

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



World Food Programme in Syria

Year in Review 2017

March 2018

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A message from the WFP Representative and Country Director in Syria

As the Syrian crisis entered its seventh year, WFP continued to provide support to nearly 4 million Syrians every month despite tremendous challenges. Breakthroughs in access occurred in June when we used a newly opened land corridor linking Aleppo with the north eastern governorate of Al-Hasakeh. This was the first time we were able to deliver food by land in two years since the area became inaccessible in 2015, and also allowed us to phase out a costly airlift operation. Another breakthrough came in September, when WFP was able to reach formerly besieged parts of Deir Ezzor city by land. Over a year and a half, we carried out 309 high-altitude airdrops over the city, delivering vital humanitarian assistance. Land access is always the best option for WFP, allowing us to transport our life-saving food assistance more efficiently via trucks and in a more cost-effective manner.

Acknowledging the different situations across the country where some areas are seeing more stability, WFP in 2017 increasingly focused on a dual approach delivering humanitarian relief where needed, while gradually increasing activities to support people's livelihoods and resilience to shocks. The long-running conflict has drastically eroded livelihoods, causing unemployment to reach more than 50 percent – and more than 70 percent for youth and women. To combat this trend, WFP expanded activities to help families rebuild their lives. Projects in beekeeping, kitchen gardens and food processing have benefited more than 100,000 Syrians who struggle to produce or buy enough food. We also rehabilitated 14 damaged bakeries in Aleppo, Homs and Dar'a governorates, helping communities access bread, a staple of the Syrian diet. Further, our eight storage and packaging facilities across Syria have created over 2,000 jobs for Syrians, many of whom are displaced. This is in addition to our use of transportation services through which we employ drivers for the more than 4,000 trucks on the road every month.



Jakob Kern

WFP Representative and Country Director in Syria

Recognizing the devastating impact of the war on the most vulnerable communities, WFP continued to implement nutrition and education activities across the entire country. Last year, WFP provided school meals for more than 600,000 schoolchildren, while some 330,000 pregnant and nursing mothers and children below the age of five received nutrition support for the prevention and treatment of moderate acute malnutrition. Our partnerships with various government institutions, national and international NGOs, as well as the international community, have made these achievements possible. WFP in Syria would not have been so successful were it not for the continued and generous support of our donors, mainly Germany, the United States, the European Commission, the United Kingdom and Canada.

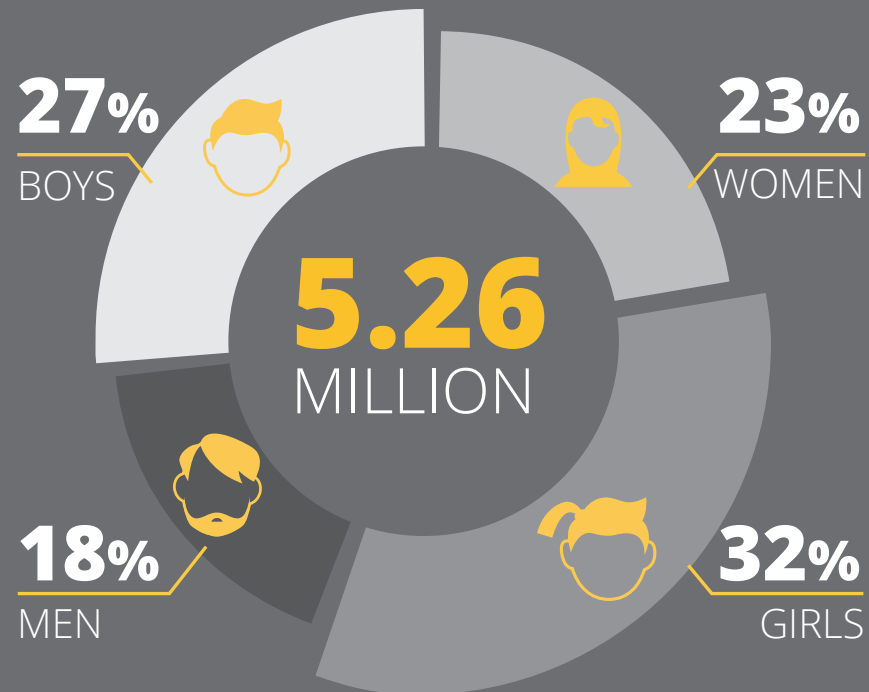


Looking ahead to 2018, let me emphasize how important it is to continue to assist the Syrian people, who still depend on our unwavering commitment. There are still millions of Syrians who are trapped in a cycle of poverty and hunger, with 6.5 million facing acute hunger and another 4 million at risk of becoming food insecure. Our work has so far helped to lessen the effects of this humanitarian crisis, and with your continued support we can strive to bring about an ever greater change in the lives of the Syrian people.

Highlights

IN 2017, WFP REACHED 5.26 MILLION PEOPLE IN SYRIA

For the first time since 2013, WFP reached all 14 governorates in Syria with different activities. The Whole of Syria set-up enabled WFP to quickly switch between delivery modalities when lines of control changed. WFP also phased out two air operations, when road access became available.



Highlights

WFP REACHED 1.8 MILLION PEOPLE LIVING IN HARD-TO-REACH AND BESIEGED AREAS

WFP reached affected populations in hard-to-reach and besieged areas through 45 inter-agency convoys, as well as air operations.

However, people were not reached in a consistent manner and WFP continues to advocate for improved access.

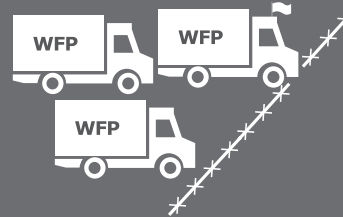
DELIVERY MODALITIES



CROSS-BORDER OPERATIONS



AIRLIFTS



INTER-AGENCY CROSS-LINE CONVOYS



AIRDROPS



REGULAR DELIVERIES

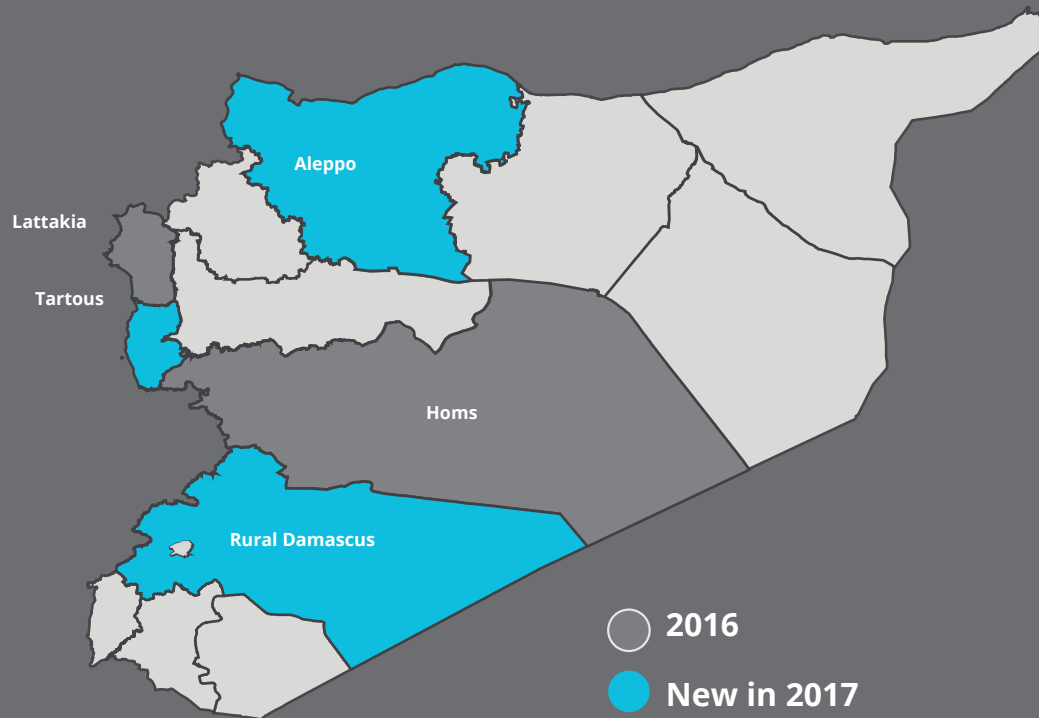
Highlights

GROWING USAGE OF CASH-BASED TRANSFERS

Previously, WFP Syria used cash-based transfers (CBT) for its nutrition programme for pregnant and nursing women and out-of-school children, but in 2017 it was expanded to cover livelihood activities in selected areas. This change coincided with the complete phase-out of paper-vouchers, as WFP Syria switched to WFP's corporate electronic solution, SCOPECARD.



