- **Sector Objective 1**: Provide lifesaving and life-sustaining assistance to meet the food needs of the most vulnerable crisis affected groups

People receiving food assistance against SRP targets on average every month. The inputs are from both SRP and non SRP FSS partners:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People Receiving Food Assistance</th>
<th>In Total</th>
<th>Covered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of people provided with monthly food baskets (average)</td>
<td>5,930,775</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people provided with wheat flour and bread (average)</td>
<td>2,382,206</td>
<td>141%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people provided with cash/vouchers assistance (average)</td>
<td>174,350</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people provided with emergency food rations (cumulative)</td>
<td>180,698</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Sector Objective 2**: Protect and strengthen the assets base, support income generating activities and increase agriculture production

People receiving livelihood/agriculture assistance against SRP targets. The inputs are from both SRP and non SRP partners:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People Receiving Livelihood/Agriculture Assistance</th>
<th>In Total</th>
<th>Covered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of people provided with agricultural inputs</td>
<td>211,956</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people benefiting from horticulture and small livestock production support</td>
<td>20,406</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people receive animal feed and veterinary services &amp; animals treated/vaccinated</td>
<td>313,955</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people receiving cash for work and/or agriculture vouchers</td>
<td>68,294</td>
<td>111%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**6.43 million Reached at peak with food baskets**  
**5.93 Million Averaged monthly with food baskets**

- **614,611 Reached cumulatively from January to June 2015.**

- **Sector/Cluster Meetings:**
  - **Damascus Hub**: Once/Monthly & Sub-national coordination meetings in 5 sub national hubs
  - **Turkey Hub**: Twice a month
  - **Jordan Hub**: Once/Monthly
  - **Iraq**: Once/Monthly

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The Food Security Sector Co Lead Agencies are FAO and WFP.

The Food Security Sector NGO co chairs are Mercy Corps (Whole of Syria), GOAL (Turkey hub) and an INGO in Jordan hub.

**Food Sector Monthly Products:**

1. Maps of number of people "reached" every month by food assistance and livelihood/agriculture activities
2. Turkey Hub response analysis
3. Jordan Hub response analysis
4. Damascus Hub response analysis

Information provided in the dashboard includes SRP and Non SRP Partners reporting in the 3 hubs and Iraq.
Food Security Situation

As per the recently concluded Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (2015), even though Syria’s food production increased this year due to good rains, it remains way below its pre-crisis levels, and the ongoing conflict now in its fifth year continues to push more people into hunger and poverty. CFSAM further states that crop production in Syria was adversely affected by the continuing crisis, scarcity and high prices of agricultural inputs and fuel, inputs of unreliable quality, damaged irrigation systems, low levels of mechanization, shortages and high cost of farm labour, and destruction of standing crops. Furthermore, food prices have increased sharply in early 2015 as Government subsidies were curtailed and the currency depreciated. Prices of many critical goods spiraled in the past year, such as bread (+66 percent in private bakeries, +87 percent in public bakeries). As a result, overall, households spend 55 percent of their income on food compared to 45-47 percent in 2011 and less previously. People devote more than two thirds of their income to food in Dara’a, Sweida, Aleppo and Hama, where households are prioritizing food purchases over other basic needs.

Furthermore, according to WFP monitoring, amongst its beneficiaries, commonly applied coping strategies include change of diet (e.g. eating less preferred but less expensive food); and increasing short-term food access.

Thus, the assumptions made in the Humanitarian Needs Overview for the sector developed in late 2014 remain largely valid in July 2015. The 2015 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) assessed that 9.8 million people were food insecure, of which 6.8 million severely. Between January – June 2015, over 1 million people have been further displaced – with close to 800,000 people being newly displaced from Daraa, Raqqa, Al-Hasakeh, Idleb and Homs; thus putting further stress on the negative coping mechanisms of food insecure people.

Key food security concerns

- UNDP (2015) estimates that four out of five Syrians now live below the poverty line, while **nearly two-thirds live in extreme poverty and are unable to cover basic needs, including food**.

- In areas of conflict, **farmers are prevented from tending to their crops** and in areas relying on irrigation, the unavailability or continuous interruption of electricity have a negative impact on the yield.

