WFP News Video

As Airlift Continues, WFP appeals for more access to cut off areas in Syria

Location: Qamishli, Syria
Shot: 5-6 February 2014
TRT: 2.02
English

SHOTLIST:
00:00 - 00:11
Shot: 6 February 2014
The city of around 200,000 is also home to thousands of Syrians who have fled other parts of the country.

Streets in Qamishli

00:11 – 00:45
Abdel Aziz School
Shot: 5 February 2014
Abdel Aziz School in Qamishly was converted into a shelter over a year ago and is now home to more than 30 families who receive WFP food rations, when available. Hasna is a mother of 7 girls and 3 boys. They live in what used to be a classroom with 3 other families.

Hasna cooking and feeding her children

00:45 - 01:00
Qamishli airport
Shot: 5 February 2014
Aerial of WFP plane landing

01:00-01:10
Qamishli airport
Shot: 6 February 2014
WFP started airlifting on Tuesday enough food to feed close to 30,000 displaced people for a month from Iraq to Qamishli in northeast Syria amid growing problems in reaching people, especially in conflict and besieged areas.
A total of 10 flights will deliver over 400 metric tons of WFP food

**01:10-01:47**
**Qamishli airport**
**Shot: 6 February 2014**
**SOT: Adeyinka BADEJO  WFP Deputy Director Syria**
“We are in Qamishli airport, In Hasakah Governorate in Syria where WFP has just airlifted food rations from Erbil to assist displaced families in the governorates, this is the only option available to WFP at the moment because all road access has been cut off. Hasakah Governorate is one of many areas where WFP is unable to reach families in need. WFP the World Food Programme is appealing to all parties to the conflict to open up humanitarian corridors to allow food assistance to reach those who are in dire need”

**01:47-02:02**
**Qamishli airport**
**Shot: 6 February 2014**
off loading the cargo

**Storyline**

- Insecurity and access to besieged communities in Syria are WFP’s greatest challenge in one of its largest and most complex emergency operations globally. WFP appeals to all parties to the conflict to grant unimpeded access to all civilians throughout the country.
- The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) started airlifting on Tuesday enough food to feed close to 30,000 displaced people for a month from Iraq to Qamishli in northeast Syria amid growing problems in reaching people, especially in conflict and besieged areas.
- It is the second such WFP airlift from Erbil, Iraq, to people who would otherwise be cut off from humanitarian assistance.
- Road access into northeastern Syria’s Al Hassakeh Governorate remains perilous for aid agencies and no significant deliveries of relief items have reached the region overland since May. WFP airlifted food from Erbil to Qamishli in December for more than 62,000 people deprived of food assistance for over five months.
In January, WFP dispatched enough food for 3.6 million people in Syria, short of its target of 4.25 million people as the governorates of Raqqa, Deir Ezzor, Rural Aleppo and Al-Hassakeh were inaccessible. The closure of the Daraa-Damascus highway has also affected the dispatch of food to parts of Daraa, Quneitra, Damascus and Rural Damascus.

Humanitarian agencies have not been able to reach Al Hassakeh Governorate by road consistently for over five months and security has deteriorated in the last few weeks, displacing large numbers of people. Recently, around 7,500 people fled clashes that erupted in rural parts of Al-Hassakeh to Qamishli city while others fled towards the Iraqi border.

Syria is WFP’s most complex emergency globally with challenges ranging from bureaucratic delays, insecurity on roads and the closure of major highways as well as sieges imposed on civilians trapped in over 40 locations across Syria as a result of the fighting.

As hunger in Syria grows, WFP is appealing for over US$2 billion to assist more than 7 million Syrians in urgent need of food assistance in 2014. These include 4.25 million people inside Syria and over 2.9 million refugees in neighbouring countries.