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COHAFA 21
DEVGEN 62
MAMA 98
SAN 191
ALIM 3
RELEX 397
INTER-REP 27

NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 14 March 2024
To: Delegations
Subject: Humanitarian situation in Syria
- presentation by SIRF

Following the meeting of the Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA) of 13-14 March 2024, delegations will find in Annex the presentation made by Syria INGO Regional Forum (SIRF)⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾.

¹ In light of the increasingly regional nature of the Syrian Crisis, and the humanitarian and political effects on neighbouring countries, a regionally focused forum – the Syria INGO Regional Forum (SIRF) – was assembled in April 2013 to give voice to INGOs conducting humanitarian responses in the region and to facilitate their collective engagement. SIRF is the only regional International NGO body dedicated to the Syria crisis, representing over 70 of the largest International NGOs in the world who are providing humanitarian assistance across all areas of Syria and neighbouring refugee-hosting countries. Current Chair of SIRF Board is Association Federation Handicap International, identification number in the EU Transparency Register: 213754916822-68.

² This document contains a presentation by an external stakeholder and the views expressed therein are solely those of the third party it originates from. This document cannot be regarded as stating an official position of the Council. It does not reflect the views of the Council or of its members.



SITUATION IN SYRIA



16.7 Million People in Need

- 🚨 Recent escalation of violence and instability across Syria
- 🏠 Continued impact of major earthquakes in 2023
- 💰 Economic deterioration and lack of basic services across Syria
- 💵 Decline of humanitarian funding from member states
- 📶 Shrinking and stopping of humanitarian programs and services
- ⬆️ Increased risk of negative coping mechanisms by families



EARLY RECOVERY IN SYRIA



Early recovery is an approach that addresses recovery needs that arise during the humanitarian phase of an emergency.

Why it matters to have early recovery in Syria:

- Supports resilience of communities and their ability to manage small shocks
- Provides dignity for communities and supports own initiatives
- Without early recovery Syrians will continue to be reliant on humanitarian assistance only
- Humanitarian funding is shrinking and we must do more with less

What are some examples of early recovery:

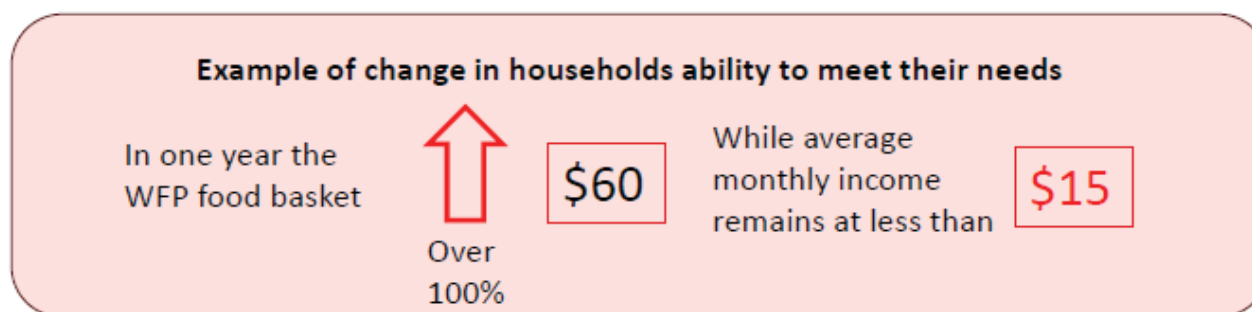
- Rehabilitation and explosive clearance of water stations, healthcare facilities and bakeries
- Income generating activities that allow for a transition into a sustainable livelihood
- Explosive clearance to support re-launching of agriculture activities, rehabilitation of schools, water stations, etc.
- Disaster risk reduction activities to support communities during natural disaster and shocks ³



