



**KINGDOM OF BELGIUM**  
 Federal Public Service  
**Foreign Affairs,  
 Foreign Trade and  
 Development Cooperation**

Directorate-general for Development Cooperation –  
 DGD

Service D5.1 – Humanitarian Aid

## **SINGLE FORM FOR THE FUNDING OF HUMANITARIAN ACTION**<sup>1</sup>

(Legal basis: the law of 9/01/2014 modifying the law of 19/03/2013 on Development cooperation - Royal Decree of 19/04/2014, General expenditure budget, basic allocation 14 54 52 35.60.83).

### **1. GENERAL INFORMATION**

- 1.1. Name of the humanitarian organisation/date of approval by the Minister for Development Cooperation (if required):** Oxfam-Solidarité ASBL, 17/11/1997 (renewal: 12/12/2012 and 20/05/2016).
- 1.2. Title of the action:** Multi-year food security and wash assistance to vulnerable communities in Deir-ez-Zor, Syria
- 1.3. Intervention area (country, region, locations):** Syria, Deir-ez-Zor Governorate, Al Mayadin District
- 1.4. Action start date:** 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019
- 1.5. Duration of the action in months (cf. Art. 17, §2):** 24 months
- 1.6. Expenditure eligibility start date:** 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019  
 Signature date granting Ministerial Decree.

#### **1.7 Proposal and reports (Concerning the specific timeframes, cf. RD of 19/04/2014):**

Initial proposal	date: 14-01-2019
Revised proposal no. _____	date: dd-mm-yy
Date of the granting Ministerial Decree	date: 22-03-2019
Unilateral Act date	date: 03-04-2019
Letter of acceptance date	date: 11-04-2019
<u>Interim report</u>	date: 17-05-2021
<u>Final report</u>	date: 31-03-2022

<sup>1</sup>The specifications used in this form have largely been reworked on the basis of the “Single Form” in use, for the same type of actions, in the European Commission (ECHO).

For a good understanding of these specifications, refer to the guidelines issued by ECHO:

[http://ec.europa.eu/echo/about/actors/fpa\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/about/actors/fpa_en.htm)

The specific points relating to Belgian legislation (Royal Decree of 04 November 2014) are indicated and underlined in the text, following the specific point concerned.

At the proposal stage, complete the numbered paragraphs, except for those that begin with [INT] (to be completed at the interim report stage) and [FIN] (to be completed at the final report stage). At the interim and final report stages, only amend (cross out) the main information in the numbered paragraphs.

**1.8 [INT] List the exchanges of letters that took place following the signature of the unilateral act until the interim report stage**

- February 15, 2021: DGD approved the six-month no cost extension to the project, as requested by OXFAM, the project was extended till Sep 30, 2021.
- February 15, 2021: DGD approved a waiver for Oxfam to adjust a supplier contract.



Brussels, 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Michel van den Hove  
Director Program and Advocacy  
Oxfam-Solidarité

**Mr. Erik De Maeyer**  
FPS Foreign Affairs  
DG Development Cooperation and  
Humanitarian Aid  
D5 – Humanitarian aid and Transition  
directorate

Dear Mr. De Maeyer,

**Subject:** Request for a six-months no cost extension – program “Multi-year food security and WASH assistance to vulnerable communities in Deir-er-Zor, Syria” (your reference: PG/2019/04).

In accordance with the article 2.6 of our bilateral agreement, Oxfam would like to introduce a request for a six-months no cost extension of the implementation period of the above-mentioned program, moving the end date of the program from 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Motives for the no-cost extension are as following:

The project is being implemented in one of the most affected and hard to reach location in Syria. As of now, the project is with 43% burn rate and has benefitted approximately 22,000 beneficiaries. Almost all activities have started and progressing. However, given externalities present on the ground, program delivery has been challenged.

Firstly, a delay in implementation during the first year occurred because Oxfam had to negotiate approval for access with different line ministries and governmental bodies: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), the Ministry of Local administration and Environment (MoLAE) and the Governorate of Deir EzZor. These negotiations delayed the project start as the needs assessment was only allowed to be launched after securing the approvals, in October 2019. The approval process in Syria is complex, without a clear internal process or structured timeframe, and the timeline can change depending on the location and types of activities undertaken.

Secondly, the project had begun acknowledging a gap on comprehensive data of affected communities. Oxfam invested more time on clarity of needs along with thorough beneficiary's selection process which went longer in comparison to the stipulated timeline. It required detailed

process, putting community engagement upfront to prioritize the most vulnerable from the affected communities and the process was eventually led by communities themselves through formation of local community committees.

Thirdly, the sanctions in Syria, inflation and fluctuation of the SYP against foreign currencies rates lead to a volatile market affecting suppliers' ability to deliver the goods and services on time. A detailed overview of the situation and challenges is available under Annex D.

Linked to fluctuations of the SYP, some tenders in this project along with Oxfam's other projects have failed many times. Even with available bidders, it is difficult to find the right contractors specially in Deir Ez Zor area due to fluctuations of currency. In addition, there are very few suppliers at local level who are either already over-burdened with existing work or have limited capacity to perform the work. Therefore, Oxfam had to negotiate and opt for waivers under the scope of this project activities.

Finally, the COVID-19 pandemic had chain effect on the Oxfam's capacity to deliver. Oxfam prioritizes safe programming in the program implementation which stresses on the 'do no harm' principle to the affected communities, workforce and organization itself.

With all highlighted challenges, there are some activities those may face time constraints to deliver. Those are poultry support, water supply installation work and the additional activities due to savings/balance. With these foreseen risks and assumptions, Oxfam would like to request for six months no cost extension to ensure all activities are completed achieving the objectives and outcomes, to remain vigilant on changing conditions and address changing situations, ensure the monitoring and that there is a smooth exist and closure of the project.

You can find annexed to that request:

- Annex A - Updated workplan
- Annex B - Updated budget
- Annex C – Explanation on budget variations
- Annex D – Explanation on fluctuation of SYP

Yours sincerely,



Michel van den Hove

On May 20th, 2021, Oxfam received the approval for that request.



ROYAUME DE BELGIQUE  
Service public fédéral  
Affaires étrangères,  
Commerce extérieur et  
Coopération au Développement

D5.1 – Aide Humanitaire

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1080 Bruxelles  
Belgique

vos références	vos références	nos références	date
15/02/2021		D5.1/LC/HUM.04.03.01.2019.04/2021/5620/1	

à mentionner dans toute correspondance

**Objet: Programme humanitaire (A.B. 14 54 51 35.60.26 - PG/2019/04) - Oxfam Solidarité**  
- « Multi-year food security and WASH assistance to vulnerable communities in Deir-er-Zor, Syria » - 1.502.638 EUR.

**Demande d'avenant : extension sans coût additionnel**

Monsieur,

Suite à votre courrier du 15 février 2021, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer que je marque accord à votre demande d'avenant relative à une extension (sans augmentation du budget initialement prévu) telle que décrite dans votre demande susmentionnée. Le programme "*Multi-year food security and WASH assistance to vulnerable communities in Deir-er-Zor, Syria*" est dès lors prolongé pour une période de 6 mois, jusqu'au 30 septembre 2021

Il est à noter par ailleurs que ce type de demande est expressément prévu dans les lettres conventions types (Point 2.6), avec l'accord de la DGD.

A la lecture de l'argumentaire joint à votre demande d'avenant, il apparaît clairement qu'en plus d'avoir pris suffisamment de temps pour effectuer une analyse des besoins minutieuse, Oxfam fait face à de multiples défis liés au contexte Syrien complexe. Ces défis externes tels que la difficulté de l'accès au terrain, la volatilité du marché et le COVID-19 ont retardé la mise en œuvre du programme susmentionné.

Par conséquent, afin de permettre la pleine réalisation des activités et des objectifs et résultats fixés en début de programme, une prolongation de 6 mois est entièrement justifiée. La prolongation permettra d'absorber les retard dans la mise en œuvre des activités et la poursuite des activités en cours tel que décrit dans la demande introduites.

Veillez agréer, Monsieur, l'assurance de ma considération distinguée.

Erik De  
Maeyer  
(Signature)

Digitally signed by  
Erik De Maeyer  
(Signature)  
Date: 2021.05.20  
10:30:21 +02'00'

Erik De Maeyer  
Directeur D5 Aide humanitaire et Transition

## 1.9 [FIN] List the exchanges of letters that took place following the submission of the interim report until the final report stage

N/A

## 2. NEEDS ASSESSMENT

### 2.1. *Assessment date(s); methodology and information sources used; organisation/person(s) responsible for the assessment*

In terms of assessments, Oxfam acknowledges the following limitation in information access and assessment in Syria for humanitarian actors:

- *Lack of accurate population data*: there is a general dearth of official population data in the country due to the crisis. Few new studies have been carried out. Oxfam, as the UN and other humanitarian organizations, is also in some cases dependent on pre-crisis data. UN-OCHA and other non-governmental entities are providing population data-sets, but their accuracy is questionable given the restrictions on comprehensive data collection.

- *Access & Approval*: access and approvals by the Government of Syria (GoS) remains a challenge for international humanitarian actors in country which also limit conducting technical assessments. Approval for any deep technical assessments needs be issued by Government of Syria line ministries, and there has been reluctance to allow international humanitarian actors independently to assess and verify needs on the ground.

- *Lack of socio-economic assessments*: household level socio-economic assessments have not been undertaken during the crisis in the country; hence Oxfam relies on information gathered through observations and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)/key informant interviews to inform its programming as well as community feedback, and rapid assessment reports from other humanitarian actors.

To overcome the above challenges, Oxfam used information from secondary sources (e.g. UN agencies, local authorities, SARC) to inform ongoing situation and needs analysis and to triangulate data using a minimum of 3 independent sources of data, where they exist.

Moreover, Oxfam has been able to conduct several assessment missions between March and September 2018 and utilise assessment reports from other humanitarian actors. The most recent of these are describe below:

#### Primary/field data:

- Oxfam – Emergency Food Security and Vulnerable Livelihood (EFSVL) Field Mission, Deir-Ez-Zor – 26<sup>th</sup> August to 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018 – FGDs and Key Informant Interviews in 25 villages of Al Mayadin District of Deir-Ez-Zor Governorate conducted by Oxfam EFSVL and MEAL staff.
- Oxfam – WASH Assessment, Deir-Ez-Zor – 17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2018 – Focus Group Discussion and Key Informant Interviews in 35 villages of Al Mayadin District of Deir-Ez-Zor Governorate conducted by Oxfam WASH and MEAL staff. Cfr Annex01&02.

#### Secondary data/literature review:

- Humanitarian Needs Overview 2018 <https://hno-syria.org/>
- OCHA Syria Population Datasets 2018
- REACH North East Syria Humanitarian Needs Overview – September 2018 [http://www.reachresourcecentre.info/system/files/resource-documents/reach\\_syr\\_fachsheets\\_hsos\\_regional\\_factsheet\\_nes\\_september\\_2018.pdf](http://www.reachresourcecentre.info/system/files/resource-documents/reach_syr_fachsheets_hsos_regional_factsheet_nes_september_2018.pdf)
- FAO – Damage Assessment “Counting the Cost” <http://www.fao.org/emergencies/resources/documents/resources-detail/en/c/878213/>
- Food Security Situation in Syria Report – December 2017 <https://fscluster.org/syria/document/food-security-situation-syria-expanded>
- USAID – Syrian Agriculture; Historical and Environmental Context – June 2014 [https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf\\_docs/PBAAC901.pdf](https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PBAAC901.pdf)
- WFP – Deir-Ez-Zor City WFP Assessment – February 2018 <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/syria-deir-ez-zor-city-wfp-assessment-food-security-update-february-2018>

## 2.2. Account of the problem and analysis of the stakeholders

### Account of the problem

In the eight years of the crisis, the scale, severity, and complexity of needs across Syria remain overwhelming. According to the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) 2018, 13.1 million people in Syria require humanitarian assistance. Of these, 5.6 million people are in acute need due to a convergence of vulnerabilities resulting from exposure to armed conflict, massive displacement and limited access to basic goods and services due to extensive destruction of public and private infrastructure and sources of livelihoods. 69% of the Syrian population is estimated to be living in extreme poverty, compared to 34% before the crisis<sup>2</sup>.

FAO's Damage Assessment report states the overall financial cost of damage and loss in the agriculture sector over the 2011–2016 period is estimated to be at least USD 16 billion, which is equivalent to just under one third of Syria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2016. The governorates with the largest loss were Al-Hassakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Rural Damascus, Deir-ez-Zor, Dara'a and Idleb, each registering over USD 1 billion of damage and loss.<sup>3</sup> Annual crops registered the largest share of lost production (economic loss), followed by livestock. Conversely, the livestock subsector accounted for the highest proportion of damage (as manifested in the value of livestock deaths). Deir ez Zor is listed as a priority (Tier 1) governorate for agricultural assistance.

Deir-ez-Zor governorate is located in the East of Syria. It was controlled by ISIS from December 2014 till September 2017 until the GoS and Kurdish forces respectively reclaimed different parts of the governorate. As front-lines and control of different areas were changing, populations fled in and out from one area to another depending on their perception of where they felt safer. During the besiegement, all supply routes to the governorate's capital city, i.e. Deir-ez-Zor, were cut and the only corridor to bring food to the besieged community of around 93,000 people was through the airport which remained under GoS control. As a result, food accessibility significantly decreased in the city due to deteriorating market functionality, no access to farming fields, extremely limited food availability and overall breakdown of livelihoods<sup>4</sup>. Over 6 million people have been displaced within Syria, many on multiple occasions. Deir Ez-Zor governorate has seen an estimated 224,000 people return between November 2017 and September 2018. Syrian law does not permit data collection to allow a clear understanding as to why people return, but anecdotal evidence from Oxfam's analysis highlights strong push factors (overcrowded living conditions, lack of ability to earn an income) and some pull factors (own land in Deir Ez-Zor which can be used for income-generating activities; public sector job is now operating), and so in spite of severely challenging living conditions, including the destruction of public utilities, shelter, and the looting of possessions, many people are choosing to return to the governorate.

Deir-ez-Zor in economic terms is largely an agricultural producing governorate. The main city and many communities are located on the banks of the Euphrates River which flows from Turkey, through Syria into Iraq. Pre-conflict, two thirds of the population of the governorate were dependent on rural livelihoods based on agriculture and livestock rearing<sup>5</sup>, and were largely dependent on the river for irrigation of farmland. Prior to the onset of the Syrian crisis in 2011, rural areas of Deir-ez-Zor were a major source of supply of fruits and vegetables to local markets, with the main income source being cash crops sales, livestock sales, remittances, and petty trades for communities living in the governorate<sup>6</sup>. During the ISIS occupation, many farmers fled, while those who remained were unable to access their land. In addition to destruction caused by war, the region has also suffered from increasing desertification with cyclical drought due to a combination of both man-made and natural factors. There is a long history of conflicts over water in the region because of natural water scarcity, the early development of irrigated agriculture, and complex religious and ethnic diversity.

<sup>2</sup> OCHA. (2018). *Humanitarian Needs Overview Syrian Arab Republic*  
[https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2018\\_syr\\_hno\\_english.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2018_syr_hno_english.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.fao.org/resilience/resources/resources-detail/en/c/878213/>

<sup>4</sup> SYRIA - Deir-ez-Zor City WFP Assessment Food Security Update: February 2018

<sup>5</sup> <http://fscluster.org/syria/document/food-security-situation-syria-expanded>

<sup>6</sup> *ibid*

With the added possibility of rising global temperatures and reduced surface flows through climate change, there is a strong likelihood that there will be a need for urgent long-term agricultural reforms to be put in place when some kind of political stability returns.

Post besiegement, livelihood opportunities for the population are very limited or non-existent. The few permanent residents counting on stable income such as salaries or remittances, have poor financial access to food due to limited local markets resulting in extremely high market prices. Basic public services, from electricity to administrative services, are also either very poor or non-existent. IDPs who are returning suffer from the same shortages. They are mostly farmers. As a result of war, loss of and damage to assets, including irrigation equipment and lands is preventing farmers from reinitiating their livelihood practices<sup>7</sup>.

In terms of water provision, the main water source in Deir-ez-Zor governorate is the Euphrates river, on whose banks several water treatment plants are located supplying water to Deir-ez-Zor city, the governorate's capital, as well as rural areas of the governorate. Several main water pumping & treatment stations are currently out of service. Damages to treatment plants and pumping stations are the result of either airstrikes, indirect fire or deliberate sabotage and looting of essential equipment (generators, pumps' engines and electrical cables). Currently, access to water in the city of Deir-ez-Zor is limited with low water pressure (in some areas, water barely reaches the first floor) and limited number of operational hours (once every 4 days for 2-3 hours). Air strikes have also severely damaged both potable and wastewater pipelines in several neighbourhoods. Identifying damages and leakages is impeded by rubble from collapsed buildings and lack of water in the pipelines. Regarding sanitation, sewage networks have not been significantly affected, but localized repairs and improvements are needed. A recent REACH assessment (September 2018) indicated that 43% of communities consulted cited the following common issues with sanitation: inability to empty septic tanks, blocked connections to the sewage and lack of water to flush. Wastewater treatment plants in many areas are not in operation due to damage or non-availability of critical supplies and support.

The HNO 2018 indicated that although water and sanitation services and hygiene supplies are available, they are relatively expensive. Therefore, IDPs and returnees are not able to purchase and sustain basic hygiene practices. However, the REACH assessment further informed that 93% of assessed communities in Deir-ez-Zor governorate reported that drinking water from their primary source tasted and/or smelled bad, and that diarrhea was reportedly the most common health concern in 65% of assessed communities. Health concerns regarding poor water quality might be further exacerbated by limited access to healthcare services.

In terms of livelihoods, as a result of the conflict, many women have taken on the role of principal breadwinners for their families, as men have either been killed, disappeared, have fled the country or have joined the fighting. This is particularly apparent in Deir-Ez-Zor as many men fled during the time of ISIS' control over the governorate. Females account for 55% of the total population and 66% of the total youth population (age 20 to 35). Compared to pre-conflict times, there has been an increase in women taking on the role of principal family breadwinner (HNO 2018, p 42). However, households with a female main income provider have less access to aid and resources due to gender inequality prior to conflict and women's inability to move safely in public spaces, which is now exacerbated. Protracted conflict and massive displacement have changed household composition and further altered the previously unequal gender roles and dynamics. In the absence of male household members, women, particularly those of child-bearing age, now play a significant role in providing for their families, not only within the home but in seeking essential services and livelihood opportunities outside it. In addition, given the male dominated culture, women have limited ability to negotiate solutions in the current context which can deprive them of their rights to, among other, property and long-term security, they are more susceptible to gender based violence, and sexual exploitation, while their female children are more at risk of child marriage as their mothers may consider this a solution to their economic hardship, a practice that was common

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<sup>7</sup> <http://fsccluster.org/syria/document/food-security-situation-syria-expanded>

before the war and is now increased.<sup>8</sup> While all sex and age groups face movement restrictions for various reasons, the risks for women and girls are significantly higher, sometimes limiting their movements even with a chaperon. Communities in Deir-ez-Zor are conservative and gender segregation by social norms is a significant obstacle for reaching out to women and girls.

### Stakeholder analysis

The following stakeholders have been identified as being key in the success of the proposed project, through either direct or indirect influence:

- **Local communities, among which IDP host communities, IDPs and returnees.** While beneficiaries, these are also the main enablers for the proposed project. During Oxfam's field assessments, the needs for intervention have been identified based on community identification and prioritisation of issues. During implementation, Oxfam will further enhance its cooperation with local communities to ensure proposed activities address community identified needs and that communities inform and participate in implementation.
- **Local authorities in Deir-ez-Zor.** They are supportive of the proposed interventions and can enable field access by recommending to the Government authorities at the national level, i.e. line ministries to approve the interventions. Local authorities have been consulted on needs during Oxfam assessment missions and will be engaged throughout the project on the design and delivery of key project activities. Based on to-date implementation, local civilian authorities have been very supportive of Oxfam activities, providing additional logistics support as may have been required. They have also showed understanding for Oxfam standards. This has allowed access to Oxfam to perform impartial needs assessments.
- **National authorities and line ministries,** including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Water Resources and the Ministry of Agriculture. For all international assistance projects, after funding is secured, the relevant ministries must be addressed to obtain approvals for project activities and locations. Oxfam has MoUs with these ministries. Regardless, obtaining approvals can be a lengthy process which can take between 3 to 6 months.
- **International community and donors engaged in Syria.** These stakeholders can be either enablers or blockers to project activities and objectives depending on the political outlook of the conflict. Currently various international actors are aligned with different sides of the conflicts (e.g. Russia is supportive of the GoS, the United States, the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) in opposition to the Government). International assistance support by these external stakeholders will follow their political alignments. Most international actors are supportive of humanitarian actions in Deir-ez-Zor - given the level of destruction the people of the governorate suffered under ISIS rule. However, this assistance is mostly limited to humanitarian aid.
- **UN and sector system.** This is an enabling system. Oxfam is a member of several thematic working sectors, namely, WASH, Early Recovery and Livelihoods and its cash programming sub-sector, Food Security and Agriculture and NFI, and it regularly reports against the 4W reporting matrix for these sectors. This guarantees that there is no duplication of efforts amongst the key sector actors. Through close coordination with other humanitarian actors, Oxfam aims to ensure activities are well planned, are complementary to those delivered by other actors and that sector standards are applied, with an overall intention to improve the positive impact of the humanitarian community.
- In Deir-ez-Zor governorate, Oxfam is currently engaging, among other **donors**, with UNHCR and WFP on humanitarian programming. However, there is at this time no UN hub in Deir-ez-Zor, though one is planned. Given conflict dynamics, some UN agencies have split activity coordination for Deir-ez-Zor between GoS and Syrian Defense Forces held areas, with the former coordinated in Damascus, and the latter in Qamishli (in Al Hasekeh governorate).
- **Civil society:** Oxfam closely coordinates with international civil society actors on planned activities, and interventions in Syria. It is an active member of the Damascus-based 24 member INGOs group (DINGO) which contributes to further coordination on matters related to Government authorities and donors.
- **Armed groups.** Namely the Syrian Arab Army, supported by Russia forces and Iranian militias

<sup>8</sup> O.A. Hallaj. (2017). *Who Will Own the City? Urban Housing, Land and Property Issues in Syria*. Retrieved 22 August, 2018 from Syrian Echoes: <https://syrianechoes.com/2017/07/31/who-will-own-the-city-urban-housing-land-and-property-issues-in-syria/>



and the Syrian Defence Forces (SDF), supported by the United States are present in the area. These opposing forces are currently not engaging in aggressive armed conflict; however, small scale armed clashes have been reported between the SAA and the SDF in the recent past. Because Syria remains a volatile theatre due to the variety of external stakeholders with different interests, should the situation in Deir-ez-Zor revert to significant clashes, project access and implementation may be affected. At this time, such a development is unlikely.

**2.3. Please summarise the results of the assessment (if necessary, append a comprehensive report) by establishing a link to the action**

In February 2018, WFP and the REACH Initiative conducted rapid needs assessment in the governorate based on key informant interviews. The results found that commercial flows to Deir-ez-Zor city have improved and have positively impacted the city's market overall functionality, food availability, food diversity and accessibility, encouraging many displaced households to return. However, due to the protracted years of besiegement and intense military activity, the level of devastation and destruction of infrastructure in Deir-ez-Zor governorate is very high. As a result, proper dwellings are few and many returnees and IDP households are living together in tight quarters and under poor living conditions. Moreover, many bakeries, schools and medical centers remain out of service; generators are the only source of electricity.

OCHA reported that access to basic services across Deir-ez-Zor governorate remained limited, including in Deir-ez-Zor city, where a process of recovery is ongoing but insufficient to meet needs. Of particular concern was the poor level of water quality reported across the governorate, with key informants in nearly half of assessed locations reporting that people were falling ill after consuming the water available to them.

Oxfam conducted several missions and needs assessments in August and September 2018 in Deir-Ez-Zor governorate, which included Oxfam WASH, Food Security, Gender, and MEAL staff. These assessments covered approximately 50% of the population in targeted villages which have high returnee numbers. General findings include lack of safe water and poor hygiene practices in most of the 10 visited villages and towns in Al Mayadin. Either the pumping stations and water treatment plants servicing the villages were destroyed or damaged before the crisis, or otherwise completely out of service due to lack of maintenance and spare parts. In the villages targeted during the assessments, women were those who mostly confirmed the OCHA findings that there is no adequate water in terms of quantity and quality for personal hygiene or household use. Lack of menstrual hygiene materials among women and adolescent girls was noted as a huge need. This shortage negatively affects women and girls' hygiene practices, their health and their dignity.

In September 2018, Oxfam further assessed Upper Bugres and Ashrara villages in Al Mayadin sub-district, the main findings included:

- Contraction of the local population: before the crisis, Ashrara's population was 25,000 and Upper Bugres' 20,000. At the time of the September 2018 assessment, the total population in Ashara was 8,000 and in Upper Bugres 15,000. The level of destruction in both villages is 60%; there is one health centre in each of the two villages and diseases within communities include diarrhoea; scabies, lice and fever.
- In terms of WASH needs, the following was identified: a) the pumping station is totally out of service; with huge needs identified for: i) water network rehabilitation; ii) sewage network rehabilitation; iii) spare parts for water and sanitation systems; iv) trucks and other equipment; and b) there is low access for communities to safe potable water with i) the percentage of communities covered by water network being 0%; ii) percentage of the communities depending on water trucking being 100%; iii) price of 1 cubic meter of water being 1,000 SYP, with families spending around 10,000 SYP (20 USD) per month on water; iv) poor water quality as the source for all water is the river; v) the functional sanitation system in Ashrara covers 50% of the households and in Upper Bugres 70 %.

On 22 September 2018, Oxfam performed an assessment in all villages (35 locations) in Al Mayadin. The main finding in all 35 locations was that the water situation is severe in terms of both

quantity and quality of water accessible. An estimated 75 to 100 % of the population does not have access to water through the water network. This compels the population to collect and use water directly from the river which is an unprotected water source, which directly exposes them to many water borne diseases.

In terms of Food Security, Oxfam conducted an assessment from 26<sup>th</sup> August to 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018 in 25 villages in the same district. It was reported that people returning to the GoS controlled areas reported that they are facing serious trouble in moving their livestock from Kurdish to GoS areas because military forces are imposing fees on their transfer with the amount of 23 USD for every sheep. During this mission, Oxfam also consulted with the Directorate of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform in Deir-ez-Zor, who notified Oxfam that out of the 616 irrigation pumps that used to supply irrigation water to 49,326 farmers, only 47 pumps are working currently; 132 pumps are damaged, 303 were stolen, 45 were vandalized, 89 were destroyed. As a consequence, approximately 45,500 farmers have been left with no or very limited access to the irrigation systems. This in turn affects their farming capacity, and therefore the supply of food items in the local markets.

In addition, this assessment mission also identified that most of the bakeries in the area are not working, which is causing a severe shortage of subsidised bread. This confirms the 2014 report by the ACU<sup>9</sup> which stated that in Deir-ez-Zor governorate 45% of bakeries were non-functional. The most cited reason for bakeries to stop functioning in these areas was the continuous shelling and intensification of clashes which suspended operations, and in some cases destroyed bakeries.

The most significant finding during the assessments Oxfam made in Deir-ez-Zor was the expressed strong desire but also strong willingness by farmers in rural communities to re-start their agricultural businesses and to minimize their reliance on humanitarian assistance. Oxfam Syria believes this is closely related to a wish to live a life in dignity, which is at the core of Oxfam programming.

#### **2.4. [INT] If changes have taken place in the needs assessment at the interim report stage, please provide information**

Oxfam faced some delays in implementation of the project due to a combination of reasons including:

- Delays in GoS/line ministry approvals for performing multi-sectoral field assessments;
- Oxfam office restructuring aimed at reducing remote management from the head office in Damascus by opening field offices in selected governorates, among which Deir-ez-Zor, allowing continuous field presence, improved knowledge and understanding of the local environment, direct and immediate contact with communities Oxfam serves. During the process of restructuring, staff hiring was delayed. In addition, hiring qualified staff to work in Deir-ez-Zor has been difficult due to the remoteness of the location
- Repetitive failed tenders due to fluctuation of exchange rates
- COVID-19

During the implementation period, some notable changes in the overall situation in the target area happened:

#### Insecurity and IDPs

In October and November 2019, increased conflict in the north-east of Syria led to an influx of IDPs in Deir-ez-Zor. This also led to the imposition of movement restrictions on residents and INGO workers, hampering the implementation of this project. Oxfam has triangulated information from sources including the Municipality, Government Ministries and community leaders, to determine that the population of the target communities in Al-Mayadin has risen to 61,500, and to 14,000 in Tiba. As well as the conflict, these increases are due to the improvement in public services. However, the number of land-owners' farmers were still the same in both communities Mayadin and Tiba; 1800 land-owners farmers who own land and benefiting from the irrigation systems.