CBT was expanded to reach five governorates in 2017:



WFP provided assistance through



26 retail shops

Highlights

THREE TIMES MORE PEOPLE BENEFITED FROM WFP'S LIVELIHOOD ACTIVITIES

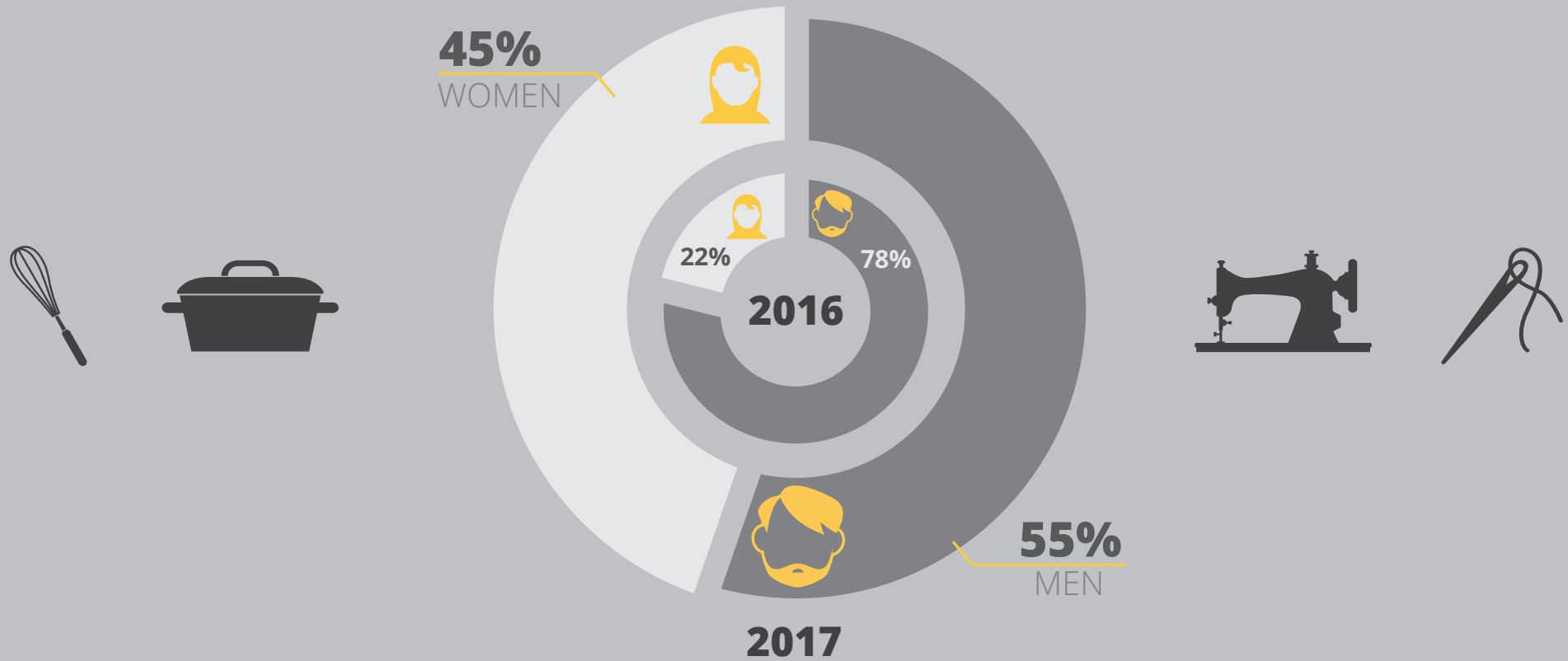
In 2017, three times more people benefited from WFP's livelihood activities than in 2016. WFP reached more than 100,000 beneficiaries.



Highlights

WOMEN WERE ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS

Women were active participants in WFP's livelihood activities. They mainly participated in beekeeping and kitchen garden activities, and vocational skills trainings, for example sewing and tailoring.



Highlights

SUPPORTING SYRIA'S YOUNG SCHOOLCHILDREN



Fresh school meals project – WFP launched a new project at three primary schools in Aleppo city. More than 10,000 schoolchildren received a fresh meal consisting of a sandwich and a of fruit or a vegetable.

Reaching children in new areas – In October, WFP expanded its regular school meals programme through its cross-border operation from Jordan. WFP now provides vitamin- and mineral-fortified date bars to schoolchildren in the opposition-controlled areas of Quneitra and Dar'a governorates.

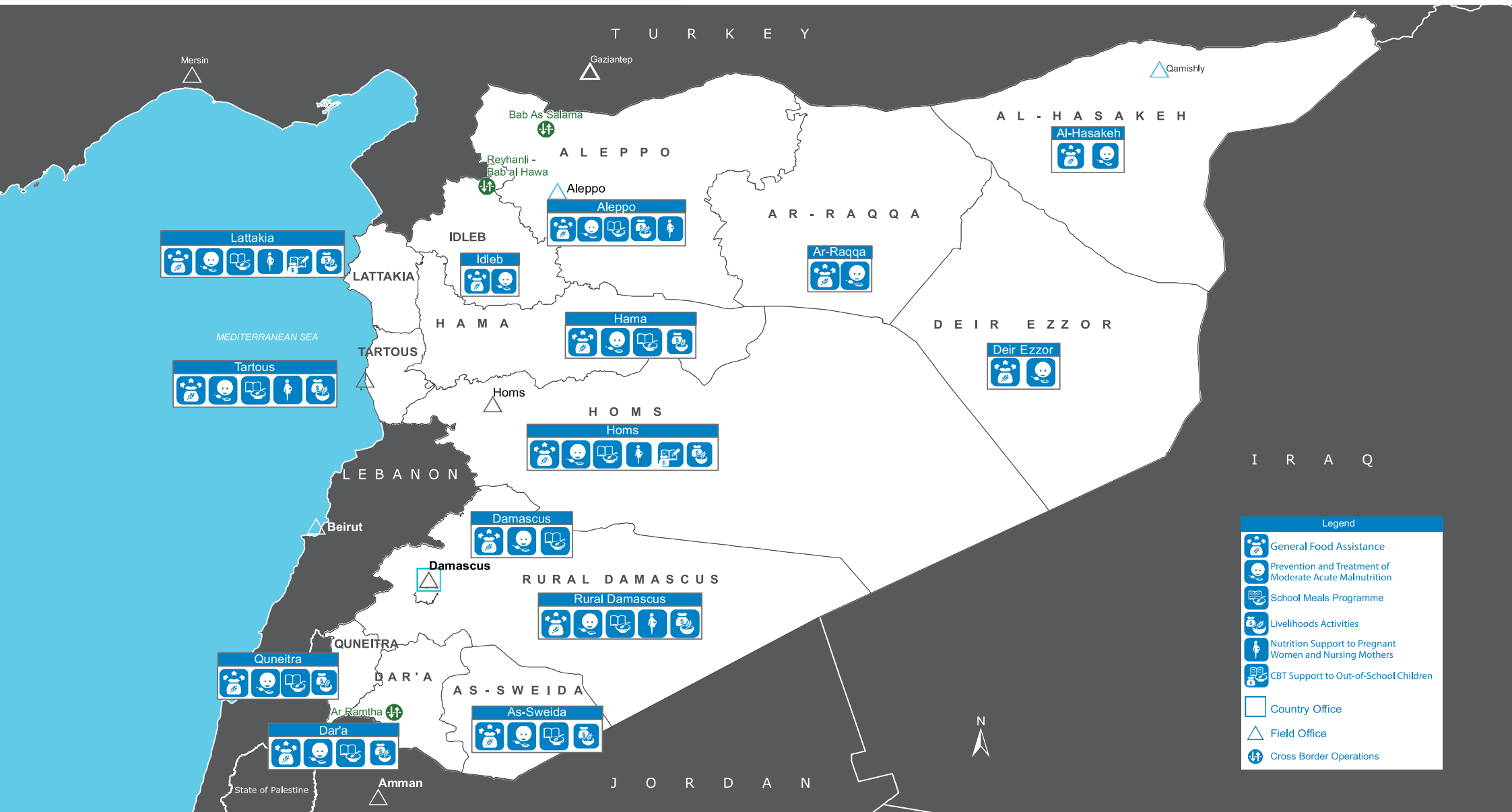


Support to out-of-school children – To encourage a return to learning, WFP provided vouchers for 1,500 out-of-school children as an incentive for parents to send their children to school.

© WFP / Rami Osman



Activity Map



Sustainable Development Goals



WFP's Strategic Plan (2017-2021) aligns WFP with the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It focuses on ending hunger (SDG 2) and contributing to revitalized global partnerships to implement the SDGs (SDG 17).

2 ZERO HUNGER



In Syria, WFP's humanitarian food assistance, school meals, nutrition interventions and livelihood activities are all implemented within the framework of achieving Zero Hunger (SDG 2).

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



In Syria, WFP believes in partnerships to reach SDG 2, and works together with cooperating partners, United Nations agencies and government institutions. As the lead of the Logistics Cluster and Emergency Telecommunications Cluster, and co-lead of the Food Security and Agriculture Sector, WFP provides services and coordination to the humanitarian community at large, enabling others to achieve their goals.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Through its school meals programme in Syria, WFP contributes to SDG 4.

5 GENDER EQUALITY



The prolonged crisis in Syria impacts men, women, boys and girls differently. The number of households headed by women has increased and unemployment is significantly higher among youth and women than among men. WFP implements activities specifically tailored to women.



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WFP OPERATIONS



WFP
برنامج الأغذية العالمي
wfp.org/ar

غير مخصصة للبيع

Net 10 kg WFP
10 كيلو

WFP Operations

Humanitarian Food Assistance

WFP provided 3.74 million people with food assistance every month, 55 percent of whom were women and girls. Households headed by women are among the most vulnerable and are thus prioritized for WFP's food assistance. WFP also prioritizes other groups who have limited or no source of income such as displaced people, the elderly and persons living with disabilities, who have limited or no source of income as well as people living in besieged and hard-to-reach areas.

