The NFI Monthly is a publication of the NFI Sector of Syria Hub which is co-led by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. This publication aims to provide an overview of humanitarian response of the sector inside Syria for each month. All information presented in this publication are from all NFI sector members with operational presence inside Syria. For more information, please contact the sector.

KEY POINTS

• The final draft of the NFI Sector Strategy for 2018 was finalized in January in close collaboration with sector partners. In 2018, the sector continues to focus on the provision of life-saving and life-sustaining humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable with emphasis to areas experiencing severe condition. Out of the total 4.7 million people in need of NFI support, the sector collectively targets 3.2 million people in 2018. By the end of 2017, the sector has 56 active partners who continue to distribute NFI assistance.

• In January, sector partners planned to provide support to hard-to-reach communities in Dar Kabira, Talbishe, Tlul Elhomor, and besieged community in Duma targeting around 196,000 persons. The list of available NFI supplies was forward to SARC for consolidation. The actual implementation of inter-agency convoy still depends on the overall security status of the mentioned communities.

• The sector organized a two-day Reporting Orientation / IM Strategy Review Workshop on the 28th - 29th of January 2018 in Damascus City. The sector organized this workshop to orient NFI Sector partners on all reporting requirements in 2018. It also served as a venue to review and update the IM Strategy Plan for the hub. A total of 20 participants representing 9 partner organizations attended the workshop. At the end of the activity, they were familiarized with the new reporting indicators, which are based on the 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan Results Framework. They also understood the interrelatedness of the reporting system to the overall sector strategic objectives. Above all, they learned the use of the new 4W (Who-does What-When-Where) new template, which is the main reference tool for partners to report their activities.
GAPS AND CHALLENGES

- The lengthy approval process is affecting the timely delivery of winterization items.
- High turnover in camps in north east Syria is posing a challenge to the ongoing winterization activities.
- Presence of unexploded ordnance in rural Aleppo limits access among sector partners;
- Based on NFI Post Distribution Monitoring, a limited number of NFIs, poor NFI quality including distribution of damaged items (i.e. broken solar lamps, or wet mattresses), and unorganized distribution are the top distribution issues that confronted beneficiaries. Other distribution challenges reported include unequal distribution, delayed distribution of seasonal items, far distribution point, and non-adherence to minimum standards of distribution point.
- 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;
- Logistical constraints especially during inter-agency convoy such as road blockage, presence of checkpoints, presence of threats, and proximity to active front lines (i.e. Ar Raqqa) continue to hamper rapid distribution;
- Lack of actual data on distribution recipients prevent the sector to better measure the actual reached and served beneficiaries;
- 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 interagency convoys.
- Lack of reliable consolidated information for interagency convoy reach affects the sector’s ability to determine the extent and impact of its convoy contribution;
- Insufficient number of detailed and comprehensive assessment makes it difficult for the sector to shift its response priorities from distribution of basic essential NFI items to provision of supplementary items.
- Opportunities for systematic field-based data collection remain very limited due to access or authorization restrictions, resulting in incomplete needs analysis in some areas.

CRISIS BACKGROUND: The crisis in Syrian Arab Republic that started in March 2011 has transformed into a complex emergency that has displaced around 6.1 million people in various parts of the country. As per the 2018 Humanitarian Needs Overview, around 13.1 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance of which around 4.2 million people are in need of shelter support and other multi-sectoral 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 adequate shelter assistance.

PARTNER IN FOCUS

People of Mercy (POM) is a local non-government organization that started its work in Syria in 2017 particularly in Damascus and Rural Damascus governorates.

To empower Syrians and protect their rights to live with dignity are the main mission objectives of POM. They accomplish this through awareness raising on social issues affecting Syrians and through distribution of targeted response especially to the most vulnerable members of the society. Among their support include the provision of food, psychological support, rental assistance, reproductive health and nutrition-related services, and vocational training. For non-food items assistance, POM has been distributing vouchers and hygiene package. All of POM’s interventions are in close coordination with Caritas Austria, Caritas Germany, and ICMC.

Apart from emergency assistance, POM has started to work on some development programs as long-term solutions to displaced population who comprised the majority of POM’s beneficiaries.

