Needs

Dar’a al- Balad City with an estimated population of 15,000 - 25,000 people is still under intensified insecurity with a substantial increase in conflict; with additional insecurity spreading across the northern parts of Western Dara. As of 28th February OCHA reported an estimated >17,805 people (>3,561 HHs) have been displaced. Majority of Dar’a Al-Balad population are displaced largely to the farms and villages of South Eastern Dar’a Governorate. Rapid Needs Assessment conducted by WFP and various partners indicate that along with safety and security, food and shelter are the top priorities of needs. Insecurity and access remain critical problems to access southern Syria from Jordan hub. A partner that conducted an assessment recently recommends to avoid large distribution points. Additionally, transport to warehouses in Western Dar’a may not be possible due to the insecurities. Due to the successful deconfliction process UN convoys are moving through Ramtha BCP to resupply stock in southern Syria. Tell Shihab, the informal crossing is running normally as of now, but NGO partners reported insecurity around the area. Nonetheless some crossings of humanitarian items have been reported from Western Dar’a to Eastern Dar’a. IDP’s located in Dara farms are not accessible due to insecurity including heavy shelling and bombardment in the area almost every day. Furthermore, displacement is very mobile, many people come over night to the farms and go back to Dara al Balad during the day.

Response by sector partners

Emergency Response to IDPS

- Immediate response is provided by Ready to Eat Rations (RTEs) that serve a family of 5 for 5 days.
- As of 1st March, WFP and its partners (ACTED & IRD) have assisted 9,135 people (1,827 HHs) with RTEs out of which 3,525 people (705 HHs) received repeat distributions of RTEs in the period 11 – 21 February.
- WFP and its partners also provided RTEs to people from displaced from Yarmouk Valley. Total number assisted currently amounts to 11,780 people (2,356 HHs). Newly additional IDPs are being assisted in Ajami, Amoreya, and Kherbet Qais in Dar’a governorate in addition to Ghadir El Bustan and Al Rafid in Quneitra governorate.
Status of Regular Response in February

- From Jordan hub, WFP and another sector partner serve up to 300,000 people every month with Full Family Rations in Southern Syria. Additionally, another sector partner provides on average 2,939 MT of flour to bakeries that serves an estimated 590,000 people per month.
- From WFP’s plan for February, 5,000 of the targeted households have not received their monthly Food Rations in Dar’a and Quneitra governorates due to the suspension of convoys from the Ramtha BCP since 11 February. However, following the successful crossing of the first convoy on 8th of March WFP has been able to resupply its stock for regular food distribution. These Food Rations are planned to be distributed in Quneitra and western Dar’a in March should the security situation permits.
- From the other sector partner’s plan for February, 27,776 Food Rations (138,880 people assisted) have been distributed in Dar’a and Quneitra governorates with 10,000 Food Rations remaining. From the 10,000 Food Rations remaining, 5,000 Food Rations are inside Syria, in addition to 6,722 RTE’s prepositioned for emergency response. Inside Jordan the sector partner has 15,000 Food Ration ready to be crossed through the border as and when the time comes.
- A partner that provides flour to bakeries in the affected areas reported that flour and yeast were available with the bakeries, and it’s expected that as of now the bakeries will be able to serve the bread needs of the communities. A total of 301 MT of flour was distributed in the week of 26th February to 4th March, which has an increased allocation to cater for IDPs and also some pending distribution of 74 MT that was distributed previously. A total of 196 MT of flour has been allocated for week of 5th Mar – 11th Mar with an additional 10.5 MT of wheat being prepositioned for increased influx of IDPs.

Preparedness

- In the sector preparedness plan, with contributions from WFP and another sector partner, a total of 30,000 Ready to Eat Rations (10,000 RTEs from WFP and 20,000 RTEs from NGO) and 15,000 Monthly Food Rations (10,000 Food Rations from WFP and 5,000 Food Rations from NGO) were to be prepositioned.
- From the above pre-positioned plan, WFP has moved 10,697 RTEs (for upto 53,485 people) prepositioned inside Syria in Tiba in eastern Dara which will be used for both repeat distribution and additional IDPs. In addition, another sector partner has 9,000 RTE’s prepositioned for emergency response.
- One sector partner has food rations inside Syria to cater for an estimated 55 households. Contents of baskets are: Rice - 8 Kg, Sugar - 2 Kg, Canned peas - 3 Can, Canned chicken - 1 Can, Oil - 2 L.
- Operational coordination is ongoing with nutrition sector for distributing High Energy Biscuits along with RTEs/food specifically targeting Pregnant and Lactating Women and children 6 months - 36 months. Coordination is also ongoing with nutrition sector in ensuring households are matched for Ready to Rations and kitchen sets.
- The Inter Sector Working Group in Jordan hub has developed a 3 convoy forward plan to resupply food and other essential lifesaving items through Ramtha BCP and as of 10th March one convoy went through after a successful deconfliction process. These convoys carried 5,000 Food Rations which resupplied stock in the warehouse Tiba.

Gaps

- As of now, there are more than 17,805 IDPs reported to have been displaced and 9,135 IDPs have received RTEs. Partners reported that the verification of number of IDPs is still ongoing and efforts are being made to reach those who have not yet received immediate food assistance.
- The two bakeries in the city are still functional and providing bread to people in the city and IDPs in the farmlands, and they have enough flour till now, however have urgent need for fuel.

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