WFP food was distributed to vulnerable Syrian families at almost 1,500 locations across the country. This was done in close cooperation with 38

partners, including eight international NGOs delivering assistance through the cross-border operation from Jordan and Turkey.

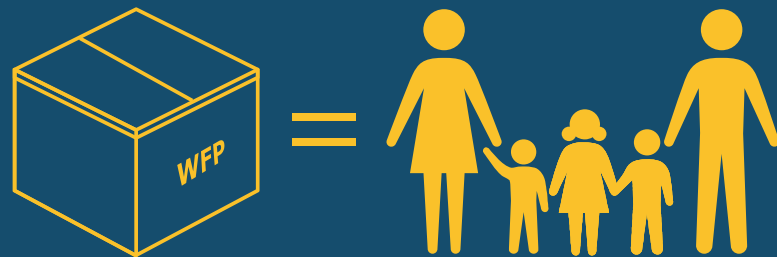
Owing to a flexible logistics set-up and continued negotiation and advocacy efforts, for the first time since 2013, WFP was able to reach all 14 Syrian governorates through multiple delivery modalities, including regular deliveries, cross-line inter-agency convoys, cross-border deliveries, high-altitude airdrops and airlifts, and retained the ability to rapidly switch between modalities whenever required by shifting access patterns.



Every month, WFP distributed food rations equivalent to the weight of four Eiffel Towers.



750,000
FOOD RATIONS



© WFP / Hussam Al Saleh

WFP Operations

The Syrian crisis continues to be a crisis of displacement, with over 6,000 people displaced on a daily basis according to the 2018 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO). Since 2011, over half of the pre-crisis population has been forced to leave their homes, including 5.5 million people who sought refuge outside of Syria and 6.1 million internally displaced people. WFP's field offices cover all 14 governorates and are thus able to respond quickly and also to pre-position food assistance in anticipation of unfolding events.

In response to sudden displacement, WFP provided ready-to-eat food rations to newly displaced people, who often stayed in open areas, makeshift camps or public buildings. Through this emergency food assistance, WFP addressed immediate needs during the first days of displacement, when people did not have access to cooking facilities or other food sources.



After three years, Syrians in Raqqa receive a lifeline

The conflict in Ar-Raqqa governorate has left deep wounds in the hearts and minds of many Syrians. Cut off from regular humanitarian assistance for three years due to conflict and besiegement, Syrian families in Ar-Raqqa had to survive on their own and with very little. A large-scale campaign to drive the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) out of the governorate began in late 2016, causing over 300,000 people to flee for their lives. Many sought shelter and basic services in camps across the northern parts of Ar-Raqqa and Al-Hasakeh governorates. Those who had lived through unspeakable hardship and lost so much were again faced with the prospect of loss - even if this was the fear of losing their food rations. "I lost everything - my home, my clothes and my husband. I never expected this to happen," said Fatema.

WFP will continue to provide regular food assistance, so that women like Fatema can slowly begin to feel more secure.



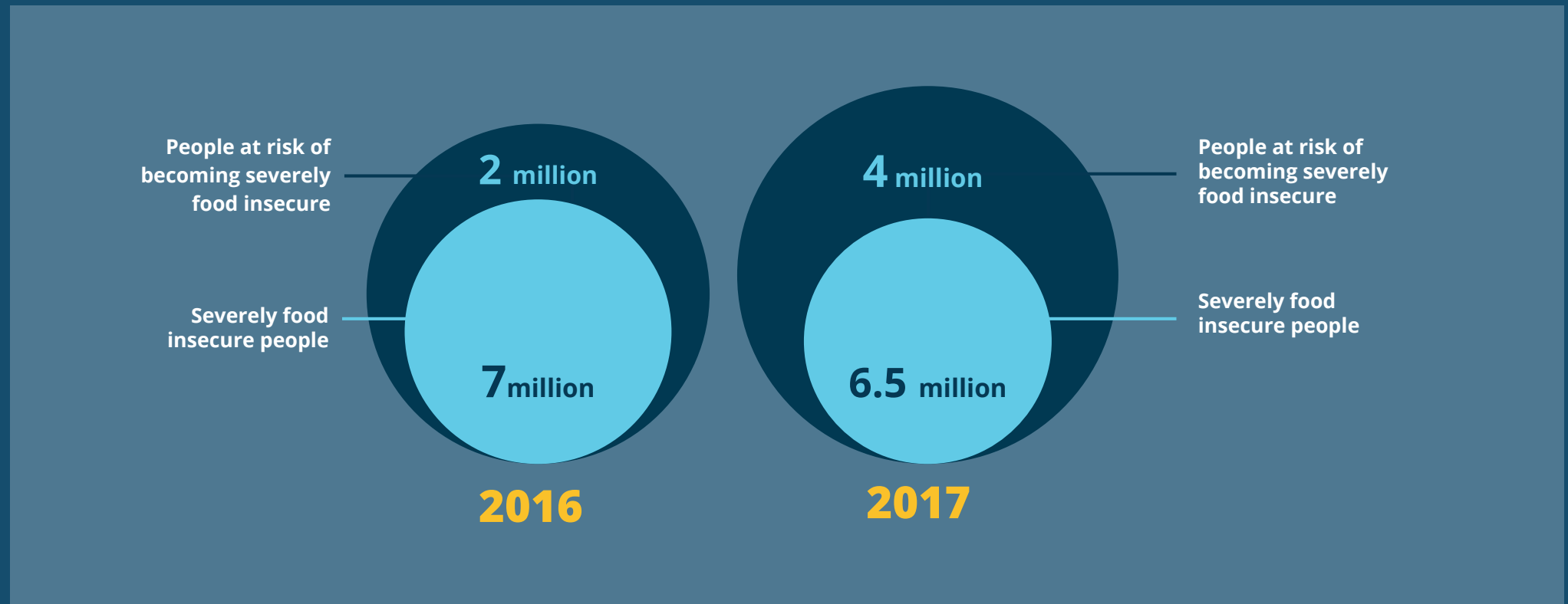
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WFP Operations

People in Need

After seven years of conflict, the agriculture sector, which represented the main source of income for the majority of the population pre-crisis, suffered significant damage, resulting in declining crop production, reduced food availability and higher prices. Losses across all economic sectors have resulted in growing

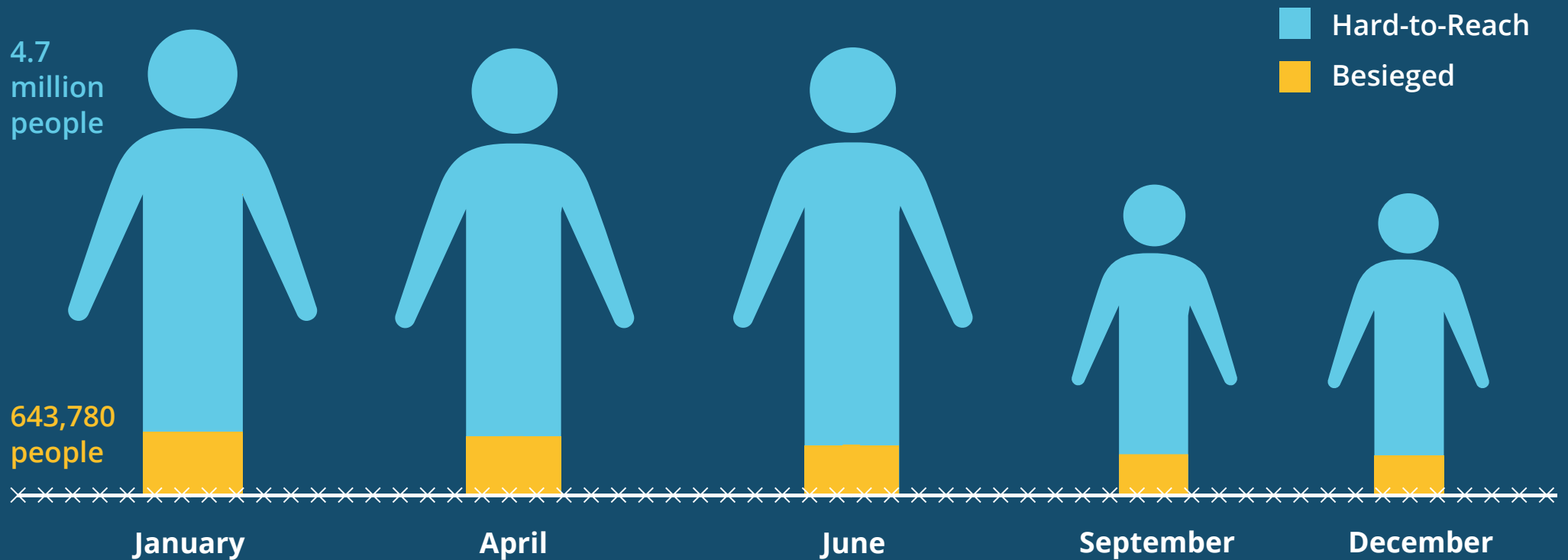
unemployment rates, up to 75 percent among youth, and high poverty levels as approximately 69 percent of the Syrian population is estimated to live in extreme poverty (less than US\$2 per day). Loss of livelihoods and reduced household purchasing power contributed to persistently high levels of food insecurity.