DETERIORATION OF SERVICES & IMPACT

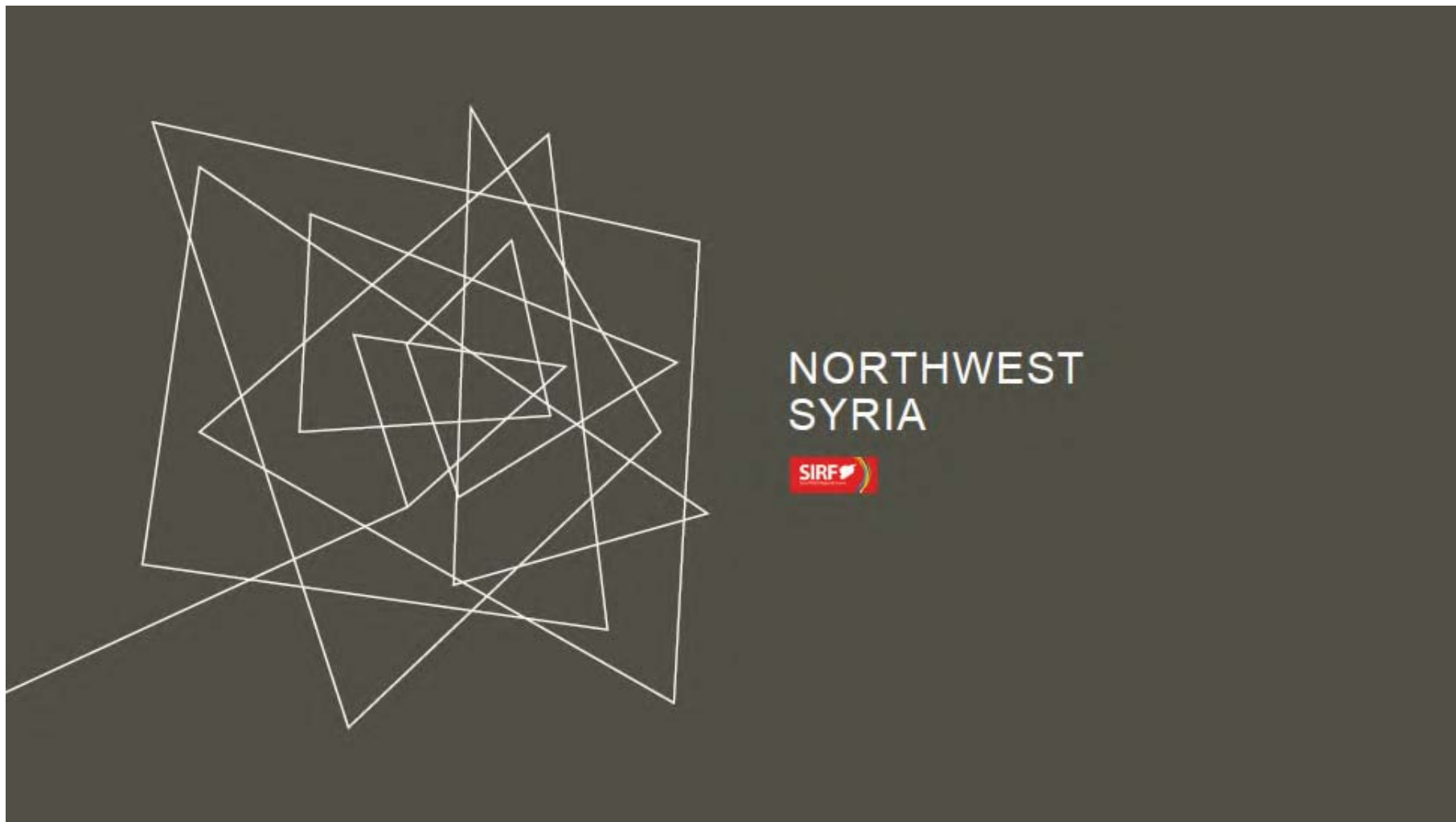


- People are reliant on highly centralized delivery service but are on the brink of collapse
- Lack of access to services has caused a drastic deterioration of families' living conditions
- In 2023 , 30% of the DINGO response budget was in the early recovery sector



