

Food Security Sector – Whole of Syria

Recommendations for geographical targeting, household selection criteria and response package

January 2016

Built upon consultations with partners in Damascus, South Turkey, Jordan and other locations, these recommendations seek to provide a more harmonized approach in the sector and serve as a guidance. This will be a living document and will be updated periodically.

1. Overview

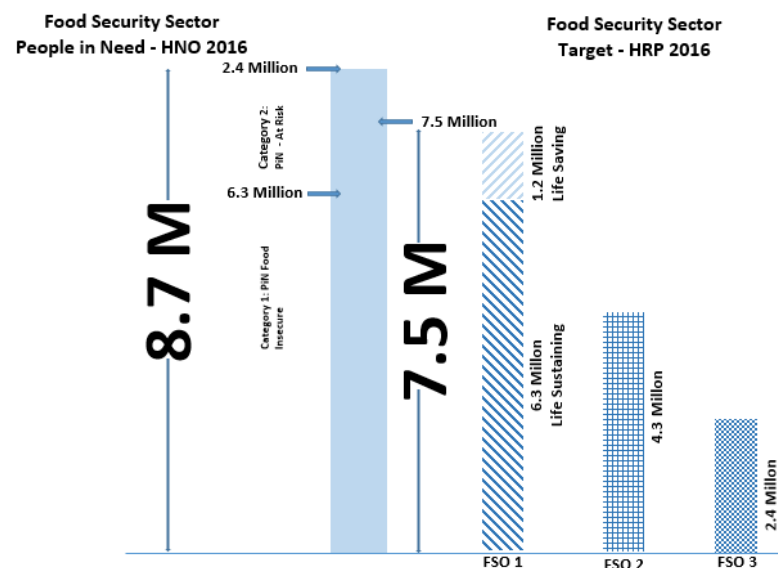
The 2016 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) was finalized in mid-October 2015, and has provided a solid common basis for the humanitarian community's response to the Syrian crisis. The HNO states that three in four Syrians live in poverty and 13.5 million people are in need of various forms of humanitarian assistance. Half of the working age population is unemployed, with loss of income affecting millions of dependents.

As per the Food Security Sector's needs analysis (HNO 2016), 8.7 million people in Syria are in need of various forms of food security related assistance. Of these, 6.3 million people are food insecure, and the rest of 2.4 million are at risk of food insecurity.

Building on its work in previous years, in 2016 the sector aims to: ensure adequate food consumption for the most affected populations; reduce the number of people adopting negative coping mechanisms; and support 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 so that:

- ✓ 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

The Food Security Sector targets 7.5 million people in 2016 through three sector objectives.



Food Security Objective 1 (FSO 1): Provide emergency response capacity, lifesaving, and life sustaining assistance to the most vulnerable crisis affected people, including people with specific needs.

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 Palestinian refugees) through regular distribution cycles. Target: 7.5 million people (1.2 million people with emergency food assistance and 6.3 million people with regular food assistance).

Food Security Objective 2 (FSO 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.

The sector will work on 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). Target: 4.3 million people

Food Security Objective 3 (FSO 3): Improve the capacity to deliver essential services to local communities and support the rehabilitation of productive infrastructures.

The sector will build/restore essential services relating to food security such as bread bakeries (a staple food item in Syria), irrigation, canals and storage, to regenerate services for the agriculture sector. Capacity building of local communities will be also be a key component to establishing/restoring their community structures, and to organize and manage requisite infrastructure for delivering these services. This will be a core component of this objective. Target: 2.4 million people

Note: There is an estimated overlap of at least 2.4 million people across all three sector objectives

2. Recommendations for harmonizing Food Assistance (Food Security Objective 1, HRP 2016)

2.1 Geographical Targeting

2.1.1 Governorate and district level: All 14 governorates and 61 districts in Syria based on severity analysis of percentage prevalence of People in Need (http://fscluster.org/sites/default/files/documents/syr_fss_wos_severity_ranking_hno_2016.pdf)

2.1.2 Sub district level: Geographical targeting at sub district level (assuming access) will mostly focus on the current severity ranking (based on percentage prevalence of people in need and access status). The current analysis indicates 165 sub districts are critical (including sub districts with Hard to Reach and Besieged locations), 74 sub districts are severe, 13 sub districts are major, and 19 sub districts are moderate. (http://fscluster.org/sites/default/files/documents/syr_hno_foodsecurity_pin_severity_final_150920.xlsx)