<sup>9</sup> Bakeries Assessment Report, Assessment Coordination Unit, 2014

## COVID-19

On 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020, the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in Syria was reported. In response, the Syrian government restricted movement, banning gatherings of people, and closed all but essential services. Oxfam's response to the COVID-19 crisis in Syria focuses on two key sectors:

### a. **WASH**

The conflict in Syria has resulted in extremely limited access to clean water and sanitation.

Hygiene items are scarce, and hygiene practices are inadequate. Oxfam's response focuses on:

- **Improving hygiene practices** through a nationwide media campaign.
- **Increasing access to, and use of, hygiene materials** through the distribution of family hygiene kits.
- **Improving access to water and sanitation** through light rehabilitation of infrastructure, provision of equipment and training for safe water storage and handling, improving solid waste management, and – as a last resort – water trucking.

### b. **Livelihoods**

The most urgent need for vulnerable households is simply cash, to replace lost income and to meet basic needs. Oxfam is addressing this in two ways:

- **Unconditional cash transfers** for 5,500 households.
- **Cash for work** for 962 people, for as long as government restrictions permit this.

The total confirmed cases in Syria as of November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 are 46275 where 27675 have recovered and 2666 are deaths cases<sup>10</sup>. The number of cases in Deir Ez Zor governorate, where this project falls, are also recorded, however, relatively low. This might be due to low testing rate as infrastructure for testing is inadequate. As the cases are increasing in Syria in one hand and in other hand, there are challenges of testing and health care facilities; the risks of transmission and its impact are high. The global pandemic has affected humanitarian operations space with increased resource requirement to tackle COVID19, whereas conflict affected communities are already distressed with food security and basic needs. Oxfam's response to the COVID-19 crisis in Syria focuses on two key sectors as such WASH and EFSVL. The major goal of COVID19 response plan of Oxfam in Syria is to contribute to decrease the direct and indirect impacts of COVID-19's spread amongst the most vulnerable population groups as the elderly, the disabled and women in the targeted most at-risk locations in Syria through integrated safe early – action and response initiatives. It is to note that this project is contributing to both COVID19 prevention and reducing the negative impacts among most vulnerable population. The WaSH interventions from this project stressed hygiene promotion (tailored to handwashing, use of mask and physical distancing) along with supply of water. The vulnerability criteria used to distribute cash assistance and emergency livelihoods grants are supporting to cope with COVID19 impacts.

The work of humanitarian organizations in the region was slowed down and, in some cases, stopped for a period of several weeks in April 2020 until the last half of May 2020 due to the COVID19 related restrictions by the government to control the spread of the virus. This contributed to the exacerbation of the situation in terms of the great of needs, especially in the livelihood sector where livelihood activities have completely stopped during the quarantine period, that forced people to sell or replace their productive assets to provide the main needs of families during that period. When activities resumed, they were limited and confined to specific actions.

In June 2020, Oxfam team conducted a rapid needs assessment in several under-served subdistricts of Deir Ez Zor governorate affected by the economic collapse that followed the COVID19 crises, funded by another grant. Communities in Ashara district with approximately 137,000 habitants revealed to be the ones with the highest level of vulnerability. Most of community members are returnees within the last year and a small percentage of IDPs – less than 5% IDP is hosted by the community. The inhabitants report a lack of health services, transportation, water, solid waste management services, lack of electricity. Several water-borne diseases also linked to the lack of hygiene and poor sanitation are reported by the inhabitants as scabies, leishmaniasis and diarrhea. The community has little information on COVID19 due to the lack of humanitarian

actors, the disruption of health services and the lack of electricity that does not allow the use of TV and radios as the main means of receiving information. Access to services in Deir Ez Zor town is hampered by poor local transportation at very high prices.

In March 2021, all educational institutions are decided to be closed earlier as a measure for COVID 19 prevention. The students will be out of schools for at least 5 months and schools to resume likely on September.

Please see Section 6.1 for more information on the impact of COVID-19.

#### Humanitarian actors in the region

There has been a significant increase in the number of INGOs operating in Deir-ez-Zor, mostly focusing on rehabilitation of water and sanitation infrastructure, and restoration of agricultural assets. To ensure complementarity and to avoid duplication or overlap, Oxfam meets regularly with agencies individually, and in sector meetings, to map needs, discuss strategies and agree areas of intervention. The needs in Deir-ez-Zor are so high, and so widespread, that there is more than enough for all actors to do without duplication.

As a result, Oxfam is implementing projects in Tabieh (Khasam sub-district), Tiba, Mahkan, AlMayadin communities in Al Mayadin district where the severity scale is high.

Based on coordination meetings with other agencies, Oxfam in this project rehabilitated the irrigation pumping station in Al Mayadeen where there are three sites in need of rehabilitation, and Syrian Arab Red Crescent intervened in one of these sites, and to ensure providing irrigation water for farmers (1500 dunum at least). Based on needs and resource available in the project, Oxfam is rehabilitating Al Taiba irrigation pumping station to meet the needs of 750 HHs and ensure complementarity in different intervention and aims to achieve benefit in the field of the agricultural sector to help farmers to restore agricultural activities as the main livelihood activity in Al Mayadeen.

#### Economic situation and food insecurity

It has been observed the serious decline in purchasing power of low- and middle-income people, as a result of:

- ✓ Exchange rate loss of SYP: in early February 2021, exchange rate doubled from (1USD=1250SYP) to (1USD=2500SYP)
- ✓ Loss of income generating opportunities and inadequate access to resources.

According to the last WFP mVAM Bulletin (Issue no. 53: March 2021), there is a steady increase of food insecurity with of 51% of the surveyed persons facing inadequate Food Consumption Score (poor 18% and borderline 33% FCS), a 72% increase from one year ago, a reduction of animal protein consumption (62% less than twice in a week) and an increased adoption of food consumption coping strategies with rCSI<sup>11</sup> levels of 21.0 or more; 18% declared to have lost at least one source of income (livelihood). According to the FAO<sup>12</sup> and the Food security Cluster<sup>13</sup>, 50% of Syrians spend at least 75% of their income on food and 12,4 millions of Syrians are food insecure.

The country has seen a long trend of prices increase, that was recently exacerbated by the measures taken by authorities to reduce the spread of COVID19 as the shutdown of businesses and movements restrictions, as well as it is due to the devaluation of the local currency reaching 4700 SYP to the USD in February 2021. By the last week of March 2021, new official preferential exchange rate of 2500 SYP to each USD for UN agencies and NGOs was issued, the exchange rate has started improving and by the time of writing the report it is reaching around 3200 SYP in the parallel market.

<sup>11</sup> rCSI: reduced Coping Strategy Index (5 consumption strategies)

<sup>12</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/cb3652en.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> [https://fscluster.org/sites/default/files/documents/article\\_for\\_gfsc\\_website\\_on\\_syria\\_.pdf](https://fscluster.org/sites/default/files/documents/article_for_gfsc_website_on_syria_.pdf)

Due to recent currency exchange rate in February 2021, Oxfam has a gain in the project financial capacity and assessed both the exchange rate gain and inflation due to this change. For this project, Oxfam expanded activities and reached more Beneficiaries to provide essential services as follows:

- Oxfam conducted spot rehabilitation to strengthen water networks as lifesaving interventions in Al Mayadin along with rehabilitation of water pumping station and this will benefit approximately 15,000 people.
- Additional irrigation support was provided to Mahkan community of Al Mayadin and this will benefit approximately 10,000 people.
- As per original proposal, Oxfam provided support CfA Beneficiaries for new agriculture season with agriculture seeds and tools which will reach 120 HHs head benefiting 840 individuals.
- To support COVID19 response and existing hygiene program, Oxfam supplied soap top-ups to the Beneficiaries who received hygiene kits earlier. Oxfam has harmonized this activity throughout the projects to support COVID19 preventive measures.

All these additional activities remain within the project scope and are not major change whereas integration approach has been accounted to benefit the most vulnerable population.

### Increasing needs

According to HNO 2021 report<sup>14</sup>, around 13,4 million people are estimated to require some form of humanitarian and protection assistance, including 6 million in acute need. Around 6.7 million people (50.1%) remain internally displaced, 0.32 million (2.4%) returned to home origins and 6.36 million residents (47.5%) continue to suffer and have exacerbated living conditions<sup>15</sup>. In areas where hostilities have subsided, life remains a daily struggle due to limited access to basic services and livelihood opportunities, increasing financial hardship and an eroding capacity to cope. More than 80% of the population is estimated living under the poverty line. The country has an unemployment rate of at least 55% and jobs are hard to find.

Oxfam also conducted multi-sectoral needs in Deir Ez Zor and Aleppo belt in January 2021. The needs are still rampant whereas COVID19 situation has put further risks on people's livelihood. There is poor job opportunities and wages are not enough to meet basic needs. Specially, women, children and differently able people are at higher risks and are vulnerable to meet lifesaving needs and negative coping mechanisms have been observed. The major findings of the needs assessment are:

- Soaring prices of hygiene materials such as soap; even with some level of hygiene awareness, the situation led the community to poor hygiene practices. Menstrual hygiene items are not affordable to majority of the menstrual age population which makes it challenging for them to safely manage their period. On top of this, as of December 2020, the MoH declared Leishmaniasis outbreak in DeirEz Zor.
- Only 50% of the wastewater network is well functioning, 30% require rehabilitation/cleaning and 20% require replacement (Almayadin). 10% depend on septic holes - seepage to fields, streets, groundwater and pipe water network damaged are contaminated. WASH in schools sewage and sanitation needs are huge. The needs of 300L garbage bins and transportation of 5,000 tons of accumulated solid wastes were also assessed.
- Access to water in rural locations is still challenging; new returnees are living in damaged buildings and those communities lack water supply network and sanitation facilities.

Oxfam has designed program based on this needs assessment and has submitted successful proposal to ECHO and GFFO. The needs are still huge and these proposal will cover some part of identified needs.

### **2.5 [FIN] If changes have taken place in the needs assessment following the interim report, please provide information**

During the 24-month of project implementation period, there were series of contextual changes in the country, which led to Oxfam adapting its approach and planning as needed, to ensure that the increasing and varied needs of the communities were being met, which in turn affected the project

capacity, delivery timeline and scope of work. There were delays faced during the latter part of the project, aside from exchange rate fluctuations, leading to an approved no cost extension of the project (as documented in the first section of this report).

The key changes that took place during the project period are:

- Delays in project implementation, due to:
  - Delays in securing the Government of Syria (GoS) line ministries' approvals for performing multi-sectoral field assessments
  - Oxfam in Syria underwent restructuring of its offices which aimed at reducing remote management from the head office in Damascus, by opening field offices in selected governorates (Deir-Ez-Zor is one of three field offices/hubs). This restructuring process has allowed continuous field presence, improved knowledge and understanding of the local environment, and direct and immediate contact with communities that Oxfam serves. During the process of restructuring, recruitment of new staff was delayed. In addition, hiring qualified staff to work in Deir-ez-Zor (DEZ) has been a difficulty due to the remoteness of the location.
  - Repeated failed tenders for the rehabilitation of the water pumping station, due to the fluctuating exchange rates which further contributed to delays in the project implementation.
  - Oxfam had to adjust work modalities within its offices and interventions according to changing COVID-19 protocols, such as handling of positive cases among staff and volunteers, limiting participants' numbers in awareness activities, etc.

Expansion of project locations: Oxfam proposed the addition of two locations under the DGD funded project which had not been identified in the original proposal, which was approved by the latter in March 2021, as the project's financial capacity had increased due to exchange rate gains. Al Tabieh and Al Quoria communities were added under the scope of this project for Water System Rehabilitation and Awareness activities. Al Tabieh is the only location that falls outside of Al Mayadin district; however, it is within Deir-Ez-Zor and is considered a hard-to-reach area.

Al Tabieh was selected by Oxfam as a response to a request from the community to the Governor, as there were huge needs regarding water in this community.

Al Quoria pumping station was partially rehabilitated by Oxfam under an ECHO project, and the additional required works in the pumping station were completed by Oxfam under the DGD project. The needs assessment was done under the ECHO project and used for DGD as well.

Original Locations	Revised Locations
Al Mayadin, Al Tiba and Mahkaan	Al Mayadin, Al Tiba, Mahkaan, Al Tabieh and Al Qouria



- Insecurity and Displacements:** Conflict in the North and East of Syria poses a continuous danger to the local community and the humanitarian actors working in the area, since territories that are under GoS and outside GoS control are located on the Euphrates river banks opposite to each other. However, in Oxfam's areas of implementation under the DGD project, the number of returnees increased to 20,000 persons in Al-Mayadeen; 16,500 persons in Taiba; and 22,000 persons in Mahkan. Oxfam triangulated this information from sources including the Municipality, Government Ministries, and community leaders. The increase in returnees and People in Need (PiNs) is likely due to the improvement in public services but is still calling for more humanitarian needs to be addressed in those communities.
- COVID-19:** At the onset of COVID-19 in March 2020 (i.e. the mid-point of the project), humanitarian responses slowed down and stopped until late May 2020. This was due to government-imposed restrictions such as restricting movement, banning gatherings, and closing all but essential services. This contributed to the exacerbation of livelihoods needs, as some activities were completely stopped. Deir Ez Zor governorate had relatively low COVID-19 cases due to insufficient testing capacity and infrastructure whilst cases have been significantly increasing in Syria. These challenges, in addition to high transmission risks amongst the already vulnerable population, have remained high throughout the project implementation.

The needs addressed in the rapid needs assessment remained the same throughout the project life. The closure of educational institutions in March 2020 affected the school-based hygiene promotion activities in the communities.

Oxfam has maintained focus on WaSH and EFSVL sectors, addressing the most urgent needs of vulnerable households, primarily in relation to access to cash, replacing their lost income, and meeting basic needs. Also, Oxfam adopted hygiene promotion activities to combat COVID-19 whereas cash-based interventions supported the most vulnerable.

As of 30 September 2021, a total of 135,774 confirmed COVID-19 cases were reported. The newly reported cases in September 2021 were 186% higher than the previous month, and the attack rate was the highest since the beginning of the pandemic in Syria. This surge of COVID-19 cases may be linked to the Delta variant which was identified back in August, as it was also reported in neighbouring countries such as Iraq. The current cases reflect low vaccination coverage and the insufficient adoption of prevention measures, which is exacerbated by the absence of a national policy to impose personal and public prevention measures against COVID-19.

- Humanitarian actors in the region: There has been an increase in the number of INGOs operating in Deir-Ez-Zor compared to the starting point of this project, mostly focusing on rehabilitation of water and sanitation infrastructure, and restoration of agricultural assets. To ensure complementarity and to avoid duplication or overlap, Oxfam meets regularly with agencies individually, and in sector meetings, to map needs, discuss strategies and agree areas of intervention. The needs in Deir-ez-Zor are so high, and so widespread, that there is more than enough need for all actors to respond to the situation without duplicating their efforts and target locations.
- Economic situation and food insecurity: There has been a serious decline in purchasing power of low- and middle-income families because of exchange rate losses of the SYP. In March 2021, the exchange rate doubled from 1USD=1250 SYP to 1USD=2500SYP. This further led to loss of income generating opportunities and inadequate access to resources. According to the last WFP MVAM Bulletin (Issue no. 60: October 2021) the high price of commodities and the continued erosion of households' coping ability have led many families to adopt further food-based coping strategies. In October 2021, 72 percent of surveyed households reported relying on less preferred or less expensive food, up by 13 percent from October 2020, with peaks recorded in Homs (84 percent) and Hama (78 percent). Approximately three out of five interviewed households in Syria (59 percent) indicated a reduction in the number of meals consumed per day, an increase of nine percent year-on-year, with a wider share recorded among female-headed households (67 percent) compared to male-headed households (58 percent). Moreover, to cope with food shortages amid the dire economic living conditions, 49 percent of surveyed households reported reducing food consumption by adult members to prioritize their children's food consumption needs, representing an increase of seven percent since October 2020, with a higher proportion among returnees (56 percent) and IDPs (53 percent) compared to residents (46 percent).
- Increase in Needs: According to the HNO 2021 report<sup>16</sup>, around 13.4 million people are estimated to require some form of humanitarian and protection assistance, including 6 million in acute need. Around 6.7 million people (50.1%) remain internally displaced, 0.32 million (2.4%) returned to home origins and 6.36 million residents (47.5%) continue to suffer and have exacerbated living conditions<sup>17</sup>. In areas where hostilities have subsided, life remains a daily struggle due to limited access to basic services and livelihood opportunities, increasing financial hardship, and an eroding capacity to cope. More than 80% of the population is estimated to be living under the poverty line. The country has an unemployment rate of at least 55% and jobs are hard to find.

Oxfam conducted a multi-sectoral needs assessment in Deir-Ez-Zor and Aleppo governorates (covered by other grants) in January 2021, which confirmed that needs are still rampant, and that the COVID-19 pandemic has added further risks to people's livelihoods. There are scarce job opportunities while wages are not enough to meet basic needs. Especially, women, children and disabled people are at higher risks and are vulnerable to meet lifesaving needs while

<sup>16</sup> <https://gho.unocha.org/syria>

<sup>17</sup> Syrian Arab Republic 2021 Needs and Response Summary, February 2021



negative coping mechanisms have been observed. The major findings of the needs assessment are:

- Soaring prices of hygiene materials such as soap; even with some level of hygiene awareness, the situation has led the community to practice poor hygiene practices. Menstrual hygiene items are not affordable to the majority of the menstrual age population which makes it challenging for them to safely manage their period. On top of this, as of December 2020, the Ministry of Health declared an leishmaniasis outbreak in Deir-Ez-Zor.
  - Only 50% of the wastewater network is well functioning, 30% require rehabilitation/cleaning and 20% require replacement (Al Mayadin). 10% depend on septic holes with seepage to fields and streets, groundwater and damaged pipe water network are contaminated. WASH in school sewage and sanitation needs are huge. The needs of 300L garbage bins and transportation of 5,000 tons of accumulated solid wastes were also assessed.
  - Access to water in rural locations is still challenging; new returnees are living in damaged buildings and those communities lack water supply and sanitation facilities.
- Oxfam has designed its program in Deir Ez-Zor based on this needs' assessment' findings and has submitted successful proposals to ECHO and GFFO. Water scarcity: Deir-Ez-Zor governorate encountered water scarcity due to the Euphrates river water lowering. The situation persists and is worsening at the time of writing. There is a water scarcity response plan in place, and Oxfam has implemented some emergency response through internal appeal funds for its Syria response. In addition, Oxfam is in the process of implementing a project that is mainly focused on responding to this situation through UNOCHA SHF reserve funds. Oxfam has also participated in private lobbying and advocacy work together with other humanitarian actors on the issue of water scarcity.

### 3. HUMANITARIAN ORGANISATION IN THE INTERVENTION AREA

#### ***3.1 Presence of the humanitarian organisation in the intervention area: brief overview of the strategy and current or recent activities in the country***

Oxfam has been present in Syria since July 2013 with a full Country Programme operating from its head office in Damascus, with a field offices in Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor and further presence across the country. Oxfam works through Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with four line ministries: Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR), Ministry of Social Affairs & Labour (MoSAL), the Ministry of Local Administration & Environment (MoLAE) and the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA). Oxfam in Syria is also in negotiation with the Ministry of Education. These MoUs allow Oxfam to work on WASH and EFSVL interventions and to access collective shelters, schools and municipalities directly (Annex 3-Oxfam in Syria Access Strategy). This mechanism is unique as almost all other INGOs are registered either through the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), or Syria Trust for Development. Given that Oxfam does not have to work through these latter two entities, Oxfam has a unique position in being able to directly engage with a greater number of key stakeholders, to navigate the fluid and complex operational environment in Syria and to achieve results while maintaining humanitarian independence and security.

Oxfam in Syria seeks to contribute at scale to ensuring that vulnerable women and girls, men and boys of Syria will be better able to claim all of their rights, now and in the future by pursuing three cross-cutting and mutually reinforcing programmatic change goals in Syria:

- Through the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) program, more vulnerable women, men, girls and boys have equitable access to safe water, sanitation and waste management services and are able to safeguard their families' health.
- Through the Emergency Food Security and Viable Livelihoods (EFSVL) program, more vulnerable women and men are able to secure basic food needs and viable livelihoods and have the capacity to withstand shocks.
- Through the Voice for Accountability, Protection and Participation (VAPP) program, more vulnerable women and men will live in dignity, protected from violence, coercion and deliberate deprivation and be better able to claim their rights now and in the future. In addition, Oxfam works to place vulnerable populations at the heart of the humanitarian response, helping them to gain decision-making powers over their own lives, and enable them to live in greater dignity.

Oxfam's began providing humanitarian WASH assistance in 2013, and is considered a leading WASH actor in Syria alongside ICRC/SARC and UNICEF. To date, the country programme has provided sustainable access to safe water for over two million IDPs, returnees and host community members in 12 out of 14 governorates. The interventions implemented since 2013 have included a wide range of support from water trucking to full rehabilitation of water systems infrastructure (Annex 4 and 5), and from public health promotion to hygiene items distributions, with gender mainstreamed.

Oxfam's EFSVL team was established in 2017 with a strong competence across livelihoods and cash programming. In 2018, the EFSVL team implemented emergency bread and clothing distributions in the city of Deir-ez-Zor; it was the first INGO to pilot an emergency cash transfer project in Rural Damascus. Oxfam has since delivered cash-for-work programming in Deir-Ez-Zor and Aleppo governorates. It remains the only INGO to deliver cash programming. Learnings from these pilot programmes have been integrated in the proposed project under the Response Analysis section and Annex 6. Additional projects in agricultural livelihoods and vocational training have been designed and are being implemented through strategic partnerships with Syrian NGOs in Aleppo, Homs, Hama, Rural Damascus and Deir-ez-Zor governorates.

Oxfam's country programme is fully staffed and supported by a highly competent team of technical staff both at its Damascus office with WASH, EFSVL, MEAL, gender, advocacy/media experts, and at the governorate level with focal points, site engineers and contractors.

Oxfam's focus is on "safe programming" which implies that all interventions are assessed for conflict sensitivity, do no harm and from a gender perspective with clear risk identification and mitigation plans. Keeping in mind the vulnerability of the beneficiaries, a safeguarding policy and a feedback and complaints handling mechanism is in place to ensure that beneficiaries are not merely passive recipients of aid.

**3.2 Ongoing actions and requests for funding submitted to other donors, in the same intervention area – please state how overlaps and double funding would be avoided**

Oxfam has been implementing interventions in Deir-ez-Zor since early 2018. Given the wide scale needs in Deir-ez-Zor, its remoteness, which in part explains the few humanitarian actors engaged in the governorate, its agricultural significance, the governorate is a priority area for Oxfam.

As described above, in early 2018 during winter, Oxfam carried out an emergency bread and clothing distribution. Since then, other programs implemented in Deir-ez-Zor have focused on different types of EFSVL activities, i.e. cash programming, emergency agricultural support to farmers and livelihood rehabilitation. From July to December 2018, it implemented a multi-faceted agricultural livelihoods program funded by UNHCR which included restoration of irrigation systems through provision of equipment and cash for work, distribution of seeds and training of farmers. At the time of this writing, January 2018, Oxfam is initiating the implementation of a project funded by the Italian Development Cooperation (€ 550k) which will concentrate on the rehabilitation of public bakeries. Oxfam is also in the process of finalising proposals for 2019 with WFP (USD 200k) for cash distribution to support farmers until the first yields; with UNHCR (USD 400k+) with similar agricultural activities solidly based on lessons learned from the initial such project; and with ECHO for WASH activities. As the above describes, within its main areas of programming, Oxfam aims at integrated programming as the overall impact on the communities will be greater.

The proposed activities in this proposal will complement activities already being delivered in Oxfam's wider Deir-ez-Zor programme funded by other donors, balancing shorter term emergency interventions, with more mid-term resilience focused interventions. Double funding is avoided through clear programme monitoring and financial tracking systems, with different donor funded activities implemented across the Governorate.

**3.3 [FIN] List the other operations performed by the humanitarian organisation or its implementation partners during the same period in this intervention area and describe how the risks of double funding were avoided**

At the time of submitting the proposal to DGD in 2019, there were no other humanitarian actors intervening in the same target locations and once approval for the grant was received, Oxfam's team in the field immediately coordinated with the relevant directorates and other humanitarian actors to avoid any double funding or overlap in the same locations. This resulted in a complementary approach in interventions with other actors achieving maximum positive results for affected communities; for example, Oxfam coordinated with SARC in Al Mayadin canal rehabilitation to avoid duplication.

Oxfam used an integrated programming approach that builds sectoral integration between WaSH and EFSVL whilst maintaining gender and protection at its core.

Other operations performed as a result of coordination between humanitarian organisations during the same period include:

- At Al Omran neighbourhood in Al Mayadin city, Oxfam completed the supply and installation of the main water pipeline to connect Al Omran water high tank to Al Mayadin water pumping. ADRA installed the main water pipeline at the shared connection providing drinking water from Al Mayadin pumping station to another neighbourhood in the city.
- In the Al Taiba Irrigation pump, SARC installed the 2 diesel irrigation pumps.
- In Balloum, UNDP installed 2 irrigation pumps and electrical transformers to the Baloum irrigation pump.
- In Makhan, SARC installed 4 diesel irrigation pumps to the Makhan Irrigation pumping station.

Based on coordination meetings with other agencies, including SARC, UNDP and FAO, Oxfam rehabilitated the irrigation pumping station in Al Mayadin and immediate neighbouring villages where there have been four sites in need of rehabilitation. Based on needs and resources available in the project, Oxfam rehabilitated Al Mayadin irrigation pumping station which serves 1,500 HHs, Al Taiba irrigation pumping station which serves 750 HHs, and Mahkan irrigation canal reaching 1,500 HHs and Baloum station reaching 350 HHs, to meet the needs of the population and to ensure complementarity in different interventions by helping farmers to restore agricultural activities which is the main source of livelihoods in Al Mayadin.

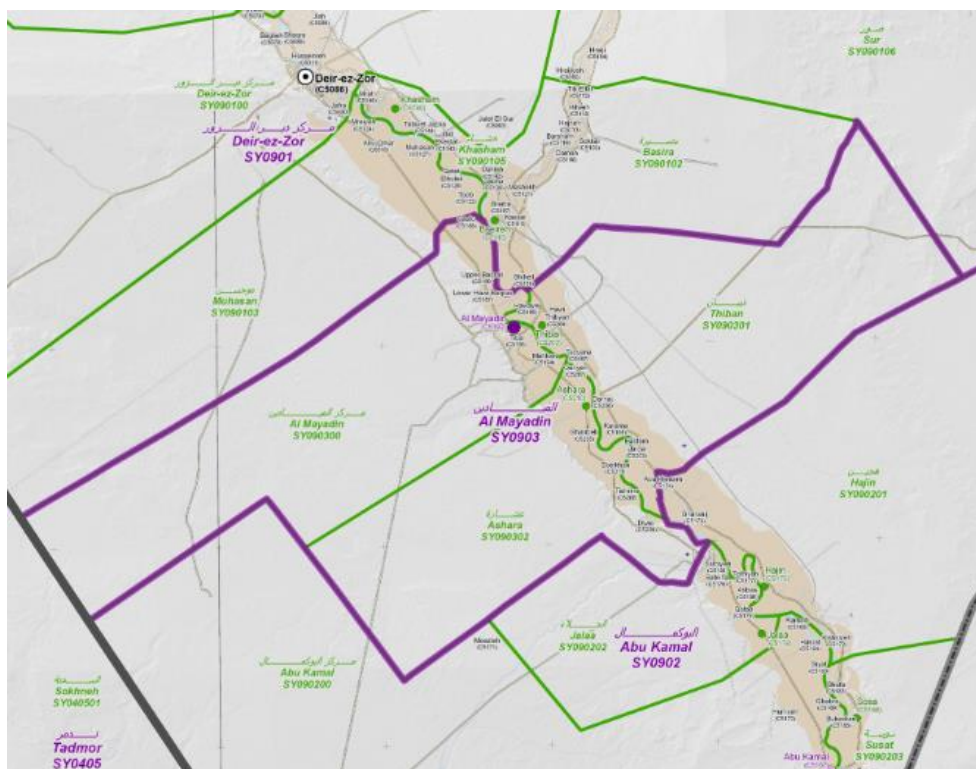
As a result of coordination between humanitarian organisations, other operations performed by NOGs during the same period included:

- At Al Omran neighbourhood in Al Mayadin city, Oxfam completed the supply and installation of the main water pipeline to connect Al Omran water high tank to Al Mayadin water pumping. ADRA installed the main water pipeline at the shared connection providing drinking water from Al Mayadin pumping station to another neighbourhood in the city.
- In the Al Taiba Irrigation pump, SARC installed the 2 diesel irrigation pumps.
- In Balloum, UNDP installed 2 irrigation pumps and electrical transformers to the Baloum irrigation pump.
- In Makhan, SARC installed 4 diesel irrigation pumps to the Makhan Irrigation pumping station.