To date, POM has around 100 employees who are working in the main office and the field including a group of volunteers who had been active in the field in Syria even before the crisis of 2011.

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### Beneficiaries Assisted

#### Core Items

- **SYRIA: NFI RESPONSE**
- **Reporting Period: January 2018**

#### Beneficiaries Assisted by Type of Support

- **33K** in-kind assistance
- **13K** inter-agency convoy
- **1.5K** cash support

#### Beneficiaries Assisted by Type of Support

- **34,878** core items
- **245,865** supplementary items

#### Beneficiaries Assisted Per Governorate

- **Aleppo**: 10,060
- **Rural Damascus**: 5,000
- **Homs**: 2,500
- **Hama**: 2,500
- **Deir-ez-Zor**: 3,535
- **Damascus**: 6,640
- **Rural Damascus**: 7,680
- **Lattakia**: 10,000

#### Beneficiaries Assisted Per Type of NFI Distributed

- **Total NFI Distributed Per Month**
  - **374,488**

#### Beneficiaries Assisted Per Type

- **Total NFIs Distributed**
  - **36,400 28,181 15,600 10,551 9,500 7,500 1,700 346 200**

#### Beneficiaries Assisted Per Type

- **People whose needs were adequately met for receiving more than 4 core NFI (2% of the 1.8M total target people in need of NFI in Syria)
- **245,865**

- **People who received at least 1 supplementary item (13% of the 1.9M total target people in need of supplementary NFI in Syria)
- **245,865**

#### Estimate Number of Persons

- **Inside Syria who received in-kind assistance from regular programmes of the sector**
  - **245K**

- **From hard-to-reach and besieged areas who received in-kind assistance through inter-agency convoy**
  - **152K**

- **Who received cash assistance from UNRWA**
  - **223K 59K**

#### Breakdown of 4.7 million people in need of NFIs inside Syria in 2018 per sub-district

- **117,501 - 770,200**
- **61,001 - 117,500**
- **30,501 - 61,000**
- **11,501 - 30,500**
- **0 - 11,500**
SYRIA: INTER-AGENCY CONVOY

Reporting Period: January 2018

SUMMARY

- **12** total number of inter-agency convoys
- **20** total communities covered of which **2** (10%) are in besieged areas & **18** (90%) from HTR areas
- **167,228** total people reached of which **27** (0.1%) from besieged areas and **167,201** (99.9%) from HTR areas
- **159,359** total no. of NFIs distributed / voucher in inter-agency convoys

**NAME OF BESIEGED AND HTR COMMUNITIES COVERED BY INTER-AGENCY CONVOYS (2018)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GOVERNORATE</th>
<th>TOTAL HTR AND BESIEGED COMMUNITIES</th>
<th>REACHED HTR AND BESIEGED COMMUNITIES</th>
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**FOOTNOTE/S:**

A. The beneficiaries of convoy were calculated based on status of communities as per OCHA’s list HTR and besieged communities since Jan. B. Not all of the highlighted communities on the map are HTR and besieged as of this report. The highlights only illustrate the status of the communities since January 2017. C. The information presented here only shows DRC, GOPA, ICMC, IOM, MSJN, UNHCR and UNICEF reports. D. One convoy is counted as one completed trip in each day.

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.

Data Sources: Monthly NFI Sector 4W, January 2018 Datasets
List of hard-to-reach and besieged areas (OCHA, December 2017)

**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
- Areas covered by convoy in 2016 - 2017
SUMMARY

245,856
PEOPLE IN NEED WHO RECEIVED WINTERIZATION SUPPORT IN 2018

BREAKDOWN OF BENEFICIARIES PER GOVERNORATE

BREAKDOWN OF BENEFICIARIES PER AGENCY

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.

223,732
ESTIMATE NUMBER OF WINTER ITEMS DISTRIBUTED

ESTIMATE QUANTITY OF WINTER CLOTHING KITS
35,225

ESTIMATE QUANTITY OF PLASTIC SHEET / WATER PROOF FLOORING
19,878

ESTIMATE QUANTITY OF OTHER ITEMS
168,629

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).