

Food Security Update, Dar'a Al-Baled, Syria

As of February 14, 2017 - Update Number 1

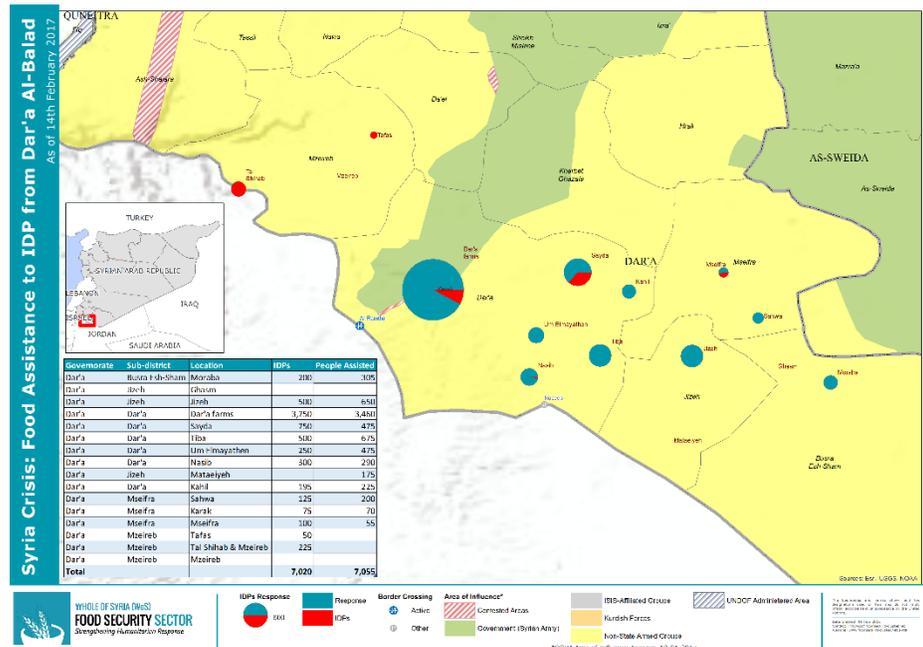
Needs

Dar'a al- Baled City with an estimated population of 15,000 - 25,000 people has recently come under intensified insecurity. A substantial increase in conflict has been recorded with displacements in Dar'a, Jizeh, Mseifra, Mzeireb and Busra Esh-Sham sub districts. Between 10 February – 14 February, the number of displaced people have increased from an estimated 3,365 IDPs to an estimated 7,020 IDPs. If the battle continues at current pace, it is expected that the majority of Dar'a Al-Baled population will displace largely to the farms and villages of South Eastern Dar'a Governorate. Rapid Needs Assessment conducted by WFP with its partners on ground in 8 locations indicate that food and shelter are the top priorities of the displaced people. In case of further increase in hostilities the city's two main bakeries which are currently open are expected to close and production may be moved elsewhere making it further difficult to access bread - a critical staple food.

Response by sector partners

Response

- From Jordan hub WFP and its partner ACTED/AFAQ have regular food assistance programme in the locations in Eastern Dar'a that have reportedly received the majority of the IDPs as well as the locations from where IDPs have moved.
- In their monthly plan, WFP and its partners serve around 75,000 people (15,000 families) in Eastern Dar'a.
- The people who are moving south of Eastern Dar'a are receiving Ready to Eat Rations (RTEs) on an ongoing basis. As of 13 February WFP with its partners (ACTED/AFAQ) have reached 7,055 people (1,411 HHs) in the Farms around Dar'a Farms, Sayda, Jizeh, Tiba, Um Elmayathen, Sahwa and Nasib , Kahil, Ghasm, Moraba, Karak, Mseifra and Mataaiyeh locations with Ready To Eat Rations that will last upto 5 days for a family of 5.
- A sector partner present in Western Dar'a is currently assessing the IDPs that have moved there and will be able to provide immediate food assistance to them in the next 72 hours.
- A partner that provides flour to bakeries in the affected areas reported that flour and yeast were available with the bakeries, and it's expected that as of now the bakeries will be able to serve the bread needs of the communities.



Preparedness

- In the sector preparedness plan, with contributions from WFP and another sector partner, a total of 30,000 Ready to Eat Rations (10,000 RTEs from WFP and 20,000 RTEs from NGO) and 15,000 Monthly Food Rations (10,000 FRs from WFP and 5,000 FRs from NGO) were to be repositioned.
- As of now, WFP has reported that a total of 13,000 RTEs equivalent for a 65,000 people has also been repositioned inside Syria. These could also be used to repeat distribution for those families who have received RTEs already.
- The suspension of Ramtha BCP due to the increased insecurity on 12 and 13 February has disrupted further repositioning and regular programming efforts.

Gaps

- The two bakeries in the city are still functional and providing bread to people in the city and IDPs in the farmlands, and they have enough flour till now, however have urgent need for fuel.
- As reported, reposition efforts have been halted due to the suspension of convoys from Ramtha BCP. Potentially this could lead to significant gap in responding to the food needs for both regular as well as emergency response for not only Eastern Dar'a but also for the rest of Dar'a.
- Tell Shihab, the informal crossing is running normally as of now, but NGO partners do not have access from Western Dar'a to Eastern Dar'a, therefore, the response on the eastern side is solely reliant on Ramtha BCP.