



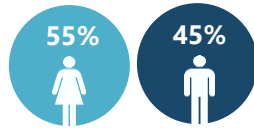
WFP Syria Situation Report #4

April 2020



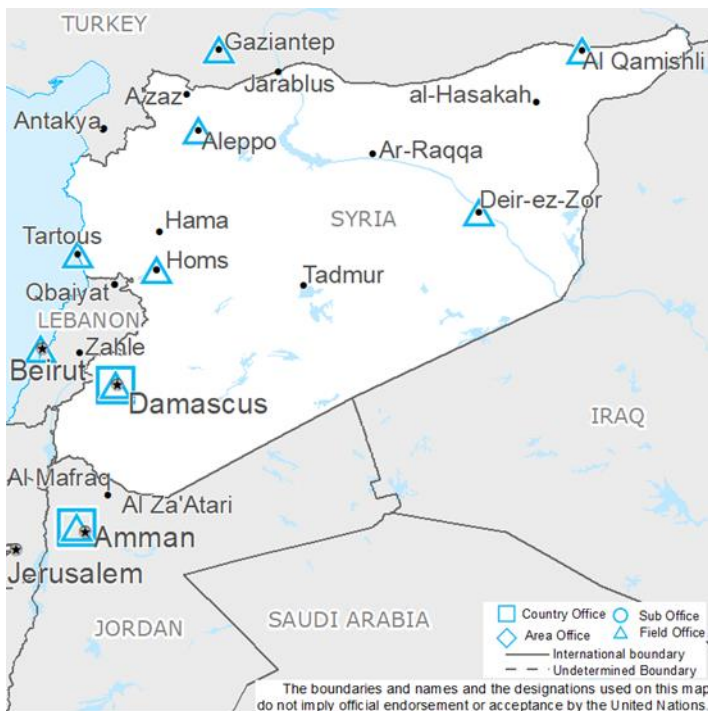
5 million people assisted

April 2020 (based on dispatches)



WFP Syria Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP)

2020 Syrian Arab Republic Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)	Overall: Not available yet
	WFP share: USD 985 million
WFP Net Funding Requirement (May 2020 – October 2020) WFP Syria Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP)	USD 283 million



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Further information: www1.wfp.org/countries/syrian-arab-republic

In Numbers

11.1 million people in need of humanitarian assistance

6.1 million people internally displaced

7.9 million people food insecure

1.9 million people at risk of food insecurity

Highlights

- In April, WFP dispatched assistance sufficient for an estimated 5 million people across its activities in Syria.
- As of 30 April, 43 cases of COVID-19 had been confirmed in Syria, with three related deaths.
- Syria authorities eased some COVID-19 mitigation measures in late April, lifting the intra-governorate travel ban and re-opening shops and markets.
- Food prices continued to increase in April, with the cost of the WFP reference food basket by the end of the month at the highest levels ever recorded since the start of the crisis in 2011.
- As the 06 March ceasefire in north-western Syria held, April saw close to no population displacement, and WFP deactivated its emergency General Food Assistance implementation guidelines.

Situation Update

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

- As of 30 April, 43 cases of COVID-19 had been confirmed in Syria, with three related deaths (MoH Syria).
- Syrian authorities eased some COVID-19 mitigation measures in late April, lifting the travel restrictions between urban and rural areas (within the same governorate). This makes WFP movement within a governorate significantly easier, as the submission of requests for waivers are no longer needed.
- Shops and markets are allowed to re-open between 08:00 and 17:00 every day as of 28 April, while schools, universities, public parks, bars, nightclubs, cinemas remain closed since mid-March. Public transportation also remains suspended and a nationwide curfew 19:30 to 06:00 remains in effect.

Economic Situation

- Food prices continued their upwards march in April. Overall, average food prices in April were 16 percent higher than in March, and the price of the WFP national average food basket had by the end of April increased by 111 percent compared to April 2019 levels, reaching the highest levels recorded since the start of the crisis at 14.3 times the five-year pre-crisis average.
- In response to the rapid and frequent changes in the prices of food and non-food items (NFIs) across the Syrian markets, and to allow for closer market monitoring, WFP has revised the data collection frequency of market prices to a weekly frequency since March 2020. WFP also now monitors the prices of some key NFIs that are related to COVID-19.

North-Western Syria

- As the 06 March ceasefire in north-western Syria continues to hold, significant IDP return movement was observed in April. As such, OCHA reports that humanitarian needs increased in some parts of western Aleppo governorate and southern Idlib governorate as IDPs returned to areas from which they fled, but where many services and humanitarian activities were suspended or moved as a result of earlier hostilities. WFP, through its cooperating partners, is working to monitor IDP returnee arrivals to ensure the continuity of assistance.
- The emergency GFA implementation guidelines that came into effect in February were lifted in April, and WFP reached 1.2 million people under the April GFA cycle. As population displacement had largely come to a halt, there were no distributions of emergency food assistance through ready-to-eat rations in north-western Syria in April.

North-Eastern Syria

- Hostilities continued in Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa governorates in April, where heavy clashes were reported in Ras Al-Ayn city (Al-Hasakeh governorate) and in Tell Abyad (Ar-Raqqa governorate) between Turkish-backed non-state armed groups.
- In Deir Ezzor governorate, suspected ISIL sleeper cells continued attacks targeting Syrian government and government-supported forces in several villages in the governorate, including Al-Sayal, Al-Jalaa, and Al-Abbas as well as in Mayadin city.
- To avoid crowding during distributions inside the IDP camps in north-eastern Syria and limit COVID-19 exposure risk, WFP distributed two months' worth of food rations at a time and camp management used small trucks to deliver WFP assistance block by block in the camps. Following the success of and positive feedback on the two-month distribution modality covering March and April distributions, WFP plans to maintain this modality for the May cycle, distributing of May and June rations to commence in one distribution round that will start in mid-May.