- Member states need to increase dialogue with donors and INGOs to share conflict and risk analyses

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STUCK IN LIFE-SAVING RESPONSE



Access & Consent Arrangement

- Failure of UNSCR 2642 and cross border mechanism
- Current arrangement is time-bound and precarious
- Does not allow for long-term programming



Disaster risk reduction session in NorthWest Syria
Photo credit: Humanity & Inclusion

Emergency Mode

- Northwest Syria continues to be seen as an emergency response
- 2023 earthquakes increased vulnerabilities
- Shift in mindset is needed to better support complimentary early recovery interventions for future shocks

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POSSIBLE EARLY RECOVERY ALTERNATIVES AND SUPPORT



Examples of Early Recovery in Northwest Syria

- **Dignified Settlements:** Semi-permanent structure with a concrete foundation improves sustainability. These are connected to other services that allow for a holistic response including water, education, health, etc.
- **Disaster Risk Reduction:** Programming allows for communities to plan and response to future natural disasters and shocks.

Provide Support for

- Cash assistance (multiple rounds) that allows for livelihood creation
- Invest in rehabilitation of water stations, rainwater harvesting and solar power
- Area-based approaches to focus on overlapping needs and are community centered.

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UNABLE TO MEET BASIC NEEDS



70% of households in northeast struggle to meet basic needs including shelter, food, and medicines for all family members

Families in northeast Syria would require **91** days of labor to afford the cost of the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) for a month

47% of households in northeast report livelihoods support as a top need

It's critical early recovery activities focus on:

- Livelihoods and incoming generating activities is essential to building self-reliance for communities
- Localization with communities taking the lead on what they need

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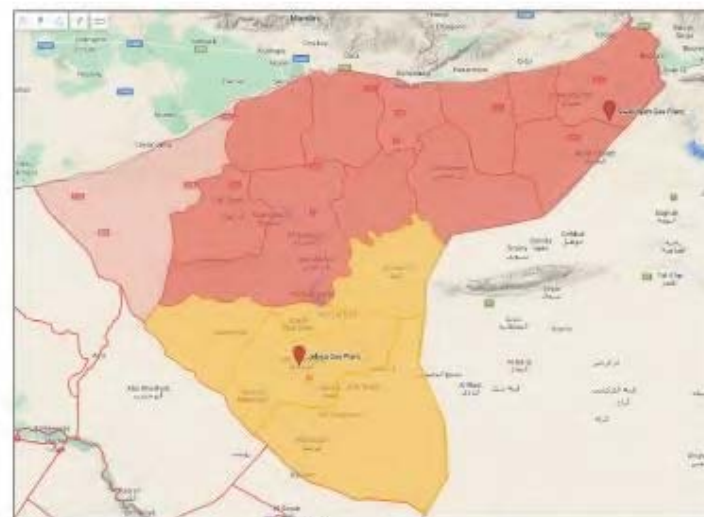
NORTHEAST SYRIA AIR STRIKES IMPACTS



- Airstrikes have devastated electricity production and distribution capacities across NES including major power generating stations.
- Over 920,000 people impacted in the affected areas who rely on electricity for life-saving services and livelihoods.