WFP Operations

Hard-to-Reach and Besieged Areas

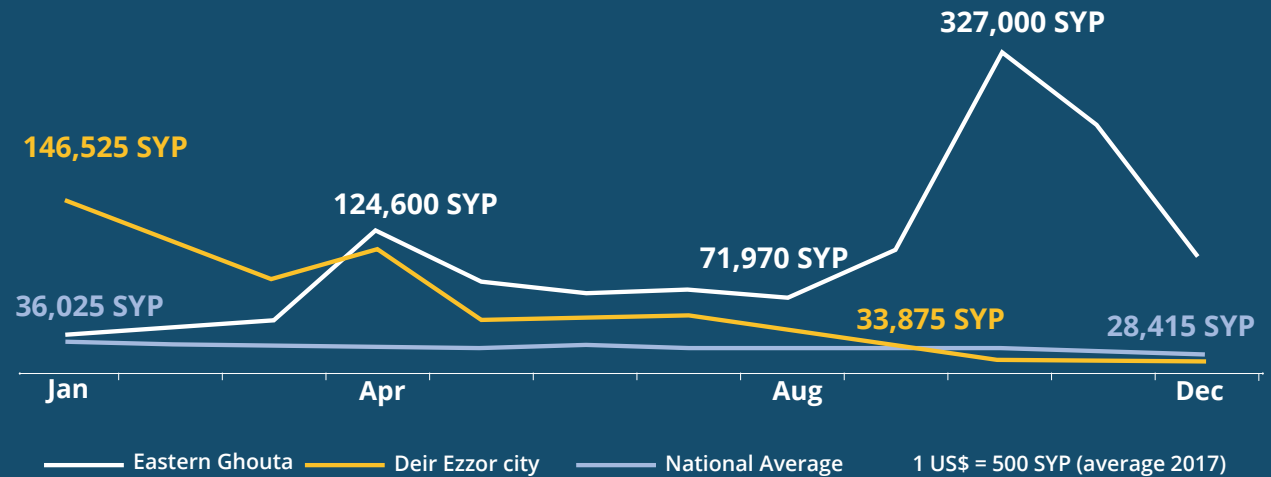
As of December 2017, there were 2.9 million people in hard-to-reach areas across the country, including 417,500 people living in nine besieged locations. The largest proportion of people in besieged areas is in Eastern Ghouta in Rural Damascus, where 393,300 people live.



WFP Operations

The Cost of a Food Basket in Syria - 2017

Food is particularly expensive and often unaffordable for people living in besieged areas in 2017, such as the formerly besieged part of Deir Ezzor city and Eastern Ghouta in Rural Damascus.



Accountability to Affected Populations

WFP is committed to ensuring that protection and accountability to affected populations is mainstreamed across its operations. WFP places informative leaflets in food boxes and its partners facilitate beneficiary feedback, including hotlines, social media, suggestion boxes and dedicated information focal points. WFP's Monitoring & Evaluation Team follows up on all issues. Through beneficiary consultations, WFP in cooperation with partners, designs and conceptualises its livelihood projects across the country. Predictable and adequate funding helps to ensure accountability, as WFP can provide continued and regular assistance for affected families in Syria where food assistance frees up money for other expenses such as school fees.

WFP's Commitment to Gender Equality

The seven-year long conflict in Syria has created new vulnerabilities for women, men, girls and boys, undermining their food and nutrition security. The vulnerability of many women and girls, but also of those living with disabilities and of the elderly has increased. Traditional gender roles, with different expectations placed on men and women, are under pressure due to the prolonged conflict. There has also been an increase in sexual and gender-based violence and exploitation and abuse, especially of women and girls. Children are particularly affected, with many having to assume adult roles and responsibilities. In response, WFP has increasingly introduced livelihood and income-generating activities suitable for women, and several of WFP's activities directly target women.

WFP Operations

Nutrition Assistance

With food insecurity and inadequate dietary intake threatening over half of the population, the risk of malnutrition is a growing concern in Syria, especially in besieged and hard-to-reach areas. Although in most areas malnutrition levels among children under five are still relatively low, the situation is more alarming for women of child bearing age. High anaemia rates among women and children also raise concern about other serious micronutrient deficiencies. The humanitarian community estimates that some 3 million young children and 1.6 million pregnant and nursing women and girls are at risk of undernutrition and need preventive and curative nutrition assistance.

The first 1,000 days of life, from conception until a child's second birthday, are critical for a child's physical and cognitive development, and adequate nutrition provides the building blocks for this process. During this period, undernutrition causes irreversible damage to brain development and physical growth, impairing the child's future ability to grow into a healthy adult, learn and thrive, thus leading to a lifetime of lost potential.

Nutrition Support for Pregnant and Nursing Women

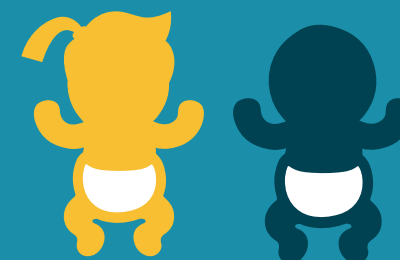


21,000
WOMEN

WFP also provided nutrition support to 21,000 women during their pregnancy and until their child's sixth month of life. Each woman received monthly vouchers to buy meat, vegetables, fruit and dairy products from WFP contracted local shops, helping to diversify their diet and promote the healthy development of their babies.

Prevention of Acute Malnutrition and Micronutrient Deficiencies

WFP provides preventive nutrition support to children under the age of two, to avert malnutrition and long-lasting health damage during this important phase of their lives. In 2017, 290,000 children under two received specialised nutrition products to meet their daily micronutrient requirements. To maximize the nutritional impact, the intervention targeted children from food insecure families already receiving WFP general food assistance.



51%

49%

290,000
CHILDREN

WFP Operations

Growing a Healthy Baby Bump in Syria

Fatima and her husband Essam fled violence in Palmyra to settle in Homs when she was three months pregnant. "Becoming a mother and having a family was always a dream of mine. But I never expected it to happen under these circumstances." To support women facing hardship like Fatima, WFP and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) joined forces to provide vital nutritional support and essential medical services for pregnant women and nursing mothers in Homs governorate. The partnership allows specialists from both agencies to better identify and support the specific needs and raise awareness among the women.

"The UNFPA clinic and these vouchers provided by WFP saved my life and my baby's. I gave birth to Jad and I have been eating and breastfeeding without any trouble." With new knowledge and an awareness about healthy eating for herself and her baby, Fatima could now refer friends and family to the life-saving programme she benefited from.



© WFP / Hussam Al Saleh

Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition



WFP also provided support to treat moderate acute malnutrition among children under the age of five and pregnant and nursing women. WFP adopted a Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) approach, which was implemented in collaboration with UNICEF and the Ministry of Health.

WFP Nutritional Support Helps Save Baby Hamoud's life

Um Hamoud lives in Ya'roubiya town in the north east of Syria in Al-Hasakeh governorate with her husband and first born who suffered from malnutrition until she found the CMAM clinic. "I was lucky to have found this clinic and get the help I need here. I brought my son Hamoud who was thin and frail. The doctors put him on the peanut butter treatment for three months and now he is much healthier than before." Um Hamoud lives with her husband who takes odd jobs in construction and garbage collection to make a living.



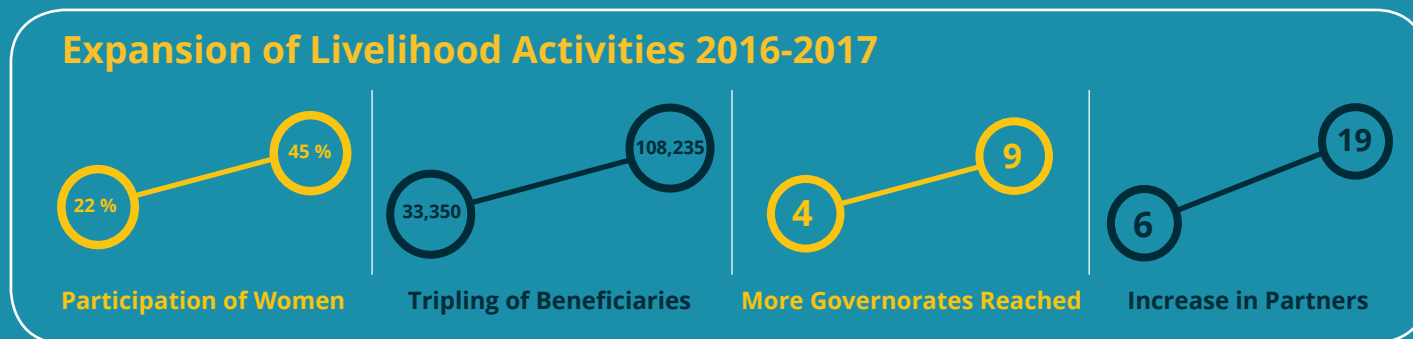
© WFP / Hussam Al Saleh

WFP Operations

Support to Livelihoods

In 2017, WFP substantially expanded and diversified its livelihood activities in Syria. By the end of the year, WFP had implemented 15 different projects. The activities aimed at restoring livelihoods and promoting food security, while contributing to the local economy and strengthening resilience to ongoing and future shocks. The projects included beekeeping, kitchen gardens, food processing, rehabilitation of bakeries and vocational skills trainings. During the prolonged conflict, unemployment has increased more than fivefold since pre-conflict levels, with even higher unemployment figures for

women and youth. At the same time, households headed by women increased, currently making up about 14 percent of all households in Syria; thus the need for targeted livelihood activities became more apparent than ever and WFP was able to support more women in 2017. A significant increase in partners was an essential prerequisite for the expansion of livelihood activities – particularly through the inclusion of new actors with proven technical experience, which enabled WFP to further diversify its activities.