Also, in August 2021, funded by Oxfam Australia public appeal funds, Oxfam in Syria supplied LWE with water pipes in Al Mayadin district in DeZ, as a response to the lowering of the Euphrates river. Oxfam installed 108 m steel suction pipes size 250 mm, with 86 flanges and 4 strainers at the intakes of five raw pumping sets. The intervention has addressed immediate needs of water supply as water stations were not able to function at the required scale due to river lowering

## 4. OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK

### 4.1 Precise location of the action (please include a map making it possible to locate the project)



**Figure 1** - (approximate representation of Deir- ez-Zor governorate and al Mayadin District)

The proposed action will be implemented in Al Mayadin district in Deir- ez-Zor governorate in the East of Syria. According to UN-OCHA 2018 population data figures, there are approximately 87,350 people residing in Al Mayadin District, which is composed of three sub-districts: Al Mayadin, Al Ashara, and Thiban (Diban). The majority of planned activities under this proposal will be for Al Mayadin and Al Ashara sub-districts, on the south side of the Euphrates. Oxfam will continuously assess needs in Thiban sub-district, as well as other districts in Deir- ez-Zor in case project activities are required elsewhere. This could extend to all areas of Deir- ez-Zor governorate, including Deir- ez-Zor town, which is the main market town in the region, which has an estimated population of over 140,000 people according to UN OCHA.

Given recent announcements in December 2018, that the US would withdraw forces from Syria, there is likely to be developments in the relationship between the SDF and GoS forces. SDF forces have been supported by US allied forces, and their withdrawal will leave SDF in a weaker position. However, at this early stage, there are strong possibilities of reconciliatory discussions and negotiation between SDF and GoS which if goes positively could increase potential humanitarian

access of Oxfam and other humanitarian actors on the ground. Thus, between the time of proposal submission and grant award, there could be significant changes in the ability to access different at-risk communities.

Total population of the three sub-districts:

Deir-ez-Zor	0-4			5-17			18-59			>60			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
<b>Al Mayadin</b>	1131	1165	2296	2429	2496	4925	2962	5125	8086	333	200	532	6855	8985	15840
<b>Ashara</b>	704	889	1593	4996	3140	8136	5882	4920	10802	149	0	149	11731	8949	20680
<b>Thiban</b>	5872	6032	11904	6663	5859	12522	10209	14531	24740	960	704	1664	23704	27126	50830
<b>Total</b>	7707	8086	15792	14088	11495	25583	19053	24576	43629	1442	904	2346	42291	45059	87350

## 4.2 Beneficiaries

### 4.2.1 Total number of direct beneficiaries:

Total number of direct beneficiaries for this project is expected to be **35,000**.

Outcome 1: 35,000 beneficiaries from WASH interventions.

Outcome 2: 17,500 beneficiaries from EFSL intervention.

Although each Outcome will target direct beneficiaries under differing but similar criteria for intervention, a 100% overlap is planned of EFSVL direct beneficiaries with the WASH beneficiaries, with the water supply activity giving the largest beneficiary reach and coverage for the project.

### 4.2.2 Specificities of the direct beneficiaries (please specify, if possible, by referring to the groups as appropriate, e.g.: unaccompanied minors, people with disabilities, children, former combatants, etc.)

The ethnic mix of Deir-ez-Zor governorate is predominantly Arab Sunni populations, on both sides of the Euphrates. Kurdish populations are not present, except for SDF forces which control the Northern side of Euphrates in Deir-Ez-Zor.

Direct beneficiaries will include vulnerable and at-risk communities with a high number of IDP returnees. Over the past year, there has been a high number of Syrians returning to their place of origin, who were previously internally displaced due to conflict and besiegement.

Over the last year alone, there are over 224,000 people who were formerly internally displaced who have returned to their place of origin in Deir-ez-Zor governorate. Because many men have fled from the conflict, were killed, injured or have joined military ranks, many women are now heads of household and not only have to continue their traditional household activities within the home, but also have to take on income generation activities as the main breadwinner, mostly being active outside the house. The project will therefore specifically target women headed households in terms of their food security, livelihood and WASH needs.

The average household size is estimated to be 7 persons per household.<sup>18</sup>

### 4.2.3 Mechanisms and criteria for the identification of the direct beneficiaries

Oxfam will prioritise project activities in communities with high number and ratio of returnees to the local population, where there is a high level of vulnerability and poor coping mechanisms, for both returnees and residents that have remained in their home of origin. In particular, for both the EFSVL and WASH interventions, priority for specific household level needs interventions will be based on the following criteria:

1. Female-headed HHs;
2. HHs with persons with disabilities, among whom those with lack of mobility related to old age or children with physical or mental impediments;
3. HHs with high number of children, both school age children and under 5 years of age;
4. Spontaneous returnee households who have lost assets and property due to the conflict, who struggle to restore their livelihoods;

<sup>18</sup> [http://www.reachresourcecentre.info/system/files/resource-documents/syr\\_deir\\_ez\\_zor\\_governorate\\_profile\\_may\\_2017\\_final\\_0.pdf](http://www.reachresourcecentre.info/system/files/resource-documents/syr_deir_ez_zor_governorate_profile_may_2017_final_0.pdf)

5. Individuals who have remained in their homes of origin within communities where returns are taking place or who are hosting IDPs, and whose have similarly lost assets and property and are struggling to restore their livelihoods.

Oxfam will target its intervention in communities which have seen many households returning, and where there are issues of social cohesion, basic social service provision, and livelihood restoration. Taking into consideration the above beneficiary criteria, these will be further confirmed after interactions with the affected communities to include other possible excluded and vulnerable groups.

For both the public health promotion and food security interventions, beneficiary identification will be conducted with the communities and will be verified at field level by Oxfam teams. For the restoration of water systems, the selection will be based on a combination of technical feasibility and largest catchment population. Priority will be given to interventions which serve a high caseload of people who identify with the criteria described above.

#### **4.2.4 Describe the scope of and the arrangements for the involvement of the direct beneficiaries in the development of the action**

Beneficiary involvement at the initial design phase of this project has been important in order to get a first-hand understanding of the most urgent needs. Further consultations are planned with women, men, boys, girls, elderly persons and persons with disabilities to ensure their differing and specific needs and protection risks are identified and considered in aspects of programme delivery.

The implementation of this project will be carried out through participatory community approaches involving different stakeholders including beneficiaries, community leaders, local authorities on key project activities such as beneficiaries' selection to ensure transparency and accountability to multiple and different stakeholders. Beneficiaries will be encouraged to actively participate at the different stages of project cycle implementation through focus group discussions. They will be involved in determining and/or finalizing the contents of the hygiene and agricultural NFIs. It is also planned that they participate in defining the curricula for the agricultural trainings they will receive.

Communities will be fully informed of the project's objectives and activities, criteria for beneficiary selection and content of NFIs distributed to ensure transparency, accountability and acceptance. Furthermore, Oxfam implements a beneficiary feedback system which includes help desks during distributions for receiving feedback and complaints. Beneficiary feedback is recorded and cascaded to respective teams for action; it is also incorporated into future programming as lessons learned. Information collected through the feedback system is used to obtain beneficiaries perspectives on implementation and indications on adjustments that may be required to improve the process. Information collected on communities' protection concerns will be used to adapt Oxfam's program and improve the level of safe programming to ensure Oxfam fully adheres to the Core Humanitarian Principles and Oxfam's Responsible Data Policy.

Additionally, Oxfam will recruit community resource persons (CRPs) from the targeted communities to lead hygiene and health promotion awareness activities. They will benefit from training and will act as focal points and resource on public health within their respective communities. Oxfam will also aim at utilising qualified local contractors for its WASH interventions who will in turn hire local skilled and unskilled labour, which will further contribute to local community ownership of the interventions.

#### **4.2.5 Other potential beneficiaries (indirect, catchment, etc.)**

Oxfam's EFSVL intervention will not only directly benefit specifically targeted individuals and households but will also benefit the local communities at large as increased agricultural food production will in turn increase the quantity and diversity of food available at local markets. This increased food production can also be used in agricultural value chains for further processing and boosting value. These benefits could extend to other areas of Deir-ez-Zor governorate, including Deir-ez-Zor city, the main market hub in the governorate, which has an estimated population of over 140,000 (source: UN OCHA).

In terms of Oxfam's WASH interventions, increased access to safe water will indirectly improve access to sanitation and will enhance health and hygiene promotion of the population connected to the same WASH systems targeted by the action. Rehabilitating water systems will not only provide clean water to vulnerable communities. It will also reduce the burden and cost to local water establishments and humanitarian actors who employ expensive interim solutions, namely water trucking to fill the gap, in turn allowing them to save and redirect resources to be used to reach more people in underserved areas.

**4.2.6 Direct beneficiaries by sector (refer to "ECHO's guidelines, Annex I", pages 26-29: [http://ec.europa.eu/echo/about/actors/fpa\\_fr.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/about/actors/fpa_fr.htm))**

Sectors	Number of beneficiaries
EFSL	17,500
WASH	35,000

**[INT] In the event of a change, please provide information**

**[FIN] In the event of a change, please provide information**

The actual number of beneficiaries are presented below per sector (single count) showing achievement against target.

Sectors	Number of beneficiaries (original target)	Number of beneficiaries (actual achieved) *
EFSVL	17,500	23,919
WASH	35,000	95,671
Total: 119,590		

**[FIN] Estimate by type of beneficiary**

Women:	54 %,e	Men: 46%	(women + men total = 100 %)
Infants (aged < 5):	17 %, Children (aged < 18):	32 %, Elderly:	4%

### 4.3 Objectives, outcomes and activities

#### 4.3.1 Operational overview of the action: logical framework (3 pages maximum)

Title of the action	Multi-year food security and wash assistance to vulnerable communities in Deir-ez-Zor, Syria			
Main objective	To improve food security, nutrition, access to safe water and resilience for vulnerable conflict-affected women, men, girls and boys in Syria			
	Intervention logic	Objectively verifiable indicators	Verification sources	Risks and assumptions
Specific objective	To ensure that the most vulnerable conflict-affected population have its critical basic needs met through interventions which improve sustainable food security outcomes and improve access to life-saving safe water and hygiene practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>60% of targeted conflict-affected households have improved livelihood strategies and incomes;</li> <li>60% of target population have adequate WASH services and hygiene practices.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Baseline survey</li> <li>Endline survey</li> <li>EFSA</li> <li>PDM surveys.</li> <li>KAP survey</li> <li>Field reports</li> </ul>	<p><b>Risks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compromised ability to achieve project objectives due to lack of approvals to work in government and opposition-controlled areas</li> <li>Escalation of conflict resulting in insecurity near project locations which may limit Oxfam's abilities to achieve project objectives</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<p>OC1: WASH - Conflict-affected Syrian women, girls, boys and men have improved access to adequate safe water, hygiene materials, and have improved hygiene and water conservation practices.</p> <p>OC2: EFSVL - Conflict-affected Syrian women, girls, boys and men have increased access to food through increased food</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>35,000 people have access to sufficient and safe water for domestic use;</li> <li>70% of targeted women, men, girls and boys express satisfaction with reliable access to water by the end of the project;</li> <li>70% of women and men who have benefited from hygiene promotion activities know and apply at least 3 key hygiene behaviours by the end of the project.</li> <li>60% of targeted families with improved coping strategy index scores and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Baseline survey</li> <li>Endline survey</li> <li>PDM reports</li> <li>KAP survey</li> <li>Focus Group Discussions;</li> <li>Key Informant Interviews;</li> <li>Water quality test results (where possible);</li> <li>Water Establishment figures regarding user population and flow rates;</li> <li>Market analysis report</li> <li>Post Distribution reports</li> <li>Registration records</li> <li>Distribution records</li> <li>Accountability report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Difficulty in accessing communities for data collection to assess their actual needs and/or measure impact</li> <li>Rapid increase of beneficiaries in targeted locations</li> <li>Increased tension between IDPs, returnees and host communities</li> <li>Limited equipment and supplies available in the Syrian market due to instability, sanctions and limited imports delays or prevents the implementation of project activities</li> <li>Risk of compromised impartiality and independence</li> <li>Occurrence of gender-based violence</li> </ul> <p><b>Assumptions:</b></p>



	production and increased household income.	<p>greater diversity of expenditure;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 60% of targeted vulnerable households with improved Food Consumption Score &gt;42;</li> <li>• 60% of conflict affected women-headed households have increased household income.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Focus Group Discussions</li> <li>- Key Informant Interviews</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No interference by conflicting parties in the implementation putting at risk independence and impartiality.</li> <li>- Security situation in target area allows movement of Oxfam staff &amp; volunteers;</li> <li>- Oxfam project supported water resources/availability and quality remains stable and within minimum standards;</li> <li>- No damage to newly rehabilitated infrastructure;</li> <li>- Oxfam is supported by relevant authorities to conduct hygiene sessions in collective shelters, other informal settlements, or other public spaces;</li> <li>- Oxfam is supported by relevant authorities to continue with the unconditional cash distribution programme;</li> <li>- Cultural / religious biases to women's participation in project activities are minimised;</li> <li>- Intra-household tension related to project benefits are minimised.</li> </ul>
<b>Activities</b>	<p><b>Outcome 1: WASH</b></p> <p>1.1 Essential rehabilitation of water supply systems;</p> <p>1.2 Hygiene Promotion Awareness Activities/Campaigns with women, men, boys, and girls including distribution of IEC WASH related materials</p> <p>1.3 Provision and distribution of gender sensitive hygiene kits;</p> <p>1.4 Develop policy brief on the WASH response in Syria, based from learning from the project</p> <p><b>Outcome 2: EFSVL</b></p> <p>2.1 Conduct respectively vulnerability, market and land irrigation infrastructure engineering analysis;</p> <p>2.2 Rehabilitation of communal irrigation canals using labor intensive schemes and the provision and installation of irrigation equipment;</p> <p>2.3 Provide agricultural toolkits and poultry;</p> <p>2.4 Provide unconditional cash support to extremely vulnerable households unable to participate in agricultural activities;</p> <p>2.5 Perform a pilot localized research on the effects of climate change on natural resources, i.e. land and water in agricultural areas with recommendations for improved agricultural land and water management;</p> <p>2.6 Train farmers on environmental and climate-sensitive agriculture and irrigation techniques;</p> <p>2.7 Develop policy brief on improving women's access to aid support in the livelihoods sector, based from learning from the project.</p>			
<p><b>Prerequisites</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Security situation does not hamper project interventions;</li> <li>- Security situation allows continuous access to the project sites by Oxfam personnel;</li> <li>- International banking system facilitates the transfer of funds to Oxfam in Syria for the purpose of implementing this project;</li> <li>- Relevant authorities (line ministries and governorates) provide timely permission to implement the project, in a way that does not impinge on independent and impartial humanitarian action;</li> <li>- Relevant authorities process international staff visas/work permits in a timely manner to facilitate project implementation;</li> <li>- Skilled human resources are available in-country and in Deir-ez-Zor for the implementation of this project;</li> <li>- Relevant project materials and equipment are available in the local market;</li> </ul>				

### 4.3.2 More detailed information per outcome<sup>19</sup>

#### 4.3.2.1 Outcome 1: WASH - Conflict-affected Syrian women, girls, boys and men have improved access to adequate safe water, hygiene materials, and have improved hygiene and water conservation practices.

##### 4.3.2.1.1 At the proposal stage

- **Sector: WASH**
- **Related sub-sector:** Water supply, hygiene promotion, capacity building, other
- **Beneficiaries (status + number)**  
35,000 Beneficiaries residing in Al Mayadin District, including returnees. This includes 35,000 reached through water supply interventions, and 20,000 people to be reached through hygiene promotion activities.
- **Indicators for this outcome:**
  - 1) 35,000 people have access to sufficient and safe water for domestic use
  - 2) 60% of targeted women, men, girls and boys expressed satisfaction with reliable access to water by the end of the project.
  - 3) 70% of women and men who have benefited from hygiene promotion activities know at least 3 key hygiene behaviours by the end of the project.
- **Outcome-related activities**

#### 1.1 Essential Rehabilitation of Water Supply Systems

Given current issues with lack of access to clean safe water through the network, many people rely on the Euphrates river as their primary source, or on water provided by trucking which is an expensive alternative and not fully reliable in terms of delivery and quality. Furthermore, often women and children are mobilised to collect water, which not only keeps children away from education but also implies potential risks to women and children.

To address this, Oxfam proposes activities to rehabilitate the water pumping station currently out of order in Al Mayadin. The rehabilitation of the water pumping station in Al Mayadin will be upgraded from its current condition to ensure access to an efficient amount of water to be pumped to the villages in Al Mayadin. This includes rehabilitation of the primary and secondary water pumping station. The works will be conducted through a contractor which will include provision and installation of the horizontal pumps with electrical and mechanical accessories needed, in addition to the rehabilitation of the sand filters and the provision and installation of generators with control panels.

If by the time this proposal is approved, the described works have already been initiated by other humanitarian actors, Oxfam will refocus on spot rehabilitation of the water supply network which is partially functional. Based on experience to date, water supply networks in communities that have experienced armed conflict may be damaged on average from 30 to 50%. The rehabilitation works will include reconnecting, repairing and replacing water pipes in the local water supply network to ensure proper access to safe water for the villages in Al Mayadin and further minimising the dependence on water trucking. In addition, Oxfam may provide and install HH-level pipes of different sizes, connection pipes, and public tapstands. Exact works to be done will be evaluated at the beginning of the project.

The catchment population for either of these two WASH intervention options is 35,000 which will have restored access to safe and clean water for drinking and household use.

<sup>19</sup> For each result identified in the logical framework, more detailed information necessary for a proper understanding of the proposal/report will be gathered here. A specific sub-section per outcome at the proposal, interim report and final report stages has been provided for (please do not update the information of a previous stage in this section, please comment on the change in the appropriate sub-section for the outcome).

## 1.2 Hygiene Promotion Awareness Activities/Campaigns with women, men, boys, and girls including distribution of IEC WASH related materials

Oxfam will target hygiene interventions for vulnerable families living in the targeted communities. Oxfam will support hygiene promotion in targeted communities through trained Community Resource Persons (CRPs) to help address the public health issues in the governorate. CRPs will be trained: a) to conduct basic local WASH surveys; b) in a number of hygiene promotion topics which will be selected based on a local survey of health issues; c) planning and designing hygiene awareness campaign including curricula and hygiene sessions. Following these trainings, Oxfam will provide on-going support to the CRPs as they may require to perform their tasks. The CRPs will be selected from within the affected communities. Oxfam will aim to train at least 30 CRPs, with at least 60% female representation. CRPs will be able to conduct awareness sessions in their community for a total of up to 2500 people. This is a voluntary position with only daily cash incentive, taken up by the residents of affected villages, in IDP sites, or by staff based in location of local Syrian NGO.

Hygiene is crucial for all family members, therefore these campaigns include sessions for women, sessions targeting communities as a whole, as well as activities for children in schools.

## 1.3 Provision and distribution of Gender-sensitive Hygiene Kits

To support returnees and local communities in the maintenance of their personal and domestic hygiene, especially those who are living in or have returned to partially destroyed buildings, Oxfam will provide and distribute hygiene materials to vulnerable households who struggle to practice adequate hygiene. The loss of income makes it difficult for many vulnerable households to adapt or manage hygienic practices in their current underprivileged situation. Oxfam in direct consultation with the communities will determine the specific content of hygiene kits based on local community needs, it will consider factors such gender, age, disability as well as local market availability, ensuring that items that are not available in the local market but required are included. Oxfam will distribute one hygiene kit per household, for up to 2,500 households whose members are participants in the hygiene awareness activities.

## 1.4 Develop policy brief on the WASH response in Syria, based from learning from the project

To ensure that future WASH assistance in Deir-Ez-Zor better meets the needs of vulnerable populations and is gender responsive, Oxfam will use data collected from FGDs, MEAL activities (including distribution monitoring and the feedback desk), Key Informant Interviews, and ad hoc engagement with beneficiaries to create policy briefs and communication products for key international stakeholders (including the donor community), that outline the support that vulnerable populations themselves want within the WASH sector in order to improve their lives. Oxfam will host a learning event to disseminate learning from the project to inform and influence others on challenges and opportunities to improving the WASH response in Syria. Such an event could take place at a Senior Officials Meeting, the Brussels IV Conference, or during the Belgian presidency of the UN in early 2020.

### 4.3.2.1.2 Interim report

#### - Updating<sup>20</sup> of the indicators

The baseline report is annexed (Annex 1) and below is the brief update on indicators

Indicators	Target value	Baseline value	Explanation
% of targeted	60	0	- The main water network for communities is

<sup>20</sup> Updates and explanations should target both progress and changes made to the proposal.

<p>population have adequate WASH services and hygiene practices.</p>			<p>Euphrates river and the water is supplied after treatment from the system. However, population who don't have access to water network resort to water trucking.</p> <p>The water pressure is low and there is no consistency in water supply. The treatment is not reliable, and communities observe plankton and dust in the water. Hence, water service is not adequate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 100% households have latrines, however institutions such as schools do not have functional latrines and water supplies. Oxfam survey reports that education environment is affected by poor WaSH services.</li> <li>-Communities are informed on handwashing practice, however it is found that communities are in need of more adequate knowledge and practice of proper handwashing including for critical stage of handwashing and in the COVID19.</li> <li>- There is no solid waste management system in the community. All HHs collect the waste in the corners of houses and roads and burn them. The Municipality visit the area very few times which is inadequate to collect and dispose the waste properly.</li> <li>-According to WHO monthly trend, it is also evident that water-borne and hygiene related infection are prevalent in the community</li> </ul> <p>Taking account of all above indicators; Oxfam assesses that there is 0% of target population who have adequate WASH services and hygiene practices.</p>
<p>Number of people have access to sufficient and safe water for domestic use;</p>	35,000	0	<p>Euphrates river water is the main source of water whereas water network and water trucking are major means to supply water. The old pumps and poor water supply system has been the hinderance to access water in reliable way. 35,000 population of the project location don't have access to sufficient and safe water. Daily consumption value is 10 lpd, however this is neither stable nor safe.</p>
<p>% of targeted women, men, girls and boys express satisfaction with reliable access to water by the end of the project;</p>	70	30	<p>As per the KII and FGDs in baseline studies, it is identified that 30% of interviewed population are satisfied with the access of water. The data collection method to get this info was qualitative (and limited). When triangulating this info with observation of water system, situation of water trucking and uncontrolled raw water; the satisfaction doesn't represent on safe water. Oxfam will conduct detailed surveys to assess the end</p>

			line value during the end of the project
% of women and men who have benefited from hygiene promotion activities know and apply at least 3 key hygiene behaviors by the end of the project.	70	0	To be calculated at intervention stage (pre and post-test). As no agencies have delivered WaSH services in the communities, baseline is zero. The pre and post test data are being collected and will be analyzed once activities are concluded (to be shared in final report).

- **Updating<sup>4</sup> of the beneficiaries (status + number)**

The disaggregated data for WaSH program is below

Description	Taiba	Mahkan	Tabieh – DeZ district, Kasham sub-district	Al Mayadin <sup>21</sup>
Population	16,500	17,500	6,000	15000
Number of families	1500	2500	857	2100
Type of people	Returnees	Returnees	Returnees, local	Returnees
Children in schools	2000	5000	TBC	TBC
Number of families with disabilities	150	250	85	210
Female HH headed	500	750	300	735
Targeted beneficiaries (Family Hygiene kits distribution)	2500 households		0	0
Targeted beneficiaries (awareness activities)	20,000 individuals		0	TBC
Water supply beneficiaries	16,500 (Taiba)		6,000	15000
As of reporting period, Oxfam has reached <b>23.500 direct Beneficiaries.</b>				

- **Updating<sup>4</sup> of the activities**

**1.1 Essential Rehabilitation of Water Supply Systems**

Oxfam carried out technical assessments for water system Al Tiba pumping station in mid-January 2020. The finding of these assessments revealed that the needs were linked to inadequate capacity to intake raw water and injecting pure water to pipelines from the system. With long and chronic impact of conflict, the equipment's were either old, not repaired or in the condition of replacement. There was also poor capacity on repair and maintenance of equipment. The electromechanical equipment in Al Tiba water pumping and purification stations was outdated before the crisis/war. The pumps set usually works a few days then require repair again, ultimately impacting the adequacy and access to safe water. Given these

[With new additional work from exchange rate gain.](#)

needs, Oxfam finalised plans and Bill/Book of Quantities (BoQ)/Book of condition (BoCs) for all works, including technical specifications for rehabilitation of the electro-mechanical equipment in the pumping station. Oxfam finalized the contractor in second round of procurement for Al Tiba drinking water pumping and purification stations after the failure of the first bidding process. A meeting with the Contractors Association in Deir EzZor by Oxfam WASH Coordinator was held to encourage the vendors to apply for implementing Oxfam activities. The reasons behind the failure of tenders were the lack of suppliers, service providers & contractors reluctant to work in Der EzZor, in addition to the risk of exchange rate fluctuations which would impact suppliers with a huge loss in case of importation.

Eventually, Oxfam finalized the contractors with due process and contractor has completed supplies and installing them. The expected date of completion of work is mid-April 2021. During the time of this report writing, all the works are completed, and Oxfam has handover the station to Local Water Establishments (LWE). The intervention is benefitting 16,500 individuals in Al Taiba communities of Al Mayadin with drinking water. Beneficiaries will get 30 Litre/Person/Day of water, whereas baseline value was 10L/P/D.

Oxfam completed the supply of 3,100m High Density Polythene Pipe (HDPE) to the LWE to be installed to produce drinking water to Al Tabieh in Kasham sub-district from Kasham pumping station. Oxfam supported with supplies where LWE completed installation with technical support from Oxfam.

This activity is benefitting 6.000 individuals in Al Tabieh community of Deir Ez Zor. Affected population is getting 30L/P/D water whereas before intervention it was 10L/P/D.

There are no quality tests available at the LWE because of the lack to access a laboratory. Oxfam is focusing on purification of water during rehabilitation whereas water handling and water safety will also be focused as awareness program at community level. Oxfam will explore the scope of testing and quality check-up for future. Oxfam works closely with water establishment members throughout the project delivery. Oxfam has also supported on capacity building of LWE on maintenance and running the water system from other projects. Oxfam will support O&M during the project period whereas will build capacity of LWE in long run so that it sustained and self-managed by LWE.

As explained in the first section of the report, Oxfam has savings due to exchange rate gain and has a plan to conduct additional activities on spot rehabilitation and provide and install raw water pumping set with its electrical panel and cables for Al Mayadeen pumping station that will benefit 15.000 HHs in Al Mayadin community. Oxfam has completed technical assessment and will process for procurement in April 2021 to supply and install equipment. The spot rehabilitation will be complemented with ECHO funded project to meet wider life-saving needs in Al Mayadin. Oxfam has a framework agreement with contractor and work will be expanded for this project. Approximately, 30K EUR will be utilized for the pumping station work and 45K EUR will be utilized for spot rehabilitation of water networks. A brief needs assessment attached herewith (Annex 20)

## **1.2 Hygiene Promotion Awareness Activities/Campaigns with women, men, boys, and girls including distribution of IEC WASH related materials**

From the baseline survey, it has been observed that there is inadequate handwashing behaviour in the community. While taking reference of critical stages of handwashing, most of the people wash hands:

- after defecation
- after washing child bottom

Whereas not all people wash hands:

- Before eating
- Before preparing meals
- Before feeding child
- Before preparing and serving food
- After sneezing/coughing

Also, there is no knowledge on proper handwashing techniques. The key challenges for handwashing behaviour are:

- Lack of Knowledge
- Poor availability of water
- Low income leading to low availability of soap at HH level given that beneficiaries prioritize procuring other essential items over soap.
- Ignorance
- In addition to these, poor knowledge on COVID19 prevention was observed during the baseline. Based on this, Oxfam adapted its program on hygiene promotion for COVID19 prevention.

Oxfam has created community committees in Al Mayadin, Taiba and Mahkaan to take part to beneficiaries selection and sensitize on the project. There are 3-4 members per committee. The purpose of these committees is:

- a) To identify the most vulnerable groups and individuals in target communities, so that these could be given priority assistance.
- b) To select some members to be trained as Community Resource Persons (CRPs), who will lead on hygiene promotion activities. This is critical to ensure that hygiene promotion activities are tailored to the communities in which Oxfam works, and respect local norms around gender, for example.

These committees are made of local leaders that represent communities (Oxfam stressed for women participation). This approach has been challenging, not only because of harmful gender norms in target communities, but also because of low levels of literacy, making training and the provision of communications materials more challenging.

