



**World Food
Programme**

**Programme
Alimentaire
Mondial**

**Programa
Mundial de
Alimentos**

**برنامج الأغذية
العالمي**

**WFP News Video
Homs, Syria
Shot 11-12 March 2014
TRT 1:57**

Shotlist

00:00-00:39

Shot 11 March 2014

Baba Amr district, Homs

Nearly all the residents of Baba Amr escaped to Homs city and rural Damascus as their homes and businesses were destroyed. Recently, some 5,000 people whose homes are still standing have returned to Baba Amr and receive food from the World Food Programme on a monthly basis.

Various destruction

00:39-01:06

Shot 11 March 2014

Homs

Most of the beneficiaries who receive food at this distribution point in Homs city are displaced from Baba Amr (1KM away), the old city and conflict areas in rural Homs. In addition to wheat flour and food rations distributed in Homs, WFP distributes Plumpy'doz, a specialized nutritional product that tastes like peanut butter that is used to prevent malnutrition in children.

WFP works with local NGOs and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent to deliver food to families across Syria. The NGO running this distribution in Homs City is called Al Birr.

People receiving food rations, children receiving nutritious ready to eat food

01:06-01:26

Shot 12 March 2014

Maskaneh Rural Homs

SOT Dina El-Kassaby, WFP Spokesperson

“Across the country, the World food Programme is aiming to reach over 4 million people every month, but the greatest challenge we are facing right now is insecurity and access to besieged communities, because one-off and sporadic convoys and deliveries to people in need are not enough we need constant access monthly access to families across the country .”

01:26-01:36

Shot 12 March 2014

Maskaneh Rural Homs

Maskaneh is a town in rural Homs, about 20KM east of Homs city. Maskaneh is now home to thousands of displaced families from Homs, Damascus, rural Damascus and rural Homs including recently arrived families from the Qalamoun area. WFP is providing food assistance to over 10,000 people in Maskaneh area every month. WFP continues to increase the number of food rations it dispatches to Maskaneh each month as more families flee to Maskaneh for safety.

Food distribution

01:36-01:57

Shot 12 March 2014

Maskaneh Rural Homs

Hamra (the woman in the purple dress) is a mother of 10 and grandmother of 25. Her home in Maskaneh now hosts 35 immediate relatives. Most of her children fled from the old city of Homs as well as Baba Amr, two neighborhoods that have sustained mass destruction and siege.

Hamra cooking, Hamra's family eating

General Homs information:

On a monthly basis, the World Food Programme (WFP) delivers food assistance to over 600,000 people in Homs and rural Homs.

The greatest challenge faced by WFP faces in Homs is insecurity, access to cut-off areas including Ghanto, Ter Mallah, Talbieseh, Al Rastan and Al Houle.

On 7 March, WFP reached Al Houle (Rural Homs) for the time since May 2013, delivering food for 20,000 people. While this is a break through, the estimated population of Al Houle is 70,000 people, so food rations that are meant to sustain individual families one month will likely be divided by 2 or 3 families.

WFP News Release

10 March 2014

SYRIA CONFLICT ENTERS FOURTH YEAR AS SOME FOOD REACHES PREVIOUSLY INACCESSIBLE AREAS

GENEVA/AMMAN – In the last few weeks, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) succeeded in reaching many areas of Syria that were inaccessible for months. But as the conflict enters its fourth year, delivering food to people in desperate need remains a challenge.

Over the last few days, WFP reached Al-Houle in rural Homs for the first time since May 2013 and delivered food for 20,000 people. Trucks carrying food rations for another 20,000 people arrived in Ar-Raqqa Governorate for the first time in six months.

Locally-negotiated ceasefires allowed convoys into areas of Rural Damascus and rural Dara'a. Five WFP trucks delivered food for 17,500 people in camps for displaced people north of Idlib. Among the camps were some that had not been reached directly by WFP since the start of the conflict in 2011.

However, worsening security is creating setbacks in some areas, such as the Northeast governorate of Deir-Ezzor. Although an inter-agency convoy delivered food and other humanitarian supplies to 27,000 people there last month, a sudden deterioration in security on the roads leading to Deir-Ezzor is preventing the dispatch of more food in March.

“One-off convoys into besieged areas can provide temporary relief, but WFP still needs proper and sustained access to people to provide life-saving assistance and also to assess the scale of the needs,” said Amir Abdulla, WFP’s Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, in Geneva.

In February, WFP assisted 3.7 million people in Syria and more than 1.5 million refugees in neighbouring countries. The UN food agency aims to reach as many as 4.25 million people inside Syria every month, but insecurity is leaving half a million people without food assistance.

The operations are financed entirely by voluntary contributions, and funding is also a challenge, said Abdulla.

“It would be tragic to secure more access in Syria but to then find ourselves in a situation where we do not have the required funds to assist hungry people who have long been under siege. We certainly hope that donors will step up their contributions and new ones will come forward,” said Muhannad Hadi, WFP Regional Coordinator for the Syria crisis, in Amman.

A lack of timely funding has forced WFP to reduce the size of this month’s food basket for vulnerable families inside Syria by 20 percent. As a result, families are receiving fewer nutrients than they require to stay healthy (1,530 kilocalories, compared to the planned 1,920 kilocalories.)

This year, WFP has appealed for US\$2 billion to feed around 7 million Syrians displaced in their country or who have fled to neighbouring countries. WFP needs US\$309 million to cover the food needs of vulnerable Syrians until the end of May.

“We are grateful to the generosity of our donors, whose contributions have enabled us to save lives, but our emergency operation is running hand-to-mouth and our funding has now reached dangerous levels,” said Hadi.

Delays in funding have an impact on operations, as it takes close to three months from the moment WFP purchases food until it arrives in Syria and is dispatched for distribution.

Funding is also essential for WFP operations in neighbouring countries, where over 1.5 million Syrian refugees depend on the UN food agency’s food vouchers. WFP often uses vouchers to provide assistance where markets are functioning but people cannot afford to buy food. Vouchers provide people with more choice; they can buy fresh foods such as fruit, vegetables and milk that are not normally included in conventional food rations.

In 2013, through the voucher programme, WFP injected over US\$400 million into the local economies of neighbouring countries. WFP plans to expand its voucher assistance to reach over 2.9 million Syrian refugees this year.

Package of photo material available here:

<https://www.yousendit.com/download/eINMV0o4TkxFd2REZU1UQw>

.



#

WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide. On average, WFP reaches more than 90 million people with food assistance in 80 countries each year.

Follow us on Twitter @wfp_media and @wfp_mena

For more information please contact (email address: firstname.lastname@wfp.org):

Abeer Etefa, WFP/Damascus, Mob. +20 1066634352. Tel. +202 2528 1730 ext. 2600

Dina El Kassaby, WFP/Damascus, Mob. +963 958 882 303 or +962 7 9867 4638

Laure Chadraoui, WFP/Beirut-Amman, Mob. +962795915230 and +9613489925

Elisabeth Byrs, WFP/Geneva, Tel. +41 22 9178564, Mob. +41 79 4734570

Gregory Barrow, WFP/London, Tel. +44 207 2409001, Mob. +44 796 8008474

Emilia Casella, WFP/Rome, Tel. +39 06 65133854, Mob. +39 347 945 0634

Bettina Luescher, WFP/New York, Tel. +1 646 5566909, Mob. +1 646 8241112

Jonathan Dumont
Head of Television Communications
The United Nations World Food Programme
Via Cesare Viola, 68
00148 Rome, Italy

Office Tel: +39 06 6513 3152

Mobile Tel: +39 340 2249 140