Project Proposal

Food assistance to families affected by ongoing conflict inside Syria
The humanitarian situation

The conflict in Syria has developed into a humanitarian disaster of “apocalyptic dimensions” and the humanitarian situation is rapidly deteriorating in large parts of the country. More than 9 million Syrians are in need of urgent assistance, including 6.5 million people displaced inside their own country, half of them children, struggling to survive and cope with the disaster. Furthermore, 2.4 million women, children, men and elderly have fled Syria since January 2012, seeking refuge in Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt. Thousands of families have left for countries further afield.

The onset of violence in several governorates has forced people to flee their homes in search for safer areas; many with multiple displacements. According to UN estimates, around 3 million civilians are still trapped in areas surrounded by on-going violence and with no or limited and irregular access to humanitarian assistance. While the entire country has been affected by the conflict, the situation is particularly alarming in Damascus suburbs, the governorates of Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Homs, Dar'a, Idlib, Hama, Deir Ez-zor and Raqqa as well as in Hassakeh governorate.

The prolonged disaster has reached a point that is severely affecting all segments of everyday life. With no end in sight of the conflict, the needs are only expected to rise.

An ESCWA report states that 5 million people are hit by unemployment and that nearly 80% of the population in the most affected areas are without a regular income, which makes it impossible for men as traditional breadwinners to provide for their families’ daily needs. High food prices are eroding the purchasing power of families, limiting access to basic food items leaving Syrians increasingly dependent on relief items and services provided by humanitarian actors.

Based on beneficiary feedback collected during the relief distributions, the most needed items were the following:

- Food parcels to address the immediate needs of the populations affected by the crisis
- Hygiene kits to support populations to maintain dignity and to meet their basic health and hygiene needs
- Women’s Emergency kits to meet the specific needs of women and girls in emergency situations in case of sudden internal displacements
- Winterization support to be provided in the form of non-food items (mats, mattresses and high thermal blankets) to address the specific vulnerabilities during the cold winter season.

IFRC Emergency appeal

IFRC is continuously present in Damascus since 2007 and has provided support during the ongoing disaster since spring 2011. In July 2012, the IFRC launched an Emergency Appeal to enhance its support in health and relief. The appeal has been revised three times based on the increasing needs. The current budget stands at CHF 106 million. While around 50% has been covered, approximately CHF 50 million is still outstanding. More than 3 million persons have been supported to date with health care services, food and other relief items (hygiene kits, kitchen sets, baby kits, women emergency kits, blankets, mattresses etc...).

IFRC is working in support of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) operational response. SARC is a community based organisation with volunteers working across the country from 14 branches, 77 sub-branches and 41 smaller points. SARC continues, sometimes in life-threatening conditions, to provide urgent assistance to people affected on all sides of the conflict. Since the beginning of the conflict, 34 SARC staff and volunteers have lost their lives while providing assistance to people in need. SARC’s neutrality is key to delivering its humanitarian assistance to around 4 million people monthly. SARC provides assistance to internally displaced and across conflict lines. During recent months, SARC has delivered assistance in hard to reach areas such as the central prison in Aleppo, in rural Deir Ez-zor, Raqqa and in rural Damascus.

IFRC is also working closely with ICRC and is coordinating with UN and other agencies inside Syria through technical sector meetings and other formal and informal meetings.

For more information on donor response to the IFRC appeal:
http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/Active/MDRSY003.pdf

9.3 million people in urgent need of which
6.3 million people in need of food assistance

3 million people in total reached with IFRC support
1.2 million people have received food assistance

In 2014, the IFRC aims to provide food to 50,000 families (250,000 persons) each month
The lack of access to people in need is a major concern. Areas in Damascus suburbs that had been cut off from any humanitarian assistance for a very long time, have recently become partly accessible: Barzeh, Moadamiya, Nabak, Qara, Quataiba, Babilla, Yarmouk camp as well as the Old City of Homs. It remains to be seen however if access will remain. Yarmouk camp was again closed after a few weeks and the situation of the civilians, injured and sick remaining in the Old City of Homs is still uncertain. After three months of not being able to provide the eastern parts of the country with relief items, two convoys could reach SARC and relief items were distributed also in the rural areas (Mayadeen and Al Bokamal). Unfortunately, the road closed shortly after and remain inaccessible. The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has consistently called for unimpeded access to all people in need wherever they are.

IFRC has provided food support since 2012, with a significant increase from mid-2013. Core areas for the IFRC food support have been mainly rural Homs and rural Deir Ezzor. Until the end of December 2013, 1,216,050 persons had been reached by IFRC food parcels.

Although the numbers are modest compared to WFP food assistance, the IFRC support brings an additional value to SARC as it is used in rapidly developing emergency situations where availability of food parcels is urgent; in situations of large influx of internally displaced or to fill gaps in areas where the needs exceed the food items available by other agencies.

In beneficiary satisfaction surveys, the food parcels procured by the International Federation are normally rated number one. The items are selected based on interviews with the people in need and in coordination with SARC. The current food parcels contain the following items:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Packing</th>
<th>Net Weight KG.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>White Rice, Medium Grain</td>
<td>2x4 kg</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Fine White Sugar</td>
<td>1x5 kg</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Black Tea Leaves</td>
<td>2x450 gm or 1x900</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sunflower Oil</td>
<td>1x1.8 Ltr</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Tomato Paste</td>
<td>1x 800 gm</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Canned Fava Beans</td>
<td>2x400 gm</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Chick Peas, Dry</td>
<td>1x2 kg</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Dry Iodised Salt</td>
<td>1x500 gm</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Halwa tahini</td>
<td>1x1 kg</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Vegetable Ghee</td>
<td>1x1 kg</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Canned Tuna in Chunks</td>
<td>4x160 gm</td>
<td>0.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Fish, canned, Sardines</td>
<td>5x125</td>
<td>0.625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>LENTILS,</td>
<td>1x1 kg</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Bulgur, Dry</td>
<td>1x2 kg</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>BEANS, White</td>
<td>1x2 kg</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The boundaries and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and are used for illustrative purposes only.
Procurement and distribution

The food is procured through international tender, supported by IFRC logistics delegate in Damascus and the IFRC Global Logistics Service in Dubai. The food parcels are normally shipped by sea to the port in Lattakia. Systems are in place to track the food parcel from point of dispatch until it arrives to the beneficiary.

The food parcels are distributed through pre-planned distributions, except for emergency situations when the plans will have to be re-adjusted. It happens as well that roads are cut off or the security situation does not allow distributions. In these situations, a revised distribution is carried out.

In more calm situations, the beneficiaries are being registered and needs assessment have been finalised prior to the distribution. In emergency situations, and in areas with ongoing violence, this is not always possible; when there is a need to deliver the food items and leave the area rapidly.

Reporting

Monthly distributions reports are provided to IFRC Syria office with the exact location of the distribution and the number of families. Whenever the security situation allows, monitoring visits are carried out by local or international staff. A financial report for 2014 will be prepared in March 2015.

Budget

Food is available to cover the needs of January-Mid June 2014. This proposal is therefore calculated on the basis of 6.5 months: Mid June- December 2014.

Quantity: 325,000 food parcels (unit price CHF 40)

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