Situation Update # 9
Northeast Syria – November 10

Needs

An estimated 2,185,855 people live in Hassakeh and Ar-Raqqa governorate as well Menbij and Ain Arab/ Kobani sub districts of Aleppo governorate accessible through North East. An estimated 1,455,488 people are thought to be food insecure or at risk of food insecurity according to FSS Mid-Year Review 2019.

### Hassakeh

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>People in Need (acute + at risk)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HNO 2019 (August 2018)</td>
<td>1,010,783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MYR 2019 (July 2019)</td>
<td>1,060,341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HNO 2019 (October 2018)</td>
<td>Acute: 374,744 At Risk: 373,125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Ar-Raqqa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>People in Need (acute + at risk)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HNO 2019 (August 2018)</td>
<td>671,386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MYR 2019 (July 2019)</td>
<td>539,983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HNO 2019 (October 2018)</td>
<td>Acute: 257,968 At Risk: 107,054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft MYR 2019 (June 2019)</td>
<td>420,249 Acute: 299,843 At Risk: 120,406</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Aleppo (Menbij and AinArab/ Kobani)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>People in Need (acute + at risk)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HNO 2019 (August 2018)</td>
<td>578,341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MYR 2019 (July 2019)</td>
<td>585,531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HNO 2019 (October 2018)</td>
<td>Acute: 212,168 At Risk: 65,090</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Preparedness

Drawing from the updated NES Preparedness Plan October 2019 from Damascus hub and NES Forum, a contingency plan outlining possible scenarios for North East Syria and humanitarian planning assumptions, including a potential deterioration of security situation due to military operation by Turkish Armed Forces (TAF) was prepared. Based on stock updates received from WFP and sector partners, the Food Security Sector’s preparedness for both hubs is summarized below:

#### Hub: NES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planning assumption</th>
<th>Preparedness - STOCK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Immediate assistance (RTERs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up to 160,000 IDPs in Tal Tamer, Hassakeh, Areeeshah, Qamishli, Tal Hamis and Al-Malikeyeh in the governorates of Hassakeh, Yarubiyeh and Ar Raqqa</td>
<td>17,700 RTERs sufficient for 88,500 people</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Pipeline (under procurement)

#### Hub: NES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preparedness - STOCK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(RTERs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43,000 RTERs sufficient for 215,000 people</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** The stock is being updated with new information. The stock may be used for repeated distributions (especially for Food Rations).
Situation Overview

As of 31 October, a total of 215,119 population movements were recorded: 108,514 people remain displaced from Al-Hasakeh (83,650), Ar-Raqqa (18,088) and Aleppo (6,776) governorates, while 106,605 people have returned to their areas of origin in Al-Hasakeh (50,000), Ar-Raqqa (46,500) and Aleppo (10,105) governorates.¹

MARKETS and BAKERIES:

In Hassakeh governorate, findings from market assessments conducted by WFP VAM - Market Assessment for North-East Syria. Show that prices have increased significantly over the past week as many supply routes have been affected by the recent military operations, constricting supply to markets. WFP put in place a market price monitoring system to monitor markets and price trends in the first 3 weeks of October.

Qamishli city: Main shops in Qamishli were closed for three days from 10th to 12th October due to a deterioration of the security situation at the Syrian/Turkish border and the shelling on Qamishli city. Shops were open again on the 13th of October. In addition, the availability of bread has been affected because of the closure of private bakeries coupled with consumers buying and stocking large quantities in anticipation of shortfalls. This has however not led to an increase in bread prices. On another note, the informal market exchange rate increased from SYP 665/USD on 9th October to SYP 700/USD on 10th October (an increase of 5.3%) although there was a slight appreciation to SYP 660/USD by the third week of October.

Al-Hasakeh city: Markets in Al-Hasakeh city remained operational during October with key commodities reported to be available. Price volatility was reported for some commodities while the exchange rate was not affected by the conflict. The main reasons for price volatility is related to the increased demand due to large numbers of displacement.

Ar-Raqqa city: Commodities in Ar-Raqqa city were largely available in October due to existing stock and functioning supply routes from Damascus and Aleppo. However, diesel and butane gas are sourced from Al-Hasakeh governorate through M4 which caused the prices of fuel to increase. And Tel Abiad market which is located in Ar-Raqqa governorate on the border with Turkey, is now controlled by Turkish military forces. No information about the market situation was able to be collected.

