



WFP Syria

Situation Report #8

August 2016

In Numbers

13.5 million people affected

6.1 million people internally displaced

9.4 million people in need of food assistance

Highlights

- WFP delivers food assistance for 4.19 million people across Syria. 28 percent of the assistance was delivered to people living in high conflict areas
- WFP stands ready to move supplies into eastern Aleppo city following the Cessation of Hostilities that came into effect on 12 September
- Air operations to Al-Hasakeh governorate and the besieged part of Deir Ezzor city continue

People assisted
4.19 million, August



GENDER MARKER 1 EMOP 200339

Humanitarian Response Plan Overall: **USD 3.19 billion**
WFP share: **USD 660 million**

WFP 4-month Net Funding Requirements (Sep. 2016 – Dec. 2016)

EMOP 200339* **USD 0 million**

Logistics and ETC Cluster **USD 0 million**

Airdrop deliveries to Deir Ezzor** **USD 0 million**

* A new project is currently under development.
** A budget revision is currently being prepared to expand the operation until December 2016. New requirements will be communicated accordingly.

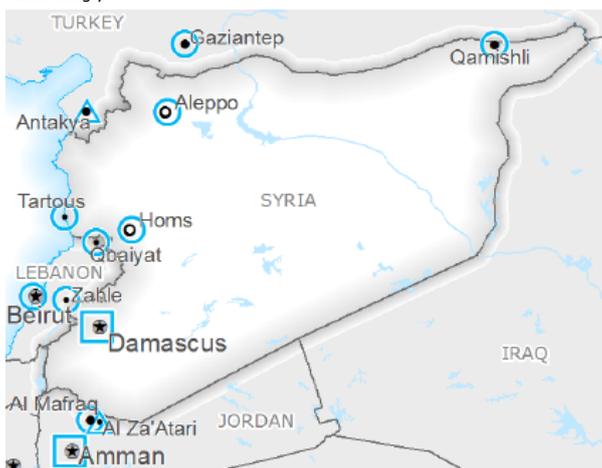


Photo: Distribution of WFP food assistance in Al Hasakeh governorate WFP/Qamishly

Situation Update

- Fighting continued unabatedly in and around Aleppo city during the reporting period, resulting in hundreds of civilian casualties and a continued deterioration of the humanitarian situation on the ground.
- Access to eastern Aleppo city (EAC) by WFP has been compromised since 7 July due to escalating hostilities between armed opposition groups (AOG) and Syrian government forces. Although AOGs managed to restore civilian access to EAC in early August from the south through Ar-Ramoussa neighbourhood, Syrian government forces managed to re-take the territory in early September. As civilian movement in and out of EAC has now completely ceased, an estimated 250,000 – 275,000 people remain trapped inside the city while the needs of the civilian population are rising. Amidst food shortages and rising prices, food needs among the affected population have been further increasing.
- Prior to the escalation of hostilities in early July, WFP had prepositioned food supplies sufficient for 117,000 people for one and a half months in EAC. However, due to the prevailing security situation inside the city, WFP partners were forced to suspend food distributions in mid-July and could only resume them on 13 August. Since then, almost 21,200 prepositioned food rations have been distributed to beneficiaries. Due to the limited available supplies and the uncertainty over the possibility to replenish stocks, partners are currently splitting the rations to provide assistance to as many families as possible. Accordingly, quantities distributed until 31 August have covered almost 152,000 people.
- On 9 September, the US and Russia reached an agreement for a plan aimed at reducing the hostilities in Syria and resume movement towards a negotiated peace and a political transition. The deal includes a nation-wide Cessation of Hostilities (CoH), which came into effect at sundown on Monday 12 September, setting off a seven-

day period to allow humanitarian aid and civilian traffic into Aleppo city. WFP welcomes the agreement in the hope that it will lead to unrestricted humanitarian access to EAC. WFP maintains a large preparedness response plan and stands ready to move food from Turkey on a short notice.

