



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Syria Country Brief August 2018



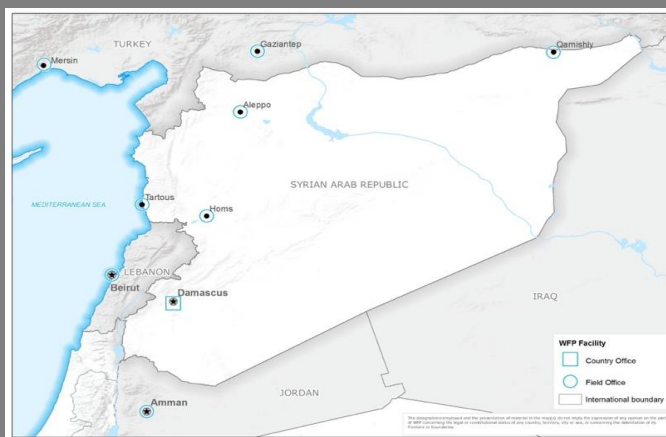
Operational Context

The conflict in Syria has entered its eighth year, taking a devastating toll on the lives of the Syrian people. The largest displacement crises since World War II, some 6.2 million Syrians are internally displaced and 5.6 million are registered as refugees outside of the country.

Soaring food and fuel prices, stagnant salaries, loss of livelihoods and reduced food production have led to widespread food insecurity across the country. There are 6.5 million people unable to meet their food needs and a further 4 million people at risk of food insecurity (HNO 2018). While 2018 has seen a significant change in conflict lines, some 1.5 million people remain in hard-to-reach areas with irregular access, leaving those particularly exposed to food insecurity.

Since 2011, WFP has been providing food, nutrition and livelihoods assistance to conflict-affected Syrian 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: **81,700 of children between 6-59 months**

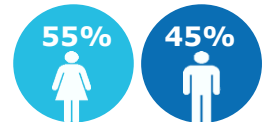
In Numbers

34,223 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 723,521 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 232.9 m six months (Sep 2018 - Feb 2019) net funding requirements, representing 29% of total budget

2.9 m people assisted in August 2018



Operational Updates

- In August, WFP delivered food assistance for 2.9 million people in all 14 Syrian governorates, in line with the monthly target of 3 million people. Of these, 19 percent was delivered through the cross-border operation from Turkey, to areas in Idlib, northern Hama, and western rural Aleppo governorates that are not accessible from inside Syria.
- WFP provided 37,755 people with one-month worth family food rations in Eastern Ghouta: on 8 August, WFP reached 2,755 people in Harasta through regular deliveries. On 9 August, WFP also took part in an inter-agency convoy to Arbin and Zamalka, delivering food rations and wheat flour for 35,000 people, in addition to nutrition supplies for children in response to malnutrition. Conflict in formerly besieged Eastern Ghouta has ceased in mid-April, however humanitarian access remains limited. It is estimated that some 250,000-300,000 people currently live in the area that has seen widespread destruction.
- WFP continued to respond to persistent needs in southern Syria's As-Sweida, Dar'a and Quneitra governorates following the escalated violence in June and July 2018. Since July, WFP has been able to distribute food assistance for 395,600 people in 38 locations through single and inter-agency convoys from Damascus, together with its partner Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) and a local NGO. Assistance includes family food rations, wheat flour, ready-to-eat (RTE) rations, and nutrition supplies for the prevention and treatment of malnutrition.
- There is high concern about the humanitarian situation and potential consequences of further escalation in Idlib governorate. Inter-agency humanitarian preparedness planning for Idlib and surrounding areas is ongoing. WFP, in coordination with the Food Security Sector, is working between its hubs in Gaziantep/Turkey, in Aleppo, Homs, and Tartous to ensure immediate and sufficient emergency assistance. Overall, WFP has sufficient ready-to-eat (RTE) rations in stock to assist 850,000 people through cross-border and regular deliveries from inside Syria.

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Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/syria

Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Months (September – February 2019) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
792.2 m	432.3 m	232.9 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Food insecure populations affected by the crisis, including host communities, IDPs and returnees, in all governorates, have access to life-saving food to meet their basic food needs all year long.
Focus area: *Crisis Response*

Activities:

- 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.
- 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.

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 2: Food insecure families in urban and rural areas affected by the crisis are enabled to meet their basic food and nutrition needs and increase their self-reliance, throughout the year.
Focus area: *Resilience Building*

Activities:

- Creation and rehabilitation of communal asset through *Food Assistance for Assets (FFA)*; and household-level productive assets and enhanced human capital through *Food Assistance for Training (FFT)*.

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 3: Vulnerable groups, especially children, pregnant and lactating women and girls, across Syria have reduced levels of malnutrition, achieved through high quality, nutrient dense diets, throughout the year.
Focus area: *Resilience Building*

Activities:

- Prevention of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies in children 6-23 months of age.
- CBT to targeted to PLWG to improve their dietary diversity and intake of fresh food items such as dairy, meat and vegetables.
- Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition in children aged 6-59 months and PLWG.

Strategic Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology, strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 4: Humanitarian partners across Syria benefit from augmented logistics and emergency telecommunications capacity, enabling them to provide their technical assistance, throughout the crisis.
Focus area: *Crisis Response*

Activities:

- Provide Whole of Syria coordination, information management, capacity development and shared logistics services to sector partners that face logistical gaps.
- Provide shared ICT services, Emergency Telecommunications coordination and Information Technology (IT) Emergency Preparedness training to humanitarian organisations in common operational areas.

Monitoring

- In August, WFP and third-party monitoring (TPM) companies conducted 611 monitoring visits in 13 governorates. In addition, 1,055 monitoring questionnaires were conducted to monitor the general food assistance programme, bread distribution, school meals, livelihoods and nutrition activities.

Challenges

- The year 2018 has been proclaimed as one of the worst during the Syrian conflict in terms of human impact. Some 1.2 million population movements have been observed within the first six months alone. While conflict lines are shifting, humanitarian access remains a challenge, particularly to hard-to-reach 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 and timely funding is needed, due to the long procurement lead time of up to four months, 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: United States, Germany, European Commission, Canada, Multilateral Funds, and Norway.

Main Photo

Credit: ©SARC

Caption: WFP, together with SARC, reached Abu Kamal in conflict-affected Deir Ezzor governorate with food rations for the first time since 2014.