

PART II: OPERATIONAL RESPONSE PLANS

16 October 2015

- 
-  Food Security
 -  Health
 -  Shelter and NFIs
 -  Education
 -  Protection
 -  Logistics
 -  Nutrition
 -  Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)
 -  Camp Coordination & Camp Management
 -  Early Recovery and Livelihoods
 -  Emergency Telecommunications

- 
-  Coordination
 -  Refugee Response Plan

PEOPLE IN NEED


**8.7
M**

PEOPLE TARGETED


7.5M
REQUIREMENTS
(US\$)

**B
\$1.235**

OF PARTNERS


40
FOOD SECURITY
OBJECTIVE 1:

1 Provide emergency response capacity, life-saving, and life-sustaining assistance to the most vulnerable crisis affected people, including people with specific needs

RELATES TO SO1

FOOD SECURITY
OBJECTIVE 2:

2 Support livelihoods of affected communities and households by increasing agricultural production, protection of productive assets, and restoring or creating income generating activities to prevent negative or irreversible coping mechanisms

RELATES TO SO3

FOOD SECURITY OBJECTIVE
3:

3 Improve the capacity to deliver essential services to local communities and

FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE

Food security and agriculture sector analysis



Food security refers to the availability of, access to, and utilization of food.

Food insecurity is manifested by food consumption gaps, low dietary diversity and negative coping strategies, among other indicators. Sector assessments conducted in 2015 show that food insecurity has reached alarming heights in Syria. Key factors contributing to food insecurity in Syria include, but are not limited to: conflict, displacements, depletion of (productive) assets, lack of agriculture inputs, dampened purchasing power, fragmented markets and infrastructure, lack of employment opportunities, rising prices of food, fuel and agricultural inputs, and soaring inflation. An estimated 8.7 million people are in need of a range of food security related assistance. The most vulnerable groups are internally displaced people and returnees, households dependant on gift, assistance and unskilled labour, small-scale farmers and herders, female headed households, people with disabilities, and Palestine refugees. Rural households exhibit a higher prevalence of food insecurity compared to urban households (however, in urban locations there are more concentration of displaced people reflecting vast challenges), and one in three Syrians has fallen into debt as a consequence of their inability to purchase food. Of the 8.7 million people in need, at least 6.3 million people (category one) have food consumption gaps, suffer from significant loss of livelihood assets, and are resorting to negative or sometimes irreversible coping strategies (such as selling of assets). The remaining 2.4 million people (category two) are able to maintain minimally adequate food consumption only by engaging in negative coping strategies, and if not assisted will quickly, slip into the first category. The assistance provided by sector partners in 2015 contributed significantly to mitigate the needs of the people and the People in Need number would have been much higher without such assistance.

Food security and agriculture sector response strategy

The sector in total targets 7.5 million people (with an estimated 3 million people receiving support from all sector objectives). The sector aims to ensure adequate food consumption for the most affected populations, reducing the number of people adopting negative coping mechanisms while supporting early and medium term recovery of critical agricultural/livelihood assets and essential services related to food security. In doing so, the sector aims to contribute to the overall goal of food security, whereby food is available in sufficient quantities at both household and community levels; affected people have access to food through regular assistance, purchase or production; and food consumed has a positive nutritional impact on the targeted population.

Sector Objective 1: Provide emergency response capacity, lifesaving, and life sustaining assistance to the most vulnerable crisis affected people, including people with specific needs. Relates to Strategic Objective 1

This objective targets a total of 7.5 million people, and will be pursued in two ways. First, the sector will aim to meet the immediate food needs of 1.2 million vulnerable people during cyclic or large scale displacements by providing emergency (up to 2 weeks) and/or short-term (up to 3 months) life-saving food assistance, with adequate emergency response capacity (contingency planning) in place. Second, the sector aims to provide longer-term life sustaining food assistance to 6.3 million people (including Palestine refugees) through regular distribution cycles. The modality of this assistance – whether in kind, cash, voucher or a mix – will be determined according to different contexts. The response includes three types of packages: (i) emergency food assistance (2-4 weeks) would include upto 2100 kcal per person, per day (ii) short term food assistance (for up to 3 months, based on needs) for which at present, the recommended value of the food assistance is within a range of 70% - 77% of the 2100 kcal but can be up to 100% based on the needs in a specific area and operational context; and (iii) longer term food assistance (more than 3 months) will also seek to meet upto 70 % - 77% of the daily kcal needs but specific needs in specific areas should be considered to determine the most ideal value for this, with the possibility of topping up to 100% of kcal needs for the most vulnerable people or for those with specific nutritional needs as supplementary support. To ensure harmonization, the sector will work with partners in determining the most appropriate food baskets and reference basket for cash/voucher value based on emerging needs and fresh evidence in various operational contexts.

