

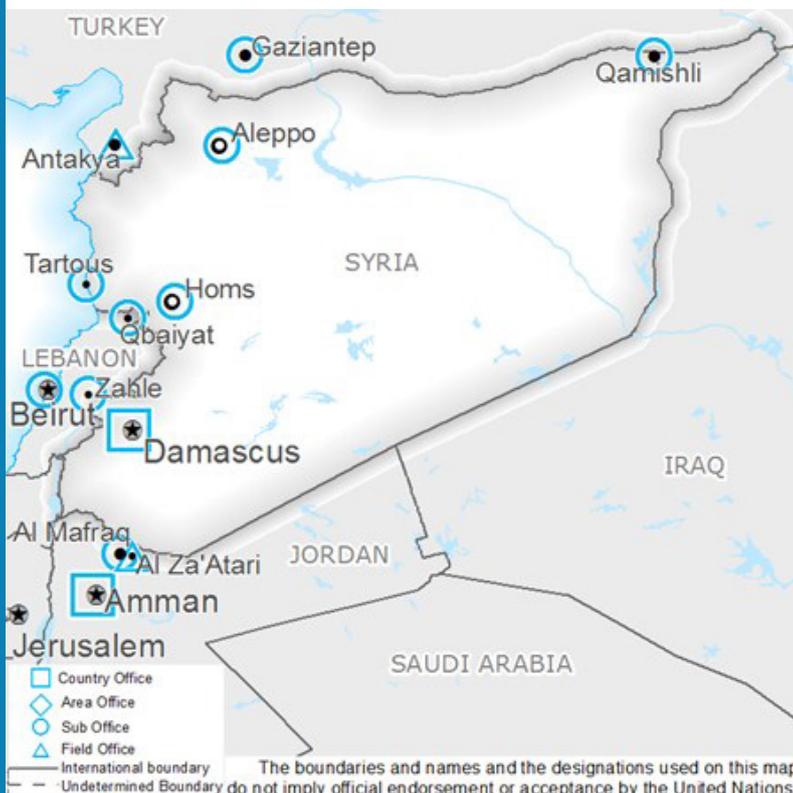
COUNTRY: SYRIA

Emergency Food Assistance to the People Affected by Unrest in Syria



HIGHLIGHTS

- In June, WFP delivered food to more than 4,1 million civilians
- Food for 800.000 civilians reached high conflict areas through cross line and cross border deliveries
- Cross-border food deliveries have increased four-fold over the first half of 2015
- Access breakthrough allowed WFP to reach 10,000 people in northern Ar-Raqqa for the first time in over eight months
- Fuel scarcity in Idleb and Aleppo governorates worsened the humanitarian situation



Syria

In numbers

7.6 million people internally displaced
12.2 million people require humanitarian assistance
9.8 million people require food assistance

Funding Update:
WFP urgently needs US\$ 194 million to avert a complete pipeline break in October 2015



World Food Programme

Situation Update

During the first half of 2015, the humanitarian situation in Syria has been rapidly deteriorating, as fighting continues unabated forcing thousands of people to leave everything behind and seek refuge in relatively safe areas of the country. Over four years of conflict has disrupted livelihoods, depleted assets and shrunk the population's resilience. Amidst a mounting economic crisis, rising food prices and limited income opportunities, a growing number of vulnerable families are unable to meet their basic food needs. Tensions are also reportedly growing between IDPs and resident communities as scarce resources become increasingly inadequate to meet an increasing demand in areas hosting a large number of displaced families.

Northern governorates

The northern provinces of Idlib and Aleppo witnessed high levels of fighting during the reporting period. In Idlib governorate alone, over 150,000 people were displaced since fighting escalated in mid-March and non-state armed actors progressively took over key government cities in the governorate. Most of the affected families, including IDPs who had previously relocated in once safe urban centers, sought refuge in rural areas of the same governorate, while some fled to nearby areas of the neighboring governorates of Latakia and Hama. Similarly, in Aleppo, some 28,000 people were displaced within the governorate in June, including 12,000 people who fled their homes as ISIL fighters launched an attack on several towns in the northern Al-Mara' district, as well as 15,000 people who fled insecurity in rural areas surrounding Aleppo city. Compounding insecurity and displacement, widespread fuel shortages were reported in the rural areas of Idlib and Aleppo since mid-June, as radical armed groups imposed a fuel blockade hampering supplies to reach the area. Many health facilities and bakeries were forced to suspend their activities as a result, as they rely on generators to function. Moreover, higher transport costs drove a three-fold price increase to already inflated food prices compared to May, creating serious humanitarian concerns over the situation of the vulnerable population. At the end of the month, fuel prices dropped again slightly after the Turkish government lifted the ban on fuel exports to Syria for humanitarian purposes, which enabled humanitarian partners to resume operations in the area.

