**Shotlist/Info:**

**WFP News Video:**

**Violence Adding to Uncertainty in Syria as More than 2.2 Million Returnees Face Epic Drought, Destroyed Homes and Increasing Hunger**

**Shot: 8-20July25**

**Locations: Syria**

**TRT: 7:23**

**:00-:05**

**“Welcome to Syria” Banner on highway to Damascus from Lebanon border**

**Az-Zabdani**

**Shot: 8July25**

**:05-:34**

**GV’s post Assad**

Since the departure of former president Assad in December 2024, Syrians have new leadership but have been struggling with the legacy of 14 years of war, destroyed homes and infrastructure as well as violence from ethnic, religous and regional tensions.

**Aleppo**

**Shot: 11July25**

**:34-:48**

**Aftermath of Syrian Ministery of Defense Building Aerial Bombing**

On July 16, 2025 the Ministry of Defense building in damascus was bombed by Israel

**Damascus**

**Shot: 16/17July25**

**:48-1:05**

**WFP Food Arrives in Sweida**

In collaboration with UN agencies, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), and local authorities, WFP has responded to recent events in Sweida by sending ready-to-eat rations, High Energy Biscuits, and wheat flour for the production of fresh bread.

So far, WFP has provided ready-to-eat rations to support 20,000 displaced people for one week and food rations to support 5,000 displaced people and their hosting families. Additionally, 80 metric tons of wheat flour has been provided to bakeries to restore bread supplies and ensure displaced families have daily access to fresh, fortified bread. More humanitarian aid will be delivered in coming days.

**Sweida**

**Shot: 20July25**

**1:05-1:17**

**GV’s War Destruction Damascus**

**Damascus**

**Shot:10July25**

**1:17-1:49**

**GV’s Destruction Aleppo**

Adding to the death and destruction due to the war in Northwestern Syria, in Feb. 2023, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake killed thousands and damaged thousands of buildings

**Shot:11July25**

**1:49-2:41**

**Syrians Returning from Turkey**

14 years of war in Syria has resulted in 6 million refugees fleeing the country and left 7.4 million internally displaced. Since December 2024, over 2.2 million Syrians (1.5million internally displaced and around 700,000 refugees) have returned to their homes, many for the first time in 14 years.They arrive with hope and ethusiasm but face destroyed homes, devestated infrastructure and an epic drought that has wiped out this years wheat harvest.

**al-Salameh border crossing**

**Shot:12July25**

**2:41-2:52**

**SOT Ahmed, school teacher who left Syria with his family in Feb 2011(english):**

“This is my first time in Syria after 14 years. I’m so excited. This our country. We must come back to rebuild it.”

**al-Salameh border crossing**

**Shot:12July25**

**2:52-3:07**

**Syrians Returning from Turkey**

**al-Salameh border crossing**

**Shot:12July25**

**3:07-3:33**

**Rebuilding**

**Tall Rifat**

**Shot:14July25**

**3:33-3:51**

**SOT: Mus'ab Khalil Abdulkareem**

“People are returning but there is no where for them live. We, our children, and everyone are working to be able to return. But some can’t afford to rebuild yet. Some decided to live in destroyed houses

 [off camera voice]: look inside, you see people living in destroyed houses

Upstairs, the house is totally damaged. People return but unable to fix anything.”

**Tall Rifat**

**Shot:14July25**

**3:51-4:20**

**Drought stricken wheat field**

The current drought is assessed as the worst since 1989. Projections indicate a wheat

production deficit of 2.7 million metric tons this year – 75 percent of Syria‘s wheat crop.

This amount of wheat could have fed around 16 million people for one year.

**Orem Al-kubrah village**

**Shot:13July25**

**4:20-4:48**

**SOT Diyaa Alkhateeb, farmer(Arabic):**

“Our country is an agricultural one, most of the farmers rely on rainfall to irrigate. This year we encountered a drought wave, that caused complete damage of the crops this led to financial burden on farmers. Moreover, we have been through a 14-year-old war, and many lands contain landmines. We need support from specialised organizations with seeds, fertilizers, for farmers to continue harvesting and investing their lands”

**Orem Al-kubrah village**

**13July25**

**4:48-5:00**

**SOT: Shareef Abu Fu'aad, farmer holding pieces of landmines(Arabic):**

“There are tank mines, there are other types of individual mines, there are locally-made explosive bombs.In my land four mines exploded. My neighbour was killed by a landmine that exploded when he hit it with his tractor.”

**Orem Al-kubrah village**

**Shot:13July25**

**5:00-5:17**

**Poverty**

According to the World Bank, as of 2022, poverty affects 69% of the population — equivalent to about 14.5 million Syrians. Extreme poverty, while virtually non-existent before the conflict, affected more than one in four Syrians in 2022 More than 50% of the extreme poor live in just three governorates (Aleppo, Hama, and Deir-ez-Zor)

**Aleppo**

**Shot:13July25**

**5:17-5:42**

**SOT Marianne Ward, WFP Syria Country Director(English):**

“They've returned to devastated infrastructure, a major drought, mines in the fields, and a difficult security situation. But there are also opportunities for Syria. You have a very educated populace, you have a very entrepreneurial group of people, you have renewed investment coming into Syria, and this is the time. Syria could become the stable, prosperous country that it once was with just a little bit at help.”

