



World Food Programme



ONE FUTURE #ZEROHUNGER



WFP Syria

Situation Report #12

December 2017

In Numbers

13.1 million people in need of humanitarian assistance*

6.1 million people internally displaced

10.5 million people in need of food assistance

*According to the 2018 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO)

Highlights

- The United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2165 facilitating cross-border operations was extended for an additional 12 months under UNSCR 2393.
- WFP dispatched food for over 3 million people in all 14 governorates under the December cycle, achieving 93 percent of the operational plan for the month.
- WFP participated in two inter-agency convoys, delivering food for 60,000 people in several hard-to-reach locations in Homs and Hama governorates.

Situation Update

Cross-Border Resolution

- The United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2165, facilitating cross-border operations, was extended for 12 months under UNSCR 2393. The UNSC had unanimously adopted resolution 2165 in July 2014, enabling United Nations agencies and humanitarian partners, with notification to the Syrian authorities, to use the border crossings at Bab al-Salam and Bab al-Hawa (Turkey), Al Yarubiyah (Iraq) and Al-Ramtha (Jordan) in addition to those already in use, "to ensure that assistance, including medical and surgical supplies, reached people in need throughout Syria through the most direct routes." During 2017, an average of 17 percent of WFP beneficiaries have been reached through cross-border deliveries.

Political talks

- The eighth round of Geneva peace talks led by the United Nations was launched in late November, bringing together representatives of the Government of Syria and the opposition represented by the High Negotiations Committee, and concluded in mid-December following an interim interruption. The talks ended without any further advancement and new talks are tentatively scheduled for January 2018.
- During December, the eighth round of Astana talks also took place, 21-22 December. The guarantor states, Turkey, Russia and Iran, reviewed the implementation of the de-escalation memorandum and adopted the "Regulation on the Working Group on the release of detainees/abductees and handover of bodies and the identification of missing persons" and the "Joint statement on humanitarian mine action in Syria including the UNESCO list of cultural heritage sites." The next round will be held during the second half of February 2018.

3.07 million
People assisted
December 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** (February-July 2018)

Transitional Interim
Country Strategic Plan
(TICSP) (Jan-Dec 2018)

USD 159 million

* The 2018 HRP is currently being finalized
**Due to the lengthy lead time, shortfalls in the coming three months cannot be addressed by new contributions.



Photo: ©WFP / Hussam al Saleh
Caption: Children receiving a fresh school meal at a school in Aleppo

Situation in North-Eastern Syria

- Following frequent suspensions encountered in November, WFP's operations in the north east proceeded smoothly during the reporting period. In December, WFP was able to achieve 100 percent of the monthly plan to reach over 185,000 people in Ar-Raqqa and northern Deir Ezzor. However, due to minor logistics challenges, WFP achieved 84 percent of the monthly plan in Al-Hasakeh governorate, dispatching food for 141,500 people.
- For the second time since November, WFP was able to reach the hard-to-reach area of Al-Bukamal in Deir Ezzor governorate at the Syrian-Iraqi border, ISIL's last stronghold in Syria, delivering fortified wheat flour for 15,000 people.

Security Situation in Northern Syria

- The security situation deteriorated in Idleb governorate due to new offensives, which led to the displacement of over 64,000 people from north east Hama and east Idleb into central and northern Idleb in December alone. In response, WFP provided emergency food assistance for 43,000 people in central and north Idleb. Further displacements continued into January.
- In parallel with the new offensives in Idleb, an escalation in fighting was observed in Eastern Ghouta, the large besieged enclave in Rural Damascus, home to almost 400,000 people. In late December, over 2,500 people were reportedly displaced within Eastern Ghouta, where people are in dire need of food, shelter, health, and nutrition assistance. During the reporting period, WFP and other United Nations agencies were not able to reach the besieged area with humanitarian assistance.

