

WFP SYRIA EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Situation Report 1

17 October 2024

Displaced families crossing between Lebanon and Syria on foot ©WFP/Hussam Al Saleh

Highlights

- An estimated 421,000 people have crossed into Syria since the escalation of hostilities in Lebanon started on 23 September. The number is expected to increase as hostilities worsen. The majority seek refuge within communities, where families either receive assistance from WFP because they are severely food insecure or worse have been removed from WFP's assistance due to funding constraints.
- As of 17 October, WFP has reached over 146,000 displaced Lebanese and Syrians with date bars and fresh meals at the borders, and hot meals, ready-to-eat (RTE) and regular food rations in host centres and communities.
- WFP Deputy Executive Director Carl Skau visited Syria on the 14 and 15 of October following a mission to Lebanon. He [called](#) for increased global support towards the response especially in support of communities hosting the displaced.
- WFP's emergency response is aligned to the Inter-Agency [plans](#) and requires US\$54.4 million in new funding to reach 480,000 people until the end of March 2025. WFP is currently diverting in-country food rations for this response and urgently requires new contributions to replenish this vital stock.

IN NUMBERS



146,000 people

assisted since 23 September



US\$ 54.4 million

needed to reach 480,000 people until the end of March 2025



930 MT of food distributed including date bars, ready-to-eat rations and regular food rations.



25,900 fresh and hot meals

provided

- The influx of displaced persons continues to increase. **From 23 September to 16 October, an estimated 421,000 people have crossed into Syria** of which 70 percent account for Syrian nationals whilst the remaining are Lebanese. Over 60 percent of new arrivals are under the age of 18 (as per the latest update from [UNHCR](#)).
- As the situation evolves, WFP anticipates that the most pressing needs will emerge within the host communities. Most of the people displaced by the ongoing hostilities in Lebanon are being hosted in Syria by communities that already had high levels of food insecurity. This adds further to the emergency and early recovery needs of the Syrian population and may possibly result in increased tensions to social cohesion.

WFP RESPONSE

- To date, WFP provided food assistance to over **146,000 new arrivals from Lebanon at the borders, and inside Syria (in communities and host centres)**, across Rural Damascus, Dar'a, Homs, Aleppo, Tartous, Latakia, Ar-Raqqa, Deir Ezzor and Idlib governorates.
- **At the borders:** WFP provides fortified date bars across the five main crossing points, as well as fresh meals at the Jdaidet Yabous border crossing in Rural

SITUATION UPDATE

- The security situation continues to be impacted by the ongoing regional escalation, with an uptick in air/drone strikes reported in multiple parts of Syria. Three attacks were recorded within a week in the proximity of Mezzeh highway in Damascus, with the latest occurring some 600 meters from WFP's Country Office.

Damascus. To date, **97,500 people** have been reached.

- **In host centres and communities:** WFP is distributing hot meals, ready-to-eat and regular food rations so far reaching **48,500 people** across Rural Damascus, Lattakia, Tartous, Hama, Homs, Tartous, Lattakia, Idlib, Deir Ezzor and Ar-Raqqa governorates.

Supply Chain

- **WFP has dispatched 930 mt of food** including 2,000 RTE rations, 18,900 food rations, and 137,400 date bars across Syria since 23 September.
- **WFP has a stock of approximately 260,000 food rations in-country**, covering the needs of 1.3 million people for one month. In addition, WFP has 22,714 RTE rations covering the needs of 113,500 people for five days.
- WFP is diverting these food commodities from its regular programmes and as such **requires additional funding to replenish this stock.**

ASSESSMENTS AND MONITORING

- Whilst displaced Lebanese are seeking refuge in host centres, displaced Syrians are being accommodated amongst host communities, which makes it harder to identify and assist them. To address this, WFP is conducting multiple rapid needs assessments in host communities and centres. This approach aims to expedite the identification process, ensuring that assistance reaches those in need more efficiently.
- WFP continues to monitor all food distributions at critical points of displacement. To streamline the response, two emergency monitoring tools have been developed: one to track the distribution of food rations, RTE rations, hot meals, date bars, and fresh

meals, and another to focus on collective kitchens. So far, WFP monitoring teams have completed 25 surveys at borders, collective shelters, hosted communities, and kitchens.

ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS

- The WFP call center number is prominently displayed at all major entry points, guiding displaced individuals to WFP assistance. Additionally, all WFP RTE and food ration packages include leaflets with the same information. In the coming days, WFP will expand its dissemination channels to better reach vulnerable families.

CLUSTERS AND COMMON SERVICES

Food Security Cluster

- The subnational Food Security Sector for South Syria has been active since the onset of the emergency. So far - through the sector - bread is being distributed on daily basis in Al Hurrjalleh host centre by partners. Discussions are ongoing with an additional partner to draw out plans for a three-month intervention in close coordination with WFP.

Logistics Cluster

- To support efficient planning and timely response, the Logistics Cluster provided 20,000 litres of diesel to partners to sustain the humanitarian response for arrivals from Lebanon. The cluster is coordinating with WFP Supply Chain to enhance fuel stocks in the country in anticipation of a possible lack of fuel crises due to the overwhelming needs versus available capacities.



Distribution of WFP assistance at the border between Lebanon and Syria ©WFP/Ghazwan Jabasini