



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Syria Country Brief October 2018



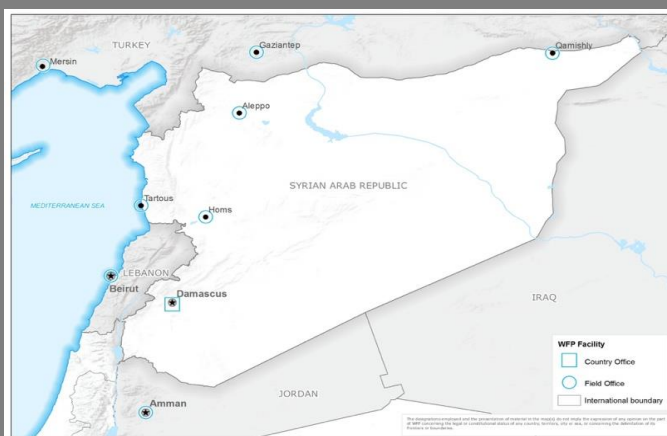
Operational Context

The conflict in Syria has entered its eighth year, taking a devastating toll on the lives of the Syrian people. The largest displacement crisis 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**

2018 Human Development Index: **155 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **81,700 of children between 6-59 months**

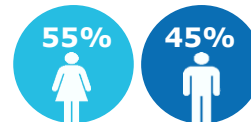
In Numbers

38,973 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 876,048 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 136.0 m six months (November 2018 - April 2019) net funding requirements

3.2 m people assisted
in October 2018



Operational Updates

- In September, WFP delivered food assistance for 3.2 million people in all 14 Syrian governorates, in line with the monthly target of 3.18 million people. Of these, 18 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.
- Following the Russia and Turkey agreement to create a 15-20 km demilitarized buffer zone to separate government troops from rebel forces, reports indicate that localised conflict via targeted missiles along the Idlib-Lattakia border intensified in the last week of October. WFP remains ready to respond to 1 million people with strategic stocks of ready-to-eat rations (RTE), food rations, as well as nutrition supplies for 150,000 children both inside Idlib, in Turkey, and inside Syria.
- Deir Ezzor governorate has witnessed a period of volatility and instability following conflict to drive out the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), leading to the displacement of some 13,500 people. On 12 October, the security situation rapidly deteriorated as an ISIL-led attack on the Hajin IDP camp forced WFP to suspend operations when fighters captured the camp for two hours and transported IDPs towards ISIL-held areas in Hajin town. As of 27 October, WFP was able to resume distributions in Hajin, completing the overall October plan to reach 27,500 people in these areas.
- On 3 November, the United Nations began delivering critical humanitarian assistance via an inter-agency convoy in cooperation with the Syrian Arabic Red Crescent (SARC), with WFP reaching 50,000 people with much needed food assistance. The last UN delivery of assistance to Rukban Camp was in January 2018, delivered through Jordan.

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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 (November–April 2019) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
790.3 m	469.3 m	136.0 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.

- Adverse weather conditions across the northeast of Syria led to flash floods and a deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Abo-Khashab camp. Heavy rains led to widespread damage across the camps, destroying shelter and spoiling food stocks. In consultation with the Food Security Sector, the decision was made for NGOs to provide assistance to those affected, while UNHCR is arranging the installation of new tents.
- As of 29 October, the United Nations estimates that there are 1.16 million people living in hard-to-reach locations, representing a 23 percent decrease from the estimates in July this year.

Monitoring

- In October, WFP and third-party monitoring (TPM) companies conducted 451 monitoring visits in all 14 governorates. In addition, 1,423 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 the escalation of hostilities and the human impact as seen in Eastern Ghouta, southern Syria, Deir Ezzor and Idlib. 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](#).