



Photo: WFP/AlI HABIB

# WFP Syria Country Office

## Quarterly Monitoring Report

*This report is based on the 2016 fourth quarter Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) analysis and process monitoring findings.*

Produced by the WFP Syria M&E Unit.

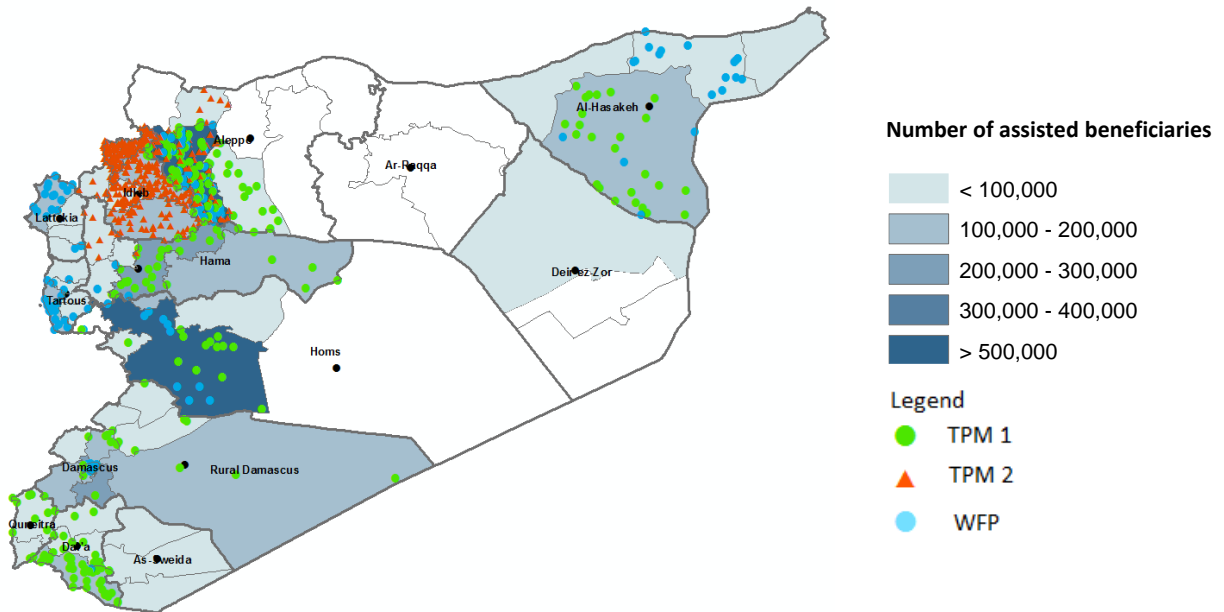
# Quarter Four Highlights

During the reporting period, WFP monitors and project facilitators from TPM companies conducted 1,861 visits for General Food Distributions, Nutrition support, Fortified School Snacks Programme, and Cash-based Transfer support for Pregnant and Lactating Women (39 percent increase from Q3), 493 unique visits. In addition, beneficiary data was captured through mobile VAM<sup>1</sup>.

## Coverage of WFP Food Assistance and Monitoring

WFP and partners distributed 131,894mt of food assistance to a maximum of 4.26 million beneficiaries, of which 5 percent were assisted through cross-border deliveries from Jordan (201,390 beneficiaries) and 16 percent through cross-border Turkey (701,050 beneficiaries). The number of assisted beneficiaries increased by 4 percent from the third quarter, due to increased allocations for partners.<sup>n</sup>

Map 1: WFP Syria - Distribution and Monitoring Coverage in Q4 2016



## GFA - Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM)

### Methodology

The majority of General Food Assistance (GFA) Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) interviews are conducted face-to-face at the distribution level, given the imposed security restrictions. However, household level interviews are carried out where and when the situation allows. To further strengthen the outcome analysis, data collected through PDM was complemented with data collected amongst WFP beneficiaries through mobile VAM (422 surveys).

