

## Food Security Update, Dar'a Al-Baled, Syria

### As of March, 01, 2017 - Update Number 3

### Needs

Dar'a al- Baled City with an estimated population of 15,000 - 25,000 people is still under intensified insecurity with a substantial increase in conflict. As of 28th February OCHA reports an estimated >17,805 people (>3,561 HHs) have been displaced. Currently the battle being at its 3<sup>rd</sup> week, it is expected that the majority of Dar'a Al-Baled population are displaced largely to the farms and villages of South Eastern Dar'a Governorate.

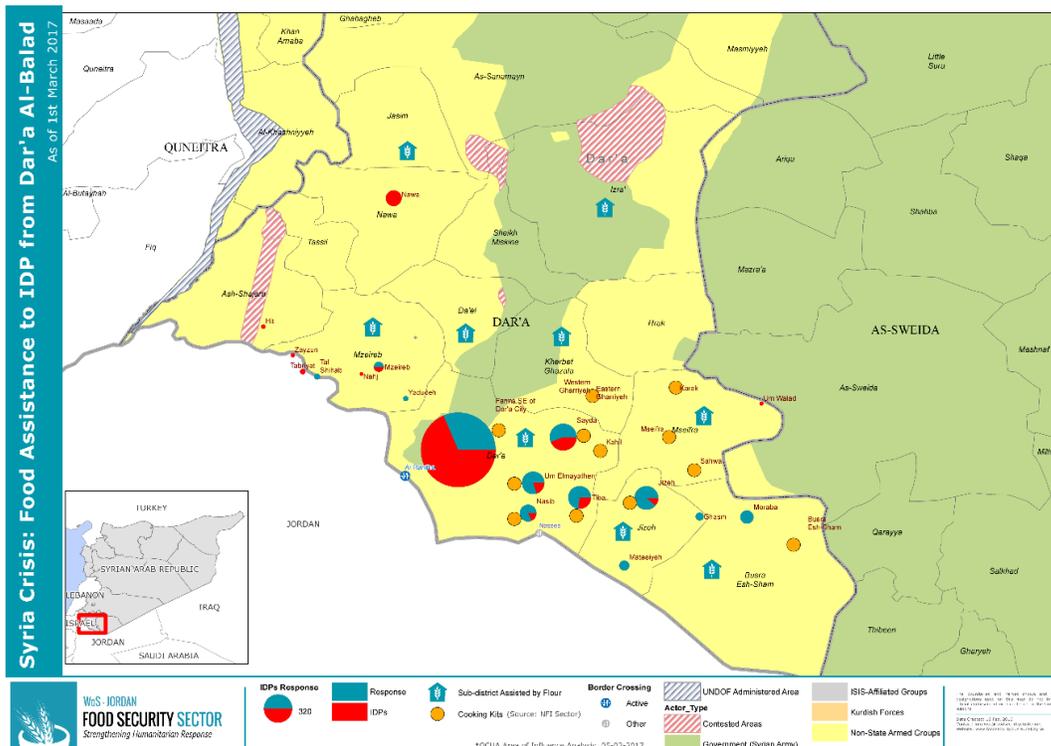
Rapid Needs Assessment conducted by WFP and various partners indicate that food and shelter are the top priorities of the displaced people with also safety and security. Additional displacements are also being experienced in Yarmouk Valley and surrounding villages of South West of Dar'a since the 19<sup>th</sup> of February with IDPs moving northwards towards Nawa and also southwards towards the villages on the border with Jordan.

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. Tell Shihab, the informal crossing is running normally as of now, but NGO partners reported insecurity. Nonetheless some crossings of humanitarian items have been reported from Western Dar'a to Eastern Dar'a.

### 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 27<sup>th</sup> February, 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 5,160 IDPs (1,032 HHs) displaced from Yarmouk Valley to Saham El Golan, Hit, Jlein, Tassil, and Nawa.



## 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, 74% of the targeted households have received monthly Food Rations in Dar'a and 39% of the targeted households have been reached in Quneitra. The distribution of the monthly allocation of gaps exist because of suspension of convoys from the Ramtha BCP due to insecurity since 11 February. In the last update, it was reported that regular food distribution in certain locations are pending due to insecurity but now those distributions have been completed in Jabaliyeh, Sokkhariyeh, Jlein, Nahj and Sayda.

From the other sector partner's plan for February, 74% of their monthly allocation have been distributed in Dar'a and Quneitra with 10,000 Food Rations remaining to be distributed. From the 10,000 Food Rations still remaining, 5,000 Food Rations are inside Syria.

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 192 MT of flour was distributed in the week of 19<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> February, which has an increased allocation to cater for IDPs. However, 74 MT of wheat allocated for the week which was being purchased locally will be distributed during the week of 26<sup>th</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> March. A total of 195 MT of flour has been allocated for week of 26 Feb – 4 Mar as well with an additional 10.5 MT of wheat being prepositioned for increased caseloads.

## 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 FRs from WFP and 5,000 FRs from NGO) were to be prepositioned.
- From the above pre-positioned plan, WFP has 10,697 RTEs (for upto 53,485 people) prepositioned inside Syria in Nawa and Tiba 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 provided the deconfliction process is successful.

## Gaps

- As reported, preposition efforts have been halted due to the suspension of convoys from Ramtha BCP. Unless the convoys resume, there will be significant gap in responding to the food needs for both regular as well as emergency response for not only Eastern Dar'a but also for the rest of southern Syria.
- 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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