

PRESS RELEASE



Refugees in Northern Syria **Welthungerhilfe: The Supply Conditions Are Worsening**

Bonn/Berlin, 2020-01-30. Rain, cold, hunger, rising prices - the situation for refugees from the civil war in north-west Syria is becoming increasingly dire. More than 350,000 people have fled from the disputed areas in the province of Idlib since the start of December, and 4 out of 5 of those fleeing are women. Welthungerhilfe is therefore extending its assistance for refugees.

“The overcrowded refugee camps are literally sinking into the mud. The temporary housing offers little protection against the frost during the night. Many displaced people can no longer afford fuel for their stoves. To make a fire to keep themselves warm, people are now using whatever they can find, including plastic waste”, says Halil Kurt, a Welthungerhilfe Programme Coordinator, who is organising assistance on site.

The price of diesel fuel in Idlib has recently risen by over 20 percent. For this reason, Welthungerhilfe has distributed fuel to 3,000 families in five refugee camps, and a further 3,200 households have received vouchers for 150 litres of diesel. This is enough to keep stoves warm for two months.

“If the petrol prices rise further, there is also a risk of bottlenecks in supply lines for refugees, e.g. transportation of flour and bread. Nonetheless, bread distribution has been repeatedly interrupted due to the security situation. The intensive air attacks and the advance of Syrian troops have made reliable bread distribution impossible for the last two weeks”, says Halil Kurt.

Welthungerhilfe is reacting swiftly to the worsening emergency and supplying a further 55,000 displaced people with bread and food vouchers through Syrian partner organizations. The new assistance measures have a budget of 200,000 euros.

Welthungerhilfe is asking for donations for refugee assistance in Syria, with the keyword: Spenden für Syrien or online www.welthungerhilfe.de/winterhilfe-spenden/

Programme Coordinator Halil Kurt (English speaker) and Regional Director Dirk Hegmanns (German/English speaker) are available for interviews. For more information and photos to download see www.welthungerhilfe.org/media.

Welthungerhilfe is one of the largest private aid organisations in Germany; politically independent and non-denominational. It is fighting for “Zero Hunger by 2030”. Since it was founded in 1962, more than 9300 overseas projects in 70 countries have been supported with 3.71 billion euros. Welthungerhilfe works on the principle of help for self-help: from fast disaster relief to reconstruction and long-term development cooperation projects with national and international partner organisations.

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