

## **WFP Syria**

# North-Western Syria Emergency Situation Report #1

03 June 2019

## **Situation Update**

- Violence and insecurity in north-western Syria continues, with reports of artillery shelling, airstrikes and clashes between government and non-state armed group forces across southern Idlib, northern Hama and western Aleppo governorates.
- The surge in conflict is spurring mass population displacement, and some 270,000 people have been displaced in southern Idlib and northern Hama governorates over the first three weeks of May (01-22 May) according to the UNHCR-led <u>Camp Coordination</u> and <u>Camp Management Cluster</u> (CCCM). The Dana sub-district of northern Idlib governorate, bordering Turkey, remains the primary destination of the displaced.
- Reports indicate that agriculture has been severely impacted in the affected areas, including destruction of crops and agricultural equipment, resulting in significant crop losses. WFP is currently assessing the food security impact together with other Food Security and Livelihood Cluster partners.

## **WFP Response**

- WFP and its cooperating partners continue to respond to the needs of the affected population and have provided emergency food assistance through readyto-eat rations (RTEs) to some 200,000 people affected by the recent surge in violence since 01 May, primarily in the IDP camps in the Dana sub-district of northern Idlib governorate, but also in southern Idlib governorate and rural western and northern Aleppo governorate.
- In addition to the emergency food assistance being provided through RTEs to the recently displaced population, WFP, under the regular General Food Assistance (GFA) cycle, targeted nearly 700,000 people in May across the north-west (including all of Idlib governorate and areas of western Aleppo governorate

#### **In Numbers**

**270,000** people displaced in May<sup>1</sup>

**200,000** people reached with WFP emergency food assistance since 01 May

**823,000** people targeted for WFP General Food Assistance in June

### **Highlights**

- Violence continues in north-western Syria, with at least 270,000 people displaced due to conflict over the first three weeks of May.
- WFP has since 01 May provided emergency food assistance to some 200,000 people affected by the surge in conflict.
- WFP is scaling up its provision of General Food Assistance in north-western Syria in June, targeting more than 823,000 people.
- WFP is continuously adjusting its operations in the affected areas to ensure the continuity of assistance.





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> As per the latest CCCM displacement update of 27 May 2019. Note that this figure includes secondary displacements.

governorate) via the <u>Logistics Cluster</u>-facilitated cross-border operation from Turkey.

- Areas of northern Hama governorate normally served by the cross-border operation were not accessible to WFPs cooperating partners in May due to ongoing conflict and insecurity, affecting distributions to some 7,000 people. WFP will resume distributions to these areas as soon as conditions allow.
- Due to the mass influx of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to northern Idlib governorate, WFP is scaling up its provision of GFA. The total number of people targeted for GFA via the cross-border operation will thus increase to a new total of more than 823,000 people in June.
- WFP operations have been affected by the surge in violence, and distributions in the Jebel Saman subdistrict of Aleppo governorate and the Maarat an Numan sub-district of Idlib governorate were temporarily halted last week, affecting food distributions to more than 23,000 people. WFP has since been able to resume distributions.
- On 28 May, an airstrike hit approximately 500 meters from a WFP cooperating partner warehouse in rural western Aleppo governorate. In response, WFP is adjusting its operation to ensure the continuity of assistance and has been working with its cooperating partner to identify alternate warehousing options.

**WFP Preparedness** 

- Should the situation in the north-west deteriorate further, WFP remains ready to respond to the growing humanitarian needs with strategic stocks of RTEs, food rations as well as nutrition supplies pre-positioned inside Idlib governorate, in other hubs inside Syria, as well as in Turkey as part of the inter-agency readiness plan currently in place for large-scale escalation of conflict in north-western Syria.
- WFP currently has RTEs pre-positioned inside Syria in Idlib and Aleppo governorates, with additional stocks pre-positioned in Turkey ready to be dispatched into Syria via the cross-border operation. WFP is continuously replenishing its stocks of RTEs in Turkey through already active procurement contracts.

Considering the volatile and uncertain situation, WFP is preparing for a potential influx of IDPs from the affected areas of northern Hama and southern Idlib governorates towards Government-controlled areas of Hama and Homs governorates. Current planning scenarios involve the potential displacement of up to 300,000 people, and WFP is preparing to provide assistance as needed should significant population movement in this direction materialize.

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