Introduction
Since October 2011, WFP has provided emergency food assistance to vulnerable Syrians affected by the conflict. The prolonged nature of the crisis in Syria has necessitated a large-scale humanitarian response. With 6.1 million internally displaced people and over 9.4 million people in need of food assistance, the Syrian operation is now one of the largest WFP emergency operations worldwide.

Every month, WFP targets four million beneficiaries in all 14 Syrian governorates through in-kind food rations. In addition to the humanitarian food assistance, WFP also implements programme activities related to nutrition, school feeding, and livelihood and resilience. The different activities are implemented jointly with 40 in-country and cross-border cooperating partners.

Logistics Set-Up
The vast majority of WFP’s humanitarian food assistance in Syria is provided in-kind, and therefore a large complex logistics set-up has been established. Every month, WFP reaches over four million people in need of food assistance through various delivery modalities from within Syria as well as cross border from Jordan and Turkey.

Transport
WFP logistics is responsible for transporting more than 45,000 metric tons of food commodities into Syria every month. Food commodities arrive at three ports: Lattakia and Tartous ports in Syria, and Beirut port in Lebanon with shipments originating in Mersin, Turkey. However, certain commodities such as nutrition supplies, fortified date bars and sugar arrive directly into the ports of Tartous and Lattakia.

WFP uses over 3,000 trucks every month to transport food commodities from the three ports into five WFP warehouses, which also serve as packaging facilities, in Tartous, Lattakia, Homs and Damascus (two warehouses) governorates. Food rations are prepared and transported to partners’ warehouses and final distribution points.

Other two warehouses in Qamishly in Al Hasakeh governorate had previously received pre-packed rations and other food supplies through the Nusaybin border crossing point at the Turkish borders before land access from inside Syria were disrupted by the end of 2015 due to the volatile security situation surrounding the governorate. The governorate is currently assisted via humanitarian airlifts.

Cross-border Operation
WFP delivers food assistance to areas not accessible from inside Syria through Turkey and Jordan under United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2165/2191/2258.

Pre-packed food rations are procured directly from suppliers and are then transported from the suppliers’ warehouses in Turkey and Jordan to cooperating partners’ warehouses in Aleppo, Idlib, Hama, Dar’a and Quneitra governorates through three border crossing points: Bab Al Salama and Bab Al Hawa at the Turkish borders and Ar-Ramtha at the Jordanian border. In 2016, cross-border deliveries accounted for 20 percent of total quantities of food assistance delivered.
Procurement

Of the total amount of food commodities that WFP provides, 93 percent is procured internationally, six percent regionally, and one percent locally. Currently, WFP procures mainly salt, fortified date bars and ready-to-eat rations from the local market with plans to increase local procurement to 10 percent, if market conditions allow.

Warehouses and Packaging Facilities

To ensure an effective response to the large-scale requirements of the Syria operation, WFP uses seven warehouses strategically located in five Syrian governorates: Lattakia, Tartous, Homs, Al-Hasakeh and Rural Damascus, with an aggregate storage capacity of approximately 103,000 metric tons or 1.6 million food rations. Of these seven warehouses, five incorporate packaging facilities managed by contracted service providers.

Food commodities are then packed before being dispatched to partners’ warehouses. The Syrian operation is the only WFP operation where WFP directly outsources the packaging rather than purchasing pre-packed rations. Approximately 75–80 percent of food rations dispatched every month are packed at the packaging facilities inside Syria. The remaining 20–25 percent are food rations that are pre-packed in Turkey and Jordan for the cross-border operation. The in-country packaging facilities have created job opportunities for more than 1,500 people.
Air Deliveries
When land access to hard-to-reach and besieged areas has been hindered, WFP may choose to carry out air deliveries as a last resort, when operationally and logistically feasible, in order to reach people in urgent need with life-saving food assistance.

Airdrop Operation in Deir Ezzor City
In April 2016, WFP launched an emergency high altitude airdrop operation to reach people in need in the besieged parts of Deir Ezzor city in eastern Syria, which had been inaccessible via land since March 2014 due to the volatile security situation in the governorate. In collaboration with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, WFP has airdropped food assistance for all 110,000 people in Deir Ezzor as well as supplies on behalf of other humanitarian actors across over 135 airdrop rotations conducted as of mid-October.

Airlifts to Al Hasakeh Governorate
Due to the inability to deliver assistance to Al Hasakeh governorate via land, WFP initiated an airlift operation to Qamishly city from Damascus airport in July 2016 in order to deliver urgently needed humanitarian assistance. The operation is being managed by the WFP-led logistics cluster; as of mid-October, over 115 airlifts have delivered WFP food assistance as well as nutrition supplies, hygiene kits, NFI's, education kits, etc. on behalf of other humanitarian actors.

Logistics Execution Support System (LESS)
In April 2016, WFP Syria implemented Logistics Execution Support System (LESS), a corporate system that enables real-time tracking of WFP food commodities as they move along the supply chain, from the point of receipt up to the final delivery for distribution. Being one of WFP's largest operations, delivering over 800,000 food rations a month, the Syria operation required the development of a unique LESS module that would take into account the operational needs for both rations packed inside Syria and those procured directly form cross border suppliers. The new module ensures full traceability of individual food items in each ration delivered.