

WFP Syria

Situation Report # 2

February 2017



In Numbers

13.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance

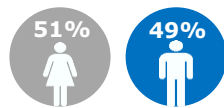
6.3 million people internally displaced

9 million people in need of food assistance

Highlights

- WFP dispatched food assistance for 3.54 million people. About 30 percent of the assistance was delivered to high-conflict areas through cross-border, cross-line and air deliveries.
- WFP provided urgent food assistance for 23,500 newly displaced people in various hotspots in southern and northern Syria.
- Funding is urgently needed to cover operational shortfalls for the June-August period; WFP has already reduced the number of targeted beneficiaries and the size of the food basket in light of the funding outlook.

3.54 million people assisted
February 2017



GENDER MARKER 2A PRO 200988

Global Humanitarian Funding

Overall:
USD 3,407,792,269

WFP share:
USD 797,579,193

WFP 6-month Net Funding Requirements (March –August 2017)

Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO 200988) **USD 121* million**

*Including confirmed pledges

Logistics and ETC Cluster (SO 200788) **USD 6.5 million**

Situation Update

- The ten-day Syrian peace talks between the Syrian Government and opposition groups concluded in Geneva on 3 March without any significant breakthrough. The UN special envoy de Mistura said, however, that the parties now had a clear agenda to pursue a political solution to the country's long conflict. The ceasefire agreement that came into effect on 30 December last year has been holding despite escalation of fighting in some parts of the country.

Dar'a Governorate

- The security situation in southern Syria continued to deteriorate in February. Thousands of people were displaced from the rebel-held parts of Dar'a city due to heavy clashes between government forces and armed opposition groups, seeking refuge in surrounding farmlands and other rural areas. In parallel, heavy fighting between armed opposition groups and ISIL-affiliated armed groups in south-western rural Dar'a (Yarmouk Valley) escalated, forcing thousands of people to flee to nearby locations. In response, WFP provided urgent food assistance for about 17,500 newly displaced people from the two hotspots and continues to closely monitor the situation on the ground.

Al-Bab, Northern Aleppo Governorate

- In February, an estimated 40,000 people were displaced from the town of Al-Bab in northern Aleppo governorate, due to the ongoing military operation against ISIL. The displaced people moved towards

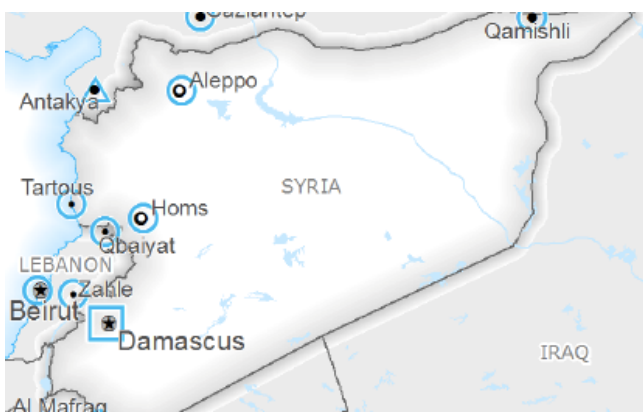


Photo: SARC volunteers at the landing zone receiving WFP food assistance delivered to the besieged parts of Deir Ezzor city / ©SARC.

safer areas within Al-Bab district or towards nearby towns, including Menbij, Jarablus and A'zaz. In response, in early March, WFP provided urgent food assistance for about 6,000 newly displaced people from Al-Bab who sought refuge in A'zaz.