Northeastern and Central governorates

Elsewhere in the country, ISIL attempted to expand their control in the northeastern areas of the country, which fueled large waves of displacement in Al-Hasakeh and Homs governorates and further restricted humanitarian access. In Al-Hasakeh, up to 120,000 people fled their homes as ISIL fighters infiltrated the southern neighborhoods of Al-Hasakeh city, escaping towards

safer neighborhoods of the city as well as to northern districts of the governorate. Population movements was also recorded in Ar-Raqqa, as fierce fighting between Kurdish forces and ISIL over the control of the border town of Tal Abyad forced thousands of families to temporarily flee into Turkey. Most of the affected families returned to their homes when Kurdish forces secured control of the area. However, concerns are growing over the safety of Kurdish communities in Ar-Raqqa as some 10,000 families of Kurdish origin were reportedly forced to leave the ISIL controlled governorate of which the majority headed towards Kobane and Tal Abyad. In the central governorate of Homs, ISIL took over Palmyra city at the end of May, resulting in the displacement of 10,000 people. Most of the people fled westwards towards safer rural areas of Homs governorate, while 5,000 people reportedly escaped to Ar-Raqqa.

Southern governorates

Deteriorating humanitarian conditions were also reported in the southern governorate of Dar'a, as non-state armed groups launched a series of attacks on strategic areas, including on Dar'a city. Over 30,000 people reportedly fled towards safer villages in rural areas of the governorate as well as to nearby fields along the Jordanian border. In the worst affected neighborhoods of Dar'a city, where heavy fighting is ongoing, population movement was heavily restricted by continuous shelling, hence, only a limited number of people managed to flee towards the area of Izra'a, in the northern part of the governorate. WFP Partner operations were severely restricted, as fighting makes it too risky to carry out regular food distributions inside the city. Unfortunately, a SARC volunteer, a 28 year old female, was killed by a mortar shell.

WFP Response

Overall Achievements

Amidst growing humanitarian needs, WFP continues to target 4.25 million conflict-affected people in Syria, through a combination of general food assistance and specialized nutrition support for children between 6-59 months living in shelters and hosting communities. In June, WFP delivered to partners sufficient food supplies to assist over 4.1 million people, achieving 97 percent of its monthly plan. In areas where bread shortages have been reported, or where milling and baking capacity has been reduced by widespread infrastructural damage, wheat flour was included in the rations, either provided directly to the families or channeled to bakeries to produce bread which is then distributed to the eligible beneficiaries.

As part of the school feeding programme, WFP provided 164,000 children in Aleppo, Rural Damascus, Damascus, Tartous, Homs and Hama governorates with fortified school

snacks. Starting in July, the programme will provide support to children at summer school clubs who are benefitting from remedial classes to make up for the challenges they faced during the year.

Under the nutrition support programme for pregnant and lactating women, 4,700 women in Lattakia and Homs received food vouchers in June, which enabled them to purchase locally produced fresh products to diversify their daily diet. Assessments and training as well as identification of suitable partners and retailers have been taking place to further expand the scale and coverage of the programme in the following months.

Assistance to hard-to-reach areas

WFP also keeps reaching people in areas that are hard to reach due to various degrees of access constraints through a combination of cross-line and cross-border missions. The percentage of assistance reaching civilians in hard-to-reach areas in Syria has progressively increased since the beginning of 2015, reaching 2.6 million people.

This achievement was mainly a result of a significant scale-up of cross-border deliveries from Jordan and Turkey, which in June reached over 600,000 people, a four-fold increase when compared to the 147,000 people reached through this modality in January. Accounting for this increase was a significant scale up in the assistance delivered to Idlib governorate, as the governorate is no longer reachable through in-country deliveries whereas WFP needs to respond to the needs of the population through only cross-border deliveries from Turkey. Also in Idlib governorate, WFP has been channeling wheat flour to bakeries to produce bread, improving the access to subsidized bread for over 200,000 people in the governorate.

