	8.1.1.8	8.1.1.9	8.1.1.10	8.1.1.11







