

Information Note of IR-EMOP 200279 Project Document

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IMMEDIATE RESPONSE EMERGENCY OPERATION SYRIA, EMOP 200279: EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR PEOPLE AFFECTED BY UNREST IN SYRIA

PART 1: INFORMATION NOTE

NATURE OF EMERGENCY:

Location / Cause: Syria, a strategic country in the Middle East, has been hit by a wave of civil unrest known as 'Arab Spring'. The protest started in Tunisia and spread to Egypt and other Middle East and North African (MENA) countries. Since the unrest started in mid-March in Syria, the security situation has been fast deteriorating. Protesters had begun with demands for greater freedom as well as for political and economic reforms. However, as violent crackdowns continue and the number of casualties increases, the demand has shifted to call for toppling down the regime, echoing requests that have been heard elsewhere in the region. To date the number of deaths is nearing 600, as reported by media and human rights organizations.

Main concentrations of anti-Government dissent –initially in Dara'a (southern part of the country, close to Jordan) and coastal Lattakia (port city) - have now spread across the country, including Damascus. To date, Dara'a remains the worst-hit by the highest number of civilian casualties and intense military action against protesters. The whole governorate has been besieged since a military operation was launched on 25 April. In addition to Dara'a, other military operations were launched in several areas of the country including cities like Baniyas, Lattakia and Douma (suburban Damascus).

Effects: A continued military siege has created growing concern about the overall well-being of the population in certain areas, especially the people of Dara'a. The current situation has reportedly deprived people of access to food, water and electricity, as well as medical care and services. There are unconfirmed media reports that the food flow is interrupted. Telecommunications with the area are also cut off. At the same time, hundreds of people, mostly women, children and elderly living in surrounding villages have fled to Jordan. At present there are few indications that the situation might be resolved soon.

Total numbers affected and in need of emergency food assistance: At present the United Nations and other humanitarian organizations on the ground have 'zero access'

to Dara'a and other besieged areas. Hence, WFP faces difficulty in assessing the area and needs. While efforts to obtain humanitarian access continue to be exerted, it is estimated that 21,800 people in Dara'a and other besieged areas are in need of immediate assistance.

WFP IR EMOP:

Justification for an immediate response, expected impact: The people of Dara'a have been suffering from long days of military siege. As a result, they have lost access to basic necessities including food, water, electricity and medical supplies. The population of Dara'a governorate is estimated at 1 million, with 75,000 to 100,000 people living in Dara'a city.

The main livelihood of the majority of the Dara'a population is agriculture (vegetables and fruits), on which Damascus and many other cities in the north of the country are dependent. Due to continuing instability and the security situation, it can be assumed that many households will not be able to work or harvest their crop in the near future. Additionally, many villages in the governorate also have a sizeable population of migrants from the north-eastern part of the country, who migrated due to prolonged drought since 2006. Lack of work and trade opportunities will increase the risk of households suffering from acute food insecurity.

The operation will provide 21,800 beneficiaries with a one-month ration of food as immediate relief assistance.

Duration of assistance (maximum three months): onemonth, to start as soon as humanitarian access is granted.

Number of beneficiaries and location: 21,800 in Dara'a and other besieged areas .

Food basket composition and ration levels:

Bread = 250 g/p/day (this is equivalent to 6 big size Bread)

Chickpeas = 70g/p/day

Oil= 17g/p/day

Sugar= 10g/p/day

Canned Meat = 50g/p/day

Total food aid requirements (mt):

Commodity	Quantity (mt)	Estimated Cost (US\$)
Bread	164	121,688
Chickpeas	46	146,188
Oil	12	26,640
Sugar	7	6,720
Canned Meat	33	104,874

406,110 USD for food commodities

Mode of implementation: Distribution will be done through current cooperating partners.

PART 2: EMOP BUDGET (attached)

Total EMOP budget is US\$499,857 attached as Annex 1.

PART 3: EMOP APPROVAL

1) IRA funding is available to cover EMOP budget

Chief, RMBB: [John Crisci], Date: --/--/----

2) EMOP is approved

Country Director, Syria: Muhannad Hadi, Date: --/--/----

Annex 1 – Budget Summary