<sup>1</sup> Mobile Vulnerability Analysis Mapping provides real-time food security data and analysis on the population level.

<sup>2</sup> Food distributions were conducted by 10 international NGOs, Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) and 22 local NGOs.

# GFA Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM)

## Methodology – continued

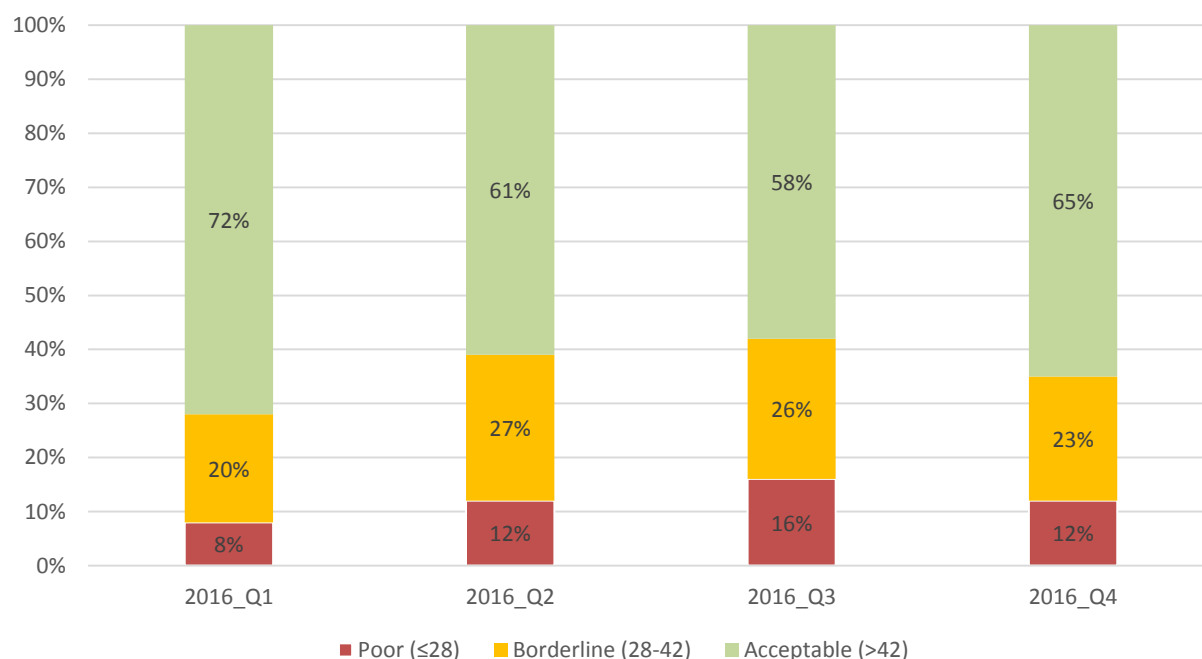
During the fourth quarter, 1,453 PDMs were conducted in the whole of Syria, through third party monitoring, WFP monitoring and mobile VAM. 24 percent of all interviews were conducted with female interviewees, of whom 11 percent headed their households. This means that the gender disaggregation is indicative but sufficient interviews were not collected to consider these findings significantly representative.

## Food Consumption Score (FCS) <sup>3</sup>

### Whole of Syria

Post-distribution monitoring results showed a slight improvement in the acceptable FCS (by 7 percentage points) of beneficiary households as reflected in the below graph. This may have been a result of a decrease in the number of interviews conducted in parts of Aleppo. As reflected in the map, post-distribution monitoring have been regularly conducted in the cross-border north area, which have been taken into account in the weight of the observed food consumption patterns.

