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**Syria Operational Update –**  
19 March 2012

*Presentation to the*

**WFP Executive Board**

**2012 First Quarter Operational Briefing**

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## Situational overview

- One year of unrest has resulted in an estimated **200,000 internally displaced persons**
  - The unrest has also affected the coping mechanisms of the vulnerable and **the supply chains for food**, medicines and other basic commodities
  - Insecurity and sanctions have **negatively impacted the country's economy**
  - **Humanitarian access remains limited**
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## Situational overview – Regional displacement

- **Jordan:** 5,000 refugees registered with UNHCR
    - 20,000 refugees may require assistance (UNHCR )
    - Government leading the response; no request for food assistance
  - **Lebanon:** 12,000 registered
    - 25,000 refugees may require assistance (UNHCR )
    - Lebanese High Relief Commission (HRC) leading relief efforts
    - WFP in discussions with the Government through UNHCR to assess humanitarian needs
  - **Turkey:** 14,000 registered in seven tented camps in Hatay
    - 50,000 refugees may require assistance (UNHCR )
    - Government taking the lead; Turkish Red Crescent and Turkish NGOs; no request for international assistance
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## **WFP Response**

EMOP 200339: *"Emergency Assistance to People Affected by Syria Unrest"*

<b>Operation:</b>	October 2011 – December 2011 (extended to December 2012)
<b>Total Budget:</b>	USD 19,380,208
<b>Beneficiaries targeted:</b>	100,000 per month (90,000 through in-kind distributions; 10,000 through a paper voucher system for which plans are still underway)
<b>2012 food requirement:</b>	15,691 mt

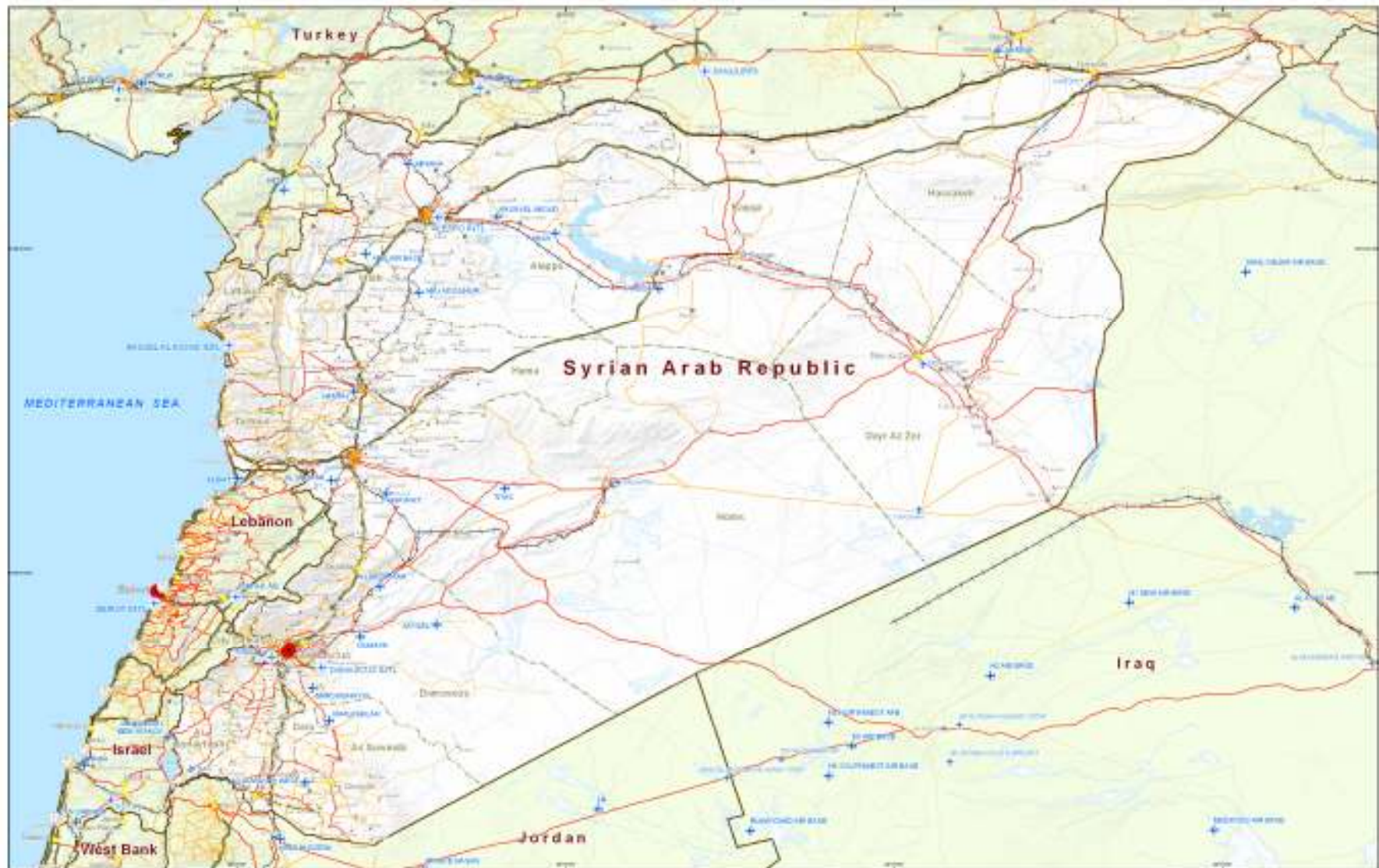
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# EMOP 200339 - operational update

