



SYRIA SHELTER/NFI SECTOR

Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter and Settlements

SECTOR PARTICIPATION AND MEMBERSHIP POLICY

SYRIA SHELTER AND NON FOOD ITEMS SECTOR

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i. What is the Sector approach?

The Sector approach is a set of structures, processes, principles, and commitments to coordinate humanitarian action when a national government requests international support. It aims to make the humanitarian community better organized and more accountable to crisis-affected people.

ii. What are Sectors?

Sectors are voluntary groups of humanitarian organizations working in specific technical sectors of humanitarian action e.g., Shelter, Health, Protection (shown in the dark blue segments in the in figure 1). Sector members can include NGOs, United Nations agencies, the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, and government bodies involved in humanitarian response. They coordinate action to ensure the best outcomes for people affected by crises, at all the stages shown in the arrows in the diagram. Sectors promote, coordinated and common strategies, good practices, avoidance of duplication, and address gaps and share information.

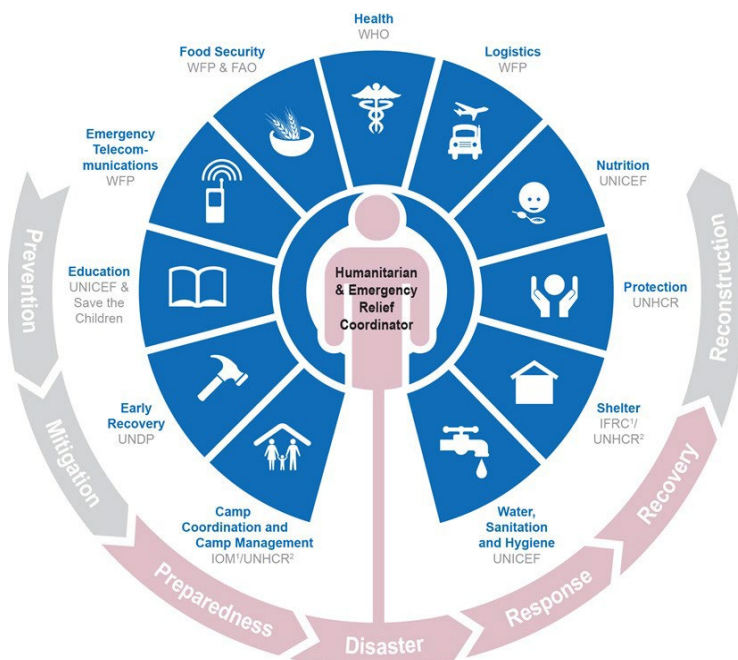


Figure 1

They build national capacity to prepare for emergencies, and advocate for more effective and accountable humanitarian action. All Sectors are responsible for up- holding protection principles and preventing sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment. There are 11 Sectors globally. The same Sectors can be activated at a national level and occasionally at a subnational level in response to a particular emergency.

Each global Sector is led by one or two United Nations agencies or a United Nations agency and an international NGO. At the country level, Sectors are usually co-led by a United Nations agency and an NGO. The Sector leads must be ready to provide services to affected people where other organization cannot.

iii. Why should your organization join the Sector system?

While it has some practical limitations, the Sector system can enable your organization to better serve affected people through:

- Increased influence, visibility, and understanding of procedures.
- Funding opportunities such as the country-based pooled fund (e.g. Syria Humanitarian Fund)
- Access to technical guidance and support.
- Access to information about what others are doing and any gaps.
- Partnership opportunities with other organizations

The aim of the Syria S/NFI Sector is to strengthen system-wide preparedness and technical capacity to respond to humanitarian emergencies and provide clear leadership and accountability in the main areas of Shelter and Non-Food Items. Realizing the importance of Sector coordination, S/NFI Sector promotes a common strategy and good practices, avoids duplication, addresses gaps, and shares information. It builds national capacity to prepare for emergencies, and advocates for more effective and accountable humanitarian action.

S/NFI Sector is open to:

- Academia/research institutions
- Donors
- International Financial Institutions (IFIs)
- National/Local NGOs
- National/regional/local authorities
- Other (Those that do not fall into any of the above)
- Private Sector
- Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement (IFRC, ICRC, National Society)
- UN agencies

iv. How to apply for S/NFI Sector Membership?



v. How to become an active S/NFI Sector member



* Case-by-case exceptions will be applied for deep-field/local NGOs on attendance of National level Damascus meetings

vi. SNFI Sector membership commitments

The organization, willing to join S/NFI Sector Syria, should abide by 12 minimum commitments for participation in Sectors as prescribed in the IASC Guidelines for Sector Coordination at Country Level¹:

1. Commitment to humanitarian principles, the Principles of Partnership, Sector-specific guidance, and internationally recognized program standards, including the Secretary-General's Bulletin on Special Measures for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse.
2. Commitment to mainstream protection in program delivery (including respect for principles of non-discrimination, do no harm, etc.)
3. Readiness to participate in actions that specifically improve accountability to affected people, in line with the IASC Commitments to Accountability to Affected Populations and the related Operational Framework.
4. A demonstrated understanding of the duties and responsibilities associated with membership of the Sector, as defined by IASC ToRs and guidance notes, any Sector-specific guidance, and country Sector ToRs, where available.
5. Active participation in the Sector and a commitment to consistently engage in the Sector's collective work.
6. Capacity and willingness to contribute to the Sector's response plan and activities, which must include inter-Sector coordination.
7. Commitment to mainstream key programmatic cross-cutting issues (including age, gender, environment, and HIV/AIDs).
8. Commitment by a relevant senior staff member to work consistently with the Sector to fulfil its mission.
9. Commitment to work cooperatively with other Sector partners to ensure an optimal and strategic use of available resources and share information on organizational resources.
10. Willingness to take on leadership responsibilities in sub-national or working groups as needed, subject to capacity and mandate.
11. Undertake advocacy, and disseminate advocacy messages to affected communities, the host Government, donors, the HCT, CLAs, the media and other audiences
12. Ensure that the Sector provides interpretation (in an appropriate language) so that all Sector partners can participate, including local organizations (and national and local authorities where appropriate).

vii. Syria Context

1. Regular participation at the Sector (Partners shall ensure their participation in the Sub-National Sector level meetings which are covering their project locations) and contribution to the ad-hoc information requests and Sector flash updates and situation reports.
2. Mandatory completion of the Sector Standard Reporting Forms (Plans, Stock, fund tracker and 4W) when requested by the Sector team.
3. Share responsibility for Sector activities, including assessing needs, developing strategy, plans, policies, evaluations, and guidelines.
4. Participate and contribute to the Sector relevant technical working groups (TWiGs), availability to participate in Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) and to the strategic and technical review committees for reviewing of the country based pooled funds (SHF).
5. Availability to take the lead at the district levels as the Sector District focal points.

¹ [Reference Module for Sector Coordination at Country Level](#) Section 7

viii. Discontinuation of the membership

- 1.** Organizations failing to abide by the IASC minimum commitments will have their Sector membership revoked.
- 2.** Organizations that will have stopped their operations in Syria can inform the Sector of their discontinuation of membership.
- 3.** Sector membership is discontinued if the Sector is de-activated.