Non-Food Items (NFIs) support remains a primary need for the crisis-affected population, with the estimation of 5.3 million people in need of this kind of support. Evictions, insecure tenure and repeated displacements remain a chronic problem. Access to and availability of NFIs remains limited. A number of drivers, including the conflict, economic and financial measures imposed on Syria, economic decline and reduced availability of basic services have all contributed to the exacerbation of the humanitarian situation over the past year. Given the dynamics of the conflict in Syria, the movement of relief actors and access to those in need continue to be a major impediment to providing assistance. Proliferation of checkpoints, active and changing frontlines, tactics of besiegement and insecurity often prevent the delivery of assistance. Movement restrictions are more severe in urban areas and in areas experiencing frequent and high intensity fighting.

Since 2012, the NFI Sector member agencies have been responding to the needs of IDPs and conflict-affected persons. The sector has focused its efforts on hard-to-reach and underserved areas, and some successes have been noted such as the use of airlifts and new land routes for access to certain areas. These practices and lessons are being applied further in the response for 2016.

- Respond to sudden emergencies, as well as provide more sustainable solutions by focusing on saving and sustaining lives through providing NFI kits, construction materials/tools etc. the sector will also look at addressing seasonal needs such as NFI winter kits.
- Linkage with other sectors: the sector recognizes the centrality of protection in all programming and it is therefore committed to mainstream protection. In addition, sector activities are inherently linked with other sectors. The sector will particularly focus on proactive engagement with the following sectors: (1) Protection, (2) CCCM, (3) WASH (4) livelihood and Early Recovery (5) Education.
- Ensure adequate and affective contingency planning, to respond to the sudden-onset cyclical displacements. This includes maintaining stocks in key locations to address acute and chronic needs and enable a tailored flexible response.
- Formulate the Strategic Objectives: Support life sustainability of IDPs through NFI response on both levels: emergency level based on set contingency plan, mainly through NFI distribution, and sustainable level through cash-based interventions to support the resilience and early recovery of affected communities.
- Further emphasize coordination efforts, through creation and maintenance of efficienent coordination mechanism at all levels, e.g. within the sector, inter-sectors and inter-agency, in addition to continued interaction with other relevant parties such as governmental counterparts, SARC and ICRC. Coordination is also strengthened at the sub-national level by establishing local SWG, and extending to the regional coverage through WoS approach.
- Build capacity of actors responding to the humanitarian crisis in Syria, including NGOs, local NGOs, and other stakeholders.

**Gaps & Challenges**

- Access to population in need (especially besieged and hard to reach areas)
- Timely delivery constrained related to/ mainly derived from: approval process, funding and / or planning.
- Ensuring consistently coordinated, harmonized and as appropriate as possible assistance.
- Reliable information and credible assessments.
- Clear monitoring approach and reports.
- Complexity of and delays resulting from formal and administrative procedures for provision of NFIs assistance.
- Lack of data (and/or access to/sharing of data on needs).
- Lack of beneficiaries’ data base being made available to actors (leading to inability to properly monitor/ verify assistance delivery)
- Capacity (training needs, skills, knowledge) of local partners for distribution, assessment, application of “do no harm”, protection mainstreaming, monitoring.

**History**

In 2015
- **3.75 million** Syrian IDPs & other Affected People Reached
- **460,000** Palestine Refugees reached
- **11.8 million** NFIs distributed
- **47 cross-border convoys** took place pursuant to UNSC Resolution 2165 providing NFIs for 468,750 individuals in the Daraa, Quneitra, Hama, Idlib and Aleppo governorates.

In 2016
- Since January Inter-Agency and UNRWA operations have reached a total of **844,325 people** in Hard to reach and besieged areas in Rural Damascus, Homs, Hama, Aleppo, Idleb and Der Ez Zor governorates.

**June 2016**
- **People Reached:** 286,226
- **CRIs Distributed:** 714,240

**Grand Total from 01 Jan 2016**
- **People Reached:** 2,663,756
- **CRIs Distributed:** 5,522,975
Human Interest

Through its participation in the Inter-Agency convoys to besieged and hard-to-reach locations in Syria, UNHCR continues to respond to the priority needs of the Syrian people in these areas. In most of these areas where running water is a luxury, houses were destroyed or damaged, and quite a number of elderly and children have special needs; UNHCR and local communities identified the priority needs.

As people have to pump water manually from wells they dug to survive, UNHCR provided the local residents with jerry cans, which is an easy to handle tool for residents to carry water back home. Displaced families had to shelter in damaged buildings where tarpaulins provided by UNHCR helped them to secure some kind of privacy and protected them from the weather elements. Many elderly persons are confined to their homes and cannot move found the adult diapers provided by UNHCR a helpful item, which eases their hardships. Baby diapers also come in handy for many families that have infants as this commodity is hard to find and very expensive.

UNHCR will continue to carry out rapid assessment of conditions on the ground in besieged and hard to reach locations to identify the gaps and needs of the residents, to better plan for future relief operations. Today, still 4.5 million Syrians live in hard to reach areas, among them 500,000 in besieged locations.
2,663,756 Beneficiaries of NFIs

Areas with no or limited population
UNDOF administered area

People reached by sub-district

1 - 10,000
10,001 - 50,000
50,001 - 100,000
100,001 - 300,000
Above 300

109 sub-districts reached

50% of targeted 5.3M

Out of the 2.6 Million reached beneficiaries
436,692 People reached with 4 or more NFI Items, while
275,371 People reached with Full NFI Package

Beneficiaries Reached

CRIs Distributed