



World Food Programme



ONE FUTURE #ZEROHUNGER



# WFP Syria Situation Report #9

September 2017

## In Numbers

**13.5 million** people in need of humanitarian assistance\*

**6.3 million** people internally displaced

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

\*The Humanitarian Needs Overview 2018 is currently being finalised, and figures will be updated accordingly.

## Highlights

- WFP dispatched food assistance for over 3.3 million people; 22 percent of the assistance was dispatched through the cross-border operations and cross-line inter-agency convoys to the besieged and hard-to-reach areas.
- The siege on Deir Ezzor City has been lifted, enabling the resumption of land access. WFP delivered fortified wheat flour and nutrition supplies for 70,000 people.
- The UN now estimates that almost 3 million people in need live in hard-to-reach areas, including 420,000 people in ten besieged locations.

**3.3 million**  
People assisted  
September 2017



GENDER MARKER **2A** PRO 200988

### Global Humanitarian Funding

**Overall:**  
USD 3,407,792,269

**WFP share:**  
USD 797,579,193

### Net Funding Requirements (October 2017 – March 2018)

Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO 200988)

**USD 189.8 million**

Logistics and ETC Cluster (SO 200788)

**USD 13 million**

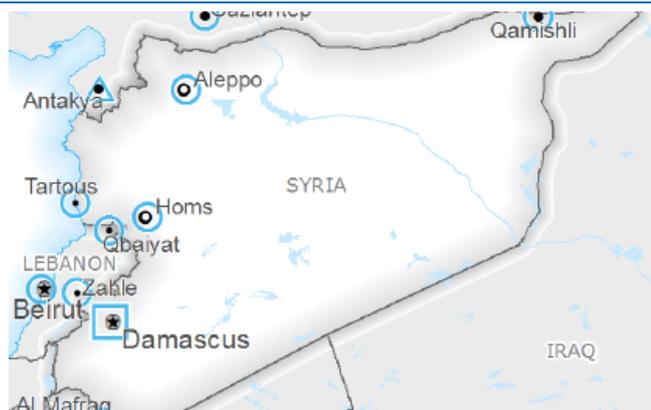


Photo: ©WFP / Hussam al Saleh, food distributions

## Situation Update

- In early September, government forces managed to break the siege on Deir Ezzor City, which had been encircled by ISIL since mid-2014. Land access to Deir Ezzor was secured, which prompted WFP to discontinue its airdrop operation. Between April 2016 and August 2017, the airdrop operation had provided food assistance for over 100,000 people. As land access to Deir Ezzor City was re-established, WFP reached the city twice during the second half of September, providing wheat flour for 70,000 people and nutrition supplies for the prevention and treatment of malnutrition for 17,000 children.
- The UN is deeply concerned about the safety of over a million people, as heavy fighting continues in Deir Ezzor governorate. Tens of thousands of families have been displaced from rural areas of the governorate since late August. The affected people sought refuge in safer locations within Deir Ezzor as well as in neighbouring Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa governorates. Many remain out of humanitarian reach due to the presence of ISIL and the ongoing fighting. In September, WFP provided emergency food assistance for about 36,000 newly displaced people in several IDP camps in Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa and Deir Ezzor governorates.
- Following the sixth round of Syria peace talks between the Government of Syria and representatives of Syrian opposition groups on 14-15 September in Astana, a fourth de-escalation zone, which covers Idleb governorate and parts of Aleppo and Hama governorates, was established. However, the security situation drastically deteriorated as heavy fighting between government forces and armed groups erupted in southern rural Idleb and northeast Hama on 19 September. The security situation forced WFP's partners to temporarily suspend food distributions for thousands of people in central and southern Idleb governorate. By the end

of September, food distributions had resumed in most of the affected areas.

- In Dara'a governorate, although the security situation remains relatively stable, several breaches of the de-escalation agreement continued to be reported in Dara'a Al Balad (Dara'a City) and other parts of south-eastern Dara'a. In parallel, fighting between armed opposition groups and ISIL-affiliated groups continued in western Dara'a governorate. WFP provided ready-to-eat rations for 5,900 beneficiaries in Hit located in western Dara'a, following a rapid needs assessment conducted in mid-September.
- Following a comprehensive review, the UN estimates that almost 3 million people in need live in hard-to-reach areas across the country, including about 420,000 people in ten besieged locations as of September 2017. Compared to the previous months, the estimated number of people in hard-to-reach and besieged areas has decreased by 33 percent, from an estimated 4.5 million to 3 million, due to changing access patterns on the ground.

## WFP's Response

- In September, WFP delivered food assistance for over 3.3 million people in all 14 Syrian governorates. About 22 percent of the food assistance was delivered through cross-border operations from Jordan and Turkey as well as cross-line inter-agency convoys to besieged and hard-to-reach areas.
- Through the cross-border operation from Turkey and Jordan, WFP dispatched food for about 706,000 people living in opposition-held areas in Aleppo, Hama, Idleb, Quneitra, and Dara'a governorates.
- WFP participated in three cross-line inter-agency convoys, delivering food assistance and nutrition supplies for 34,000 people in four besieged locations in Damascus, Rural Damascus, and Idleb governorates. Locations reached include the besieged areas of Yarmouk in Damascus City, which was reached by WFP for the first time since the beginning of the conflict, Foah and Kefraya in rural Idleb and Harasta in Rural Damascus.