- Dialogues are on-going with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) to **possibly increase the caseload**
  - **A second budget revision** was completed increasing the value from US\$ 10 million to US\$ 20 million and extending the EMOP for six months, from June to December 2012
  - **Request for advance financing** to fully fund the EMOP to fill up the pipeline until the end of the project cycle has been approved
  - **Targeting** was carried out jointly by WFP and SARC. Targeted areas are those that have been most negatively impacted by the unrest, including: the governorates of Rural Damascus, Dara'a, Deir Ezzor, Al-Hasakeh, Qamishly, Idleb, Hama, Homs, Latakia and Tartous
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# SYRIA

General Logistics Planning Map



- National Capital
- Major Port
- Intermediate Port
- Small Port
- Village
- ✈ Airport
- ✈ Airbase
- ✈ Airway
- ✈ Port
- ✈ Railway
- Motor Highway
- Primary road
- Secondary road
- Tertiary road
- Road/TM
- River
- Surface Waterway
- Oceanic Waterway
- Seasonal Waterway
- International boundary
- First level administrative

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# Implementation

- Beneficiaries receive monthly food baskets providing 1,556 Kcal, equivalent to 74 percent of daily energy requirement per person per day
- Third Round distributions are ongoing:
  - Of in-kind distributions, 967.5 mt are required of which 911.74 mt has been dispatched (94%)
  - Of the 90,000 in-kind beneficiaries, 84,900 beneficiaries have received food assistance through SARC (94 percent)

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# Monitoring

- During the current cycle, WFP Field Monitors have been present in areas accessible by UN staff including in Rural Damascus, Tartous, Al-Hasakeh, Quneitra, Lattakia
  - **WFP has over 90 staff in:**
    - Country Office in Damascus (Damascus and southern area)
    - Sub-office Deir Ez-Zor (north and northeastern area)
    - Sub-office in Tartous (central and coastal area)
    - Field office in Aleppo
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# Preparedness

- WFP is enhancing preparedness and operational capacity in the region to prepare for:
    - a larger response should increased access be granted, and
    - assistance to those along the border but remaining in Syria
  - WFP is undertaking regional planning for population movements out of Syria with UNHCR
    - These will be included in UNHCR's Regional Response Plan
  - WFP is preparing a Special Operation (SO) to enhance WFP's operational capacity in logistics and emergency telecommunications
  - WFP is deploying senior programme and logistics staff to Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan to support the response for Refugee Operations
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# Key operational constraints

## Increasing insecurity

- The security situation remains tense and volatile, with increasing violence and armed resistance leading to more casualties. To date, the number of casualties has surpassed 8,000 people
- Challenges persist in distributing food assistance, including in Kisweh in rural Damascus where distributions have been suspended due to insecurity

## Assessment

- The current multi-agency humanitarian assessment in Syria will help inform the scope of the greater WFP response in Syria
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## Current operational priorities

