



## Highlights

### ◆ NFI

- Since the beginning of the year **2,951,863** individuals have been supported with a total of **9,902,720** [NFIs 16.7 Items per family in average].
- The Sector endorsed its Monitoring Format and reviewed the mapping of contingency stock/pipeline as well as the NFIs catalogue.
- Based on the information gathered from partners, it is expected that the Sector will reach approximately 1.9 million people in need with winterized kits in the upcoming winter. The main contributors are UNHCR, UNICEF and DRC as well as PU, GOPA and IOM. The extra winterized items include high thermal blankets and winter clothes for children and adults and will be distributed to all governorates.

### ◆ Shelter

- The shelter response has reached so far this year **101,996** beneficiaries using various shelter solutions, mainly through upgrading public and private collective shelters for **51,851** IDPs and distributing shelter kits and materials for **35,108** individuals, in addition to supporting the management and maintenance of shelters which accommodate **12,797** Palestinian refugees while **2,240** people are covered via owner-oriented shelter support.
- Beside the classical shelter interventions, the Sector is launching new types of shelter assistance, stressing community empowerment and utilizing its capacity. The Sector is promoting pilot projects for owner-/tenant based assistance through cash for work programmes and support for access to essential building material. Furthermore, the Sector supports governorates' technical departments for Operation and Maintenance programmes in public collective shelters to be carried out through dedicated units in collaboration with IDP communities.
- New shelter projects are initiated in empty public or industrial complexes, as comprehensive intervention, combining components of several sectors into one comprehensive response, benefiting high numbers of people through different services.
- In summary, the protraction and complexity of the crisis in the country require further efforts to develop emergency response into a more sustainable resilience oriented response. The Sector therefore increasingly promotes support to IDPs' self-help based initiatives.

## Sector Strategy and Objectives

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- Increase provision of appropriate life-saving emergency services and relief supplies for the affected people in Syria.
- Ensure adequate levels of preparedness to respond to further emerging humanitarian needs.
- To this end, the following strategies are followed:
  - Focus on newly displaced population and host communities.
  - Procure/stockpile standard NFIs to enable urgent distributions.
  - Support market-led interventions to strengthen people coping mechanisms and building resilience.
  - Follow a decentralized approach for agencies to be closer to beneficiaries, to enhance rapid response, outreach and monitoring capacity and to have more flexibility if the security situation worsens.
  - Build capacities of local partners involved in the distribution process, in particular the main partner SARC.

### ◆ Shelter

- Respond to sudden emergencies, as well as provide more substantial solutions.
- Ensure adequate contingency planning, this includes stockpiling of tents or other emergency facilities, and pre-identification of other sites/structures and response options.
- Develop shelter response options and variations for emergency contexts and transitional purposes as well as for durability-oriented perspectives.
- Develop alternative shelter options to enhance outreach and efficiency while maintaining the current shelter response options of collective shelter rehabilitation and private shelter upgrade.
- Formulate the Strategic Objectives:
  - Support life sustaining of IDPs through shelter response both levels: emergency level based on set contingency plan, mainly through tents and shelter kits, and sustainable level through various shelter response activities according to location, context and capacity.
  - Promote clusters or shelters in large structures, to create living environments with comprehensive assistance "packages". This is achieved through constant and intensive cooperation and coordination among related sectors.
  - Provide owners and tenant support to promote empowerment of host communities and IDPs through cash for work and provide support to building material assistance programmes.
  - Further emphasize coordination efforts, through creation and maintenance of efficient coordination mechanism at all levels, e.g. within the sector, inter-sectors and inter-agency, in addition to continued interaction with other relevant parties such as governmental counterparts, SARC and ICRC. Coordination is also strengthened at the sub-national level by establishing local SWG, and extending to the regional coverage through WoS approach.
  - Build capacity of all shelter stakeholders through supporting Operation and Maintenance schemes in the Governorates.

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## Context and Response

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- IDPs are typically compelled to leave behind many of their assets. This heightens their vulnerability and exposure to a range of risks. Host communities and displaced persons have resorted to negative coping mechanisms such as children's drop out of school, consuming low quality and quantity of food, residing in crowded and unclean shelters, begging, child labor and many other risky income-generating activities.
- Following the Security Council Resolution (SCR) 2165, in October 2015 two cross-border relief operations took place through Turkey (Bab Al Hawa border crossings) covering 16,250 beneficiaries and one from Jordan (Ramtha crossing point), covering 2,500 beneficiaries. Since the beginning of 2015, 23 cross-border relief operations took place through Turkey (Bab Al Hawa border crossing) and 15 cross-border relief operations took place through Jordan (Ramtha crossing point). These missions served beneficiaries in the Aleppo, Idlib, Hama, Daraa and Quneitra Governorates.

