KEY POINTS

- The sector has published the key findings of non-food items (NFI) needs assessment that it carried out from July – August 2016 in 147 sub-districts in Syria using two data collection methods namely, Expert Panel Discussion and Structured Community Discussion. The assessment reveals that after five years of conflict, the overall condition in terms of access to NFIs among population in need in Syria remains dire despite continuous humanitarian support. The worsening condition is attributed to lack of stable income to provide for the basic needs of the family. Also, it further reveals that basic household items are available where physical access is possible but, access to local market remains low due to insecurity, long distance to market and lack of financial means to cover high transportation cost and high prices of basic commodities. The assessment became one of the basis for the development of Humanitarian Needs Overview and Response Plan in 2017 for Syria.

- The call for project proposals for the Syria Humanitarian Fund (SHF) which support activities under the Syrian Humanitarian Response Plan, was completed. A total of seven (7) NFI Sector partners (1 national NGO, 2 international NGO, 4 UN agencies) submitted their concept notes. Most of the proposed form of assistance are in-kind distribution with few aiming to provide cash grants. Moreover, majority of the proposals are targeting Aleppo, Damascus and Rural Damascus governorates. Three (3) projects (2 national NGOs, 1 UN) were approved with total funding allocation amounting to 1M USD.

- To increase public general awareness on sectorial response as well as its advocacies, the sector has broadened its circulation of sectorial information products online. In October, it has populated the Global Shelter Cluster, Humanitarian Response and Relief Web sites with its latest updates. Beyond this virtual presence, the sector aims to enhance its accountability to concerned population it has been serving and other relevant humanitarian stakeholders.

KEY DIGITS

- **5.3 million** people in need of NFI
  - Estimate number of people in Syria in need of basic non-food items (39% of the estimated 13.5 million people in need of humanitarian support in 2016).

- **3.1 million** people received at least 1 item
  - Estimate number of people who received at least one NFI item from January to October 2016 (57% of the total 5.3 million people in need of NFI).

- **2.2 million** people received more than 4 items
  - Estimate people who were considered adequately served for receiving more than 4 NFIs from January to October 2016 (43% of the total 5.3 million people in need of NFI).

- **152** reached sub-districts
  - Total number of sub-districts reached from January to October 2016 (56% of the total 272 sub-districts in Syria).

- **8.0 million** NFI items distributed
  - Total number of NFI items distributed from January to October 2016.

- **3.7 million** NFI stocks prepositioned
  - Estimate number of NFI items prepositioned as of October 2016.
CRISIS BACKGROUND: The crisis in Syrian Arab Republic that started in March 2011 has transformed into a multi-sided armed conflict that displaced around 6.2 million people and forced around 5 million people out of the country to seek asylum. As per the Humanitarian Needs Overview in 2017 (to be published), around 13.5 million people are in need of humanitarian support of which around 5.8 million people are desperate to receive essential household items and other multi-sectorial assistance as they continue to struggle in insecure areas. The degree of resilience and positive coping mechanism of the affected population have reduced due to the protracted nature of the conflict. Purchasing power and the ability to provide for their basic household needs have decreased due to economic recession that left thousands of Syrian people unemployed and the prospect of accessing essential household items has also declined due to closure of essential service providers.

GAPS AND CHALLENGES

- Widespread insecurity, challenging physical access and rigorous bureaucratic procedures and approval limit provision of adequate and regular humanitarian assistance especially to those who live in besieged and hard-to-reach areas;
- Absence of age and gender disaggregated information of population in need unable the sector to accommodate and target specific needs;
- Logistical constraints especially during inter-agency convoy such as, road blockage, presence of checkpoints, and presence of threats continue to hamper rapid distribution;
- Lack of actual data on distribution recipients prevent the sector to better measure the actual reached and served beneficiaries;
- Limited and irregular monitoring of distribution due to insecurity and sensitivities compromise the ability of the sector to assess the impact of its assistance and better inform future planning;
- Absence of clear and effective feedback mechanism from population in need due to information gathering sensitivities unable the sector to better determine the efficacy of its effort;
- Lack of income generating activities to provide the necessary financial means continues to hamper access to basic household items among the most vulnerable population in need;
- Diminishing active participation among sector members affects coordination and the overall sectorial reach;
- Inexact coordination structure impacts the level of efficiency in coordinating sectorial response for inter-agency convoys.
- Lack of reliable consolidated information for inter-agency convoy reach affects the sector’s ability to determine the extent and impact of its convoy contribution.

