

Standard Project Report 2015

World Food Programme in Syrian Arab Republic (SY)

Emergency Food Assistance to People Affected by Unrest in Syria

Reporting period: 1 January - 31 December 2015

Project Information								
Project Number	200339							
Project Category	Single Country EMOP							
Overall Planned Beneficiaries	4,500,000							
Planned Beneficiaries in 2015	4,500,000							
Total Beneficiaries in 2015	4,950,933							

Key Project Dates							
Project Approval Date	October 13, 2011						
Planned Start Date	October 01, 2011						
Actual Start Date	November 15, 2011						
Project End Date	December 31, 2016						
Financial Closure Date	N/A						

Approved budget in USD						
Food and Related Costs	1,935,015,533					
Capacity Dev.t and Augmentation	338,629					
Direct Support Costs	99,338,816					
Cash-Based Transfers and Related Costs	11,427,840					
Indirect Support Costs	143,228,457					
Total	2,189,349,276					

Commodities	Metric Tonnes
Planned Commodities in 2015	626,338
Actual Commodities 2015	393,960
Total Approved Commodities	1,853,627



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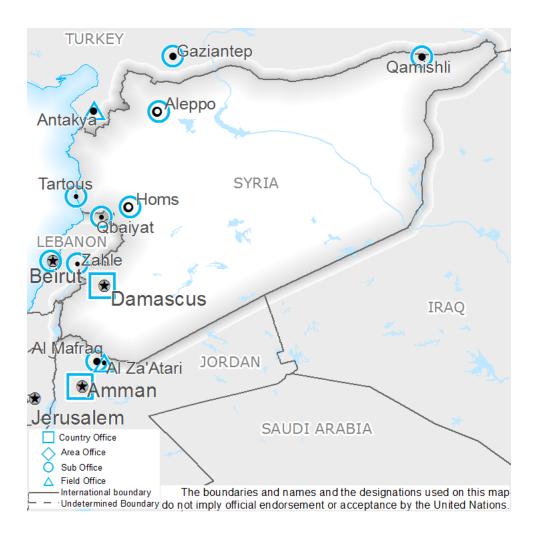
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COUNTRY OVERVIEW



Country Background

Five years of conflict in Syria have resulted large-scale population displacement, economic recession, damage to vital infrastructure, and an increase in the population's vulnerabilities and poverty levels. This, in turn, has eroded the development of sustainable and diversified livelihoods and social systems in Syria causing costly losses for both current and future generations.

Syria's economy is facing enormous challenges, with estimated total losses of approximately USD 206 billion across all sectors. At the end of 2015, one third of the 17.7 million Syrians lived in poverty and over half the working age population were unemployed. The economic recession forced the government to reduce its subsidy support, a crucial safety net for Syrian families.

The agricultural sector suffered significant losses due to the impact of the conflict, including reduced access to land, infrastructural damage and shortage of agricultural inputs and labour. The WFP and FAO Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) conducted in May 2015, indicated that Syria's food production is now 40 percent lower than average pre-crisis levels. Insufficient food production, reduced government subsidies and currency depreciation have led to sharp food price increases. The cost of a standard food basket is now three times higher compared to pre-crisis levels, further reducing the ability of poor households to meet their food needs.

The humanitarian situation reached alarming levels. Over 11 million people, half of the pre-crisis population of 23 million, has been forced to leave their homes, including 6.5 million people internally displaced and 4.5 million who sought refuge in neighbouring countries. The 2016 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) indicates that 13.5 million people, including 6 million children, are in need of various forms of humanitarian assistance, 11 percent more than



2015's estimates.

Food insecurity has become more widespread. The WFP Food Security Assessment (FSA) conducted in May and June 2015 estimated that 8.7 million people required sustained food assistance. Of these, 6.3 million were acutely food insecure and 2.4 million had adopted extreme and irreversible coping strategies to meet their food needs and risked slipping into food insecurity. More than half of all surveyed households had incurred debt to pay for their food needs.

The 2016 HNO summarised a poor nutrition situation across the country according to WHO thresholds, with wasting and stunting estimated at 7 percent and 22 percent, respectively, among children aged 6-59 months. Micronutrient deficiencies of public health significance were recorded in Syria with a moderate prevalence of anaemia in children 0-59 months (29 percent), and a very high prevalence (44 percent) among women of reproductive age.

Human development gains have witnessed a dramatic reversal, as infrastructural damage and economic recession have left healthcare facilities, schools and other essential services unable to meet the population's needs. The 2014 Human Development Index ranks Syria at 118, a considerable fall from 2005 in which the country held the rank of 106. When the conflict started, Syria was on track to reach many of the 2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), noting for example, net enrolment ratio of 99 percent. This is in stark contrast with the current situation, where more than 2 million children are no longer attending school and 400,000 are at risk of dropping out.

With no political solution to the conflict in sight, the humanitarian crisis is expected to further deteriorate, and will continue to require a sustained and large-scale humanitarian response.

Summary Of WFP Assistance

WFP has been operational in Syria since 1964, providing emergency, recovery and developmental support, including emergency food assistance to Iraqi refugees in 2003, support to drought-stricken populations in 2006, and an education support project launched in 2010 to promote education among children and illiterate women in rural areas.

In 2015, WFP continued to implement the Emergency Operation (EMOP 200339) to provide monthly life-saving food assistance to conflict-affected populations, targeting 4.25 million people in all 14 governorates. Assistance was provided in the form of unconditional monthly family food assistance, including rice, bulgur, pasta, dry and canned pulses, fortified vegetable oil, tomato paste, fortified wheat flour, sugar and iodized salt. In coordination with the Food Security and Agriculture Sector partners, in 2015 the food basket was revised to provide a nutritional transfer of up to 1,646 kcal per person per day, almost 80 percent of the recommended daily nutrition intake of 2,100 kcals. Ready-to-eat food assistance was distributed to address the immediate needs of families during the first days of their displacement, when they had no access to other food sources or cooking facilities.

In addition, assistance was provided to beneficiary groups with specific nutrition requirements, including a blanket supplementary feeding programme aimed to prevent acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies among children under the age of five, and a cash-based transfer scheme using fresh food vouchers for vulnerable pregnant and lactating women (PLW) in Homs and Lattakia to improve their dietary diversity and micronutrient intake.

Finally, WFP implemented a school snacks programme, providing daily entitlements of fortified fruit bars on school days as an incentive to enrolment and regular attendance among primary school children in Damascus, rural Damascus, Tartous, Hama, Homs, Al-Hasakeh and Aleppo, targeting sub-districts with high a concentration of internally displaced people (IDPs) and poor food security indicators.

WFP activities adhered to the objectives of the MDGs contributing directly to an eradication of extreme hunger and poverty (MDG 1) and supporting efforts toward universal primary education (MDG 2). Gender equality (MDG3) is a crosscutting issue that was addressed by more carefully tailored assistance to address the special needs of women.

Collaboration with United Nations counterparts remained a priority and included key partnership with FAO on food security analysis and coordination and with UNICEF for the implementation of nutrition and education support programmes.

WFP continued to co-lead with FAO the Food Security and Agriculture Sector. Furthermore, through a Special Operation (SO 200788) WFP, as the lead agency of the Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications Clusters, provided logistics and telecommunications support to the wider humanitarian community operating in Syria both from within the country and from the existing corridors in Turkey and Jordan to partners operating cross-border.



Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Children (under 5 years)	336,663	356,467	693,130
Children (5-18 years)	1,014,941	1,064,451	2,079,392
Adults (18 years plus)	1,059,500	1,118,911	2,178,411
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	2,411,104	2,539,829	4,950,933

Distribution (mt)											
Project Type Cereals Oil Pulses Mix Other Total											
Single Country EMOP	174,610	32,116	51,251	2,375	133,607	393,960					
Total Food Distributed in 2015 174,610 32,116 51,251 2,375 133,607 393,9											



OPERATIONAL SPR

Operational Objectives and Relevance

Amidst growing food needs, WFP emergency operation aimed to save lives, avert hunger and improve food and nutrition security. In 2015, WFP addressed the immediate food needs of an average of 3.9 million vulnerable conflict-affected people each month, thereby reducing the use of negative and irreversible coping strategies.

Recognizing that bread is a key element in the Syrian diet, WFP continued to distribute fortified wheat flour to families living in areas affected by bread shortages or where baking and milling facilities have been damaged. In rural areas, where families traditionally bake bread at home, the wheat flour was provided directly to beneficiaries, while in urban areas it was channelled to public bakeries, where they produced bread which was then distributed by WFP partners under specific arrangements.

Ready-to-eat parcels or cooked meals were distributed to newly displaced families to meet their urgent needs during the first days of their displacement when they had no access to cooking facilities or other food sources.

In light of the poor nutrition situation and widespread micronutrient deficiencies, children under the age of five received specialised nutritional food products to prevent malnutrition, and vulnerable PLW were supported through monthly food assistance provided through a fresh food voucher modailty to improve their dietary diversity and ensure the healthy development of their infants.