However, Oxfam finalized mobilization approach and awareness raising sessions that focused both on communities and schools through volunteers. Oxfam has had to adapt its approach to community-based hygiene promotion as a result of COVID-19 related restrictions (no gatherings of people, schools are closed), so CRP training was adapted. Oxfam is conducting sessions applying COVID19 measures in controlled settings such as limited participants if in community and or in school settings for children.

In order to implement the awareness campaign and distribute the hygiene kits, 30 volunteers (18 Female and 12 male) initially proposed as CRPs were trained on the Basic Public Health Promotion principles such as general WaSH, community engagement, behavioural change (Mums Magic Hands (MMH)) and COVID19 prevention. Oxfam has maintained 60% female enrolment for volunteers as reflected in the proposal, to contribute to effective message dissemination. According to the need's assessment findings and observations, Oxfam is focusing on three main hygiene behaviours:

- a. Effective hand washing.
- b. COVID 19 (Basic information about COVID 19 - Social distancing – transmission, use of masks).
- c. Leishmaniasis prevention

To roll out awareness activities, Oxfam completed the assessment of 17 schools (11 schools in Mhaxhan and 6 schools in Taiba). The total number of students in Mhaxhan is 2618 (Boys=1339, Girls=1279) whereas 1564 (B=767, G=797) in Taiba. Based on the needs identified, Oxfam is conducting several sessions in schools. As of this reporting period, 4.182 students ((B=2106, G=2076) were reached through 91 sessions in Mahkan and 66 sessions in Taiba. The intervention was conducted through MMH approach where students were engaged in the sessions.

The awareness intervention focused on Leishmaniasis, water conservation/preservation, lice, handwashing and most importantly COVID19 prevention measures. Oxfam also printed IEC

materials on water conservation, Hepatis A, Leishmaniasis and COVID19 as below which is distributed during sessions. Following materials were printed:

Anti-lice brochure---25,000  
 Hep A prevention brochure—25000  
 COVID19 prevention brochure-25000  
 Leishmaniasis prevention -25000  
 Water conservation for HHs (parents)-25000  
 Water conservation for kids-10,000

Schools in Syria are closed since March 2021 and will re-open in September. This is impacting school-based awareness program. Oxfam is exploring ways to reach more children and students in out of school settings as particularly COVID19 messaging is key.

In the community, Oxfam reached 4.327 direct beneficiaries with sessions and it is assumed that they'll reach back to family and cascade message to at least 3 family members. This makes 27.842 Beneficiaries as of April 15, 2021 period. Oxfam is continuing Mums Magic Hands (MMH) approach for awareness raising where storytelling, demonstration, meetings, engagement and sessions methods are applied. Oxfam will conduct different pre-test and post-test along with end line to assess the outcome of the project.

### **1.3 Provision and distribution of Gender-sensitive Hygiene Kits**

Under this project, Oxfam targeted most vulnerable households in Mahkhan and Taiba community of Al Mayadin who are prone for COVID-19 and other hygiene related issues. Oxfam's hygiene kits are gender friendly and are provided to most vulnerable population in the targeted locations. Hygiene kits contain:

- washing powder, Manual ,1kg
- toilet paper hygienic , (4) rolls
- soap , body soap , 125 gm pcs
- tooth paste , tube , 100 ml
- tooth brush "medium hardness"
- shampoo ,400ml
- Razor, (2) disposable
- Hygienic pads ,normal (10pcs)
- Shaving Cream , 60 ml
- Towels , cotton , 90 X 45 cm (200 g)
- Nail cutter
- Table tissues , 500 g
- Sponage / for dishwashing
- Liquid soap for dish washing , 500ml

Oxfam shared and explained to the community committee the list of items, rationale of items and criteria for selection of beneficiaries. During the consultation, Oxfam explained the process and assessment tool to be used for selection. Please refer to Annex 2 for criteria (selected if meets at least one of the criteria) in Arabic which are:

- Female headed household
- PwD
- Chronic disease
- Three children under 7 years of age
- Breastfeeding and pregnant women

Family hygiene kits are Oxfam standard package<sup>22</sup>. Committees were supported to identify vulnerable households in their communities through detailed orientation and processes. Oxfam completed the verification of the initially identified list based on the criteria.

<sup>22</sup> Defined by Oxfam WASH and Gender teams, in reference to the context, SPHERE standards and WASH sector's guidelines in Syria.



After finalization of the beneficiaries' list, Oxfam conducted both phone-based and paper-based checks to avoid errors on verification. In addition to that, endorsement from committees was taken before distribution.

Due to the inflation, there was high increase in unit cost of hygiene kits from 22 EUR/kit to 40 EUR/kit. Oxfam procured and completed the distribution of 2.500 hygiene kits that benefitted 17.500 individuals (1.410 HHs in Mahkan 1.090 HHs in Taiba). Oxfam also set up feedback and complaints mechanism to be informed if some of the eligible Beneficiaries are missed out. Oxfam received 75 feedbacks related to that matter during this activity where most feedback were on additional assistance. Following this process, 9 people missed during verification process were included in the targeted 2.500HHs. The rest of the complaints were requesting supports which are not under this project' scope.

Oxfam conducted daily distribution monitoring and post distribution monitoring for this activity. Brief findings are:

- 95% of the respondents reported that they didn't face any challenges during process of receiving the hygiene kit, while the 5% reported that the distribution location is far.
- 68% of respondents took less than 30 minutes to reach the distribution point, 25% of respondents took an hour to reach the distribution point and 7% took more than hour to reach the location.
- 53% of respondent reported that they did not need any type of transportation, while 47% of respondents used transportation to reach to distribution site. About 50% of them were female.
- All the respondents reported that they didn't have to pay any money to get the aid form Oxfam.
- 99% of the respondents reported that they received the aid in appropriate time for their needs. The rest 1% reported otherwise.
- All the respondents reported that they received the FHK without any shortage of items.

The reports are annexed for details. (Annex 21 and 24)

Following savings linked to exchange rate gains and identified needs, Oxfam will distribute soap top kits to reinforce the support to the 2.500 vulnerable HHs who received hygiene kits to have access to resources for COVID-19 prevention. Each household will receive 14 soaps for handwashing. Oxfam has harmonized soap top up throughout the projects and in all locations.

#### **1.4 Develop policy brief on the WASH response in Syria, based from learning from the project**

Oxfam has completed desk reviews, interviews with key stakeholders at local level and meeting with affected populations to collect data and information as required for this policy brief work. Oxfam conducted KII and 5 FGDs (6 females in each group, who received family hygiene kits in Deir-ez-Zor city and Al-Mayadin) in Deir Ez Zor to get perception and know the context for the learnings. Oxfam drafted the report which will be shared with the final report. For now, major findings of the research are:

- Women across Syria are still in massive need of menstrual hygiene management interventions, and the need has intensified after Syria's economic collapse in 2020 and major inflation in prices.
- Menstrual hygiene management interventions should not only cover the provision of materials to girls and women but should extend to WASH and healthcare services, education, and protection. For instance, access to safe and sufficient water remains a major issue and is causing infections, irritation, and other untreated diseases.
- Despite the common and observed need for a comprehensive menstrual hygiene management response, hygiene practices and coping strategies of menstruating women differ from one governorate to another and vary between rural and urban areas.

For that, efforts to contextualize menstrual hygiene management interventions, especially in returnee and host communities, should be supported.

- With the current economic difficulties, women have reported prioritizing food and do not view menstrual hygiene items as an urging necessity. Therefore, it is important to shed the light on the urgency of menstrual hygiene management and provide safe access to a variety of related services in parallel.
- The majority of women have reported being displaced once or more during the crisis, and those who have been displaced stated that assistance in the form of menstrual hygiene items was not provided. Therefore, humanitarian actors should increase their preparedness to prevent the adoption of negative coping mechanisms. Donors should support such preparedness through the provision of flexible funds and local leaders in areas where displacement takes place should provide rapid and responsive access.

#### 4.3.2.1.3 Final report

##### - Indicators for the outcomes obtained

Oxfam conducted an internal evaluation exercise over the project (the relevant report can be found under Annex 30). Oxfam also conducted Baseline and Endline assessments (annexes 1 & 7) and below is a brief update per indicator:

Indicators	Target value	Baseline Value	Final Evaluation	Explanation
% of targeted population have adequate WASH services and hygiene practices.	60	0	65.6%	Oxfam reached higher value than the target value and increased the targeted population's access to WASH services and hygiene practices; this is due to the increase in the target locations and beneficiaries targeted in comparison to the proposal stage as outlined in previous sections. Oxfam's baseline assessment showed that none of the target population had adequate WASH services and hygiene practices before the project interventions.
Number of people have access to sufficient and safe water for domestic use.	35,000	0	53,500 <sup>1</sup>	Oxfam reached an endline value above the target value, by providing more people with access to sufficient and safe water than planned as a result of the increase in target locations and beneficiaries from proposal stage.
% of targeted women, men, girls and boys express satisfaction with reliable access to water by the end of the project;	70%	30%	73.20%	Oxfam's intervention met the needs of affected households in terms of their access to water. As per the KIIs and FGDs in the endline survey, 73.20% of interviewed population are satisfied with their access of water.
% of women and men who have benefited from hygiene promotion activities know and apply at least 3 key hygiene behaviors by the end of the project.	70%	0 (N/A)	94.7%	Oxfam conducted a comprehensive response raising awareness of men, women, girls and boys at the communities and schools. Hygiene kits and soap as top-up kits were distributed with a final evaluation reach of 94.7%, overachieving the target..

<sup>1</sup> the provided value is the Endline value

- **Beneficiaries (status + number)**

Description	Taiba	Mahkan	Tabieh – DeZ district, Kasham sub- district	AI Mayadin <sup>23</sup>	AI Qouriah
Population	16,500	17,500	6,000	65,000	11,000
Number of families	1,500	2,500	857	2,100	1,570
Type of people	Returnees	Returnees	Returnees, local	Returnees	Returnees
Children in schools	2,000	5,000	1,500	10,000	6,500
Number of families with disabilities	150	250	85	210	157
Female HH headed	500	750	300	735	471
Targeted beneficiaries (Family Hygiene kits distribution)	7,421	9,837	N/A	N/A	N/A
Soap kit distribution	5,961	9,428			
Targeted beneficiaries (awareness activities)	2,308	1,599	N/A	5,617	N/A
Water supply beneficiaries	16,500	13,626	6,000	20,000	11,000
As of final report stage, Oxfam has reached 95,671 direct beneficiaries through WaSH interventions					

- **Activities carried out**

**1.1 Essential Rehabilitation of Water Supply System:**

By mid-January 2020, Oxfam carried out technical assessments for the water system in Al Tiba pumping station. The findings of the assessments revealed that the needs were linked to inadequate capacity to intake raw water and inject pure water to pipelines from the system. With the long and chronic impact of conflict, the equipment was either old, not repaired or in need of replacement. There was also poor capacity with regards to the repair and maintenance of the equipment. The electro-mechanical equipment in Al Tiba water pumping and purification stations was outdated before the war. The pumps set usually worked a few days then required repair again, ultimately impacting the pumping adequacy and access to safe water. Given

<sup>23</sup> With new additional work from exchange rate gain.

these needs, Oxfam completed the supplying of the electro-mechanical equipment and implemented the installation for Al Tiba drinking water pumping and purification station in April 2021. The works included supplying and installing two raw water pumping sets (size 160 m<sup>3</sup>/h each), with accessories and control panels. In an innovative design, Oxfam supplied and installed three purified water pumping sets (size 80 m<sup>3</sup>/h each) with accessories and control panels. This design improved the equipment's durability and also saved 50% of the budget. Oxfam handed over the station to Local Water Establishments (LWE). The intervention is benefitting 16,500 persons in Al Taiba communities of Al Mayadin with access to drinking water at 75 Litre/Person/Day, whereas the baseline value was 10L/P/D. According to the endline report, following the rehabilitation, the pumping station is providing water to the Tiba area with higher quality than before.

In January 2021, Oxfam completed the supply of 3,220m of High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) pipes to the LWE for Al Tabieh community in Kasham sub-district. LWE completed the pipeline installation from Kasham pumping station to supply drinking water to the community, with technical support from Oxfam. This activity is benefitting 6,000 persons in Al Tabieh community-Kasham subdistrict of Deir Ez Zor. The affected population is getting 30L/P/D water whereas it was 10 L/P/D before the intervention, with the water is treated with chlorine.

Al Omran is a neighbourhood in Al Mayadin city. Before the crisis, LWE installed a highwater tank of size 500 m<sup>3</sup> but did not connect it to the Al Mayadin drinking water pumping station. Most of the people who live in this neighbourhood used to receive drinking water from water trucking. Due to the urgent need to reactivate the high-water tank and put it into service, in August 2021 Oxfam completed the supply and installation of 1,120m HDPE water main pipeline at different diameters of 250, 200 and 180mm, to connect Al Omran water high tank to Al Mayadin water pumping station (Al Mayadin needs assessment report enclosed as Annex 2). The connection point is shared with the water main pipeline of 250mm diameter which was implemented by ADRA for providing drinking water from Al Mayadin pumping station to another neighbourhood in the city. The pipeline is handed over to LWE and this activity is benefitting 7,500 persons in Al Omran. Currently, the population is getting 48 L/P/D water while they used to receive 15 L/P/D before Oxfam intervention.

In Al Qourieh, Oxfam partially rehabilitated Al Zawieh drinking water pumping station under its ECHO-funded project, in September 2021. Oxfam completed the works under this project by maintaining sand filters and pure water reservoir, supply and installation of air blower and valves to improve water quality and back washing, as well as civil works in the raw and pure pumping halls. This activity benefits 11,000 people with 50L/P/D water whereas before the intervention it was 25L/P/D. According to the baseline survey, 76% of respondents reported satisfaction with access to water after the implementation of the project.

Oxfam handed over Al Zawieh drinking water pumping and purification station to LWE within the project period.

At Al Mayadin drinking water pumping and purification stations, Oxfam completed three activities in the raw water pumping station:

- Supplied and installed 400 Kva electrical transformer with electrical panel and cables to provide stable electricity supply for eight pumps in the raw water hall, given that Al Mayadin water pumping station is connected to service grid (excluded from rationing), 24h/day power. Notably, before the intervention, the raw pumping sets were connected

to the 1,000 KVA electric transformer at the purification station, which could hardly run it and was endangering the raw water pumping sets. This activity benefits the whole population in Al Mayadin city, with stable water pumping.

- Supplied and installed 160 m<sup>3</sup>/h horizontal pumping set with electrical panel and cables, replacing the old out of service pumping set. This activity has supported the raw pumping and enhanced the quantity of water supplied to the purification pumps, benefiting 20,000 people in Al Mayadin city. The new installed raw water pump contributes in providing water to the purification section of Al Mayadin water pumping and the purification station.

Al Mayadin drinking water laboratory is out of service as all the apparatuses were looted; therefore, there are no water quality tests available at the LWE. Oxfam is focusing on achieving adequate water purification during the rehabilitation of sand filters. Whereas water handling and water safety will also be focused an awareness programme at the community level.

However, following Oxfam interventions, 67,000 individuals at the project location have access to sufficient and safe water.

According to the Final evaluation report (Annex 30), the following is demonstrated:

- 62% of surveyed households are using piped water.
- Participants reported that some challenges still exist largely due to power shortages and unavailability of fuel resulting into reduced times when the pump is working.
- Participants reported that the water from grid is largely of good quality
- While the water from the network was reported of good quality, its limited availability has resulted in some households having to supplement their water needs with untreated water (mostly water trucking or bottled water). According to the final evaluation statistics, more than a fifth of the households were using or drinking untreated water while 32% treated their water themselves, with the rest relying on the water from the grid or other sources that they believe is safe.
- 73% of the respondents reported satisfaction with the quality and availability of safe water (28% being very satisfied while 45% somewhat satisfied due to limited availability of the water from the grid and having to pay for additional water).
- More than 85% of those interviewed are of the view that the Oxfam DGD project had made a positive contribution to the availability of safe water in the community.

## **1.2 Hygiene Promotion Awareness Activities/Campaigns with women, men, boys, and girls including distribution of IEC WASH-related materials**

Oxfam conducted a field assessment involving the municipalities in Mahkan, Taiba, and Al Mayadin in Aug 2020, to assess the health and WASH situation primarily in regard to the source of drinking water, hygiene knowledge and practices, common diseases, and solid waste. After analysing the outputs from the assessment, the Oxfam team designed the activities and prepared the information, education, and communication (IEC) materials. Oxfam recruited 30 community resource people (CRPs) and trained them on public health promotion. Oxfam announced on local recruitment platform “Job.sy” and selected and recruited 30 CRPs according to the selection criteria set by the community itself taking into consideration the minimum education level that will fit into the project. Following the completion of the interview and selection processes for the CRPs, Oxfam conducted basic PHP training for the CRPs for three days. The training covered topics related to the local context, WASH-related diseases and COVID-19, taking into account community engagement pillars.

The awareness activities were conducted by the CRPs with the support of Oxfam's PHP team and completed in September 2021. The CRPs have reached all levels and groups within the communities including men, women, boys, and girls. Oxfam adopted disease trends of the local area, and referred to community engagement, FGDs, KIIs and CPT to prioritise and adapt hygiene promotion topics which were mainly about COVID-19, and waterborne diseases.

Through the CRPs, Oxfam reached 20,335 persons during the project period in the three communities of Mayadeen, Taiba, and Mahkan in easily accessed locations by the communities such as schools, culture centres, community centres, and during NFI distributions.

The project team used interactive methods to deliver the messages, such as the Mum's Magic Hands approach to deliver the messages for COVID-19, songs for handwashing for children, interactive exercises about prevention from leishmania and puppets play for Hepatitis A and Typhoid.

Please refer to Annex 3 for PHP photos (awareness promotion, hygiene distribution, soap kits distribution)

Number of Direct Beneficiaries from Awareness activities ((with duplication)				
	Boys >18	Girls >18	Men 18>	Women 18>
Mahkan	1,705	1,825	982	2,163
Mayadeen	2,914	2,539	650	2,425
Taiba	1,195	1,363	716	1,858
Total	5,814	5,727	2,348	6,446
	20,335			

In addition to Oxfam's activities, there were IECs "Information, education, communication materials" distributed to people who participated in the sessions to ensure that IECs are delivered and desired messaging is extended to other family members who did not attend hygiene sessions. The indirect number of beneficiaries of the intervention is therefore 79,365 individuals, including those who attended the sessions as well as their family members.

#### Pre and post-test analysis:

The sessions included pre and post-tests to evaluate the impact of our awareness raising activities, the results were as per the following:

- **Handwashing:**  
The analysis of the results showed an average increase of 24.5% (from 74.6% to 99%) in handwashing knowledge improvement among children and 30.8% increase (from 68.2% to 99.5%) among adult men and women. The higher improvement was in relation to the time needed for handwashing, which showed a 39.2% improvement (Detailed results per topic and question found in the PHP report attached, Annex 3-1).
- **COVID-19:**  
During the PHP activities, the team collected community perceptions and knowledge about COVID-19 and adapted the program accordingly. The pre and post results showed 35% improvement (from 63.3% to 98.3%) among children, and 28.36% improvement (from 70.3% to 98.6%) among adult men and women. The higher improvement rate was related to prevention measures and symptoms (Detailed analysis found in the annexed PHP report, Annex 3-1).
- **Leishmania:**  
In December 2020, the Ministry of Health (MoH) declared a leishmaniasis outbreak in Deir Az'zour. The Oxfam team ensured that messages and activities were designed properly to target the deferent groups in the community. The pre and post test results showed

remarkable improvement, particularly regarding transmission methods and active periods of the sand fly. The results showed a 46.35% improvement among children (from 51.8% to 98.2%), and 33.6% improvement among adult men and women (from 57.8% to 91.4%). (Detailed analysis found in the annexed PHP report, Annexes 3-1)

According to project' final evaluation, it was found that:

- 80% of the respondents reported someone in their family had attended an Oxfam supported awareness session.
- A large proportion of the targeted population are aware of the hygiene practices with about 91% able to mention at least 3 critical moments of handwash.

### 1.3 Provision and distribution of Gender-sensitive Hygiene Kits

During the aforementioned assessment conducted by Oxfam with the Municipalities; the needs and identification of the most vulnerable groups in the targeted communities were also discussed with the community. Accordingly, Oxfam's team formed community committees in the targeted communities, which included influential community members as representatives, such as the head of the municipality, *mukhtar*, school principal, the head of the cultural centre and female teachers. We ensured that gender considerations were taken into account during the selection process, by, for instance, targeting female teachers to make sure that they were engaged and consulted on the needs and proposed needed interventions.

The Oxfam team consulted the community committees on guidance for distributing family hygiene kits to support returnees and the host communities regarding the maintenance of their personal and domestic hygiene, especially for those who live in or have returned to partially destroyed buildings. Oxfam also consulted with the committees and engaged them in setting the criteria for selecting the most vulnerable groups, which was decided as follows:

- Family with at least one person with special needs (PWD) either mental or physical
- Female-headed household
- Family with at least one person with chronic disease, such as heart disease, cancer, kidney failure, etc.
- Family with three or more children below seven years old.

Selection of project participants was completed by the committees based on the identified criteria before the lists went through registration and verification by Oxfam teams against the criteria. Between December 2020 and January 2021, Oxfam distributed 2,500 family hygiene kits in Mahkan and Taiba, reaching approximately 17,500 individuals.

In July 2021, Oxfam's team distributed 2,500 soap top-up kits to the same households (approximately 15,500 persons) who had benefited from the family hygiene kits, to encourage people to maintain good hygiene practices by providing them with the necessary hygiene items, especially during the continued COVID-19 pandemic.

The feedback and level of satisfaction were reflected in the PDM report, with 100% of the respondents reporting that the kits were distributed in a timely manner, reflected their needs, and that they have used all the materials without the need to sell items in exchange for money. As the kit included menstrual hygiene items, 99% of females reported that these items were helpful during menstruation. The items were as per community preferences, i.e. the disposable type which Oxfam already provided in the kit. (PDM&DDM reports for family hygiene kits are enclosed as Annexes 4-1&4-2 for more details). (PDM report for soap kits attached as Annex 5). Family Hygiene kits and soap kits specifications are identified in each report.

Also, and according to the project' final evaluation; more than 90% of respondents reported the receipt of the family hygiene kits.

#### 1.4 Develop policy brief on the WASH response in Syria, based on learning from the project

The draft WASH policy paper is attached as Annex 6. The policy paper focuses on poor water quality in Deir-ez-Zor governorate. The paper aims to identify factors contributing to the deterioration of water quality, with a focus on the Euphrates river as a main water source in the governorate. It also aims to explore the linkages between water quantity and quality and examines the effects of compromised water quality on vulnerable groups. The paper is based on needs assessments conducted at the start of the project, project monitoring reports and evaluations, consultations with Oxfam's staff. After finalizing the desk review and internal Oxfam consultations, primary data collection was initiated in Deir-ez-Zor governorate and included interviews with key stakeholders including community members, the Local Water Establishment, the Directorate of Environment, the national WASH sub-sector and UN agencies in Deir-ez-Zor.

Findings from primary and secondary data collection indicate the acute situation of the water and sanitation sector in the governorate. Heavy destruction, the economic collapse and drought have left both sectors unable to meet the scale and severity of needs in terms of water quality. Research findings indicate limited capacities and fragmentation in policies in the public sector, limited involvement of humanitarian actors and donors in water quality issues, lack of coordination between all aforementioned stakeholders, as well as absence of linkages between emergency life-saving response and early recovery or resilience building efforts. Insufficient access to drinking water has led to adverse effects on public health and household economy and has triggered communities to adopt negative coping strategies. Water quality issues can only be solved through a holistic approach that consolidates current efforts, supports interdisciplinary engagement between diverse stakeholders and creates stronger linkages between humanitarian response, early recovery and resilience building.

The findings and recommendations have been consolidated in the policy brief and will be used for advocacy to increase the engagement of key stakeholders, such as donors with interest in WASH issues, line ministries in Syria, humanitarian actors, and sector coordinators.

- **Resources and related costs finally committed and incurred**  
EUR 341,562

#### 4.3.2.2 Outcome 2: EFSVL - Conflict-affected Syrian women, girls, boys and men have increased access to food through increased food production and increased household income.

##### 4.3.2.2.1 At the proposal stage

- **Sector: Food Security and Livelihoods**
- **Related sub-sector:** availability of, access to and consumptions of food, livelihood support, unconditional cash assistance
- **Beneficiaries (status + number)**  
2,500 households (17,500 beneficiaries in total), with the aim to target vulnerable households according to the criteria specified in Section 4.2.3. This will include: 2,500 households with improved access to water for agricultural land irrigation; 400 farming households with access to wheat, seeds and farming tools; 200 farming households with access to poultry and fodder, for households who do not have access to land for farming.
- **Indicators for this outcome:**
  - 1) 60% of targeted families with improved coping strategy index scores and greater diversity of expenditure;



- 2) 60% of targeted vulnerable households with improved Food Consumption Score >42;
- 3) 60% of conflict affected women-headed households have increased household income.

- **Outcome-related activities**

**2.1 Conduct respectively vulnerability, market and land irrigation infrastructure engineering analysis**

At the outset of the project, Oxfam will conduct a vulnerability, a market and a land irrigation infrastructure engineering analysis for the proposed interventions. The aim of these assessments is to respectively:

- a) target and identify the most at risk communities with the highest need of support;
- b) to identify how livelihood interventions can be linked to local markets;
- c) to identify what type of civil engineering works are required to restore irrigation channels to full use.

In Syria, many past agricultural livelihood interventions have had limited impact, as they had not factored in how to ensure market linkages for those benefiting from livelihood activities. The market analysis will be undertaken to ensure that vulnerable people benefiting from livelihood interventions can access markets to sell their produce, which will in turn increase food access and supply for other conflict affected Syrians, and enable value-addition of agricultural inputs.

**2.2 Rehabilitation of communal irrigation canals by labour-intensive schemes and provision and installation of irrigation equipment**

Based on the analysis above, Oxfam will identify areas and communities where agricultural land can be revitalised by rehabilitating canals and repairing and/or providing new water pumps and pipelines.

The first step in the rehabilitation of canals will consist of their cleaning and re-shaping through community led cash-for-work schemes. Oxfam will identify and select 200 farmer households that are willing to work on community-led initiatives of rehabilitating communal irrigation canals. Each initiative will be identified through the land irrigation analysis based on community identified needs. Around seven different community-led initiatives will be identified for support, with an average of 30 cash-for-workers working on these initiatives each of which will take on average two months to complete. Each worker will be paid on average 2000 SYP per day (about 4 USD per day) while employed on the project. The final amount will be determined based on the local labour market costs in order not to distort the local economies and to avoid creating tensions among community members, i.e. those directly participating in cash-for-work and those who are not. Oxfam will provide the necessary tools and workers' gear to support the cash-for-work activity.

It is preliminarily estimated that eight water pumps serving land irrigation systems will be either repaired or replaced. Oxfam will aim to replace 8 pumps capable of feeding agricultural land. Once these works are completed, local community committees will be trained on the pumps' operation and maintenance, they will be responsible for maintaining the pumps at a functional level. Oxfam aims through these activities to support 2,500 vulnerable farmer households to regain access to and use of viable farmland with the aim of restoring their agricultural productivity.

**2.3 Provide agricultural toolkits and poultry**

Based on the vulnerability analysis and the beneficiary identification criteria in 4.2.3, Oxfam will identify vulnerable households which will be eligible to receive agriculture toolkits or poultry for egg production. Four hundred (400) households will be provided three times with agriculture toolkits including wheat and vegetable seeds to cover the project's four farming seasons, as well as small to medium size farming tools. Two hundred (200) vulnerable households who do not have access to land for farming due to disability or other serious

reason will be provided with poultry and fodder which will allow them to engage in small scale farming.

#### **2.4 Provide unconditional cash support to extremely vulnerable households unable to participate in agricultural activities**

Through the vulnerability analysis, Oxfam will identify 200 households which have extreme forms of vulnerability, with a very limited ability to participate in livelihood activities. These may include child-headed households, households with members suffering from significant disabilities or illnesses, households that are otherwise totally destitute.