PARTNER IN FOCUS

Première Urgence Internationale (PUI) or First International Emergency is an international non-profit, apolitical and secular organization. Globally, PUI aims to provide comprehensive response to address the basic needs of population affected by humanitarian crises.

PUI is one of the first international non-government organizations registered in Syria in 2008, conducting education projects for Iraqi refugees. Since then, PUI has been working closely with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), the Ministry of Education (MoE), the Ministry of Local Administration (MoLA), international NGOs, and United Nations agencies in government-controlled areas.

PUI has been recognized in Syria with expertise on post-emergency and early recovery. With the outbursts of the crisis in 2011, the scale and diversity of needs led PUI to continue emergency distribution (i.e. hygiene kits, winter kits, kitchen sets, stoves, drinking water), help improve housing conditions of internally displaced persons (i.e. rehabilitation of individual and collective shelters), rehabilitate and revive the activities of a primary health centers, and support the education of displaced students (i.e. additional classes construction, teacher training, and vocational training).

PUI team is operating in Syria with 102 staff. As per record of the sector, PUI distributed a total of 439,765 basic household items in Syria since January 2014 to October 2016.

To know more about PUI, visit their website at www.premiere-urgence.org

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SYRIA: INTER-AGENCY CONVOY

Reporting Period: January - October 2016

SUMMARY

75 TOTAL NUMBER OF UNHCR-LED INTER-AGENCY CONVOYS

40 TOTAL COMMUNITIES COVERED OF WHICH 14 (37%) ARE IN BESIEGED AREAS & 15 (39%) FROM HTR AREAS

782,423 TOTAL PEOPLE REACHED OF WHICH 259,810 (35%) FROM BESIEGED AREAS AND 318,542 (43%) FROM HTR AREAS

1,160,038 TOTAL NO. OF NFIs DISTRIBUTED IN INTER-AGENCY CONVOYS

NAME OF BESIEGED AND HTR COMMUNITIES COVERED BY INTER-AGENCY CONVOY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GOVERNORATE</th>
<th>HARD-TO-REACH COMMUNITIES</th>
<th>BESIEGED COMMUNITIES</th>
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<tr>
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FOOTNOTES:
A. The information presented here shows convoy data from IOM, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, and UNRWA.
B. One convoy is counted as one completed trip.

LEGEND

No. of inter-agency convoys (IACs) No. of beneficiaries (persons) reached by IACs

Sub-districts with besieged communities Sub-districts with (HTR) hard-to-reach communities

Sub-districts with besieged and HTR communities No. of distributed non-food items

Data Sources: Monthly NFI Sector 4 Datasets
List of hard-to Reach and Besieged Areas (OCHA, June 2016)

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.

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SYRIA: NFI 2-MONTH DISTRIBUTION PLAN

Reporting Period: November - December 2016

SUMMARY

TARGET NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES (PERSONS) FOR IN-KIND DISTRIBUTION FROM NOVEMBER TO DECEMBER 2016 BY NFI SECTOR SYRIA HUB

- **527,755**

BREAKDOWN OF BENEFICIARIES OF 2-MONTH PLAN DISTRIBUTION PER STATUS

- **Ongoing**: 527,755
- **Planned**: 0

BREAKDOWN OF BENEFICIARIES OF 2-MONTH PLAN DISTRIBUTION PER AGENCY

- **IOM**: 79,545
- **UNHCR**: 415,450
- **GOPA**: 32,760

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

LEGEND

- **UNHCR**: 2016 NFI People In Need (PIN) per governorate
- **IOM**: Number of beneficiaries (persons)
- **GOPA**: Number of beneficiaries (persons)

Data Sources: NFI Sector 2-Month Distribution Plan November - December 2016, NFI PIN (HNO 2016)

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.

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