Geographical targeting (assuming access and conflict patterns remain the same) will focus on the current severity ranking at sub district level (based on percentage prevalence of people in need across urban, peri urban and rural areas). However, given the volatility of the situation, it is expected that severity patterns will change over time; so, partners will continue to adapt their geographical targeting as per emerging needs and access. At a household level, targeting will be along three

support the rehabilitation of productive infrastructures

RELATES TO SO3 

FOOD SECURITY OBJECTIVE 4:

4 Improved quality of the response based on evidence, capacity building and strong coordination within the Food Security and Agriculture Sector and cross-sectors.

RELATES TO SO 1,2, 3 

approaches, (i) the sector will target new IDPs on a short-term basis (2 weeks to 3 months, based on needs) and then assessments to determine those most in need of food assistance will extend food assistance to those IDPs who meet the vulnerability criteria., (ii) For resident/host/non-IDP populations, a harmonized vulnerability analysis accounting for both household and socio-economic criteria will determine those most in need of food assistance. (ii) All Palestine refugees will be targeted.

Sector Objective 2: Support livelihoods of affected communities and households by increasing agricultural production, protection of productive assets, and restoring or creating income generating activities to prevent negative or irreversible coping mechanisms. *Relates to Strategic Objective 3*

This objective targets a total of 4.3 million people and seeks to increase food production, increase productive assets and create livelihood opportunities for targeted populations. The objective will be achieved through the provision of appropriate inputs for agriculture, backyard food production, productive asset building, veterinary support, and income generating activities focused on food processing and production (such as flour mills). The modality of assistance – whether in kind, cash, voucher or a mix of modalities – will be based on varying contexts. For agriculture support, seeds for production of cereals, legumes, tubers and vegetables will be provided along with other inputs (equipment, fertilizer and pesticide) as a harmonized package for winter and spring. Livestock assistance (e.g. provision of live animals for asset building, feed or veterinary support for asset protection) will also follow sector guidelines on recommended ‘packages’ to be distributed. Synergies will be explored with the nutrition sector, supporting household food production and promoting nutrition sensitive agriculture in ways that facilitate a diversification of the diet. Geographical targeting (assuming access and conflict patterns remain the same) will depend on the agro-ecological or rainfall zone, and according to the severity ranking at sub district level based on percentage prevalence of people in need in the sector. . There will be a specific focus on rural communities for certain activities. Targeting at a household level will include two groups: host communities (who meet the selection criteria for the various activities) and IDPs (for select activities). For residents/host communities, criteria will be based on factors such as land ownership/access to land, livelihood dynamics, and asset ownership. To avoid creating any ‘pull factor’, IDPs will be provided with easily transferrable assistance (e.g. small livestock). Targeted populations’ willingness to undertake the investment (including attending trainings) and the availability of/access to labour will play a critical role in receiving assistance.

Sector objective 3: Improve the capacity to deliver essential services to local communities and support the rehabilitation of productive infrastructures.

This objective targets 2.4 million people and aims to create/restore community assets and productive infrastructure. This is critical for delivering essential services relating to food security such as bread bakeries (a staple food item in Syria), irrigation, canals and storage, to ensure services for the agriculture sector. Capacity building of local communities will be a key component as well to establish/restore their community structures, and to organize and manage requisite infrastructure for delivering these services, will be a core component of this objective. Geographical targeting will ensure that the areas are conducive for this intervention as infrastructural repairs are feasible only if conflict-free areas remain peaceful, so that investments in repairs and capacity building of recipients are not compromised by further destruction. Targeted beneficiaries are vulnerable communities dependent upon community-owned agricultural and non-agricultural infrastructure for their livelihoods.