The conflict has had a dramatic impact on education in Syria, with more than 2 million children currently not attending school and another 400,000 at risk of dropping out, exposing them to protection concerns and compromising their future opportunities. Through a fortified school snacks programme, WFP aimed to provide an incentive for enrolment and to regularise attendance among primary school children, whilst improving their micronutrient intake through daily distribution of fortified fruit bars (340 kcal) on days they attended school.

All activities under EMOP 200339 contributed to WFP Strategic Objective 1 and were aligned with the 2015 Syria Response Plan (SRP).

Results

Beneficiaries, Targeting and Distribution

WFP food distributions continued to target conflict-affected people in all accessible Syrian governorates, prioritizing vulnerable IDPs and host communities jointly selected by WFP and cooperating partners (CPs). Geographical location formed the initial level of targeting, prioritizing sub-districts with a high prevalence of food insecurity, with hard-to-reach and besieged locations being given priority. This was followed by a household targeting exercise which was jointly conducted with CPs according to agreed vulnerability criteria, targeting displaced families, prioritizing those that have been displaced multiple times or displaced within the last 12 months, families living in informal settlements, households headed by women without stable incomes, poor host families supporting one or more displaced persons, orphans or elderly persons.

Moreover, WFP and CPs developed a new beneficiary prioritization matrix, which enabled WFP to refine targeting and ensure that resources reach the most vulnerable families. The matrix was based on a series of indicators identified using evidence from the FSA, which enable a ranking system to identify those showing the highest level of vulnerability to food insecurity. The indicators are based on direct or proxy indicators of economic and social vulnerability, such as household income, asset ownership, and demographic characteristics such as age, gender, or dependency ratio. Other factors such as dietary diversity, food sources and market indicators were factored into the targeting strategy. The new tool was rolled out over the second half of the year, and 27 of the 39 CPs active during that period were trained on its implementation, while additional training will be conducted in 2016. The selection criteria were regularly verified by CPs, and enhanced information systems were established to facilitate the verification and review mechanism, while minimizing instances of duplication.

WFP assistance consistently reached 12 of the 14 Syrian governorates, reaching an average of 3.9 million people each month, with a peak of 4.2 million reached in May. Over the course of the entire year, a greater number of people were actually assisted at least once, due to the partial variation of the beneficiaries across different cycles. By adopting a different methodology using the highest number of people assisted in any one month by governorate,



WFP calculates that over 4.9 million people have been reached with food assistance in 2015. In response to the immediate needs of newly displaced families, WFP distributed ready-to-eat entitlements to 166,410 newly displaced people to assist them during the initial days of their displacement when they had no access to alternative food sources or cooking facilities. In Al-Hasakeh governorate, WFP assistance reached over 3,700 Iraqi refugees hosted in two camps, who had fled intensified violence in Iraq in mid-2014.

Distributions were facilitated by 42 CPs and took place in a total of 1,469 final distribution points (FDPs). This represents a 65 percent increase from 2014, mainly due to the expansion of cross-border operations from Jordan and Turkey conducted under the framework of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2165 and 2191, which at the end of 2015 accounted for over 20 percent of the monthly assistance, compared to just 4 percent in January 2015. In collective shelters and highly insecure areas, CPs conducted door-to-door distributions. WFP intensified its efforts to expand the coverage of assistance, particularly in areas subject to access constraints. Over 3.2 million people living in hard-to-reach areas received assistance at least once during the year, through a combination of regular, cross-line and cross-border missions as well as through participation in inter-agency missions.

In spite of these achievements, active conflict and persisting access restrictions continued to cut off thousands of families from regular humanitarian assistance. In particular, WFP did not deliver assistance to Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) controlled areas, due to the inability to operate independently and safely. As a result, no assistance reached Deir Ezzor governorate, while Ar-Raqqa governorate was only reached in July, enabling the delivery of food assistance for 10,000 people. Repeated attempts to conduct emergency airlifts to the government-held neighbourhoods of Deir Ezzor city where 150,000 people had been besieged by ISIL since the beginning of 2015, fell through despite WFP obtaining all necessary approvals: insecurity within proximity of the airport and damaged runways made it too difficult for civilian aircraft to land.

Assisted families with children under the age of five residing in governorates with a global acute malnutrition rate above 5 percent were also provided with supplementary nutrition products for their children to prevent malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies. Blanket distributions of the specialized nutritious products PlumpyDoz and Nutributter reached over 274,000 children under 5 at least once. Overall, the cumulative achievement exceeded the planned target by 14 percent, mainly owing to changes in the geographical coverage of the programme over the year. The programme was implemented through both regular and cross-border deliveries, with the latter starting in August, and distributions were conducted in both IDP collective shelters and host communities through Syria Arab Red Crescent (SARC), the Ministry of Health and 17 local and international NGOs.

In the central and southern governorates, WFP provided the supplementary product PlumpyDoz, as recommended by the Ministry of Health. However in northern governorates WFP continued to use Nutributter, as families in these areas are already accustomed to this supplementary product, which was distributed during the 2010 drought, and were thus informed of its purpose and appropriate use.

Attempts to strengthen the nutrition response by introducing a targeted supplementary feeding programme to treat cases of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) in centres established by UNICEF did not materialise. This was due to WFP and CPs capacity issues, coupled with the fact that CPs had sufficient PlumpySup stocks from UNICEF to cover 2015 requirements, leading to the decision to postpone the launch of the activity to 2016.

The targeted nutrition support programme for displaced PLW implemented in Homs and Lattakia cities continued to expand its scope, reaching over 7,100 women per month. However, when considering the turn-over rate of the registered beneficiaries, almost 10,500 women received cash based transfers in the form of fresh food vouchers during 2015, compared with 3,000 in 2014. Similarly, the fortified school snacks programme progressively scaled-up. The geographical coverage of the programme doubled from three to six governorates, covering Rural Damascus, Damascus city, Aleppo, Homs, Tartous and Al-Hasakeh. However, the initial plan of reaching 500,000 children could not be met.

WFP had planned to launch activities aimed at restoring and protecting livelihoods among conflict-affected families in view of a longer-term resilience-building objective. The launch could not materialize due WFP staffing capacity issues and challenges in identifying experienced and trained CPs. Furthermore, lengthy procedures to organise and conduct missions to assess the feasibility of the intervention and identify potential projects resulted in further delays, compelling WFP to postpone the launch of these activities to early 2016. Additionally, the envisaged scale-up to 4.5 million beneficiaries did not materialise as WFP was not able to initiate livelihood recovery interventions due to capacity constraints and delays in identifying suitable CPs.



Table 1: Overview of Project Beneficiary Information										
		Planned			Actual		% <i>A</i>	Actual v. Planı	ned	
Beneficiary Category	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Total Beneficiaries	2,196,000	2,304,000	4,500,000	2,411,104	2,539,829	4,950,933	109.8%	110.2%	110.0%	
By Age-group:										
Children (under 5 years)	364,500	382,500	747,000	336,663	356,467	693,130	92.4%	93.2%	92.8%	
Children (5-18 years)	1,003,500	1,035,000	2,038,500	1,014,941	1,064,451	2,079,392	101.1%	102.8%	102.0%	
Adults (18 years plus)	828,000	886,500	1,714,500	1,059,500	1,118,911	2,178,411	128.0%	126.2%	127.1%	
By Residence status:				'						
Refugees	2,196	2,304	4,500	1,813	1,887	3,700	82.6%	81.9%	82.2%	
Internally displaced persons (IDPs)	1,578,924	1,656,576	3,235,500	1,793,395	1,866,595	3,659,990	113.6%	112.7%	113.1%	
Residents	614,880	645,120	1,260,000	630,749	656,494	1,287,243	102.6%	101.8%	102.2%	

Table 2: Beneficiaries by Activity and Modality										
Activity		Planned		Actual			% Actual v. Planned			
	Food	СВТ	Total	Food	СВТ	Total	Food	СВТ	Total	
General Distribution (GD)	4,250,000	-	4,250,000	4,885,385	-	4,885,385	115.0%	-	115.0%	
School Feeding (on-site)	500,000	-	500,000	315,651	-	315,651	63.1%	-	63.1%	
Food-Assistance-for-Assets	500,000	-	500,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Nutrition: Prevention of Acute Malnutrition	240,000	15,000	255,000	274,382	10,489	284,871	114.3%	69.9%	111.7%	

Table 3: Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity (excluding nutrition)									
Dan effeten October		Planned			Actual		% A	ctual v. Planr	ned
Beneficiary Category	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
General Distribution (GD)									
People participating in general distributions	2,069,750	2,180,250	4,250,000	2,379,182	2,506,203	4,885,385	115.0%	115.0%	115.0%
Total participants	2,069,750	2,180,250	4,250,000	2,379,182	2,506,203	4,885,385	115.0%	115.0%	115.0%
Total beneficiaries	2,069,750	2,180,250	4,250,000	2,379,182	2,506,203	4,885,385	115.0%	115.0%	115.0%
School Feeding (on-site)		,						,	
Children receiving school meals in primary schools	255,000	245,000	500,000	160,982	154,669	315,651	63.1%	63.1%	63.1%
Total participants	255,000	245,000	500,000	160,982	154,669	315,651	63.1%	63.1%	63.1%
Total beneficiaries	255,000	245,000	500,000	160,982	154,669	315,651	63.1%	63.1%	63.1%
Food-Assistance-for-Assets									



Table 3: Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity (excluding nutrition)										
D. C. C. C.		Planned		Actual			% Actual v. Planned			
Beneficiary Category	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
People participating in asset-creation activities	243,500	256,500	500,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total participants	243,500	256,500	500,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total beneficiaries	243,500	256,500	500,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	

The total number of beneficiaries includes all targeted persons who were provided with WFP food/cash/vouchers during the reporting period - either as a recipient/participant or from a household food ration distributed to one of these recipients/participants.