Southern Syria

- In Dar'a governorate, the town of Tafas witnessed several incidents of inter-communal conflict in April, with fighting between different clans resulting in multiple deaths and injuries. Prior to the recent escalation of violence in the town, WFP distributed food to some 47,500 people in Tafas.
- Despite the COVID-19 lockdown imposed on two towns of Rural Damascus governorate; Monin and Set Zaynab, by Syrian authorities, WFP was able to continue the provision of assistance, reaching close to 9,000 people in Monin and 16,600 in Set Zaynab.
- As a consequence of the lockdown on Monin, beneficiaries of the nutritional support to pregnant and lactating women programme were unable to reach the WFP contracted retailers to redeem their nutritional voucher support. Thanks to the good coordination with local authorities, retailers and cooperating partners, WFP was able to capitalize on the existing cash-based transfer setup and deliver the authorized voucher commodities to 185 pregnant and lactating women directly to the locked-down village. Without interruption of the cycle, beneficiaries were able to redeem their SCOPE cards (electronic cards through which WFP provides both cash and voucher assistance to people in need, allowing them to choose and buy food from local shops across the country) at the "mobile retailer".

WFP Response

- WFP dispatched humanitarian assistance sufficient for an estimated 5 million people across all its activities in Syria in April.
- A total of USD 3 million in CBT was distributed to 144,700 beneficiaries across three activities: Nutrition (Malnutrition prevention - support to pregnant and lactating women and girls), Livelihoods and Resilience, and School Feeding (support to out-of-school children).

General Food Assistance Programme

- In April, WFP dispatched general food assistance (GFA) sufficient for some 4.9 million people across all 14 Syrian governorates.
- Cross-border deliveries from Turkey under [UN Security Council Resolution 2165](#) (2014, extended under [Resolution 2504](#) in January 2020), accounted for 30 percent of the total WFP general food assistance dispatched. This includes food rations for some 1.5 million people in opposition-held Idlib governorate and opposition-held areas of Aleppo governorate inaccessible from inside Syria.
- In response to COVID-19, WFP is supporting its staff and cooperating partners with personal protective equipment that includes face masks, hand-sanitizers, gloves, disinfectant, as well as thermometers. WFP, working with UNICEF and UNFPA, also included soap in the GFA food rations.

Livelihood and Resilience Programme

- In April, WFP reached some 78,250 people under its livelihood and resilience projects across Rural Damascus, Dar'a, Quneitra, As-Sweida, Aleppo, Homs, Hama, Lattakia, Tartous and Deir Ezzor governorates.

School Feeding Programme

- As a result of the closure of all schools to curb the spread of COVID-19, WFP's School Feeding-programme remained suspended in April, affecting the provision of assistance to more than one million children.
- The only component of the School Feeding programme that remained operational in April was the support through CBT/e-vouchers to out-of-school children enrolled in the UNICEF-supported "Curriculum B" accelerated learning programme. Under this programme, WFP in April supported some 43,100 out-of-school children in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs, Hama, Qamishli, Tartous, Lattakia and Aleppo governorates.

Nutrition Programme

- In April, WFP dispatched nutrition products for the prevention of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies for 168,700 children and pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWG) across Al-Hasakeh, Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, Damascus, Dar'a, Deir Ezzor, Hama, Homs, Rural Damascus, Lattakia and Tartous governorates. This includes 58,500 PLWG who received nutrition support through CBT to purchase fresh food, including dairy products, meat, fruits and vegetables, from 108 WFP-contracted shops.
- In April, WFP dispatched nutrition products sufficient for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition for 2,580 children and PLWG for one month in Al-Hasakeh, Aleppo and Damascus governorates.

Clusters and Common Services

Food Security Sector

- A draft Operational Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19 has been finalized and is under final review. The Food Security Sector has presented a funding gap of USD 26 million to cover additional operational costs related to

COVID-19. The preparedness plan will cover at least 4.5 million beneficiaries through a combination of food, cash and voucher assistance, as well as the provision of hygiene kits and dissemination of information, education and communication material.

Logistics Cluster

- The Logistics Cluster continued coordination and information sharing in April as part of its response to the spread of COVID-19. The cluster increased the frequency of cluster coordination meetings, chairs the Supply Chain working group inside Syria and worked to keep partners informed on border crossing status and global supply chain systems.
- The WFP-led Logistics Cluster facilitated the storage of 855.6 m³ of newly received humanitarian goods in its storage facilities in Rural Damascus and Homs governorates on behalf of FAO and UNFPA.
- Facilitating the cross-border operation from Turkey, the Logistics Cluster transhipped 1,364 trucks from Turkey to Syria in April.

Resourcing Update

- WFP urgently requires USD 283 million to keep operations running through October 2020.
- Due to funding constraints, and to stretch available resources, WFP was forced to gradually reduce the caloric value of the food basket provided in north-western Syria starting in April.

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For further information, visit the [WFP Syria website](#).

See also the [WFP Syria 2019 Annual Country Report](#).

WFP Syria Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2020)

	2020 Requirement (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirement (May - October 2020)	People Assisted (Dispatches) (April 2020)	Female	Male
ICSP (January 2019 – December 2020)	985 m	283 m	5,002,541		
Activity 1: General Food Assistance			4,941,775	2,717,976	2,223,799
Activity 2: School Feeding			43,066	21,102	21,964
Activity 3: Livelihoods and Resilience			78,240	43,032	35,208
Activity 4: Nutrition - Prevention of Acute Malnutrition			168,706	114,674	54,032
Activity 5: Nutrition - Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition			2,580	1,522	1,058