Sector objective 4: Improved quality of the response based on evidence, capacity building and strong coordination within the Food Security and Agriculture Sector and cross-sectors.

The Food Security and Agriculture Sector Whole of Syria approach is centred on the commitment of humanitarian partners to provide a coordinated response through the IASC sector/cluster approach, which is essential for achieving the first three sector objectives effectively and efficiently. This sector objective seeks to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of response through: (1) developing a principled, predictable and systematic operational planning process; (2) ensuring greater coherence across the different operational modalities (i.e. cross-line, cross-border or regular programmes) through improved coordination both within and across sectors; and (3) strengthening information-sharing and monitoring of response. The key milestones reached in 2015 in WoS sector approach include regular response analysis, efforts to minimize duplication, addressing geographical gaps, promoting sub-national coordination, developing contingency plans and completing mid year prioritization. In 2016, the sector will build on its work and will also aim to address some of the key gaps and challenges identified in 2015, including: regular monitoring and food security situation analyses; improving targeting by regularly updating people in need figures and severity rankings; strengthening early warning and contingency plans/preparedness; furthering work on harmonization of response packages and needs-based targeting/selection. Further emphasis will likewise be placed on monitoring key sector outcome indicators, which have been instrumental in setting critical baselines such as Food

Consumption Score, Coping Strategy Index and Dietary Diversity Score, and which will be further enhanced by on-going sector assessments such as Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment. The Sector will achieve these objectives through a clear delineation of roles and responsibilities between hubs and WoS, thus ensuring complementarity and results-based performance.

Gender, age, protection and Accountability to Affected Population (AAP)

Gender and age dynamics are critical factors in aggravating populations' vulnerabilities and their ability to access services. For instance, as per sector assessments, households headed by females, children, elderly or persons with disabilities without a regular and stable income source are among the most vulnerable groups. These households are resorting to negative coping strategies that have both gender and protection concerns such as child labour, early marriage and involvement in armed groups. In the complex Syrian context, the main sources of evidence or feedback from affected communities have been assessments and Post Distribution Monitoring by partners. In 2015, based on wide consultation, the sector developed checklists for the integration of gender, age, protection and AAP in partners' programmes. In 2016, integration of these topics across the programme cycle will be further pursued so that assessments and analyses, programme design, implementation and monitoring are sensitive and responsive to these issues. For instance, where possible, gender and age sensitive vulnerability criteria, safe distribution measures and on site feedback mechanisms will be further promoted, and evidence of good practices/lessons learned documented. Additionally, the sector will make efforts to hold 'Cluster Listening' exercises with affected population (access permitting), to feed into evidence-based programming and to strengthen AAP.

Linkages with other sectors

Building on the continued engagement with the Nutrition sector, efforts will be made to synchronize distribution of nutrition supplements with food security interventions as a joint programming initiative. Since water is a key factor for the utilization of food and for agriculture related programmes, coordination and joint planning with WASH will be pursued as well. In cooperation with the Protection Sector, further work on protection mainstreaming, such as building evidence around protection (and GBV) sensitive food security programming, will be pursued. The FSA Sector will continue to work with the CCCM sector to identify the food security needs of displaced populations tracked by CCCM programming. Early recovery and livelihoods needs and programmatic initiatives are already fully integrated in the FSA sector response plan, and operational coordination will be carried out between both sectors to ensure complementarity and to capitalize on synergies. Winterization initiatives will be pursued as an element of joint programming. The Food Security Sector has already made some progress in the harmonization of vulnerability criteria and response packages, which will continue to be explored with other sectors as relevant and feasible.

