



Food Security Update, Menbij, Syria

As of March, 10, 2017 - Update #2

Needs

As per CCCM cluster based in south Turkey, a total of 32,056 IDPs have been displaced into Menbij with some of them being through secondary displacements. Of this figure, 25,000 IDPs were displaced in the period 26th February and 1st March. IDPs originated from Al Bab, Al Khafsa, A'rima, As-Safira, Dayr Hafir, Maskana, Rasm Haram El-Imam and Tadaf sub-districts, as well as within Menbij and A'rima sub-districts.

As per OCHA, between 27th February to 4th March 2017, an estimated 7,180 families (almost 35,000 – 40,000 people) have been displaced from southwest countryside of Menbij to: Southern countryside of Menbij (3,200 families), Western countryside of Menbij (3,480 families) and Menbij town (500 families). However, 1,500 families (21%) of the families are living in open areas with: 1,300 families staying in 6 settlements in both Little Osajli & Big Osajli villages and 200 families on the road sides and outskirts of Menbij town. From previous displacements, 40,000 people had fled from insecure towns and villages and are still living in Menbij town therefore there will be limited space for all those likely to arrive in Menbij city.

Currently Menbij and Ain Al Arab are accessed by WFP from Qamishly and by 1 XB partner from south Turkey and 1 North East Syria NGO partner. IDPs from Menbij in Azaz are being assisted by WFP and other XB partners from south Turkey. From Syria hub, there is potential accessibility through Aleppo city via Tadif city in the near future which could facilitate flow in humanitarian assistance and commercial activities.

Response by sector partners

Emergency Response to IDPs

Syria : On 9 March, WFP dispatched 1800 Ready To Eat Rations (RTERs) for an estimated 9,000 IDPs and the distribution started on 10 March by WFP's partner Al-Mawad NGO's subcontractor. This will cover the food needs of a family of five for 5 days. WFP further dispatched another 1800 RTERs (9,000 IDPs) to Tal Abiyad and the distribution is ongoing by Al-Birr and Al-Ihsan in Ras Al Ain. WFP is coordinating with its partners so as to report to the sector on the villages targeted; as this is critical for purposes of operation coordination with other partners, particularly from other hubs.

South Turkey: One partner has already distributed 1157 Emergency Food Rations (estimated 6500 people) that will cover food needs of a family for 10 days in 8 villages in Menbij and Al Qalqal sub districts. Another partner has provided an additional 5,020 cooked meals (equivalent to 1,040 HHS) for IDPs arriving in Azaz from Menbij and Ar-Raqqa. WFP from south Turkey has started to cover a total of 1,200 IDP households (6000 IDPs) who moved from Al-Bab and are currently in Azaz, from 1st March up to 5th March with Ready to Eat Rations (RTER). Current stocks of RTERs in Azaz, prior to the planned distribution stands at 4.416 RTEs.

NES: Nothing to report

Preparedness

Syria: Following the recent deliveries/distributions, WFP will review to decide on additional dispatches as well as the modality of response. WFP will continue to work with cooperating Partners Al-Mawada and Al-Birr wa Al-Ihsan in Ras al-Ein regarding distributions; and monitoring will be conducted by its Third Party Monitor. WFP has a stock balance of around 18,000 RTERs in Qamishly ready to be dispatch to both North Raqqa and East Aleppo (based on assessments and needs). More RTERs can be resupplied in Qamishly by air lift from Damascus.

South Turkey: One partner is planning to distribute 194 Food Rations next week, while are under the process of procuring 5000 more Food Rations that could be used for emergency assistance in Menbij by end of March, based on the response and needs' status once items are procured and ready to be dispatched.

NES: One partner currently has a prepositioning stock of 450 RTERs with an additional 600 RTERs to be procured in the coming weeks. This assistance is however awaiting donor's approval for operational assistance to Menbij.

Gaps

- The sector considers all new IDPs to be food insecure for the first three months. Thus, there are still large gaps (access, capacity, stock, pipeline) to respond accordingly to the latest needs assessment, leading to increasing risk of food insecurity to conflict-affected IDPs and vulnerable host communities.
- There is a major risk of potential depletion of livelihood assets (livestock) of many IDPs, since many are herders and carried their livestock with them.
- IDP influx into Menbij has put a strain on local bread production and has reportedly led to scarcity of bread as the local production chains cannot satisfy the current demand.

Recommendations from updates received:

- Need for more coordinated distribution RTERs for the displaced IDPs for repeat distribution and across all locations where IDPs have moved.
- Taking stock of fuel and cooking arrangements, General Food Distribution should be taken into consideration for food insecure IDPs and vulnerable hosting community.
- Need for supplementary feeding for children between 6 – 59 months (nutrition sector).

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