Figure 1: FCS comparisons for the whole of Syria

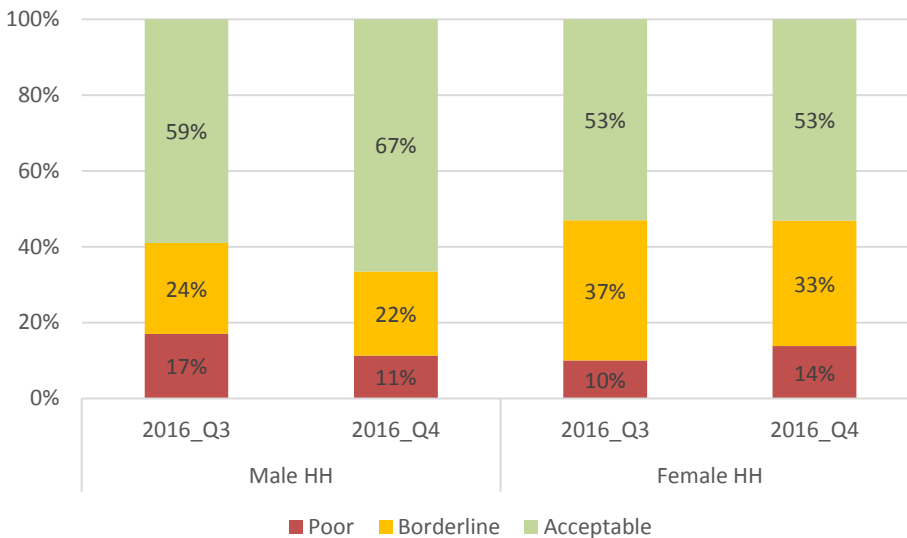


<sup>3</sup>FCS for Syria is reported based on an adjusted threshold due to high consumption of sugar and oil in the country.

# GFA Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM)

The acceptable FCS of female headed households remained the same, however, the most vulnerable families who used to be within the borderline threshold have fallen into the poor category. This may have been due to the limited income sources for female headed households, and the male youth members avoiding the compulsory enlistment into the military by remaining at home. Additional data is required to enable conclusive analysis.

Figure 2: Comparisons between the FCS of male and female headed household



## Dietary Diversity Score (DDS) <sup>4</sup>

Overall, the average dietary diversity score fell in the medium threshold throughout the year (DDS 5.9), which is a slight decrease when compared to the previous year (from DDS 6.1). Households headed by females had a DDS of 5.6 and those headed by males had a DDS of 5.9. Given that the majority of Syrians tend to have a diversified diet, the DDS had remained stable throughout the year. The dietary diversity score is the average number of food groups households consumed in a week.

## Consumption-based Coping Strategy Index (CSI) <sup>5</sup>

The consumption-based coping strategies continued to be adopted (CSI 11.7), but more by female headed households than those headed by males (CSI 15.2 vs. 10.9). Yet, the results remained within the project target levels, and showed a slight reduction when compared to the previous quarters.

Comparisons throughout the year continued to show an increase in applying one of the five strategies, 'restrict consumption by adults in order for small children to eat'. This strategy was used by 33 percent of female headed households in Q4, compared to 23 percent of those headed by males. It is worth mentioning that this strategy is sometimes a cultural practice, combined with lack of food sources.

<sup>4</sup>International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) thresholds for Dietary Diversity Score (DDS) are used to analyze the findings in this report: 6+ = good dietary diversity, 4.5–6 = medium dietary diversity, <4.5 = low dietary diversity.

<sup>5</sup>The minimum possible CSI value is zero, while the maximum is 56.

