



# WFP Syria

## Situation Report #3

March 2017

### In Numbers

**13.5 m** people in need of humanitarian assistance

**6.3 m** people internally displaced

**9 m** people in need of food assistance

### Highlights

- WFP dispatched food assistance for four million people; 32 percent of the assistance was delivered to high-conflict areas through cross-border, cross-line and air deliveries.
- WFP provided urgent food assistance for 145,000 newly displaced people in Hama, Dar'a, Ar-Raqqa, and Aleppo governorates. It was the first time for WFP to reach Ar-Raqqa governorate since July 2015.
- WFP launched a new livelihood project in Aleppo city that will provide women with vocational training to set-up their own tailoring, sewing and needlework business.

**4.1 million people assisted**

March 2017



**GENDER MARKER 2A** PRRO 200988

**Global Humanitarian Funding**

**Overall:**  
**USD 3,407,792,269**  
**WFP share:**  
**USD 797,579,193**

**WFP 6-month Net Funding Requirements** (Apr—Sep 2017)

PRRO 200988 **USD 195 million\***

Logistics Cluster & ETC (SO 200788) **USD 6.6 million**

*\*As of 12 April, includes solid forecasts*

### Situation Update

- Throughout the month of March, an uptick in violence was observed across the country. Heavy fighting in northern, middle and southern Syria resulted in the displacement of thousands of people. In response, WFP provided food assistance for 145,000 newly displaced people.

#### Northern Syria

- Ongoing fighting in northern Aleppo and Ar-Raqqa governorates resulted in the displacement of thousands of people to safer surrounding areas in or around the governorates, as fighting continued between government forces, the Syrian Democratic forces, and ISIL.
- During the month of March, thousands of people sought refuge in the Kurdish-controlled areas of Tal Abyad, Suluk, and Ein Essa in northern Ar-Raqqa as heavy fighting spread across Ar-Raqqa governorate. In response, WFP provided ready-to-eat rations (RTEs) for 36,500 people, using stocks that had been prepositioned in Al-Hasakeh governorate via the airlift operation. WFP was able to reach the governorate for the first time since July 2015. Another 3,500 people from Ar-Raqqa governorate who sought refuge in Mabroka camp in Al-Hasakeh governorate in late March were also provided with RTEs.
- Elsewhere, in eastern rural Aleppo governorate, ongoing clashes south of Menbij between government forces and ISIL resulted in the displacement of thousands of people. Some 35,000 people sought refuge in and around Menbij city and Jarablus, where they were supported by WFP using stocks that had been prepositioned in Al-Hasakeh through the airlift operation. Meanwhile, WFP is assessing the possibility to reach Menbij via road from Aleppo city, which would enable WFP to include the city in its general food assistance programme.

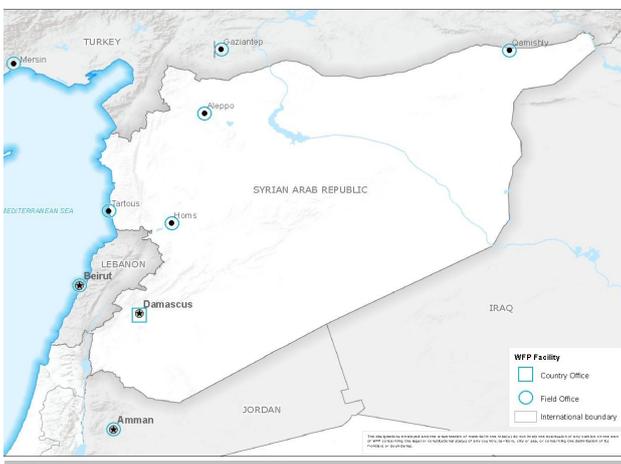


Photo: Children are waiting for their pick-up truck to leave after a distribution of WFP food and nutrition assistance in Swaida governorate, March 2017. WFP/Hussam Al Saleh



## Food and Nutrition Assistance

### Central Syria

- Towards the end of March, heavy fighting between armed opposition groups and government forces erupted in northern rural Hama, resulting in the displacement of 40,000 people from villages in Suran, Muhardah and As-Sugaylabiyah sub-districts. The majority of people sought refuge in Hama city and Masyaf in Hama governorate and in Wadi Al-Nasara in Homs, while fewer sought refuge in Tartous and Lattakia governorates. In response, WFP provided immediate food assistance to 35,000 newly displaced civilians that sought refuge in Hama and Homs governorates. Meanwhile, WFP is closely monitoring the situation should further needs arise.