- The conflict has **crippled labour markets** by undermining overall economic activity, mobility of workers and restriction of the seasonal migration of unskilled workers. In places that have been relatively spared by the conflict, such as Tartous and Lattakia, newly arrived IDPs and returnees have **saturated the labour market and driven down wages**. In several areas, **farmers complain about the unavailability of labour**, due to displacement.

- When compared to March 2014, **the price of standard basket of dry good has increased** in all governorates except Rural Damascus. Higher prices for diesel fuel (+108 percent) and butane gas (+61 percent) point to sharply higher energy costs for households and businesses, including farmers, transporters, mills and bakeries.

- High transportation costs and pervasive insecurity have **severely hampered market response capacity and functionality**. High prices and weak purchasing power have dampened consumer demand and turnover.

- Thus, spiralling prices, and very limited income earning opportunities continue to constrain the food security of many households. **The most vulnerable or “poor” and “borderline” households rely on food assistance**, and occasionally supplement those resources with extremely precarious income sources from casual labour where such opportunities are available.
Food Security Sector’s response

Food Security sector partners are responding to the deteriorating food security situation in Syria through two Sector Objectives: (1) Provide lifesaving and life-sustaining assistance to meet the food needs of the most vulnerable crisis affected groups and (2) Protect and strengthen the assets base, support income generating activities and increase agriculture production. These two Sector Objectives ensure a holistic approach for food security so that the immediate food needs are met through appropriate food assistance and also where the conditions are conducive livelihoods are restored. Resilience is an integral part of this approach as it provides an opportunity to the affected population in need of food assistance to cope with their current crisis and at the same time where the conditions are favourable can re-establish their livelihoods.

Sector Objective 1: Provide lifesaving and life-sustaining assistance to meet the food needs of the most vulnerable crisis affected groups

During January 2015 – June 2015, the sector has assisted 5.93 million people on average with food baskets every month against a monthly SRP target of 6.174 million people. Provision of monthly food basket reached its peak in June 2015 as 6.43 million people were assisted across Syria.

Trent Analysis of Food Baskets to Beneficiaries from January - June 2015, 2015

June Highlights

In June, out of a total 30 partners who reported under SO1, 14 partners are Strategic Response Plan Partners. The sector partners (SRP and other partners) together were able to reach 6.43 million people. The response also included wheat flour and bread distribution by 14 partners (9 SRP partners); and other mixed food items by 5 partners (3 SRP partners). Furthermore, 7 partners (4 SRP partners) reported to provide food assistance through Cash & Voucher in 20 locations (see box 1 for more details)

- 14 SRP partners assisted 4,809,458 people with food baskets and 9 SRP partners assisted 1,259,807 people with wheat flour and bread.
- 16 other sector partners assisted 1,618,858 people with food baskets and 5 other sector partners assisted 1,084,475 people with wheat flour and bread.
- In total, 30 FSS partners reported to have assisted 6,427,488 people with food baskets and 14 FSS partners assisted 2,344,282 people with wheat flour and bread.

This amounts to 49,645.22 MT for food basket and 10,882.48 MT for wheat flour and bread.
SO1: Key analysis from sector partners combined response from all hubs for June, 2015

**District level coverage:**
During January – June 2015, on average 30 FSS partners were able to access 50 districts on average every month (out of a total 61 districts). Out of these 50 districts reached on average every month, 34 are currently listed as high priority districts in the Food Security Sector’s Humanitarian Needs Overview 2015. In the last 6 months, food assistance was not reported in 6 districts. These are Al Bab, Jerablus, Menbij in Aleppo; Abu Kamr and Al Mayadi in Deir-ez-Zor and Tell Abiyad in Ar-Raqqa.

**Sub district level coverage:**
Out of a total of 272 sub districts, 148 sub districts were reached by FSS partners on average every month. Out of the 148 sub districts reached, 56 sub districts have Hard Reach communities. Furthermore, out of the 124 sub districts which could not be reached with SO1 activities, 111 are at present under severe access problems.

**Food Baskets Kcal coverage:**
Out of the 30 sector partners who reported to have distributed food baskets, only 22 partners’ food baskets have a kilocalorie value of 1600 per person per day. This implies, out of the 6.43 million people being assisted with food baskets for the month of June, 88.8% of people have been assisted with 1600 kcal (the 30 partners reported caseload). A map representing the reported kcal coverage for Whole of Syria is available in annex 1 and indicates gaps where the minimum kcal of 1600 is not covered.

