The humanitarian impact of the Syria crisis remains deep and far-reaching, with the population exposed to significant protection risks. Hundreds of thousands of civilians have been killed or injured. At least 5.2 million are displaced in neighboring countries and 6.1 million displaced within Syria; 13.1 million people remain in need of humanitarian assistance, including 5.6 million people with acute needs. The coping capacities of millions is now stretched to its limit, with an increasing number of Syrians resorting to harmful coping mechanisms, including the total depletion of livelihoods assets, in the absence of other options.

They are, as a result, increasingly exposed to protection risks including child labor, early marriage and increased engagement in high risk activities as sources of livelihoods.

**PEOPLE IN NEED**

* AT A GLANCE

- **13.1 M** PEOPLE IN NEED**
- **5.6 M** PEOPLE IN ACUTE NEED**
- **8.2 M** PEOPLE LIVING IN AREAS AFFECTED BY HOSTILITIES & EXPLOSIVE HAZARDS
- **6.1 M** INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS
- **3.0 M** PEOPLE LIVING IN UN-DECLARED BESIEGED & HARD-TO-REACH AREAS
- **0.75 M** IDPS IN LAST RESORT SITES
- **0.72 M** SPONTANEOUS RETURNEES
- **1.8 M** NEWLY DISPLACED IN 2017
- **12.2 M** PEOPLE LIVING IN AREAS HOSTING OVER 30% OF IDPS/SPONTANEOUS RETURNS
- **0.42 M** PALESTINE REFUGEES
- **0.42 M** IRAQI REFUGEES
- **0.03 M** PALESTINE REFUGEES

* For more information please refer to the full version of the “2018 Syria Humanitarian Needs Overview” available through the following link: www.hno-syria.org

** People in need (PIN) refers to people whose physical security, basic rights, dignity, living conditions or livelihoods are threatened or have been disrupted, and whose current level of access to basic services, goods and protection is inadequate to re-establish normal living conditions with their accustomed means without assistance. People in acute need refer to those facing more severe forms of deprivation in terms of their security, basic rights and living conditions and facing life-threatening needs requiring urgent humanitarian assistance. **PIN and acute PIN have been calculated based on the inter-sector severity categorization (see methodology section for more details).
NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN NEED (as of August 2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GOVERNORATE</th>
<th>PEOPLE IN NEED</th>
<th>PEOPLE IN ACUTE NEED</th>
<th>% PEOPLE IN ACUTE NEED VS. PEOPLE IN NEED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural Damascus</td>
<td>2.35 M</td>
<td>1.06 M</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aleppo</td>
<td>2.25 M</td>
<td>0.38 M</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damascus</td>
<td>1.45 M</td>
<td>0.74 M</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idleb</td>
<td>1.39 M</td>
<td>0.35 M</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homs</td>
<td>0.95 M</td>
<td>0.68 M</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hama</td>
<td>0.88 M</td>
<td>0.10 M</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lattakia</td>
<td>0.77 M</td>
<td>0.63 M</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deir-ez-Zor</td>
<td>0.72 M</td>
<td>0.71 M</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Hasakeh</td>
<td>0.66 M</td>
<td>0.05 M</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dar'a</td>
<td>0.60 M</td>
<td>0.31 M</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tartous</td>
<td>0.55 M</td>
<td>0.26 M</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ar-Raqqa</td>
<td>0.33 M</td>
<td>0.28 M</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As-Sweida</td>
<td>0.18 M</td>
<td>0.00 M</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quneitra</td>
<td>0.07 M</td>
<td>0.02 M</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Source: OCHA - based on inter-sector severity data.

INTER-SECTOR CATEGORIZATION
- Minor problem
- Moderate problem
- Major problem
- Severe problem
- Critical problem
- Catastrophic problem
- Non populated areas

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Source: OCHA - based on inter-sector severity data.
Within the overall 13.1 million people in need, and notwithstanding individual vulnerabilities related to age, gender, disability and socio-economic status, there are 5.6 million facing particularly acute needs. Amongst these, six population groups are deemed most vulnerable due to exposure to risk factors such as besiegement, hostilities, displacement and limited access to basic goods and services. There are some 2.38 million people living in hard-to-reach areas, including 419,000 in UN-declared besieged areas. This entails a reduction of some 1.9 million people living in hard-to-reach areas over the last year. Although there has been increased access to many areas in the northeast of Syria, the needs of people in UN-declared besieged and hard-to-reach areas continue to be exceptionally severe due to arbitrary restrictions on freedom of movement for the civilian population; the inability to access basic commodities, services or humanitarian assistance; physical insecurity; and persistent challenges to deliver humanitarian assistance. At the same time, hostilities continued to fuel large-scale displacement in Syria, at an average of 6,550 displaced each day. Those people newly displaced as well as some 750,000 people living in last resort sites face particularly acute needs due to a convergence of humanitarian risk factors. Similar levels of exposure to protection risks and challenges in accessing basic services are also faced by overburdened communities, spontaneous returnees and people living in areas with high intensity conflict, with millions across Syria affected.

Civilians in Syria are facing an ongoing protection crisis. Amid active hostilities in many parts of the country, humanitarian actors remain concerned by the high levels of civilian casualties that continue to be reported and point to violations of international humanitarian law (IHL) and international human rights law (IHRL), including the prohibition on launching indiscriminate attacks and of the principles of proportionality and precaution. Civilians continue to be exposed to the effects of explosive hazards in densely populated urban areas, with the Protection sector estimating that up to 8.2 million people are exposed to explosive hazards. Indiscriminate attacks on densely populated areas, resulting in the destruction of civilian infrastructure, are particularly affecting health facilities, schools, water networks, markets and places of worship continue. The Syria Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MMR4Syria) on grave violations against children in situations of armed conflict verified 26 attacks on education and the Health sector reported up to 107 attacks affecting health workers and facilities in the first half of 2017. Throughout the year, overall vulnerabilities continued to deepen, disproportionately affecting children. Child recruitment is a particular concern, with 18 per cent of 300 verified cases (of which 289 involved boys) involving children under the age of 15 - with some as young as 12 - many of whom are reported to have engaged in active combat roles. In a context where reliance on humanitarian assistance and the adoption of negative coping mechanisms remains high, people’s needs are exacerbated by risk factors such as the lack of civil documentation, discrimination and attacks affecting humanitarian personnel, which prevent them from accessing humanitarian assistance.