Oxfam will provide unconditional cash assistance to these 200 households to provide essential humanitarian support. The value of the cash assistance will be calculated based on the family food ration to meet a minimum 1,700 Kcal per person per day in a monthly family food ration, which is 70% of the minimum kcal needs. To meet the Kcal deficit from the monthly food rations, the sector recommends that households with extreme food insecurities or households with Persons with Specific Needs such as children, Pregnant and Lactating Women, Persons with Disabilities and vulnerable elderly receive access to supplementary food assistance. Sector guidance estimates the food ration to cost approximately USD 60 (30,000 SYP) with an additional USD 35 (17,500 SYP) for supplementary nutritious foods. Calculation for the value of the cash assistance is made on a reference to the food needs for a family for a period of 30 days. Given this, Oxfam will aim to provide support to 200 selected vulnerable households for a period of up to 3 months. The final basket value will be calculated during the assessment and coordinated with the Cash Working Group and other implementing agencies. Sample Items for the top up basket may be provided to households on general food assistance by in kind, cash or voucher. Oxfam will coordinate and collaborate with other food security/nutrition actors (such as WFP and UNRWA) providing in kind and cash-based response (even for multipurpose cash) to ensure selected households can access appropriate top-up items: Pregnant and lactating women top up to access Fresh Food (dairy products, vegetables, fruits, chicken, meat, fish). (The PLW reference basket is calculated based on the micro-nutrient gap between a pregnant woman's requirement for key micronutrients and those provided by the GFA, not kcals). Oxfam will also coordinate with other humanitarian and protection actors, to help refer these vulnerable households for further support, given the likelihood that they will still require support once the unconditional cash assistance has been provided. In addition, Oxfam will undertake post-distribution monitoring to understand how cash assistance was used, and whether food intake improved in selected households.

The process for Oxfam Syria's cash transfer modality is attached as [Annex 7](#).

#### **2.5 Perform a pilot localized research on the effects of climate change on natural resources, i.e. land and water in agricultural areas with recommendations for climate sensitive adapted agricultural practices.**

Oxfam will commission at the beginning of the action a localized pilot research in Deir-ez-Zor to analyse:

- a) the impact of climate change on agricultural land and water;
- b) the impact of traditional farming practices on the climate change.

The research will include recommendations for:

- a) improved farming techniques that are adapted and create resilience to the impact of climate change;
- b) improved farming techniques that reduce their contribution to climate change.

Research exists that confirms a long-term trend of reduction of rainfall, higher temperatures and consequent drought in Syria due to increase of CO2 suggesting anthropogenic effect of climate change. Analysis also informs of inadequate agricultural and economic policies setting off overuse of ground water and liberalisation schemes removing subsidies to fuel and food which, combined with climate change impact, have led to significant internal population migration to urban areas and poverty, in turn playing a factor in the popular uprising in 2011. With a return to relative stability in the region but with continuous droughts and resumption of traditional farming livelihoods in Deir-ez-Zor, the environment may no longer be able to sustain

a high demand for water and other natural resources over the long run. Hence, this research is imperative to understand the adaptations that are required to provide sustainable climate-sensitive agriculture in the region.

The output of this research will be used:

- a) to inform the training of farmers and encourage their use of climate change adapted agricultural practices;
- b) to advocate to both government and civilian national and international stakeholders for the integration of climate-sensitive approaches to agricultural strategies and interventions in water-scarce areas.

## **2.6 Train farmers on environmentally and climate-sensitive agriculture and irrigation techniques**

To ensure farmers can utilise the revitalised communal farming land effectively and practice environmentally sensitive and climate smart farming techniques, Oxfam will conduct training for the targeted farming households. Oxfam will conduct a series of training and sessions which will include topics such as planting, cropping, water resource management, soil fertility, pesticide control, crop diversification, crop and seed type, planting and cropping, and business skills taking into consideration the specific environment in Deir-ez-Zor. These sessions will be led by trained facilitators. Oxfam will aim at training 960 farmer households through a series of 4 training sessions which will be conducted throughout the year, mirroring the different agricultural seasons. Once finalised, recommendations from the pilot research on climate impact on agriculture will be integrated into the training curricula.

## **2.7 Develop policy brief on improving women's access to aid support in the livelihoods sector, based from learning from the project.**

Utilising Focus Group Discussions, Key Informant Interviews and information from MEAL processes, Oxfam in Syria – utilising capacity from the in-country policy and gender teams, will develop a policy brief to outline how women are able to access humanitarian support in the livelihoods sector, how appropriate that support is for the needs in women and what their priorities would be for further humanitarian support. This policy brief will build on existing Oxfam policy work (in progress) on how the discriminatory elements of Syrian Law impact on how women receive aid and explore the formal and informal obstacles to women receiving livelihoods support.

Given the conservative nature of Deir Ez-Zor governorate, the research will gather the views of men also, to best understand how social norms impact on the ability for women to access vital livelihoods support. Such information would then be shared with national and international stakeholders, including through the production of a video to be utilised for international advocacy. The video will enable voices of vulnerable Syrians to be heard by key international stakeholders.

### **4.3.2.2 Interim report**

#### **- Updating<sup>24</sup> of the indicators**

The detailed baseline report is annexed (Annex 1)

Indicators	Target value if	Baseline value	Comments
% of targeted conflict-affected households have improved livelihood strategies and incomes;	60	89% of the HH are using one or more negative Livelihood related coping mechanisms.	Baseline survey has been completed based on the data of HH level vulnerability assessment. Oxfam will compare the reduction of negative coping mechanism

<sup>24</sup>

Updates and explanations should target both progress and changes made to the proposal.

			at endline and will reflect the improved livelihoods strategies and incomes.
% of targeted families with improved coping strategy index scores and greater diversity of expenditure;	60	33	Baseline survey and details in the report. Counted average from total FCS score
% of targeted vulnerable households with improved Food Consumption Score >42;	60	31	Baseline survey and details in the report. Counted average from total FCS score
% of conflict affected women-headed households have increased household income	60	36,594 SYP	Increase in average household will assessed in the endline. The mentioned figure is average monthly income of last three months.

180 females as respondents were taken for the assessment as samples who are beneficiaries of EFSVL component.

**- Updating<sup>4</sup> of the beneficiaries (status + number)**

Scheme	HHs	Individuals to be reached	Status
Unconditional Cash transfer (UCT)	202	1414	Completed
Cash for Work	120	840	Completed
Cash for Agriculture	142	994	Completed (will receive last round from savings)
Farming training	960	6720	Ongoing
Poultry support	630	4410	433 HHs out of 630 completed
Improved water for irrigation	2500	17,500	Ongoing (likely to reach 24500 with additional activities)

The irrigation support also includes other beneficiaries listed above in table whereas cash-based intervention, training of farmers and poultry support are single count. In total, Oxfam has reached 17,500 individuals. (household size: 1HH = 7 people). With additional activities, likely to reach 24500 individuals and actual number to be updated in final report.

**- Updating<sup>4</sup> of the activities**

**2.1 Conduct respectively vulnerability, market and land irrigation infrastructure engineering analysis**

During the reporting period, Oxfam conducted a **vulnerability market analysis** and wealth mapping in close coordination with community leaders and community committees in both Al-Mayadin and Tiba.

Oxfam performed **stakeholder influence mapping** with all stakeholders such as local society, Establishment of Agriculture, Farmers Unions, Water Establishment, INGO's, Directorate of Environment, LNGO's and Agricultural Units in order to identify who can influence the success of this project, and how this influence is going to happen. The identification helped in forming the Knowledge Group that participated in the Vulnerability and Risk Analysis workshop that was organized and conducted by Oxfam in Deir ez Zor on 4-6 February 2020. In this workshop, the Group identified the critical risks in the targeted locations, and the needed measures to enable the communities to address these risks. In addition to that, Oxfam has undertaken conflict sensitivity approach in the targeted location and stockholders mapping in order to inform the project implementation and ensure that the Do No Harm principle is applied.

**Participatory Wealth Ranking methodology (PWR)** has been used as the primary measure in the targeting process because PWR is efficient and facilitates community buy in. PWR allows field staff to bring society leaders together to identify vulnerable people, rather than having to survey every household at the outset.

Oxfam staffs conducted the PWR process with community leaders, using community-identified parameters for three relative wealth categories (wealthy, moderate, poor).

Community leaders then categorised households for all EFSVL activities, and prioritised female-headed households who met the following vulnerability criteria:

- Households with persons with disabilities or chronic illness, causing difficulties with mobility, concentration and communication
- Households with a high number of children, both school age children and under 5 years of age
- Returnees who have lost assets and property due to the conflict, who struggle to restore their livelihoods, who are already working or want to work in agriculture or livestock
- Households with a member who is pregnant or lactating
- Households with high levels of debt

#### Vulnerability and eligibility assessment:

In early 2020, Oxfam trained 23 volunteers to support and conduct in-depth needs assessment and targeting. Beneficiaries were identified for different schemes of interventions. The survey was delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions. However, Oxfam developed standard operating procedures to conduct field activities under COVID19 and purchased personal protective equipment and the activity has been completed.

Oxfam has established community committee who are consulted to identify families using PWR and vulnerability assessment criteria. Oxfam team conducted a survey in June, 2020 for those Beneficiaries to identify vulnerability and eligibility for each activities.

Annex 3: Vulnerability and Eligibility assessment's questionnaire

Annex 4: Photos of Vulnerability and Eligibility assessment

Annex 5: COVID19 SoP

M&E team and program team have analysed the survey to identify vulnerabilities score and eligibility score for each potential beneficiary. According to these analyses, team sorted Beneficiaries on the activities (agriculture-poultry-UCT-CFW)

#### Market assessment:

The project team have assessed the market using Special market assessment tools in the first quarter of 2020. These tools are being updated to check the feasibility of cash modality to deliver agriculture grants. The report write-up is ongoing and will be shared in next reporting period.

Land irrigation infrastructure engineering analysis:

Oxfam performed engineering assessments to the pumping stations and canals in the area. Oxfam engineers identified the main reasons behind the damage in the irrigation canals which are; destruction of some parts of the canal due to non-usage in the last 5 years, canal was wrongly used as sub route, canals are used as dumping place for wrecked vehicles and the difference in the slopes in the canal which prevented water flow to reach to agricultural lands.

Further, Oxfam contracted topographical surveyor and civil engineering consultant to identify the required work for the canal rehabilitation. Oxfam has coordinated the technical recommendations with the frames committee in Al Mayadeen (attached 3 photos). Oxfam also assessed other site (Al-Tayba) to identify the existing damage and the needed rehabilitation works.

Moving forward, Oxfam produced topographical survey report and consultant report based on the assessments. The reports are in Arabic and if required can be translated for summary.

**2.2 Rehabilitation of communal irrigation canals by labour-intensive schemes and provision and installation of irrigation equipment**

Due to COVID-19 and the movement restrictions imposed by the government, project implementation was challenging. The main reasons were reduced number of movements and staffs aligning the COVID19 SoP, restrictions on movement specially impacting suppliers and contractors (logistical capacity) and adaption of priority - needs related to COVID19 were shifting inward. However, Oxfam assessed the situation and adapted the project implementation.

Irrigation canal:

Based on the result of the engineering assessment and the consultations with the farmers groups, Oxfam run the procurement process and contracted the most competitive supplier to perform the needed rehabilitation work in Al Mayadin irrigation system. The contractor started the works on Sep 24, 2020 and the 13km canal is now completed. Oxfam engineers monitored the work on daily basis and in order to avoid the risk of damaging the already existing pipes during the implementation, Oxfam coordinated with the relevant governmental bodies and agreed that they should have presence during the rehabilitation to provide technical support. Oxfam also coordinated to ensure the safety of staff and community and conducted assessment before the intervention as those areas were likely to have ERW. The irrigation system serves water to 9.500 dunum of land benefitting 8.750 individuals in Al Mayadin community.

Irrigation pumps station:

Based on the BoQ/BoCs developed by Oxfam engineers, Oxfam ran a procurement process to contract a competitive supplier to perform the installation of the electricity transformer and all the needed accessories (cables and control panels), perform the needed maintenance to the pre-existing pumps and pipes, and install one extra pump to enhance the water flow into the 13-km-canal. The contractor started the work on Jul 28, 2020 and finalized the works on Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. The activities to install transformer, pumps and all the related equipment (control panel- electric starter board, cables) are completed. Oxfam engineers monitored the works with presence of the farmers committee and the relevant technical government bodies on daily basis to make sure that all the implemented works are up to the local standards. Oxfam has tested and the station is functioning and benefitting 8.750 individuals in the community through Oxfam rehabilitated canal.

Oxfam's intervention to support Al Tiba irrigation pumping station is ongoing and this will benefit 5.250 individuals in Al Tiba community of Al Mayadin district. The activity is expected to be completed in April 2021.

It is worth to note for above procurement that as a result of the deterioration in the local

currency, enough contractors did not bid to the Invitation to tender, therefore Oxfam had to extend the announcement of the tender and hence activity implementation was delayed.

Annex 6: Transformer and equipment installation

#### Cash for work activity:

Oxfam supported 120 beneficiaries through cash for work to implement community driven work, as for example light work to complete the rehabilitation of the canal and removing all residues and weeds along the canal and complete the rehabilitation of the branch channels. It was challenging to get all 200 CfW individuals mentioned in the initial proposal. The major challenges on CfW target is beneficiaries' interest on the scheme or work itself.

The cash for work activity has been completed and 120<sup>25</sup> Beneficiaries received three rounds of cash initially planned, for 3 months. The daily wage for the work was 6.500 SYP; each HH received maximum 176.000 SYP and minimum 100.000 SYP depending on the number of working days. The activity benefitted 840 individuals in 120 families to meet their life saving needs, whereas community asset was also rehabilitated. This activity also supported recovery of agriculture system on which majority of population depends on.

Summary of the major work in the canals:

- A 11km length canal rehabilitated. A topographic study was conducted to determine the required inclination from the beginning of the canal to its end
- **Civil work (cement work)**  
Concrete works were carried out by filling the cracks and cavities in the cement part and building concrete walls in place of the crumbling ones. Pipes belonging to the Maintenance and Operation Directorate of the Lower Euphrates Basin were removed, the floor was poured in place of the tubes, returned with cement, and then the dirt canal was built over the pipes.
- **Soil work:**
  - Cleaning, excavation and backfilling works have been carried out along the canal by heavy vehicles.
  - excavating hidden part of the end of a canal, which was 30 cm high.
  - Rehabilitation of a part of the canal with a length of 800 m by removing soil from the sides and bottom of the canal, which was in the form of stone blocks leading to many seeps and cavities. Compacting soil according to the previously studied inclination
- **Metalworks:** installation of metal mesh for the main complex and some secondary complexes.
- **Cash for work:**
  - ✓ Removal of harmful plants alongside a canal.
  - ✓ Removal of waste and Obstacles along with canal water's following.
  - ✓ Rehabilitation of sides of canal in soil part of canal to be in the same level to protect it and saving water

Oxfam is expanding irrigation system in Mahkan community as there is exchange rate gain and savings in the project. The expanded activity will benefit 10,500 individuals in the Mahkan community.

### **2.3 Provide agricultural toolkits and poultry**

Due to COVID-19, a delay happened in the assessments and the selection of eligible beneficiaries. Oxfam in cooperation with the community committee completed most vulnerable family's identification, household survey, and final beneficiaries list was concluded in June-July 2020.

#### Agriculture activity:

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<sup>25</sup> Budget for the remaining 80 HHs was allocated to the poultry activity

The number of beneficiaries identified willing to restart their farming businesses was lower than the planned target. Therefore, Oxfam conducted the following to assess the context:

1. Interview with key persons from the agriculture directorate and target community in order to explore the reasons behind peoples' unwilling to restart their farming businesses and why they do prefer poultry and fodder over than farming toolkits.
2. FGDs with beneficiaries' groups to identify their willingness to restart farming activities and whether they are egg producing or farming businesses. In the FGDs, the topics discussed are type of seeds - type of fertilizers- implementation modality - monitoring mechanisms. The beneficiaries prioritized cash modality for agriculture against in-kind modality whereas for poultry and fodder, in-kind assistance was requested while quality poultry were not available in local market.
3. Oxfam re-aligned activities approach and targets to reflect beneficiaries' preferences and capacities.
4. Oxfam performed a market assessment in the area in early 2020 and found that cash is a feasible modality for farming kits assistance. To ensure beneficiaries' commitment to the agreed-on plans and avoid any misuse of the assets, Oxfam developed Beneficiary Assistance Agreement that all beneficiaries should consent prior to any grants transfer. The agree-on business plans were considered as integral parts to the agreement. The cash Vs logistics are driven by beneficiary's preference (along with commitment) and operational modality (whether market is available or not). Oxfam has acknowledged beneficiaries' engagement from planning to implementation. Thus, based on FGD, Oxfam opted for the cash modality for agriculture tools support.

Annex 7\_FGD with beneficiaries for agriculture activity

Annex 8\_photo FGD Agriculture

Annex 9\_MOU

Annex 10\_ Business plan

Annex 11\_photos explain Business plan

During the reporting period, all the rounds of cash have been distributed for 142 HHs who have started the farming. This activity benefits 994 individuals directly. The DDM and PDM will be shared in final project report.

Oxfam conducted CfA grants analysis and the report is attached herewith (Annex 26). The report highlights findings and recommendations. This was conducted in between cycles. Further to this, each HHs has action plan for the grant utilization. It has BF details and thus not attached here (data protection). If required, Oxfam can share summary excluding BF details. The photo highlight of CfA is attached herewith. (Annex 27)

#### Poultry support:

The vulnerability assessment showed that female headed households prefer to raise chickens. Oxfam conducted 6 FGDs with 95 beneficiaries eligible for poultry and fodder assistance in order to agree on the type of chicken, implementation modality, monitoring mechanism and to aware them on the best ways to raise the chickens properly. The details are in attached annexes (reasons in annex 14)

Annex 12\_ FGD with beneficiaries for poultry activity

Annex 13\_ photo of poultry-FGD

Annex 14\_ reasons to selected poultry activity

Based on the vulnerability assessment, Oxfam has selected 630 beneficiaries for poultry support. As beneficiaries' number has increased along with unit prices, additional budget was required for this activity and Oxfam was able to cover the cost from savings made on other lines.



The number of beneficiaries of poultry support has increased as Oxfam conducted consultation on beneficiary's preference on the support. Given the context and that female headed household are direct beneficiaries, poultry businesses are indoor and suitable for affected families. Further details and included in the in annex 14.

It was very tough to get the supplier for poultry and fodder as Deir Ez Zor doesn't have such type of market capacity. It took long time to board the supplier as quality check had to be done, approval is required to transfer items and coordination is required to all security check points. With all these challenges, Oxfam reached 433 out of the 630 families with poultry and fodder during this reporting period. Each family received 15 laying chickens and 100Kg of fodder for poultry farming. Oxfam put COVID 19 protection measures in place during the implementation for the safety of all staffs, volunteers, committee members and families. Oxfam also queued with physical distance during distribution whereas sanitizer and masks were provided to all workers and staffs. The remaining distribution is expected to happen by the first week of May 2021 as quality check and approval process are completed. This activity will benefit directly to 4.410 individuals. Oxfam will conduct PDM to assess the intervention.

#### **2.4 Provide unconditional cash support to extremely vulnerable households unable to participate in agricultural activities**

Oxfam established a community committee to identify the critical vulnerability indicators and nominate the families that meet these indicators. Oxfam volunteers verified all the nominated families, then Oxfam MEAL department analysed the data to produce the final beneficiaries' lists. Oxfam put all COVID-19 mitigation measures during all selection steps where there is interaction. During the reporting period, 202 female headed households received three rounds of cash assistance. According to the Sector and MoSAL directions, the transaction value for cash assistance is 100,000 SYP for each round (in total-300,000SYP for HH).

Oxfam conducted Daily Distribution Monitoring and Post distribution Monitoring (PDM).The major findings are:

- All the respondents reported that they received timely and useful information on distribution.
- All the respondents reported that the way of delivering cash was easy and clear.
- All the respondents reported that they didn't pay to receive this assistance.
- 55% of the respondents reported that they hadn't any difficulties in receiving money. 45% mentioned that they had a difficulty with the far distance of the distribution point.
- All the respondents reported that they received 300.000 SYP as unconditional cash from Oxfam, divided in two instalments.
- 63% of the respondents reported that they received amount of money equals to the amount they expected/informed that they will receive. However, 37% reported otherwise.
- 96% of the respondent reported that they didn't have any problem with the bank/cash currency they received. 4% reported that they received a worn-out money paper.
- 98% of the respondents reported that the assistance is important for them and their families. 2% reported that the assistance is good for them and their families.
- 51% of the respondents reported that they are very satisfied with the amount of cash they received. 33% reported that they are satisfied with that. 14% reported that they were neutral with the aid. 2% was not satisfied, they reported that the amount of money was too low.
- For the management of the money, 75% of the respondents reported that the wife is the one managing the money. 23% of the respondents reported that it is a shared management within the family. 2% reported that the daughter is managing it.

The detailed DDM and PDM reports are attached with report (Annex 22, 23 and 25).

## **2.5 Perform a pilot localized research on the effects of climate change on natural resources, i.e. land and water in agricultural areas with recommendations for climate sensitive adapted agricultural practices.**

The Study on Climate change impact on the agricultural sector in Deir Ez Zor has been completed in February 2021 through secondary data review, stakeholder identification and primary data field collection through Key Informants Interviews and Focus Group Discussions with rural and peri-urban stakeholders as farmers, women, community leaders, Peasant cooperative members.

Information has been collected in line with the Sustainable Livelihood framework, which analyses the level of access to the main Livelihood assets, natural resources as Land and Water, human resources as Labour and Knowledge, physical capital as public and private Productive Infrastructures, Social Capital as the Local Institutions, organizations and social networks, the financial capital as the access to Credit or financial Capital;

One of the main findings is about the different perceptions on the Climate change and the priority in the community vulnerability and risk scale. The findings are:

- Among stakeholders, who is less dependent from the actual agricultural production and sits in knowledge development (education, research, technical services) and management positions is generally aware (with few exceptions) of the climate change trend and the challenges that poses to future development,
- who instead is more dependant from the Agriculture livelihood, including local administrators, tends to concentrate the attention and the risk perception on immediate problems.

In case of Deir ez Zor, risks are linked to the rehabilitation and recovery of irrigation infrastructures, access to inputs, products markets, the risk posed by conflicts and civil insecurity, the inflicted losses of basic livelihood assets (land, pasture access, infrastructures and services).

In some cases, exacerbated food insecurity of many households makes difficult to engage in Climate Change discussion or even into mere Livelihood recovery reasoning;

The above described dichotomy in the perception of Climate Change risk and impact needs to be resolved in order to avoid the build-up of different expectations. Instead this needs to become part of a dialogue on a post-conflict livelihood recovery in a context of climate change/crisis, where is not thinkable to merely going back to a pre-crisis production system that was not sustainable.

The immediate needs of livelihood recovery and the ones of a more sustainable and resilient development needs to be part of one strategy that really serves the smallholder farmers and the rural communities, that have deeply suffered from the conflict, from the economic downturn, from the climate change;

A discussion with selected stakeholders from the two main “perception groups” is foreseen to be carried out in order to validate and agree on a common perspective that will guide planning of the Agriculture Livelihood amidst a Climate Crisis; (a challenging task as COVID-19 prevention measures makes it difficult to implement). Attached Annex 15 for ToR of this research.

## **2.6 Train farmers on environmentally and climate-sensitive agriculture and irrigation techniques**

Oxfam coordinated with the agriculture directorate and key persons in the target community and farmers from the agriculture association in Al Maydeen to identify the critical training topics needed in the area. The major focus are on:

- Water resource management
- Soil fertility
- Pesticide control
- Crops (crop diversification crop and seed types planting and cropping)
- Business skills.

Details of training contents in Annex 16. The training experts are identified, and training will start in April 2021. Oxfam is targeting 960 farmers (target may change on actuals).

### **2.7 Develop policy brief on improving women's access to aid support in the livelihoods sector, based from learning from the project.**

Under this project, Oxfam is producing an EFSVL policy brief to assess women's access to livelihoods in Al Mayadin District, Deir Ezzor governorate and how women can better access aid support in the livelihoods sector to enhance their livelihoods and reduce negative coping mechanisms, especially post COVID-19. Additionally, the policy brief will explore discriminatory elements of Syrian Law and how they impact women's access to aid and obtaining livelihoods support.

This policy brief is focusing on lessons-learned from the DGD project's EFSVL activities and will assess how the different livelihoods interventions responded to the needs of women living in Al Mayadin District.

Data for this policy brief is collected from various assessment methodologies conducted by the MEAL team, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Key Informant Interviews (KIs), as well as secondary research and coordination meetings with other humanitarian actors on ground. The analysis work is ongoing and will be supplemented by additional field visit to triangulate information. The policy brief is expected to be released by July 2021.

Snapshot of the findings:

Three years of ISIS besiegement has left women in Mayadin very vulnerable as the 'rule of terror' prohibited them from living their normal lives, such as being employed, helping with agricultural production or livestock farming. Majority of women were prohibited from attending educational institutions and were forced into marriage and the upbringing of children. Given the already conservative nature of Deir Ezzor governorate, further fuelled by the ISIS ideology, women in the area have grave challenges in accessing livelihoods support. Based on initial findings to date, one of the major challenges in access to livelihoods for women in farming communities in the area is their inability to have access to land ownership (either due to the national law and regulations or given the conservative societal norms). Most women work in farming, however, do not receive direct income because of the 'social norms'. Female-headed households in the area remain highly vulnerable as women who work in farming are often unpaid and their work is seen as doing a 'favour' to the landowners, who in most cases are family members and relatives. This policy research will be complimented with FGDs and other interaction with women beneficiaries from DGD's various livelihoods activities. These tools will aim to give women the chance to speak, and pinpoint on the exact needs and barriers of women in the area, with regards to accessing livelihoods opportunities.

#### **4.3.2.2.3 Final report**

##### **- Indicators for the outcomes obtained**

The findings of project final evaluation as well as the baseline and endline reports are impacted and justified by many internal and external factors and specific challenges relevant to the Syrian context. Developments in the COVID-19 situation, as well as the continued conflict during 2021, highlights a worsening and alarming food security situation in the country, caused by a combination of key factors. These include limited access to food due to price increases for some food commodities, large population displacements, currency instability and the lack of agriculture productive assets, particularly livestock and irrigation assets. Moreover, lack of access to livelihoods and income-generating opportunities, the devastating water crisis including the reduced flow and output from the Euphrates River, insufficient and poorly distributed rainfall during the 2020/2021 season with subsequent drought-like conditions<sup>26</sup>, limited access to agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, irrigation and high

<sup>26</sup> <https://fscluster.org/syria/document/fao-syria-precipitation-analysis-and>

agriculture production costs, including harvesting, are adding an additional layer of constraints. Limited access to good quality and well-adapted seed continues to present challenges for Syria's food production endeavors and ultimately food security. Also, the regional economic and banking crisis affected trade in Syria directly and there were many knock-on effects of COVID-19 on food security and the agriculture sector.

Below is a brief of indicators according to the final evaluation results, compared to the baseline assessment and survey results reports (Please see annex 1 for baseline assessment report and annex 30 for the final evaluation report for more details):

Indicators	Target value if	Baseline value	Final evaluation	Comments
% of targeted conflict- affected households have improved livelihood strategies and incomes	60%	89% of the HH are using one or more negative Livelihood related coping mechanisms.	83.8% of HHs are using one or more negative Livelihood related coping mechanisms.	<p>Oxfam conducted a survey to assess diversity on livelihood related expenditures accounting for a one-week trend for the baseline. 41% of the population sold their items to manage basic needs whereas 89% of the population had to reduce or compromise spending on NFIs and basic essential needs. 19% of HHs forced their children to work to earn money. 78% of the population had to rely on aid agencies for livelihoods whereas 14% had to skip rent payments to manage basic needs. Taking the highest value, 89% of the population had to resort to one or more negative coping mechanisms in relation to livelihoods.</p> <p>The same survey was conducted for the Endline survey by OXFAM and also for the final evaluation indicating some improvement, as 83.8% of population had to use one or more negative Livelihood related coping mechanisms.</p> <p>The low improvement from the baseline value of 6% is due to households having to reduce essential non-food or basic need expenditures such as hygiene items, water, baby items, etc, because of inflation. Improvement from baseline to endline/evaluation was on the following categories: skipped paying rent to meet other needs, seek or relying on aid from humanitarian agencies, sending children (under 18) to work, reducing essential non-food or basic need expenditures such as hygiene items, water, baby items, etc.</p>
% of targeted families with improved Coping Strategy Index (CSI) scores and greater diversity of expenditure	60%	33	92.6% (avg 15)	The reduction in the comes from the fact that people started to get food themselves. The improvement shown in the use of negative coping strategies from 33 on average to 15 is a good improvement and was less than expected due to the impact of inflation.