BREAKDOWN OF PEOPLE IN NEED AND TARGETED BY STATUS, SEX AND AGE

Governorate	PiN	Target	Men	Boys	Women	Girls
Aleppo	2,076,715	1,783,110	552,764	338,791	570,595	320,960
Al-Hasakeh	571,029	490,297	144,493	105,798	153,800	86,206
Ar-Raqqa*	504,528	433,198	136,024	75,810	146,421	74,943
As-Sweida	188,492	161,843	54,434	21,223	64,964	21,223
Damascus	696,258	597,821	191,709	87,195	226,348	92,570
Dar'a	393,487	337,856	92,818	72,904	92,818	79,317
Deir-ez-Zoir*	555,179	476,688	149,680	83,420	161,121	82,467
Hama	864,678	742,430	233,123	130,668	247,972	130,668
Homs	553,901	475,591	155,518	77,521	169,310	73,241
Idleb	587,981	504,853	134,796	110,058	139,844	120,155
Lattakia	180,877	155,305	56,842	17,860	61,190	19,413
Quinetra	46,857	40,232	12,351	7,564	12,351	7,966
Rural Damascus	1,111,516	954,370	287,266	185,148	314,942	167,015
Tartous	403,443	346,404	120,895	50,575	127,823	47,111
Total	8,734,941	7,500,000	2,355,000	1,312,500	2,535,000	1,297,500

Methodology: proportion of sex and age disaggregated data at governorate level computed on target.

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OBJECTIVES, INDICATORS & TARGETS

FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE SECTOR OBJECTIVES, INDICATORS AND TARGETS

Food security and agriculture sector objective 1: Provide emergency response capacity, lifesaving, and life sustaining assistance for the most vulnerable crisis affected people, including people with specific needs. Relates to SO1

Indicators where relevant will be disaggregated by Sex and Age.

ACTIVITY	INDICATOR	IN NEED	BASELINE	TARGET
1.1. Emergency response with food assistance through appropriate modalities to meet immediate food needs of most vulnerable during acute crises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of organisations' that have planned for an emergency response. Number of households assisted by emergency responses/contingency plans. 	1.2 million people (estimated projection for 2016)	N.A.	1.2 million people (annual)
1.2. To sustain food assistance through appropriate modalities for the most vulnerable affected people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of people receiving assistance as % of planned by different modalities, including: in kind such as food baskets, wheat flour/bread¹, cash, vouchers, and supplementary food assistance programs Number of people receiving subsidized bread (bakery support – SO 3) Quantity of food/value of cash/voucher received by beneficiary/ households (and proportion in relation to food basket.) Improvement in Food Consumption Score (FCS) over assistance period for targeted/assisted households Improved Coping Strategy Index/score 	6.3 million people	40% of households have poor or borderline Food Consumption Score(FCS) in 2015 Coping Strategy Index (CSI) 36 in 2015	6.3 million people (per month) Reduce the % of assisted households with poor or borderline Food Consumption Score to 30% Reduce Coping Strategy Index (CSI) to 25

Food security and agriculture sector objective 2: Support livelihoods of affected communities and households by increasing agricultural production, protection of productive assets, and restoring or creating income generating activities to prevent negative or irreversible coping mechanisms. Relates to SO3

Indicators where relevant will be disaggregated by Sex and Age.

ACTIVITY	INDICATOR	IN NEED	BASELINE	TARGET
2.1 Distribution of agricultural inputs, such as seeds, fertilizer, pesticide and equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of households reached with agriculture Inputs as % of planned by modality (in kind, cash or voucher) 	N.A.	Coping Strategy Index 36 in 2015	230,000 Households Reduce Coping Strategy Index to 25

¹ Wheat flour/bread distributed outside of food baskets as stand alone items.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qty of seed distributed by crop (cereal, tuber, legume, vegetable) • Ha/donum planted by crop • Improved Coping Strategy Index/score 			
2.2. Support to backyard food production (horticulture, poultry-egg laying hens, market gardens)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of households supplied with backyard kit as % of planned by modality (in kind, cash or voucher) • Percentage of assisted households that have an improved dietary diversity score 	N.A.	33% of households have medium or low Dietary Diversity Score in 2015	100,000 Households Reduce the medium or low Dietary Diversity Score of % of households assisted to 25.
2.3. Support to asset building and asset protection (small livestock and animal feed distribution)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of households supplied with assets as % of planned by modality (in kind, cash or voucher) • Number of animals distributed as % of planned. • MT of feed distributed to beneficiary households. 	N.A.	N.A.	90,000 households
2.4 Veterinary support, such as provision of animal health such as animal drugs and training for veterinary services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of herders assisted and animals treated/vaccinated as % of planned. • Number of major outbreaks recorded in the areas covered by the treatments 	N.A.	N.A.	200,000 households
2.5. Income generating activities (resource production/food or resource processing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of households supported with income generation activities as % of planned by modality (in kind, cash, or voucher) • Number of Vocational trainings delivered as % of planned. • Number of small businesses created as % of planned. • Improvement in Food Consumption Score (FCS) over assistance period for targeted/assisted households 	N.A.	40% of households have poor or borderline Food Consumption Score(FCS) in 2015	100,000 Households Reduce the % of assisted households with poor or borderline Food Consumption Score to 30%