**Damascus**

**Shot:16July25**

**5:42-6:20**

**Nutrition Testing**

The red in the arm band indicates the child is severely malnourished and should be hospitalized. In Syria, the compounded pressures of war, displacement, and economic collapse have taken a devastating toll on Syria’s most vulnerable – its children and mothers. Since 2023, malnutrition rates in Syria reached alarming heights. Acute malnutrition rates among pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBWGs) have surged, climbing from 4.2% in 2019 to 6.6% in 2023, with some regions witnessing staggering rates as high as 19%. These escalating rates of malnutrition are robbing children of the chance to thrive and putting mothers at grave risk, making the need for urgent intervention more critical than ever before. WFP provides lifesaving nutrition treatment support by addressing moderate acute malnutrition in children aged 6–59 months and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls with ready-to-use supplementary food as seen in the video.

**Aleppo**

**Shot:14July25**

**6:20-6:39**

**SOT Marianne Ward, WFP Syria Country Director(English):**

“50% of the population is food insecure, with 3 million people severely food insecure. So, that means that WP has to go with a too pronged approach. We need to continue our emergency assistance either in the form of cash vouchers or food boxes, but also begin to really scale up the rebuilding of Syria.”

**Damascus**

**Shot:16July25**

**6:39-7:14**

**WFP Rehabilitated bakery**

**Aleppo**

**Shot:13July25**

**7:14-7:23**

**Kids eating bread**

**Damascus**

**Shot:9July25**

**ENDS**

**Info:**

The UN World Food Programme is distributing urgently needed food assistance to families displaced by recent clashes in southern Syria’s Sweida province while also continuing to provide a broad range of assistance across the country, including to Syrians returning home after a decade of conflict.

“We are rapidly expanding our operations to assist all those affected by these recent events, regardless of their location or origin,” said WFP Syria Country Director Marianne Ward. “Unless we urgently invest in tangible change now, the fragile recent gains may all be lost. To sustain this vital response and continue critical operations across Syria, we urgently need donor support.”

Following are updates on WFP’s recent and ongoing operations in Syria:

Displacement in/from Sweida

• WFP, working with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and other partners, has delivered humanitarian aid to support displaced people and their hosting families in Sweida and Dara’a

• WFP has provided ready-to-eat rations to support 20,000 displaced people for one week and food rations to support 5,000 displaced people and their hosting families.

• Nearly 80 metric tons of wheat flour have been supplied to bakeries to restore bread availability for displaced families.

Broader situation/needs

• After more than a decade of conflict, Syria remains one of the world’s largest displacement crises. Many displaced people and refugees hoping to return to places they fled years ago face destroyed homes, damaged infrastructure, and severe drought. They have limited access to food, essential services, and ways to earn a living.

• As of 10 July, over 2.2 million people – 1.5 million IDPs and 698,000 refugees – had returned to their hometowns (Since November 2024). UNHCR expects up to 3.5 million – including refugees and IDPs -- to return to Syria by the end of 2025.

• The compounding pressures of war, displacement, and economic collapse have taken a devastating toll on Syria’s most vulnerable with malnutrition rates reaching alarming levels since since 2023.

• Acute malnutrition rates among pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBWGs) have surged, climbing from 4.2 percent in 2019 to 6.6 percent in 2023, with some regions witnessing staggering rates as high as 19 percent.

• This year, Syria is expected to experience its worst drought since 1989, threatening up to 75% of its wheat crop and worsening food shortages.

WFP operations

• WFP is increasing efforts to create better conditions for displaced Syrians returning home, focusing on food supply chains and agricultural livelihoods. Since 2020, WFP has rehabilitated 25 bakeries and restored water access for 50,000 hectares of agricultural land.

• WFP continues to support over 1.5 million people monthly with emergency food assistance, school meals, nutrition, and livelihood interventions. Cash assistance continues uninterrupted despite ongoing liquidity issues.

• WFP has also launched a subsidised bread project. Through this project, WFP provides fortified wheat flour to community bakeries, ensuring access to fortified, affordable bread for 2 million people in hunger hotspots.

• WFP is also working with Syrian authorities to rebuild national systems for fortifying wheat flour and iodizing salt.

• WFP will further support people returning home from displacement. So far, around 2.2 million people have returned home from internal displacement inside Syria and neighboring countries

• This support includes coordination with partners like UNHCR, who are instrumental in facilitating the safe and dignified return of displaced populations and providing protection and assistance throughout the process, including through programs such as NOEMI that focus on community-based solutions and reintegration support.

Funding

• WFP urgently requires $50 million to procure additional food and wheat flour to sustain its emergency operations, resilience projects, and the vital bread subsidy program.

**# # #**

**The United Nations World Food Programme is the world’s largest humanitarian organization saving lives in emergencies and using food assistance to build a pathway to peace, stability and prosperity for people recovering from conflict, disasters and the impact of climate change.**

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