% of targeted vulnerable households with improved Food Consumption Score (FCS) >42	60%	31%	53%	<p>The Baseline survey states that 38% of the population are in poor food consumption whereas 48% are at borderline. The average FCS score of the population is 31% against the target 60%, meaning it is fairly low.</p> <p>The final evaluation results showed an average FCS score of the population of 53% against the target 60%.</p> <p>There is a good improvement in the FCS for the targeted population. It appears in the acceptable and borderline ranges, however, the FCS for people in the acceptable range are not very high which explains the average FCS of 53%. An acceptable score is over 42, borderline is between 42 and 28 and poor is under 28.</p>
% of conflict affected women-headed households have increased household income	60%	36,594 SYP	96%	<p>The trend for household income over 3 months has accounted for determining the average income. At baseline point, the average monthly income of the population was 36,594 SYP whereas the average monthly expenditure is 50,655 SYP. This clearly shows the relationship between debt and dependency on others to manage basic needs.</p> <p>The average monthly income of the population at endline survey is 165,417 SYP whereas the average monthly expenditure is 357,126 SYP.</p> <p>The difference between the income in the baseline and endline is 128,823 SYP. However, the final evaluation indicates an improvement and a higher reach than the target value, showing that 96% of conflict affected women-headed households have increased household income.</p> <p>The income of most families ranges from 75,000-100,000 SYP per month compared with to the minimum need of 300,000-600,000 SYP excluding rent. (Source WFP-VAM, Syria, Market Price Watch Bulletin, July 2021 issue 80).</p>

- **Beneficiaries (status + number)**

Below is an update on the beneficiaries' reach for each activity (single count):

Scheme	Original HHs target	HHs	Original individual target	Individuals reached	Status
Unconditional Cash transfer (UCT)	200	202	1,400	1061	Completed
Cash for Work	200	120	1,400	827	Completed

Cash for Agriculture	400	142	2,800	1834	Completed (received last round from savings)
Farming training	960	970	960	970	Completed
Poultry support	200	625	1,400	3,477	Completed
Improved water for irrigation	1,500	4,100	10,500	15,750	Completed
Total			23,919 individuals in total (single count)		

Under the irrigation support activity, a higher number of beneficiaries was reached than the number indicated above (due to double counting), whereas the cash-based intervention, training of farmers and poultry support are single count. In total, Oxfam has reached 23,919 individuals (i.e. actual reach numbers - single count). Trained farmers were only counted as individual beneficiaries, without counting their household members.

### **2.1 Conduct respectively vulnerability, market and land irrigation infrastructure engineering analysis**

Oxfam conducted a vulnerability market analysis and wealth mapping during February 2020 in close coordination with community leaders and community committees in both Al Mayadin and Tiba. Oxfam performed stakeholder influencing mapping with all concerned stakeholders, such as local society, Establishment of Agriculture, Farmers Unions, Water Establishment, INGOs, Directorate of Environment, LNGOs and Agricultural Units. The aim of this mapping was to identify who can influence the success of this project, and how this influencing would happen. The identification helped in forming the Knowledge Group who participated in the Vulnerability and Risk Analysis (VRA) workshop that was organised and conducted by Oxfam in Deir ez Zor in February 2020. In this workshop, the knowledge group identified the critical risks in the targeted locations, and the needed measures required to enable the communities to address those risks. In addition to that, Oxfam has undertaken conflict sensitivity approach in the targeted locations and stockholders mapping to inform the project implementation and ensure that the Do No Harm principle is applied.

**Participatory Wealth Ranking methodology (PWR)** has been used as the primary measure in the targeting process, being an efficient method which facilitates community buy-in. PWR allows field staff to bring community leaders (such as mukhtars, head of municipality, school teachers, religious leaders or active community members) together to identify vulnerable people, rather than having to survey every household at the outset. Oxfam staff conducted the PWR process with community leaders, using community-identified parameters for three relative wealth categories (wealthy, moderate, poor) during February 2020.

Community leaders then categorised households for all EFSVL activities according to the identified vulnerability criteria below, prioritizing female-headed households:

- Households with persons with disabilities or chronic illness, causing difficulties with mobility, concentration and communication
- Households with a high number of children, both school age children and under 5 years of age
- Returnees who have lost assets and property due to the conflict, who struggle to restore their livelihoods, who are already working or want to work in agriculture or livestock
- Households with a member who is pregnant or lactating
- Households with high levels of debt

**Vulnerability and eligibility assessment:** In June 2020, Oxfam trained 23 volunteers to support and conduct in-depth needs' assessment and targeting. Beneficiaries were identified for

different schemes of interventions. The survey was delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions. However, Oxfam developed standard operating procedures to conduct field activities under COVID-19 and purchased personal protective equipment and the activity has been completed. Oxfam has established community committees who were consulted to identify families using PWR and vulnerability assessment criteria. Oxfam team conducted a survey in June 2020 for those beneficiaries to identify vulnerability and eligibility for each activity.

Oxfam's M&E team and Programme team have analysed the survey to identify vulnerabilities score and eligibility score for each potential beneficiary. According to these analyses, the project team sorted participants for each of the activities (agriculture, poultry, UCT, and CFW). Please see relevant annexes attached (Annex 8-1: Vulnerability and Eligibility assessment's questionnaire, Annex 8-2: Photos of Vulnerability and Eligibility assessment & Annex 9 on vulnerability and eligibility assessment report.

#### Market assessment:

The project team have assessed the market using special market assessment tools in the first quarter of 2020. These tools have been updated in September 2020, to verify the feasibility of the cash modality to deliver agriculture grants. The Market Assessment report is attached as Annex 10.

#### Land irrigation infrastructure engineering analysis:

Oxfam performed engineering assessments at the pumping stations and irrigation canals in the targeted areas of Al Mayadin, Makhan, Al Tiba and Baloum. Oxfam engineers identified that the main reasons behind the damage in the irrigation canals were as follows:

- Destruction of some parts of the canal due to non-usage in the last 5 years,
- Canals being improperly used as a sub-route,
- Canals being used as a dumping place for wrecked vehicles, and
- The variation in the canals' slopes in preventing water flow from reaching agricultural lands.

Furthermore, Oxfam contracted a topographical surveyor and civil engineering consultant to identify the required work for the canal rehabilitation before starting the work. Oxfam coordinated the technical recommendations with the farmers' committee in Al Mayadin (please see attached Annex 11 for photos). Oxfam also assessed another site (Al Tiba) to identify the existing damage and the needed rehabilitation works.

Oxfam produced a topographical survey report and consultant's report based on the assessments. The reports are in Arabic and can be translated for summary if required.

According to the final evaluation results and findings, the positive impact and advantages of conducting the aforementioned assessments and analysis is demonstrated in the following findings:

- The households with high vulnerabilities score had more chance of being selected than those with less or non.
- Conducting the vulnerability assessment as well as the irrigation and agriculture assessments helped in building confidence and trust among the targeted communities about Oxfam' work.
- The agriculture and irrigation analysis helped the project team as well as the authorities to identify the most critical spots that needed to be rehabilitated.

## **2.2 Rehabilitation of communal irrigation canals by labour-intensive schemes and provision and installation of irrigation equipment**

Due to COVID-19, SoPs and precautionary measures, and the movement restrictions imposed by the government, project implementation was challenged throughout the project. The

restrictions on movement particularly impacted suppliers and contractors' logistical capacity and the adaption of priority needs related to COVID-19 were shifted inwards. However, Oxfam assessed the situation as it evolved and adapted the project implementation where required and feasible.

Some of the relevant activities also faced challenges related to delayed procurement processes because of the deterioration in the value of local currency. Hence, there were not enough contractors bidding for the invitation of tender and Oxfam had to extend the announcement of the tender.

Based on the results of the engineering assessment and the consultations with the farmer's groups, Oxfam worked on the rehabilitation of irrigation systems in four areas.

1. Al Mayadin irrigation system
2. Al-Taiba irrigation system
3. AL-Baloum irrigation system
4. Mahkan irrigation system.

The rehabilitation, maintenance and/or installation works were done according to Oxfam's procurement processes and SOPs. BoQ/BoCs were developed by Oxfam engineers and competitive suppliers were contracted to perform the work with direct monitoring and supervision by Oxfam engineers to ensure the delivery of desired quality for the canal rehabilitation.

Prior to starting the rehabilitation works at any of the selected canals, Oxfam coordinated to ensure staff and community safety and conducted a full ground assessment of the areas to ensure they were ERW free.

A brief of the completed works is outlined below. For details on the rehabilitation works, please see Annex 11-01 on the irrigation system rehabilitation report).

	<u>Description of the action</u>	<u>Reached individual BFs</u>	<u>Completion date</u>
Al-Mayadeen irrigation pump station	<p><u>Completed works by OXFAM:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- installation of an 1000 KVA electrical transformer and all the needed accessories (cables and control panels).</li> <li>- performing the needed maintenance to the pre-existing pumps and pipes.</li> <li>- installing one extra pump and 2 electrical motors to enhance the water flow into the 13-km-canal.</li> <li>- Installing umbrellas on the roof to protect the engines and pump in Al-Mayadeen.</li> <li>- Oxfam engineers monitored the works with the presence of the farmers committee and the relevant technical government bodies on a daily basis to ensure that all the implemented works are up to local standards</li> </ul> <p><u>Outcome:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pumping irrigation water for their land at a volume of 3000 m<sup>3</sup>/h.</li> </ul>	10,500	October 2020
Al-Mayadeen irrigation canal	<p><u>Completed works by OXFAM:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- provided and completed the needed rehabilitation work in Al Mayadin irrigation system for the 13km canal including building (i.e. cement work), soil works and metal works.</li> <li>- Oxfam engineers monitored the work on a daily basis in order to avoid the risk of damaging the already existing</li> </ul>	10,500	November 2020



	<p>pipes during the implementation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Oxfam coordinated with the relevant governmental bodies and ensured their presence during the rehabilitation to provide technical support.</li> </ul> <p><u>Outcome:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pumping water to 9,500 dunum of land, where farmers cultivate 6 to 8 seasons for cotton, wheat, barley and vegetables as main crops.</li> </ul>		
Al Taiba irrigation pump station* <sup>1</sup>	<p><u>Completed works by OXFAM:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- supplying and installing and electrical generator of 250 KVA capacity.</li> <li>- supplying and installing two electrical motors with associated equipment, including control panels and start-up circuits.</li> <li>- building a room to protect the generator from theft and vandalism as it is located on the river far from residential communities for them to monitor it on a daily basis.</li> <li>- Installing umbrellas to protect the engines and the pump.</li> <li>- Training workers in the agriculture association on handling and maintenance of new equipment.</li> </ul> <p><u>Outcome:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Irrigation pumping volume of approx. 1,000 m<sup>3</sup>/ h.</li> </ul>	5,250	July 2021
<u>Baloum irrigation pump station</u> * <sup>2</sup>	<p>This activity was conducted as a result of preferential exchange rate savings</p> <p><u>Completed works by OXFAM:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- providing the Baloum Farmers Association in Al Mayadeen with an electrical engine for the pump to replace the damaged existing one.</li> <li>- Umbrellas were installed to protect the engines and the pump</li> </ul> <p><u>Outcome:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- supporting the farmers to re-operate the old irrigation pump allowing water flow into the rehabilitated canal, with irrigated water at 600 M<sup>3</sup>/H volume.</li> </ul>	2,450 (350 Farmers)	September 2021
<u>Baloum irrigation canal</u> * <sup>3</sup>	<p>This activity was conducted as a result of preferential exchange rate savings</p> <p><u>Completed works by OXFAM:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- partial rehabilitation to the secondary Baloum irrigation canal at 6km length.</li> </ul> <p><u>Outcome:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- irrigating 2350 Dunums owned by 350 farmers/HHs supporting them with activities related to planting their lands.</li> </ul>	2,450	September 2021
<u>Mahkan irrigation system</u> * <sup>4</sup>	<p>This activity was conducted as a result of preferential exchange rate savings</p> <p><u>Completed works by OXFAM:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- rehabilitation works for the 7km long irrigating canal including building (i.e. cement work), soil works and metal works.</li> <li>- installation of metal mesh for the main complex and some secondary complexes on the complex basins</li> </ul> <p><u>Outcome:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- supplying water to 5,500 Dunums benefitting an additional 1,500 farming households.</li> </ul>	10,500	September 2021

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The canal is now fully operational carrying the needed water flow, allowing farmers to plant grain seeds and irrigate their farming lands for the 2021 fall season and for the next seasons</li> <li>- Ensuring the safety of children from drowning, as there had been 3 drowning cases in Mahkan in water complex basins as a result of a missing protection net.</li> </ul>		
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<sup>\*1</sup> Oxfam complemented the SARC schemes and activities in consultation with the line department and SARC, where they installed the 2 diesel irrigation pumps.

<sup>\*2</sup> Oxfam complemented the UNDP schemes and activities by installing the 2 irrigation pumps and electrical transformers in consultation with the line department and UNDP.

<sup>\*3</sup> Based on the technical assessment, It was decided to repair the most affected part of the canal due to cavitation and bad soil. The canal was in need of replacement for a length of 300m and the local Farmers' Association members undertook the further rehabilitation of an additional 1km section that was less damaged. to support the farmers with activities related to planting their lands.

<sup>\*4</sup> Oxfam in this activity complemented the SARC schemes by installing 4 diesel irrigation pumps in consultation with the line department and SARC.

Through the rehabilitation of communal irrigation canals, Oxfam reached a total of 4,100 farmers (28,700 beneficiaries) irrigating water to 21,350 dunum and achieving the following:

- Resuming agricultural activities in Al Mayadeen as the primary activity, by providing the land with required irrigation water for farmers.
- Improving access to irrigation water; in some sites Oxfam rehabilitated communal irrigation canals (Mahkan, Al Mayadeen, and Albaloum) to ensure irrigation water is accessible across their land, including for the cultivated lands which are located at the farthest part of the canal.
- Improved quality of soil by reducing salinization phenomenon which is caused due to using irrigation water from surface wells.
- Increased size of cultivated land in Al Mayadeen through rehabilitation of irrigation station and irrigation canal.
- Increased quantity of wheat crops which are recognized as the most important crops in Syria for making bread
- Granting the peasant association the control to distribute irrigation water.
- Improving the capacity of farmers to maintain and operate new equipment such as the generator, transformer, electrical motor etc of Al-Mayadeen and Al-Taiba peasant association, due to the workshop held by Oxfam.

The outcome of Oxfam's interventions in the rehabilitation of the irrigation canals was further emphasized through the adoption of labour-intensive schemes, presented through a Cash for Work (CfW) activity as follows:

Oxfam supported 120 HHs (108 female-headed, and 12 male-headed) through cash for work to implement community-driven work in the irrigation canal rehabilitation in Al Mayadeen. Works done by the community HHs included light work to complete the rehabilitation of the canal in removing harmful plants alongside a canal, moving waste and obstacles from the flow of canal water and rehabilitation of sides of canal to be at the same level to protect it and save water.

In the initial proposal, Oxfam proposed to reach 200 individuals through CfW support. This target was challenging to reach, as ensuring the interest of beneficiaries in the scheme or work itself proved difficult. In addition, no female-headed household is registered as a cooperative or non-cooperative farmer within the agricultural association, which made it more challenging

to impose the engagement of women.

The cash for work activity was completed in March 2021, with an overall total of 120 HHs receiving three rounds of cash. The daily wage for the work was 6,500 SYP; each HH received a maximum of 176,000 SYP and a minimum of 100,000 SYP depending on the number of working days. The activity supported 827 individuals in 120 families to meet their life-saving needs, along with rehabilitation of community assets. This activity also supported the recovery of the agriculture system on which the majority of the population depends.

The following feedback was received from CfW beneficiaries, indicating the positive impact of the intervention:

- HHs were provided with a livelihoods improvement opportunity, especially those who do not have agricultural land or a place to raise poultry. These households were able to generate some income, meet their basic needs, resettle some debts payment, buy non-food items, and support medication needs.
- Community awareness of the importance of maintaining the irrigation canals was raised, especially among those tasked to carry out maintenance and cleaning.
- Besides income, CfW beneficiaries felt that they gained the respect and appreciation of the community because of their work in the irrigation canals, which is seen as a service to the whole agricultural community.
- The activity encouraged women to work in the community, overcoming fears of stigma, shyness and lack of skills for using an axe or shovel. Some women, after being engaged in CfW work on rehabilitation, are reported to have started working in agriculture as a form of day labor (*Please see Annex 12 for a success story on the CfW activity*).
- Increased awareness on dangerous explosive remnants of war (ERW) through the training provided by Oxfam's safety and security team to all project participants. This encouraged some workers to request Oxfam to carry out a workshop about ERW for the larger community as well, who were not target beneficiaries of the CfW activity; they even suggested the printing of brochures and supported the Oxfam team in their distribution. These recommendations were taken into consideration by Oxfam through inter-departmental coordination; for example, Oxfam PHP and Security teams were informed about the beneficiaries' suggestion and both teams included ERW awareness as a small session within the PHP awareness sessions for children in Sbekhan community. Photographs were used to make children aware of potential ERW in their community (Sbekhan community had many ERWs).

According to the Final Evaluation results, the community members and leader' feedback showed that this activity was successful and very popular with the impacted communities. The impact of the project activities was reported as follow:

- The water flowing through the canals, enabled more than 1500 farming households to cultivate their lands and overcome the short-rain seasons' challenge increasing their produce; with the fact that the work finished before the farming season.
- The individuals who participated in the cash for work programme (some of whom do not have access to their own lands and would not benefit from the canals rehabilitation) used the money to pay off debts, make savings and meet other basic needs.
- Recruitment of women into the cash for work activity had contributed towards having more positive perception about the jobs women can do in rural communities. It was reported that having some women as supervisors had an additional positive effect. Others respondents indicated that the cash for work activity had opened new employment opportunities for rural women.

Please see Annex 30, Final Evaluation report for more details.

Oxfam team has also conducted post distribution survey and assessment for the Cash for Work activity, please see Annex 12-1 for the relevant PDM report.

### **2.3 Provide agricultural toolkits and poultry**

In cooperation with the community committee, Oxfam completed the identification of the most vulnerable households in June-July 2020, based on the results of the household survey and according to the beneficiaries list submitted by the committee. Due to COVID-19, assessments and the selection of eligible beneficiaries faced some delays.

#### Agriculture tool kits support activity:

According to results of the vulnerability and eligibility assessment conducted in June 2020, 240 FHHs met the criteria set for the agricultural activity, although the number of identified beneficiaries who were willing to restart their farming businesses was lower than expected in the planned target. Therefore, Oxfam conducted the following to assess the context:

- Interviews with key persons from the Agriculture Directorate and target community to explore the reasons behind people's unwillingness to restart their farming businesses and the reasons behind their preference for poultry and fodder over farming toolkits.
- Two FGDs with 22 female-headed households from those selected according to the criteria, to identify their willingness to restart farming activities whether or not they are egg producing or farming businesses. The type of seeds, type of fertilizers, implementation modality and monitoring mechanisms were the key topics discussed during the FGDs. The beneficiaries prioritized cash modality for agriculture against the in-kind modality.

Please refer to enclosed Annex 13\_01 for FGD with beneficiaries for agriculture activity report and Annex 13\_02 on photos for FGDs).

Oxfam realigned the activities approach and targets in response to beneficiaries' preferences and capacities; and with consideration to the findings of the agricultural market assessment conducted by Oxfam in the area in September 2020, which found cash to be a feasible modality for farming kits assistance (please see enclosed Annex 10 on agriculture products market assessment).

To that end, Oxfam opted to make use of the cash modality for agriculture tools support and acknowledged the engagement of affected communities from planning to implementation. To ensure beneficiaries' commitment to the agreed plans and avoid any misuse of the assets, Oxfam developed a Beneficiary Assistance Agreement to which each project participant consented prior to the grant transfer. The agreed business plans were considered integral parts of the agreement. The cash vs logistics were driven by beneficiary preference and operational modality (i.e. whether the market is accessible or not).

Three rounds of cash assistance were distributed to selected beneficiaries, with the first round covering 142 households, the second round covering 139 of the same households, and the third round covering 136 of the same households; the 136 Households received a total sum of 720,000 SYP in three rounds over the course of 9 months. This activity directly benefited 952 individuals. The decrease in the number of FHHs for each subsequent round was due to the conditional nature of this grant; distribution was according to the first set of plans and implementation of agreement conditions by the household. A household who used the first round of cash to plant their lands was entitled to receive the next round of cash. Therefore, based on monitoring reports, some of the HHs had to be removed from the next round as the conditions were not being met (Please see Annex 14 on beneficiary assistant agreement and Annex 15 on business plan). Each household had action plans for the grant utilization which include beneficiary details and therefore not attached to this report (for reasons of data protection). Please find attached a summary excluding beneficiary details (Annex 16-1). Photos of the CfA assistance are attached in Annex 16-02

The support provided through this intervention gave the targeted beneficiaries an opportunity to plan and expand their agricultural activities. Households were able to extend the size of

their planted land, start and increase the types of crops including vegetables, wheat, cotton, and barley; besides enabling them to increase their production injection to the market selling as many crops as possible. The cash grant supported farmers' ability to buy agriculture input (including seeds, fertilizers and the price of ploughing) which they couldn't afford to do themselves. In addition, this intervention enabled women to work as daily labour in other farmers' lands while running their own lands, which further contributed to increasing their income as well as their dignity.

Oxfam also conducted cash for agriculture (CfA) grants' analysis between the distribution cycles and after the distribution was complete. PDM report was issued (please see Annex 17), highlighting findings and recommendations some of which:

- All the respondents who have received the cash for agriculture assistance were satisfied with this activity and have asked for additional support, specifically in relation to cash assistance.
- The space/area of planted land showed good improvement following our intervention. All respondents reported an increase in the space of the planted areas of their lands.
- 80% of the total respondents declared that they have noticed increase in their income due to being enabled to respond to their agricultural needs and increase their crops production.
- This intervention has showed another good impact on the Food consumption score for beneficiaries. Almost 74% of the respondents are reported to have acceptable food consumption score >42.

The final evaluation report has indicated satisfaction with the cash for agriculture over the kits. Respondents to the Final evaluation survey reported that they were able to buy the seeds at the market in Al Mayadin which is very accessible to most of them and that the grants enabled them to grow more food, which in turn increased availability of food at the market and helped to lower the prices for some of the commodities like wheat and vegetables. It has also been reported that those who received the agriculture grants had increased the area of the land they cultivated by more than 63% on average, as compared to those that did not receive these grants (32%). All the households that received agriculture assistance reported that they used all the money to buy inputs.

#### Poultry support:

Based on the vulnerability and eligibility assessment conducted by Oxfam in June 2020, 550 beneficiaries were entitled to poultry support. The vulnerability assessment showed that female-headed households prefer to raise chickens.

Oxfam conducted 6 FGDs with 95 beneficiaries of those eligible for poultry and fodder assistance in order to agree on the type of chicken, implementation modality, monitoring mechanism and to educate them on the best ways to raise the chickens properly. In-kind assistance was requested since quality poultry was not available in the local market. The details are highlighted in the following attached annexes:

- Annex 18\_ FGD with beneficiaries for poultry activity
- Annex 19\_ photo of poultry-FDG
- Annex 20\_ reasons for selecting poultry activity

Following the consultation with FGDs for both agriculture and poultry beneficiaries on their preferences, the number of beneficiaries of poultry support increased to 625 individuals, an increase to the initial identified number who were eligible for agriculture support but preferred poultry activities according the FDG discussion. In consideration of the context and in line with gender mainstreaming, Oxfam focused on supporting female-headed HHs as direct

beneficiaries of the intervention, bearing in mind that poultry businesses are indoors and suitable for affected families. Additional budget was required for this activity (as the number of beneficiaries for poultry support was higher than planned due to beneficiaries' preference) and Oxfam was able to cover the additional cost from savings made on other budget lines within existing flexibility rules. All beneficiaries of the activity were female, including 60 women from the host community, 2 IDPs, and 563 returnees.

It proved very challenging to recruit the supplier for poultry and fodder as Deir Ez Zor doesn't have this type of market capacity. It also took some time to contract the supplier as quality checks had to be conducted, approvals were required to transfer items and coordination was needed with all security check points.

Despite these challenges, Oxfam, through this project, reached 625 families with poultry and fodder. Each family received 15 laying chickens and 100kg of fodder for poultry farming. The remaining distribution took place after the interim reporting period in the first week of May 2021, when quality check and approval processes were completed. This activity benefitted 3,477 individuals.

As per beneficiaries' feedback, this activity allowed women to meet their family's needs for protein by giving them access to a supply of fresh eggs. The aim was for households, particularly large member households, to save the usual cost of buying eggs (which cost around 100 Syrian Pounds per egg), and to be able to spend that money on meeting other basic needs. Some households who benefited from the inputs were able to further expand their profits by selling eggs, buying a manual hatchery, and selling the produced chicks. There were also households who purchased more chicks from this profit to ensure the continued existence of chicks and meet their needs for eggs (Please refer to Annex 21 for a success story related to this activity).

Oxfam put in place COVID-19 protection measures during the implementation of the activity, ensuring the safety of all staffs, volunteers, committee members and families. Oxfam also ensured that queuing was organised with physical distance between project participants during distributions and that hand sanitizer and masks were provided to all workers and staff members

Oxfam also conducted During and Post Distribution Monitoring for the poultry support activity, The relevant DDM and PDM reports were issued (please see Annex 22 for PDM report) and, some of the highlighted findings and recommendations are:

- This activity reported good satisfaction with the activity from the beneficiaries' side, while no negative feedback was received. 73.44% of respondents were very satisfied, and the rest were satisfied.
- 46.88% of the respondents reported good quality of poultry, another 46.88% reported acceptable quality, while 6.25% reported that the quality of the poultry was not good.
- 85.94% of respondents reported good quality of foddors, the rest reported acceptable one.
- 79.69 of respondents reported that they were able to raise their poultry, 20.31% of respondents reported otherwise, mentioning that the poultries have died.

Further, according to the project' final evaluation results, a majority of the respondents (more than 71%) reported that the main benefit of this activity was the increase in the consumption of eggs. This is further supported by the analysis of the dietary intake over the 7 days, which showed that the households which received poultry grants had a higher mean number (0.75) of days of consuming eggs, compared to the average (0.71) and to those that did not receive the grant (0.7). This is despite the fact that most the HH recruited in this activity were female-headed with less resources.

#### **2.4 Provide unconditional cash support to extremely vulnerable households unable to participate in agricultural activities**

Oxfam established a community committee to identify the critical vulnerability indicators and nominate the families that meet these indicators (such as households with persons with disabilities, households with a high number of young children, returnees who have lost assets, ...). Oxfam volunteers verified all the nominated families, then the Oxfam MEAL department analysed the data to produce the final beneficiaries' lists. Oxfam put in place COVID-19 mitigation measures during all selection steps involving interaction with community members. By the end of the projects, 202 female-headed households had received three rounds of cash assistance. According to the directions from sector leads and MoSAL, the transaction value for cash assistance is 100,000 SYP for each round (in total 300,000SYP per HH). The cash support was provided in two payments (the second and third tranches were merged into one payment according to the safe programming and risk analysis).

Oxfam intervention supported female-headed households resilience against the dramatic increase in the HH spending needs which were multiplied with the inflation, prices increase and the impact of Covid19 continuing spread. This is further reflected in the findings of the post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) conducted by Oxfam, according to which:

- 98% of the respondents reported that they noticed increasing in the prices of basic materials in these markets since they received the money.
- All the respondents reported that their family's spending increased recently as a result of the pandemic.
- All the respondents reported that their income been affected by the conditions of the pandemic.
- 90% of who reported that they got affected specify that the expenditure has increased. 8% reported that the pace of work decreased. 2% reported that they were affected because their work has stopped.

Major findings of the PDM are:

- All respondents reported that they received timely and useful information related to the distribution.
- All respondents reported that the way of delivering cash was easy and clear.
- All the respondents reported that they didn't pay to receive this assistance.
- 55% of the respondents reported that they had no difficulties in receiving money. 45% mentioned that they had a difficulty due to the far distance of the distribution point.
- All respondents reported that they received 300,000 SYP as unconditional cash from Oxfam, divided into two instalments.
- 63% of the respondents reported that they received an amount of money equal to the amount they expected/were informed that they will receive; 37% expected a higher amount than they received. On the other hand, 51% of the respondents reported that they are very satisfied with the amount of cash they received, 33% reported that they are satisfied, while 14% reported that they felt neutral about the aid received. 2%of them were not satisfied and reported that the amount of money received was too low.
- In terms of management of the money received, 75% of respondents reported that the female is the member of the household who manages the money. 23% of the respondents reported that it is shared management within the family. 2% reported that the daughter is managing it.

The detailed PDM report is attached (Annexes 23).

#### **2.5 Perform a pilot localized research on the effects of climate change on natural resources, i.e. land and water in agricultural areas with recommendations for climate sensitive adapted agricultural practices.**

Oxfam's study on climate change impact on the agricultural sector in Deir Ez Zor was completed in February 2021 through secondary data review, stakeholder identification and primary data field collection through Key Informants Interviews and Focus Group Discussions with rural and peri-urban stakeholders such as farmers, women, community leaders, and peasant cooperative members. Information has been collected in line with the Sustainable Livelihood framework, which analyses the level of access to the main livelihood assets, natural resources such as land and water, human resources such as labour and knowledge, physical capital such as public and private productive infrastructures, social capital such as the local institutions, organisations and social networks, and the financial capital such as the access to credit or financial capital.