Revised Figures and Humanitarian Response Plan

- As of late December, the UN estimates that 2.9 million people live in hard-to-reach areas across the country, including 417,500 people living in nine besieged locations. Compared to the previous review done in September, the number of people living in besieged and hard-to-reach areas has slightly decreased (3 percent) due to changes in access. The status of Qaboun neighbourhood in Damascus city was changed from besieged to hard-to-reach. However, the largest proportion of besieged populations remains in eastern Ghouta, Rural Damascus, where about 400,000 people, or 95 percent of the total besieged population, live.
- The Humanitarian Country Team finalized the draft of the 2018 Syria Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). The draft was shared with the Government of Syria in order to initiate the consultation process. The HRP is based on the 2018 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), which was published in November and reflects the humanitarian community's shared understanding of the ongoing crisis in Syria. The HNO indicates 13.1 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, of which 6.5 million are acutely food insecure, and 4 million at risk of becoming food insecure, double the figure of 2017.

WFP's Response

- In line with WFP's corporate approach and commitment to achieving Zero Hunger in transition to the Integrated Roadmap, WFP Syria is changing its project type from a Protracted Relief and Recovery

Operation (PRRO) to a transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TICSP), which will be in place for 12 months, from 1 January until 31 December 2018. It will subsequently be replaced by an ICSP in 2019.

- The new project will maintain the same activities as the PRRO. However, the activities will be expanded to also include the Logistics Cluster and Emergency Telecommunications Cluster, which provide logistics and telecommunications support, respectively, to the wider humanitarian community operating in Syria. The Clusters have so far been covered by Special Operation 200788. Overall, the new structure will present a clearer line of sight between WFP's activities and results.
- In December, WFP delivered food assistance for 3.07 million people in all 14 Syrian governorates; 19 percent of the food assistance was delivered through the cross-border operations from Jordan and Turkey and inter-agency convoys to hard-to-reach areas.
- WFP dispatched food assistance for over 295,000 people living in 17 locations classified by OCHA as hard-to-reach in Aleppo, Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Deir Ezzor, Hama, and Homs governorates. These locations were reached through a combination of regular, cross-border and cross-line inter-agency deliveries.
- WFP participated in only two cross-line inter-agency convoys, compared to five in November, delivering food assistance and specialised nutrition products for 60,000 people in six hard-to-reach locations in Homs and Hama governorates. Across all of 2017, WFP participated in 45 inter-agency convoys compared to 83 in 2016.
- Cross-border deliveries from Jordan and Turkey accounted for 17 percent of the total WFP food assistance dispatched, delivering assistance for 527,060 people in opposition-held areas in Aleppo, Idleb, Hama, and Dar'a governorates, inaccessible from inside Syria.



Food and Nutrition Assistance

- Under its nutrition interventions, WFP dispatched specialized nutrition products for the prevention of moderate acute malnutrition for almost 40,000 children aged 6-23 months across the country through regular and cross-border deliveries, but no prevention products were included in the cross-line convoys. In addition, WFP assisted more than 700 children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and nursing women with specialized nutrition products to treat moderate acute malnutrition through regular and cross-line deliveries.
- Furthermore, WFP continued to provide nutrition support to pregnant and nursing women to improve the dietary diversity, as their food intake has a direct impact on the first 1,000 vital days of their child's life. In December, almost 18,000 pregnant and nursing women received cash-based transfers (CBT) enabling them to purchase fresh food, including dairy products, meat, fruits and vegetables, from 21 designated retailers in Aleppo, Rural Damascus, Homs, Lattakia, and Tartous governorates. The project is currently being implemented by eight cooperating partners in the five governorates.

School Meals Programme

- WFP dispatched fortified date bars and milk for some

177,000 children to schools in Rural Damascus, Damascus, Homs, Dar'a, Hama, Aleppo, Tartous, and Latakia governorates. During the 2017-18 school year, WFP plans to target up to 500,000 students in UNICEF-supported schools in Aleppo, Rural Damascus, Damascus, Dar'a, Hama, Homs, Latakia, Quneitra, As-Sweida and Tartous governorates.

- As part of the cash-based assistance for out-of-school-children (OOSC), a total of 1,006 children were assisted in Homs and Latakia governorates. WFP is targeting children enrolled in UNICEF's accelerated remedial classes with a monthly transfer of USD 26 facilitating a return to learning.
- As part of the fresh school meals in Aleppo City, WFP provided more than 10,000 children with over 500-kcal daily meals, consisting of date bars, a sandwich and a piece of fruit or vegetable. The activity builds upon the successful pilot from the spring of 2017 and currently targets schools in areas previously inaccessible to the United Nations from inside Syria during 2012-2016. The project employs 48 women, most of whom are IDPs, who prepare the fresh meals every morning. WFP also provided the fortified wheat flour to produce the sandwich bread.

