



WFP Syria

Situation Report #4

April 2017

In Numbers

13.5 m people in need of humanitarian assistance

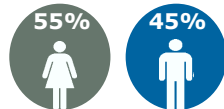
6.3 m people internally displaced

9 m people in need of food assistance

Highlights

- WFP dispatched food assistance for 3.8 million people; 29 percent of the assistance was delivered to areas not regularly reachable from inside Syria through cross-border, cross-line and air deliveries.
- WFP provided urgent food assistance for 216,100 newly displaced people in Idleb, Ar-Raqqa, Aleppo, Deir Ezzor and Dar'a governorate.
- WFP's Executive Director (ED), David Beasley, made an official visit to Syria on 1-2 May. This was the first visit of the newly appointed ED to WFP operations since he assumed office in April.

3.8 million people assisted
April 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 (May–Oct 2017)

PRRO 200988 **USD 257 million***

Logistics Cluster & ETC (SO 200788) **USD 7.8 million**

**Including confirmed pledges and solid forecasts*

Situation Update

Evacuation of People from the Four Towns

- In early April, the Government of Syria and armed groups agreed to evacuate the Four Towns of Foah and Kefraya in Idleb governorate (under government control) and Madaya and Zabadani in Rural Damascus governorate (under opposition control). An estimated 11,800 people from the towns were evacuated to government controlled areas and areas under opposition control, respectively. These towns were besieged for more than three years, and people have been living under very difficult and constrained conditions with limited access and availability of sufficient food items. The food and nutrition needs among the evacuees are high, particularly among women, children and elderly people.
- The evacuation process was intermittently suspended following a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) attack on 15 April on busses that were carrying evacuees from Foah and Kefraya at the transit point in Al-Rashdeen in Aleppo governorate, which reportedly killed over 100 people, mostly children.
- During their evacuation, the displaced persons went through a long and exhausting journey. Prior to moving to the respective destinations, the evacuees were transferred to different transit points in Aleppo city. WFP responded to the needs of all evacuees who were waiting at the transit points and provided food assistance, including ready-to-eat rations (RTEs), sandwiches and fresh bread. Following their onward journey to locations elsewhere in the country, WFP is working together with other humanitarian actors to provide humanitarian assistance to respond to the needs of the evacuated families.

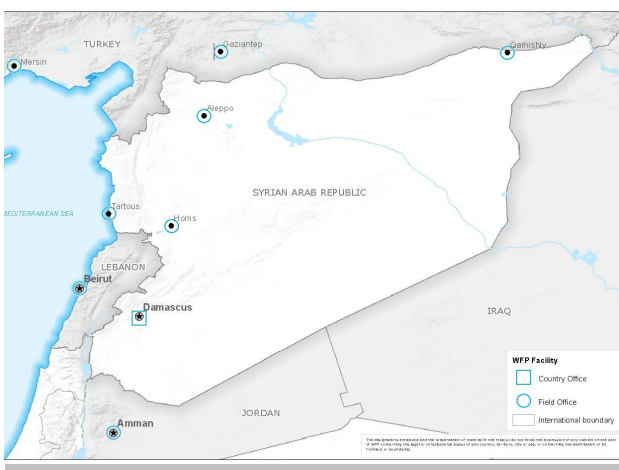


Photo: WFP Executive Director, David Beasley, talks to a beneficiary at a food distribution point in Damascus during his first official visit to Syria, May 2017. WFP/Hussam Al Saleh

Northern Syria

- During the reporting period, fighting between the government forces, Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) continued unabated, resulting in scores of civilian casualties and large displacement movements, contributing to the overall deterioration of the humanitarian situation across the governorate.
- The fighting forced thousands of people to flee to safer areas in Tal Abyad, Ein Issa, Al-Karama and Jarniyeh in northern Ar-Raqqa governorate which are under Kurdish control. Many of the displaced families have been displaced more than once and have been exposed to high risks along their way. To respond to their needs, WFP delivered food assistance, mainly RTEs, for 128,500 people in these areas.
- Fleeing the clashes between SDF and ISIL in Ar-Raqqa governorate, people also moved eastwards to Abu Khashab area in northern Deir Ezzor governorate, at the border with neighbouring Ar-Raqqa and Al-Hasakeh governorate. WFP delivered urgent food assistance to 23,500 people in the area, using the same route along the Turkish-Syrian border to reach the affected population.
- Likewise, in eastern rural Aleppo, fierce fighting continued between government forces and ISIL. Some 35,000 people have sought refuge in the Kurdish controlled city of Menbij and its surrounding (eastern rural Aleppo countryside) since fighting erupted in late February. WFP reached all 35,000 displaced people, providing a second round of distributions of RTEs. The first round of distributions had taken place last March.
- To respond to the urgent needs of newly displaced people in Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa and Deir Ezzor governorates, WFP used stocks that had been prepositioned in Al-Hasakeh governorate via the airlift operation.