### Southern Syria

- The tense security situation in southern Syria continued to escalate further during the reporting period. Fighting was reported between government forces and armed opposition groups (AOGs) in Dar'a Al-Balad, while there were clashes in and around Yarmouk Valley in south-western Dar'a between AOGs and ISIL-affiliated armed groups. Thousands of people were forced to flee to nearby villages in Dar'a and parts of Quneitra since the outbreak of the violence in February. By the end of March, WFP provided ready-to-eat rations (RTEs) for 35,000 displaced people in Dar'a and Quneitra.
- In western Dar'a, humanitarian access continued to be severely compromised throughout the reporting period. Although security conditions relatively improved in late March, allowing for distributions, food dispatches from Jordan faced major challenges due to fighting in south-western rural Dar'a. Despite these challenges, WFP managed to deliver food assistance for 17,000 people to a partner warehouse in Nawa in late March, which will be distributed to people in Quneitra as the situation improves

### WFP Response

- In March, WFP dispatched food assistance for four million people in all 14 Syrian governorates, achieving 102 percent of the monthly plan. Of this, 32 percent of the assistance was delivered to high-conflict areas through cross-border, cross-line and air operations.
- Some 725,600 people living in opposition-held areas in Aleppo, Idleb, and Dar'a governorates were assisted through the cross-border modality from Jordan and Turkey, representing 18 percent of the total deliveries.
- Furthermore, through eight inter-agency cross-line convoys, WFP delivered food assistance for 301,500 people living in besieged and hard-to-reach areas in Rural Damascus, Homs and Idleb governorates. It was the first time since July 2016 that more than 300,000 people were reached by WFP through cross-line inter-agency convoys in one month in hard-to-reach and besieged areas.

- Under the prevention of acute malnutrition programme, WFP dispatched nutrition products for 160,000 children aged 6-23 months through regular and cross-border deliveries. In addition, under the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition programme, WFP dispatched nutrition supplies for 3,900 children and pregnant and nursing women (PLW).
- More than 12,500 PLW received nutrition support through Cash-Based-Transfers (CBT) to purchase locally produced fresh foods, including dairy products, meat, fruits and vegetables, at 11 selected retailers in Lattakia, Homs and Rural Damascus governorates.
- As part of the school meals programme, WFP dispatched fortified date bars for 491,000 children during the month of March. This includes 21,000 children at 36 primary schools in formerly besieged parts of Aleppo city that were newly incorporated into the programme following a steady rate of returnees to this part of the city. To complement the date bars, WFP also delivered over 1,173 mt of milk.
- As part of the school meals programme, WFP initiated a pilot project in Aleppo city to provide fresh school meals for 2,200 children at two schools. The programme provides every student with a meal consisting of one sandwich and a piece of fruit or vegetable. The meals are prepared by 20 Syrian women, hence creating local employment opportunities. WFP covers all costs associated with the project. WFP also provides fortified wheat flour to produce the bread for the sandwiches that is baked every morning.
- As part of the out-of-school-children programme, WFP reached 1,000 children and their families in Homs and Lattakia governorates with CBTs of a value of USD 23. This programme encourages parents to send their children to UNICEF Curriculum B supported schools, in order to make up for the missed years in school.

### Livelihood and Resilience Projects

- As of March 2017, WFP has five active livelihood and resilience projects in nine governorates across the country, benefitting 31,000 people. Projects include retaining and enhancing the beekeeping value chain, kitchen gardens, the rehabilitation of bakeries and strengthening local food production and processing systems.
- Furthermore, WFP launched a new project in Aleppo city during the reporting period, targeting 324 women with training in vocational skills (sewing, tailoring and needlework). The women participating in the project are the main bread-winners for their family. Once the training is completed, participants will have a stronger basis to secure a stable source of income.