A general increase in food-items prices was recorded in Qamishli, Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa in October as a result of the increased fighting. In Al-Hasakeh, the price of bulgur went up by 25%, lentils prices went up by 33% and the price of wheat flour went up by 20% between the first and third week of October (Chart 1). In Qamishli, between the first and thirds weeks of October, the price of pasta increased by 25%, while the price of vegetable cooking oil increased by 8% (Chart 2). In Ar-Raqqa, the price of bulgur went up by 7%, vegetable cooking oil increased by 5% and white rice by 3%, wheat flour went up by 8% and sugar went up by 33%. Between the second and third weeks of October prices continued to see a volatile trend. In Al-Hasakeh, bulgur and vegetable cooking oil prices increased by 7% and 1% respectively, while the price of sugar decreased by 3%. In Qamishli, prices of pasta, oil and bulgur increased by 18%, 4% and 8% respectively. In Ar-Raqqa, the price of rice fell by 2%, while the other prices remained the same.

Fuel prices and informal exchange rate: In both Al-Hasakeh and Qamishli, the informal exchange rate fell by 3% between the first and third week of October. No increase in fuel prices (diesel and butane gas) was reported between the first two weeks. However, the refill price of one butane gas cylinder rose by 20% in Al-Hasakeh between the second and third week of October. Ar-Raqqa recorded a significant increase of 38% for diesel and of 15% for one butane gas cylinder refill between the first and third week of October.

Wholesale prices: Similar to retail prices, an increase in wholesale prices was reported between the first three weeks of October. In Qamishli, wholesale wheat grain, bulgur and rice prices rose by 3%, 7%, and 14% respectively. In Al-Hasakeh, wheat flour, bulgur, and rice wholesale prices rose by 3%, 18%, and 8% respectively. Compared to the second week, there were no significant changes in prices in Qamishli. In Ar-Raqqa bulgur prices saw an increase by 8% between the first and third week of October while the prices of wheat flour and rice remained the same.²

¹ OCHA Syria | Flash Update #11
² Market Assessment for North-East Syria (NES): October 2019 – WFP VAM

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Supply routes:

Al-Hasakeh has two main supply routes, one from northern Iraq and the other from Aleppo governorate. During October, the volume and type of commodities coming into Al-Hasakeh and Qamishli markets slightly decreased as traders were afraid to transport goods. Supply routes from Aleppo were also informally blocked due to the conflict near the M4 road. However, the availability of commodities in both Al-Hasakeh and Qamishli was not affected due to existing stock levels in the markets and supplies are now coming from other supply routes (Map 1). In addition, there are three main supply routes to Ar-Raqqa city; from Aleppo, Damascus and Menbij. The route from Menbij has been blocked while the routes from Aleppo and Damascus are still viable (red highlighted road, Map 1).

COORDINATION with KRI FSS:
Coordination between NES FSS and Iraq FSC is ongoing. Current reports indicate that the Sahela dn Walidiya border crossing continues to be used by people who are crossing into Iraqi Kurdistan. Those crossing the border continue receiving hot meals from a national NGO, Barzani Charity Foundation (BCF) before they are moved to Bardarash Camp by IOM, where people are registered and provided with UNHCR documentation. The registration and security screening take a few days after which the refugees are either free to stay in the camp or to move out of the camp with no restrictions. In-camp refugees are provided with hot meals by BCF on a daily basis while new arrivals receive RTEs from WFP. As of November 6, the total number of refugees who have entered Duhok is estimated at 14,369 individuals. The Bardarash camp is at full capacity currently holding 11,407 individuals. Gawilan is currently the camp receiving new refugee arrivals with 1,906 individuals having arrived in the camp so far.

AGRICULTURE:
A number of farmers have been displaced from Tal Abyad and Ras Al Aian. Agriculture remains a concern as planting season continues to be affected impacting production. Farmers in Hassakeh governorate have been particularly impacted. Most agricultural traders have communicated to FSS partners that due to the current situation they will not be able to provide all the inputs required for the planting season. Moreover, a high number of beneficiaries that partners were targeting are within the 32km 'safe zone'. Farmers in Raqqa and Deir Ez Zor will likely be affected by increase in production costs with an expected increase in fuel prices in addition challenges in access to water.