Table 4: Nutrition Beneficiaries										
		Planned		Actual			% Actual v. Planned			
Beneficiary Category	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Nutrition: Prevention of Acute	Nutrition: Prevention of Acute Malnutrition									
Children (under 5 years)	117,120	122,880	240,000	133,898	140,484	274,382	114.3%	114.3%	114.3%	
Pregnant and lactacting girls (less than 18 years old)	-	-	-	-	210	210	-	-	-	
Pregnant and lactating women (18 plus)	-	15,000	15,000	-	10,279	10,279	-	68.5%	68.5%	
Total beneficiaries	117,120	137,880	255,000	133,898	150,973	284,871	114.3%	109.5%	111.7%	

Commodity	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual v. Planned
Api	17,148	927	5.4%
Beans	-	2,474	-
Bulgur Wheat	42,872	25,009	58.3%
Canned Fish	-	16	-
Canned Pulses	41,157	18,008	43.8%
Chickpeas	42,872	28,443	66.3%
High Energy Biscuits	7,498	1,315	17.5%
lodised Salt	8,576	5,194	60.6%
Lentils	42,872	2,324	5.4%
Pasta	42,872	23,413	54.6%
Rations	110,402	95,979	86.9%
Ready To Use Supplementary Food	3,861	1,060	27.5%
Rice	85,745	77,454	90.3%
Split Peas	-	2	-
Sugar	42,872	31,161	72.7%
Vegetable Oil	46,817	32,116	68.6%
Wheat Flour	87,847	48,734	55.5%



Commodity	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual v. Planned
Yeast	2,928	330	11.3%
Total	626,338	393,960	62.9%

Cash-Based Transfer Planned Distribution USD		Actual Distribution USD	% Actual v. Planned
Cash	-	-	-
Voucher	5,760,000	1,193,257	20.7%
Total	5,760,000	1,193,257	20.7%

Story Worth Telling

Fatima is one of the 250,000 internally displaced people who sought refuge in Ghizlaniyah, 30 km from Damascus city, which hosts one of the largest IDP communities in Syria. Her husband lost his job after the factory where he was working was forced to close. Amid worsening security conditions and dwindling resources, Fatima and her husband decided to leave their life in Deir Al-Safir, in estern Ghouta, to seek security and a better future for their three children.

"We had a big house with a garden, where we used to grow fruits and vegetables. This, together with my husband's job, ensured all of our family a healthy and complete diet," recalls Fatima. In Ghizlaniyah, finding a job was impossible as the town struggles to absorb a population influx, and growing food is not an option in overcrowded and unfinished buildings where most of the IDPs live. Unable to buy or produce sufficient food, Fatima's family is now one of 43,000 receiving WFP general food assistance in the town.

Fatima is grateful for the support received by WFP, and during a monitoring visit recalled how things improved over time. At the beginning, the distribution point was small and, located on top of a four-storey building, difficult to access for elderly or pregnant women. She often had to queue for long hours in crowded halls with other men and women, which made her uncomfortable. Moreover, the site was located next to a congested main road, and she feared for her childrens' safety while waiting outside.

In 2015, WFP continued to adopt new measures to ensure that assistance was delivered in a way that promotes the safety, dignity and integrity of the beneficiaries. As part of these efforts, in 2015 WFP provided the partner distributing assistance to Fatima's family with four mobile storage units providing a total of 1,000 square metres of space for storage and distribution purposes.

The partner was thus able to relocate its distribution point to a bigger and more accessible location at the end of June. The new site is on the ground floor, and is very spacious, and is equipped with chairs and shaded areas for those waiting in queue. The site is separated from the road traffic by a fence, and now she lets her children play in the yard without fearing for their safety. She also explained that she feels more comfortable now that the larger space allows for separate queues for women, while elderly, pregnant women and people with disabilities are served through priority lines to minimise their waiting time.

Her husband recalls how last June, during the month of Ramadan, these changes made a real difference. With temperatures reaching peaks of 40 degrees and with many beneficiaries fasting, having shaded and resting areas was a big relief for them.

Like Fatima, thousands of families across the country can now benefit from improved distribution sites and systems. WFP will continue to further invest in strengthening partners capacity and awareness ensure best safety and protection measures are in place, and that the dignity of beneficiaries is respected.

Progress Towards Gender Equality

The conflict continued to take a heavy toll on both women and men. In parallel, it has exacerbated existing gender inequalities, which risks to further increase Syria's already high ranking in the Gender Inequality Index (119 out of 155 countries in 2014). In some cases, men are unable to move freely across checkpoints, forcing women to travel between areas to buy food or collect assistance, which increases their vulnerability to physical assaults, arrest or abduction.



In Syria, women traditionally make decision over the use of food within the household, which was taken into account when setting the related indicators' targets. In line with these assumptions, WFP monitoring data showed that although the gap between households where women make decisions over the use of food assistance received and those where men make these decisions was reduced compared to last year, the former group continued to represent the overwhelming majority, while those where men and women make decisions together remained very few. The increase in the percentage of households where men make decisions observed over the second half of 2015 is mainly due to enhanced monitoring coverage in high conflict areas in northern Syria reached through cross-border deliveries from Turkey. In these areas there is a high prevalence of families for whom WFP assistance is the main or sole food source, where men rather than women tend to make decision over the use of food, as highlighted by WFP monitoring data.

As men have been engaged in fighting, arrested or killed, the number of women who represent the primary income earner for their household is increasing. Amidst rising food prices, economic recession and scarce employment opportunities, these women are struggling to access adequate food to meet the needs of their families. Moreover, when food is scarce, women tend to eat fewer and smaller meals, or eat last to prioritize other family members, particularly children.

The recent FSA confirmed that the prevalence of food insecurity is 60 percent higher among households headed by women compared to those headed by men. Accordingly, households headed by women tend to have worse food consumption scores (FCS) and resort more often to negative coping strategies, such as selling assets, entering into debt to buy food or withdrawing children from school.

Although assistance is not targeted on the basis of gender, WFP and its CPs continued to implement targeting and delivery mechanisms which aimed to facilitate the receipt of assistance by vulnerable women, thus contributing to reduced gender inequalities. Acknowledging their higher vulnerability to food insecurity, households headed by women were afforded priority for registration and assistance through the general food distribution (GFD) programme. The food basket is designed to be sufficient for all family members, reducing the marginalization of women in the intra-household food allocation. In addition, PLW were specifically targeted through a nutrition specific programme using the modality of fresh food vouchers to enhance their dietary diversity and micronutrient intake, thereby contributing to their improved nutrition and overall health status. To ensure that women retain ownership over the use of the fresh food vouchers, the ability to redeem the vouchers from selected retailers was restricted to beneficiary woman, under whose name the vouchers were issued, with exceptions allowed only under particular circumstances, such as illness and physical inability to reach the distribution site.

Finally, to ensure that gender-specific issues were adequately captured, WFP ensured the active presence of both male and female field monitors at distribution sites and during post-distribution monitoring (PDM) visits among both its own team and third party monitoring staff, as both men and women often feel more at ease to disclose personal information to same gender field monitors counterparts.

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Proportion of households where females and males together make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
SYRIA, General Distribution (GD) , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Base				
value: 2014.12 , Previous Follow-up: 2015.06 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12	=10.00	0.00	0.00	2.80
Proportion of households where females make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
SYRIA, General Distribution (GD), Project End Target: 2015.12, Base				
value: 2014.12 , Previous Follow-up: 2015.06 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12	=70.00	100.00	94.00	70.90
Proportion of households where males make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
SYRIA, General Distribution (GD) , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Base				
value: 2014.12 , Previous Follow-up: 2015.06 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12	=20.00	0.00	6.00	26.30



Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

WFP is committed to being accountable to its beneficiaries by actively seeking their participation and feedback to better inform the implementation of programme activities, strengthening monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and ensuring that assistance is provided in such a way as to minimize beneficiary exposure to any potential safety risks. Accordingly, WFP took measures to ensure that food assistance was provided in the safest and most dignified way for all beneficiaries.

WFP did not systematically collect data on beneficiaries experiencing safety concerns, as relevant questions were not included in the monitoring questionnaire due to the sensitivities related to these issues. However, feedback received by beneficiaries and partners during on-site and PDM enabled WFP to identify and address the most pressing safety concerns. In some cases beneficiaries were facing safety concerns when travelling to FDPs in insecure areas or located too far forcing them to navigate across numerous checkpoints to reach them. Accordingly, WFP and CPs increased the number of distribution sites to ensure a better coverage, while areas affected by insecurity FDPs were often relocated to reduce travel times and exposure of beneficiaries to potential security threats. CPs further implemented door-to-door distributions in highly insecure areas to avoid the assembly of large crowds at FDPs. On the other hand, the nutrition support programme through cash-based transfers was implemented in Homs and Lattakia cities, which are relatively safe urban areas. Accordingly, no significant protection or safety concerns were reported by the assisted women when traveling to the distribution site or during distributions. Moreover, distribution sites were located in safe residential areas of the cities and retailers selected in areas close to where most of the beneficiaries live, so as to further minimize travel times.