**Food Baskets Monthly coverage:**
30 sector partners have provided their information on coverage and as per that it can be estimated that 95.2% of people assisted in June will be able to access food for a minimum of 28.5 days. A map representing monthly coverage of food (as reported by 30 partners) for Whole of Syria is available in annex 2.

**Wheat Flour and Bread:**
13 partners provided Wheat Flour and Bread to 2,344,282 people in 58 sub districts. 55 sub districts are common between Food Baskets and Wheat Flour/Bread distribution. The response has exceeded the target for wheat flour and bread at 141% mostly due to government subsidies to bakeries being reduced. This led FSS partners to scale up this activity to meet the emerging needs.

**Cash and Voucher:**
The numbers of people reached on average is 32% of the SRP monthly target (540,000 people). This activity has not been able to meet its target due to funding and access issues faced by the partners. Furthermore, in several places market assessments are still ongoing to make informed decisions on scaling up Cash and Voucher as a modality for food assistance.

### Cash and Voucher Highlights
As reported by 7 partners, Cash & Voucher for food assistance is benefitting on average 174,350 people. In June, 176,701 people received cash and voucher worth a value of USD 3,790,665. While its only UNRWA providing cash assistance, the rest of the NGO partners are providing food voucher assistance so that the assisted households can access fresh food and along with their staple diet.

#### Location and beneficiary details.
In June Response, cash benefitted 78,716 beneficiaries in 8 sub-districts. Food Voucher benefitted 97,985 people in 14 sub districts. See annex 3 for details.

**Sector objective 2: Protect and strengthen the assets base, support income generating activities and increase agriculture production**

**Syrian Arab Republic: Whole of Syria Food Security and Agriculture - Sector Objective 2 (Jan - Jun 2015)**

This map reflects the number of people reached against the 2015 Strategic Response Plan (SRP) for Syrian Arab Republic as part of Strategic Objective 3 Sector Objective 2 (SO 2): Protect and strengthen the assets base, support income generating activities and increase agriculture production.

**Legend**
- Governorate Capital
- UNDOF Administered Area
- Areas with no or limited population

This map is based on available data at sub-district level.

*Humanitarian reach to a sub-district does not necessarily imply full geographical coverage of all the needs within the sub-district.*

Information visualized on this map is based on data collected at time of reporting. This map reflects the number of people reached against the 2015 Strategic Response Plan (SRP) for Syrian Arab Republic as part of Strategic Objective 3 Sector Objective 2 (SO 2): Protect and strengthen the assets base, support income generating activities and increase agriculture production.

**Annex 1**
This map reflects the number of people reached against the 2015 Strategic Response Plan (SRP) for Syrian Arab Republic as part of Strategic Objective 3 Sector Objective 2 (SO 2): Protect and strengthen the assets base, support income generating activities and increase agriculture production.

**Annex 3**
This map reflects the number of people reached against the 2015 Strategic Response Plan (SRP) for Syrian Arab Republic as part of Strategic Objective 3 Sector Objective 2 (SO 2): Protect and strengthen the assets base, support income generating activities and increase agriculture production.
A total of 6 partners have provided assistance under the Sector Objective 2. During the reporting period FSS partners were able to access 38 districts with various types of agriculture/livelihoods assistance. Out of these 38 districts reached in 2015, 30 are currently listed as high priority districts in the Food Security Sector’s Humanitarian Needs Overview 2015; and out of the 41 High Priority districts not reached 11 are severely inaccessible.

During the reporting period, out of a total of 272 sub districts, 141 sub districts were reached by FSS partners with SO 2 activities. Out of the 141 sub districts reached 41 sub districts have Hard To Reach communities.

The Food Security Sector response for livelihood is aligned with the seasonal calendar. Overall, the sector has assisted 614,611 people under SO2 as of June 30, 2015 against a target of 2.5 million people.

Agricultural Inputs (Cereal seeds and vegetable packages): The sector partners have reached 211,956 beneficiaries. This was against the SRP target of 836,400 annually.