2.1.3 Village/Community level: Geographical targeting at village/community level is recommended for:

- ✓ Hard to Reach locations
- ✓ Besieged locations
- ✓ Location with high number of people in need. Consider factors such as:
 - IDP/resident population ratio (higher ratio is assumed to imply higher needs (*see explanation below)
 - Employment levels and average income of households
 - Relative food parcel value and availability in the markets
 - Additional monthly expenditures (essential food/fuel costs reported by families)
 - Normative factors such as security, accessibility, and shelter conditions.



The ratio of IDPs to residents is an important variable with respect to village vulnerability. Furthermore, IDP to resident ratio directly correlates with market inflation. The rapid influxes of IDPs place undue stress on commercial markets and undercut the local low-skilled labor wages, thereby decreasing food accessibility for both residents and IDP.

2.2. Household Level targeting

2.2.1 Internally Displaced People

- All New vulnerable IDPs from cyclical or sudden onsets are targeted on a short-term basis (2 weeks to 3 months).
- Once assisted on a short-term basis, assessments to analyze their needs will determine whether to extend food assistance as per vulnerability criteria (please see below table 1).
- Those IDPs who meet the harmonized vulnerability criteria (please see below table 1) should be targeted for longer term food assistance.

2.2.2. Resident/ host population

- For resident/host/non IDP populations, a harmonized vulnerability analysis – that takes into account both household and socio-economic criteria - is recommended to determine those most in need of food assistance.
- These criteria are linked with the outcomes of Food Security Assessments that provided a profile of the most vulnerable groups.
- Gender, age, disabilities and protection are mainstreamed in this process of vulnerability analysis for targeting/selection.

Table 1: Household and Socio economic criteria

Household Criteria	Socio- economic criteria
Household members (age distribution HH size, HH size category, Dependency Ratio)	Shelter status
Status of household head (Female, Male, Child, Elderly, Disabled)	Sources of income

Vulnerable HH members (one or more elderly, disabled, PLW, chronically ill, one or more children under 5, etc.)	
Resident status (hosting displaced people or residents, returnees)	

2.3. Response packages for food assistance

Food Security Sector partners are recommended to choose the most appropriate modality for food assistance based on the context. Some of the factors for considering the most appropriate modalities include:

- Market functionality (elasticity and competitiveness)
- Accessibility to markets by affected people, both physically and socially
- Availability of necessary items in sufficient quantity and quality
- Current prices of the necessary items in the market
- Forecast with fluctuation in prices (hyperinflation)
- Gender and protection risks

Recommendations for Food Assistance (in kind)

Category	Response period	Minimum Kcal	List of recommended minimum items
Emergency Food Assistance to IDPs and vulnerable resident/host communities without access to cooking utensils, fuel or who are on the move	2 – 4 weeks	Ready To Eat or cooked meals 2100 kcal or 100% of daily kcal needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Fava Beans ✓ Chickpeas Paste ✓ Canned Chicken ✓ Canned Vegetables ✓ Olive Oil ✓ Canned Tuna ✓ Juice ✓ Zaatar dried ✓ Bread



Short term food assistance to IDPs and vulnerable resident/host	Up to 3 months	General Food Distribution of Family Rations (monthly)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Wheat Flour ✓ Bulger ✓ Rice ✓ Red Split Lentils ✓ Whole Lentils ✓ White Beans ✓ Oil ✓ Salt ✓ Sugar
AND Longer term food assistance families	Longer than 3 months	1470 – 1600 kcal per person per day or up to 70 - 78% of daily kcal based on needs with the possibility of topping up to 100% of kcal needs for those considered most vulnerable or have specific needs as a supplementary support	

	Biscuits	1.9	
	Halawa	0.4	
	Total	10.08	
General Food Distribution Basket	Wheat Flour	30	2 bags
	Bulgur	7.5	1 Box
	Rice	10	
Chickpeas	7		
Whole Lentils	7		
White beans	7		
	Oil	5.46	
	Salt	1	
	Sugar	5	
	Total	79.96 Kgs	

For besieged locations, WFP's Ready to Eat Rations and General Food Distribution Baskets are listed below for reference:

Category	Items	Ration per Family/month	
		kg	package
Ready to Eat parcel	Canned Fava Beans	2.8	1 Box
	Canned Hummus	2.6	
	Canned Vegetables	0.8	
	Canned chicken	1	
	Olive Oil	0.5	

Recommendations for Cash and Voucher for food assistance

Examples of how Cash and Voucher as a modality of food assistance can be used for are:

- To meet the monthly food needs of affected people (replacing in kind/GFD with cash or voucher where it is feasible)
- To supplement/top up the in kind food baskets with cash and voucher for people with specific needs in the families targeted (For ex: to access fresh food such as vegetables or fruits for children, Pregnant and Lactating Women, Chronically ill, older people)

- To provide food assistance as a part of Survival Minimum Economic Baskets

WFP's reference food basket for cash or voucher transfer value is provided below:

	Commodities	Kg	Grams/p/d	Kcals	Cost/family (USD)	SYP
	Wheat Flour	15	100	364	9.4	
	Bulgur	7.5	50	175	6.1	
	Rice	10	67	240	8.6	
	Red Split lentils*	7	47	158	16.2	
	Whole Lentils*	7	47	158		
	White Beans*	7	47	155	6.9	
	Oil	5.46	36	322	8.2	
	Salt	1	7	0	0.4	
	Sugar	5	33	133	4.0	
	Total	64.96	433.07	1704	59.77	
Top-Up basket	Yogurt	3000	20	12	2.2	699
	Apple	2400	16	8	2.2	679
	Tomato	2700	18	3	1.7	540
	Chicken	1950	13	19	6.7	2112
	Bread	14550	97	353	7.2	2255
	Total	24600	164	395	20.0	6285
Full Basket	Total			2099	79.7	

3. Recommendations for harmonizing Agriculture and Livelihoods Assistance (Food Security Objectives 2 and 3, HRP 2016)

Activity	Minimum package	Selection requirements
Distribution of agricultural inputs for winter cereal (seeds, fertilizer)	200 kg of wheat/barley seeds (1 ha) and 50 kg of legume seeds (approx. 0.25-0.4 ha): e.g. broad beans, lentils or chickpeas 50 kg NPK 10:10:10	At least 1.4 Ha of arable land Farmers with < 6 Ha in total
Support to backyard food production (horticulture, poultry-egg laying hens, market gardens)	Backyard gardening Set of different seeds (5-6 vegetables); 20 liter fertilizer; micro-irrigation kit (drip irrig) Micro-gardening For micro-gardens: 10-50 seedlings or 5gr of 5 different types of vegetable seeds. 50kg of compost Compost training for all Poultry/Egg production	Space for backyard food production (50-200 sqm) Households and IDPs without access to land



	15 egg-laying hens (vaccinated); 100 kg of feed; some veterinary drugs	Space for backyard food production
Support to asset building and asset protection (small livestock and animal feed distribution)	<p>Asset building</p> <p>2-3 pregnant and dewormed sheep + 50/100 kg of ready-made feed (pellet)</p> <p>Asset protection</p> <p>300-400kg of ready-made feed (pellet)</p>	<p>Destitute households</p> <p>Herders with < 30 goats/sheep</p>
Veterinary support, such as provision of animal health support as animal drugs and training for veterinary services	Livestock campaigns against endo- and ecto-parasites, with appropriate equipment for application of various control drugs/chemicals	Herders with < 50 goats/sheep
Income generating activities (resource production/food or resource processing)	A wide range of activities should be planned under this activity (for example: milk processing, beekeeping, silk production, food/dairy processing, mushroom production)	Vulnerable households who lost their income source, with special focus on women headed families

Additional Resources

1. [Food Security Sector Operational Plan, HRP 2016](#)
2. [Nutval for calculating the kilo calories of food baskets](#)
3. Guidelines for fortification of Wheat Flour
 - a. WFP generic flour specifications are available at http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/manual_guide_proced/wfp251105.pdf
 - b. The specifications for wheat flour suitable to make bread are also available at: http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/manual_guide_proced/wfp251105.pdf
4. [Rainfall zones in Syria](#)
5. South Turkey workshop report on Food Baskets and nutrition [English](#) & [Arabic](#)
6. [Whole of Syria workshop report on harmonized response](#)

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