In some cases beneficiaries expressed concerns for long waiting hours, particularly affecting vulnerable groups such as elderly, people with disability and PLW. In response, WFP increased the budget allocated to each CP enabling them to adapt and improve the food distribution points to relieve the distress caused by long waiting times. CPs took action by enlarging FDPs, setting up shaded and seating areas and priority corridors for beneficiaries with disabilities, elderly and PLW, where required in addition to providing toilets and drinking water. Furthermore, safety measures at distribution sites were strengthened by equipping them with fire extinguishers, barriers and first aid kits.

Mechanisms to inform beneficiaries about WFP activities and seek their feedback were further strengthened and diversified. Each month, leaflets in both English and Arabic were distributed along with the beneficiary entitlement containing information on beneficiary selection, entitlement composition, as well as awareness raising on protection related issues. A similar approach was applied to the cash-based transfer activity, with leaflets, posters and stickers placed in shops and FDPs informing beneficiaries of how to spend vouchers, while awareness-raising sessions on the programme's objectives were regularly held by CPs. In parallel, beneficiaries received regular updates on distribution dates and locations via mobile phone. Planned targets of proportion of beneficiaries adequately informed about the programmes were generally met. However, the percentage of households headed by women informed fell slightly below plan and is lower than those headed by men. This is accounted for by the information sent using mobile phones, which were mostly registered under the men's name.

Beneficiaries were directly consulted during household level surveys, during on-site and PDM visits, to identify their priority needs, determine the impact of assistance provided and address food assistance related protection concerns. To complement these efforts, cooperating partners have devised additional bottom-up feedback mechanisms, such as establishing network of focal points within the beneficiary communities who act as intermediaries between registered families and WFP CPs. Through this system, each beneficiary family refer to a focal point to receive additional information, channel any requests or complaints.

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Proportion of assisted people (men) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
SYRIA, General Distribution (GD), Project End Target: 2015.12, Base value: 2015.03, Previous Follow-up: 2015.06, Latest Follow-up: 2015.12	=70.00	19.00	77.00	72.00
Proportion of assisted people (women) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
SYRIA, General Distribution (GD), Project End Target: 2015.12, Base value: 2015.03, Previous Follow-up: 2015.06, Latest Follow-up: 2015.12	=70.00	19.50	75.00	67.40



Outputs

Active fighting, access restrictions and the presence of radical armed groups continued to affect WFP's ability to reach several parts of the country in a regular and predictable manner, hampering its capacity to deliver assistance at planned levels. The north-eastern governorates of Deir Ezzor and Ar-Raqqa, largely under ISIL control, remained inaccessible throughout the year, with the exception of a one-off access breakthrough in northern Ar-Raqqa in July. In parallel, access to nearby Al-Hasakeh was challenging over the second half of the year, due to security-related delays in obtaining approvals from the Turkish authorities to deliver assistance through the Nusaybin crossing point, at present the only viable way to reach the governorate over land. Persisting access restrictions continued to disrupt operations in other parts of the country, particularly in parts of Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Homs, Hama and Quneitra.

In spite of these challenges, WFP's GFD generally met its targets. WFP conducted all twelve planned monthly distribution cycles, reaching on average 92 percent of the targeted 4.25 million beneficiaries each month with food assistance sufficient to last up to 30 days. A flexible logistics set up, combined with a strengthened mechanism to monitor displacement and emerging humanitarian needs enabled WFP and partners to rapidly redirect available quantities unable to reach their intended destinations to meet the most urgent needs of newly displaced families and fill in assistance gaps in areas witnessing deteriorating food security conditions.

Resource shortfalls and late confirmation of funds continued to represent a significant challenge, as minimum procurement lead times of two to three months meant that often some quantities would not arrive on time to be assembled and distributed. To mitigate these challenges, WFP maintained long-terms agreements with suppliers for key commodities and continued to rely extensively on internal advance financing mechanisms. In addition, WFP continued to adopt a holistic supply chain approach, with stronger harmonisation between all units involved and robust coordination on pipeline requirements. Together, these measures ensured that beneficiaries received an average of 77 percent of the planned caloric transfer each month in spite of funding and operational challenges.

The blanket supplementary feeding programme (BSFP) cumulatively reached over 274,000 children aged 6-59 months through both regular and cross-border deliveries. However, achievements over single monthly cycles were affected due to supply chain, CP's capacity and access challenges. The programme faced significant pipeline breaks over the first half of the year due to production capacity issues faced by the company supplying PlumpyDoz, combined with import delays and quality issues affecting the available stock. WFP revised downwards the monthly plan to prioritise the limited available stocks to reach children in areas with the highest Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates. The availability of alternative corridors enabled WFP to mitigate access restrictions in some cases. For example, since August, WFP started implementing the BSFP through cross-border CPs from Turkey, which enabled the resumption of the programme in Idleb, where in-country access had been suspended since April. By being able to rely on a growing number of partners trained and involved in the implementation of the BSFP, WFP was able to adjust allocations to mitigate gaps and delays caused by CP's capacity issues, especially in Rural Damascus.

The cash-based transfers nutrition programme for PLW continued to expand its reach, more than doubling its monthly reach and reaching almost 10,500 women in Homs and Lattakia at least once. However, the expansion of the scale and coverage of the activity was slowed down by operational challenges, including the difficulty of identifying large-sized retailers in rural areas selling all the required food products, which compromised WFP's ability to reach 15,000 women as planned. Moreover, technical difficulties hampered the transition to the e-voucher modality. The use of paper-based coupons entails labour intensive and lengthy printing and transport procedures, which limited the geographical expansion of the programme to other governorates in spite of efforts put in place to conduct market, partners and retailers assessments to initiate the scheme in Qamishly, Aleppo and Tartous.

The achievement in terms of monetary value (USD) of the cash-based transfers distributed was even lower due to the combined effect of the below-scale implementation, high inflation and the continued depreciation of the Syrian Pound against the US Dollar. In order to adjust the inflation rate, the value of this cash-based transfers was increased from SYP 4,800 to 7,300 from October onward, based on recommendations from a WFP market assessment.

Supply chain, quality and access issues also affected the expansion of the fortified school snacks programme, reaching almost two thirds of planned school children. Due to lengthy lead times for date bars procured from regional sources, combined with quality issues due to poor storage, the programme faced several pipeline breaks over the year, slowing down the implementation pace. The transition towards local procurement of fruit bars, planned to be further scaled-up in 2016, will enable WFP to establish a more reliable supply chain. In spite of these constraints, the reach of the programme scaled up steadily in 2015, particularly with the start of the 2015-16 academic year, increasing by more than three times compared to the previous year, and children in the targeted schools received the planned amount of nutrients on school days.



Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned		
SO1: General Distribution (GD)						
Energy content of food distributed (kcal/person/day)	individual	1,651	1,271	77.0		
Number of feeding days	instance	365	365	100.0		
SO1: Nutrition: Prevention of Acute Malnutri	tion					
Energy content of food distributed (kcal/person/day)	individual	258	258	100.0		
Number of feeding days	instance	365	200	54.8		
SO1: School Feeding (on-site)						
Energy content of food distributed (kcal/person/day)	individual	344	344	100.0		
Number of feeding days	instance	220	150	68.2		

Outcomes

The security situation inside Syria remains extremely volatile and continued to fuel large-scale displacements, increasing vulnerabilities levels among the affected population. According to the latest HNO, an average of 50 Syrian families have been displaced every hour of every day since 2011, which is worrisome as displacement in itself acts as one of the main drivers of food insecurity since it leads to loss of livelihoods.

Findings from the FSA indicate that one third of the population is food insecure, while more than half of the population who is at risk of quickly slipping into food insecurity. With shrinking income generating opportunities and average food prices tripling over the past five years, food has become less affordable for the most vulnerable, resulting in increased adoption of extreme and irreversible coping mechanisms. At the time of the assessment, more than half of all surveyed households across the country had entered into debt to pay for their food needs. Other common coping strategies included reducing the quantity and quality of food consumed, selling assets, early marriage of girls and withdrawing children from school for labour.

As the general food security situation in-country deteriorated, monitoring data collected highlighted sustained improvements in the food security indicators among households receiving WFP assistance. Overall, the percentage of households showing poor food consumption score (FCS) was halved over the second half the year and by December it stood well below the desired threshold. When applying a gender lens, however, the data highlighted variations between households headed by women and their male counterparts, with the former showing higher levels of poor FCS and, consequently, higher vulnerability to food security. These results were mirrored by a steady increase in the percentages of assisted beneficiaries showing acceptable FCS, among both households headed by women and men. The narrower gap between the two categories conceals a higher number of households headed by women with borderline FCS, further confirming a higher vulnerability to food insecurity and the need for sustained food assistance for them to avoid slipping into the poor FCS category. Recognising this trend, WFP and CPs continued to afford priority for assistance to vulnerable households headed by women, who by the end of the year accounted for over 20 percent of the total assisted families.