The study focuses on different perceptions on climate change and its priority in the community's vulnerability and risk scale. The findings include that:

- Among stakeholders who are less dependent on the actual agricultural production and sit in knowledge development (education, research, technical services) and management position, they are generally aware (with few exceptions) of the climate change trend and the challenges that they posed to future development,
- Among stakeholders who are instead more dependent on agriculture as livelihood, including local administrators, they tend to concentrate their attention and the risk perception on immediate problems.

In the case of Deir-Ez-Zor, risks are linked to the rehabilitation and recovery of irrigation infrastructures, access to inputs and products markets, conflicts and civil insecurity, and the inflicted losses of basic livelihood assets (land, pasture access, infrastructures and services). In some cases, the exacerbated food insecurity of many households makes it difficult to engage in climate change discussions or even to do mere livelihood recovery reasoning.

A discussion with selected stakeholders from the two main perception groups was carried out in order to validate and agree on a common perspective that will guide the planning of the agriculture livelihood amidst a climate crisis (a challenging task as COVID-19 prevention measures make this difficult to implement).

The discussion with the identified stakeholders included FGDs with members of local communities (women, men, farmers, livestock breeders, etc) in addition to individual interviews which were carried out with formal stakeholders including UNDP, FAO, the agriculture scientific research committee, the directorate of water resources, the agriculture bank, merchants of food items, and the chamber of agriculture in Deir-ez-Zor, in order to do the necessary data gathering for the climate change research paper.

Upon completion of these discussions, sessions in the vulnerability risk analysis (VRA) workshop were conducted with participation of a variety of stakeholders both from the local community (women and men) and from formal agencies such as UNDP, WFP, FAO, the directorate of agriculture and agrarian reform, and the Directorate of the Euphrates basin (water resources). After conclusion of the VRA workshop, a final report was produced and shared with all concerned parties. Annexes for climate change study and VRA are enclosed - please see Annexes 24 and 25. Please note that wider circulation and publication would need Oxfam consent.

Following the VRA workshop, the climate change research report was concluded, incorporating all the data and findings gathered during the interviews and workshop in addition to the scientific research conducted on climate change and the effect on the local environment. The draft report was submitted to several Oxfam specialised staff for review and thoroughly discussed with concerned departments inside Oxfam including Gender, Policy and EFSVL.

## **2.6 Train farmers on environmentally and climate-sensitive agriculture and irrigation techniques**



Oxfam coordinated with the Agriculture Directorate and key persons in the target community and farmers from the Agriculture Association in Al Maydeen to identify the critical training topics needed in the area. The major focus of training are on:

- Water resource management (Cultivation of rainwater)
- Soil salinization
- Sustainable agriculture and organic compost.
- Agriculture canals maintenance.
- Integrated crops management for wheat (crop diversification crop and seed types planting and cropping)
- Business skills (small projects for women)
- Raising poultry

The training experts were identified, and basic training started in April 2021 and was completed in June 2021. Oxfam targeted 970 farmers for first level training (366 men and 604 women) after which a capacity evaluation was carried out to determine the farmers who are eligible. After this, 153 trainees (77 men and 76 women) were selected for advance level training which was conducted in August 2021 and completed within the same month.

In return, the participants committed to provide training services and knowledge sharing to farmers associations of the surrounding areas and provide them with any needed training.

Oxfam supplied participants with training materials and agriculture bags which contained seed packs, and suitable compost fertilizers to cover a small garden of 200 m<sup>2</sup> area (Please refer to Annexes 26 and 27 for basic and advance level of training including details of training contents).

## **2.7 Develop policy brief on improving women's access to aid support in the livelihoods sector, based from learning from the project.**

The EFSVL policy paper explores women's access to livelihoods and income generating activities in Al Mayadeen district in Deir-Ez-Zor governorate. With the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and the grave economic deterioration in Syria due to prolonged conflict, sanctions and devaluation of the local currency, this study aimed to understand how both COVID-19 and the economic crisis affected women in general and female-headed households in particular in terms of their ability to withstand shocks. As agriculture and farming is the major source of livelihoods for the majority of Al Mayadeen households, this study also aimed to explore women's access to land so as to understand its impact on livelihoods. The paper concludes with a set of recommendations to key stakeholders, i.e. the Government of Syria, the donor community, UN agencies and humanitarian actors in Syria on how to move forward with the humanitarian response in 2022 and beyond to increase women's access to livelihoods, income and advance the dialogue on land access and housing, land and property rights; enhance household's resilience to shocks and adopt a more bottom-up response through improving households' access to basic services, food and livelihoods.

Snapshot of the findings:

Three years of ISIS besiegement have left women in Al Mayadin very vulnerable as the 'rule of terror' prohibited them from living their normal lives, such as being employed, helping with agricultural production or livestock farming. The majority of women were prohibited from attending educational institutions and were forced into marriage and the upbringing of children. Given the already conservative nature of Deir-Ez-Zor governorate, further fuelled by the ISIS ideology, women in the area face grave challenges in accessing livelihoods support. Based on initial findings to date, one of the major challenges in farming communities in the area is women's inability to access land ownership (either due to the national law and regulations or given the conservative societal norms). Most women work in farming, however, they do not receive direct income because of social norms. Female-headed households in the area remain highly vulnerable as women who work in farming are often unpaid and their work is seen as doing a 'favor' to the landowners, who in most cases are family members and relatives. This

policy research will be complimented with FGDs and other interaction with women beneficiaries from DGD's various livelihoods activities. These tools will aim to give women the chance to speak, and pinpoint on the exact needs and barriers of women in the area, with regards to accessing livelihoods opportunities.

#### **4.4 Work plan (e.g. annexed Gantt diagram)**

Please note that all international assistance projects within Syria, need approval from relevant line ministries of Syria before any activity can take place. This approval can only take place when funding has been secured, which usually takes around 3-6 months to process with different line ministries. As such, Oxfam has included and factored this into the workplan, attached as Annex 8, meaning the first month of the project will mostly be preparatory as Government of Syria permissions to implement are processed – this has been factored into the work plan attached.

##### **4.4.1 [INT] Revised work plan in the event of changes following the proposal**

A revised work plan is annexed (Annex 19), taking into account the NCE request.

#### **Monitoring, assessment, auditing and other analyses**

##### **4.4.2 Monitoring of the activities (explain how, by whom)**

The project's Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) plan will be developed in line with Oxfam's Common Approach to Monitoring Evaluation, Learning and Social Accountability (CAMSA), adapted to the project context as appropriate. The M&E plan will be drafted in the inception phase with clear monitoring activities scheduled for the project lifespan to ensure that indicators are tracked on an ongoing basis.

The monitoring tools which will be used include:

- **Data triangulation:** Oxfam gets data from various sources such as its site engineers and local actors, such as Local Water Establishments, etc. This data is then triangulated to ensure its accuracy. Oxfam uses the lowest number of targeted beneficiaries in its reporting. The sort of data received include numbers on catchment area, production capacity of the water infrastructure, hours of electricity shortages, share of water per capita etc.
- **Baseline and Endline:** these are especially crucial for sanitation and hygiene interventions since apart from the needs, they will measure aspects such as safety, current practices and knowledge, availability of materials etc. As noted above, since household level surveys are not possible given the context, Oxfam will rely on FGDs for this information. FGDs will be held separately for men and women as per local sensitivities.
- **Handover reports:** for any infrastructure that Oxfam installs or helps to rehabilitate, such as pumping stations and water networks, such as the Al Mayadin pumping station in this project, the completed work is handed over to local authorities for their Operation & Maintenance and is accompanied by appropriate handover reports. As per Oxfam's modus operandi in country, the contractors that install the infrastructure are responsible for the O&M of the infrastructure for the first year of operation, after which relevant authorities are responsible for the maintenance and O&M of the infrastructure. These handover reports are also evidence of the infrastructure installed and working properly since it is signed by all parties involved.
- **Distribution Reports:** these are essential as a source of verification for hygiene material distribution that Oxfam undertakes either directly or through partners. If the distributions take place by Oxfam, the reports are produced by Oxfam's own staff and CRPs. In the case of distribution undertaken through Interagency Convoys, these reports are provided by UN agencies of ICRC/SARC, depending on which agency is leading the convoy. In the

matter case, the report is a snapshot of the interventions shared with all humanitarian actors in country.

- **Focus Group Discussions:** given the limitation of collecting household level data which limits Oxfam's interaction with the communities it is serving, Oxfam relies on FGDs as a tool to build this interface with communities. These are conducted by site engineers, focal points, as well as Oxfam staff, including MEAL staff, visiting the areas, in consultation with Oxfam policy and gender teams. These are also conducted when team are undertaking technical assessments of the infrastructures. FGDs inform Oxfam of the needs of the communities and thus inform programming decisions. FGDs held at the end of the interventions are also used to measure the satisfaction of the communities as a result of the interventions, and the appropriateness of the interventions. This also serves as a feedback mechanism. In line with cultural considerations, FGDs are held separately with men and women, with male staff members leading discussions with male members of the communities, and female staff members with the female members of the communities.
- **Monitoring Reports:** these reports are generated from site engineers and Oxfam staff visiting the field. These capture the situation and progress of the interventions every step of the way.
- **Training reports:** these reports are generated as a result of the training sessions conducted for attendees, and include a snapshot of the training materials, the methodologies used, and the number of people trained, including pictures.
- **Attendance sheets from training sessions:** these will verify the number of people which attend the training sessions
- **Session Reports:** these reports are generated as a result of hygiene sessions carried out with targeted communities. These also include a snapshot of the composition of the communities, the number of volunteers, beneficiaries and Oxfam staff involved, the training materials and approaches used, and the approximate number of the targeted communities, including pictures.
- **Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM):** in cases where the distribution is conducted in collective shelters by Oxfam, Oxfam also conducts PDM to get feedbacks from the communities on the appropriateness of the materials distributed, along with their usefulness and satisfaction of the communities.

Oxfam is committed to collect gender and age disaggregated data. Exact methodology and sample size for all data collection will be determined based on security and access considerations. Findings based on evidence will be discussed during regular team and program meetings to assess progress against targets, identify possible changes in context and needs in project implementation, as well as reflect on lessons learned. Technical MEAL oversight will be led by the MEAL Officer in Damascus, supported by a MEAL Advisor/Manager.

#### 4.4.3 Tick the boxes corresponding to the analyses that may be undertaken:

- External assessment during the action
- External assessment after the action
- External auditing during the action
- External auditing after the action
- Internal assessment or internal auditing relating to the action

#### 4.4.4 Other analyses: Please provide information:

Given the relative dearth of programmatic information and assessment in Syria, Oxfam will aim to utilise information generated from the project to inform and update information on ongoing needs. This information will be used to generate analyses which will be shared with humanitarian stakeholders and used to advocate for further delivery of humanitarian needs ongoing in Syria.

## 5. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

### **5.1 Please describe the expected level of sustainability and/or of connectedness<sup>27</sup>**

The proposed action aims to respond to the immediate life-saving needs of IDPs, returnees and host communities, in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate. Oxfam's approach is to do so in a sustainable way. For example, emergency interventions aimed at providing agricultural support are coupled with resilience building activities, such as the restoration of community assets, and support to re-establish community livelihood assets for agriculture. Through these interventions, it is hoped to bridge a gap for those reached, to not only provide assistance in their time of need, but to help ensure that their coping mechanisms are improved so that they no longer depend on humanitarian assistance in the future.

Given the status of the civil conflict in Syria, it is not clear that an exit strategy will be possible in the immediate future – especially within the next couple years. However, Oxfam aims to enable ownership and sustainability by providing targeted support to restore community assets that have been disrupted due to conflict.

### **5.2 Continuity strategy (links between emergency aid, rehabilitation and development)**

Without a long-term political solution to the conflict, the continuity strategy for linking short-term humanitarian interventions with longer-term development interventions aimed at supporting the long-term capacity and needs of Syrians will be unlikely to happen. At the time of writing, there is much hesitancy from international actors who support humanitarian interventions in Syria, to approach more longer-term development interventions, as this could be seen as being more partial to one side of the conflict and jeopardising good humanitarian donorship principles. Thus, until a long-term political solution is agreed and endorsed by international stakeholders, interventions focused on rehabilitation, reconstruction and development are unlikely to be supported and get off the ground, as they will not be endorsed, and funded by the international community.

If there is an enabling environment for longer-term intervention to happen, Oxfam will look beyond emergency needs, and will aim to design and implement interventions which build on the learning from this programme, and focus on the long-term needs, opportunities and desires of conflict-affected Syrians recovering from conflict. Oxfam, however, takes an approach that delivering emergency response in a sustainable fashion can support communities both now and into the future, and this is evidenced by our proposed interventions.

### **5.3 Integration (e.g. reduction of disaster risks, children, human rights, gender equality, environmental impact, others to be specified)**

**Gender:** Oxfam's humanitarian programming in Syria is conducted in accordance with Oxfam's Minimum Standards for Gender in Emergencies. Gender is integrated throughout the project cycle and to measure that IASC Gender and Age monitoring tool is used.

Oxfam will ensure that project staff and volunteers are gender sensitive by providing training and support. Oxfam will also aim to hire women as volunteers so that project staff can have unfettered access to, and communication with, women beneficiaries; Oxfam will aim to recruit at least 60% female community resource personnel. Additionally, in Deir-ez-Zor the Oxfam team will have a dedicated Gender Focal Point who will work closely with Oxfam Gender Team in Damascus. During activity design and beneficiary selection, Oxfam teams will take into consideration the different priorities, needs, vulnerabilities, protection risks, and capacities of both women and men, boys and girls including elderly and persons with disability, as well as factoring the different impacts that the conflict has had on them; this will reflect an adequate targeting criteria in this project to best identify the most vulnerable categories of beneficiaries to be prioritised. A learning session will be conducted to analyse assessment data and design

<sup>27</sup> Sustainability and connectedness are similar concepts that are used to ensure that the activities are executed in a context that takes account of longer-term and interconnected issues.

practical recommendations of the team on how to adopt activities based on findings; primary focus will be on gender responsive cash modalities and analysis of implications to different gender and age groups

An ongoing gender analysis will be integrated into the MEAL plan to ensure that gender relevant information is collected, analysed, shared to adequately adopt activities to the deferential needs. Due to evident protection risks including different types of gender-based violence (GBV), male and female volunteers will be trained in caring for survivors (with UNFPA and UNICEF) and will be supported to initiate community-based child protection and GBV mitigation/prevention strategies.

**Safeguarding:** Oxfam Syria has agreed on an annual Child Protection (in March 2018) and Safeguarding (PSEA) Country Plans (in June 2018) to further promote staff and volunteers' awareness of protection risks and vulnerabilities. The Safeguarding Country Plan is in line with [revised Oxfam policy framework \(May 2018\)](#). It aims to strengthening internal processes, re-enforcing a culture of zero tolerance towards harassment, abuse or exploitation, through prevention and increased engagement with partners, while further developing our focus on Gender Justice and prevention and protection from Gender Based Violence externally. The approach is intended to be pragmatic and adopted to conflict and restricted context in Syria where Oxfam and partners currently operate in a humanitarian life-saving mode in both IDP camp and non-camp setting. The plan will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis. Globally, the following progress has been made on safeguarding by Oxfam:

- Independent Commission appointed
- 119 new safeguarding investigators trained
- €2 million Euro investment in safeguarding across Oxfam globally
- Single staff reference system introduced with enhanced pre-employment checks
- Whistle-blowing hotline now in five languages
- New transparent reporting process on safeguarding introduced in line with UN guidelines

**Protection:** at the start of the project, Oxfam will identify specific potential protection risks as may be linked to its intervention based on which it will integrate safe programming measures into its interventions as will be appropriate. Oxfam's intervention may in and of itself reduce or eliminate some protection risks such as the risks incurred for women and children having to walk long distances to fetch water. Oxfam will also monitor the impacts of its EFSL and WASH interventions on the longer-term, not only on water resources and livelihoods, but also how their implementation may positively or negatively affect protection issues of the target community. For protection areas for which Oxfam is not directly mandated, it refers cases to those organisations that are. Oxfam provides training to its staff on conflict sensitivity, Do No Harm, protection and safe programming. These trainings make staff more able to identify and respond to protection issues as appropriate. Oxfam regularly participates at Protection cluster meetings and sub-meetings.

**Conflict sensitivity:** Oxfam aims to reach the people Syria with the greatest humanitarian need; the reality is that all aid in Syria is subject to the limitations on access imposed by the different parties to the conflict hence and therefore, Oxfam continues to review its program against humanitarian principles.

Oxfam integrates conflict sensitivity approaches into assessments and program design by increasing focus on conflict sensitive community engagement in programming to ensure safe programming (this will improve our knowledge of the context, test our assumptions, make our programs more accountable and responsive, as well as better empower the community to take decisions on issues in their community life). This includes understanding community dynamics and tensions, including any resource conflict related to water and sanitation services, agriculture or livelihoods at community level, and designing interventions which do no harm, and do not exacerbate the root causes of local conflict.

Oxfam engages communities in a conflict sensitive manner, taking care not to exacerbate tensions - while supporting local capacities for peace, particularly among women-led

initiatives, wherever possible. For example, for PHP activities, Oxfam conducts assessments of project locations (for example schools and collective shelters) through its focal points, volunteers, site engineers, to identify the needs, and accordingly designs its awareness sessions and IEC materials. Female and male staff of local health centres, as well as female and male teachers of schools are involved in design of sessions, and while awareness sessions are being conducted in schools and collective shelters. Needs and preferences of target beneficiaries inform the content of hygiene kits; for example: menstruation material support for women and adolescent girls. Our community resource persons (CRPs) are women and men belonging to the affected communities in project locations and can take over the hygiene promotion entitlements.

**Environment:** Oxfam globally is actively engaged on issues related to climate change impact and its effects on the poor. Oxfam Syria is keen on designing programs that take these impacts into consideration with a view to ensuring suitable mitigating measures. It equally wants to ensure that its activities do not contribute to climate change. Given the project's focus on restoring agricultural land, including irrigation systems and the provision of clean water, Oxfam aims to ensure it eliminates or reduces any unintended consequences on the environment in the short term or in the years following the implementation of the project. The East of Syria where the project is to be implemented has been subject to increasing desertification, cyclical droughts and water scarcity. These factors must be considered at the outset of the project in order to ensure that Oxfam adopts appropriate agricultural practices mindful of water usage both for agriculture and household use. To address this, Oxfam will undertake a climate change impact research at the start of the project to identify how to adapt agricultural practices to the given environment as well as to analyse the potential effects that its proposed activities may have on the environment. Oxfam will incorporate the recommendations from the research on both these points into the activity design of the project. It will also use the recommendations for future programming and advocacy inside and outside the country.

**Policy:** As part of this programme, and Oxfam's wider humanitarian programme in Syria, Oxfam will undertake programme analysis to identify the lessons learned, and key challenges from programme implementation. This analysis will also explore wider community acceptance, and how the proposed interventions can be best targeted – along with other interventions – to provide humanitarian support to the community as a whole, and how communities see the benefit of such complementary programming.

The analysis will focus on both WASH and EFSL interventions undertaken and will highlight the impact on and views of women and young people under thirty. Oxfam will develop an appropriate methodology for the research, including feedback from beneficiaries and community-wide discussions, among which the sub-branch of the Deir-ez-Zor Directorate of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform and the Mukhtar. The research will consider the operating environment in Syria, and the product of the research will be used to develop policy briefs to influence key stakeholders, both nationally and internationally. Nationally to improve access to relevant and needed humanitarian as demanded by Syrians, and internationally, to improve awareness of, and willingness to fund community-based humanitarian actions in Syria.

#### **5.4 [INT] *In the event of changes or issues to be dealt with, please provide information***

As proposed in this project an ongoing gender analysis is integrated into the MEAL plan to ensure that gender relevant information is collected, analysed, shared to adequately adapt activities to the differential needs. Oxfam conducted gender and protection analysis linked to COVID- 19 impact on gender in Deir Ez Zor that supported to look into details of vulnerability of affected population. Please refer to annexes 28 and 29.

The analysis was to address impact of COVID-19 on FHHs, being reflected in Oxfam's

response to the proposed activities in this project. For example, recent estimates suggest that 22.4% of households in Syria are headed by women, up from 4.4% in 2009. Other estimates put the number of FHH's in Syria at one in three in 2015. This means that almost 5 million people are living in FHH's out of the current population of 20,346,920 people.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of June 2020 and based on the referral of the Oxfam volunteers after conducting the vulnerability and eligibility assessment, the survey process has taken place, targeting 300 FHHs who are categorized as the most vulnerable. The process has lasted until the 11<sup>th</sup> of the same month, where approximately 50 surveys per day were conducted.

The survey was designed based on a rapid assessment form with 17 yes/ no questions, to ease the getting the answers from the targeted beneficiaries. The questions were divided into 3 main categories:

- People at risk due to COVID-19
- Information related to GBV
- Social roles of men and women in the society at the time of COVID-19

Simultaneously, on the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 11<sup>th</sup> of the same month, 4 FGDs were implemented, targeting 57 individuals (32 females, 25 males) from the local community and SARC. The FGDs were divided into the following groups:

- 17 females under 17 years old
- 15 females above 25 years old
- 15 males under 25 years old
- 11 males above 25 years old

The assessment along with FGD were conducted to have a better understanding of FHH living conditions during COVID-19 Virus and Quarantine, as well as the difficulties and obstacles they faced during the post-quarantine period and the provided services to the community. This will help to assess the effects of COVID-19 on the different roles and responsibilities of men, women, boys and girls, vulnerability status for support, to gain information in regard to the general situation of the city and the information in regards to the GBV and whether there are any services to be provided to the GBV survivors and the protection risks in the area as well as, to map the gaps of the sectors' services in the area.

Based on the aforementioned, and the outcome of the survey and FGD sessions; a report has been generated and shared along with the Gender and Protection Analysis Study.

Annex 17: Gender and Protection Analysis

Annex 18: Focus Group Discussion.

In addition to this, Oxfam has safe programming risk assessment as requirement to implement any project where risks should be informed prior to the implementation. Oxfam accounts this assessment to ensure do no harm to communities, organization and donor.

### ***5.5 [FIN] In the event of changes or issues to be dealt with, please provide information***

As per the project proposal, a gender analysis was integrated into the MEAL plan to ensure that gender relevant information is collected, analysed, and shared to adequately adapt activities meeting the differing needs of men and women, boys and girls.

Oxfam conducted a gender and protection analysis linked to the COVID-19 impact on gender in Deir Ez Zor, which looked into the details of the vulnerabilities of the affected population (Please refer to Annex 28 for the relevant report).

This gender analysis along with FGDs were conducted to have a better understanding of FHH living conditions during COVID-19 quarantine and lockdowns, as well as the difficulties and obstacles they faced during the post-quarantine period and the provided services to the community. This helped Oxfam to assess the impact of COVID-19 on the different roles and responsibilities of men, women, boys and girls and assess vulnerability status for support; and gaining information in regard to the GBV situation and whether there are any services to be provided to GBV survivors. The protection risks and mapping the gaps of the sectors' services in the area could also be assessed.

Based on the outcome of the survey and FGD sessions, a report has been generated and shared along with the Gender and Protection Analysis Study (Please see Annex 29 on Focus Group Discussion Report Deir Ez Zor-al Mayadeen).

In addition to this, Oxfam conducted a safe programming risk assessment to identify and address mitigations for any risks prior to implementation. Oxfam completes this mandatory assessment to adhere to the do no harm principle in relation to its engagement with and commitment to affected communities, as well as its staff and donors. In each project locations, Oxfam had two safeguarding focal points responsible for receiving and reporting safe programming issues and concerns.

Furthermore, Oxfam in Syria has finalized its country strategy for the next 4 years which focuses on the resilience of the communities it serves. Oxfam considers the nexus approach in its programming and is one of the agencies active in Syria striving to harmonize emergency response and recovery work to enable community resilience. The DGD-funded project contributed has significantly towards its resilience work through delivery of needs-based interventions most of which are supporting affected communities in the long run.

## 6. SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MEASURES

### **6.1 Emergency measures (plan B/ mitigation measures to be taken if the risks and assumptions set out in the logical framework materialise)**

As Syria is an active conflict zone, there are multiple security constraints in the country; however, Oxfam has been successfully operating in-country since 2013. Safety and security remain a top priority for Oxfam, and in the scope of the action Oxfam is foreseeing the following security constraints:

- *Death or injury of staff in case of explosions or cross fire:* Oxfam has a security management and evacuation plan updated periodically, with inputs from the Regional Security Adviser, which all staff must follow. Oxfam also follows UNDSS security updates and safety advisories which are shared with staff. Moreover, while travelling to the field, all staff need prior permission from the safety focal point and the Country Director, and can only use approved routes. Oxfam field staff are being enrolled in safety trainings to strengthen their capacity to deal with exposure to UXOs as they sometimes come across in the field. Oxfam also maintains a strong conflict analysis of the country and identifies issues of social tension and conflict. If any conflict arises in an Oxfam area of intervention, than security management protocols are followed, which will lead to suspension of activities, and relocation of staff until the area becomes stable again.

- *Oxfam perceived to support and legitimize any of the conflicting parties:* Working in Syria being registered under the GoS, presents challenges related not only approvals, but also legitimacy. A general concern is whether INGOs operating under the administration of the GoS are able to apply humanitarian principles of impartiality, neutrality and independence. Oxfam's leadership has been, and continue to be, particularly concerned that impartiality be adhered to. Hence, Oxfam has developed red-lines which sets out Oxfam's parameters of engagement in Syria (see [Annex 9](#)). These address 4 main areas: Safety and Security; Impartiality; Voice for Protection and Participation; and Legality. Oxfam has and will continue rejecting requests for assistance made by the GoS if it does not itself assess that the request made reflect priority humanitarian needs. Oxfam will not accept pressure by national or local authorities to target particular individuals or groups of individuals that do not fall under Oxfam's selection criteria.

- *Constraints on access limiting monitoring:* Given constraints and restrictions to unfettered access to project areas, Oxfam has devised a number of mitigation, alternative operating procedures, by using multiple sources and triangulation of data, for monitoring and estimating the numbers of beneficiaries reached for its water infrastructure projects. The estimated number of people in these catchment areas which benefit from these projects, are calculated from data sources such as Cluster data, data from strategic partners such as SARC and UN



agencies. Beneficiary feedback for Oxfam's direct interventions is sought by Oxfam's focal points and Area Managers.

- *Access to implement activities:* To mitigate against access issues, Oxfam will continue extensive interaction and coordination with relevant authorities and non-state actors on humanitarian principles and Do No Harm Approach. Where access becomes a barrier to interventions, due to authorities' restrictions or security, the situation will be discussed with Belgian DGD in order to consider alternative humanitarian interventions that can be delivered. In cases where Oxfam cannot directly access sites, (due to either conflict, or lack of bureaucratic approval), Oxfam will coordinate with other actors on the ground, such as SARC who are able to implement more freely and reach out to people in need.

- *Additional displacement:* In case of unexpected displacement, rapid assessments will be conducted as outlined in Oxfam Syria's Alternative Operating Procedures (see [Annex 10](#)) in order to identify emerging crisis needs, and points of social tension. Accordingly Oxfam will develop a response plan, and will coordinate with other humanitarian actors for a wider response. If this happens in the Belgian DGD action's intervention area, Oxfam will notify Belgian DGD of the change in context, and will request a change in activities to address the displacement needs. All proposed activities will incorporate a protection risk analysis of proposed interventions, to ensure that they do not cause unintended harm.

- *GBV:* Oxfam will coordinate with UNFPA and other partners in the GBV sub-group to mainstream GBV prevention and referrals into the project cycle. CRPs will be trained on prevention, care and referral, in order to support this at community level.

- *Limited equipment and supplies available in the Syrian market:* Oxfam has been active in Damascus since 2013, and has developed a strong domestic supplier base, who are vetted against international blacklists and are able to fulfil contracts and deliver to order. Currently all WASH items are sourced directly within Syria, with little need to for international procurement. Oxfam also has a number of framework contracts with different suppliers for different items, e.g. hygiene materials, who are able to guarantee a steady supply of project material.

## **6.2 Security-related aspects**

### **6.2.1 Situation in the field. Please provide a brief description**

After the fall of Raqqa in August 2017 from ISIS to Kurdish-dominated Syrian Democratic Forces backed by the International Coalition Forces (ICF), the SDF advanced into Deir-ez-Zor governorate and currently control the north side of the Euphrates. Meanwhile, the GoS forces with Russian support have gained much grounds from ISIS in Deir-ez-Zor governorates and currently control the south side of the Euphrates. Currently, ISIS presence has further shrunk and is now concentrated along the Iraqi borders. Politically, the area has significance as the major oil fields of the country are located in the region. Since March 2018, no major armed incidents have been recorded between the GoS and SDF.

GoS/SDF Forces: These contesting forces are currently not in aggressive conflict against each other, however, small scale armed clashes have been reported between them in the recent past. If any significant clashes may trigger massive instability in the area and INGOs might be affected indirectly.