Large scale population movements; the widespread destruction and contamination of agriculture related infrastructure and value chains such as markets and bakeries; depletion of productive assets and savings, increasing debt; and limited economic opportunities have all contributed to socio-economic hardship and the disruption of livelihoods. This has contributed to high levels of poverty across Syria, with 69 per cent of the population estimated to be living in extreme poverty. As a result, the coping capacity of many people in the most affected communities in Syria has been nearly exhausted. Households are resorting to negative coping mechanisms that disproportionately affect the most vulnerable segments of the population, specifically children, youth and adolescents. These mechanisms include cutting back food consumption, spending savings and accumulating debt. Such coping mechanisms are not only negative and unsustainable but, once exhausted, prompt people to resort to increasingly exploitative and hazardous activities such as child labor and recruitment, early marriage, and engagement in armed groups. Increased efforts to support the ability of households and communities to withstand current and future shocks are therefore essential.

During the first nine months of 2017 there were some 1.8 million IDP movements recorded, equivalent to 6,550 people displaced each day. This represents a slight increase from the first nine months of 2016, where some 1.6 million IDP movements were recorded at an approximate rate of 5,660 people per day. New displacements in 2017 have been most frequent in northeast Syria, with an estimated 484,000 displacements reported between November 2016 and September 2017 due to the ongoing anti-ISIL offensive.

### Internally Displaced Movements (2016-2017)

#### Key Humanitarian Needs

1. **Survival needs among the most vulnerable**
   - Civilians in Syria are facing an ongoing protection crisis.
   - Active hostilities in many parts of the country continue to expose civilians to the effects of explosive hazards.
   - Indiscriminate attacks on densely populated areas have resulted in the destruction of civilian infrastructure.
   - Child recruitment remains a concern, with a significant number of children involved in active combat roles.

2. **Protection needs of civilians**
   - Civilians continue to be exposed to explosive hazards in densely populated urban areas.
   - Attacks on health facilities, schools, and other critical infrastructure continue.
   - Grave violations against children in situations of armed conflict are reported.

3. **Livelihoods and essential basic services**
   - Large-scale population movements have contributed to socio-economic hardship and the disruption of livelihoods.
   - Households are resorting to negative coping mechanisms that disproportionately affect vulnerable segments.

#### IDP Movement Trends 2016 and 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>IDP Movements (in thousands)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JAN 2016</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEB 2016</td>
<td>275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAR 2016</td>
<td>305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APR 2016</td>
<td>262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 2016</td>
<td>253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUN 2016</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUL 2016</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUG 2016</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEP 2016</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCT 2016</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 2016</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEC 2016</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**February 2016**
- Hostilities in Aleppo and Idleb governorates lead to the displacement of over 75,000 people in the first three weeks of the month alone.

**March 2017**
- An intensification of hostilities in northern Syria results in some 84,000 displacements, almost 75,000 of which occurred in Aleppo Governorate.

**August 2016**
- Some 65,000 people displaced from Al-Hasakah city between 17 August and 22 August, following hostilities between the GoS and NSAGs.

**September 2017**
- The ongoing anti-ISIL military operation leads to 70,000 displacements, of which almost 60,000 occurred in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate.
People in need of humanitarian assistance: 13.1 million

Protection of Civilians:
- 83% of assessed communities reported the lack of civil documentation as a concern, and described it as a barrier to accessing humanitarian assistance.
- 57% of assessed communities reported the occurrence of early marriage.

Conflict:
- 25% increase in attacks against health facilities as compared to same period in 2016.
- 23,000 individual explosive conflict incidents reported from January to June 2017.
- More than 1 in 3 schools are either damaged or destroyed while others are being used as collective shelters or for other purposes.
- 8.2 million people exposed to explosive hazards in contaminated areas.
- 33% of hazards located on agricultural land.

Economic Collapse:
- US$254 billion cumulative GDP losses resulting from the conflict, more than four times Syria’s GDP in 2010.
- US$16 billion in estimated economic losses to the agriculture sector.
- 69% of population living in extreme poverty with 90% of households spending more than 50% of their annual income on food.

Children:
- 82% of assessed communities reported the occurrence of child labor.
- 47% of assessed communities reported the occurrence of child recruitment in their communities.

Urban:
- High level of civilian casualties particularly in densely populated areas.

5.3 million people live in shelters with multiple inadequacy issues including a lack of necessary bathing or cooking facilities, inadequate space, lack of privacy, lack of heating and a lack of insulation.

1.2 million families are unable to afford rental costs.

20% of newly displaced in 2017 sought shelter in IDP sites as an option of last resort, indicating the reduced resources amongst IDPs and host communities.

Less than half of Syria’s health facilities are fully operational.

6.5 million people are facing acute food insecurity and large food consumption gaps.

4.0 million people are at risk of becoming food insecure - twice as many as last year - due to asset depletion to maintain food consumption.

800% increase of average food basket prices compared to pre-crisis levels.

Over 3.0 million children under 5 require optimal feeding for adequate nutrition status.

Nearly 19,000 children <5 with severe acute malnutrition.

High level of civilian casualties particularly in densely populated areas.

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