### ♦ Shelter

- The number of IDPs has reached more than 7 million so far. However, only limited data or records are available about their distribution over areas, their shelter options, specific needs and vulnerabilities. Hence, as much as shelter response is need-oriented, it is also opportunity dependent.
- Inaccessibility to some areas due to the increased volatility in the political environment and power shifts, hence the whole operational context. By its nature, shelter response is location-bound; therefore it is difficult to adjust in case of changing conditions in the planned intervention areas. Consequently, planning for assumed emergencies as well as with regard to recovery and sustainability prove to be extremely challenging.
- Continued interaction with the line Ministry of Local Administration, and the Ministry's cooperativeness has substantially promoted simplification of a number of procedures for project approvals, agreements and implantation modalities. Yet, the general administrative framework and procedural requirements, also in the context of international agencies' regulations still represent major obstacles for quick response.
- Under its four strategic objectives, the Sector undertakes to:
  - Implement the 2015 shelter response in view of specific locations and contexts, adequacy of solutions, accessibility of areas, impact and reach-out to various target groups.
  - Move toward more clustered shelter settlements, in order to provide comprehensive packages of services.
  - Enable and empower owners to receive shelter support in the premises to which they return.
  - Further simplify administrative procedures for project identification, planning and implementation.
  - Ensure transparency and accountability for processes at each stage.
  - Efficiently link with other sectors, in particular WASH and Protection to comprehensively cover needs beyond shelter and to actively address concerns of beneficiaries' safety, security and well-being.
  - Actively contribute to enhancement of cooperation between stakeholders at national and local levels, but also within the WoS framework.

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## Challenges

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- Funding gaps and delays in authorities' approval of assistance delivery delaying winter-specific assistance efforts.
- Security concerns for humanitarian personnel hindering the delivery of emergency assistance to those who are in need.
- Shifting lines of crisis, numerous checkpoints, bureaucratic procedures and proliferation of armed groups preventing the delivery of timely, needs-based humanitarian assistance within Syria.
- Limited number of NGOs permitted to operate in Syria as well as their limited operational capacity.
- Insufficient profiling and disaggregated data on the displaced population and host communities hampering effective planning and advocacy.
- Unilateral economic and financial sanctions impeding procurement of essential humanitarian supplies from outside Syria.
- Inflation on both NFIs and Fuel having negative impact on the displaced population

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- Suddenness and unpredictability of displacements following tensions and conflict.
- Implementing partners' capacity, in terms of quantifiable resources, outreach, number of partners, but also in regards of technical, management and monitoring capacity. This situation was aggravated by the fact that one major implementing partner is currently not allowed to implement major programmes, in particular in the Shelter Sector.
- Funding shortfall and donors' reluctance to invest in shelter response within Syria which strongly impacts the 2015 shelter response planning.
- Complicated interaction between stakeholders in the WoS framework.
- Requirement of considerable monitoring capacity and high flexibility to adjust interventions due to the frequently changing conditions including the security situation.
- Suddenly imposed emergencies, forcing partners to develop immediate response impacting agencies' capacity, funding and other resources.
- Unpredictability of the political and social context in Syria and the greater regional context, as well as politicized humanitarian assistance.

## Needs, response and gaps

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- The number of IDPs including those displaced multiple times over the year has increased significantly. The Sector members aim to support 8,410,000 people with NFI in the course of 2015.
- The NFI working group agreed on the comprehensive family packages which contain mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets, hygiene kits, jerry cans, baby and elderly diapers, sanitary napkins, plastic sheets, etc. The agencies procured the items to be distributed during winter, including high thermal blankets and winter clothes.

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- Emergency stockpiling, assurance of sufficient logistics as well as timely replenishment through import of goods prove to be challenging in times of renewed tensions and increasing volatility.
- Shelter needs may differ according to target groups; hence response needs change accordingly. Up to present, IDPs are served with shelter response through collective shelter rehabilitation and private shelter upgrade. Future shelter response is to take place in the framework of the national response aiming at providing solutions for specific groups, needs and areas. At the same time the shelter response has to address possible emergency situations, as well as to draft recovery oriented perspectives.
- Response capacity, in terms of partners' ability and competence, but also related to outreach, scope and scale of response, is still insufficient and needs to be strengthened, in terms of capacity as well as related to conducive environments and preconditions for partners' ability to work efficiently.



## Solutions

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- Promote close inter-agency collaboration and where possible joint planning to make programmes more integrated and effective.

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- Consistent planning, starting with annual program planning, updated on regular basis, sometimes even daily in case of emergency response is the most efficient tool to be abreast of needs and aware of possible constraints throughout the whole process.
- Broadening the scope of shelter response options under the four objectives, in terms of feasible interventions and effective implementation modalities. In particular, targeted capacity building and coordination on broad scale and several levels, with best-possible inclusion of stakeholders.



Sector Leader

Partners of the Shelter and NFI Sector



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