



# WFP Syria

## Situation Report #9

September 2016

### In Numbers

**13.5** million people affected

**6.1** million people internally displaced

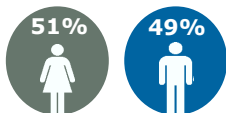
**9.4** million people in need of food assistance

### Highlights

- WFP delivers food assistance for 4.15 million people across Syria. 29 percent of the assistance was delivered to people living in high conflict areas
- An attack on a joint UN/ICRC/SARC humanitarian convoy in rural Aleppo governorate resulted in casualties among aid workers
- The humanitarian situation is severely deteriorating in eastern Aleppo city

### People assisted

4.15 million, September



GENDER MARKER **1** EMOP 200339

### Humanitarian Response Plan

**Overall:**  
**USD 3.19 billion**  
**WFP share:**  
**USD 660 million**

### WFP 6-month Net Funding Requirements (Okt. 2016 –Mar. 2017)

EMOP 200339/  
PRRO 200988\* **USD 149.9 million**

Logistics and ETC  
Cluster **USD 5 million**

Airdrop deliveries  
to Deir Ezzor\*\* **USD 0 million**

\* The new PRRO will be launched in January 2017  
\*\* A budget revision is currently being prepared to expand the operation until December 2016. New requirements will be communicated accordingly.

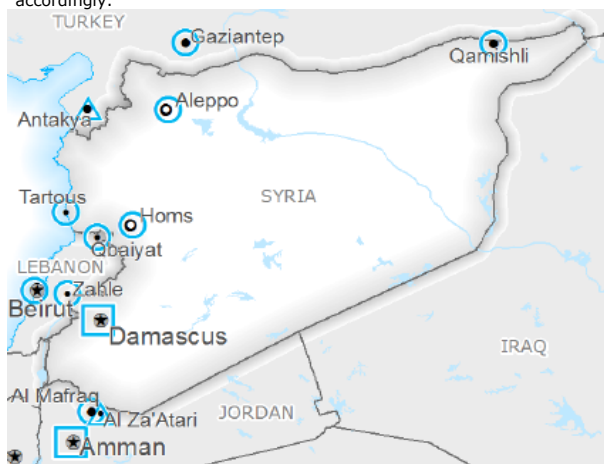


Photo: Beehives awaiting collection in Rural Damascus governorate  
WFP/Hussam al Saleh

### Situation Update

- A US-Russian brokered nation-wide cessation of hostilities (CoH) came into effect on 12 September. The CoH was supposed to set off a seven-day period to allow humanitarian aid into eastern Aleppo city (EAC) as well as to other hard-to-reach and besieged areas across the country. As WFP stood ready at the Turkish border with trucks to deliver life-saving humanitarian assistance into EAC and other priority areas across the country, a lack of agreement between the parties to the conflict and increased levels of violence resulted in the collapse of the CoH towards the end of the month. Since then, unprecedented levels of violence have struck Aleppo Governorate while hostilities are also ongoing in other parts of the country, leading to thousands of newly displaced civilians.

### Eastern Aleppo City

- Continuous shelling and heavy fighting is destroying vital civilian infrastructure in Aleppo and especially in EAC. At the same time, the complete cut-off of all humanitarian access routes since 7 July is leading to extreme shortages of food, water, medicines and other humanitarian supplies among the 275,000 civilians left within the eastern parts of the city.
- Market functionality is poor and people are often unable to access the last remaining markets due to the unprecedented level of violence. Furthermore, WFP market price monitoring data for September and early October indicates that most of the food commodities are either unavailable or only available in limited quantities for inflated prices at the black market, rendering them unaffordable for poor and vulnerable households. A standard food basket (group of essential food commodities) inside EAC currently costs SYP 50,925 on average (equivalent to USD 99), almost 55 percent higher compared to western Aleppo city, and 71 higher compared to Damascus. Consequently, getting enough

food becomes a daily challenge for the majority of the civilians, leading to extreme food shortages amongst the population.

- WFP food stocks that had been prepositioned in EAC before access was cut off are running extremely low. At this point, some 10,000 complete and 3,000 incomplete food rations are stored inside EAC, insufficient to meet the growing needs of the trapped population. Furthermore, constant bombardment is making it difficult for cooperating partners to carry out distributions.
- In order to provide assistance to the most vulnerable civilians, cooperating partners have developed a new distribution plan that splits the rations and distribute half a ration per family, enabling WFP to provide assistance to 115,000 people. Households headed by women or elderly people, families with disabled members as well as pregnant and/or lactating women will be prioritized.
- Furthermore, in anticipation of possible access improvements, WFP maintains a high level of preparedness and can dispatch food to EAC within approximately 48 hours through the cross border operation from Turkey or through a cross-line operation from western Aleppo city should safe passage materialize.