Through its kitchen garden projects, WFP supported families to grow their own fruit and vegetables and linked them with WFP-established cooperatives to process and sell surplus produce. The cooperatives were established in Rural Damascus, As-Sweida, Homs, Hama, and Lattakia governorates. Vocational skills trainings provided skills and know-how in various professional fields such as carpentry, sewing and plumbing. To facilitate labour-market entry, WFP provided start-up toolkits and business development support where applicable. Throughout the year, WFP successfully completed the rehabilitation of 14 damaged private bakeries in Homs, Aleppo and Dar'a governorates,

enabling the bakeries to employ a total of 120 people. The functioning bakeries helped to increase access to bread for 35,000 households in the communities. Meanwhile, WFP's support to beekeepers continued to expand across the country and has helped to revitalize this traditional and once flourishing Syrian industry.

In 2017, WFP was able to introduce cash-based transfers (CBT) using e-vouchers for livelihood participants in urban areas. This modality, which empowers beneficiaries to make their own choices regarding food, will be further expanded in 2018.

WFP Operations

Bees in Syria: More Than Honey, Hope

Lina is an accomplished beekeeper whose journey from honey to money is a source of inspiration for many women in her village in rural Lattakia.

In 2011, Lina and her husband set up their small beekeeping business, which within one year allowed them to earn a stable income to sustain their family during the crisis. "There are not a lot of female beekeepers and I am proud to be one of the few who keeps bees."

In early 2016, Lina lost most of her beehives, her only source of livelihoods, due to the conflict. She learned about WFP's beekeeping project through her local community and swiftly applied. "It was a new beginning and I cannot wait to see the beehives multiply and start producing honey."

Over a period of six months, Lina received beehives, a beekeeping kit and technical training, as well as food rations for her whole family from WFP until her business became a secure source of income once again. To date, the beekeeping project has given Lina and hundreds of beekeepers like her around the country a sense of normalcy and dignity.



© WFP / Hussam Al Saleh

WFP Operations

School Meals

The education sector in Syria has suffered a heavy toll. Over 6 million children and educational personnel need educational assistance and 1.75 million children are out of school. One in three schools is either damaged, destroyed, used as a shelter or inaccessible. Prior to the crisis, Syria was a regional leader in basic education, and 97 percent of primary school-age children attended school.

WFP has implemented a school meals programme since 2014 in coordination with the Ministry of Education and UNICEF. Areas with a high concentration of displaced people, low food security levels and poor education indicators have been a priority throughout. In 2017, WFP reached more than 600,000 children with school meals – an eight-fold increase since 2014.

WFP's school meals are a sound investment in the future of the next generation as they aim to increase enrolment and attendance and decrease drop-out rates. School meals provide nourishment, which helps schoolchildren focus on their studies and engage with peers and teachers during class.

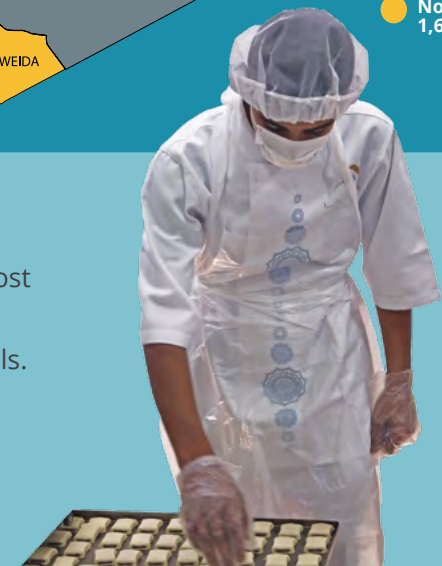


Fortified Date Bars

On school days, schoolchildren received date bars and milk, fortified with vitamins and minerals, providing almost 500 kcal, or 30 percent of the children's daily energy requirement.

Girls and boys benefited equally, as WFP supported all pre- and primary schoolchildren in the assisted schools. The date bars were all produced locally by Syrian factories. For the first time since the start of the programme, WFP was able to meet its date bar requirements locally.

This contributes to the local economy and creates job opportunities for women and men at the factories, while ensuring a greater alignment with local taste preferences.



© WFP / Hussam Al Saleh

WFP Operations



Fresh School Meals

WFP launched a fresh-school-meals programme in parts of Aleppo city that had previously been inaccessible to the United Nations. Some 10,000 schoolchildren received a sandwich and a fruit or a vegetable. The project employed 48 women, many of whom were displaced, who prepared the sandwiches every morning using bread made with WFP's fortified wheat flour.

Based on the positive feedback received from students and educators, WFP plans to scale up this activity in 2018.



Voucher Support to Out-of-School Children

WFP encouraged vulnerable families with out-of-school children to enrol them in education programmes. The programme sought to encourage a return to learning at UNICEF accelerated learning programmes in Homs and Lattakia governorates to make up for lost attendance.

WFP provided monthly vouchers of SYP 10,000 (equivalent to US\$23) to more than 1,500 children, enabling families to purchase fresh food from WFP-contracted retailers. This served as an incentive for families to send their children to school.

A Story of Two

WFP's fresh-school-meals programme brought a glimmer of hope to families in Aleppo city. Among them are Sidra, a widowed mother of four, who lost her home and was displaced several times. Eleven-year-old Doha, whose father was permanently injured, had to skip classes to take care of the family.

The stories of Sidra and Doha intersected when WFP launched a project to provide fresh meals at three primary schools. Doha and her fellow students now enjoy a tasty meal at school, and Sidra found employment with a good income preparing the sandwiches in the morning. "I dreamed of giving my children a good life and suddenly this dream was possible," Sidra said. Doha very much enjoys the bananas, her favourite fruit. "Doha's appetite

for food has increased since the project began," her father noted. This was particularly important as Doha suffers from hereditary anaemia. Being a caring older sister, she sometimes saves the sandwich for her younger brother to make him happy.

The principal of Doha's school, where 850 students attend classes, told WFP that more parents were sending their children to school because of the fresh-school-meals project. "Children are happy to eat with each other and they now come to class regularly." As for Sidra, the new opportunity gave her courage to invest in her skills and enrol in a vocational training, thereby investing in her and her children's future.

WFP SUPPLY CHAIN



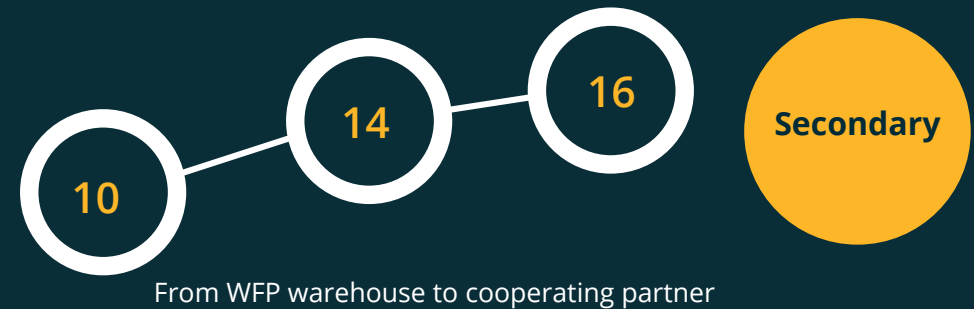
WFP Supply Chain

Delivering food across Syria is a major undertaking. For seven years of active conflict, WFP has delivered food assistance for millions of people every month by means of a complex, yet flexible supply chain set-up. Despite challenges on the road, including severe damage to roads, blockage of key supply routes and limited number of commercial vehicles, WFP has been able to transport food across the country using a wide range of delivery modalities.

Every day, large quantities of food are brought into Syria through multiple corridors, ports and border crossings. Food is packaged into family food rations inside Syria at WFP warehouses before it is delivered to partners. In areas covered by cross-border operations, where WFP cannot maintain warehouse facilities, WFP procures pre-packed rations.

Each month, WFP moved an average 40,000 mt of food using over 4,000 trucks and 15 commercial transport service providers.

Number of Transporters 2015, 2016, 2017



Cross-Border Operation

WFP delivered food assistance to areas not accessible from inside Syria through Turkey and Jordan under United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2165 and its subsequent extensions.

About 20 percent of WFP's deliveries in 2017 were carried out through the cross-border operation.

The food and nutrition assistance was transported from suppliers' warehouses in Turkey and Jordan to partners' warehouses in north-west and southern Syria through three border crossing points.