Central Syria

- A chemical attack on the rebel-held area of Khan Sheikhoun in southern Idleb reportedly took place on 4 April, resulting in more than 70 casualties, including children. Fighting between government and opposition forces subsequently escalated, forcing more than 10,000 people to seek safety in nearby safer villages in the area. In response, WFP, through its cross-border partners operating from Turkey, has so far provided RTEs to more than 6,400 newly displaced people.

Southern Syria

- During the month of April, heavy fighting between government forces, armed opposition groups and ISIL in the southern governorate of Dar'a continued to fuel population displacement. After a slow-down in early April, considerable population movement resumed towards the end of the month in and around the Yarmouk valley, in western

Dar'a.

- In response, WFP, through its cooperating partners, provided ready-to-eat rations for almost 9,000 new IDPs in Amoriyeh, Nahj, Nabe Al Fawar, Zayzun, Kodneh, and Tabariyat in southwestern Dar'a. In addition, partners were able to regain access to the farms surrounding Dar'a city, and distributed ready-to-eat rations for 13,700 new IDPs.
- Since the conflict escalated in Dar'a governorate in February, WFP has provided urgent food assistance for about 58,000 people to date.

WFP's ED visit to Syria

- WFP's Executive Director (ED) David Beasley, made an official visit to Syria on 1-2 May. This was the first visit of the newly appointed ED to WFP operations since he assumed office in April. During the visit, Beasley visited a WFP warehouse and a distribution site, where he interacted with WFP beneficiaries. He also met with senior government officials and SARC to discuss enhancing cooperation in order to serve the implementation of WFP plans in Syria.

WFP Response

- In April, WFP dispatched food assistance for 3.8 million people in all 14 Syrian governorates, achieving 94 percent of the monthly plan. Of this, 29 percent of the assistance was delivered to areas not regularly reachable from inside Syria through cross-border, cross-line and air operations, including 420,000 people in hard-to-reach and besieged areas.
- Some 706,600 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 19 percent of the total deliveries.
- Furthermore, WFP participated in three inter-agency cross-line convoys in April, delivering food assistance for 157,500 people in five main hard-to-reach areas in Rural Damascus and Homs governorate.



Food and Nutrition Assistance

- WFP implements a nutrition programme for the prevention of acute malnutrition in children aged 6-23 months. By providing specialized nutrition products, WFP supported more than 128,000 children in April through regular and cross-line deliveries across the country. In addition, WFP targets children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and nursing women (PLW) with specialized nutrition products to address and treat acute malnutrition. In April, WFP dispatched nutrition supplies for 758 children and PLW. This treatment programme is complemented by outreach and awareness raising activities provided with the assistance of government and NGO partners.

- Further to this, WFP is providing nutrition support to improve the dietary diversity of PLW, as their diet has a direct impact on the first 1,000 vital days of their child's life. WFP provides cash-based transfers (CBT) through which the women can purchase locally produced fresh foods, including dairy products, meat, fruits and vegetables, to complement the general food assistance they receive from WFP. In April, some 11,700 women received CBT's which they could redeem at 11 selected retailers in Lattakia, Homs and Rural Damascus governorate. WFP plans to expand the programme to other governorates in the coming months.
- Through its school meals programme, WFP provides fortified date bars and milk on a daily basis to primary school children across the country. WFP dispatched fortified date bars for more than 260,500 children and 676 mt of milk during the month of April. In efforts to further scale up the school meals programme, WFP delivered date bars for about 60,000 schoolchildren in As-Sweida governorate in April for the first time since the programme was launched in 2014.
- As part of the out-of-school-children programme, WFP reached 1,086 children and their families in Homs and Lattakia governorates with CBTs of a value of USD 23, benefitting almost 5,500 people. 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 April 2017, WFP implements nine different Livelihood activities across the country, providing support to 68,500 people. Projects are implemented in Aleppo, Dar'a, Hama, Homs, Lattakia, Rural Damascus, Tartous and As-Sweida governorates in cooperation with 11 cooperating partners. Six of the projects were launched during the first quarter of 2017. They include support to livelihoods as well as two vocational skills training projects.
- Two of the Livelihood activities that are currently implemented focus on the empowerment and capacity building of women. Together with a local partner, WFP is providing vocational skills training in sewing, tailoring and needlework to 324 female bread winners in Aleppo city. Another project, implemented with the Federation of Syrian Chambers of Agriculture, provides kitchen garden kits and trainings to more than 3,300 women in order to enable them to set up their own business and become financially independent. The project is implemented in Hama, Homs, Lattakia, Rural Damascus and As-Sweida governorates.



