



World Food Programme
Programme Alimentaire Mondial
Programa Mundial de Alimentos
برنامج الأغذية العالمي

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

Crop Failure Creating More Hunger in War-torn Syria
Location: Aleppo/Eastern Ghouta, Syria
Shot 13, 23 October 2018
TRT 01:57

SHOTLIST

:00-:19

Eastern Ghouta

Date: 23 October 2018

Formerly besieged areas have started to rebuild homes and businesses

:19-:23

Aleppo

Shot:13 October 2018

park being used as a graveyard.

:23-:32

Al Safira, 30 km East of Aleppo city

Shot:13 October 2018

Al Safira is an agricultural centre previously known for the production of tomatoes, potatoes, cucumbers, cotton and wheat but, extreme climate and the conflict has led to crop failure. The main source of irrigation is the Euphrates River, which is connected to Al-Safira through an intricate yet now damaged network of water pipes and canals.

Empty irrigation canal, dried cotton field

:32-:39

Al Safira, 30 km East of Aleppo

Shot:13 October 2018

Farmer Mahmoud Shaabou showing damaged corn due to drought, lack of fertilizers, pesticides and antifungal agents as well as pollution due to shelling.

:39-:55

Al Safira, 30 km East of Aleppo

Shot:13 October 2018

SOT (Arabic) Mahmoud Shaabou

“First of all, I don’t have any money left. And we suffered a lot from the fighting and destruction. And now we don’t have the means anymore, no equipment



even. Because of the shelling and the fighting even the air and the environment are polluted and this has affected farming.”

:55-:01:05

Eastern Ghouta

Shot:23 October 2018

Children playing in the rubble.

WFP Executive Director David Beasley and WFP staff walking in heavily war damaged part of the town.

01:05-01:27

Eastern Ghouta

Shot:23 October 2018

SOT (Eng.) WFP Executive Director, David Beasley

“The war that has caused the farmers to have to flee, destroying irrigation systems,..this has been a disaster. What’s making things worse is that now we have a drought. It’s just a bad situation on top of a catastrophe. So, we need all the help we can get so that these people can survive, so these people can have a future, so these children will have a brighter future as well.”

01:27-01:57

Eastern Aleppo City

Date: 13 October 2018

Many bakeries in Aleppo were badly damaged in the conflict.

WFP supplies the wheat and supports the rehabilitation of several bakeries in severely affected parts of Aleppo and other governorates.

In Aleppo WFP distributes bread to extremely vulnerable families, around 100.000 people

Various shots of bread making and WFP bread distribution

ENDS

Extreme weather and prolonged conflict have caused Syria’s agricultural production to hit its lowest point in three decades. The conflict has damaged vast farming areas, displaced thousands of farmers and triggered a sharp increase in the cost of agricultural inputs like seed and fertilizers.



The October Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) report, by FAO and WFP, says that although the number of food-insecure people in Syria has decreased, continued food assistance is vital.

- **Conflict drives hunger and hunger can be one of the drivers of conflict. More than seven years of war in Syria have pushed millions of Syrians into hunger and poverty. Today, 6.5 million Syrians don't know where their next meal is coming from.**

A degree of stability in many parts of Syria is allowing displaced families to return to their homes. However, many find their houses destroyed and livelihoods gone. It is vital to maintain a lifeline of food assistance for vulnerable families in Syria. WFP currently assists 3 million people every month.

-
- **Syrians returning to their country and communities need active markets, jobs and support. WFP is helping Syrians produce their own food and generate an income through livelihoods projects in areas that are secure and have working markets.**

Unemployment is rampant in Syria at 60 percent. Some 250,000 people are benefitting from WFP's livelihoods activities in food production and vocational training. WFP aims to focus on rehabilitating agricultural community assets, such as damaged water systems.

- **WFP needs reliable and predictable funding to plan and maintain the vital lifeline of food assistance on which millions of vulnerable Syrians depend. WFP needs US\$136 million from now until March 2019.**

WFP Syria Crisis in Numbers: data from sources incl. [2018 Humanitarian Needs Overview](#)

People in need of humanitarian assistance million	13.1
People who are food-insecure inside Syria million	6.5
Internally displaced people (IDPs) million	6.1



People living in extreme poverty	7 out of 10
Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR in region million	5.6
People in Syria who received WFP food in September million	3
Funding required by WFP until March 2019 million	US\$136

CFSAM:

- Extreme weather conditions this year have led to a 29-year low in wheat production, according to the latest Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM), conducted jointly by FAO and WFP. Farmers have reported it as the worst agricultural season in living memory in Al-Hasakeh, the northeastern region that typically provides almost half of the country's wheat.
- The assessment, published earlier this month, found that wheat production this year fell to 1.2 million tons, about two-thirds of 2017 levels. This was due to an extended period of dry weather early in the cropping season followed by heavy, out-of-season rains.
- The assessment highlights that food security has slightly improved over the past year, due to enhanced security and better market access. However, sustained food assistance at scale is vital to prevent families from falling deeper into poverty and hunger.

#

The United Nations World Food Programme - saving lives in emergencies and changing lives for millions through sustainable development. WFP works in more than 80 countries around the world, feeding people caught in conflict and disasters, and laying the foundations for a better future.

For more information please contact (email address:

firstname.lastname@wfp.org):

Bettina Luescher, WFP/Berlin, Mob. + 4916099261730

Jane Howard, WFP/Rome, Tel. +39 06 6513 2321, Mob. +39 346 7600521

Francis Mwanza, WFP/London, Tel. +44 (0)20 3857 7411, Mob. +44 (0)7968 008474

Abeer Etefa, WFP/Cairo, Mob. +2010 66634352

Marwa Awad, WFP/Damascus, Mob. +963 958 882 900

Dina Elkassaby, WFP/Damascus, Mob. +963 952 882 501