Dietary diversity indicators highlight similar trends, with targets generally met among all surveyed households by the end of the year, although households headed by men show slightly better dietary diversity patterns. When looking at the dietary diversity among PLW receiving cash-based transfer assistance, results are particularly encouraging, confirming the effectiveness of the programme and the achievement of its primary target to increase dietary diversity. Noticeable and consistent improvements were found among all women assisted through this activity, which are likely to have had a trickle-down effect on food consumption at household level.

The widespread prevalence of food insecurity across the country has further exacerbated pre-existing nutrition concerns, as indicated by the stunting, wasting and anaemia levels. Accordingly, WFP increased its effort to expand the outreach of its BSFP to prevent malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies among young children, by increasing the number of implementing partners involved in this activity and expanding its geographical coverage. Monitoring data show that overall the percentage of assisted children who participated in an adequate number of distributions stood at targeted levels, increasing the effectiveness of the intervention. While a thorough impact assessment was



not possible due to the inability to conduct a systematic nutrition survey in 2015, the minimal occurrence of malnutrition cases reported by WFP monitors, who conduct mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) measurements during monitoring visits, point to positive impact of the malnutrition prevention programme.

Objectives for the fortified school snacks programme were consistently achieved, with retention rates among both girls and boys significantly higher than the set targets. Enrolment rates in the 2015-16 academic year slightly decreased compared with the previous year, due to the boosting effect in the immediate aftermath of the launch of the No Lost Generation campaign in 2014, coupled with the high retention rate and minimum drop out over the year. Retention rates progressively increased over the same timeframe with more girls having an exceptionally high improvement.

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
SO1 Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies				
Stabilized or improved food consumption over assistance period for targe	ted households and	d/or individuals		
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score				
SYRIA , Project End Target : 2015.12 PDM , Base value : 2013.12 WFP programme monitoring OSM/PDM , Previous Follow-up : 2015.06 WFP programme monitoring PDM household survey , Latest Follow-up : 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring PDM household survey	<12.00	12.00	15.00	6.40
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (female-headed)				
SYRIA , Project End Target : 2015.12 PDM , Base value : 2013.12 WFP programme monitoring OSM/PDM , Previous Follow-up : 2015.06 WFP programme monitoring Household data collection - PDM , Latest Follow-up : 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring Household data collection - PDM	<12.00	14.30	18.00	11.30
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (male-headed)				
SYRIA , Project End Target : 2015.12 PDM , Base value : 2013.12 WFP programme monitoring OSM/PDM , Previous Follow-up : 2015.06 WFP programme monitoring PDM- household survey , Latest Follow-up : 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring PDM- household survey	<12.00	12.00	14.00	5.40
Diet Diversity Score (female-headed households)				
SYRIA , Project End Target : 2015.12 PDM , Base value : 2013.12 WFP programme monitoring OSM/PDM , Previous Follow-up : 2015.06 WFP programme monitoring PDM-household interviews , Latest Follow-up : 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring PDM-household interviews	>5.00	5.51	5.43	5.97
Diet Diversity Score (male-headed households)				
SYRIA , Project End Target : 2015.12 PDM , Base value : 2013.12 WFP programme monitoring OSM/PDM , Previous Follow-up : 2015.06 WFP programme monitoring PDM-household interviews , Latest Follow-up : 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring PDM-household interviews	>5.00	5.95	5.62	6.26
Diet Diversity Score				
SYRIA (FOOD TRANSFERS), Project End Target : 2015.12 PDM, Base value : 2014.12 WFP programme monitoring WFP monitoring, Previous Follow-up : 2015.06 WFP programme monitoring Household interviews, Latest Follow-up : 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring Household interviews	>5.00	5.73	5.53	6.12



Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Diet Diversity Score				
SYRIA (VOUCHER TRANSFERS), Project End Target: 2015.12 PDM, Base value: 2014.07 WFP survey WFP monitoring, Previous Follow-up: 2015.06 WFP programme monitoring Household Interviews (Pregnant and Lactating Women), Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring Household Interviews(Pregnant and Lactating Women)	>5.50	4.90	6.47	6.90
Project-specific				
Retention rate (girls) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
HOMS,RURAL DAMASCUS,ALEPPO, TARTOUS, HAMA, HASAKKEH,DAMASCUS,, Project End Target: 2015.12, Latest Follow-up: 2015.06 WFP programme monitoring School feeding monitoring through visits to schools	>70.00		-	97.00
Retention rate (boys) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
HOMS,RURAL DAMASCUS,ALEPPO, TARTOUS, HAMA, HASAKKEH,DAMASCUS,, Project End Target: 2015.12, Latest Follow-up: 2015.06 WFP programme monitoring WFP school feeding monitoring at school level	>70.00		-	96.00
MAM treatment recovery rate (%)				
SYRIA , Project End Target: 2015.12	>75.00		-	-
MAM treatment mortality rate (%)				
SYRIA , Project End Target: 2015.12	<3.00		-	-
MAM treatment default rate (%)				
SYRIA , Project End Target: 2015.12	<15.00		-	-
MAM treatment non-response rate (%)				
SYRIA , Project End Target: 2015.12	<15.00		-	-
Proportion of target population who participate in an adequate number of distributions				
SYRIA , Project End Target : 2015.12 , Latest Follow-up : 2015.06 WFP programme monitoring Household interveiws	>66.00		-	65.00
Proportion of eligible population who participate in programme (coverage)				
SYRIA, Project End Target : 2015.12 Desk equation, Base value : 2014.12 Secondary data Desk-based coverage calculation, Latest Follow-up : 2015.12 Secondary data Desk-based coverage calculation	>70.00	92.00	-	87.00

Sustainability, Capacity Development and Handover

WFP continued to work closely with government and non-government counterparts to ensure sustainability, promote local ownership and facilitate a future transition to national implementation. Additional line Ministries were engaged, new technical skills developed and counterparts sensitized on issues beyond the short-term response to the crisis.

Accordingly, 41 officials from the local Department of Education of five different governorates, in addition to 472 teachers, were trained on all aspects relating to the management of the school feeding programme (including implementation, logistics and monitoring aspects) and were sensitized on its objectives.



In collaboration with the Central Bureau for Statistics (CBS) and the Planning and International Cooperation Commission (PICC), WFP conducted a nationwide FSA in May and June. WFP trained the enumerators while data analysis was under the responsibility of the CBS. The FSA laid the basis for future livelihood interventions and provided a picture on the status of food security in-country, which benefitted the humanitarian community in Syria. In support of UNICEF and the Ministry of Health, WFP trained local CPs on data collection methodologies and other aspects of food and nutrition security for the 2015 Nutrition SMART (Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions) survey.

Efforts were made to further identify capacity gaps and strengthen the technical skills of local CPs, which remained the backbone of the emergency response. In 2015, WFP institutionalized a Partnerships Performance Review (PPR) exercise conducted during the agreement timeframe (mid-term and final) to identify performance gaps and review respective commitments. The exercise highlighted capacity building needs in fields such as reporting, commodity and warehouse management, beneficiary selection criteria, FDP management and crowd management. In response, trainings and capacity building initiatives related to the identified gap areas were conducted in 2015, while CPs were encouraged to identify additional capacity building needs and submit training plans. Compounding these efforts, individual partners also invested in their own capacity-building initiatives through performance reviews and consultation meetings with WFP. Partners identified their own strengths and weaknesses, which will serve as a basis to determine the necessary steps to enhance their performance and take on additional or higher responsibility.

In an effort to strengthen and build resilience in Syria, WFP initiated the local procurement of 22 mt of fortified date bars for the fortified school snacks programme in the second half of the year. WFP contracted one manufacturer who purchased the raw materials from five Syrian wholesalers, employing 15 people including five women. This initiative enhanced the local food value chain by promoting local food production, which sustained and increased food-processing factories and created local employment.

WFP stimulated the economy through the injection of USD 1.5 million through cash based transfer using a voucher modality under the targeted nutrition support programme to PLW in Homs and Lattakia governorates. Local farmers were supported to market their own produce, and participating women were able to procure the commodities at four local retailers, further stimulating the local economy.

Inputs

Resource Inputs

WFP Syria received USD 370.7 million. Unpredictable funding led to significant reliance on internal loans, amounting to USD 173.6 million; of these USD 10.8 million were from the Immediate Response Account (IRA) and the remainder from the Working Capital Fund. The allocation of IRA loans to the project was mainly made possible thanks to multilateral contributions (totaling USD 21.9 million), which helped revolve these loans.

Given the lower than planned implementation of the project, particularly for school feeding and nutrition activities, earmarked contributions for these activities limited WFP's capacity to cover urgent food pipeline gaps. Recent multi-year pledges, however, allowed WFP to fine-tune its resourcing outlook and adjust its planned activities accordingly.