Horticulture and Small livestock production support: Sector partners have reached 20,406 beneficiaries against the SRP target of 583,800 beneficiaries annually.

Animal feed and veterinary services & animals treated/vaccinated: Sector partners have reached 313,955 beneficiaries with livestock support that includes animal feed and provision of veterinary service. A total of 4,251,244 animals have been treated/vaccinated at the end of June.

Cash for work activities and agriculture vouchers: 68,294 beneficiaries have been reached by sector partners for cash for work and agriculture voucher support. This was against the SRP target of 61,800 beneficiaries.

Food assistance and agriculture/livelihoods common coverage

A further analysis of SO1 and SO2 demonstrate that in 109 sub districts both food assistance and livelihood assistance have been provided by FSS partners in the month of June. This gives us the potential to further analyse how the two sector objectives are complementing each other at lower administrative level. This will enable FSS partners to coordinate with each other on food and livelihood assistance caseloads (common communities, scale of assistance, number of households benefitted from both sets of assistance). This will be one the key priorities for the sector for sub national level coordination. Find attached the coverage data at both sub district and village level.

Sub-districts receiving both food assistance and livelihood assistance based on June response analysis

Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) led by WFP and FAO; and a WFP led Comprehensive Food Security Assessment (CFSA) assessment are already completed. CFSAM report is available at http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4804e.pdf. The CFSA report is expected to be available towards the end of August, 2015.

Furthermore, a Food Security and Livelihood Assessment (FSLA) is scheduled to start in August from southern Turkey and Jordan hubs.

In addition, summary from other partners’ assessments are compiled through sector assessment registry for comprehensive analysis at the WoS sectoral level. This assessment registry for FSS is available at: http://foodsecuritycluster.net/document/fss-whole-syria-assessment-registry-2015
Priorities for next 6 months

- Setting up sub-national coordination for improving operational coordination through Damascus and South Turkey hubs.
- Improving Needs, Response and Gaps analysis with incorporating the work of partners working from all hubs, Iraq and Lebanon.

To inform the strategic decision-making

FSS also strengthened its coordination by establishing a sector assessment registry for providing an update on sector assessment coverage for 2015. This will be an ongoing exercise to analyze food security situation and harmonize assessment methodologies and findings through the various technical resources/partners of FSS. This initiative will assist in compiling needs/evidence based analysis for strategic decision making. Additionally, the sector has already conducted sessions on protection and Accountability to Affected Populations and have produced a checklist with minimum commitments for partners in South Turkey and Jordan hubs.

Priorities for next 6 months

- Delivering on Technical Working group of Food Security experts’ ToRs that includes assessment harmonization, consolidated analysis and trainings.
- Implementing a strategy for protection, gender and AAP mainstreaming that will include a system for documenting evidence and good practices aligned to the sectoral guidance.

People Centric issues, Protection and Accountability to Affected Population (AAP)

FSS WoS has developed a strategy with 8 key steps for mainstreaming people centric issues (age, gender, disability), protection and AAP. The strategy focuses on building common understanding on these issues, developing checklists for minimum commitments, building capacity and linkages and collecting evidence. The strategy is available on:


To plan and develop strategy

The Strategic Response Plan for 2015 was developed prior to the reporting period. During the reporting period, the FSS sector has proactively worked with existing and new partners in harmonizing food security strategies aligned with the two sector objectives.
Priorities for next 6 months
- Linkage with nutrition cluster to be operationalized.
- Technical guidance related to indicators and monitoring by developing a monitoring protocol at WoS level.
- Joint Operational Planning for the sector for Mid Year Prioritization.

To build national capacity in preparedness and contingency planning

During the reporting period, FSS developed and implemented contingency plans for Aleppo, Idlib and Dara.

Priorities for next 6 months
- Building capacity of partners as required in each hub.
- Working on Contingency Planning for key hotspot areas.

Advocacy

Through protection mainstreaming sessions, the sector has advocated with its partners to mainstreaming protection and Accountability to Affected Population and supported in developing contextualized checklist.

Priorities for next 6 months
- Advocacy with donors and key stakeholders on food security situation in Syria.

Annex 1: Based on 30 partners’ inputs.

Annex 2: Based on 30 partners’ inputs