



World Food Programme
Programme Alimentaire Mondial
Programa Mundial de Alimentos
برنامج الأغذية العالمي

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WFP News Video

Syria Faces Highest Food Insecurity in 10 Years of Conflict

Shot: Jan-March 2021/Oct 2020

Locations: Aleppo- SYRIA, Rome - ITALY

TRT: 4:02

SHOTLIST:

:00-:20

GVs of Aleppo which has suffered massive destruction, death and displacement since the onset of the war.

Shot: 6Oct20

Aleppo, Syria

:20-:30

Various shots of market place. Prices have soared to record highs increasing by 222% in just one year.

Shot: 24Feb21

Aleppo, Syria

:30-:41

Abo Mohammed's grocery store is situated in a destroyed building in the Sukari area of Aleppo after he could no longer afford a stall at the main market.

Shot: 22Feb21

Aleppo, Syria

:41-:57

SOT Abo Mohammed, Grocery Store Vendor (Arabic):

"My sales have really dropped – around 50% because of the increase in prices. Sometimes people even buy pieces of a vegetable because they can't afford a whole one. This is what is happening now."

Shot: 22Feb21

Aleppo, Syria



:57-1:12

GVs of Al Dablan nutrition clinic, child being tested and receiving nutritious supplementary food. WFP supports vulnerable mothers and children to boost their nutrition by providing them with fortified snacks at school and supported 143,900 children and pregnant and nursing mothers to fight acute malnutrition.

Shot: 29Jan21

Aleppo, Syria

1:12-1:43

SOT Arif Hussain, WFP Chief Economist (English):

"You have COVID, you have loss of the value of the currency itself and then you have mass displacement. So when you put all of these things together there is no surprise that we are seeing rising food insecurity, rising hunger, not only in the breadth, meaning lots and lots of people, but also in the depth, meaning people are closer to starvation today than ever before."

Shot: 2Mar21

Rome, Italy

1:43-2:04

Om Muhammad, a widowed mother of 8 children, is entirely dependent on WFP assistance to feed her family. She currently lives in Sukari area after a mortar destroyed their family home. She cannot afford to pay for electricity or heat.

Shot: 22Feb21

Aleppo, Syria

2:04-2:25

SOT Om Muhammad (Arabic):

"One day a mortar hit our house when we were living in the Menyan area. When my husband came home and saw the destruction he thought we had all been killed and was so shocked he died from a heart attack. We suffered a lot."

Shot: 22Feb21

Aleppo, Syria



2:25-2:35

Depending entirely on food aid they go for long periods eating only rice which she cooks on a kerosene pump stove.

Shot: 22Feb21

Aleppo, Syria

2:35-2:50

SOT Om Muhammad, (Arabic):

"We haven't had meat since Eid Adha (31 July 2020). And when I go to the market I can only look at the vegetables because they are so expensive."

Shot: 22Feb21

Aleppo, Syria

2:50-3:05

Om Muhammad and her children in the living room. Despite the cold and lack of heating, none of them have socks and have to rely on blankets to keep warm.

Shot: 22Feb21

Aleppo, Syria

3:05-3:36

SOT Arif Hussain, WFP Chief Economist (English):

"Imagine a 12 year old. Today they can vote. 21, 22 years old and all they have seen is war. So what we need to do, first and foremost we need to get to peace. And the second thing is to rebuild. Rebuild the population, rebuild the children making sure they start going to school, making sure they have better nutrition and then also helping to rebuild the infrastructure."

Shot: 2Mar21

Rome, Italy

3:36-3:47

WFP food distribution.

Shot: 24Feb21



Aleppo, Syria

3:47-4:02

GVs of people in long waiting queues for subsidized bread. Insufficient wheat supply has led to a reduction in the quantity provided and an increase in the price of subsidized bread. If the subsidized bread programme collapses the impact will be devastating for the majority Syrians, who depend on them to survive. WFP supplied some of the equipment used to run this bakery.

Shot: 23Feb21

Aleppo, Syria

ENDS

WFP News Release

11 March 2021

TEN YEARS ON, WAR-RAVAGED SYRIANS GRAPPLE WITH THEIR WORST HUNGER CRISIS YET

DAMASCUS – After a decade of upheaval, conflict and displacement, Syrians are facing the worst humanitarian conditions since the start of the crisis, with millions of people sliding into hunger in the last year alone, according to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP).

“This conflict has taken a tremendous toll on the Syrian people. Every day more and more Syrians are pushed deep into hunger and poverty,” said Sean O’Brien, WFP Representative and Country Director in Syria. “Families are faced with impossible choices: do they put food on the table, or get the healthcare they need? Or can they send their children to school? Without sustained assistance, these families simply cannot survive.”

Syrians are facing multiple shocks, including the collapse of the Syrian pound, its impact on the price of basic commodities, the fall-out from the financial crisis in Lebanon, as well as the ongoing hostilities and large-scale displacement. The Covid-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the food security situation.



More than 4.5 million people have sunk into hunger and food insecurity in the last year alone.

A recent assessment by WFP and partners estimates that a record 12.4 million Syrians – nearly 60 percent of the population – suffer from food insecurity and hunger today, double the number in 2018. The study also revealed that the number of people who cannot survive without food assistance has doubled in a year, reaching 1.3 million people.

Food prices have increased by more than 200% since the beginning of the conflict. Families report that, even during the worst years of conflict, life was never as hard as it is now. Parents say they have not eaten meat and fruit for months as prices of staple foods have soared beyond reach.

WFP has provided monthly food assistance for nearly 5 million people inside Syria over the past ten years, using every means available to reach people in need. WFP is also providing assistance for more than 1.5 million Syrian refugees in neighbouring Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt. These five countries host more than 5.6 million Syrians, the biggest refugee group in the world.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the consequent economic downturn have pushed hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees in the region deeper into poverty. Meanwhile, in the five countries hosting refugees, WFP is facing funding shortfalls and could soon be forced to choose between providing reduced rations or prioritising the most vulnerable only.

“After 10 years, everyone is tired: whether you are a Syrian, a country hosting refugees, or a donor country facing the economic strain of dealing with the pandemic – all have had enough. But we must not forget that Syrians – both in their own country and in neighbouring countries - are currently some of the world’s most vulnerable citizens. If they are forgotten, it will mean losing lives,” said WFP’s Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa Corinne Fleischer.

Across the region, progress made over the last ten years to improve food security are already being reversed; In Lebanon – where WFP is assisting nearly 900,000 Syrian refugees – the economic downturn, steep inflation, COVID-19 and finally the Beirut blast have pushed the number of Syrian refugee families living under the extreme poverty line to a staggering 89 percent in 2020, up from 55 per cent only a year before. Half of all Syrian refugees in the country are food insecure compared to 29% in 2019.

“We are grateful to our donors who have supported us over the years, allowing WFP to continue to put food on the table for millions of Syrian families inside and outside Syria. We



can't stop now. Support to the Syrian people is key to regional and to international stability," Fleischer said.

The United States, Germany and the European Commission have been WFP's top donors over the past decade, providing a total of US\$6.8 billion for operations inside Syria and in neighbouring countries.

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