



# WFP Syria Situation Report #2

February 2021



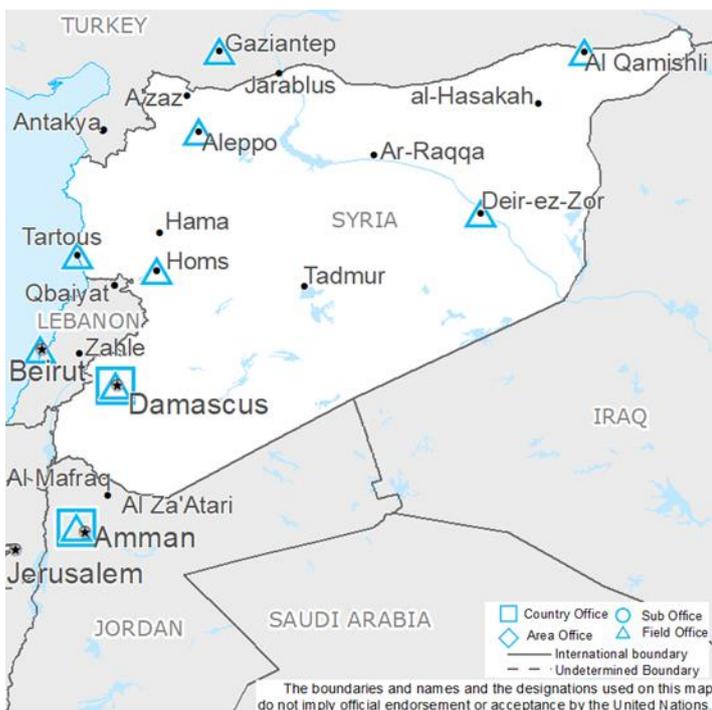
**4.8 million people assisted**

February 2021 (based on dispatches)



**Gender and Age Marker 4** WFP Syria Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP)

<b>2021 Syrian Arab Republic Humanitarian Response Plan</b>	<b>Overall requirement:</b> USD 4.2 billion
	<b>WFP share:</b> USD 1.16 billion
<b>WFP 6-Month Net Funding Requirement</b> (March 2021 – August 2021)  <a href="#">WFP Syria 2019-2021 Interim Country Strategic Plan</a> (November 2018)  <a href="#">Interim Country Strategic Plan Revision 03</a> (December 2020)	<b>USD 375.3 m</b> As of 07 March 2021



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## In Numbers

**12.4 million** people food insecure

**1.3 million** severely food insecure

**6.7 million** people internally displaced

## Highlights

- The food security situation in Syria continues to worsen, with a further deterioration of key food security indicators seen over the first two months of 2021.
- WFP data released in February shows that food prices continue to rise and have reached a new record high in January. Food prices in Syria have now increased by 222 percent year-on-year, and by 376 percent since October 2019.
- In Deir Ezzor governorate, a joint WFP-FAO project has restored water access to 6,000 smallholder farmer households in local communities in the previously ISIL-controlled Mayadin district.
- The situation in Al-Hol camp (Al-Hasakeh governorate) remained volatile in February: On 24 February, an MSF staff member was killed in the camp, and on 27 February, a fire killed ten people.

## Situation Update

### Food Security Situation

- Key food security indicators in Syria remain at critical levels, with continued deterioration seen over January and February, and with trends showing a sustained worsening trend in the food security situation nationwide over the past six months, according to [WFP mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping \(mVAM\) data](#).
- 47 percent of all Syrian households surveyed in February 2021 reported inadequate (poor and borderline) food consumption; a 48 percent year-on-year increase and a three percentage-point increase from December.
- Syrian households rely on increasingly severe negative coping strategies to cover their essential food needs. From January to February 2021, the national average reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) increased from 17.8 to 19.8. The increase seems largely driven by households applying increasingly severe food-based coping mechanisms.

*Photo: Leila, a child living in a camp in north-western Syria, just received her WFP-provided nutrition product. ©WFP's Cooperating Partner*

## Economic situation

- Food prices in Syria continue to rise, according to WFP data released in February. The nationwide average price of WFP's standard reference food basket increased by eight percent from December to January, reaching a new record high of SYP 121,066. As of January, food prices had increased by 40 percent in just six months (from July 2020), by 222 percent year-on-year, and by 376 percent since October 2019. The increase in food prices is mainly attributed to the continued depreciation of the SYP/USD exchange rate in the informal market as well as the continuing fuel shortages across the country.
- At governorate-level, Idlib continued to report the highest average food basket price (SYP 121,805), 25 percent higher than the January nationwide average. While all 14 governorates reported an increasing average reference food basket price in January, Ar-Raqqa reported the largest month-on-month increase (up 13 percent).
- Similarly, the nationwide average price of fuel in the informal market continues to rise, increasing by 12 percent from December to January, and by 139 percent in six months (July 2020), reaching SYP 1,134/litre. The informal price of fuel remains five times higher than the formal price (SYP 174/litre).

## COVID-19 Pandemic

- As of the end of February, approximately 42,020 COVID-19 cases and 1,746 deaths had been confirmed across all areas of Syria. This includes 15,282 cases and 1,004 deaths reported in government-controlled areas; 21,136 cases and 426 deaths reported in north-western Syria, and 8,602 cases and 316 deaths reported in north-eastern Syria.

## North-Western Syria

- Floods caused by heavy rainfall continued to severely impact IDP sites in north-western Syria in February. WFP and its cooperating partners continued their emergency response through the distribution of ready-to-eat rations (RTEs) to people affected by the floods and had by the end of February assisted more than 75,200 people.
- A humanitarian worker was killed, and two others injured in an explosion in the Turkish-controlled city of Al-Bab in northern Aleppo governorate on 16 February. In response, the UN Deputy Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Syria Crisis, Mark Cutts, [issued](#) a statement, condemning the attack.