## Supply Chain

- By the end of March, WFP carried out 215 airdrops to the besieged parts of Deir Ezzor city since the operation started in April 2016, airdropping 4,078 mt of WFP food commodities and supplies on behalf of humanitarian actors. During March alone, WFP conducted 18 airdrops, delivering 358 mt of WFP food commodities. WFP has so far provided five full monthly food rations for all 93,500 people in need. [WFP's Market Price Watch for March](#) shows that the average cost of the food basket in Deir Ezzor decreased by 13 percent in March when compared to February.
- The WFP-led Logistics Cluster has completed 397 airlifts to Al-Hasakeh governorate since the operation commenced in July 2016, delivering 13.749 mt of WFP food commodities, nutrition products and non-food items for humanitarian actors. During March, the airlift operation enabled WFP to dispatch food assistance to meet the needs of 188,550 people in the governorate. This includes food assistance for 75,000 recently displaced people in northern in Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa and Menbij in eastern rural Aleppo governorates.

## Clusters and Common Services



### Food Security & Agriculture Sector

- In March, the Food Security Sector facilitated discussions to identify areas that should receive food assistance through inter-agency convoys in April and May. Furthermore, during the regular monthly coordination meeting for partners based in Damascus, participants discussed coverage, gaps and operational issues. The food sector also coordinated the humanitarian response of food sector partners to the newly displaced people from Ar-Raqqa governorate. In addition, the Sector provided operational coordination for food sector partners in southern Syria through its hub in Jordan.
- A two-day joint workshop with the Nutrition Sector was conducted in mid-March in Amman, Jordan. Objectives of the workshop included the review of the main assessment tools of both sectors (mVAM, rapid assessment tool, SMART survey, and PDM forms) to allow for closer work and joint analysis between the two Sectors.



### Logistics Cluster

- The WFP-led Logistics Cluster continued to facilitate coordination services, information management and logistic support, including airlifts to Al-Hasakeh governorate, to the humanitarian community responding to the Syria crisis during the month of March.
- Through inter-agency humanitarian convoys to hard-to-reach and besieged locations in Rural Damascus and Homs governorates, the Logistics Cluster facilitated the transportation of 5,932 m<sup>3</sup>

of Education, Nutrition, Food, WASH, Protection, Shelter and Health relief items.

- Furthermore, 1,999 m<sup>3</sup> of newly received humanitarian goods were stored by the Logistics Cluster in its common storage facilities in Homs, Qamishly, Tartous and Rural Damascus on behalf of humanitarian actors.
- Through the airlift operation to Qamishly city, some 4,098 m<sup>3</sup> of much needed humanitarian supplies were transported on behalf of humanitarian actors, while the Logistics Cluster also facilitated the delivery of 13.7 mt of nutrition supplies for UNICEF to Deir Ezzor city as part of WFP's airdrop operation.

## Resourcing Update

- WFP is grateful to the donors who have made contributions to the PRRO. With contributions confirmed to date and solid forecasts, WFP's response to the Syria crisis is currently covered until the end of July, at a slightly reduced food basket that contains 1,500 kcal instead of the planned 1,700 kcal. Current funding needs for the next six months (April – September) stand at USD 195 million.
- With a 2-3 month lead time to procure and transport food into Syria, new additional funding is urgently needed to ensure continued and sustainable assistance. If no new funding is received promptly, WFP may be forced to reduce the food basket in the future while also reducing the number of people benefitting from complementary activities such as education, nutrition and livelihood activities in order to allocate all resources to the general food assistance programme.
- The Special Operation 200788 requires urgent funding of USD 6.6 million to continue the provision of logistics services to the wider humanitarian community operating inside Syria, including logistics support to inter-agency convoys and the facilitation of airlifts to Al-Hasakeh governorate.

## Contacts

- WFP Representative and Country Director: Jakob

## WFP Operation

	<b>Total Requirements</b> (in USD)	<b>6 Months Net Funding Requirements (Apr-Sep 2017)*</b> (in USD)	<b>People Assisted</b> (March 2017)	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>
<b>PRRO 200988 TOTAL</b> (Jan 2017–Dec 2018)	1,719 million	195 million	4,099,520	2,254,737	1,844,783
General Food Distribution			4,099,520	2,254,737	1,844,783
School Meals Programme			491,144	240,661	250,483
Out-of-School Children			1,017	498	519
Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme			159,673	81,433	78,240
Nutrition Support for Pregnant and Nursing Women (Cash Based Transfers)			12,509	12,509	-
Targeted Treatment Programme			3,936	2,229	1,707
Livelihood activities**			30,960	17,028	13,932

\* As of 12 April, includes solid forecasts

\*\* As of March 2017, 6,192 people are taking part in five WFP livelihood projects across Syria. The food assistance provided by WFP will support a family of five; indirect beneficiaries are 30,960 people.

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