

Monthly Update on Milk for WFP Syria's School Meal Programme

May 2018

Background

Since August 2014, WFP Syria, in cooperation with UNICEF and the Ministry of Education, has been implementing a school meals programme aimed at encouraging enrolment and regular attendance among pre-primary and primary school children in Syria. Initially providing fortified date bars only, thanks to a generous contribution from the European Commission, starting in the 2016-17 school year, WFP introduced UHT milk of European Union origin as part of the meal provided to children.

Due to operational challenges linked to the nature of the commodity as well as the challenging context in Syria, WFP maintained the possibility of channeling part of the milk quantities through the General Food Assistance (GFA) programme as a contingency measure.

Implementation, May 2018

Procurement and shipments

WFP procured a total of 19,246.23 mt of milk for the academic year 2017-2018. Quantities were procured in different packaging sizes (200 ml, 330 ml, 1 l), according with the production capacity of the selected European suppliers. The procured milk commodity arrived in 95 shipments to Lattakia port, from November 2017 to April 2018.

Dispatches to schools

During May, WFP dispatched 1,946.188 mt of milk to schools in Damascus, Homs, Lattakia and Rural Damascus. These quantities are estimated to benefit 361,597 children, based on a daily ration per child of 400 ml of milk. Among those reached are children attending primary schools in previously besieged Eastern Ghouta in Rural Damascus. Due to the change in security situation in the area, WFP, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, has been able to include them in its school meals programme, reaching these particularly vulnerable children with the fortified full fat milk and date bars. While Eastern Ghouta is no longer classified as besieged by the United Nations, it is still considered as a hard-to-reach area.

In addition, WFP reached vulnerable primary school children who benefit from homeschooling at social centers (childcare centers, youth centers, orphanages, and centers for children with special needs, among others) in Damascus, Rural Damascus and Lattakia governorates.

Milk dispatches		
	Dispatched to Schools (mt)	Allocated to GFA (mt)
Quantity of milk dispatched in May	1,946.188	-
Number of children benefitting from the dispatched milk in May	361,597	-
Cumulative quantity dispatched since the beginning of the 2017-18 school year	17,406.208	1,831.691

Overall Achievements

As of the end of May 2018, some 19,237.899 mt of milk have been dispatched and the project has been completed successfully.

Within the 2017-2018 academic year, WFP reached about 610,833 children in 12 of Syria's 14 governorates. Children were reached under the school meals programme and through the general food assistance programme (GFA) in areas accessible from inside Syria.

The overwhelming majority of children aged 6-12 years were reached through the school meals programme, with a maximum of 462,776 children reached during April 2018. The allocation of milk under GFA has accounted for less than 10 percent of the total quantity of milk procured for the 2017-2018 school year.

Final Report

WFP will provide an overview of the milk project (June 2016- May 2018) in its final report, which, as per agreement, will be due three months after the end of the Action (31 August 2018).



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Caption: During the 2017-2018 academic year, WFP provided fortified date bars and milk to more than 450,000 school children