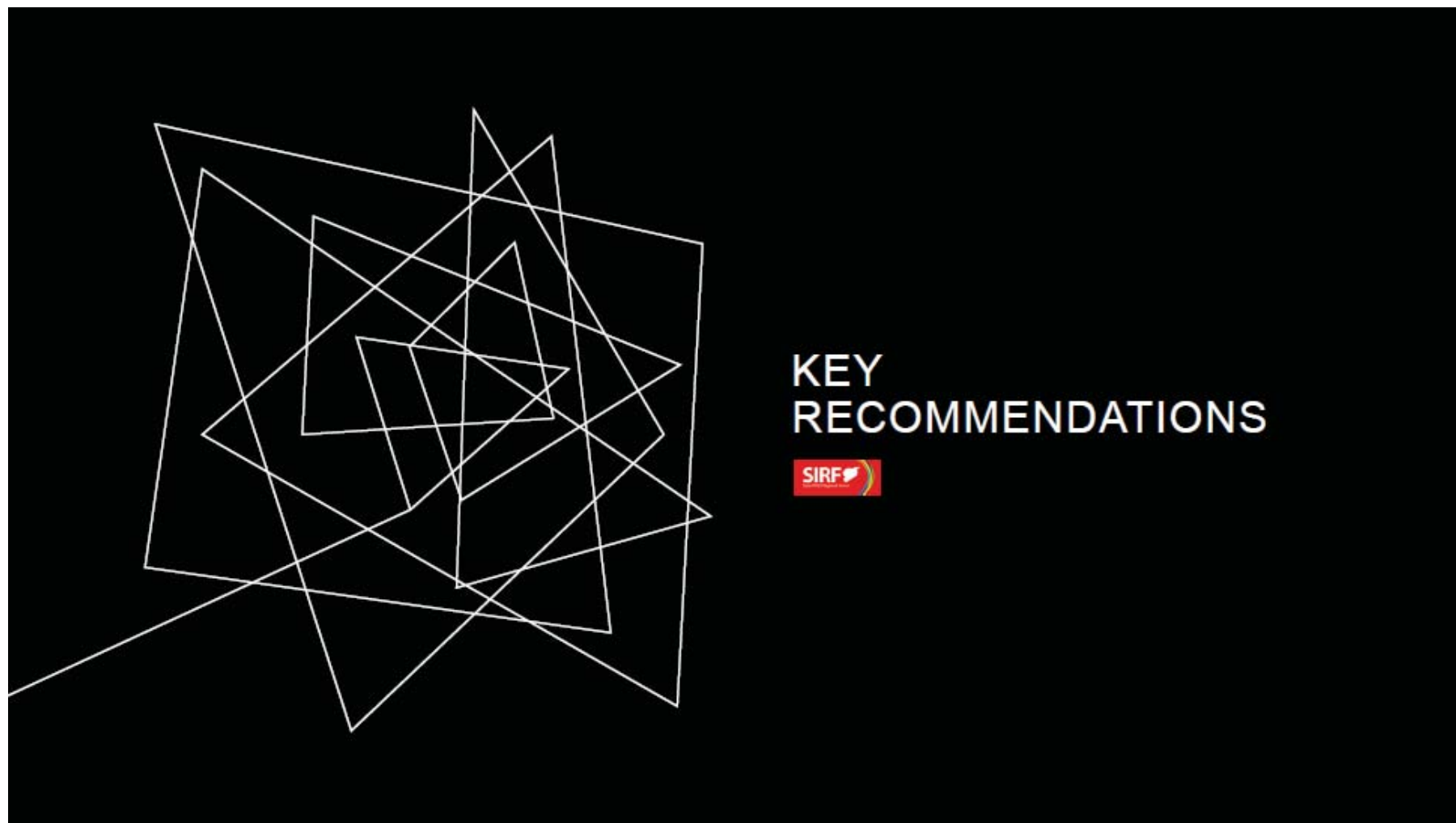
Urgent Needs

- Deploying a single mobile generating unit at Swediyeh station would enable restoration of 75% of the service line's functionality for the area.
- Solarization of essential service delivery infrastructure, where feasible, will be critical for ensuring populations' sustained access to life-saving services.



Over 920,000 people living in the 10 sub districts highlighted in red are facing reducing access to essential services due to airstrikes on critical civilian power infrastructure.

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RECOMMENDATIONS



Members state should:

- Be more flexible and support multi-year funding that allow humanitarian actors to plan for sustainable interventions that would enhance access of the Syrian population to basic services like health, food, water, electricity, education, and protection.
- Scale up longer-term early recovery support to enable the rehabilitation of vital civilian infrastructure, access to services and build the resilience of affected communities.
- Extend humanitarian waivers for at least one year to align with project cycles.
- Discuss and work with NGOs and member states to overcome key barriers in early recovery efforts

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