

3RP RSO Launch 2024 – Key Messages

The 3RP partners emphasize the **relevance of the 3RP mechanism**, bringing together civil society organizations (CSOs) and UN agencies, **as a means to draw attention to the protracted Syrian refugee crisis**, and the importance of **donors and Governments** to stay the course in delivering the **necessary services to refugees and host communities** and **prevent tensions** that could arise from decreased funding.

Ahead of the Eighth Brussels Syria Conference, and tied to the anniversary of the Syria crisis, the **RSO launch aims to inform the global narrative on, and donor priorities and wider policy directions for, the Syrian refugee response**. The 3RP co-leads, UNHCR and UNDP, firmly call for sustaining the response to support socio-economic stability, maintaining the criticality of protection, and the need for inclusive policies supported by responsibility-sharing.

The 3RP's ask in 2024 is billion USD \$4.89, to assist 12.8 million refugees and affected host populations. In 2024, the **needs in the region** have reached an unprecedented level since the onset of the Syria Crisis in March 2011. **Over 19 million people in 3RP countries** - Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt - are projected to **need some form of humanitarian and development assistance**. This includes over six million Syrian refugees, approximately 446,000 refugees and asylum-seekers of other nationalities and stateless people, and nearly 13 million impacted host community members.

The 3RP partners draw attention to the following key issues:

1. The protracted nature of the Syria crisis, going into its 14th year, highlights the centrality of responsibility-sharing, need for innovative, adaptive, longer-term and inclusive policies and the importance of pursuing sustainable solutions to crisis

- **While more than half the refugees from Syria hope to return home one day, very few Syrian refugees living in 3RP countries intend to return to Syria in the immediate future.**¹ Syria remains a complex humanitarian crisis, and without clear progress on security, protection and economic obstacles inside Syria, return does not present a viable option for refugees in the short term. Until voluntary repatriation in safety and dignity becomes a viable solution, the international community must maintain and, wherever possible, increase its support to host governments, communities and local civil society to guarantee protection space for Syrian refugees with particular attention to vulnerable segments of the population, e.g., women, girls, persons with disabilities, the elderly and LGBTIQ+, and support host communities' and refugees' self-reliance and resilience.
- **Support to host governments, at central and local levels, remains essential, especially to continue ensuring inclusive access to public services for all. Host countries require firm commitments from the international community, assuring them of support for**

¹ Based on the UNHCR Eighth Regional Survey on Syrian Refugees' Perceptions and Intentions on Return To Syria (May 2023), around 56 per cent of respondents indicated their overall intention to return, whether in the next 12 months, or five years, or one day, while some 32 per cent of refugees indicated they have no hope to return to Syria, and some 12 per cent remain unsure about their longer-term intentions.

the foreseeable future. Host governments, at a national and local level, provide access to public services including housing/ shelter, education, legal systems, healthcare, waste management, water, and sanitation – despite economic challenges and scarce resources. They are under pressure, having shouldered the costs of hosting millions of forcibly displaced for over a decade, while facing the impact of new conflicts in the region, economic and governance challenges, and the compounding climate crisis. Continue ensuring access to public services for all affected populations, refugees, and host communities, is critical to support social stability and mitigate tensions. In a worsening socio-economic context for host countries, this requires steadfast and multi-year donor commitments to support host Governments and local service providers.

- **Host governments' commitment to refugees' access to national systems, legal residency, and the labor market, continues to be critical. Legal and practical barriers towards accessing services persist against Syrian refugees in host countries, leading to diminished asylum and protection space.** The 3RP has provided examples of global good practice in fostering refugees' inclusion in public education and healthcare systems, access to labour markets and provision of work permits to different degrees, yet there is a need to further policies across the region to remove barriers to legal, economic, social, and financial inclusion of Syrian refugees, especially refugee women. This is critical for refugees to achieve self-reliance and contribute to host countries' economies. Such policies include access to critical civil documentation and inclusion in social protection schemes. The international community through donors and IFIs must provide diplomatic, political, and financial support to engage host governments in effecting meaningful legal and policy change contributing both to national development goals and refugee resilience.

2. The need for sustained funding and conducive financing to ensure socio-economic stability in Syrian refugee-hosting countries.

