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WFP News Release

15 October 2019

**WFP News Video
Northeast Syria**

Location: Hasakeh, Syria / Rome, Italy

TRT: 02:48

Shot: 13th / 15th October 2019

:00-:20

External shots of school converted into shelter for Internally Displaced People (IDPs) who fled their homes following airstrikes in Northeast Syria.

Hasakeh, Syria

Shot: 13th Oct 2019

:20-:35

Khadijah Mohammad (Um Ismail), a widow was just finishing preparing a meal for her family when explosions began. The last picture she has of her home is of the dining room where dinner was served. She fled without any belongings on foot, pushing the wheelchair of her son (Mustafa). The only thing on her mind was that she wanted to get him to safety.

Internal shots of shelter. Khadijah with her son Mustafa.

Hasakeh, Syria

Shot: 13th Oct 2019

:35-:47

SOT, Khadijah Mohammad (Kurdish)

“The road took around 4 hours. We were walking and it was a long distance. It was very tiring. Pushing Mustafa’s chair until we arrived. The wheelchair was nearly broken when we arrived.”

Hasakeh, Syria

Shot: 13th Oct 2019

:47-01:07

Cutaways of Khadijah in the hallway. Various shots of living conditions in the shelter.

Hasakeh, Syria

Shot: 13th Oct 2019

01:07-01:23

SOT Thalja Modhi, Displaced from Ras al Ain (Arabic)

“We need everything. We need food, the children need food. We are 15 people and my grandchildren are orphans.”

Hasakeh, Syria

Shot: 13th Oct 2019

01:23-01:43

WFP truck arrives at the local partner warehouse in Hasakeh. Charity volunteers offloading the emergency food assistance including ready-to-eat rations and general food assistance.

Hasakeh, Syria
Shot: 13th Oct 2019

01:43-02:06

SOT Margot Van Der Velden, WFP Director of Emergencies (Arabic)

“What we have been facing for the last few days is movement of people because of the violence. Around 160,000 people have been displaced. WFP has been able to reach 83,000 of them. Most of them are living with host families some in shelters and we are doing all we can to reach the remaining groups of people who have been displaced because of the violence.”

Rome, Italy

Shot: 15th Oct 2019

02:06-02:38

WFP food distribution to newly displaced people staying in Hasakeh.

Hasakeh, Syria

Shot: 13th Oct 2019

02:38-02:48

External shot of woman cooking at the shelter.

Hasakeh, Syria

Shot: 13th Oct 2019

END

Northeast Syria Media Messages

15 Oct 2019

KEY MESSAGES

- WFP is deeply concerned about the safety of civilians caught up in the violence as military operations continue across northeastern Syria, around the towns of Ras al-Ayn in Hasakeh and Tell Abyad in Raqqa.

There are an estimated 160,000 people on the move, seeking shelter in Hasakeh and Raqqa cities. Many people choose to stay with family and friends rather than in collective shelters, so that figure could be higher.

- WFP has so far provided immediate food assistance to more than 83,000 people fleeing towns in northeast Syria.

WFP dispatched enough food assistance to support 130,000 people and is providing supporting newly-displaced families staying in shelters with ready-to-eat food while those staying with host families receive a regular food package. New collective shelters are being opened rapidly, and WFP through its cooperating partners is working to identify and assess the needs of people there.

- *WFP calls for vital supply routes be kept open and safe for humanitarian deliveries. All parties to the conflict must ensure unconditional, unimpeded and continuous access to all people in need across Syria.*

Hostilities threaten the movement of humanitarian and commercial supplies that can negatively affect the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. The United Nations and its humanitarian partners are gearing up to support up to 400,000 people who may require assistance and protection as a result of this conflict.

- **WFP has already been assisting more than half a million people in northeastern Syria every month.**

WFP, with partners on the ground, is working to identify and support people in need as well as register families who are hosting displaced people to provide them with additional food as needed.

WFP Syria Crisis in Numbers: data from sources incl. [2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview](#)

People in need of humanitarian assistance million	11.7
People who are food-insecure inside Syria 6.5 million	
Internally displaced people (IDPs) 6.2 million	
• People living in extreme poverty 75% of population	
• Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR in region 5.6 million	
• People in Syria who received WFP food in September	4.3 million
Funding required by WFP until March 2020	US\$170.9 million

WFP response to military operations in the North East of Syria:

- **Despite tremendous challenges, WFP is responding to the food and nutritional needs of the newly displaced while maintaining its regular food deliveries where the security situation allows.**

- **WFP has the capacity to reach over 450,000 people in northeastern Syria with one round of ready-to-eat food packages, mobilizing stock from other locations if need be. Production of further stocks of ready-to-eat food is ongoing.**

- **The humanitarian situation is dire especially for those arriving at the collective shelters. Many people had to flee, leaving all their belongings behind. People say what they most need is food, medicine, clothes and other daily essentials.**

- Schools are being emptied to host newly-displaced people. Women, children and men are sharing empty classrooms.
- Public and private hospitals in Ras al-Ayn and Tell Abyad closed on 11 October. Both towns seem to be deserted, shops are closed, and streets are empty. Most residents fled during the first days of fighting fearing for their lives and that of their children especially. Many said they did not know where they were heading to but are only seeking safety.
- Bakeries in host areas are struggling to meet the needs of an influx of new arrivals and are short on raw materials. One of the main bakeries is no longer operating due to the security situation.

SYRIA WIDE OPERATIONS

- More than eight years of war have pushed millions of Syrians into hunger and poverty displacing millions both inside and outside the country. While increasing numbers are returning to their homes, many others remain displaced. Despite challenges inside Syria, WFP assists more than around 4 million people every month. There are 6.2 million Syrians displaced within the country, most have lost their assets and jobs. Those returning to their homes after escaping conflict face tremendous challenges to restart their lives.
- Syrians returning to their communities need support – and they are eager to restart their livelihoods. However, most of those returning to their towns have no homes or jobs to go back to - nor do they have the means to feed and educate their children. WFP is helping Syrians produce their own food and generate an income in areas that are secure and where commerce is functioning.
- WFP depends on reliable and predictable funding to maintain the lifeline of food assistance. WFP is grateful for the last eight years of support from donors but still needs substantial resources to run operations for internally displaced people in Syria and refugees in neighbouring countries. WFP's operations inside Syria and in neighbouring countries remains less than 50 percent funded for the coming six months (until March 2020).

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The United Nations World Food Programme - saving lives in emergencies and changing lives for millions through sustainable development. WFP works in more than 80 countries around the world, feeding people caught in conflict and disasters, and laying the foundations for a better future.

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