# GFA Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM)

Table 1: Consumption-based coping strategies applied by households in a period of one week

	None	1 day	2 days	3 days	4 days	5 days	6 days	All week
Rely on less preferred and less expensive food	14%	10%	36%	20%	7%	2%	1%	10%
Borrow food or relied on help from relatives or friends	59%	20%	13%	4%	1%	0%	0%	3%
Reduce number of meals eaten in a day	65%	14%	9%	3%	0%	0%	1%	8%
Limit portion size at meals	67%	12%	7%	5%	3%	0%	0%	6%
Restrict consumption by adults in order for small children to eat	76%	10%	6%	3%	1%	0%	0%	4%

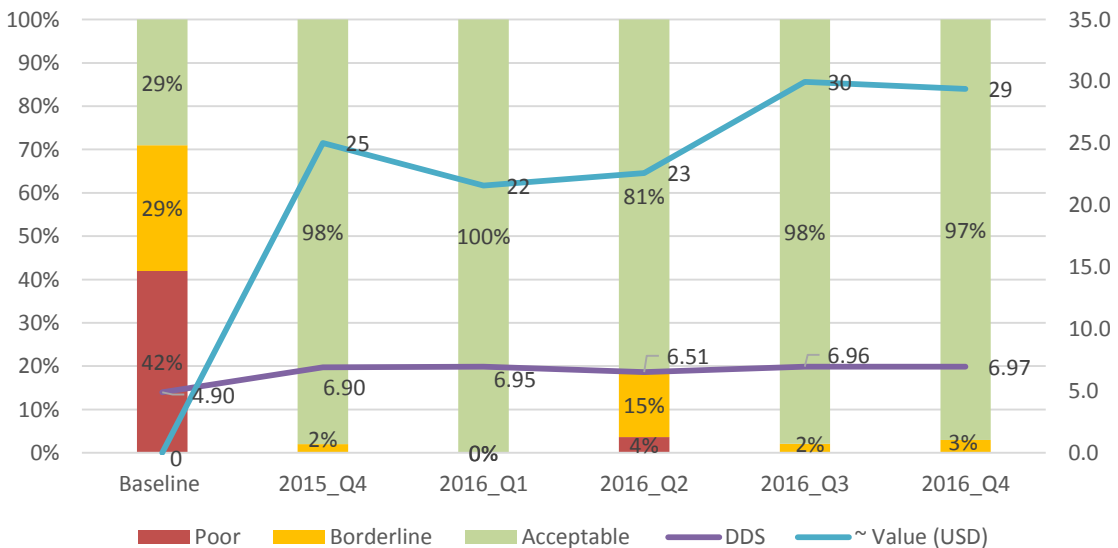
## Voucher Based Nutrition Support to Pregnant and Lactating Women

### Food Consumption Score (FCS) and Dietary Diversity Score (DDS)

During Q4, the number of PLW interviews remained stable when compared to Q3 based on 97 surveys. The monitoring targets were not met due to the continued security concerns in Homs and lack of available armored vehicles. Hence, the outcome results were indicative rather than representative on the PLW beneficiary level.

The Dietary Diversity Score (DDS) continued to be stable at 6.97, where 97 percent of interviewed women have ‘good’ dietary diversity. Similarly, the FCS remained the same. Furthermore, significant improvements can be tracked in the below graph when making comparisons overtime.

Figure 3: DDS and FCS of households with PLW members



# Voucher Based Nutrition Support to Pregnant and Lactating Women

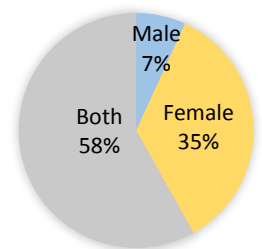
## Distribution and process monitoring

WFP assisted a max of 11,972 pregnant and lactating women in Lattakia and Homs, to support them in purchasing fresh food items from the market and complement the general food ration. Redemption of vouchers was carried out through five contracted shops in Homs and three in Lattakia. The total amount of assistance distributed was USD 1,022,928 which is a 4 percent increase from Q3. This was due to the increased registration. Furthermore, the value of the voucher was adjusted in accordance with market prices and transportation costs.

In terms of the intra-family decision dynamics, results from the PDMs indicated that in most families (58 percent) decisions over what to purchase with the voucher assistance are made together, whereas women are the main decision-makers in 35 percent of the families. Men are the main decision makers in only 7 percent of families.

