



**World Food
Programme**

**Programme
Alimentaire
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Alimentos**

**برنامج الأغذية
العالمي**

WFP News Video

EVACUATION OF CIVILIANS FROM THE OLD CITY OF HOMS

Shot 7 February 2014

Location : Old Homs

TRT: 1'.56"

00:00-00:08

remains of bombed buildings

00:08-00:16

people gathered in the street

00:16-00:27

UN cars approaching the old city

00:27-00:45

People with bags leaving

00:45-00:53

IOM buses arrive to the old city

00:53-01:11

ready to eat food at reception centre, people eating

01:11-01:20

old city residents on buses ready to leave

01:20-01:40 SOT Arabic, old city resident

"Its cold, cold very cold, Do you know how many pants I am wearing, I am wearing four look at my hands I ate thyme and oil. Do you know how they eat thyme and oil the modern way you dip the spoon in oil and then you put it into the powdered thyme and you eat it"

01:40-01:56 people walking in the rubble covered street

END

THE UNITED NATIONS WELCOMES THE EVACUATION OF CIVILIANS FROM THE OLD CITY OF HOMS AND PREPARES TO SEND AID CONVOYS INSIDE THE AREA

HOMS, Syria, 7 February 2014 – A United Nations led operation to assist civilians wishing to leave the Old City of Homs, started today with the evacuation of 83 women, children and elderly civilians after an agreement was reached by the government and opposition groups in Homs for a ceasefire. The agreement will also allow humanitarian aid to reach the besieged area on Saturday.

The first group of evacuated civilians was escorted by UN staff and Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), personnel. Up to 2,500 people are thought to be trapped in the old city of Homs as parts of it have been under siege since June 2012.

"We welcome this breakthrough and hope it will set the precedent for humanitarian access to all besieged communities in Syria," said UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Yacoub El Hillo in Syria as he oversaw the operation in the old city of Homs.

"UN teams have pre-positioned food, medical and other basic supplies for immediate delivery as soon as the first group of civilians are out and we hope to send this aid on Saturday morning."

The UN and SARC managed the reception centre and the evacuation. IOM, WFP, WHO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF are working along with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) to provide food, medical and hygiene kits, mattresses, blankets, cash

assistance and logistical support to meet the immediate needs of people choosing to evacuate from the area and those who are still inside.

“This has been a lengthy negotiation process and we commend all involved for reaching this milestone today,” said El Hillo.

As part of this inter-agency effort, WFP has trucks on standby to deliver food into the Old City tomorrow (Saturday).

The trucks carry enough food for 2,500 people for one month – 500 family rations and 500 bags of wheat flour, plus 100 boxes of Plumpy’doz, a specialized nutrition product for children.

It is important to note that while access to some locations in Homs has been extremely challenging, WFP has been successfully delivered food in many parts of Homs governorate.

Last month, WFP dispatched enough food for nearly 687,000 people in in Homs governorate.