Additionally, about 441,086 hectares of very productive farmland in the region with highest agricultural potential will likely not be planted in the current season (single season per annum) due to access limitations in buffer zones. This represents a potential production loss of about 763,000 tons of wheat, adequate to feed nearly 4.5 million people for one year in both NES and entire country.

The main needs remain the provision of Ready-To-Eat Rations (RTERs) to new IDP arrivals in collective centres in Hassekeh, Tel Tamer, Qamishli and Derbaseyeh who lack cooking utensils / resources and are living in overcrowded conditions. The provision of support to the tens of thousands of IDPs being hosted by the various communities remains a key priority in order to alleviate pressure on host community households. Priorities include:

i) Ensure all new IDP arrivals living with host community HH receive RTERs.

ii) Ensure all IDP arrivals living with host community HH and collective shelters will receive second round of RTERs.
iii) Partners with RTEs pipelines to accelerate procurement and clarify delivery times through FS Coordinator.

iv) As a second line response, provide targeted support to IDPs being hosted by communities in main urban centres (Raqqa, Ein Issa, Tal Tamer, Hassakeh, Kobani and Qamishil)

v) Conduct Rapid Market Assessments to identify conducive areas to expand cash and voucher programming among IDPs as an alternative to in-kind

Current Response and Plans

OVERALL RESPONSE:
As of 10 November, a total of 530,309 people (106,007 HH) including host community populations were reached with some form of food assistance:

- A total of 2,140 kg of bread has been distributed to IDPs in 32 collective centres to date. WFP reached a total of 97,580 displaced people (19,516 HH) who have received Ready to Eat (RTE) rations and date bars. As well as a total of 14,645 displaced people (2,929 HH) who have received Ready to Eat (RTE) rations.

- WFP also reached 349,985 (69,997 HH) people in host communities experiencing a high number of displaced persons with General Food Rations (GFR). General Food Rations are distributed as part of emergency and regular response.

DAILY RESPONSE:

Between October 28th – November 10th, WFP continued to distribute food assistance in 12 locations; Al-Malikeyyeh, Ya'robiyah, Al-Hassakeh, Al-Thawrah, Amuda, Ar-Raqqa, Darbasiyah, Ein Issa, Jawadiyah, Jurneyyeh, Qahtaniyyeh, Quamishli and Tal Hamis to meet the needs for displaced people. 1 INGO continues to provide bread in 32 collective centres in Hassakeh and Mabada reaching 5,410 people (1,102 HH) daily. 1 INGO distribution one round of Ready to Eat rations to 13,277 Inds, (2,340 HHs) in 33 shelters and villages in Al-Hassakeh and Tal Tamer. INGO distributed cash for food assistance in Raqqa city (Rumelah) to 600 HHs and further plans another round of distribution to an additional 1,470 HHs in Raqqa city. 1 INGO is distributing the second round of Ready to Eat rations at 25 collective centres to 2,006 people (457 HH). 1 INGO commenced the distribution of food vouchers at 6 communities to 1,198 people (209 HH). 1 INGO distributed packed biscuits, juice and water bottles in one collective center at Hassakeh to 1,633 people (288 HH). 2 INGOs initiated emergency assessments of displaced persons in order to start providing vouchers. 1 INGO completed the distribution of food vouchers to 120 IDP households in Tabqa, distribution of food vouchers to 88 IDP households in Hazima, and to 2,673 households in Raqqa city; and distribution of food vouchers to 892 households in Al Baath Triangle, Zone 5. In addition, distribution of food vouchers was undertaken for 98 IDP households in Kobani, while 1 INGO distributed food vouchers to 1,825 households in Menbij City. 1 INGO supported home gardens in Ar Raqqa Governorate for 1000 farmers. The distribution of home garden kits in Deir Ez Zor Governorate (Harijyeh) was also undertaken for 300 Farmers.

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3 Each organization verifies these numbers on ground and based on that distributes assistance. Therefore, there is a difference between the number of households reported to be displaced and the number of households verified and assisted by location.

