

Food Security Sector WoS EQ Response



SITUATION REPORT #10 (03 - 10 MAR 2023)



Food parcels distribution to persons affected by the earthquake in Lattakia by one of the Food Security Sector Partners © WFP Syria

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The EQ has exacerbated an already dire situation in NWS and HCT areas. 82 assessments have been conducted by FSA partners over the past 3 weeks across Lattakia, Tartous, Idlib and Aleppo. 800,000 persons in need have been directly affected by the earthquake. Markets are functioning but are suffering from hyperinflation. Feeding arrangements in shelters are in place but are not adequate to meet demand (in both quantity and frequency). Many receive only one meal a day. Women are missing out to ensure food for children. Cooking fuel is not widely available. While those in shelters are the most visible people in need, they represent the tip of the iceberg. Thousands more have been displaced and are staying with friends and relatives in rural areas or in other governorates to the south. Rapid assessments in rural areas suggest food production will be seriously affected by the EQ. Farm families have also suffered damage to homes and farm buildings, and the need for repairs means farmers will struggle to pay for agricultural inputs for the coming season. Fuel (and farm machinery) was used for search and rescue efforts. Also, up to 7 irrigation schemes have so far been identified as damaged by EQ, as well as rural roads and bridges.
- The WoS Food Security Sector is advocating for funding and resources to support the assistance of total of 800,000 people in need affected by the EQ for 3 months of regular food assistance and urgent food assistance under Syria EQ flash appeal with total sector funding required of 127,6\$ million for 3 months from February to May 2023.
- According to [WFP Weekly Market Update](#) 18-25 Feb: diesel features in everything from agriculture production, heating and transportation. In Lattakia, the nominal price was observed at SYP 6,833 in the 3rd week of February 2023, three percent more than the previous week (soon after the earthquake), doubled in 12 months, and 14 times more than three years ago. Diesel prices also doubled within 12 months in all the heavily affected areas of Tartous (up 126%), Aleppo XB (up 103%), Aleppo (up 161%), Hama (up 162%) and Idlib (up 176%).
- WoS Food Security Sector released regular food assistance EQ recommendations to support partners in responding to the EQ people in need more details in the recommendation [here](#).

RESPONSE

In HCT hub

Since February 6th, WFP supported 71,320 with RTEs including prevention nutrition supplies and date bars in Aleppo, Lattakia, Tartous and Hama. In addition, FAS partners supported 60,101 with RTEs in Aleppo, Hama and Lattakia and 56,210 Beneficiaries were supported with Food baskets and CVA response. 20 partners' response is ongoing and planned to continue for the people in need affected by the earthquake. FAS partners also supported EQ-affected people with 618,817 hot meals living in the collective shelters.

The Food Security and Agriculture Sector in HCT has started close coordination with partners to kick off the EQ sector strategy response plan, one national meeting including all FAS partners took place in Damascus on Sunday, March 5th. It has been agreed by the sector partners to run a gap analysis related to EQ and circulate a map including food assistance and agriculture gaps related to EQ and regular FAS response, in addition, to designing the response based on affected PiN gap in shelters and host communities, in close coordination with CWG and other sectors to ensure a sufficient response and avoid any possible overlap in assistance, also to distribute available resources according to the findings of the gap. Last week one main sub-national FAS meeting took place in Latakia including all FAS partners (UN, INGO's and LNGO's) supported the EQ sector strategy response plan, next week, the sector has planned for main sub-national FAS coordination EQ meeting. Challenge in terms of targeting EQ affected population living host communities have been raised across all sub-national FAS platforms, it has been agreed with partners to engage more with the operational rooms to secure up to date information's of affected population can guide partners in targeting HH's, key gaps in terms of regular food assistance flagged in Latakia, Aleppo and Homs/Hama, as other key challenge raised by many partners in terms of lack of funding to provide short term support with regular food assistance.

In Northwest Syria

Through its Emergency Response Tracker, 46 FSL partners reported reaching a total of 622,590 beneficiaries with a one-off distribution of ready-to-eat rations of dry food (sufficient for a family of five for one week). Over the last week, 21,000 people have been reached through RTEs and HEB distribution.

14 partners reached 200,139 beneficiaries with one-off emergency MPC grants of 150 USD (designed to cover 1-month basic needs), and 73,438 received Cash for Food.

26 partners distributed 599,304 cooked meals, and 27,287 were distributed last week.100% of the cooked meals were reported as a one-off distribution.

23 partners distributed supplementary food, mainly bread support (free or subsidized bread), reaching over 19,000 people in the last week,100% of them with a one-off distribution.

11 partners distributed one-off emergency food baskets to 78,620 affected people who have access to cooking facilities.

ASSESSMENTS

In HCT hub

According to WFP Weekly Market Update_18-25 Feb: nearly three weeks after the devastating earthquake, nominal food prices continued to remain high in the affected areas. The price of the staple bread increased by 20 percent, week-on-week, in Aleppo, six percent in Hama and Idleb, and mild increase in coastal region but still the nominal price doubled in Lattakia compared to same time last year. The sheer volume of destruction to bakeries provided the explanation for the volatility. Soaring prices were also observed for lentils, oil, sugar and rice across the governorates

During the trading in February 2023, the Syrian Pound averaged around SYP 6,860/USD on both the parallel market and the official 'floating' exchange rate market, early signs of market-clearing exchange rate. The Central Bank of Syria-CBS introduced the floating exchange rate, running parallel to the fixed exchange rate at SYP 4,522/USD, on 2nd February to cater for remittances, and thereafter earthquake funds. Since then, the parallel rate and official floating exchange rates have moved in tandem and literally converged in second half of the month.

Elevated prices levels continued to be observed for the nominal price of a two-year old male live sheep in the third week of February 2023. In Aleppo, at SYP 1,281,250 /sheep, the price was 20 percent higher than just before the earthquake, doubled in 12 months, and three times more than the three-year average. Similar trends, over the 12 month-period, were observed for Lattakia (up 91%), Hama (up 131%), Idleb (up 93%) and Aleppo XB (160%).

In Northwest Syria

Based on REACH market assessment [REACH Situation Overview of the Joint Rapid Assessment](#) of Markets markets in NWS are resilient and overall functioning.

CHALLENGES

- In HCT: partners continue to report challenges in availability of wheat/flour for bread.
- In HCT: urgent funding is required to replenish food stocks and scale up the response
- In HCT: sustainability of funding for the food security response is needed for the next 3-6 months to address needs of EQ affected people and maintain regular food assistance.
- In HCT: partners have been reporting damage to mills and bakeries due to the EQ.
- In the coastal area, the constant change of the functioning shelters has impacted the needs mapping, it was reported by partners that some of the shelters are emptied out right after being assessed.
- In NWS:
 - 75% of hot-meals and over 50% of supplementary food (bread distribution) reported as one-off, not sustained over time
 - Partners continuing regular food assistance programming
 - Limited availability of wheat flour for baking bread
 - People reached with emergency food assistance decreased from week one to week three after EQ

For more information

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