



World Food Programme

WFP Syria

North-Western Syria Emergency Situation Report #12

12 February 2020

WFP Operational Presence



In Numbers

689,100 people displaced since 01 December 2019¹

409,000 newly displaced people assisted with WFP ready-to-eat rations since 01 December 2019

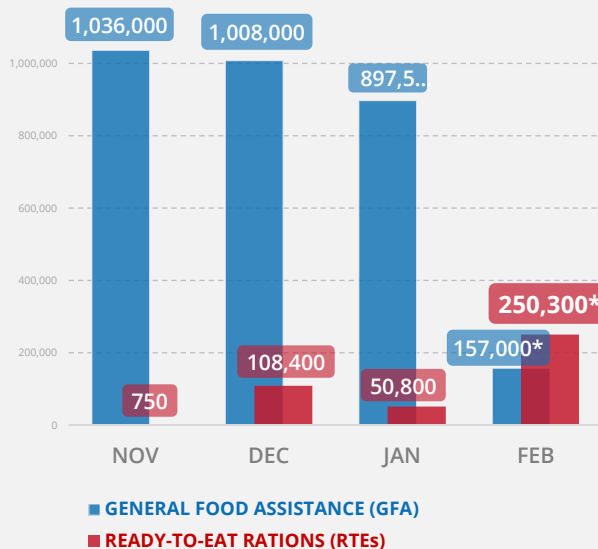
897,500 people provided with WFP general food assistance in January 2020

Highlights

- The dramatic escalation of violence across north-western Syria is fuelling a rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation. Population displacement has accelerated significantly in recent weeks, with more than 100,000 people displaced between 02 and 09 February alone.
- WFP has provided emergency food assistance to more than 400,000 recently displaced people since 01 December and provided general food assistance to more than 897,000 people in January.
- WFP operations are being significantly hampered by the volatile security situation, as well as by the rapid movement of people, winter weather conditions and military movement.

WFP Response: North-Western Syria

(number of people assisted, as of 11 February)



**Distributions ongoing at the time of writing.*

Situation Update

- The security situation in north-western Syria is deteriorating rapidly as hostilities continue across southern and eastern Idlib governorate as well as western Aleppo governorate.
- The extreme levels of violence is spurring population displacement on a massive scale, which has accelerated significantly in recent weeks. According to the UNHCR-led Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster, some 689,100 people have now been displaced since 01 December. Some 102,000 people were displaced over the week of 02-09 February alone.
- The Dana sub-district of Idlib governorate on the border with Turkey remains the main destination of the recently displaced. More than 80 percent are women and children, and more than half, some 364,000 people, are reporting food as a priority need.

WFP Response

- WFP, through its cooperating partners, is providing emergency food and nutrition assistance to the affected population with commodities dispatched into Syria via the [Logistics Cluster](#)-facilitated cross-border operation from Turkey. WFP distributes ready-to-eat rations (RTEs) as a first-line response to newly displaced families to cover immediate needs, before enrolling eligible households into its general food assistance (GFA) programme.
- WFP continues to respond to the growing needs and has provided emergency food assistance through RTEs to some **409,000 newly displaced people** across Idlib and western Aleppo governorate since 01 December 2019. 250,000 of these have been assisted over the first 11 days of February 2020 alone. Population movement remains fluid and unpredictable, and RTEs are provided as needed based on coordination with partners and relevant clusters to identify recent IDPs who have reported food as a priority need. Additional RTE distributions are ongoing at the time of writing.
- Under its regular GFA programme, WFP assisted **897,500 people** in January, 80 percent of the monthly plan. Under the February GFA cycle, WFP is targeting 1.1 million people for GFA, and distributions started on 04 February.

Operational Challenges

- WFP is facing significant challenges in its response due to the volatile security situation, which is slowing down both deliveries and distributions of much-needed humanitarian food assistance. WFP's cooperating partner staff and their families are in many cases themselves among the recently displaced. Similarly, some of the Syrian commercial truck drivers contracted to move WFP food into north-western Syria have expressed a reluctance to travel to collect commodities at the Turkish transshipment hubs, fearing sudden border closure as well as expressing concerns over the safety of their families.
- On 11 February, heavy bombardment targeting the city of Atareb (western Aleppo governorate) spurred significant population displacement, including of the families of drivers and transporters that handle WFP commodities. As a result, WFP was forced to temporarily halt the movement of trucks crossing the border from Turkey into north-western Syria carrying food. WFP has since been able to resume truck movement, although the situation remains fluid and unpredictable.

- Further, impassable roads due to winter weather conditions as well as military movement continues to restrict the movement of trucks carrying WFP commodities. The rapid movement of people is also hampering the ability of WFP's cooperating partners to accurately track, identify and locate all IDPs in need of assistance.

WFP Preparedness

- WFP is aiming to reach all IDP across its operational areas of north-western Syria. WFP and its cooperating partners are currently analysing the accessibility of areas that have recently received a large influx of IDPs in a bid to further ramp up the provision of emergency food assistance in the highly unpredictable context.
- WFP is working with its cooperating partners on measures to ensure that WFP can continue to assist the affected population while ensuring the safety of beneficiaries, cooperating partner staff and commodities.
- WFP currently has RTEs in stock inside north-western Syria sufficient for **412,100 people**, as well as GFA rations in stock sufficient for **818,700 people**. WFP deliveries are ongoing to north-western Syria, although at a lower rate than normal due to the ongoing hostilities and military operations which are obstructing supply routes.

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For more information:

- [All previous WFP North-Western Syria Emergency Situation Reports](#) on ReliefWeb
- [OCHA: Recent Developments in Northwestern Syria Flash Update](#), 06 February 2020

¹ CCM Cluster, 09 February 2020.

The designations employed and the presentation of material in the map(s) do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of WFP concerning the legal or constitutional status of any country, territory, city or sea, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

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