Moreover in June, a series of five inter-agency convoys enabled WFP to reach 190,000 people beyond the lines of active conflict in Talbiseh (rural Homs), Kafr Hamra and Maaret Artiq (western Rural Aleppo) as well as the eastern parts of Aleppo city.

Between 9 and 30 June, three cross-line inter-agency missions enabled WFP to deliver life-saving food supplies to over 81,000 conflict affected civilians in Talbisheh, rural Homs. This was the first WFP delivery to the area since February 2015, when a limited number of food rations for just 5,000 people was able to reach the area. An additional 60,000 civilians received food assistance in Kafr Hamra and Maaret Artiq, in western rural Aleppo, for the first time since November 2014. Elsewhere in the governorate, an unaccompanied convoy of 42 trucks crossed the lines of conflict into the opposition-held eastern parts of Aleppo city, safely delivering food rations

for 50,000 people along with other humanitarian supplies. Although the eastern neighborhoods of Aleppo city are consistently supported by WFP through cross-border deliveries, additional supplies through cross-line deliveries are sent to the area because of the high needs of the population. WFP is closely following up on the implementation of the distributions, to ensure that the necessary coordination is in place among partners and with local councils to identify gaps and avoid overlap in the provision of assistance.

WFP also managed to make a break-through delivery to northern Ar-Raqqa for the first time in eight months, after Kurdish forces liberated Tal Abyad from ISIL control in mid-June. Following the liberation, WFP immediately started coordinating efforts with local partners to address the urgent food needs of the people. Access negotiations were further intensified during WFP Country Director's visit to Al Hasakeh in mid-June, as part of an inter-agency mission led by the UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator. On 2 July, a convoy took off from Qamishly and safely offloaded 2,000 food rations in Tal Abyad, providing support for 10,000 people. In view of limited means to safely access these areas, WFP contracted third-party monitors who accompanied the convoy to verify distributions. Initial reports indicated significant needs beyond the food rations provided. Accordingly, WFP is arranging to provide additional supplies to the area, as well as to extend deliveries further along the Kurdish liberated areas to reach the town of Kobane.

WFP's Rapid Response to Escalating Needs

WFP's flexible operational approach enables WFP to rapidly re-allocate food rations to respond to the escalating needs on the ground. Food supplies unable to reach their intended destinations because of security constraints are reprioritized to areas witnessing sudden surges in humanitarian needs, or redirected to areas where needs exceed the planned allocation.

Ariha and Palmyra displacements

Following the capture by armed groups of Ariha, in Idlib, thousands of residents and IDPs living in the town crossed into neighboring Hama governorate, seeking refuge mainly in northwestern rural areas. WFP reallocated 7,000 food rations to partners operating in this area, enabling them to assist up to 35,000 newly displaced people. Similarly in rural Homs, the towns of Qaryatin and Farqalas registered thousands of new arrivals from Palmyra, following its take-over by ISIL fighters at the end of May. Supplies that could no longer reach Palmyra were redirected to rural Homs, where partners were able to promptly register and assist approximately 13,000 newly displaced individuals.

Al-Hasakeh displacements

Following the large population movements resulting from ISIL attacks on AL-Hasakeh city, WFP partners started to register and provide assistance to the newly displaced families. Over 65,000 people were registered in the northern districts of the governorate, mainly in Qamishly, Ras Al-Ein, Amouda and Derbasiya, as well as in northern suburbs of AL-Hasakeh city. Of those, approximately 53,000 had already received WFP assistance by the beginning of July. In addition, though a joint project with UNDP, WFP is supporting a local partner in Qamishly to provide daily cooked meals for 100 families who are living in shelters and who don't have access to cooking facilities. When the clashes started, WFP available stocks in the governorate were sufficient for 140,000 people, and they are being distributed to newly displaced families as well as to existing displaced families and food-insecure hosting communities. Stocks will be replenished with additional supplies shipped through the Nusaybeen corridor, currently awaiting the green light to proceed from the relevant authorities.