Aleppo City

- Since the Syrian Government launched a military operation to regain control of the formerly besieged parts of Aleppo city in late 2016, approximately 185,000 people have been registered as internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees in Aleppo city. Since then, WFP has progressively scaled up its response in parallel with a rising rate of returnees and the subsequent growing humanitarian needs. As of early March, WFP has provided urgent food assistance for about 91,000 returnees and IDPs across the city.
- Furthermore, WFP continued to provide fresh bread across Aleppo to nearly 400,000 people. Of these, about 108,000 IDPs and returnees who live in formerly inaccessible parts of Aleppo city receive bread on a daily basis in addition to another 14,000 people in the Kurdish controlled neighborhood of Sheikh Maqsoud and Jibreen IDP centre. In addition, four communal kitchens that received WFP food continued to provide daily hot meals for 40,000 IDPs and returnees in the city.

WFP's Response

- In February, WFP dispatched food assistance for 3.54 million people in 13 of the 14 Syrian governorates, achieving 89 percent of the monthly plan. Approximately 30 percent of the food assistance was delivered to high conflict areas, including hard-to-reach and besieged areas, through cross-border, cross-line and air operations.
- Through the cross-border operations from Turkey and Jordan, WFP delivered food assistance for more than 626,000 people living in opposition held areas in Aleppo, Idlib, and Dar'a governorates.
- Through cross-line inter-agency convoys, WFP delivered urgently needed food assistance for 191,500 people in the hard-to-reach locations of Talbiseh and Ar-Rastan in Homs governorate. However, the overall security situation and lack of approvals continued to hamper cross-line inter-agency deliveries to besieged and hard-to-reach areas where an estimated 4.7 million people in urgent need of humanitarian assistance live.



Food and Nutrition Assistance

- Under the prevention of acute malnutrition programme, WFP dispatched nutrition products for

the prevention of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies for over 105,000 children aged 6-23 months through regular and cross-border deliveries. In addition, WFP dispatched nutrition supplies for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition to CMAM¹ centres in four Syrian governorates, sufficient for 814 children for a period of three months.

- In February, more than 12,700 pregnant and nursing mothers received nutrition support through Cash-Based-Transfers (CBT) to purchase locally produced fresh food, including dairy products, meat, fruits and vegetables. WFP expanded its CBT nutrition support to Rural Damascus governorate through a pilot nutrition intervention using SCOPECARD, which is a delivery mechanism - a smartcard - that can contain several vouchers and works with a point-of-sale (POS) device.
- In late February, WFP conducted a macro and micro market assessment mission in Aleppo city to assess the market functionality and overall supply chain; thus determining the feasibility of scaling up CBT. The assessment mission also covered parts of the city that had until recently been inaccessible to the UN, and initial findings indicate that CBT is feasible.
- During the reporting period, WFP distributed fortified date bars for more than 360,000 children in 600 elementary schools across the country as part of the School Meals Programme. WFP also delivered over 1,000 mt of milk to elementary schools in six governorates to complement the date bars distributions. In parallel, as part of the CBT Assistance for the Out-of-School-Children (OOSC), 689 children and their families received CBT assistance. Through the CBT assistance of USD 23, parents are encouraged to send their children to schools where a remedial programme known as UNICEF Curriculum B is implemented.

Livelihood and Resilience Projects

- WFP implements four different livelihood and resilience projects in nine governorates across the country. Projects aim to contribute to food security by strengthening local food production, re-establish a long term community-managed profitable industry to support local economy and build resilience as well as create employment opportunities. Projects include retaining and enhancing the beekeeping value chain, rehabilitation of bakeries, and strengthening food security through establishing food production and processing systems.
- During the reporting period, WFP distributed food rations and honey jars to all 700 targeted beekeepers

¹ Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition

in five governorates. In addition, WFP's partners facilitated practical training for 62 female beneficiaries on food processing in rural Hama. In parallel, rehabilitation of bakeries in Homs city proceeded as planned; partners commenced construction works and the installation of production lines.