Livelihood and Resilience Projects

- Since the beginning of 2017, WFP has implemented 15 livelihood projects, benefitting more than 100,000 people. WFP's livelihood projects are aimed at enhancing food security and resilience and are implemented in relatively stable areas of the country, in the governorates of Aleppo, Dar'a, Hama, Homs, Latakia, Rural Damascus, Tartous, Al-Hasakeh and As-Sweida. Among others, the projects include rehabilitation of bakeries, support to household agricultural production, beekeeping, as well as vocational skills training.



Supply Chain

- In 2018, WFP is planning to source 100 percent of its requirements of fortified wheat flour and vegetable oil for Syria through local procurement. Twelve local suppliers have already been assessed and contracts being processed. WFP Syria has progressively scaled up its local procurement, but has to ensure that WFP's procurement does not disrupt the local market. During 2017, WFP managed to shift its procurement of fortified date bars for the school meals project to be 100 percent locally sourced.
- WFP's contracted transporters have continued to face challenges while transporting cargo from Aleppo to Qamishly in Al-Hasakeh governorate. As this is a situation that impacts all United Nations agencies, extensive advocacy is underway to negotiate for a better solution to facilitate deliveries to the governorate as well as dispatches within the governorate.

Clusters and Common Services



Food Security and Agriculture Sector

- The Food Security and Agriculture Sector (FSS) is engaged in discussions with relevant line ministries for the sector Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) strategy for 2018. The HRP envelope stands at USD 1.27 billion.

- The FSS continued to coordinate the multi-hub response for north east Syria and eastern Ghouta in Rural Damascus. While the north east response is based on joint monthly plans, the eastern Ghouta response is comprised of both cross-line inter-agency convoys and small scale projects facilitated by cross-border partners.
- The FSS initiated the third round of Outcome Indicators Monitoring with the training completed in all three hubs. As some partners have already completed data collection, the FSS is reviewing data submitted. Support and follow-up with partners who are yet to finalise data collection or submission is ongoing. The data analysis and reporting is expected to be completed early 2018.

Logistics Cluster

- The WFP-led Logistics Cluster continued to facilitate coordination services, information management and logistic support to the humanitarian community operating within Syria, providing logistics services to eight partners.
- In December, the Logistics Cluster facilitated two inter-agency humanitarian convoys to six hard-to-reach locations in Homs and Hama governorates. A total of 1,301 m³ of relief cargo was transported, including education, food, health, nutrition, protection, and WASH items on the two convoys. In addition, 0.3 m³ of health cargo was transported via land inside Syria on behalf of UNFPA.
- The Logistics Cluster stored 685 m³ of newly received humanitarian goods in its common storage facilities in Tartous, Qamishly and Rural Damascus on behalf of IMC, OXFAM, UNFPA, FAO and UNICEF.

Resourcing Update

- WFP is grateful to the donors who have contributed to the current operation and to those who have provided multi-year funding. WFP urgently requires new contributions or an indication of the level of resources to be expected next year in order to leverage WFP's internal advance financing mechanisms. To ensure uninterrupted assistance from February-July 2018, WFP Syria requires USD 159 million.
- In order to stretch available resources, WFP has scaled back its core relief response targeting 3.3 million people in December. During the first three months of 2018, WFP will only be able to reach up to 3 million people. With the 3-4 months of lead time to bring food into the country, timely funding is key. New contributions are needed urgently to avoid critical breaks in assistance expected in the second quarter of 2018.

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WFP Operation

	Total Requirements (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirements (Feb-Jul 2018) (in USD)	People Assisted (December 2017)	Female	Male
Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TICSP) (Jan – Dec 2018)	796 million	159 million	3,070,905	1,688,998	1,381,907
General Food Assistance			3,070,905	1,688,998	1,381,907
School Meals Programme			177,389	86,921	90,468
Out-of-School Children			1,006	493	513
Nutrition - Prevention of Acute Malnutrition			39,812	20,304	19,508
Nutrition Support for Pregnant and Nursing Women (Cash-Based Transfers)			17,726	17,726	-
Nutrition - Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition			726	428	299
Livelihood Activities			35,650	19,608	16,043