Dar'a displacements

In the southern governorate of Dar'a, WFP has been unable to ship additional supplies from Jordan since 23 June, as Al-Ramtha border remained closed due to widespread insecurity in the proximity of the crossing point. Given the deteriorating conditions in the governorate, WFP had previously prepositioned a contingency stock of 5,000 food rations, sufficient to assist 25,000 people for one month. At the end of June, approximately 10,000 families were displaced by the recent outbreak of fighting in Dar'a city and they were assisted in farms south of Dar'a al-Balad by drawing from these stocks. WFP continued to coordinate with other humanitarian partners and with relevant Jordanian authorities to find possible alternative routes to deliver humanitarian assistance to southern Syria, should Al-Ramtha remain closed.

Monitoring

To ensure that WFP's food assistance reaches the people most in need, WFP has progressively strengthened its monitoring capacity and coverage in the country. WFP was able to do this by contracting an additional third party monitoring company in May which monitors the cross-border assistance from Turkey in high-conflict areas in northern Syria. June therefore saw a considerable increase in the number of monitoring visits in rural Aleppo, rural Hama and Idleb due to the addition of the new company. The total number of visits carried out during the month of June totaled to 282 visits and increase by 62 percent when compared to the month of May. WFP increased its monitoring visits by 31 percent for the same period.

Assessments

In order to understand the food security situation in Syria, WFP has been conducting two different assessments in cooperation with FAO as well as Syrian ministries for the first time in two years.

Preliminary indications of the crop and food security assessment mission suggest a higher wheat crop production due to favourable rainfall in comparison to last year. In parallel, a comprehensive household food security assessment is currently on going by interviewing 19,000 households in order to give WFP an update on the food security situation at the household level. The findings of both assessments will be produced in two different reports at the end of the summer.

Partnerships

In 2015, WFP emergency response is implemented through 38 cooperating partners who distribute WFP assistance through in-country deliveries as well through cross-border deliveries from Jordan and Turkey under the framework of UNSCR 2165. This compares against 26 partners that operated the distribution of WFP assistance during the last quarter of 2013.

In June, a performance review workshop for cooperating partners in Tartous, Latakia, Hama and Homs was conducted to carry out a joint evaluation of both WFP and the cooperating partners' performance to date. The exercise will serve as a basis to determine the necessary steps to enhance the cooperation and evaluate future performance for the rest of the year.

Logistics Cluster

Through the logistics cluster, WFP continued to provide transport and storage services to the humanitarian community operating in Syria. In June, a total of 468 m3 quantities were transported and stored in 2 warehouses on behalf of 3 organizations.

The Logistics Cluster is currently on stand-by with emergency airlifts to the besieged part of Deir-ez-Zor city, where almost 230,000 people are trapped and have not received humanitarian assistance in over a year. WFP plans to deliver initial supplies for 115,000 people, along with other critical humanitarian assistance. Following the approval for the airlift from the Syrian authorities at the beginning June, flight rotations were put on hold as heavy fighting was taking place around the airport. WFP remains on standby to launch the emergency airlifts as soon as the security conditions permit.

Resourcing Update

To continue the life-saving assistance that WFP is providing to the 4,25 million Syrian civilians in need, WFP needs additional funding to avoid cutting back its assistance.

In 2015, WFP received only 27 percent of its yearly requirements. By cutting the food basket by an average of 20 percent each month, WFP was nonetheless able to ensure a minimum caloric transfer of 1,240 Kcal person/day to an average of 3,9 million people since the beginning of 2015. However, WFP requires urgent funding to maintain its current response and address new needs as they arise in the coming months. The requirements for the July-December period amount to US\$ 353 million, of which US\$ 194 million remains unfunded (55 percent). In order to avoid a critical pipeline break starting in October, additional funds are urgently needed given the 2-month procurement lead time to have commodities in country for distribution. If not secured on time, WFP is forced to suspend the provision of critical life- saving assistance to 4.25 million people in Syria.

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WFP Operation in Syria							
	Project Duration	Planned number of people	Total requirements (in US\$)	Total received (in US\$)	6 month Shortfall (%)	People Assisted	
						Planned (June)	Reached (June)
EMOP 200339 : Emergency Food Assistance to the People Affected by Unrest in Syria	Oct '11 Dec '15	4.25 million	353 million	159 million	55%	4.25 million	4.1 million

Country: [Syria](#)

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