Syria. Sector partners continue to help Syrians get back on their feet

Six years since the onset of the crisis, sector partners remain at the disposal of the most vulnerable members of the population and continue to provide life-saving and life-sustaining non-food items support. The child from eastern Homs governorate is among the thousands of people with specific needs whom the sector continued to target and prioritize in 2017.

Life Saving and Sustaining Support

For more than six years now, the sector has been responding to the needs of the displaced, hosting and other affected population inside Syria. In 2017, it was estimated that around 5.8 million of the Syrian population is still in need of non-food item (NFI) support as they continue to suffer the effects of prolonged insecurity and displacement.

Collectively, sector partners continue to provide life-saving and sustaining assistance in flexible and targeted approach while adhering to appropriate standards of humanitarian support. As of December 2017, around 7.5 million people were reached with at least one NFI. Of this figure, around 2.2 million people were considered adequately served with core and supplementary items. As the sector aims to shift from the usual blanket approach of distribution to tailored support targeting the most vulnerable members of the Syrian population, the 2.2 million adequately served people is 37% lower than the 2016 overall reach which is around 3.5 million. While the people reach had reduced, the distribution ratio of item per person has increased from an average of 2 in 2016 to 3 in 2017 ensuring that the basic NFI needs of Syrians have been adequately addressed. The reduced reach can also be attributed to a reduced number of communities being covered given the fact that sector partners have started to increase its support to returning population to their habitual residences. Out of the 295 reached communities, 94 (31%) are communities with returnees. Lastly, the declining number of sector partners who provide NFI assistance can also be considered a contributory factor of this year’s overall reach.

Apart from the sector regular programming, the delivery of NFI support to hard-to-reach and besieged communities through inter-agency convoy continued. Of the estimated 2.2 million assisted people, around 766,000 (34%) were located in 70 out of the 2,701 hard-to-reach communities and around 51,000 people (2%) were from 9 out of the 34 besieged communities. Constant advocacy to improve access and open new land routes (i.e. M5 highway) enabled partners to reach more beneficiaries in these communities in 2017.

Along with the provision of regular NFI support, seasonal support continues with a focus on locations affected by severe weather conditions. In 2017, around 1.2 million people who are mostly located in Aleppo, Homs, and Rural Damascus governorates were served with basic winter support. This is 201% of the 825,000 total target people of winterization assistance. Collectively, partners distributed around 2.2 million winter items most of which are high thermal blankets and winter clothing kit.

Cash and voucher programming also continued as part of the assistance shift toward more sustainable solutions that support the resilience and early recovery of affected communities. In 2017, around 293,000 displaced persons received cash-based assistance from ICMC and UNRWA.

The sector has also ensured an adequate and effective contingency planning to respond to sudden and cyclical displacements. Stock and pipeline monitoring have been strengthened to address acute and chronic needs and enable a tailored flexible response. By the end of 2017, the sector members prepositioned stocks of 4.6 million NFIs to respond to any eventualities.

Information Management Support

The sector continues to ensure to operate in an evidence-manner by maintaining an effective information management systems. In 2017, the IM Strategy Plan was developed and implemented in close coordination with partners’ reporting / IM focal points. Also, the year marked the formation of the IM Support Group that serves as a dedicated venue to address data management – related issues. Among its concrete outputs include the development of an interactive assessment registry which allows partners to assess available and missing data related to NFI and interactive dashboards that provide partners with a detailed view of their respective responses at the community level. Capacity building effort to improve the understanding of sector partners on information management is also among the highlights of the year. A total of 20 reporting / IM focal points were trained on Humanitarian Information Management in July. Lastly, IM capacity in the field has continued to be given priority.
Challenges and Gaps

While efforts were made to address the pressing NFI needs of the most vulnerable population, there are still challenges and gaps that remain to be addressed.

Prolonged displacement as a result of sporadic yet persistent skirmishes across the country continues to confront the Syrian population finding themselves in constant need of repeated and regular NFI assistance. Similarly, the population in hard-to-reach and besieged communities are still in need of adequate NFI support. The year ended with 30 besieged communities with around 400,000 people in need and 1,194 hard-to-reach communities with around 2.6 million people in need.