No interviewed PLW beneficiaries faced any issues while redeeming their vouchers.

Figure 4: Decision making over the use of vouchers



## Prevention of Acute Malnutrition

### Distribution and Process Monitoring

Under the Prevention of Acute Malnutrition activity, a total of 942 mt of Plumpy Doz was distributed to children aged 6-59 months, equivalent to 89 percent of the operational plan. This was due to the insecure situation in Aleppo, and delayed transfer of products to Qamishli by airlifts in December.

The interviewed parents/guardians of the beneficiaries reported receiving the supplementary product in the previous month, which comes to confirm the regularity of attendance for the distribution cycles.

Only two percent of interviewed parents reported issues at the distribution points, WFP will follow-up with the Cooperating Partners to enhance their crowd control systems.

Figure 5: Status of beneficiary HHs

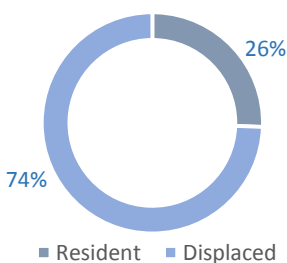


Figure 6: Percentage of beneficiaries facing issues at the distribution point

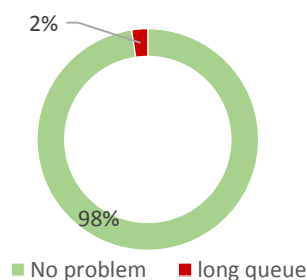
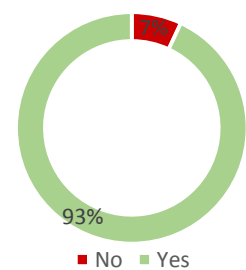


Figure 7: Perceived knowledge on how to consume the product



# School Feeding Activity

## Enrolment and Retention Rates

Enrolment rates among girls and boys are significantly higher than the set targets. Retention rates showed a slight decrease compared to the previous year, which can be attributed to the deterioration of the security conditions and consequent displacements over the second half of the year in Aleppo city, accounting for around one third of the schools assisted.

## Attendance Rates

During the fourth quarter of the year, 87 schools were monitored in Homs, Tartous, Lattakia and Aleppo governorates.

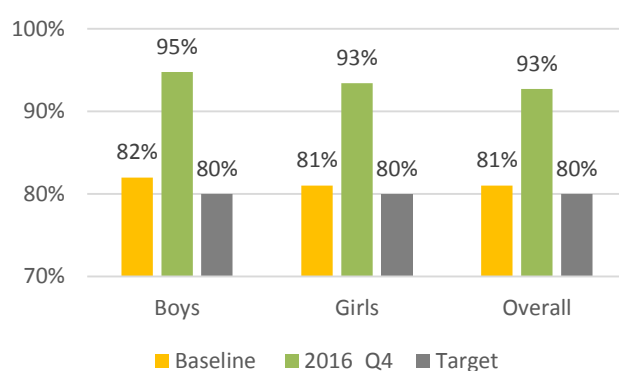
Interviews which were held with faculty, staff and school children, indicated that the fortified school snacks have continued to contribute to increased energy and concentration levels of students. In schools where WFP was able to provide milk, at the end of the year, students expressed their satisfaction with the complementation.

Quarter four results indicated continued high attendance rates. Illness followed by security concerns were the main setbacks (26 and 6 percent accordingly).

However, the persisting high levels of retention (96 percent), as well as the increase of attendance rates by 12 percent compared to pre-assistance baseline values among both girls and boys, confirm the effectiveness of the of the intervention.

**Note:** the baseline values were exceptionally high due to the boosting effect in the immediate aftermath of the launch of the ‘No Lost Generation’ campaign in 2014, along with the high retention rate and minimum drop out over that year.

Figure 8: Attendance rate in WFP-assisted primary schools



For further information please contact:  
Syria WFP Country Office

