



# WFP Syria

## North-Eastern Syria

### Emergency Situation

#### Report #5

24 October 2019



WFP food distribution in Al-Hasakeh city, 20 October 2019  
Photo © WFP/Al-Mawadah

## Situation Update

- WFP is following the situation on the ground closely following the 22 October announcement of a Russian-Turkish Memorandum of Understanding on north-eastern Syria. The situation on the ground remains tense and unpredictable, and the full humanitarian implications of the agreement are as of yet unclear.
- A vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated in Qamishli on 23 October, with some injuries but no casualties reported. WFP is monitoring the security situation to ensure the safety of its staff at the Qamishli Field Office.
- Following significant IDP return movements, the total number of internally displaced now stands at some 155,000 as of 23 October, according to OCHA.
- Significant population displacement has been reported from the city of Menbij in northern Aleppo governorate towards the towns of Jarabulus and Izaz. WFP is monitoring the reported population movement and any resulting humanitarian needs closely.

## In Numbers

**155,000** people internally displaced

**8,400** people displaced cross-border to Iraq

**286,500** people reached with WFP emergency food assistance

**580,000** people targeted for WFP general food assistance in October

## Highlights

- The situation in north-eastern Syria remains tense and unpredictable. However, significant IDP return movement has been reported to some areas, despite continuing reports of sporadic population displacement.
- Population movement across the border to Iraq is accelerating, and at least 8,400 refugees have now crossed the border since 09 October.
- WFP has so far reached 286,500 people with emergency food assistance, including 125,600 people in Al-Hasakeh and 160,900 people in Ar-Raqqa governorate.

- The strategic M4 highway connecting Aleppo and eastern Syria remains closed, and WFP and its transporters are using alternate supply routes to reach the affected areas.
- Population movement across the border from north-eastern Syria to Iraq has accelerated significantly in recent days. As of 23 October, more than 8,400 Syrian refugees have crossed the border. WFP Iraq is providing food assistance upon arrival to northern Iraq and has so far assisted some 7,300 refugees from north-eastern Syria since 09 October.

## WFP Response

- WFP continues its response to the recently displaced population and to the communities hosting IDPs and has as of 23 October assisted close to 286,400 people with food assistance across Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa governorates. This includes some 102,900 people assisted with ready-to-eat rations (RTEs) to cover food needs over the first days of displacement, as well as 183,600 people provided with general food assistance (GFA) food rations sufficient to last one month using WFP's existing GFA food distribution mechanism.

- WFP is coordinating closely with UNHCR on the provision of additional assistance to IDPs in the collective shelters in Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa governorate. WFP is preparing to distribute a second round of RTEs to IDPs without access to kitchens or cooking supplies in conjunction with distributions of non-food items by UNHCR.
- WFP continues to provide food assistance to the IDP camps in north-eastern Syria, and delivered food to the Al-Hol, Areesha, and Mahmoudli IDP camps in Al-Hasakeh governorate over 22-23 October. Distributions in the Roj IDP camp (Ar-Raqqa governorate) have now been completed.
- In Al-Hol camp (Al-Hasakeh governorate), WFP has agreed on way forward with UNHCR and camp management for the resumption of food distributions in the foreigners Annex, and distributions commenced at a slow pace on 23 October. WFP has until now been unable to distribute food in the Annex due to security concerns. WFP was last able to reach the Annex in early September with food sufficient for one month.

## WFP Preparedness

- WFP continues to liaise with the Food Security Sector to identify any food assistance gaps and stands ready to further scale up its operations in north-eastern Syria as, when, and where needed.
- WFP currently has GFA food rations sufficient for 347,900 people, and RTEs sufficient for 144,250 people either in stock or in transit to north-eastern Syria.

## Clusters and Common Services

- The WFP-led [Logistics Cluster](#) is supporting humanitarian actors with coordination, information sharing, and logistics

assessments to find common solutions to bottlenecks and constraints. Storage capacity in Al-Hasakeh governorate, as well as transport capacity and access, remain major logistics constraints.

- The Logistics Cluster is currently facilitating access to warehouse space in Qamishli, and an additional two Mobile Storage Units are also being erected to increase available storage space. The Cluster is also facilitating access to transport services from Qamishli to final distribution destinations in support of the humanitarian response.
- From 20-22 October, the Logistics Cluster facilitated the transport of 118 m<sup>3</sup>/12.5 mt of WASH items, as well as the storage of 197 m<sup>3</sup> of humanitarian cargo at the Qamishli warehouse.

### WFP Operational Information Management and Performance Reports Officer, Damascus:

Daniel Arukwe JOHANSEN ([daniel.johansen@wfp.org](mailto:daniel.johansen@wfp.org))

### WFP Country Director and Country Representative:

Corinne FLEISCHER

For more information:

- [WFP Syria](#) on WFP.org
- [Syria Logistics Cluster](#) (led by WFP)
- [Syria Food Security Sector](#) (co-led by WFP)

*The designations employed and the presentation of material in the map(s) do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of WFP concerning the legal or constitutional status of any country, territory, city or sea, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.*

© World Food Programme 2019

