

Food Security Sector WoS EQ Response



SITUATION REPORT #12 (17 - 24 MAR 2023)



One of the Food Security Sector Partners providing Food Baskets to persons affected by the Earthquake at a distribution point in Aleppo © 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, Idelb 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 Idleb (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 94,150 with RTEs including prevention nutrition supplies and date bars in Aleppo, Lattakia, Tartous and Hama. In addition, FAS partners supported 90,184 with RTEs in Aleppo, Hama and Lattakia and 20,568 Beneficiaries were supported with Food baskets. 26 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 784,873 hot meals living in the collective shelters.

As of April 2023, the FAS will be providing a regular Earthquake gap analysis to partners, particularly in Aleppo, Coastal and central areas to indicate which areas most need/gap and require response consideration, 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.

In Northwest Syria

According to the FSL Emergency Response Tracker, 49 FSL partners reported distributing a total of 673,007 Ready to Eat Rations of dry food (sufficient for a family of five for one week). Over the last week, 4,000 people have been reached through RTEs and HEB distribution. (387,253 in Max method)

Cash for Food CVA reached 80,068 through 6 partners, out of which 64,593 were reached over the past month.

14 partners distributed one-off emergency food baskets to 111,781 affected people who have access to cooking facilities. (49,143 over the past month)

26 partners distributed from the beginning of the response a total of 636,489 cooked meals, and 13,000 were distributed last week. Cooked meals were reported as a one-off distribution in 100% of cases.

23 partners distributed supplementary food, mainly bread support (free or subsidized bread), reaching over 15,000 people in the last week, 100% of them with a one-off distribution.

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%).

ASSESSMENTS

In Northwest Syria

iMMAP in cooperation with the Bread and Bakery Technical Working Group has presented the Wheat to Bread analysis here the [link](#)

CHALLENGES

- In HCT:
 - Partners continue to report challenges in availability of wheat/flour for bread.
 - Urgent funding is required to replenish food stocks and scale up the response
 - 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.
 - 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:
 - Ensuring coverage of food needs in Reception Centers hosting population affected by EQ
 - People reached with emergency food assistance dropped from first week after EQ to last week five
 - Provision of hot-meals and supplementary food (bread distribution) reported as one-off, not sustained over time
 - Due to limited funding, agency announced reduction of food ration from April.
 - No funding for emergency agriculture (crop and livestock) assistance

For more information

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