The Syrian migrants' crisis of 2015 prompted a surge in donations to the Syrian emergency response in the second half of the year, from which WFP benefited. This was particularly welcome after the beginning of the year seemed to suggest growing fatigue among the donor community.

Donor	2015 Reso	2015 Shipped/Purchased	
	In-Kind	Cash	(mt)
Australia	0	5,395	2,942
Austria	0	256	256
Canada	0	13,854	5,509
Chile	0	55	0
China	0	0	1,190



Donne	2015 Reso	urced (mt)	2015 Shipped/Purchased
Donor	In-Kind	Cash	(mt)
Czech Republic	0	68	0
Denmark	0	3,800	3,899
European Commission	0	45,250	16,358
Finland	0	1,627	2,448
France	0	502	300
Germany	0	11,602	5,043
Iceland	0	395	395
Ireland	0	1,262	0
Italy	0	3,537	1,639
Japan	0	3,140	2,786
Kuwait	0	21,444	4,581
MULTILATERAL	0	34,964	23,737
Netherlands	0	4,917	4,880
Norway	0	14,744	11,399
Private Donors	0	459	459
Republic of Korea	0	1,163	803
Russian Federation	0	8,145	7,200
Saudi Arabia	0	1,186	1,674
Slovakia	0	77	0
Spain	0	1,531	1,531
Switzerland	0	3,031	3,807
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	0	7,614	6,508
United Arab Emirates	0	1,081	1,189
United Kingdom	0	102,057	62,880
USA	300	126,195	100,609
Total	300	419,350	274,021

See Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors for breakdown by commodity and contribution reference number

Food Purchases and In-Kind Receipts

One percent of the food procured was sourced locally, 6 percent regionally and 93 percent internationally. WFP has been pursuing the local procurement of date bars. However, due to limited supplier capacity and challenges arising in the procurement of the required vitamin premix, only 22 mt of date bars were procured locally. Iodized salt and ready-to-eat entitlements have continued to be procured locally and WFP remains on the lookout for opportunities to procure additional commodities locally, provided that any purchase made does not distort the local market economy.

WFP continued to make use of the Global Commodity Management Facility (GCMF), for the procurement of vegetable oil. Long term agreements have remained in place for rice, bulgur wheat, pasta, chickpeas and canned pulses. The significant increase in the pre-packed entitlement requirements in 2015 greatly increased the lead time



for this commodity to 3 months, rendering it impossible to set up Long Term Agreements (LTAs) for these entitlements due to their content and the limited storage capacity of the supplier. This further contributed to the longer than average total procurement lead time of two to three months. The longer lead time of food assistance and it's importance for WFP's cross-border operation have meant that WFP has had to prioritize food commodities in their procurement plan.

Commodities	Local (mt)	Developing Country (mt)	Other International (mt)	GCMF (mt)
Api	0	991	0	0
Beans	0	7,088	0	0
Bulgur Wheat	0	24,672	0	0
Canned Pulses	0	8,170	67	5,359
Chickpeas	0	15,010	18,745	0
High Energy Biscuits	0	2,326	0	0
lodised Salt	5,054	0	0	0
Lentils	0	0	3,096	0
Pasta	0	19,211	0	0
Rations	117	96,146	0	0
Ready To Use Supplementary Food	0	0	2,202	39
Rice	0	87,426	0	0
Split Lentils	0	0	1,392	0
Sugar	0	4,500	25,018	7,923
Vegetable Oil	0	3,698	0	28,735
Wheat Flour	0	44,973	8,145	0
Yeast	0	145	0	0
Total	5,171	314,357	58,664	42,056

Food Transport, Delivery and Handling

WFP continued to maximize the flexibility and efficiency of its logistics set-up, enabling the rapid operational adjustments to respond to the fluid situation on the ground. The use of Turkish corridors allowed by the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2165 in July 2014 was significantly scaled-up throughout the year to respond to shifts in access patterns, particularly in Idleb governorate, and accounted for over 20 percent of monthly deliveries.

The flexibility of the logistics structure enabled the rapid expansion of the operational capacity of the packaging facilities to absorb additional requirements and fill gaps caused by any sudden reduction in the operations in other hubs. This proved particularly effective when security related concerns forced WFP to temporarily suspend packaging and dispatch operations at one of its facilities in Rural Damascus. The daily production capacity of a second facility in the governorate was promptly increased by 30 percent, thus minimizing the impact on the operations.

Similarly, at the end of 2015 the operations at Tartous port were significantly affected by newly enforced security measures. WFP was able to minimize the impact on the operations by rapidly redirecting shipments to alternative entry points: mainly to Lattakia and Beirut ports.

WFP continued to expand its service providers' portfolio, enhancing the continuity and reliability of services and promoting healthy competition. The number of transport companies contracted were increased to ten, up from



seven in 2014 and three in 2013, improving the delivery capacity across the country. Furthermore, two additional warehousing and packaging service providers were contracted. These improvements also yielded a substantial reduction in Landside, Transport, Storage and Handling (LTSH) rate, which decreased by approximately 20 percent over the year, thus increasing the overall cost efficiency of the operation. Finally, improvements in the quality of the performance were achieved by introducing semi-automated production lines in all packaging facilities, thus minimizing the occurrence of error and inconsistencies across the food entitlements provided to beneficiaries.

Through its storage, packaging and transport operations WFP employed almost 2,000 non-WFP Syrian personnel, supporting local livelihoods and injecting resources into the local economy.

Post-Delivery Losses

During 2015, minimal losses occurred. The Post Deliveries Losses (PDL) accounted represent only 0.31 percent of the total quantities handled. This indicates a 50 percent decrease when compared with 2014. The decrease was mainly due to a significant reduction in losses which occurred during the transportation of commodities. This achievement was the result of sensitization efforts made with transporters and careful regular monitoring of truck conditions in WFP warehouses: approximately two-thirds of all PDL occurred when commodities were stored in CP warehouses. Some 62 percent of the total commodity losses recorded during storage in CP warehouses were due to a single incident which occurred in April in the Idleb governorate. On the other hand, losses due to poor handling in CP warehouses decreased substantially in 2015. These improvements reflect WFP's continued efforts to improve storage conditions and procedures through the provision of warehouse management training for CP staff members and providing the necessary tools and equipment to improve storage standards.

Management

Partnerships

In 2015, WFP's emergency response was implemented through 42 CPs, who provided periodical distribution assistance to 12 of the 14 Syrian governorates each month, representing a 16 percent increase on the 36 CPs contracted during the previous year. Of the 42 partners, 30 handled food assistance delivered from inside Syria, including SARC, one international NGO, the Aga Khan Foundation, and 28 national NGOs and charities. The remaining 12 partners were international NGOs who facilitated cross-border deliveries from Jordan and Southern Turkey under the framework of UNSCR 2165.

SARC remained WFP's main CP, handling approximately half of the quantities delivered by WFP across Syria on a monthly basis. SARC's share of distributions decreased from 60 to 50 percent between 2014 and 2015, mainly due to the scale-up of cross-border deliveries and the increased number of INGO partners facilitating them. Moreover, in 2015, WFP not only expanded its partnership base, but also diversified the activities implemented though the NGOs. In 2015, 17 NGOs implemented WFP's Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme, a four-fold increase on the four NGOs in 2014. Similarly, the CPs involved in the implementation of the cash based transfer nutrition support for PLW increased from two to three over 2015, to sustain the tiered scale-up of the programme's reach. In addition, three CPs began supporting the implementation of the fortified school snacks programme.

To further strengthen its operational capacity, WFP expanded its private contractor's partnership. By engaging eleven transport companies, from a previous eight in 2014, WFP increased the trucking capacity to move an average of 42,000 mt of commodities each month. Additionally, packaging and service storage were doubled from two to four. In addition, a second third party monitoring service provider was brought on board in May, expanding the monitoring coverage in areas covered through cross border deliveries from Turkey.

Partnership with government and United Nations counterparts were further expanded and strengthened. The government continued to provide key support on a wide range of operational areas such as conducting assessments, sharing of secondary data, approvals for the dispatch and monitoring of assistance, and minimizing security risks for humanitarian convoys. The provision of assistance was coordinated at national level through the High Relief Committee, which incuded several Ministries. The coordination structure was replicated at local level, through local relief committees and local directorates, to further facilitate and harmonize the humanitarian response, and maximize the efficiency of resources on the ground.

Partnerships with UNICEF, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education remained a key factor in the implementation of the blanket supplementary feeding and the school snack programmes. Coordination efforts with UNDP, the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform and international NGOs strengthened in order to establish



the basis for collaboration for the launch of livelihoods recovery activities over the first quarter of 2016. In addition, collaboration with FAO, line ministries and local counterparts such as the Planning and International Cooperation Commission, the CBS and international NGOs enabled WFP to conduct two significant FSAs between May and June: the joint WFP and FAO Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission and the FSA which was the first ever household food security survey in Syria.

Under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator, WFP was an active member of the Humanitarian Country Team, contributing to all initiatives promoted by the committee to strengthen coordination among humanitarian actors and ensure the provision of a timely emergency response. WFP continued to fulfill its mandate as lead agency to both the Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications Clusters, while co-leading with FAO on the Food Security and Agriculture Sector.