- **International partners must remain committed to sustained funding levels for the Syria crisis. There are very limited alternatives, with the exception of resettlement, to ensure continued refugees' protection and to support equitable responsibility-sharing for host countries.** The emergence of other emerging crises and disasters makes it crucial to maintain a predictable approach that ensures sustained funding for a protracted situation like the Syria crisis. Despite the generous support provided by donors, there is a concerning trend of decreasing funding for the 3RP in the past five years (since 2019), while noting the increasing needs. As the Syria Crisis enters its 14th year, funding for the 3RP has seen a worrying decline, both in absolute and percentage terms, reaching its lowest level since inception with only 30 per cent of the required funding received in 2023.
- **Compounding crises and the impact of the Israel-Palestine conflict and Gaza war on regional stability:** In the past year, new conflicts as well as natural disasters have shaken the region, creating yet more challenges. In February 2023, devastating earthquakes struck Southern Türkiye and North-West Syria, leaving millions displaced and homeless, and disrupting the education of countless children. This was followed by the conflict in Sudan that erupted in mid-April, 2023, forcing over a million people to flee to neighbouring countries, including Egypt. Floods in Libya were a stark reminder of the effects of climate

change on fragile environments. Most recently, the recent Israel-Palestine conflict is raising concerns about instability spilling over into Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan, while already having observable impacts on the economies of neighbouring countries, such as price increases, loss in GDP and increased poverty.² These developments add to the challenges in 3RP countries, stressing the importance of international support to address the increased humanitarian and protection needs, and to prevent socio-economic destabilization.

- **Palestine refugees from Syria (PRS) in Lebanon and Jordan continue to face high vulnerabilities and require sustained financial resources.** Protracted displacement and exhaustion of available coping mechanisms, coupled with the deepening socio-economic crises in Lebanon and soaring unemployment in Jordan, have pushed many Palestine refugees deeper into poverty. Deteriorating living conditions mean that many more Palestine refugees now have increased humanitarian and protection needs.
- **The decline in funding for the Syria crisis in the last years poses a significant risk of exacerbating tensions in several 3RP countries, potentially undermining socio-economic stability.** There has been an increase in anti-refugee rhetoric in certain contexts, while risks remain for heightened poverty levels, a diminished willingness of host countries to pursue inclusive policies due to reduced funding, and potential forced returns. Without sufficient support to 3RP countries, there is a risk that competition for resources could undermine the hard-won achievements of recent years, particularly in the areas of social cohesion and peaceful coexistence – a trend that is already being observed in some countries.
- **Given the mounting economic challenges faced by 3RP countries, investments in self-reliance initiatives and resilience-building are crucial for creating sustainable solutions and minimizing dependency on humanitarian support.** Supporting livelihoods and enhancing social safety nets and social protection for both host communities and refugees remains a critical priority, and 3RP partners have been supporting institutions to upgrade, strengthen, and digitize the national safety nets in the sub-region. In order for 3RP partners to effectively build the capacities of host governments and support the inclusion agenda, there is a need for development donors to increasingly support national systems that can support refugees and affected host communities.

3. Lessons from the 3RP on the partnerships and alignments across the HDP Nexus, and leveraging innovative approaches and expanded partnerships.

- **Multilayered crises necessitate responses that are both aligned and harmonized to effectively address complex challenges.** The 3RP has worked to maximize the use of resources and create synergies across humanitarian, development, and peace frameworks.

² A recent ESCWA and UNDP policy brief titled '[Expected socioeconomic impacts of the Gaza war on neighbouring countries in the Arab region - Summary](#)' estimates the total combined GDP loss across Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon to come to an average of 2.3 per cent of GDP (equivalent to \$10.3 billion). Under the six-month scenario, the GDP loss could reach up to 4 per cent (equivalent to \$18billion). The estimated GDP loss is expected to have an effect on poverty. Preliminary results suggest that around 230,000 people may fall into poverty in Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon under the three-month scenario compared with the 2023 baseline. If the war lasts for six months, this number may increase to over 500,000 people.

For instance, the 3RP has explored linkages to sustainable development cooperation frameworks utilizing [appraisal tools](#) in several countries. Critically, the 3RP will continue aligning its responses to evolving local and national response and development plans, to ensure coherence and sustainability, for instance in Türkiye in line with the earthquake response and in Iraq with the move towards the development cooperation framework.