Gaps remain huge and yet the opportunity to address these gaps remains narrow. Due to ongoing insecurity, humanitarian actors continue to have restricted movement and this has limited the extent of humanitarian response. This year’s cessation of crisis through local reconciliation efforts did not fully transform into an opportunity to fully access the people in need and alleviate their suffering. Other factors that affected rapid response include the rigorous bureaucratic and approval procedures, logistical constraints, and challenging physical access. Compounding these are the absence of age and gender disaggregated information of population in need, and the decreasing funding support to the sector and the number of local NGO partners who are active on the ground.

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**Sector Coordination**

The sector continues to serve as a platform for humanitarian actors who are providing NFI assistance to engage and collectively address the pressing NFI needs of the Syrian population. Through its lead agency, UNHCR, the sector ensures at all times an efficient and effective coordination mechanism at all levels. Within the sector, strategic and action-oriented meetings have continued to be held on regular basis. In 2017, partners collectively updated the Strategy Plan which serves as a framework for the operational presence of the sector inside Syria. Inter-sector and inter-agency coordination also continue to play a significant role in advancing the agenda of the sector. Coordination with OCHA and with other hubs through the Whole of Syria approach continues to take place. In terms of field coordination, the sector continues to benefit from the establishment of the Sub-National Working Groups in six (6) governorates. As of this report, a total of 56 partners composed of local and international non-government organizations as well as UN agencies have contributed to the overall response of the sector. Among the major highlights of the sector coordination in the field include:

- Rapid provision of assistance to population affected by emergencies (i.e. skirmish between non-state and state armed actors in northern rural Hama, emergency response to Foa'a & Kafrya evacuees) and to population in newly-accessible areas in Aleppo, Damascus, and Sweida governorates;
- Improved facilitation of cross-line mission to hard-to-reach communities in Aleppo governorate with the International Committee of the Red Cross;
- Better assessment of NFI needs enable better targeting and improves response. Among the outputs of the assessment include the introduction of new items (i.e. foldable sofas and in-house solar systems) in Aleppo City to meet the needs of the most vulnerable members of the returning population, distribution of better quality mattress in Rural Damascus, increased distribution of highly consumable items to prevent beneficiaries from exchanging NFIs for cash to afford these types of items, planning of customized supplementary items in Sweida to better meet the emerging needs of families especially the returning population.

**Challenges and Gaps**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Severity score</th>
<th>Estimate no. of people reached</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 - No problem</td>
<td>33 - 7,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 - Minor problem</td>
<td>7,001 - 25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 - Moderate problem</td>
<td>21,001 - 53,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 - Major problem</td>
<td>53,201 - 131,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 - Severe problem</td>
<td>131,601 - 227,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 - Critical problem</td>
<td>227,701 - 546,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Estimate number of people assisted with core and supplementary items per severity type**

- 2017 NFI PIN
- People assisted (2.2M)
- No problem
- Minor Problem
- Moderate Problem
- Major Problem
- Severe Problem
- Critical Problem

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Supplementary Mediterranean

Quneitra
Tartous
Lattakia
LEBANON

Reporting Period: January - December 2017

SYRIA: NFI RESPONSE

Dar'a
Damascus
Rural Damascus
Hama
Homs
Aleppo
Rural Aleppo

Kilometers

JORDAN

Kisweh
Babella
Jaramana
Harasta
Rankus
Maliha
Kafr Batna Arbin
Nashabiyeh
Duma
Haran Al'awameed
Al Qutayfah
Ma'loula
Ghizlaniyyeh

TURKEY

Kisweh
Babella
Jaramana
Harasta
Rankus
Maliha
Kafr Batna Arbin
Nashabiyeh
Duma
Haran Al'awameed
Al Qutayfah
Ma'loula
Ghizlaniyyeh

As-Sweida
Quneitra
IDLEB

Deir-ez-Zor
Raheiba
Al-Hasakeh
Dhameer

Legend

Beneficiaries who received at least 1 supplementary item by sub-district in 2017 per sub-district

Breakdown of 5.3 million people in need of NFIs inside Syria in 2017 per sub-district:

0 - 10,000
10,001 - 40,000
41,001 - 80,000
81,001 - 100,000
101,001 - 705,000

Beneficiaries assisted per type of support does not necessarily sum up to the reported number of beneficiaries as some communities may have received more than one type of assistance.