### Food and Nutrition Assistance

- Under its nutrition interventions, WFP dispatched specialised nutrition products for the prevention of acute malnutrition in more than 120,000 children aged 6-23 months across the country through regular, cross-border and cross-line deliveries. Moreover, WFP assisted over 3,300 children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and nursing women with specialised nutrition products to treat moderate acute malnutrition through regular and cross-line deliveries.
- Furthermore, WFP provided nutrition support to improve the dietary diversity of pregnant and nursing women, as their diet has a direct impact on the first 1,000 vital days of their child's life. In September, almost 13,000 pregnant and nursing women received cash-based nutrition support to purchase fresh food, including dairy products, meat, fruits and vegetables, from 22 designated retailers in Lattakia, Tartous, Homs, Aleppo and Rural Damascus governorates.

- The school meals programme started in late September with the dispatch of fortified date bars for about 4,700 schoolchildren in Rural Damascus. The programme will be launched at full scale in October. During the first half of the 2017-18 academic year, WFP plans to target up to 500,000 students in ten governorates. Of these, over 10,000 students in Quneitra and Dara'a will be reached through the cross-border operation from Jordan. The schools in the cross-border areas were selected based on UNICEF selection criteria, and WFP implements the programme where UNICEF is active. Furthermore, monitoring will be conducted by partners to check the commodity distribution and the programme implementation.

## Livelihood and Resilience Projects

- Since the beginning of 2017, WFP has been implementing 14 different livelihood projects, benefitting about 90,000 people in nine governorates across the country. Projects are implemented in Aleppo, Dara'a, Hama, Homs, Lattakia, Rural Damascus, Tartous, Al-Hasakeh and As-Sweida governorates in cooperation with 19 cooperating partners. Three of the projects were completed by the end of the second quarter of 2017. Projects include rehabilitation of bakeries, support to household agricultural production, beekeeping as well as vocational skills training. In September, WFP reached more than 53,000 beneficiaries with food assistance and various inputs through the current activities.
- In Aleppo City, a new vocational skills training project was launched, which provides training for 744 participants over a period of six months. The training covers a wide range of professions, up to 18 in total, ranging from sewing to carpentry. Participants will receive production equipment and toolkits, in addition to receiving food rations during the training and following the completion of the training until the participants can secure a source of income.



### Supply Chain

- WFP's land deliveries to the north-eastern governorates through the Aleppo-Menbij route continued as planned. Through these deliveries, in September, WFP dispatched food assistance, including food rations, fortified wheat flour and nutrition supplies, for almost 390,000 people in Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa governorates, as well as accessible parts of north-western Deir Ezzor governorate each month.
- During the month of September, SCOPECARD became operational in Homs governorate. A total of 4,700 registered pregnant and nursing women redeemed e-vouchers from WFP-contracted retailers. In October, livelihood beneficiaries in Homs will receive their entitlements via paper voucher, after which the paper voucher will be phased out in Homs. A similar exercise is planned in Tartous and Lattakia governorates in October and November respectively.

## Clusters and Common Services



### Food Security and Agriculture Sector

- The Food Sector completed the required inputs for

Humanitarian Needs Overview 2018 (HNO) exercise, which included establishing the estimated number of people in need and severity levels needed for planning in 2018. The HNO is expected to be released in November. The sector will continue to work on updating these numbers and severity levels as more data will become available.



## Logistics Cluster

- The WFP-led Logistics Cluster continued to facilitate coordination services, information management and logistic support to the humanitarian community operating within Syria.
- In September, the Logistics Cluster facilitated several inter-agency humanitarian convoys to besieged locations in Damascus, Idleb and Rural Damascus governorates. Around 616 m<sup>3</sup> of relief cargo was transported, including food, education, nutrition, health, protection, shelter and WASH items in the framework of the inter-agency humanitarian convoys.
- An inter-agency delivery reached Deir Ezzor City on 27 September with 36 trucks carrying food, nutrition, WASH, protection, health and shelter items. The delivery was coordinated by the Logistics Cluster, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), OCHA and other humanitarian agencies.
- Moreover, the Logistics Cluster stored 396 m<sup>3</sup> of

newly received humanitarian goods in its common storage facilities in Qamishly and Rural Damascus on behalf of IOM, UNFPA, UNICEF, and the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate.

## Resourcing Update

- WFP is grateful to the donors who have contributed to the current operation. However, due to funding shortfalls until the end of the year, WFP is reducing the number of people assisted under the General Food Assistance programme. WFP urgently requires USD 189.8 million for its operation for the next six months until March 2018. Given the lead time, new contributions are required by early October to ensure timely arrival of commodities for January distributions onwards.

## Contacts

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WFP Operation					
	Total Requirements (in USD)	Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*	People Assisted (September 2017)	Female	Male
<b>PRRO 200988</b> (Jan 2017 – Dec 2018)	1.72 billion	189.8 million	<b>3,331,545</b>	1,832,350	1,499,195
General Food Assistance			<b>3,331,545</b>	1,832,350	1,499,195
School Meals Programme			<b>4,679</b>	2,293	2,386
Out-of-School Children			<b>0**</b>	-	-
Nutrition (Prevention of Acute Malnutrition)			<b>120,354</b>	61,380.54	58,973.46
Nutrition Support for Pregnant and Nursing Women (Cash-Based Transfers)			<b>12,973</b>	12,973	-
Nutrition (Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition)			<b>9,909</b>	5,846	4,083
Livelihood and Resilience Activities			<b>53,285</b>	29,307	23,978

\* Net funding requirements (October 2017 – March 2018)

\*\* The activity has not commenced yet due to the highly fluctuating enrolment rates in UNICEF curriculum B programme. The programme is expected to start in November and WFP plans to target up to 5,000 schoolchildren in three governorates.