



WFP Syria Country Brief

June 2018

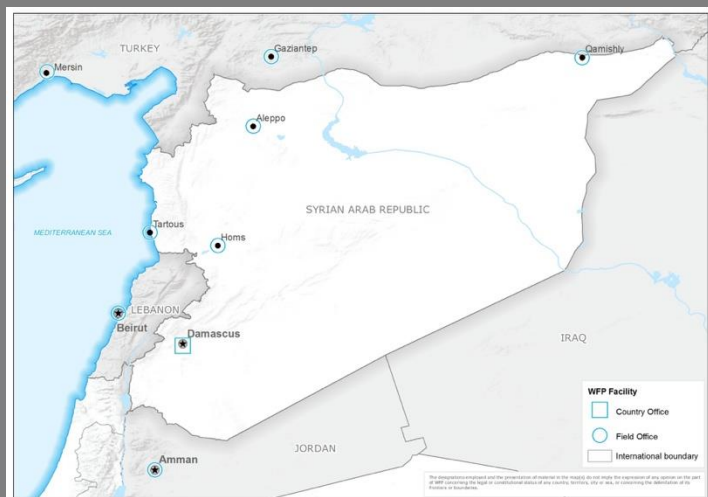
Operational Context

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 1.5 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

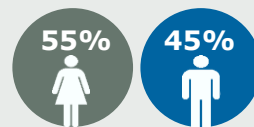
In Numbers

39,200 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 804,100 cash-based transfers made

USD 247.3 m (July-December 2018) net funding requirements, USD 60 million per month to reach 4 million people in Syria

3.01 m people assisted
in June 2018



Operational Updates

- In June, WFP delivered food assistance for 3.01 million people in all 14 Syrian governorates: 18 percent of the food assistance was delivered through the cross-border operations in Jordan and Turkey.
- In light of the recent changes in lines of control, the United Nations has revised the number of people in need living in besieged and hard-to-reach areas. As of 20 June, the United Nations estimates that there are 1.5 million people living in hard-to-reach locations including 8,100 people in two besieged locations (Foua and Kafraya). Overall, this represents a 27 percent decrease in the number of people living in these areas compared to estimates from April this year.
- In June, WFP provided assistance via three inter-agency convoys to five hard-to-reach areas in Homs and Rural Damascus governorates. Enough food assistance for 203,900 people, in addition to nutrition supplies sufficient for 518 children for a period of three months, was delivered.
- A deteriorating security situation in Southern Syria raises increasing concerns among WFP and humanitarian partners. The military offensive in southern Syria has seen at least 300,000 people displaced, with the majority moving towards the Jordanian border and towards south-western Dar'a, Quneitra and towards the Golan Heights area. WFP has been the first respondent for food assistance in all the areas where displaced people arrived. By the end of June, WFP has distributed enough emergency food assistance for some 180,000 people and is closely monitoring the rapidly evolving situation to ensure the continuance of assistance to those displaced.
- In Eastern Ghouta, WFP and partners continued to cover the needs of all IDPs by providing food assistance in displacement sites in Rural Damascus and areas inside Eastern Ghouta accessible by actors. On 10 June, WFP, through an inter-agency convoy, provided food rations and fortified wheat flour sufficient for 45,400 people. The population has transitioned to monthly food rations, having gained access to cooking facilities. Additionally, since the beginning of May, WFP has been supporting about 40,000 schoolchildren in 39 schools in newly accessible areas of Eastern Ghouta. WFP provided 870 mt of milk in May as well as 85 mt of date bars in June for all 40,000 children in Eastern Ghouta.
- In response to the displacement from Afrin, WFP continues to provide food assistance in the form of monthly food rations to 70,000 people in parts of Aleppo governorate.

**Main
Photo**

Credit: ©WFP Jordan
Caption: WFP provides nutrition supplies to displaced people in southern Syria.

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WFP Country Strategy

Total Requirement
(in USD)

Confirmed Contributions
(in USD)

Six-Month Net Funding
Requirements (in USD)
(July – December)

Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018)

792.2 m

239.6 m

247.3 m

WFP Country Activities

SO 1

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.

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.

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).

SO 3

4 – Prevention of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies in children 6-23 months of age.

5 – CBT to targeted pregnant and nursing mothers 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 pregnant and nursing mothers.

SO 4

7 – Provide Whole of Syria coordination, information management, capacity development and shared logistics services to sector partners that faces logistical gaps.

8- Provide shared ICT services, Emergency Telecommunications coordination and Information Technology (IT) Emergency Preparedness training to humanitarian community to deliver relief assistance.

Monitoring

- In June, WFP and third-party monitoring (TPM) companies conducted 462 monitoring visits in 14 governorates. WFP staff conducted 163 visits, while the remaining 299 were conducted by TPMs in areas not accessible to United Nations staff. In addition, a total of 1,245 monitoring questionnaires were conducted to monitor the general food assistance programme, bread distribution, school feeding, livelihoods and nutrition activities. Of these, 360 were conducted by WFP staff.

Challenges

- Humanitarian access remains an issue, particularly in 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 (75 percent of the original plan) 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 procurement 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.