ICF/RF: US-led forces and Russian Forces are on the ground and are supporting the SDF and GoS forces respectively. Iranian and other pro-government forces might also operate in the area and if any interest of the said forces is hampered, eruption of armed clashes is possible.

In December 2017, the Russian President announced withdrawal of its bulk forces after successful military operations across the country. On 30 March 2018, the US President announced that the US troops would be withdrawn soon from Syria, which was reaffirmed in

a tweet in December 2018. The Syrian president also said in May 2018 that all foreign troops must leave the country soon. Such announcements of withdrawals added a new dimension on the political arena in the area.

Although, it is not clear what political outcomes will shape the future, cooperation between the ICF and Russian forces determine overall safety and security environment in the area. Such cooperation between the major actors and effective de-confliction remains vital for INGOs operations in the area. Access to Deir-ez-Zor city from Homs/Palmyra has been re-established. GoS has also established its control over Deir-ez-Zor city and is currently working to re-establish basic infrastructures. With some limitations, Syrian mobile network is functioning in the governorate, however, there are some weak or very weak zones, where either no connectivity or very bad connections exists. INGOs operations must have alternate reliable means of communication to function effectively in the area.

INGOs require coordination and approval to cross from the GoS side to the SDF dominated areas and vice-versa in both governorates. The relationship with GoS and SDF remain generally positive so far and INGOs are expected to gain full support for its road missions/programme delivery from both forces.

ISIS is likely to continue their attacks against GoS troops in the western bank of the Euphrates River due to the recent operational pause announced by USA on the eastern bank, while GoS forces are most probably will focus on repelling ISIS attacks on the western bank in the short-term.

To-date Oxfam has been able to obtain the necessary GoS approvals to work in Deir-ez-Zor. In particular, Oxfam has developed a constructive and supportive relationship with the Deir-ez-Zor governorate level Directorates. They have been welcoming of Oxfam's assistance. As recently as September 2018, these governorate authorities have placed no objections to Oxfam's assessment visits to rural areas, to directly contact with farmers, and have allowed one WASH assessment at household level. Oxfam therefore expects that it will have at minimum a sufficient degree of access in a sufficiently timely manner to implement this project.

**6.2.2 Has a specific security protocol been drawn up for this action?**

yes  no  Standard procedures

**If yes, provide information:**

**6.2.3 Have the staff in the field and the expatriates received information and training concerning these procedures?**

yes  no

All staff are trained in Oxfam's Security Management Plan for Syria. All field movements are planned, and are approved from the Oxfam Syria Security team, who maintain an overview of security conditions throughout the country. All expatriates working for Oxfam in Syria are trained on Personal Security and must attend a security training course ahead of working in Damascus, and all visitors are briefed on the Oxfam in Syria security management protocols both before commencing travel to Damascus, and on arrival in the Damascus office. In addition, the Oxfam Syria Security team, is supported by the Oxfam Global Security team who provide support and guidance on implementing security management protocols and on crisis management.

***[INT] In the event of changes or issues to be dealt with, please provide information***

A security officer was hired in Oxfam Eastern Hub, Deir EzZor in November 2019, providing safety and security training, including Crowd management, UXO's and personal security to the existing staff, volunteers and a number of the Agricultural Directorate personnel whom will accompany Oxfam field team.

On February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Oxfam team was conducting a field visit to Dara'a Governorate for the implementation of another project. On their way back from Dara'a, the convoy of Oxfam

team was attacked by unknown armed groups and Oxfam lost two humanitarian workers and all operations in Syria were suspended for two weeks for security assessment. Starting of 04.03.2020, Oxfam's programming has been resumed in all governorates except Dara'a.

20-Sep-2020: during a distribution activity in Al Masrab town (34km west to DEZ city), and upon team arrival to the distribution point, several SAA and ally's military vehicles with big number of armed people were spread along the road and moving towards the desert.

An ambulance was moving very fast from the desert side to transfer a casualty to the hospital. The decision was to cancel the mission immediately and back to the office after the situation became stable and calm, team arrived the office safe and secure.

24-Sep-2020: A field mission to Al Qourieh town (60km east to DEZ city) was implemented to assess unconditional cash beneficiaries, a big crowdedness at the entrance door of the registration point and people shouting against Mokhtars, stockholders. The gathering became out of control, all team stayed at the registration point and closed the door.

The Mayor ask for the assistant from Municipality guards (Civil guard), they managed the crowd and open the road for our team to leave the site, and team arrived the office safe and secure.

During the month of January in 2021, the security situation of DeZ remained tensed as incidents of airstrikes reported. Further, attacks on highway to DeZ was also reported. Oxfam had to hold field missions for some days for monitoring and assessment purpose to ensure the safety. The security situation in Deir Ez Zor is unpredictable and needs close monitoring and safety measures.

**COVID-19:** According to the last update on March 31, 2021 for DeZ governorate by GoS MoH:

- As of March 31, 2021
- Total cases: 90
- Recovery cases: 56
- Death cases: 13

The testing facilities in Deir Ez Zor governorate are inadequate and health facilities do not have capacity to deal if complicated cases are high in the governorate. Currently, the third wave of COVID19 is forecasted in Syria as cases at global level have increased again. COVID-19 awareness sessions were conducted to all staff and volunteers of Oxfam where it focused on Oxfam's COVID-19 prevention measures. Such sessions enabled staffs and volunteers to conduct field survey and distribution activities during the epidemic.

The Oxfam in Syria COVID19 Committee developed COVID19 SoPs for the whole country programme and trained focal points delivered trainings to all staffs and volunteers.

The Safety Officer in the eastern hub conducted a series of security assessments on the activities' locations in *Al Mayadin* and *Al Tiba* to ensure that safety and security related risks are appropriately prevented and mitigated.

### **6.3 [FIN] In the event of changes or issues to be dealt with, please provide information**

**Security:** In 2021, there was a series of attacks on the highroad and project locations. There were symmetric attacks on military convoys and vehicles on Homs-DeZ road. Further, airstrikes were reported in project locations where Oxfam suspended operations temporarily as deterrence measure and conducted timely regular safety assessments to ensure the security of its staff and workforce. However, there were no damages on project infrastructures and no harmed workforce.

The 2021 presidential election, early school closures due to exams and COVID-19, and the worsening economic situation were some of the key challenges that were faced during the last phase on the project, all of which impacted the timely project delivery.

In general, safety and security incidents were reported in desert areas or on the riverside near to project locations. However, Oxfam was able to assess, coordinate and intervene despite the delays related to monitoring of the potential impact of the situation.

**COVID-19:** As of February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2022, 51,569 official confirmed cases were registered in Syria, including 39,263 recovered cases, and 2,995 deaths<sup>28</sup>. The number of recorded cases in Deir Ez Zor governorate has remained relatively low. The daily case rate is less than 100/day, due to low testing rate as well as insufficient infrastructure for testing available. The testing facilities in Deir Ez Zor governorate are insufficient and the health facilities do not have the capacity to deal with complicated cases. As the new variant Omicron has been spreading globally, Syria is considered at high risk given the low vaccine rate and disqualified health system. However, Oxfam has applied COVID-19 SoPs throughout the implementation of this project, to prioritise the ongoing safety and wellbeing of its staff and beneficiaries. The Safety Officer in the Eastern hub conducted a series of security assessments on the project locations in *Al Mayadin* and *Al Tiba* to ensure that safety and security related risks are appropriately prevented and mitigated.

## **7. COORDINATION IN THE FIELD**

### **7.1 Coordination sur le terrain (veuillez indiquer la participation de l'Organisation humanitaire aux mécanismes de coordination avec d'autres parties prenantes, tels que les "clusters", les ONG, les agences des Nations unies, autres (à**

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<sup>28</sup> Ministry of Health, Syria

***spécifier), ainsi que les liens avec la procédure d'appel consolidée, si nécessaire)***

Oxfam is an active member of the WASH, Early Recovery & Livelihood (ERL), NFI and Food Security and Agriculture (FSA), Protection (GBV sub-sector) sectors in Syria, and maintains bilateral relationships with FAO, UNICEF, UNFPA, OCHA and UNHCR. Oxfam also participates in HRP and HNO through different sector meetings held in Damascus including WASH, Protection, Shelter, NFI, FSA and ERL.

Oxfam is an active member of the Damascus-based INGOs group (DINGO), and as of December 2018, Oxfam sits on the Steering Committee and is one of four organisations in receipt of specific funding, from ECHO, to support DINGO coordination, including coordinating and agreeing policy messaging. Oxfam has also been elected as one of five INGOs to sit on the Syria Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) for the fourth year in a row, and is one of two to sit on the UN SMT. In addition, Oxfam's Syria CD has been elected by the Whole of Syria INGO community as one of few to represent them to the WoS Syria Strategic Group. Oxfam's regional management platform in Amman ensures coordination with relevant sectors and clusters at the Whole of Syria (WoS) level, and through the Inter-Sectoral Committees. Oxfam regularly reports against the 4W reporting matrix for the WASH and ERL Cluster to ensure that there is no duplication of efforts amongst the key sector actors.

***7.2 National and local authorities (relationships established, authorisations, coordination)***

Oxfam operates in Syria through MoUs with the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR), Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour (MoSA&L), the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment (MoLA&E), and with Ministry of Agriculture (MoA). With respect to more localised coordination, Oxfam supports the Water Establishment and Water Units, facilitated by Oxfam's site engineers. The Ministry of Water Resources also convenes coordination meetings between WASH agencies, of which Oxfam is a participant. In terms of national stakeholders, Oxfam currently coordinates with:

- Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR): MoU with MoWR. The MoWR oversees the state owned water and sanitation network, and approves all WASH sector activity in this regard.
- Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MoSAL): MoU with MoSAL. MoSAL oversees all international civil society engagement with Syrian civil society, and approves what partners Oxfam can work with within Syria.
- Ministry of Local Administration and Environment (MoLAE): MoU with MoLAE. MoLAE is important for all sanitation and public health management issues and is a key actor to be consulted in this regard.
- Local Water Establishment (LWE): Oxfam is continuing to coordinate with LWEs at district level to work in schools and for rehabilitation of water supply systems. LWEs have the responsibility for maintaining water infrastructure on a day to day basis at local level
- Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC): Oxfam often works with SARC (the local affiliate of ICRC in Syria) to ensure continued access to project sites, especially in hard to reach and besieged areas. SARC is also an essential partner for Oxfam in terms of logistics, transport and facilitation for transporting goods across governorates, since SARC is accepted by most armed actors in the country. SARC is the largest humanitarian actor in Syria and is active delivering WASH activities in East Ghouta, and Oxfam will coordinate with them to harmonize activities.

Although Oxfam is working with the above-mentioned stakeholders, there will be no transfer of financial resources to any of them. All financial resources for the project are directly managed by Oxfam.

***7.3 Potential coordination with the Belgian diplomatic representation***

Although there is no current Belgian diplomatic representation in Syria, Oxfam will ensure coordination with Belgian diplomatic representation in Beirut, Lebanon, in the start-up of the

project, and reporting back on the ongoing successes and challenges that the project faces, including key lessons learned and policy developments with regards to the humanitarian situation in Syria. Oxfam Belgium currently supports DGD financed projects in the region, including Lebanon. As these projects also include policy components and require regular updates to relevant policy makers. Oxfam Belgium will, supported by the colleagues in the region, make sure relevant briefings and messages reach the Belgian representatives in Beirut. In addition, the Oxfam Syria country programme will be supported by Oxfam Belgium to present these reports and provide updates not only for the project not only at Beirut level, but also at Brussels level.

**7.4 [INT] In the event of changes or coordination issues to be dealt with, please provide information**

Oxfam Eastern hub team continued coordination with the Governor Office and local directorates including, Agricultural Directorate, Water Establishment and the Directorate of Social Affairs, as well as SARC, UNICEF, WFP, FAO, UNDP, WHO, NRC and several other INGO's in Deir EzZor, in order to exchange information and prevent double targeting and overlaps in interventions.

Oxfam is also directly coordinating with relevant government authorities on program contents such as identifying training needs on farmers, selecting the location and targets in order to inform and at the same time to increase ownership of impact.

In addition to that, Oxfam coordinates through the cash working group and is seeking increased coordination to avoid overlap and have common standards with other actors including the Ministry of Social Affairs' sponsored social protection fund. As part of their COVID19 response plans, more agencies are gaining approvals for cash programming, and so increased coordination is vital to ensure coherent national targeting strategies and effective engagement with MoSAL.

**7.5 [FIN] In the event of changes or coordination issues to be dealt with, please provide information**

Oxfam in Syria's Eastern Hub team continued coordination with the Governor Office and local directorates including the Agricultural Directorate, Water Establishment and the Directorate of Social Affairs, as well as SARC, UNICEF, WFP, FAO, UNDP, WHO, NRC and several other INGOs present in Deir-Ez-Zor, in order to exchange information and prevent double targeting and overlaps in interventions.

Oxfam directly coordinated with relevant government authorities on program contents such as identifying training needs for farmers and selecting the locations and targets. This coordination aimed at keeping the authorities informed and also increasing ownership from government authorities of the interventions undertaken and their impact.

In addition, Oxfam coordinated through the cash working group and has been maintaining increased coordination to avoid overlap and agree on common standards with other actors, including the Ministry of Social Affairs' sponsored social protection fund. As part of their COVID-19 response plans, more agencies are gaining approvals for cash programming, therefore increased coordination was vital to ensure coherent national targeting strategies and effective engagement with MoSAL.

Oxfam also coordinated with SARC to synergize and avoid duplication in canal rehabilitation activities in Al Mayadin. There was close coordination with the sub-working groups in Health and WaSH (especially with UN counterparts). Oxfam also facilitated the VRA workshop which required significant coordination among actors to produce the final product.

Oxfam coordinated with all relevant clusters, working groups and platforms in Damascus.

On a larger scale, Oxfam in Syria maintained close high level coordination with Oxfam Belgium and through them with DGD at Brussel level, including through progress update meetings and donor coordination meetings. As a result, Oxfam delivered at short notice project updates and communications in relation to the granting of the NCE which was requested and approved in 2021.

## 8. IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

### **8.1 Name and address of the implementation partner(s)**

No implementation partners for this action. Oxfam will implement all activities directly, given direct access to project location, and experienced and vetted contractors in place to deliver WASH hardware interventions, and to facilitate cash transfer programmes. In Deir-ez-Zor, Oxfam does not have any local operational partners on the ground, which have been assessed and approved by both Oxfam and by GoS (GoS requires all INGOs work with only GoS registered partners).

### **8.2 Status of the implementation partners (e.g.: NGOs, local authorities, etc.) and the role played by them**

### **8.3 Type of relationship with the implementation partner(s) and the reports expected from the implementation partner**

NA

### **8.4 [INT] In the event of changes, please provide information**

### **8.5 [FIN] In the event of changes, please provide information**

N/A

## 9. ACTIVITÉS DE COMMUNICATION, DE VISIBILITÉ ET D'INFORMATION

### **9.1 Planned communication activities**

Oxfam will work to ensure that it promoted Belgian humanitarian assistance in the project as much as feasible, noting that the Government of Syria regularly restricts the display of international donor logos at field level, or that Oxfam and Belgian DGD assistance would need to appear alongside local authority logos. Oxfam will seek to influence the GoS to ensure visibility of Belgian DGD funded activities where possible but will also consider any security risks which may favour a low profile in terms of visibility.

Oxfam will ensure press releases; social media posts and photos reference the contribution of Belgian DGD to the delivery of the humanitarian work and in the organisation of any public events held inside or outside of Syria.

As part of project inception, Oxfam will develop a project communication plan that will be shared with the DGD, alongside the required contact details for those working on project visibility and details of our social media channels.

Through the project, Oxfam will look to develop policy and communication materials based on the learning from project implementation. This will include a piece on the WASH response in Syria, and a piece on livelihood options for women in Deir-ez-Zor. For the latter, Oxfam will produce a video, which will enable voices of vulnerable Syrians to be heard by key international stakeholders.

### **9.2 Outreach on durable equipment, the main supplies and on the project location**

Through this intervention, durable equipment will be procured and used in the delivery of project activities, and will be handed over to local stakeholders. For example, WASH equipment will be installed to support the rehabilitation of the Al Mayadin pumping station. This will be done via contractors – Oxfam in Syria has standard contract conditions for installation of equipment, to include a guarantee period of 12 months in case there are any issues with installed equipment, with Oxfam withholding a small percentage of payment until the guarantee period has passed. For the WASH pumping station, Oxfam will also ensure local water establishment staff are trained on operational and maintenance of installed equipment so it can be maintained in the long-run. The same contractual conditions, i.e. the

guarantee period, will be applied to the procurement and installation of agricultural pumps for irrigation of communal land. Local community committees will be trained on the operation and maintenance of the agricultural pumps.

### **9.3 Publication activities planned**

Through the project, Oxfam will look to develop policy and communication materials based on the learning from project implementation. This will include a piece on the WASH response in Syria, and a piece on livelihood options for women in Deir-ez-Zor. This is expected to be achieved during the end of the first year of the project entering the second year. These planned public communication materials will draw analysis from the project, including analysis of evolving humanitarian needs, potential solutions, and lessons learned from Oxfam interventions so far. These public communication materials will be used to communicate the humanitarian needs which the project is aiming to address and to raise the profile of humanitarian interventions and need with key stakeholders. Crucially, this work will be used to inform, to advocate, and to lobby key humanitarian donors on the need to continue supporting humanitarian interventions in Syria which addresses community level needs.

### **9.4 [INT] In the event of changes, please provide information**

<b>Proposed product</b>	<b>Covering Location</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Expected time of product delivery</b>
Publication of research on climate change in crisis	Deir Ez Zor	A detailed research piece that will outline climate change in Syrian crisis. As a project delivery and will be used as advocacy tool.	July 2021
EFSVL policy Brief--publication	Deir Ez Zor	Evidence based policy brief demonstrating how project and interventions support vulnerable women. This will also have recommendations for future programming.	July 2021
WaSH policy brief--publication	Deir Ez Zor	Evidence based policy brief demonstrating WaSH situation of vulnerable women and girls specially focused to MHM. This will also have recommendations for future programming	June 2021
Event based sharing in social media platform	Deir Ez Zor and for project activities	Based on contents of project interventions, sharing of project update and achievement in social medias and global Oxfam platform	Event based

### **9.5 [FIN] Report on relevant activities**

<b>Proposed product</b>	<b>Covering Location</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Expected time of product delivery</b>
Completion of research on climate change in crisis	Deir Ez Zor	A detailed research piece that will outline climate change in Syrian crisis. As a project delivery and will be used as advocacy tool.	Sep 2021



EFSVL policy Brief-- publication	Deir Ez Zor	Evidence based policy brief demonstrating how project and interventions support vulnerable women.	Mar 2022 “product was concluded within project period and later signed-off”
WaSH policy brief— publication	Deir Ez Zor	Evidence based policy brief demonstrating WaSH situation of vulnerable women and girls specially focused to MHM.	Mar 2022 “product was concluded within project period and later signed-off”
Event based sharing in social media patfrom	Deir Ez Zor and for project activities	Based on contents of project interventions, sharing of project update and achievement in social medias and global Oxfam platform	Event based Will be done soon after the Final report submission
Vulnerability Risk Assessment Report	Deir Ez Zor	To identify risks related to agriculture and climate and to suggest recomendations. To support climate change study	August 2021

## 9.6

## 10. HUMAN RESOURCES

10.1 *Please state the overall figures by function and by status*

(function)	Status <sup>29</sup>	Number of people	Number of people/months in the project	Comments
Deputy Country Director – Programme	Expatriate	1	18 months (7%)	
Deputy Country Director – Support	Local Staff	1	18 months (13%)	
Humanitarian Coordinator	Local Staff	1	18 months (13%)	
Project Manager	Local Staff	1	24 months (50%)	
EFSL Advisor	Expatriate Staff	1	18 months (7%)	
EFVSL Coordinator	Local Staff	1	18 months (20%)	
Livelihood officer	Local Staff	1	18 months (33%)	
Livelihood officer – Cash-based program	Local staff	1	18 months (27%)	
Livelihood assistant	Local Staff	1	18 months (27%)	

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Expatriates, local staff, staff of the implementation partner, etc.

WASH Coordinator	Local Staff	1	18 months (20%)	
Public Health Engineer (PHE) Team Leader/Officer	Local Staff	1	18 months (33%)	
PHE Assistant	Local Staff	1	18 months (20%)	
Public Health Promotion (PHP) Team Leader/Officer	Local Staff	1	18 months (20%)	
Programme Administrative Assistant	Local Staff	1	18 months (20%)	
MEAL Manager	Expatriate	1	18 months (7%)	
MEAL Officer	Local Staff	1	18 months (27%)	
Information assistant	Local Staff	1	18 months (20%)	
Gender Officer	Local Staff	1	18 months (20%)	
Funding Officer	Local Staff	1	18 months (53%)	
Logistics Officer	Local Staff	1	18 months (36%)	
Logistics Assistant	Local Staff	1	18 months (20%)	
Finance Officer	Local Staff	1	18 months (53%)	
Finance Assistant	Local Staff	1	18 months (27%)	
HR & Admin Officer	Local Staff	1	18 months (53%)	
HR & Admin Assistant	Local Staff	1	18 months (20%)	
Media & Communications Officer	Local Staff	1	18 months (20%)	
Safety Officer	Local Staff	1	18 months (47%)	
Cleaner	Local Staff	1	18 months (20%)	
Driver	Local Staff	1	18 months (67%)	
IT Officer	Local Staff	1	18 months (47%)	

At the time of writing, the Oxfam in Syria programme is undergoing a staff restructuring to ensure an improved field presence and management of humanitarian activities on the ground. This process is ongoing, with a final restructuring plan to be finalised in March 2019. From April 2019, onwards a transition process will take place with staff recruitment and redeployment into the new structure. As such, Oxfam's budget proposed to Belgian DGD may be subject to revision depending on the nature of the staff restructuring if there are significant

changes in personnel - this will be discussed with Belgian DGD when the staff restructuring process is finalised.

**10.2 [INT] In the event of changes, please provide information**

As the project manager remained vacant for long period; area manager is leading the project.

To ensure the right technical workforce, Oxfam has placed Global Humanitarian team (GHT) staffs for EFSVL at the base. GHT staff for EFSVL is leading climate change research work. Further EFSVL Coordinator is recently hired who is providing technical support to projects.

**10.3 [FIN] In the event of changes, please provide information**

As the Project Manager position remained vacant for a longer period than planned, Oxfam's Area Manager led the project implementation with the support of thematic coordinators. To ensure sufficient technical oversight of project delivery, Oxfam secured in country support from its EFSVL Global Humanitarian Team (GHT). Ultimately a full time EFSVL Coordinator was hired. The GHT staff supported the EFSVL-led climate change research work as well as the VRA workshop.

## **11. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

**11.1 Name and title of the legal representative signing the agreement**

Floor Overbeeke

Directrice du département Programme et Plaidoyer  
60 Rue des Quatre-Vents, 1080 Bruxelles, Belgique  
T : +32 (0)2 501 67 31

[Floor.Overbeeke@oxfam.org](mailto:Floor.Overbeeke@oxfam.org)

**11.2 Name, telephone number, e-mail address and titles of the person(s) responsible for the management of the dossier**

Elisa Scheuer

Institutional Partnership Manager – DGD Humanitaire  
60 Rue des Quatre-Vents, 1080 Bruxelles, Belgique  
T : +32 (0)2 501 67 41  
[elisas.scheuer@oxfam.org](mailto:elisas.scheuer@oxfam.org)

**11.3 Name, telephone and fax number and e-mail address of the representative in the intervention area**

Moutaz Adham


Country Director – Oxfam in Syria  
Mohamed Naim Building, 1 Farabi Street, East Villa, Mezzeh, Damascus, Syria  
T: +963 95 800 1272  
[madham@oxfam.org.uk](mailto:madham@oxfam.org.uk)

**11.4 Bank account**

Name of the bank: CBC Banque SA  
Address of the bank agency: Boulevard du Souverain 36 B10, 1170 Bruxelles  
Account holder: OXFAM-SOLIDARITE ASBL  
Complete account number (including bank code(s)):  
IBAN code: BE73 7320 4947 0960  
SWIFT code: CREGBEBB

## 12. Financial overview of the intervention

The use of the funds awarded for the Action must respect the modalities set out in the Royal Decree of 19/04/2014. The submitted budget must be result-orientated.

		
<b>Title</b>	<b>Multi-year food security and wash assistance to vulnerable communities in Der Ez Zor, Syria</b>	
<b>Period</b>	24 Months (1st April 2019 - 31st March 2021)	
<b>Project reference</b>	SYRUA004	
Budget Line	Title	Approved Budget
<b>S1</b>	<b>Goods and services delivered to beneficiaries</b>	€ 1.055.999
S10	Food security related goods and services	€ 580.711
S11	Nutrition related goods and services	€ -
S12	Water and sanitation related goods and services	€ 341.562
S13	Health related goods and services	€ -
S14	Shelter and Non Food Items related goods and services	€ -
S15	Disaster Risk Reduction related goods and services	€ -
S16	Cash for Work / Cash distribution program (vouchers) related goods and services	€ 123.726
S17	Planification, follow up and evaluation workshops related goods and services	€ -
S18	Capacity building related goods and services	€ 10.000
S19	Mainstreaming (gender, HIV/AIDS, sustainable development, protection, etc) related goods and services	€ -
<b>S2</b>	<b>Equipment</b>	€ -
S20	Durable equipment (>500EUR)	€ -
S21	Other	€ -
<b>S3</b>	<b>Human Resources</b>	€ 267.592
S30	Local Staff	€ 233.992
S31	Expatriates staff	€ 33.600
<b>S4</b>	<b>Running costs</b>	€ 68.218
S40	Running costs of vehicles	€ 21.600
S41	Travel costs	€ -
S42	Communication, visibility, information	€ 2.400
S43	Buildings: rents and utilities	€ 36.725
S44	Supplies and materials	€ 7.494
S45	External services	€ -
<b>S7</b>	<b>Other operational costs</b>	€ 32.492
S70	Bank and transfer costs	€ 492
S71	Evaluation/Audits	€ 19.500
S72	HQ Mission cost	€ 12.500
S73	Others	€ -
	<b>TOTAL DIRECT COSTS</b>	€ 1.424.301
<b>OX</b>	<b>Indirect costs (5,5 %)</b>	€ 78.337
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	€ 1.502.638

### **13. Implementation reports and final reports**

**These reports must follow the modalities set out in the Royal Decree of 19/04/2014**

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### **14. List of annexes**

- Annex 1 – Oxfam Assessment in Deir Al Zour
- Annex 2 – Needs Assessment – Bouqras Fouqani
- Annex 3 – Oxfam Syria Access Strategy
- Annex 4 – Well Rehabilitation Sample Damascus
- Annex 5 – Light Rehabilitation of Water Network Aleppo
- Annex 6 – Oxfam Cash Pilot Herjellag-Rural Damascus
- Annex 7 – Oxfam Cash Transfer Business Flowchart
- Annex 8 – Workplan
- Annex 9 – Oxfam Parameters of engagement in Syria
- Annex 10 – Oxfam Syria AOP
- Figure 1 – Target Locations Dair-ez-Zor

## List of annexes of final report

- Annex 1 – Baseline report
- Annex 2 – Al Mayadin needs' assessment report
- Annex 3 – PHP report and photos
- Annex 4 – FHK PDM & DDM reports
- Annex 5 – Soap top-up kits PDM report
- Annex 6 – Wash policy paper
- Annex 7 – Endline report
- Annex 8 - Vulnerability and Eligibility assessment's questionnaire & photos
- Annex 9 - Vulnerability and Eligibility assessment's report
- Annex 10 – Market assessment report
- Annex 11 – Irrigation system rehabilitation report and photos
- Annex 12-1 – Success story on CfW activity
- Annex 12-2 – PDM on CfW activity
- Annex 13\_1 – FGD with beneficiaries for agriculture activity and \_photos for FDGs
- Annex 13\_2 – Photos FGD Agriculture
- Annex 14 – CfA beneficiary assistant agreement
- Annex 15 – CfA business plan
- Annex 16 – CfA business plan and monitoring
- Annex 17 – PDM report - CfA
- Annex 18 – FGD with beneficiaries for poultry activity
- Annex 19 – photo of poultry-FGD
- Annex 20 – Reasons for selecting poultry support
- Annex 21 – Poultry activity success story
- Annex 22 – PDM report for poultry activity
- Annex 23 – PDM report - unconditional cash distribution
- Annex 24 – climate change study
- Annex 25 – VRA
- Annex 26 – Basic level of training.
- Annex 27 – Advance level of training including details of training contents
- Annex 28 – Gender and protection analysis Deir Ezzor – Al Mayadeen
- Annex 29 – FGD Deir Ezzor Al Mayadeen
- Annex 30 – Final Evaluation report