- Access to western Aleppo city (WAC) through the only supply route was disrupted in early August after armed opposition groups gained control of a large territory in southern Aleppo city. Consequently, as of 8 August, WFP started to use an alternate route to deliver food assistance to WAC. By the end of August, WFP had dispatched food assistance for all 475,000 beneficiaries targeted in WAC through the alternate route.
- At the end of August, heavy clashes erupted between government forces and AOGs in northwestern rural Hama governorate, causing the displacement of approximately 100,000 people. Most of the people sought refuge in Idleb governorate and in the proximity of Hama city, where they are staying outdoors, in informal shelters or with friends and family. In order to rapidly respond to the needs of the affected population, WFP participated in an inter-agency convoy to Hama governorate in early September where food assistance for 15,000 newly displaced people was provided. Furthermore, WFP is monitoring the situation in order to respond to the needs of all the affected civilians.
- The humanitarian situation in besieged and hard-to-reach areas remains a great concern of WFP. Observations from several staff members, who during the reporting period joined inter-agency convoys during the reporting period to Homs governorate, indicated a deterioration of the humanitarian situations inside these locations. Unemployment rates have reached alarming levels, which, combined with sharp increases in the prices of fuel and food, is leading to the erosion of household purchasing power. As a result of the prevailing situation, cases of malnutrition are being reported while the civilian population is increasingly completely reliant on food assistance they receive from humanitarian organizations.
- Elsewhere, in Rural Damascus governorate, hundreds of residents left the besieged town of Darayya in Rural Damascus at the end of August, after a local truce agreement was reached between the Syrian government and AOGs. The civilian population evacuated to Harjallah in Rural Damascus, while fighters evacuated to Idleb governorate. Evacuees who left for Harjallah will be included in WFP's regular monthly distribution of food assistance.

WFP Response

- WFP delivered food assistance for 4.19 million people in 13 of the 14 governorates in August.

Approximately 28 percent of this assistance was delivered to high conflict areas, including hard-to-reach and besieged areas, through a variety of different delivery modalities. This includes the delivery of food assistance for almost 850,000 people through the cross-border modality from Jordan and Turkey, providing assistance for people living in opposition-held areas in Idleb, Aleppo, Hama and Dar'a governorates.

- Furthermore, through a series of five inter-agency cross-line convoys, WFP provided assistance for 189,500 people in several besieged and hard-to-reach locations in Rural Damascus and Homs governorate. The number of people reached through this delivery modality is a sharp decrease compared to the previous two months, where on average almost 400,000 people were reached. However, during the first eight months of 2016, almost 1.3 million people were reached in besieged and hard-to-reach areas by WFP. This is a big improvement compared to the same period last year, when only 800,000 people were reached during the same time period.



Food and Nutrition Assistance

- Under its Nutrition Specific Programmes, WFP provided nutrition products to some 196,500 children aged 6-59 months for the prevention of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies. WFP was able to resume the cross-border delivery of nutrition products to opposition-held areas in northern Syria for the first time since March 2016, following the arrival of sufficient nutrition products in Turkey. As a result, WFP achieved 82 percent of the plan to assist 240,000 children throughout the country, a sharp increase compared to prior months, when on average only 43 percent of the plan was reached.
- Furthermore, through the provision of Cash Based Transfers (CBT) worth USD 32 to Pregnant and Nursing mothers, WFP enabled more than 11,160 women to purchase locally produced fresh products in selected retailers in Homs and Latakia governorates. WFP now works with eight different retailers, four of which were identified during the reporting period. By increasing the number of retailers, WFP enhances the variety of fresh food items that beneficiaries can purchase with their CBTs.
- Livelihood and Resilience Programmes, that currently support 33,500 people across the country, continued during the reporting period, providing agriculture inputs, capacity building sessions and trainings to the targeted beneficiaries. Furthermore, despite the Fortified School Snack Programme being on hold since May due to the end of the academic year, WFP distributed some 40,000 fortified date bars to children living in hard-to-reach and besieged areas through inter-agency convoys during the reporting