### **Big Orem, Aleppo Governorate**

- A joint UN/ICRC/SARC humanitarian convoy carrying life-saving food assistance for 78,000 people, including WFP wheat flour, in Big Orem in western rural Aleppo governorate was attacked on 19 September as trucks were offloading supplies at the warehouse. The attack killed 20 civilians, including truck drivers and local humanitarian aid workers. The UN mission had, as per normal procedures, coordinated with concerned parties and obtained formal approval from all relevant authorities prior to the convoy movement.
- The UN humanitarian agencies share an outrage over this attack. There can be no excuse for this disregard of the lives of humanitarian aid workers as the attack violated all basic principles of law and humanity. WFP mourns the senseless loss of lives of courageous aid workers and truck drivers carrying humanitarian supplies to those most in need.

### **Northern Hama Governorate**

- Heavy clashes between government forces and armed opposition groups in northern rural Hama in late August resulted in the displacement of thousands of families. It is estimated that up to 100,000 people fled the worst affected villages, including Helfaya, Suran and Taybet Al-Imam, seeking refuge in Hama city and surrounding rural areas. WFP, in coordination with other humanitarian partners, provided urgent food assistance for 15,000 newly displaced people through an inter-agency convoy, while other

partners are assisting the remaining families. In addition, about 1,000 people arrived in Tartous city where they are being assisted by WFP partners

### **South-western Dar'a Governorate**

- In the southern governorate of Dar'a, the security situation further worsened following clashes between government forces and armed opposition groups during the first half of September. As a result, thousands of people were displaced from the south-western villages of Abtaa and Dael and were forced to seek refuge in villages westwards. In response, WFP and its partners delivered ready-to-eat parcels to 5,000 newly displaced people through its cross-border operation from Jordan.

### **WFP Response**

- WFP delivered food assistance for 4.15 million people in 13 of the 14 Syrian governorates in September, achieving 104 percent of the monthly plan. Approximately 29 percent was delivered to high conflict areas across the country, including hard-to-reach and besieged areas, through a variety of delivery modalities. This includes the delivery of food assistance for 885,000 people through the cross-border modality from Jordan and Turkey, providing assistance for people living in opposition held areas in Idleb, Aleppo, Hama and Dar'a governorates.
- Furthermore, through four inter-agency convoys, WFP provided food assistance for 249,000 people in hard-to-reach and besieged areas across the country. This includes the delivery of life-saving food assistance for 40,000 people in Madaya and Zabadani and for 20,000 people in Foah and Kefraya for the first time since the end of April.
- For the second consecutive month, WFP reached fewer people through inter-agency convoys compared to June and July. WFP provided assistance for 438,500 (cumulative) people in hard-to-reach and besieged areas through nine inter-agency convoys in August and September, almost a 50 percent decrease compared to the months of June and July when WFP was able to provide assistance for almost 800,000 (cumulative) people through 24 inter-agency convoys.



### **Food and Nutrition Assistance**

- Under its Nutrition Specific Programmes, WFP provided nutrition products to almost 85,000 children aged 6-59 months for the prevention of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies through in-country, cross-border and cross-line deliveries. Furthermore, WFP dispatched nutrition products for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition in almost 1,500 children through in-country and cross-line deliveries, sufficient for a period of three months. Due to delays in receiving

the nutrition commodities during the first half of the month, dispatches for September decreased significantly compared to August, as WFP reached only 35 percent of the planned children compared to 82 percent in August.

- Through Cash-Based-Transfers (CBT) worth USD 32/voucher, WFP enabled 11,262 pregnant and nursing mothers to purchase locally produced fresh products in selected retailers in Homs and Lattakia governorates. As part of its efforts to expand this nutrition programme to reach 20,000 women by the end of the year, WFP issued an Expression of Interest (EoI) with an objective to identify potential retailers in Tartous and As-Sweida governorates for the implementation of the nutrition programme.
- In conjunction with the start of the new academic school year in September, the Fortified School Snacks Programme resumed with the dispatch of fortified date bars for 51,000 children in Damascus and Rural Damascus governorates. During the new academic year, WFP will target 500,000 elementary school children in 800 schools across nine governorates. In order to further enhance the programme, WFP will introduce milk to complement the date bars tentatively starting in the last quarter of 2016.
- Livelihood and resilience projects, that currently support more than 18,000 people across the country, continued during the reporting period, providing agricultural inputs, capacity building sessions and trainings to the targeted beneficiaries. WFP currently implements four different projects across the country, including a Beekeeping project to enhance the beekeeping value chain in Rural Damascus, Homs, Hama, Tartous and Lattakia governorates. This project, launched in August, aims to re-establish a long term community-managed profitable self-sustaining beekeeping industry in the country in order to support the local economy and build resilience. Furthermore, during the reporting period, WFP launched a Rehabilitation of Bakeries project in Homs city, which will contribute to bread production that can reach up to 45,000 people across different neighbourhoods in the city.