IN-KIND ASSISTANCE

INTER-AGENCY CONVOY

CASH SUPPORT


Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Humanitarian reach to sub-district does not imply full geographic coverage of all the needs in the sub-district. Information visualized on this map is not to be considered complete.
SYRIA: NFI WINTERIZATION SUPPORT

Reporting Period: January - December 2017

SUMMARY

1,205,277
PEOPLE IN NEED WHO RECEIVED WINTERIZATION SUPPORT IN 2017

BREAKDOWN OF BENEFICIARIES PER GOVERNORATE

439,383
ESTIMATE QUANTITY OF WINTER CLOTHING KITS*

179,493
ESTIMATE QUANTITY OF PLASTIC SHEET / WATER PROOF FLOORING

154,961
SUMMARY

91,095
ESTIMATE QUANTITY OF OTHER ITEMS

66,618

62,657

60,595

56,249

49,461

43,982

30,530

17,050

10,383

782

500

RURAL DAMASCUS

DAMASCUS HOMS ALEPPO DAMASCUS ALHASAKEH TARTOUS DAR'A LATTAKIA HAMA AR-RAQQA QUNEITRA AS-SWEIDA IDLEB DEIR-EZ-ZOR

BREAKDOWN OF BENEFICIARIES PER AGENCY

796,700
UNICEF

456,602
UNHCR

77,842
IOM

67,210
GAPA

3,212
SMJM

2,400
SOS

Breakdown of 5.3 million people in need of NFIs inside Syria in 2017 per sub-district

NOTE: Breakdown of beneficiaries per agency does not necessarily sum up to the reported total number of winterization beneficiaries as there could be some duplication of served beneficiaries per agency.

QUANTITY OF WINTER ITEMS PER TYPE

1,705,367
ESTIMATE NUMBER OF WINTER ITEMS DISTRIBUTED

494,629
ESTIMATE QUANTITY OF WINTER CLOTHING KITS*

128,545
ESTIMATE QUANTITY OF PLASTIC SHEET / WATER PROOF FLOORING

1,082,193
ESTIMATE QUANTITY OF OTHER ITEMS

*NOTE: Content of winterization kit per agency varies.

IOM (cotton underwear long sleeve with long pants, wool gloves, wool hats, wool scarves, wool socks)

UNHCR (sweater, underwear, baby clothing set, high thermal blanket, plastic sheet, sleeping bag, jackets)

UNICEF (children winter clothes)

LEGEND

Total people in need served with winterization support per sub-district

0 - 2,000

2,001 - 6,000

6,001 - 14,000

14,001 - 28,000

28,001 - 91,100

Data Source: NFI Sector 4W, January - December 2017

Creation Date: 19 January 2018

Feedback: syrdanfi@unhcr.org

Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designsations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Humanitarian reach to sub-district does not imply full geographic coverage of all the needs in the sub-district. Information visualized on this map is not to be considered complete.

*NOTE: Content of winterization kit per agency varies.

IOM (cotton underwear long sleeve with long pants, wool gloves, wool hats, wool scarves, wool socks)

UNHCR (sweater, underwear, baby clothing set, high thermal blanket, plastic sheet, sleeping bag, jackets)

UNICEF (children winter clothes)
SYRIA: NFI 2-MONTH DISTRIBUTION PLAN

Reporting Period: January - February 2017

TARGET NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES (PERSONS) FOR IN-KIND DISTRIBUTION FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2018 BY NFI SECTOR SYRIA HUB

SUMMARY

185,650

BREAKDOWN OF BENEFICIARIES OF 2-MONTH PLAN DISTRIBUTION PER STATUS

0
Ongoing

185,650
Planned

BREAKDOWN OF BENEFICIARIES OF 2-MONTH PLAN DISTRIBUTION PER AGENCY

70,400
GOPA

115,250
UNHCR

NOTE: This two month distribution plan is only tentative as factors such as access and security have impact in the actual plan implementation.

LEGEND

2017 NFI People In Need (PIN) per governorate

Number of beneficiaries (persons)