- **It is necessary that we strengthen linkages with IFIs for common objectives:** The 3RP has been proactive in strengthening linkages between its partners and [IFIs, who have a key role to play in supporting socio-economic inclusion in host countries](#). Central to the 3RP are inclusive and long-term development solutions, aimed at reducing dependency and ensuring that refugees and host communities have equitable access to national services, social protection, and livelihood opportunities for a dignified life. A key priority should be to strengthen public institutions to provide access to quality basic services, work permits, education and temporary legal residencies, and foster close cooperation with civil society.
- **The strategic and consistent engagement with the private sector has taken on added importance and urgency. The private sector is a key driver to enhance inclusion and positive economic outcomes.** 3RP partners have been uniquely placed in engaging with the private sector (albeit often at the micro-level) through support to vocational training, job matching, set-up and scaling of MSMEs. The private sector is encouraged to support the inclusion of entrepreneurs and businesses led by refugees and affected host community members, building on the 3RP platform's knowledge, experiences and access to affected population in the relevant countries. To unlock the full potential of refugees and economy in the host countries, an enabling policy and regulatory environment is essential. Refugees face specific barriers to economic inclusion linked to the access to banking sector and finance and excessive administrative procedures, which limit their potential to support the economic growth of host communities.

Annex: Snapshot of the Syria crisis & the 3RP

- The Syria crisis is entering its fourteenth year in 2024 and remains one of the largest refugee crises in the world.** In the 3RP countries - Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt - the number of people in need has reached an unprecedented level since the crisis began, as the region grapples with increased vulnerabilities, growing poverty, high unemployment, security and instability, widespread forced displacement, and emerging crises. In 2024, over 19 million people in 3RP countries - Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt – are projected to need some form of assistance. This includes over 6 million Syrian refugees, more than 500,000 refugees and asylum-seekers of other nationalities and stateless people, and more than 13 million impacted host community members.³
- The 3RP is a unique integrated coordination framework, co-led by UNHCR and UNDP, bringing together around 270 partners applying a Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus approach to address refugees’ needs while strengthening resilience capacities of institutions, host communities and refugees.** The 3RP has proven itself as an enabling platform for advancing innovative approaches e.g., through supporting capacities of local and national institutions, serving host communities alongside refugees to mitigate social tensions, introducing climate change, environment, and energy considerations in the response, scaling up cash-based interventions, and placing a strong emphasis on self-reliance and economic empowerment efforts for all. Since its inception in 2015, the 3RP has successfully integrated humanitarian and development-based responses into a single cohesive plan, channeling approximately USD 24 billion towards the Syria crisis response.
- In times of multiple and concurrent crises, the experience of the 3RP shows more and more the importance of linking humanitarian responses to more sustainable resilience-based development for refugees and host communities,** which at its base requires minimum protection standards being met for refugees to unlock development opportunities.

Selected 3RP achievements:

- Employment and Self-Employment:** More than 500,000 individuals were employed or self-employed across the 3RP countries between 2015 and 2022. *(Source: 3RP Resilience Tracker, available upon request)*
- Support to Public Institutions:** Between 2017 and 2022, over USD 1.7 billion provided in support to public institutions in Lebanon, Jordan, and Türkiye.
- Training of National Public Institution Staff:**
Between January 2022 and end of September 2023, 561,442 staff of national public institutions trained, including frontline workers like nurses and teachers.
- Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Response Services:**
368,232 persons received GBV response services between January 2022 and end of September 2023.

³ The Regional Strategic Overview (RSO) for 2024 summary will be available for the GRF, which will include the breakdown of populations in need and targeted, as well as the total appeal data by country and at regional level.

- **Child Protection Services:**

Between January 2022 and end of September 2023, 229,706 girls and boys received specialized child protection services.

- In 2024, building on the progress made in the past year, the 3RP's Strategic Directions will remain: protecting people, supporting durable solutions, contributing to dignified lives, and enhancing local and national capacities. 3RP partners will continue working with the host governments and the national and international community with an unwavering commitment to ensure no one is left behind by building resilience and promoting inclusion of refugees and host communities and advancing durable solutions for the refugees to apport and added value into the new society.