WFP Supply Chain

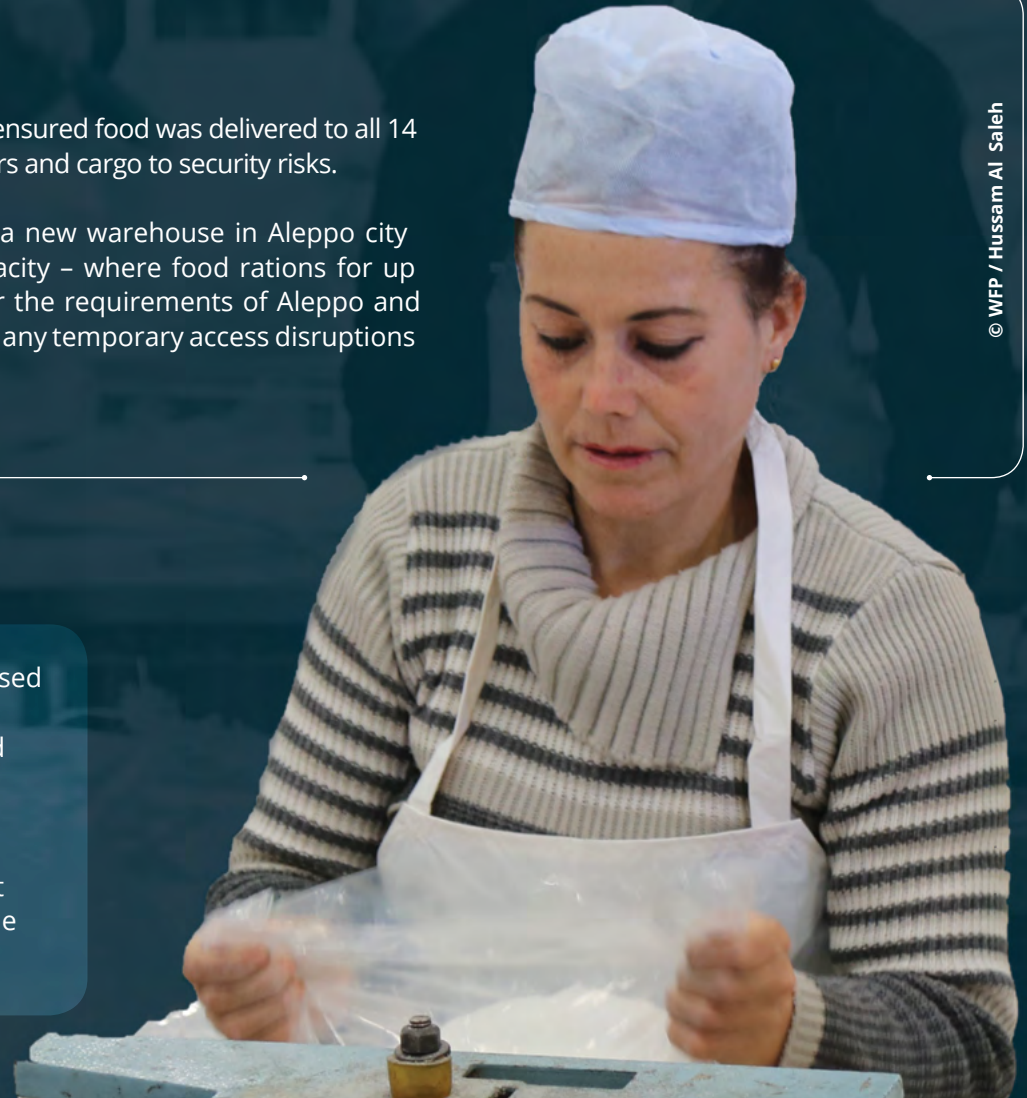
Warehouses and Packaging Facilities

WFP had eight large warehouses strategically located across the country, which ensured food was delivered to all 14 governorates in the shortest time possible and with minimum exposure of drivers and cargo to security risks.

WFP's supply chain was further strengthened in 2017 when it established a new warehouse in Aleppo city after land access improved. With an extensive storage and packaging capacity – where food rations for up to 1.5 million people are packaged each month – the new facility can cover the requirements of Aleppo and surrounding areas, reducing transportation time and mitigating the impact of any temporary access disruptions to the governorate.

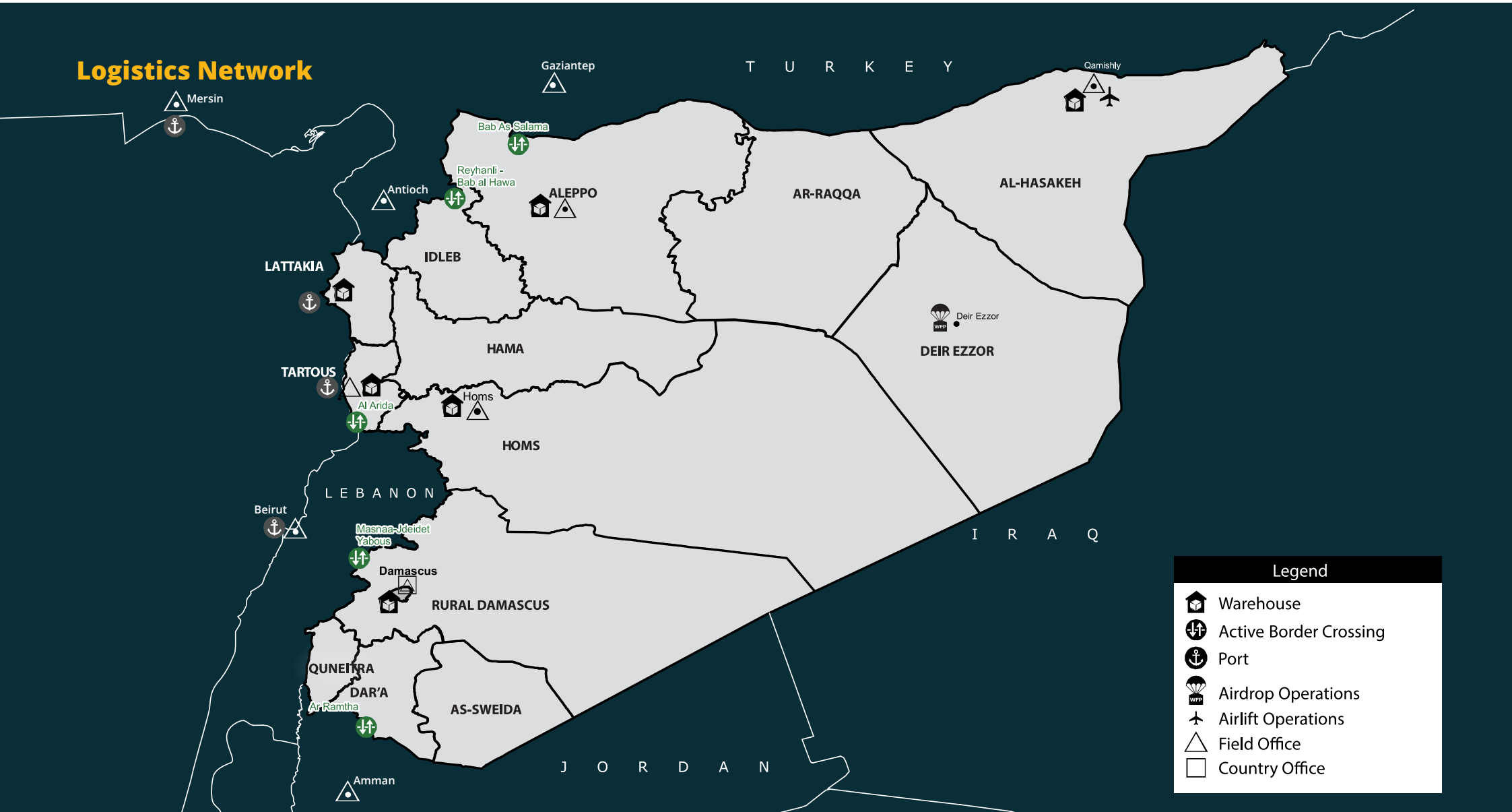
Facilitating Cash-Based Transfers

WFP's supply chain also played a crucial role in increasing the use of cash-based transfers (CBT) in Syria. Electronic vouchers were provided to beneficiaries across multiple activities, including for school meals, nutrition, and livelihood activities. Beneficiaries could purchase fresh food items from a network of 26 WFP-contracted retailers in five governorates. As part of its supply chain activities, WFP conducted macro-market and micro-retailer capacity assessments to identify suitable and functioning markets, and to ensure that the introduction of the CBT modality would not have a negative impact on the local economy.



© WFP / Hussam Al Saleh

WFP Supply Chain



WFP Supply Chain

WFP Air Operations in Syria

WFP also used air deliveries to reach areas where land access had long been cut off. Through two air operations, WFP provided life-saving food assistance to almost half a million people in north east Syria. Both operations were phased out in mid-2017 once land access was secured.



WFP conducted a high-altitude airdrop operation that reached the then besieged parts of Deir Ezzor city. Operated from Amman, Jordan, WFP dropped food for 100,000 people between April 2016 and September 2017, when the siege ended and road access became available.

- 309 airdrops conducted
- 8,000 pallets of food dropped from an altitude of 5,000 meters

Launched in mid-2016, WFP through the Logistics Cluster operated an airlift operation from Damascus to Qamishly in Al-Hasakeh governorate. Through the airlifts, WFP delivered food assistance and other relief items for 400,000 people in Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa governorates for a year.

