



# WFP Syria Country Brief

April 2018

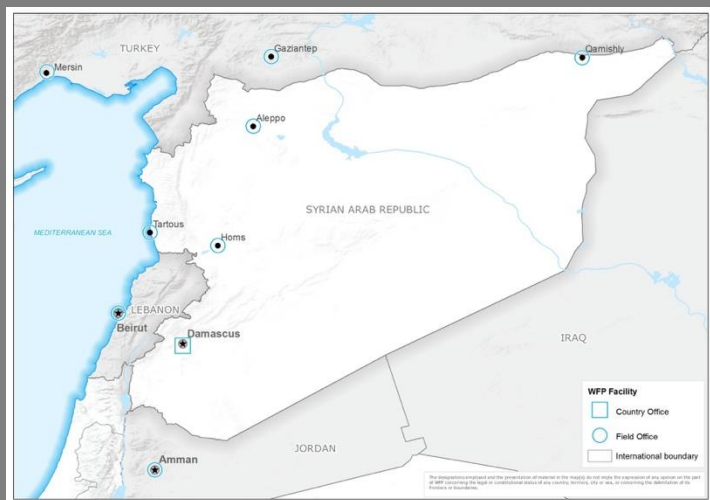
## Operational Context

The conflict in Syria has entered its eighth year and has taken a devastating toll on the lives of the Syrian people, resulting in the largest displacement crises since World War II.

Soaring food and fuel prices, stagnant salaries, loss of livelihoods and reduced food production have led to widespread food insecurity across the country, with 6.5 million people unable to meet their food needs and a further 4 million people at risk of food insecurity. The most vulnerable people live in hard-to-reach and besieged areas, home to 2.05 million people, all inhabitants are food-insecure, and access to assistance is intermittent.

In response to the alarming situation, WFP has been providing food assistance to the most vulnerable families in the country.

WFP has been active in Syria since 1964.



Population: **18 million**

2015 Human Development Index: **149 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **18,700 children between 6-59 months**

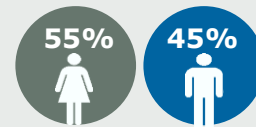
## In Numbers

**40,400 mt** of food assistance distributed

**USD 757,000** cash based transfers made

**USD 174 m** (May-October 2018) net funding requirements, USD 60 million per month to reach 4 million people in Syria

**2.74 m people assisted**  
in April 2018



## Operational Updates

- In April, WFP delivered food assistance for 2.74 million people in all 14 Syrian governorates: 26 percent of the food assistance was delivered through the cross-border operations in Jordan and Turkey. Access trends in April continued the negative trends seen so far in 2018; no cross-line inter-agency convoy reached any of the hard-to-reach or besieged areas during the month.
- Following events in Eastern Ghouta, the United Nations revised the number of people in need living in besieged and hard-to-reach areas to 2.05 million, this includes 11,100 people in three besieged locations (3,000 in Yarmouk; 8,100 in Foua and Kafraya). This is a 13 percent decrease compared to February estimates.
- Following the agreements to have members of armed opposition groups and their families leave for northern parts of Syria, the situation in Eastern Ghouta remained difficult. WFP and partners continued to cover the needs of all evacuees providing food assistance in displacement sites in Rural Damascus, areas inside Eastern Ghouta accessible by actors, as well as the recent arrivals in Idleb and Aleppo governorates through cross-border Turkey.
- For the first time since 2014, WFP began land deliveries of food rations and wheat flour to Deir Ezzor governorate, where 14,700 food rations, sufficient for 73,500 people, were distributed in northern and eastern rural areas of Deir Ezzor.
- WFP has delivered food rations, wheat flour and nutrition supplies to Ar-Raqqa City for the first time since 2014. By the end of the month, WFP distributed 6,000 food rations, sufficient for 30,000 people. The overall monthly allocation for the governorate is 30,000 food rations in support of 150,000 people.
- In April, government forces launched a military operation in the south of Damascus city. The affected areas are comprised of several neighbourhoods including the ISIL-controlled Yarmouk and Hajar Aswad, as well as Yalda, Babila and Beit Sehm, which are controlled by non-state armed groups. In anticipation of evacuees arriving from southern Damascus, WFP prepositioned ready-to-eat (RTE) rations in Aleppo and Idleb through the cross-border operation from Turkey.
- In response to the population displacement from Afrin, WFP assistance continued during the month. By end April, WFP provided 32,665 RTE rations, 5,000 food rations, nutrition supplies, milk, and daily fresh bread bundles through regular, cross-border and cross-line deliveries to areas close to Afrin, in Aleppo city, and rural areas of Aleppo governorate.

Main Photo

Credit: Marwa Awad  
Caption: A United Nations inter-agency mission reached Ar-Raqqa city in March 2018

Contact info: [wfp.damascus@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.damascus@wfp.org)  
Country Director: Jakob Kern  
Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/syria](http://www.wfp.org/countries/syria)

## WFP Country Strategy

Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) *
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### Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018)

792.2 m	325.4 m	173.8 m
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\* May-October 2018

## WFP Country Activities

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- 1 – Provision of general food assistance in the form of regular in-kind monthly food rations and ready-to-eat rations in the initial phase of displacement.
- SO 1** 2 - Provision of school meals for pre- and primary school children in regular schools and CBT to out-of-school children enrolled in informal education or alternate learning opportunities.
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- SO 2** 3 – Creation and rehabilitation of communal assets through Food Assistance for Assets (FFA); and household-level productive assets and enhanced human capital through Food Assistance for Training (FFT).
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- 4 – Prevention of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies in children 6-23 months of age.
- SO 3** 5 – CBT to targeted PLWG to improve their dietary diversity and intake of fresh food items such as dairy, meat and vegetables.
- 6 – Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition in children aged 6-59 months and PLWG.
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- 7 – Provide Whole of Syria coordination, information management, capacity development and shared logistics services to sector partners that faces logistical gaps.
- SO 4** 8- Provide shared ICT services, Emergency Telecommunications coordination and Information Technology (IT) Emergency Preparedness training to humanitarian community to deliver relief assistance.

## Monitoring

- In April, WFP and third-party monitoring (TPM) companies conducted 462 monitoring visits in 14 governorates. WFP staff conducted 199 visits, while the remaining 263 were conducted by TPMs in areas not accessible to United Nations staff. In addition, a total of 989 monitoring questionnaires were conducted to monitor the GFA programme, bread distribution, school feeding, livelihoods and nutrition activities. Of these, 367 were conducted by WFP staff.
- Mobile Data Collection and Analytics (MCDA) for the collection of monitoring data is now fully operational for WFP field monitors and cross-border TPM. All monitoring toolkits have been designed and published for all activities (general food assistance, school meals, and nutrition and livelihoods activities). The system enables the collection of data without an internet connection, thus mitigating the impact of challenges related to connectivity and coverage.

## Challenges

- Humanitarian access remains an issue particularly related to hard-to-reach and besieged areas. The United Nations calls on all parties to facilitate unconditional, unimpeded and sustained access to all people in need throughout the country.
- WFP Syria is currently implementing its activities at a reduced level in line with available and projected funding levels. Additional funding is needed to enable WFP to scale up its activities. Furthermore, due to the long lead time of up to four months, contributions are needed to ensure coverage for 2019, when WFP Syria will move to an interim country strategic plan (ICSP).

## Donors

Five largest donors to WFP Syria in 2018 ranked by contributions: Germany, United States, Canada, United Kingdom, and European Commission.

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