Supply Chain

- By the end of April, WFP carried out 231 airdrops to the besieged parts of Deir Ezzor city since the operation started in April 2016, airdropping 4,407 mt of WFP food commodities and supplies on behalf of humanitarian actors. During April, WFP conducted 16

airdrops, delivering 324 mt of WFP food commodities, including full food rations for 34,600 people. WFP has so far provided more than five full monthly food rations for all 93,500 people in need.

- The WFP-led Logistics Cluster has completed 438 airlifts to Al-Hasakeh governorate since the operation commenced in July 2016, delivering 15,310 mt of WFP food commodities, nutrition products and non-food items for humanitarian actors. These included 59,000 RTEs used to respond to sudden IDP arrivals in northern Ar-Raqqa, northern Deir Ezzor, and eastern rural Aleppo as well as refugee arrivals from Iraq in Al-Hasakeh camps, benefitting 295,000 people.

Clusters and Common Services



Food Security & Agriculture Sector

- The Food Security Sector released its [Pilot Phase Report on the Whole of Syria Outcome Monitoring Initiative](#), conducted by 17 Cluster partners sampling some 11,700 households. The outcome monitoring initiative was introduced in 2016, to collect more evidence on how the people reached with food and livelihoods assistance are benefitting from the assistance. In order to release the second Outcome Monitoring Initiative report in July 2017, 25 Cluster-partners started with data collection in April.
- The Food Security Sector hosted a mission for the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) in April in Damascus. The mission was represented by an inter-agency team from WFP, FAO and the IPC Global Support Unit. Following the mission, a roll-out plan for an improved analysis of food security in Syria will be provided.



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 April.
- Through three inter-agency humanitarian convoys to hard-to-reach and besieged locations in Rural Damascus and Homs governorates, the Logistics Cluster facilitated the transportation of 2,720 m3 of Education, Nutrition, Food, WASH, Protection, Shelter and Health relief items.
- Furthermore, 1,249 m3 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 41 airlift rotations to Qamishly city, some 3,650 m3 of much needed humanitarian supplies were transported on behalf of humanitarian actors, while the Logistics Cluster also facilitated the delivery of 5.9 mt of cargo belonging to 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. However, under current resources, WFP's operation inside Syria is only covered through July. The shortfall for the next six months is USD 257 million, or 56 percent of May–October requirements.
- With a 2–3 month lead time to procure and transport food into Syria, new additional funding is urgently needed by early May to ensure continued and sustainable assistance. If no new funding is received promptly, WFP will face a serious pipeline break in August and 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.
- Since the beginning of 2017, in line with available resources and anticipated funding levels, WFP has already been implementing a revised planned food basket that provides a daily caloric transfer of 1,500 kcal per person (versus planned daily caloric transfer of 1,700 kcal per day). Furthermore, with the absence of large return movements, WFP continues to target 4 million people with general food assistance.
- Likewise, for the Special Operation for the Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications Cluster, the current shortfall through the end of the year stands at USD 10.3 million. If additional funds are not forthcoming, the logistical and telecommunication services provided to the humanitarian community might need to be scaled

down. Particularly affected would be the humanitarian airlift operation to Al-Hasakeh governorate and transshipment services provided for the Turkey cross-border operation, as well as emergency telecommunication services to the wider humanitarian community operating inside Syria and its neighbouring countries, which are a vital part of the Minimum Operating Security Standards (MOSS).

Contacts

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WFP Operation					
	Total Requirements (in USD)	6 Months Net Funding Requirements (May–Oct 2017)* (in USD)	People Assisted (April 2017)	Female	Male
PRRO 200988 TOTAL (Jan 2017–Dec 2018)	1,719 million	257 million	3,760,490	2,068,270	1,692,220
General Food Distribution			3,760,490	2,068,270	1,692,220
School Meals Programme			260,530	127,660	132,870
Out-of-School Children			1,086	509	577
Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme			128,240	65,402	62,838
Nutrition Support for Pregnant and Nursing Women (Cash Based Transfers)			11,726	11,726	-
Targeted Treatment Programme			758	429	329
Livelihood activities**			68,445	37,645	30,800

* Including solid forecasts

** As of April 2017, WFP has nine active livelihood projects across Syria, encompassing 13,698 participants throughout the projects' lifecycle. The food assistance provided by WFP will support a family of five; indirect beneficiaries are 68,445 people.