

WFP News Video

Interagency convoy reaches besieged town of Madaya

Location: Syria

TRT :01:31

Date of filming: 11 January 2016

Shotlist

:00-:20

Mezzeh, outskirts of Damascus

Convoy on the road, leaving Damascus to Madaya

:20-:31

Madaya

Convoy entering Madaya (9:30PM)

:31-:49

Madaya

SOT Isam Ismail WFP Programme Officer

“We are now inside Madaya city, WFP is now contributing in the inter agency convoy to deliver food assistance to this besieged area in Damascus, WFP contributions is 7800 food rations, enough for around 40000 people in this area. “

:49-01:00

Madaya

Off-loading WFP food. Boxes include rice, wheat flour, vegetable oil, salt, sugar, canned food, beans, lentils, etc.

01:00-01:10

SOT Isam Ismail WFP Programme Officer

“The food security situation is terrible in the area, since city is besieged, food items are not available, market is not functioning and really, people need for food assistance.”

01:10-01:18

SOT Madaya resident

“People with no electricity are burning shoes and plastic bags to keep warm, people are in the street looking for food in trash.”

01:18-01:31

Madaya

Off-loading UNHCR blankets

EN

- Two UN-led interagency convoys arrived simultaneously on Monday night in the besieged towns of Madaya in rural Damascus, and Foa and Kifriyeh in rural Idlib province with food and humanitarian supplies for civilians cut off from assistance for months.
- A total of 50 trucks entered Madaya by 10 pm on Monday and WFP, Syrian Arab Red Crescent and UN staff spent the night offloading supplies. The trucks brought a total of 355 metric tons of aid to Madaya, including 250 tons of WFP food – enough to feed the estimated 40,000 people in the town for one month.
- A total of 21 trucks arrived in Foa and Kifriyeh villages besieged for the last few months by armed opposition groups. They carried 170 metric tons of aid of which 125 metric tons were WFP food – enough to feed 20,000 people for one month.
- WFP staff reported a very dire situation in Madaya as hungry waiting children asked for food they could immediately eat. The trucks were unloaded largely in the dark because of a shortage of fuel by the faint light from headlamps and torches.
- Families told WFP staff that a kilogram of rice sold for US\$230 in Madaya where markets were not functioning. One family sold their car for 3 kilograms of rice.
- WFP remains deeply concerned about the humanitarian situation in Madaya and the nutritional situation of children, women and men – many of whom are gaunt, weak and fragile having struggled to survive on little but water and herbs for weeks.
- A second series of deliveries – of wheat flour and other relief items – is planned for Thursday, 14 January, through two more convoys from Damascus and Homs.
- While all sides to the conflict in Madaya agreed to allow humanitarian assistance into the town, the United Nations is equally concerned about the suffering of a total of 4.5 million people living in besieged and hard-to-reach area across Syria.
- We continue to call on all parties to the conflict to facilitate sustained and unimpeded access to all people in besieged and hard-to-reach areas in Syria.
- WFP provides food assistance to more than 4 million people displaced inside Syria in both government and opposition-controlled areas every month.

- WFP's boxes of food include rice, wheat flour, vegetable oil, salt, sugar, canned food, beans, lentils, etc. WFP prioritized the delivery of canned food because it is ready to eat so people have immediate access to food whether or not they have cooking facilities.
- Prior to the deliveries on Monday night, the last humanitarian supplies (enough food to feed more than 19,000 people for one month) reached Madaya on 18 October on an inter-agency convoy. The convoy was a result of a locally negotiated agreement between the opposition and government to allow access to four besieged communities in Idlib and rural Damascus (Foa, Kifrieyh, Zabadani and Madaya).
- WFP welcomed last week's announcement by the government and opposition groups that they would grant access to humanitarian agencies Madaya, Foa and Kifrieyh.
- WFP's operations to assist over 6 million Syrians affected by the conflict will cost over US\$1 billion in 2016. We have an immediate shortfall of US\$88 million to cover food needs for the operation until the end of March.