Food security and agriculture sector objective 3: Improve the capacity to deliver essential services to local communities and support the rehabilitation of productive infrastructures. Relates to SO3

Indicators where relevant will be disaggregated by Sex and Age.

ACTIVITY	INDICATOR	IN NEED	BASELINE	TARGET
3.1. Establish/develop/strengthen the structure and capacity for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of technicians trained as % planned 	N.A	N.A	200,000 Households

the provision of essential services for local communities (food security, agriculture and livestock)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of essential services supported as % planned • Number of communities served by the service as % planned • Number of household benefitting from the service 			
3.2 Support rehabilitation of relevant economic infrastructures (canals, irrigation systems, markets, storage facilities, bakeries, etc.) through different modalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of households/communities served by the rehabilitated infrastructure • Number of household involved in the rehabilitation through different modalities as % planned • Number of households supported with CFW or CFAs as % planned • Number of bakeries supported as % planned • MT of subsidised bread produced 	N.A.	N.A	200,000 Households

Food security and agriculture sector objective 4: Improved quality of the response based on evidence, capacity building and strong coordination with the Food Security and Agriculture Sector and cross-sectors. Relates to SO1, SO2, SO3

ACTIVITY	INDICATOR	IN NEED	BASELINE	TARGET
4.1. Food security partners have a harmonized approach towards assessments, analysis of data and monitoring to develop a robust evidence base for response planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of assessment sub group meetings across hubs, INGOs and SNGOs • Assessment repository updated and info disseminated frequently • Harmonized indicators for comparable data analysis across assessments • FSS Technical Working Group delivers on WoS analysis and harmonization. 	N.A	8 individual FS assessments in 2015 as per assessment registry	Quarterly updates on Food Security situation, pin numbers and severity 2 country wide assessments during 2016 12 country wide price monitoring updates in 2016 Increase data analysis capacity within cluster/sector
4.2. Update WOS 4W regularly by partners, and provide forecast plans on a quarterly basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All partners are sharing information from all hubs • Monthly response/gaps analysis across hubs and at WoS. • Number of cross sector severity ranking/ mapping supporting geographically focused joint contingency planning 	N.A	37 partners feeding into 4ws monthly Forecasts 1 month ahead from only 1 hub	100% partners reporting including no activity Forecasts to include 3 months ahead and from all hubs
4.3. Targeting based on harmonized vulnerability criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common targeting approach for the FS sector 	N.A	N.A	# new partners using harmonized criteria # of the most vulnerable people receiving assistance increases

4.4. Capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partners trained in skills including designing a project proposals, project cycle management Number of national partners trained in minimum preparedness and response action / monitoring. 	N.A.	4 sector Contingency Plans in 2015	# partners trained Type of partners trained Number of contingency plans and areas/Households covered
4.5 Cross sectoral coordination on key issues, including assessments, monitoring and targeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of cross-sectoral initiatives taken 	N.A.	N.A	Cross-sectoral winterization plan for 2016
4.6. Platform for all cross learning initiatives such as monitoring, transfer modalities such as cash based response, protection mainstreaming, accountability and other people centric issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of consultative position papers and guidance provided # of organizations endorsing the cross learning initiatives # of cluster listening exercises conducted 	N.A.	2 (protection mainstreaming and AAP checklists)	At least 2 WoS positions/feasibility study conducted to guide partners At least 80% of partners integrated protection mainstreaming and AAP checklists At least 2 cluster listening exercises conducted