### Supply Chain

- High-altitude airdrops to the besieged government-held parts of Deir Ezzor city started on 10 April and continued during the reporting period, completing 20 airdrop rotations in September. Sufficient quantities have been airdropped to provide two full monthly food rations to all 110,000 people and ongoing airdrops are used to deliver assistance for a third round of distributions.
- Emergency airlifts to Qamishly are conducted by the WFP-led Logistics Cluster and currently provide food assistance for up to 175,000 people in urban and rural areas in Al-Hasakeh governorate. Airlifts

were suspended between 5 and 25 September as the aircraft underwent maintenance outside the country. Consequently, only 14 airlifts were conducted in September, compared to 47 airlifts in August. However, this did not affect the ongoing distribution of food assistance to the targeted beneficiaries, as WFP had enough food assistance inside the governorate to provide assistance to the targeted beneficiaries during the reporting period.

## Clusters and Common Services



### Food Security Cluster

- The Food Security and Agriculture Sector, together with its partners, worked on harmonising the inputs for the 2017 Humanitarian Needs Overview and Humanitarian Response Plan. In light of this, the Technical Working Group of the Sector, consisting of food security experts from WFP, FAO, international and national NGOs, determined the number of people in need (PiN), severity ranking and key needs for both reports in order for the planning of the overall response in 2017.
- Furthermore, in light of the severe deterioration of the humanitarian situation inside EAC, the Sector established a preparedness plan in order to reach 275,000 people with food assistance from both UN and NGOs should safe access materialize. Rapid assessment tools from the sector were also provided to partners in order to conduct assessments inside EAC.



### Logistics Cluster

- The WFP-led Logistics Cluster continued to provide coordination services, information management and logistic support to the humanitarian community operating within Syria. In September, the Logistics Cluster facilitated nine inter-agency humanitarian convoys to several locations, including hard-to-reach and besieged areas, in Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Idleb and Rural Damascus governorates, transporting over 5,100 m<sup>3</sup> of WASH, nutrition, education, protection, food, shelter and health supplies. In addition, the Logistics Cluster stored over 675 m<sup>3</sup> of humanitarian supplies in its common storage facilities in Homs and Rural Damascus on behalf of four humanitarian actors.
- In addition, since the beginning of the emergency airlift operation, the Cluster transported 6,547 m<sup>3</sup> of much needed food, WASH and shelter supplies on behalf of UN agencies and international NGOs (see Logistics section for details) to Qamishly in Al-Hasakeh governorate. The Cluster also facilitated the delivery of around 94 m<sup>3</sup> of inter-agency cargo, including medical kits, NFIs, High Energy Biscuits, tomato paste and ghee for various humanitarian agencies to Deir Ezzor city through WFPs airdrop operation to date.

## Resourcing Section

- Starting in January 2017, WFP will change its project type from an emergency operation (EMOP) to a protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO). The PRRO will provide assistance for 5.74 million people. The focus remains on meeting the basic food needs of the most food-insecure through the provision of emergency food assistance, while introducing a framework that allows WFP to seize opportunities to reduce humanitarian needs through the provision of livelihood and resilience activities, while acknowledging the extremely volatile security situation that prevails in the country.
- WFP is grateful to the donors who already made contributions to the new PRRO. However, a shortfall of USD 149.9 million for the January – March 2017 period still exists, of which USD 79 million is urgently needed to cover the requirements until the end of February. If not received on time, WFP will be forced to apply difficult measures, such as ration cuts or reduced beneficiary numbers.

- Furthermore, the Logistics and ETC cluster requires an additional USD 13 million to cover its operational requirements in 2017, of which USD 5 million is needed by the end of March.

## Contacts

- WFP Syria Representative and Country Director: Jakob Kern
- Reports Officer Syria: Rikke Kasse  
Rikke.Kasse@wfp.org
- Food Security Cluster: Samantha Chattaraj  
Samantha.Chattaraj@wfp.org
- Logistics Cluster: Alessandra Piccolo  
Alessandra.Piccolo@wfp.org

| WFP Operation                                  |                                |                            |   |                                  |           |           |
|--|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
|  | Total Requirements<br>(in USD) | Total Received<br>(in USD) | 3 Months Net Funding Requirements<br>(in USD) | People Assisted<br>(August 2016) | Female    | Male      |
| <b>EMOP200339 TOTAL</b><br>(Nov 2011-Dec 2016) | 2 844 million                  | 1 758 million              | 0 million                                     | 4 149 208                        | 2 116 096 | 2 033 112 |
| General Food Distribution                      |                                |                            |   | 4 149 208                        | 2 116 096 | 2 033 112 |
| Cash Based Transfer for PLW                    |                                |                            |   | 11 262                           | 11 262    | 0         |
| Fortified School Snacks Programme              |                                |                            |   | 51 500                           | 26 265    | 25 235    |
| Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme        |                                |                            |   | 94 695                           | 48 294    | 46 401    |
| Targeted Treatment Programme                   |                                |                            |   | 1 457                            | 743       | 714       |