## North-eastern Syria

- The security situation in al-Hol camp (Al-Hasakeh governorate) remains concerning and could potentially

lead to further restrictions on UN/WFP movement in the camp should the situation continue to deteriorate. On 24 February, a Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) staff member was killed in the camp, and MSF released a [statement](#) on 02 March denouncing the “unsafe environment” in the camp. WFP operations in Al-Hol are continuing as planned with GFA distributions ongoing.

- On 27 February, a fire broke out in Al-Hol camp, killing ten people (including three children) with at least 40 others injured. The UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator, Imran Riza, and the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Syria Crisis, Muhannad Hadi released a [statement](#) on 28 February urging all relevant parties to work to find durable solutions for the people living in the camp.

## Southern Syria

- On 17 February, WFP participated in an inter-sectoral mission to the town of Darayya in Rural Damascus governorate. The mission met with a number of interlocutors in Darayya from the local community and authorities as well as the Darayya sub-branch of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC). During the meetings, the team was briefed on the priority needs and gaps in the area.
- WFP is currently supporting 15,000 people with general food assistance in Darayya. However, due to the high number of IDP returnees, the absence of economic opportunities and a lack of services the allocation is currently being reviewed, and the number of families supported will be adjusted based on the results of WFP's beneficiary selection exercise and the funding availability.

## WFP Response

- WFP dispatched humanitarian assistance sufficient for an estimated 4.8 million people across all activities in Syria in February.
- A total of USD 3.1 million in cash-based transfers (CBT) was distributed to 134,800 WFP beneficiaries across four activities: The General Food Assistance (GFA) CBT pilot; School Feeding (support to out-of-school children); Malnutrition Prevention (support to pregnant and lactating women); and Livelihoods, Resilience and Social Safety Nets.
- In response to COVID-19, and under agreement with UNFPA, CBT top-ups at a total value of USD 805,800 were distributed, allowing the households of the 72,000 pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWG) assisted by WFP to purchase hygiene items (benefitting some 216,000 people).
- As part of the Health Sector-led response to COVID-19 in Syria, WFP, in cooperation with the World Health

Organization (WHO) had by the end of February provided food assistance to some 14,400 people in ten quarantine and ten isolation centres in Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Lattakia, Tartous, and Rural Damascus governorates. The project is funded through the Syria Country-Based Pooled Fund (CBPF).

### General Food Assistance (GFA) Programme

- In February, WFP dispatched GFA sufficient for some 4.7 million people across all 14 Syrian governorates.
- Cross-border deliveries from Turkey accounted for 29 percent of the total WFP general food assistance dispatched. This includes food rations for some 1.35 million people areas of Idlib and Aleppo governorate inaccessible from inside Syria.

### Livelihoods, Resilience and Social Safety Nets

- In Deir Ezzor governorate, a joint WFP-FAO project has now restored water access across 3,600 hectares of farmland in local communities in the 'Sector 5' irrigation system in the previously Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)-controlled Mayadin district. The project has enabled over 6,000 farmer households to resume farming activities: supporting livelihoods and increasing income and access to food. Thanks to the project, the 2021 wheat yield in the area is estimated to increase by up to 12,000 metric tonnes at a critical moment when wheat and bread shortfalls are undermining access to Syria's main staple food.
- WFP reached some 53,500 people under its livelihoods, resilience and social safety-nets-projects across Rural Damascus, Dar'a, Quneitra, As-Sweida, Homs, Hama, Ar-Raqqa, Al-Hasakeh, Aleppo, Lattakia, Tartous and Deir Ezzor governorates.

### School Feeding Programme

- WFP assisted 596,900 children with in-school provision of fortified snacks.
- WFP supported 38,800 out-of-school children with food vouchers in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Homs, Hama, Lattakia, Tartous and Deir Ezzor.

### Nutrition Programme

- WFP dispatched nutrition products for the prevention of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies for 212,000 children and pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWG). This includes 72,000 PLWG who received nutrition support through CBT to purchase fresh food from WFP-contracted shops.
- WFP dispatched nutrition products sufficient for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition for 5,300 children and PLWG for one month.

### Clusters and Common Services

#### Logistics Cluster

- Facilitating the cross-border operation from Turkey, the WFP-led Logistics Cluster transshipped 1,047 Syrian trucks from Turkey in February. A total of 23,368 mt of Health, WASH, food, and Shelter items were transshipped on behalf of WFP, IOM, UNHCR, UNFPA, WHO and UNICEF.

#### United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- In February, UNHAS Syria completed 15 rotations on its two routes from Damascus to Qamishli and Aleppo, transporting 194 passengers and 3.45 mt of light cargo. Of the passengers transported on both routes, 77 percent were UN staff, and 23 percent were staff from national and international non-governmental organisations.

### Resourcing Update

- WFP requires USD 398.5 million to keep operations running at current levels through August 2021.

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### WFP Syria Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2021)

	2021 Requirement (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirement (March 2021 - August 2021)	People Assisted (February 2021 dispatches)	Female	Male
<b>ICSP (January 2019 – December 2021)</b>	<b>1.16 billion</b>	<b>375.3 million</b>	<b>4,829,354</b>		
Activity 1: <b>General Food Assistance</b>			<b>4,653,850</b>	2,559,618	2,094,233
Activity 2: <b>School Feeding</b>			<b>596,855</b>	292,459	304,396
Activity 3: <b>Livelihoods and Resilience</b>			<b>53,470</b>	29,409	24,062
Activity 4: <b>Prevention of Acute Malnutrition</b>			<b>211,971</b>	143,366	68,605
Activity 5: <b>Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition</b>			<b>5,325</b>	3,142	2,183