- 533 airlifts conducted
- 15,584 mt of WFP food rations, nutrition supplies, yeast, and ready-to-eat rations delivered



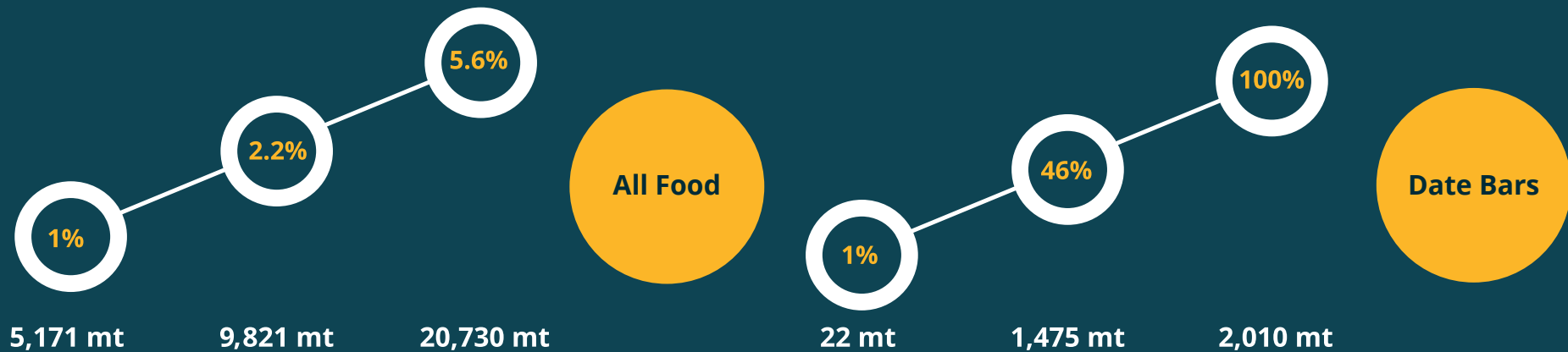
WFP Supply Chain

Procuring Food for Syria

WFP's food commodities were procured from international, regional and local sources. With a view towards strengthening the local economy, accommodating beneficiaries' preferences and reducing transport times, WFP is working to increase procurement inside Syria. Local procurement allowed WFP to work closely with manufacturers on quality control. Between 2016 and 2017, WFP's local procurement of food more than doubled, reaching over five percent.

Following the success of the capacity strengthening activities with local date bar manufacturers, WFP was able to locally source 100 percent of its date bar requirements for the school meals programme. Moreover, the types of locally procured commodities were expanded to include pulses, rice, sugar, iodized salt, vegetable oil and ready-to-eat rations.

Local Procurement 2015, 2016, 2017



WFP & CLUSTERS



WFP & Clusters



Whole of Syria (WoS)
FOOD SECURITY SECTOR
Strengthening Humanitarian Response

Co-led by WFP and FAO, with Mercy Corps as NGO co-chair, the Food Security Sector (FSS) in Syria aims to enhance cooperation and partnerships among food security actors, including United Nations agencies and national and international NGOs. Coordination is carried out across three hubs in Jordan, Turkey and Syria, as well as with north-east Syria cross-border partners and partners operating inside Syria from other locations. The FSS has three programmatic objectives: improve food security through emergency life-saving and regular food assistance; support livelihoods by increasing agricultural production, building assets, and creating income generating opportunities; rehabilitate productive infrastructure and supporting services.

Highlights 2017

- Over 5 million people assisted with regular food and wheat flour assistance.
- More than 5.5 million displaced people assisted with emergency food assistance. Over 3.2 million people reached with agricultural and livelihood support.
- Multi-hub response coordination set up for Ar-Raqqa governorate and Eastern Ghouta in Rural Damascus to ensure joint preparedness and rapid and efficient response.
- Piloted Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity; based on evidence and application of international standards.
- FSS Integration Strategy piloted for 10,000 households across Syria. Improving linkages between food assistance and livelihood interventions and increasing food security and self-reliance in the longer-term.



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WFP & Clusters



The WFP-led Logistics Cluster provides the humanitarian community operating inside Syria with coordination and information management support and access to logistics services, including transshipment, warehousing, surface transportation and provision of WFP-procured emergency fuel.

Highlights 2017

- 18,000 m³ of humanitarian cargo stored at six different locations
- 67,000 mt of relief supplies transported by air and road
- Common services provided to 17 humanitarian actors
- In 2017, the Logistics Cluster played a significant role in reaching people trapped in hard-to-reach and besieged locations:
 - 38,000 m³ of relief cargo were transported on behalf of nine humanitarian organizations
 - 55 inter-agency convoys
- From July 2016 to June 2017, the Logistics Cluster facilitated an airlift operation to north-east Syria:
 - 533 flights
 - 35 percent of the volume was delivered on behalf of other humanitarian actors
 - Delivered 18,700 mt of food and other relief supplies on behalf of ten humanitarian organizations



In a context of widespread destruction of infrastructure and connectivity systems, the humanitarian community relies on telecommunications and information technology for its operations. The WFP-led Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) provides services and solutions to the humanitarian community across Syria.

Highlights 2017

- Nine organizations received support and telecommunications services
- New radio equipment was installed and configured in three locations: Aleppo, Homs and Qamishly to provide secure radio telecommunications for all United Nations agencies
- 300 staff from various United Nations agencies received basic and advanced radio training in five governorates
- Data and voice capabilities and connectivity were increased in Homs and Qamishly United Nations hubs



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ALEPPO FIELD OFFICE



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Established in 2011

33
Staff

600,000
Beneficiaries

5
Cooperating
Partners

In Focus - Aleppo Field Office

The Aleppo field office, covering the whole Aleppo governorate, is WFP's second largest field office, after Damascus, in terms of number of beneficiaries and the range of activities implemented. With the evolution of the conflict in Syria, the Aleppo office has steadily adapted and increased its operations to meet the needs in a geographical area that has often assumed centre stage in the conflict; for example, from late 2012 to early 2014 staff worked remotely from Tartous field office due to the prevailing security situation.

The office has worked closely with the cross-border office in Gaziantep to ensure that people in need throughout the governorate were reached. This close coordination with Gaziantep and other field offices has allowed WFP to quickly adapt its delivery modality when lines of control shifted. Furthermore, through sustained advocacy efforts and by taking advantage of all access openings, WFP was able to reach the hard-to-reach location of Sheikh Maqsoud on a regular basis with deliveries in 2017.

Aleppo also acts as a major transit point for WFP's deliveries to the north-eastern parts of Syria, which are reached through the Aleppo-Menbij-Qamishly route along the Turkish border. In 2017, WFP established a new warehouse and packaging facility in Aleppo city, which will further enhance the Aleppo office's key role in WFP's operations in the north.

Due to its size and geographical location, the activities managed out of the Aleppo field office have been manifold and, in fact, Aleppo city has become a testing ground for new initiatives, such as the fresh-school-meals programme and the long-running bread project. The city was also the first place in the country where WFP supported livelihood participants with cash-based-transfers (CBT) instead of in-kind food assistance.

Aleppo Bread Project

Bread is a staple in the Syrian diet and plays a key role in meals throughout the day. In 2013, given the widespread destruction of bakeries and resulting high prices, WFP launched a bread project in Aleppo city, whereby bread was intended to complement the monthly food rations provided to vulnerable families. WFP provided the wheat flour and yeast to its partners, who in 2017 worked with 11 local bakeries including three in eastern Aleppo city (EAC). Families who benefit from the bread project collect the bread on a daily basis from the closest bread distribution presenting their individual Bread Card. Each bread distribution point had assigned a fixed number of families, in accordance with its bread production capacity.

In 2017, WFP provided fresh bread bundles for over half a million people in Aleppo city and some rural areas on a daily basis. Moreover, the contracted bakeries baked the bread used in the sandwiches for the fresh-school-meals project, which reached more than 10,000 primary schoolchildren in 2017.



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In Focus - Aleppo Field Office

60 Days of Response

During more than six months of siege, the humanitarian situation for civilians trapped in EAC quickly deteriorated. An escalation in conflict between the Government of Syria and non-state armed groups resulted in widespread destruction of homes and infrastructure, and the loss of lives of several hundred people. It was only on 14 December 2016 that a ceasefire agreement was reached between the parties, which translated into the evacuation of fighters and their families from EAC and a complete takeover of EAC by the government.

Before the siege, EAC was only reached by WFP through its cross-border

operations from Turkey, coordinated from the Gaziantep field office. However, as a result of WFP's flexible logistics set-up, and in line with the Whole of Syria structure, WFP immediately switched the response to the Aleppo field office and changed the delivery modality from cross-border to regular deliveries.