Sector coordination continued to be underpinned by the Whole of Syria (WoS) approach, through a dedicated coordination structure based in Amman. The WoS brought together operations led by hubs in Damascus, Jordan and Southern Turkey under a single framework, in order to maximize efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian activities and ensure greater accountability. The WoS played a critical role in facilitating the coordination between more than 100 food actors operating from three hubs, with regular meetings held at regional, national and sub-national levels. This translated into comprehensive strategic planning and systematic development of joint operational plans, reduced gaps and duplication, and the establishment of quality standards through the harmonization of food assistance distributed across the country.

Partnership	NO	90	Red Cross and Red	UN/IO
- a.	National	International	Crescent Movement	
Total	29	14		3

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Latest Follow-up
Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services		
SYRIA, Food-Assistance-for-Assets , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12	=2.00	0.00
Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services		
SYRIA, General Distribution (GD), Project End Target: 2015.12, Latest Follow-up: 2015.12	=37.00	25.00
Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services		
SYRIA, Nutrition: Prevention of Acute Malnutrition, Project End Target: 2015.12, Latest Follow-up: 2015.12	=2.00	2.00
Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services		
SYRIA, School Feeding , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12	=2.00	2.00

Lessons Learned

Following UNSCR 2139 and 2165 in 2014, which enabled humanitarian cross border deliveries from Turkey and Jordan, and cross line deliveries from inside Syria, WFP has been able to increase the coverage of its food assistance programme to reach a growing number of vulnerable people in areas under opposition control, including hard-to-reach and besieged locations.

WFP maintained a flexible operational approach, in order to take advantage of the increased availability of humanitarian corridors to rapidly adjust its operations to the shifting access patterns on the ground. When in-country routes to Idleb governorate became impassable in April, WFP significantly scaled up and almost tripled its cross-border deliveries from Turkey to the governorate to continue reaching all targeted beneficiaries. In parallel, all cross-border deliveries from both Jordan and Turkey were scaled-up, accounting for over 20 percent of the monthly WFP assistance in Syria, compared to just 4 percent at the beginning of 2015. This translated into a stronger WoS harmonization approach, with coordination structures introduced at subnational level in Homs, Aleppo and Qamishly, to complement the existing regional and national ones.

In order to mitigate the impact of funding shortfalls, WFP adopted a number of measures to maximize the available resources. The monthly food basket was reduced by an average of 23 percent every month, enabling WFP to



maintain a minimum level of support to vulnerable families without reducing the number of beneficiaries. In addition, WFP conducted a critical review and prioritization of needs, reprogramming funds from other direct operational cost and direct supprt cost savings, adopting a more cost-efficient food basked by reducing the most expensive commodities and replacing them with more economical items to fill the caloric gap, saving an average of USD 14.7 million while assisting an average of 3.9 million people per month.

In addition, amidst shrinking resources and growing humanitarian needs, a new beneficiary selection tool was developed and rolled out over the second half of the year, which enabled partners to further refine and streamline the targeting criteria and identify the "most vulnerable among the vulnerable". This ensured that available resources were channeled where they were most needed.

With the Syrian crisis in its fifth year, WFP paved the way to launch initiatives aimed at strengthening households' safety nets and resilience to withstand shocks. In mid-2015, WFP developed a Livelihood and Resilience Strategy to restore and protect household livelihoods through promoting local food production, assets rehabilitation, income generation, and economic recovery projects. Accordingly, discussions and coordination efforts with United Nations NGO partners have been put in place to build upon existing experiences and initiate livelihoods recovery projects in stable areas of the country in early 2016.

As the cornerstone of WFP resilience strengthening objectives in Syria to promote local food production, sustain local food processing factories, create employment and stimulate the local economy, in August WFP initiated the local procurement of fortified date bars for the implementation of its education support programme. To mitigate the constraints faced in scaling up the initiative due to difficulties encountered in identifying additional suitable suppliers, WFP is supporting three additional manufacturers to enhance their production capacities and meet international quality standards.

The increased use of Cash Based Transfer for the nutrition support programme for PLW contributed to stimulate the local economy with a cumulative injection of over USD 1.5 million, while supporting local farmers to market their produce. Risks associated with this transfer modality such as misuse or diversion were avoided as WFP used a voucher rather than a cash modality which was easier to monitor. In addition, strict protocols were followed, including centralized printing systems and re-counting at each transfer stage, different security features (colour, design) every month, and thorough vetting and sensitization of retailers. Building on this experience, in 2016 WFP aims to further scale up the use of this transfer modality across different activities, including GFD, livelihoods and return-to-learning interventions, which will exponentially increase the beneficial impact on the local economy.

Operational Statistics

Annex: Participants by Activity and Modality

Activity	Planned		Actual			% Actual v. Planned			
	Food	СВТ	Total	Food	СВТ	Total	Food	СВТ	Total
General Distribution (GD)	4,250,000	-	4,250,000	4,885,385	-	4,885,385	115.0%	-	115.0%
School Feeding (on-site)	500,000	-	500,000	315,651	-	315,651	63.1%	-	63.1%
Food-Assistance-for-Assets	500,000	-	500,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nutrition: Prevention of Acute Malnutrition	240,000	15,000	255,000	274,382	10,489	284,871	114.3%	69.9%	111.7%

Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors

Donor	Cont. Ref. No.	Commodity	Resourced	Shipped/Purchased in	
	Com. No. No.	Commodity	In-Kind	Cash	2015 (mt)
Australia	AUL-C-00215-09	Canned Pulses	0	600	0



Donor	Cont. Ref. No.	Commodity	Resourced	Shipped/Purchased in	
Donor	Cont. Ref. No.	Commodity	In-Kind	Cash	2015 (mt)
Australia	AUL-C-00215-09	Pasta	0	680	680
Australia	AUL-C-00215-09	Rations	0	1,853	0
Australia	AUL-C-00215-09	Rice	0	1,345	1,345
Australia	AUL-C-00215-09	Sugar	0	312	312
Australia	AUL-C-00215-09	Vegetable Oil	0	605	605
Austria	AUS-C-00042-01	Vegetable Oil	0	256	256
Canada	CAN-C-00469-02	Bulgur Wheat	0	1,011	1,011
Canada	CAN-C-00469-02	Canned Pulses	0	1,080	0
Canada	CAN-C-00469-02	Rice	0	1,955	3,033
Canada	CAN-C-00469-02	Sugar	0	1,262	0
Canada	CAN-C-00469-02	Vegetable Oil	0	2,345	1,465
Canada	CAN-C-00469-03	Rations	0	6,202	0
Chile	CHI-C-00008-01	Vegetable Oil	0	55	0
China	CHA-C-00037-01	Rice	0	0	1,190
Czech Republic	CZE-C-00018-01	Rations	0	68	0
Denmark	DEN-C-00143-01	Rice	0	0	315
Denmark	DEN-C-00156-01	Rice	0	0	1,178
Denmark	DEN-C-00164-02	Canned Pulses	0	537	0
Denmark	DEN-C-00164-02	Vegetable Oil	0	18	0
Denmark	DEN-C-00180-01	Chickpeas	0	966	966
Denmark	DEN-C-00180-01	Sugar	0	69	69
Denmark	DEN-C-00180-01	Vegetable Oil	0	2,210	1,372
European Commission	EEC-C-00489-01	Bulgur Wheat	0	0	870
European Commission	EEC-C-00489-01	Canned Pulses	0	2,567	0
European Commission	EEC-C-00489-01	Chickpeas	0	1,608	1,608
European Commission	EEC-C-00489-01	lodised Salt	0	903	804
European Commission	EEC-C-00489-01	Pasta	0	0	1,523
European Commission	EEC-C-00489-01	Rations	0	6,331	0
European Commission	EEC-C-00489-01	Rice	0	1,469	5,891



Daman		Commodity	Resourced	Shipped/Purchased in	
Donor	Cont. Ref. No.		In-Kind	Cash	2015 (mt)
European Commission	EEC-C-00489-01	Vegetable Oil	0	36	0
European Commission	EEC-C-00524-01	High Energy Biscuits	0	685	200
European Commission	EEC-C-00551-01	Beans	0	3,496	1,311
European Commission	EEC-C-00551-01	Chickpeas	0	3,056	1,380
European Commission	EEC-C-00551-01	Lentils	0	5,246	840
European Commission	EEC-C-00551-01	Rations	0	14,990	0
European Commission	EEC-C-00551-01	Sugar	0	1,932	1,932
European Commission	EEC-C-00551-01	Vegetable Oil	0	2,930	0
Finland	FIN-C-00095-01	Rice	0	456	1,284
Finland	FIN-C-00108-08	Bulgur Wheat	0	353	353
Finland	FIN-C-00108-08	Rations	0	118	111
Finland	FIN-C-00108-08	Sugar	0	700	700
France	FRA-C-00216-01	High Energy Biscuits	0	502	300
Germany	GER-C-00443-01	Rations	0	5,460	0
Germany	GER-C-00443-01	Rice	0	4,031	4,031
Germany	GER-C-00443-01	Sugar	0	1,012	1,012
Germany	GER-C-00443-01	Vegetable Oil	0	1,099	0
Iceland	ICE-C-00035-01	lodised Salt	0	395	395
Ireland	IRE-C-00172-01	Canned Pulses	0	890	0
Ireland	IRE-C-00186-01	Rations	0	373	0
Italy	ITA-C-00181-02	Rations	0	1,265	0
Italy	ITA-C-00192-01	Rice	0	1,639	1,639
Italy	ITA-C-00194-01	Rations	0	632	0
Japan	JPN-C-00377-01	Chickpeas	0	729	729
Japan	JPN-C-00377-01	Rations	0	360	6
Japan	JPN-C-00377-01	Sugar	0	648	648
Japan	JPN-C-00400-01	Sugar	0	1,403	1,403
Kuwait	KUW-C-00011-05	Canned Pulses	0	1,508	0
Kuwait	KUW-C-00011-05	Chickpeas	0	1,536	1,200



