ALEPPO: Elderly returnee couple repairs their home by themselves in rural east Aleppo. They are among the 90 families (around 540 persons) who recently returned to Al Dreisiyeh, a village located 15 km south of Al Kahrfeh. Return movements continue to be reported in various governorates including in Aleppo and the challenge to ensure that displaced families attain durable solutions still remains a huge undertaking.

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

- The first draft of the Shelter Sector Strategy was shared with the sector members for comments and feedback. Meanwhile, a smaller Technical Working Group of 6 members was formed to review and elaborate the guideline for “Rehabilitation of Damage Houses”.

- In November, a court order from craftsmen union demanded the evacuation of IDPs from Zone 1 in Jibreen collective shelter. The governorate, UN agencies, and the craftsmen union reached to a solution to postpone the evacuation until February. A rapid assessment in Zones 1 and 2 is underway to better evaluate the situation of IDPs and to estimate the number of population who intend to move either to Zone 2 or to their areas of origin.

- The Rapid Technical Assessment in Aleppo covering nine priority (9) neighborhoods is still ongoing. As of this report, 57% of the total target buildings (4,105) were assessed. Of this figure, 73% (2,464 buildings) were classified as green, 23% (797 buildings) as yellow, and remaining 4% (132 buildings) as red.

- A total of 383,455 people have been assisted with different shelter interventions until November 2017.

KEY DIGITS

- **4.3 million** people in need (PiN) of shelter
  - Estimate number of people in need of shelter within Syria hub’s AoR (30% of the estimated 13.5 million total people in need of humanitarian support in 2017)
  - **30%**

- **742,000** PiN targeted entire Syria in 2017
  - Estimate number of targeted people in need of shelter in Syria (19% of the estimated 4.0 million people in need of shelter in 2017)
  - **19%**

- **303,385** PiN targeted by Syria Hub in 2017
  - Estimated number of targeted people in need of shelter by Syria Hub (41% of the estimated 742K targeted people in need in Syria in 2017)
  - **41%**

- **383,455** people assisted
  - Total beneficiaries assisted by shelter projects since January 2017 (126% of 303,385 targeted people in need by Syria Hub)
  - **126%**

- **232** shelter projects planned/implemented
  - Total number of shelter projects planned/implemented since January 2017

- **25** shelter sector partners
  - Number of active shelter sector partners with operational presence
GAPS AND CHALLENGES

- In Aleppo, lack of property ownership documentation affects the ability of population to avail shelter support;
- Continued reports of remnants of war in rural areas of Aleppo governorate prevent some displaced persons from returning to their homes;
- Lack of financial resources to rehabilitate damaged houses in places of origin such as Aleppo continue to discourage the return of IDPs;
- Limited access to hard-to-reach areas and lack of long-term presence impede the provision of proper shelter support;
- In most cases, available shelters are not enough to accommodate newly displaced persons;
- The operational capacity of the sector is insufficient to meet the needs.

CRISIS BACKGROUND: The crisis in Syrian Arab Republic that started in March 2011 has transformed into a complex emergency that has displaced around 6.3 million people and forced around 4.8 million people out of the country to seek asylum. As per the 2017 Humanitarian Needs Overview, around 13.5 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance of which around 4.3 million people are desperate to receive adequate shelter support and other multi-sectorial assistance as they continue to struggle in an unsafe and uncertain environment. Due to the protracted nature of the hostilities, many of both displaced and host communities become more vulnerable and their ability to cope and find safe and durable shelter solutions have been greatly affected. The humanitarian community has been challenged to both provide emergency and life-saving shelter solutions while building back community cohesion and resilience through provision of sustainable shelter assistance.

PARTNER IN FOCUS

Founded in 1957, the Child Care Society (CCS) is a charitable institution working in Homs and its countryside. The charity was established to improve the quality of life of the impoverished population in the society especially women and children. They provide vocational training and literacy courses to mothers and educational cultural support to handicapped children. Over the time the charity has expanded its works covering others basic human welfare support such as housing assistance, emergency relief operations, healthcare, educational and livelihood projects.

CCS is one of the active partners of the Shelter Sector. In 2017, they have assisted 3,840 persons with both emergency and durable shelter solutions. The charity has duly qualified engineers to make unfinished residential buildings habitable and turn them into moderately acceptable housing units for displaced families. They are also working hard to rehabilitate the damaged houses in various areas in Homs to make them livable again and able displaced people to return.

Currently, the charity has 400 staff members. It works with various UN agencies to effectively implement the various activities.