Supply Chain

- Since April 2016, WFP has carried out 197 airdrops to the besieged parts of Deir Ezzor city, delivering 3,706 mt of WFP food commodities and various supplies on behalf of other humanitarian actors. WFP has so far provided four monthly full food rations for all people in need. Recent WFP price monitoring reports show the positive impact of airdrops on the food security situation in Deir Ezzor city; in January 2017, the cost of a standard food basket in the city was lower by 47 percent compared to the price recorded prior to the airdrop operation.
- The WFP-led Logistics Cluster has completed 345 airlifts to Al-Hasakeh governorate since July 2016, delivering WFP food commodities, nutrition products and various supplies on behalf of other humanitarian actors. This includes 25,000 ready-to-eat parcels as a contingency stock to respond to population displacement or refugee influx from Iraq. In February, the air operation enabled WFP to dispatch food assistance to partners' warehouses, sufficient for 183,000 people in the governorate - including 15,500 Iraqi refugees from Mosul hosted in Al-Hole refugee camp. The operation has also contributed to a price decrease of some basic commodities; the price of rice and lentils has decreased by 29 percent and 13 percent respectively.

Clusters and Common Services



Food Security and Agriculture Sector

- During the reporting period, the Food Security and Agriculture Sector (co-led by WFP and FAO) held discussion sessions to identify areas that will receive food assistance through inter-agency convoys in March. The regular monthly coordination meeting for partners based in Damascus was held on 7 February and participants discussed coverage, gaps and operational issues.
- The sector coordinated the recent humanitarian response in Dar'a where 15,000-25,000 people have been subject to intensified insecurity as a result of the worsening security situation in southern Syria. The sector is also coordinating with eight partners responding to the needs of the people being displaced as a result of military activities against ISIL in Ar-Raqqa governorate.



Logistics Cluster

- The WFP-led Logistics Cluster continued to provide coordination services, information management and logistic support, including airlifts to Al-Hasakeh governorate, to the humanitarian community responding to the Syria crisis.
- In February, the Logistics Cluster facilitated two inter-agency convoys to two hard-to-reach locations in Homs governorate. Around 3,607 m³ of relief cargo was transported, including food, hygiene and health items.
- In addition, the Logistics Cluster stored 1,203 m³ of newly received humanitarian goods in its common storage facilities in Homs, Qamishly and Rural Damascus on behalf of other humanitarian actors.
- The cluster also facilitated the transport of 650 m³ of health, nutrition, shelter, hygiene and protection supplies to accessible and secure locations inside Syria on behalf of IOM, UNFPA and UNICEF.
- Furthermore, 10,000 litres of WFP-procured diesel were donated to UNHCR, while 10,000 litres of diesel were provided to the International Medical Corps (IMC) and ICRC on a cost-recovery basis.

Resourcing Update

- WFP is grateful to the donors who have made contributions to the PRRO. With contributions confirmed to date and solid forecasts - against which WFP has advanced funding to avert immediate pipeline breaks- WFP's response to the Syria crisis is currently covered through May (albeit at a slightly reduced food basket).
- However, a shortfall of USD 121 million for the June-August period still exists. Given the lead time required for the procurement and transport of food into Syria (between 2 to 3 months), new funding is needed no later than the end of March to ensure continued humanitarian assistance from June onwards.

WFP's Syria – Year in Review 2016

- In February, WFP released its web-based annual report for 2016, which tells the story of WFP's work to support millions of people each month. The report is available at: www.wfp.org/content/2016-syria-year-review in both dynamic and PDF versions.

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www.wfp.org/countries/Syria

WFP Operation						
	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Months Net Funding Requirements (in USD) <small>Including confirmed pledges</small>	People Assisted (February 2017)	Female	Male
PRRO 200988 (Jan 2017 – Dec 2018)	1 719 million	1 70 million	121 million	3 542 070	1 806 456	1 735 614
General Food Distribution				3 542 070	1 806 456	1 735 614
Cash Based Transfers (Pregnant and Nursing mothers)				12 727	12 727	-
School Meals Programme				360 000	183 600	176 400
Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme				105 014	53 557	51 457
Targeted Treatment Programme				814	415	399