Donor	Cont. Ref. No.	Commodity	Resourced	Shipped/Purchased in	
Donor	Cont. Ref. No.	Commodity	In-Kind	Cash	2015 (mt)
Kuwait	KUW-C-00011-05	Rations	0	13,188	0
Kuwait	KUW-C-00011-05	Sugar	0	3,381	3,381
Kuwait	KUW-C-00011-05	Vegetable Oil	0	1,831	0
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Bulgur Wheat	0	1,173	1,173
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Chickpeas	0	805	805
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	lodised Salt	0	200	200
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Pasta	0	1,411	1,411
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Rations	0	7,749	0
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Rice	0	8,910	8,263
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Sugar	0	7,970	7,970
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Vegetable Oil	0	3,777	0
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Wheat Flour	0	2,970	3,915
Netherlands	NET-C-00113-02	Api	0	202	202
Netherlands	NET-C-00113-02	Bulgur Wheat	0	306	306
Netherlands	NET-C-00113-02	Rice	0	4,143	4,143
Netherlands	NET-C-00113-02	Sugar	0	230	230
Netherlands	NET-C-00113-02	Vegetable Oil	0	36	0
Norway	NOR-C-00184-54	lodised Salt	0	649	290
Norway	NOR-C-00312-03	Chickpeas	0	966	966
Norway	NOR-C-00312-03	Pasta	0	731	731
Norway	NOR-C-00312-03	Rice	0	6,261	6,261
Norway	NOR-C-00312-03	Sugar	0	3,151	3,151
Norway	NOR-C-00312-03	Vegetable Oil	0	474	0
Norway	NOR-C-00323-02	Lentils	0	1,250	0
Norway	NOR-C-00328-01	Vegetable Oil	0	1,262	0
Private Donors	WPD-C-02596-01	lodised Salt	0	69	69
Private Donors	WPD-C-02922-01	lodised Salt	0	242	242
Private Donors	WPD-C-02931-04	lodised Salt	0	148	148
Republic of Korea	KOR-C-00106-01	Rations	0	360	0
Republic of Korea	KOR-C-00106-01	Rice	0	803	803
Russian Federation	RUS-C-00037-05	Wheat Flour	0	3,060	2,115
Russian Federation	RUS-C-00041-01	Wheat Flour	0	1,980	1,980
Russian Federation	RUS-C-00047-04	Wheat Flour	0	3,105	3,105
Saudi Arabia	SAU-C-00090-01	High Energy Biscuits	0	1,186	1,674



Donor	Cont. Ref. No.	Commodity	Resourced	Shipped/Purchased in	
Donor	Cont. Ref. No.	Commodity	In-Kind	Cash	2015 (mt)
Slovakia	SLO-C-00021-01	Rations	0	77	0
Spain	SPA-C-00122-05	Rice	0	1,531	1,531
Switzerland	SWI-C-00394-01	Pasta	0	0	2,207
Switzerland	SWI-C-00440-01	Api	0	790	790
Switzerland	SWI-C-00440-01	lodised Salt	0	705	705
Switzerland	SWI-C-00440-01	Rations	0	232	0
Switzerland	SWI-C-00440-01	Yeast	0	145	105
Switzerland	SWI-C-00482-01	Pasta	0	1,159	0
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01233-01	Chickpeas	0	2,355	2,355
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01233-01	Rice	0	2,083	2,083
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01233-01	Sugar	0	2,070	2,070
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01248-01	Wheat Flour	0	1,106	0
United Arab Emirates	UAE-C-00014-01	Pasta	0	0	108
United Arab Emirates	UAE-C-00014-03	Ready To Use Supplementary Food	0	1,081	1,081
United Kingdom	UK -C-00183-05	Pasta	0	0	183
United Kingdom	UK -C-00183-09	Canned Pulses	0	459	0
United Kingdom	UK -C-00183-09	lodised Salt	0	0	391
United Kingdom	UK -C-00233-01	Rations	0	1,796	0
United Kingdom	UK -C-00233-01	Wheat Flour	0	196	1,804
United Kingdom	UK -C-00258-01	Bulgur Wheat	0	3,666	3,666
United Kingdom	UK -C-00258-01	Pasta	0	1,617	1,617
United Kingdom	UK -C-00258-01	Rations	0	14,292	0
United Kingdom	UK -C-00258-01	Rice	0	3,609	3,609
United Kingdom	UK -C-00258-01	Sugar	0	2,541	2,081
United Kingdom	UK -C-00258-01	Wheat Flour	0	11,694	5,814
United Kingdom	UK -C-00258-03	Beans	0	3,758	3,068
United Kingdom	UK -C-00258-03	Bulgur Wheat	0	7,245	6,210
United Kingdom	UK -C-00258-03	Chickpeas	0	3,404	3,404
United Kingdom	UK -C-00258-03	High Energy Biscuits	0	557	257
United Kingdom	UK -C-00258-03	Lentils	0	2,256	2,256
United Kingdom	UK -C-00258-03	Pasta	0	1,235	1,235



Donor	Cont. Ref. No.	Commodity	Resourced	Shipped/Purchased in	
Donor	Cont. Ref. No.	Commodity	In-Kind	Cash	2015 (mt)
United Kingdom	UK -C-00258-03	Rations	0	8,401	0
United Kingdom	UK -C-00258-03	Ready To Use Supplementary Food	0	860	860
United Kingdom	UK -C-00258-03	Rice	0	14,073	10,333
United Kingdom	UK -C-00258-03	Split Lentils	0	1,392	1,392
United Kingdom	UK -C-00258-03	Sugar	0	4,099	4,099
United Kingdom	UK -C-00258-03	Vegetable Oil	0	2,838	0
United Kingdom	UK -C-00258-03	Wheat Flour	0	12,069	10,600
USA	USA-C-00839-11	lodised Salt	0	146	146
USA	USA-C-00839-11	Wheat Flour	0	699	0
USA	USA-C-00839-13	Bulgur Wheat	0	0	2,720
USA	USA-C-00839-13	Chickpeas	0	0	6,532
USA	USA-C-00839-13	lodised Salt	0	931	890
USA	USA-C-00839-13	Rice	0	0	7,772
USA	USA-C-00839-13	Wheat Flour	0	0	2,866
USA	USA-C-00839-14	Bulgur Wheat	0	3,925	3,925
USA	USA-C-00839-14	Canned Pulses	0	2,978	0
USA	USA-C-00839-14	Chickpeas	0	6,432	6,432
USA	USA-C-00839-14	Pasta	0	5,451	5,451
USA	USA-C-00839-14	Rations	0	13,094	C
USA	USA-C-00839-14	Rice	0	11,909	11,909
USA	USA-C-00839-14	Vegetable Oil	0	3,314	C
USA	USA-C-00839-14	Wheat Flour	0	6,561	6,561
USA	USA-C-00937-06	Ready To Use Supplementary Food	300	0	300
USA	USA-C-01129-01	Beans	0	1,320	1,317
USA	USA-C-01129-01	Bulgur Wheat	0	2,397	2,397
USA	USA-C-01129-01	Canned Pulses	0	2,017	O
USA	USA-C-01129-01	Chickpeas	0	3,779	3,779
USA	USA-C-01129-01	lodised Salt	0	776	775
USA	USA-C-01129-01	Pasta	0	4,066	4,066
USA	USA-C-01129-01	Rations	0	16,188	4,503
USA	USA-C-01129-01	Rice	0	8,714	8,714
USA	USA-C-01129-01	Vegetable Oil	0	5,703	0
USA	USA-C-01129-01	Wheat Flour	0	4,192	4,192



Donor	Cont Bot No	Commodity	Resourced	Shipped/Purchased in	
	Cont. Ref. No.		In-Kind	Cash	2015 (mt)
USA	USA-C-01129-02	Beans	0	1,392	1,392
USA	USA-C-01129-02	Bulgur Wheat	0	2,043	2,043
USA	USA-C-01129-02	Chickpeas	0	3,263	3,263
USA	USA-C-01129-02	Rations	0	4,042	0
USA	USA-C-01129-02	Rice	0	2,100	2,100
USA	USA-C-01129-02	Vegetable Oil	0	2,198	0
USA	USA-C-01129-02	Wheat Flour	0	6,566	6,567
		Total	300	419,350	274,021