



**World Food  
Programme**

**Programme  
Alimentaire  
Mondial**

**Programa  
Mundial de  
Alimentos**

**برنامج الأغذية  
العالمي**

**WFP News Video**

**Location: Syria, Raqqa City**

**Shot: 1 April 2018**

**TRT:02:11**

**SHOTLIST**

**:00-:57**

**Raqqa City**

**Shot 1 April 2018**

UN convoy on the road to Raqqa. Various destruction shots from inside the city and people going about their daily business.

**:57-1:13**

**Raqqa City**

**Shot 1 April 2018**

**SOT (Arabic) Rabea Darwish**

“We don’t get any water at home and drink by buying water in tanks but even then the water is not clean. God knows what diseases we may get from drinking this unhealthy water. When I fill a cup of water I can see the dirt settling at the bottom.”

**1:13-1:28**

**Raqqa City**

**Shot 1 April 2018**

WFP staff talking to local traders.

Shot of food that has arrived for the makeshift market places.

**01:28-01:52**

**Raqqa City**

**Shot 1 April 2018**

**SOT (Eng) Jakob Kern, WFP Syria Country Director**

“We are here in Raqqa city in Syria. This is the first time a UN Team has actually come here. We are here for a few hours we met the local city council. One has to imagine the city starting from scratch, the records are destroyed, 2/3 of the buildings are probably destroyed, our estimate is that 100,000 people are living in their houses, destroyed or not.”

**01:52-02:11**

**Raqqa City**

**Shot 1 April 2018**

Despite the scale of destruction in Raqqa, people have started to rebuild as much as possible

**END**

## BACKGROUND

Raqqa city came under control of non-state armed groups in 2013, then a year later, ISIS took control of the area and made Raqqa city the capital of its self-proclaimed “caliphate.” On 6 June 2017, the Syrian Democratic Forces (not Syrian Government) launched a military operation to gain control of Raqqa city, which they fully encircled on 28 June, and took control of on 19 October 2017.

Civilian returns have gradually begun although experts estimate that several thousands landmines remain inside the city. So far, according to OCHA nearly 100,000 people were registered as having returned to the city.

On 1<sup>st</sup> April, a UN mission led by WFP visited Raqqa City. The mission was challenging in terms of restriction on movements due to lack of internet and phone signals. It is clear that Raqqa city has witnessed the some of the worst destruction in all of Syria.

Food prices are relatively normal because trade routes from Damascus, Aleppo and Hassakeh (bringing food from Iran and Turkey) are now functioning. However, unemployment is very high thereby impacting people’s purchasing power. Many people are buying on credit or selling their assets to be able to buy things (food and otherwise).

Raqqa and the surrounding areas depend on agriculture, but it will be a long time before irrigation channels and bridges are fixed and the local economy recovers. Herding is a key business in Raqqa and there are many sheep in the surrounding rural area, but traders told us that some people are selling their sheep to make money and fix their homes or build a house or buy things they need including food.

- **Nearing its eighth year, the Syrian Conflict has left millions impoverished and hungry. Ever more people risk food insecurity. Alarming numbers are still facing acute hunger.**

*Some 6.5 million people in Syria are now food insecure. At the same time, 4 million people are at risk of becoming so, twice as many as a year ago.*

- **WFP is having to make tough choices because of limited funding. This means prioritizing the most vulnerable, who would go hungry without food assistance.**  
*As of January, WFP was providing food assistance to 3 million people, down from 4 million in August due to lower than expected funding forecasts.*

- **WFP plans to provide food rations for 30,000 people in Raqqa city.**



- **WFP urgently needs funds to continue providing food assistance to those most in need.**  
*We require US\$ 159 million just to keep operations running, even at reduced rates, through July*
- **WFP appeals to all parties to protect civilians, respect humanitarian principles and allow for the safe delivery of food to families in need, no matter where they are.**

**WFP Syria Crisis in Numbers:**

• <i>People in need of humanitarian assistance</i>	<b>13.1 million</b>
• <i>People facing food insecurity</i>	<b>6.5 million</b>
• <i>People at risk of becoming food-insecure</i>	<b>4 million</b>
• <i>Internally displaced people (IDPs)</i>	<b>6.1 million</b>
• <i>People living in hard-to-reach and besieged areas</i>	<b>2.9 million</b>
• <i>People living in nine besieged locations</i>	<b>417,500</b>
• <i>People living in extreme poverty</i>	<b>7 out of 10</b>
• <i>Increase in basic food prices compared to pre-crisis period</i>	<b>800%</b>
• <i>Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR in region</i>	<b>5.48 million</b>
• <i>People in Syria who received WFP food in January</i>	<b>2.4 million</b>
• <i>Funding required by WFP until July 2018 for caseload of 4 m people</i>	<b>US\$159 million</b>

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**WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide, delivering food assistance in emergencies and working with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience. Each year, WFP assists some 80 million people in around 80 countries.**

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