- Resources for EMOP 200339 to avoid pipeline breaks and enable distribution to 100,000 beneficiaries
  - Resources will be needed to support the Special Operation to respond to operational disruptions in Syria and any openings in humanitarian space
  - Increased humanitarian space
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## Resource mobilization and pipeline update

### Top Donors to EMOP 200339 (in USD)

U.K.	\$ 1,098,901
UN CERF	\$ 799,783
FINLAND	\$ 682,128

### Pipeline update: total requirements for project duration

**15,691 mt of mixed commodities** are required (cereals, pulses, oil, sugar, salt, canned meat)

The pipeline has a **shortfall of 56 percent** including commodities purchased with advance financing

Additional advance financing have just been approved to avoid further pipeline breaks

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# Critical Risks in Syria

## Contextual Risks:

- Intensification of civil unrest and sectarian conflict.
- Depletion of national strategic food reserve and increases in food prices due to poor harvest and import restrictions
- Shortage/scarcity of fuel supplies as well as increase in fuel prices
- Reduced funds in circulation
- Shut down of communications and/or connectivity and lack of communication equipment
- Suspension of WFP port operations, border entry operations, and transportation of commodities
- Further international sanctions on Syria

## Programmatic Risks:

- Reliance on one implementing partner with limited capacity to respond to increased needs
- Limited access to beneficiaries and distribution sites due to the on-going conflict and real time information
- Inadequate funding to meet the needs of the vulnerable people affected by civil unrest

## Institutional Risks:

- Security risks threatening WFP staff, offices and assets
- Lack of access to specific areas due to ongoing conflict and real time information



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## Contextual risks and mitigation measures

Risks	Mitigation measures
Intensification of civil unrest and sectarian conflict	<b>Continued dialogue by the UN</b>
Depletion of national strategic food reserve and increases in food prices	<b>Focus on regional supplies arrangements; prepositioning of stocks</b>
Shortage/scarcity of fuel supplies and increase in fuel prices	<b>Launch of the Special Operation for fuel supply</b>
Reduced funds in circulation	<b>Introduction of cash and/or vouchers</b>
Shut down of communications and/or connectivity and lack of communication equipment	<b>Prepositioning of the emergency telecommunication equipment in the neighbouring countries</b>
Suspension of WFP port and border entry operations, and transportation of commodities	<b>Identify alternative regional transport routes that include reliable ports and warehousing</b>
Further international sanctions on Syria	<b>Continued dialogue by the UN</b>

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# Programmatic risks and mitigation measures

Risks	Mitigation Measures
Limited access to beneficiaries and distribution sites	<b>Identification of alternative partners with capacity and inclination to implement WFP projects</b>
Reliance on one implementing partner with limited capacity to respond to increased needs	<b>Assist in building the capacity of our implementing partner</b> <b>Continue to advocate for the increased presence of the INGOs</b>

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## Institutional risks and mitigation measures

Risks	Mitigation Measures
Inadequate funding	<b>Engage with generous donors to receive sufficient funds</b>
Lack of access to specific areas due to ongoing conflict and real time information	<b>Continue to advocate for increased humanitarian space</b>
UN agencies asked to leave the country	<b>Establishing offices in the neighboring countries; the office inside Syria to be managed by national staff</b>
Underfunding, inadequate, late or sporadic funding	<b>Work with donors to ensure continued funding; Usage of WFPs advance funding facility; Seek CERF funding</b>
Security risks threatening WFP staff, offices and assets	<b>Ensure all necessary security precautions are taken</b>

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# Residual Risks

- Intensification of civil unrest
  - Resulting in further reductions to respond to humanitarian needs and transport humanitarian assistance
- Limited number of implementing partners
  - Restrictions on INGOs/NGOs able to operate

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# The way forward

- **WFP is preparing to respond as soon as access improves**
- Led by OCHA, WFP, along with other humanitarian partners, have drafted a “UN 90 day response plan”

*An estimated figure of 1.5 million people has been used for planning purposes based on figures provided by SARC*

- The current multi-agency humanitarian assessment in Syria will help inform the scope of the greater WFP response in Syria
  - Funding is needed to meet the needs under the current EMOP and the possible Special Operation
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**Thank You**

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