4 This includes Ready to Eat (RTE) Rations, Date bars, General Food Baskets (GFR).
PLANS:
7 INGOs are providing food assistance to displaced people in NES, 2 INGO partners have RTEs stock with a capacity of 700 RTEs and a stock in pipeline for 3,000 RTEs which will be received within 10 to 14 days. 1 INGO is in the process of procuring 5,000 monthly food baskets to support 13,277 people with 3 rounds of monthly food baskets, 1 INGO is planning to start the distribution of regular food vouchers in Raqqa and Menbij to support 2900 HH and 1170 HH respectively. 1 INGO is targeting 142 households in Raqqa with food vouchers. 1 INGO will distribute food vouchers to another 545 households in Minbij and Raqqa city. 3 INGOs are considering cash assistance in Hasskeh and Tal Tamer. 1 INGO is continuing the distribution of refreshment boxes (biscuits, juice, water and tissues). 3 INGOs are continuing with the distribution of second round of RTEs in Hasskeh and Tal Tamer. Agreement between the FSS sector, RCC and partners to support displaced people in Raqqa city continues to be in place. Each partner will support the displaced people within their operation Zone. 1 INGO will distribute wheat seeds and livestock fodder for 4000 beneficiaries (Derek, Hasakeh, Raqqa areas) as part of the winter response. 1 INGO will distribute wheat and fertilizer by mid-November while another INGO resumed support to bakerie in Raqqa.

CAMPS:
Bread distributions by 1 NGO partner continues in Twahina, Mahmoudli, Areesha, Mabrouka, Al Hol, and Abu Khashab camps in NES covering 91,634 beneficiaries. Distribution plans for bread remain as planned over the coming weeks. In Al-Hol camp (Al-Hasakeh governorate), while distributions in the camp are on-going, distributions in the Annex were suspended for today following security concerns. Since the re-start of distributions to the Annex, WFP food assistance has reached up to 3,600 people. WFP has covered most of the camps with GFRs for October while some distributions are still ongoing. In Newroz camp, 1 INGO distributed RTEs to 800 Individuals, (160 HHs) in 5 collective centers in Al-Malikeyy. Another distribution targeted (29 HH 136 ind ) with RTEs in Newroz camp. Twina camp was also reached with 35 RTEs rations and 50 Ready to Eat ration.

Gaps, Challenges and Recommendations

- One of the key gaps is the inadequate support to households hosting displaced persons. These households require immediate support particularly in the following areas:
  - Aleppo governorate: Menbij and Ain Arab/Kobani
  - Hassakeh governorate: urban areas in Tal Tamer, Hassakeh city
  - Raqqa governorate: Tel Abyad, Ras Alain
- All sector partners with stocks are requested to expedite their pre-positioning to be able to respond to scale.
- Challenges in access to areas under Aleppo governorate in particular Menbij and Ain Arab/ Kobani sub-districts continue to persist.
- Due to the fluidity of the situation, tracking IDP movements as well as verifying such data remains challenging. Hence while the FSS and ISWG are triangulating various sources of data/information, operational partners are encouraged to undertake further verification at field level. Please use the FSS tracker to update all response information.
- The sector recommends that operational partners align with the sector endorsed guidelines for working with local councils, response packages and safe distribution processes to facilitate harmonized response.
- According to one source, food prices and rent have reportedly increased in Hassakeh City. Partners are requested to share information on food commodities and market functionality in key markets in particular in Ein Issa, Ar-Raqqa, Areesha, Tel Hamis, Hassakeh city and Yarubiya5 with the NES Food Security Sector and the Cash Working Group.

5 For a full list of markets please get in touch with NES FSS Coordinator

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Food Security Sector, NES Hub - Emergency Response as of 10 November 2019

**Summary**

- 261 Villages, neighborhoods, and locations were assisted
- 96 Schools were assisted
- 22 Shelters were assisted

**Schools were assisted**

- 71 in Al-Hasakeh
- 16 in Tal Tamer
- 5 in Al-Malikeyyah
- 2 in Ain al Arab

**FBs for 1 month**

- 52,000
- 6,500
- 1,000
- 450
- 98
- 26

**Number of beneficiaries**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bread</td>
<td>5,430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PVs</td>
<td>20,527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSA</td>
<td>349,985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RTUs (Refrigerators)</td>
<td>6,594</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RTE &amp; Date Bars</td>
<td>97,580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RTUs</td>
<td>30,238</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Overall (Host communities/IDPs)**

- 109 K
- 160 K
- 530 K

**Emergency Response**

Sources: EBI, URSIS, OCHA, FSA

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