Supply Chain

- When access via land is not possible, WFP may choose to deliver via air where operationally and logistically feasible. WFP is currently providing assistance to an estimated 110,000 people in the besieged city of Deir Ezzor, inaccessible via land since March 2014, through high-altitude airdrops in cooperation with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC). By the end of August, WFP completed 107 airdrops, sufficient to deliver 1,933 metric tons of WFP food commodities as well as other supplies on behalf of other humanitarian agencies. With rotation 93 that took place on 11 August, sufficient quantities had been airdropped to provide two full monthly food rations for all 110,000 people. Hence, ongoing airdrops are being used to deliver assistance for a third round of distributions. A new budget revision is currently being prepared in order to extend the airdrop operation until the end of the year.
- As land deliveries of humanitarian assistance to Al-Hasakeh governorate have been suspended since the end of December 2015 due to continued closure of border crossing points surrounding the governorate, WFP, in its capacity as the lead agency of the Logistics Cluster, launched an airlift operation to deliver food assistance to Qamishly airport from Damascus in early July. As of end of August, the Logistics Cluster completed 82 airlifts, delivering 3,069 metric tons of WFP food commodities, nutrition products as well as humanitarian supplies on behalf of other humanitarian actors, including 49,000 WFP food rations. Food rations are currently being prioritized for the most vulnerable population, providing assistance for some 75,000 people in urban and rural areas in Al-Hasakeh governorate. Food distributions started on 19 July and are currently ongoing. However, operations in the governorate were adversely affected by the volatile security situation over the second half of August, and distributions only resumed at the end of the month on a small scale awaiting improvements in the situation on the ground.

Clusters and Common Services



Food Security Cluster

- The Food Security and Agriculture Sector conducted a Periodic Monitoring Report of the 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan during the reporting period, focussing on the period January – May. Key findings from the report indicate that food assistance has been on track during the first five months of the year, with an average of 5.7 million people reached every month with food rations by Sector members. However, the sector is below the target for livelihoods and agriculture activities.

- In order to address this gap, the Sector held consultation meetings with cross-border partners in Turkey and Jordan. Furthermore, a possible scale-up of agriculture and livelihood activities in view of the seasonal calendar and winterization has been developed, while livelihood activities will remain one of the sector priorities in the next round of Humanitarian Pool Fund (HPF) allocations.



Logistics Cluster

- The WFP-led Logistics Cluster continued to provide coordination services, information management and logistic support such as common storage facilities to the wider humanitarian community operating inside Syria during the reporting period. For example, the Cluster facilitated five inter-agency convoys to several hard-to-reach and besieged locations, where it transported over 4,200m³ of relief cargo, including WASH, nutrition, education, protection, food and health items, on behalf of various humanitarian organizations.
- In addition, the Cluster transported 5,910 m³ of much needed food, WASH and shelter supplies on behalf of UN agencies and international NGOs (see Logistics section for details) to Qamishly in Al-Hasakeh governorate through its emergency airlift. The Cluster also facilitated the delivery of around 90 m³ of inter-agency cargo, including medical kits, NFIs, High Energy Biscuits, tomato paste and ghee for various humanitarian agencies, to Deir Ezzor city through WFP's airdrop operation.

Resource Update

- Thanks to the record contribution from Germany pledged at the London Conference as well as continued support and solid forecasts from other donors, WFP's emergency response inside Syria is operationally fully covered until the end of 2016. New requirements for the airdrop operation to Deir Ezzor city will be communicated when the budget revision is finalized, in order to extend the operation until the end of the year.
- However, stating in January 2017, WFP will change its project type in Syria from an emergency operation to a protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) to focus on establishing and stabilizing livelihoods and food security while providing relief, where necessary. Funds are urgently needed for the new PRRO, awaiting approval during the Board meeting in November, in order to cover operational requirements starting in January 2017.

Contacts

- WFP Syria Representative and Country Director:
Jakob Kern
- Reports Officer Syria: Rikke Kasse
Rikke.Kasse@wfp.org
- Food Security Cluster: Samantha Chattaraj
Samantha.Chattaraj@wfp.org
- Logistics Cluster: Alessandra Piccolo
Alessandra.Piccolo@wfp.org

WFP Operation						
	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Months Net Funding Requirements (in USD)	People Assisted (August 2016)	Female	Male
EMOP200339 TOTAL (Nov 2011-Dec 2016)	2 844 million	1 752 million	0 million	4 195 456	2 139 683	2 055 773
General Food Distribution				4 195 456	2 139 683	2 055 773
Cash Based Transfer for PLW				11 161	11 161	0
Fortified School Snacks Programme				39 140	19 961	19 179
Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme				195 914	99 916	95 998
Targeted Treatment Programme				606	309	297