On 22 December the evacuation was completed and EAC became accessible again. The same day, WFP started its food assistance to the affected people and returnees in EAC. Within 60 days, WFP established a comprehensive response and presence on the ground:



10 new food distribution points were established covering 51 neighbourhoods



80,000 people were assisted with ready-to-eat rations followed by family food rations from February onward



108,000 people received bread daily, which was produced and brought in from western parts of the city



605 children under two received nutrition support for the prevention of moderate acute malnutrition



69 pregnant and nursing women and 247 children under five were provided treatment through Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) approach



20 mt of bulk food in support of four communal kitchens, providing hot meals to 40,000 people



WFP field monitors were on the ground the day after the evacuation was completed

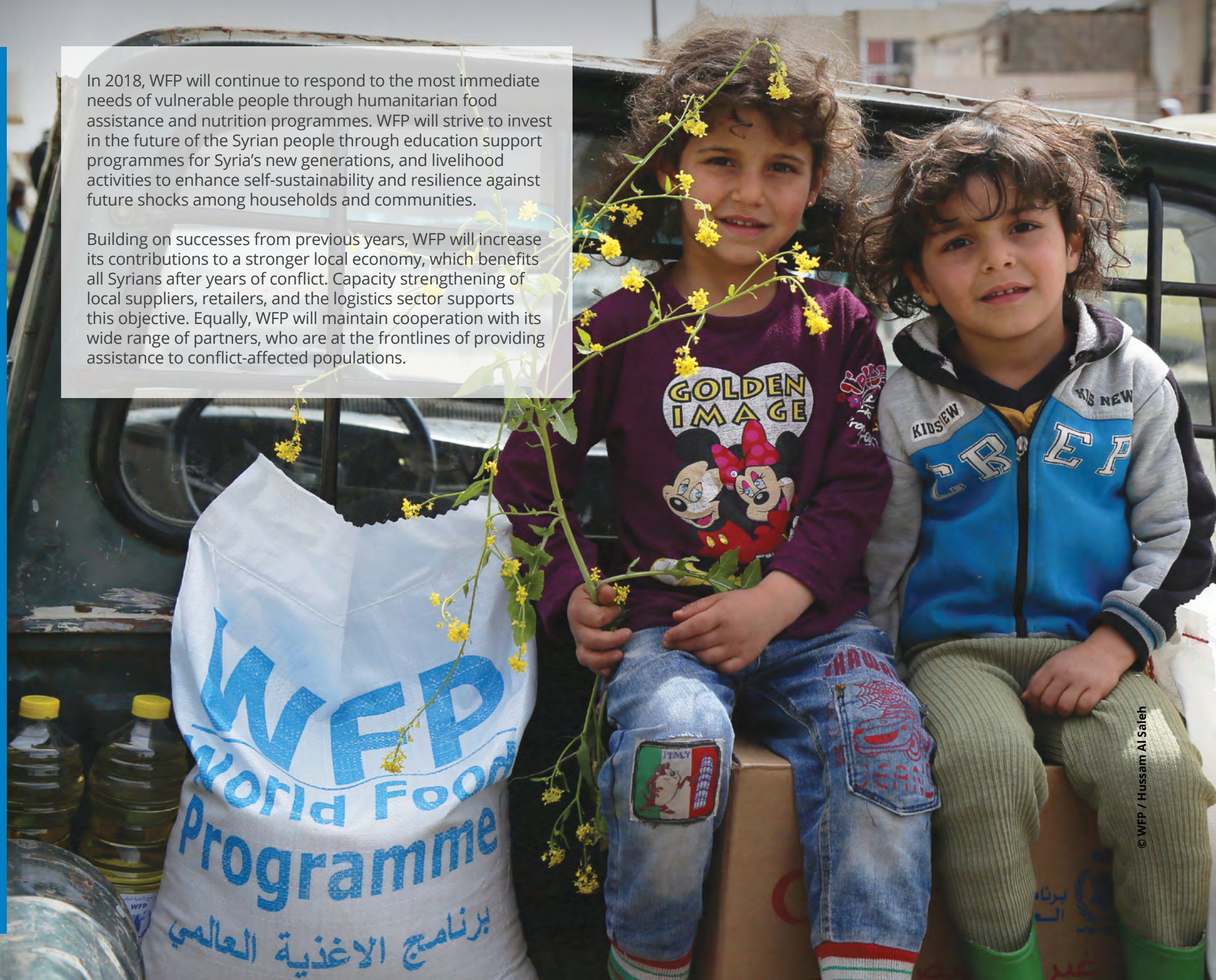
As of spring 2017, WFP's office in Aleppo had fully integrated EAC into its regular programmes. For example, by March, WFP launched its school meals programme at 37 primary schools. However, as part of its tailored response to the EAC context, WFP, together with partners, also supported

the rehabilitation of four destroyed bakeries in some of the most devastated neighbourhoods. The bakeries increased access to bread for 60,000 people in the local communities, and the project contributed to stimulate the local economy and create employment opportunities.

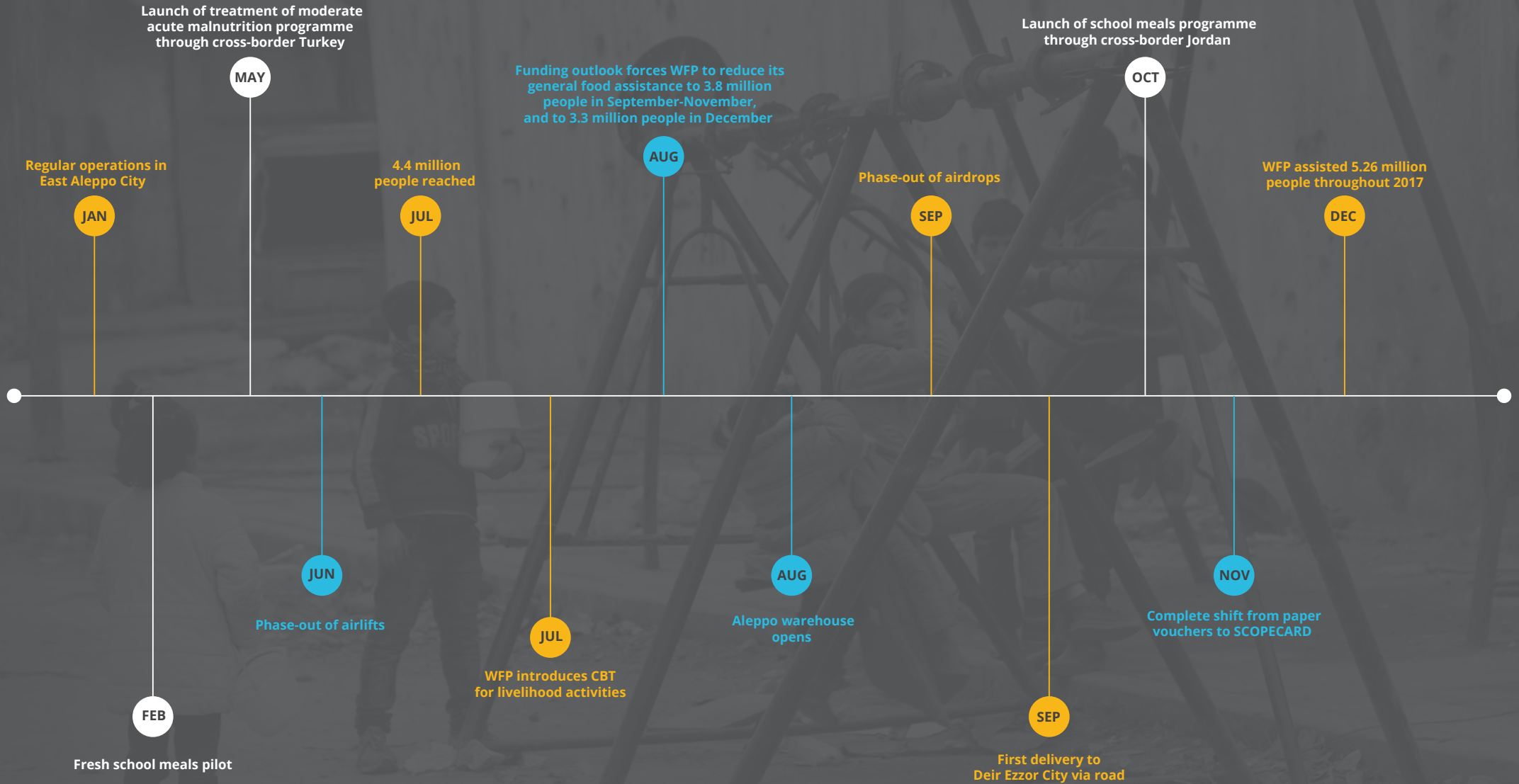
A VIEW TOWARDS 2018

In 2018, WFP will continue to respond to the most immediate needs of vulnerable people through humanitarian food assistance and nutrition programmes. WFP will strive to invest in the future of the Syrian people through education support programmes for Syria's new generations, and livelihood activities to enhance self-sustainability and resilience against future shocks among households and communities.

Building on successes from previous years, WFP will increase its contributions to a stronger local economy, which benefits all Syrians after years of conflict. Capacity strengthening of local suppliers, retailers, and the logistics sector supports this objective. Equally, WFP will maintain cooperation with its wide range of partners, who are at the frontlines of providing assistance to conflict-affected populations.



Timeline 2017



Donors

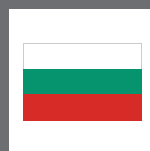
Thank you to those who made it possible:



Australia



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Bulgaria



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Italy



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Kuwait



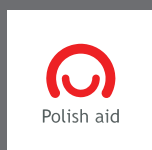
Luxembourg



Multilateral



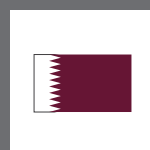
Norway



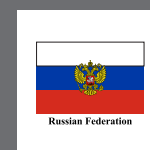
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