



## Food Security Update, Menbij, Syria As of March 20, 2017 - Update #3

### 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, from February 25<sup>th</sup> and March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Between March 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, and additional 20,103 IDPs were also displaced into Menbij, mostly 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. Since the beginning of February, the total tracked displacements to Menbij sub-district have been **49,960** IDPs.

As per NPM, within 36 hours between March 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> 2017, an estimated 9,850 people were also displaced into Menbij sub-district, mostly to Nahliya and Talhuthan, although the overall number of people displaced from Al-Khafsa and Maskana was estimated to be 56,750 towards southern and western parts of Aleppo and Ar-Raqqa Governorates.

It has also been assessed from Cross Borders partners with field presence that numbers of IDPs coming from Ar-Raqqa governorate are also trying to reach Menbij after being initially displaced in Jurniyeh and Ein Issa.

Currently, Menbij is being accessed by WFP from Qamishly and by 2 Cross Border partners. From south Turkey, WFP and 2 other Cross Border partners are assisting IDPs from Menbij and Raqqa in Azaz. 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 Menbij IDPs

**Syria (WFP):** WFP and its partners from Qamishly distributed Ready to Eat Rations (RTERs) for 35,000 IDPs in the sub districts of Al-Asalieh (12 villages), Mohtarek (17 villages), Menbij (3 villages) and Abu Qalqal (5 villages) in a total of 37 villages. These RTERs will meet the immediate food needs of a family of five for five days.

**Cross Border (WFP and 3 XB NGOs):** One XB NGO has distributed Emergency Food Rations for a total of 14,568 people that will cover food needs of a family for 10 days in 19 villages in Menbij (13 villages), Al Khafsa (1 village) and Abu Qalqal (5 villages) sub districts. Another XB NGO has provided cooked meals and Ready to Eat Rations to 11,020 IDPs arriving in Azaz from Menbij and Ar-Raqqa. Another XB NGO has distributed 155 Food Kits to 85 households (about 510 IDPs) in order to cover the food needs of a family of five or six for 14 days in Al-Jazeera Road in Menbij town. WFP from south Turkey has started to cover a total of 1,200 IDP households (6,000 IDPs) who moved from Al-Bab and are currently in Azaz, from 1<sup>st</sup> March up to 5<sup>th</sup> March with Ready to Eat Rations (RTER). Current stocks of RTERs in Azaz, prior to the planned distribution stands at 4,416 RTEs.

#### Emergency Response to Raqqa IDPs:

Although the situation is very mixed regarding the areas of origins of IDPs, an estimated 1,800 – 2,000 IDPs from Raqqa have reportedly arrived in Tell Abiad, Ein Issa and Hassakeh last week. As of 17 March, WFP has responded in various locations in Tell Abiad, Ein Essaand Suluk (Tell Abyad, Ali Al-Bajlieh, Koramazat, Kherbat Al-Rez, Fares, Abo- Kharazah, Al-Heshah/Fatsah, Hammadieah, Khaledieah, Haidarat and Al-Hourrieah and cotton camp ) with Ready to Eat Rations for 36,500 IDPs – a mix of both new and old Raqqa. A further expansion of the needs, response and gaps on Raqqa IDPs will be provided in the next issue of the sit rep.

#### Preparedness

**Syria:** As of now, WFP has completed its immediate response to cover the food needs of the IDPs. WFP will review to decide on additional dispatches as well as the modality of response due to the possibility of resuming the dispatches from Aleppo. For Ar-raqqa Governorate, WFP is planning to cover the needs there in case of availability of **General Food Rations** at Qamishli warehouse (due to limited airlifted food rations). WFP has a stock balance of around 7,446 RTERs in Qamishly ready to be dispatched for new IDPs in other destinations like West Raqqa (Al-Journiya and Al-Mahmoudli). Mabrouka Camp (On the borders of Raqqa/Hassaka received 300 families from Raqqa WFP is planning to cover these families with RTEs and bread. Additional RTERs to be airlifted to Qamishli as contingency stock since WFP is covering the newly displaced people from Ar-Raqqa, Deir-Ez- Zor and Aleppo Governorates in Al-Hole camp with RTEs on weekly basis.

**Cross Border:** One partner is under the process of procuring an additional 5,000 Food Rations to cover food needs for 14 days for a family of five or six, 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. Another 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, even though immediate food needs have largely been addressed, the sector recommends repeat distribution of Ready to Eat Rations and Emergency Food Rations to cover the remaining gaps.
- The main food gaps have been identified as being in Menbij town and surrounding rural areas and in Ein Issa IDPs camp (cotton factory) where many IDPs are being sent before getting a sponsor. Sector partners who are working/responding in these locations are recommended to ensure that additional needs are covered.
- Reportedly significant number of IDPs are concentrated in West Raqqa Al-Journiya and Al-Mahmoudli and there is a need to estimate the number for any upcoming responses.
- 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).

*For further information, please contact us at [info.wos@fscluster.org](mailto:info.wos@fscluster.org)*