



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP Syria Country Brief December 2018

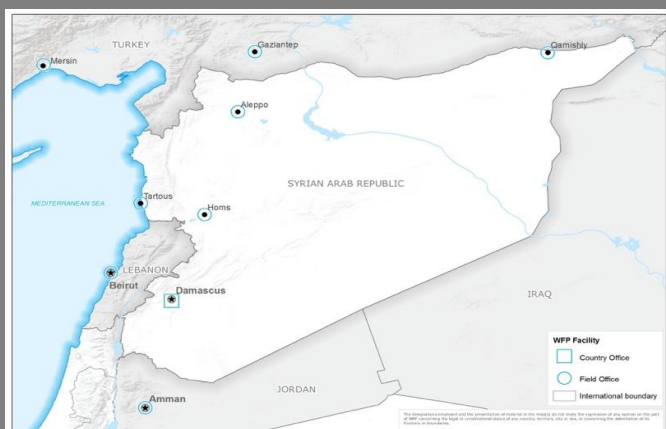
Operational Context

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 (Humanitarian Needs Overview 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

44,516 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 1,464,457m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 136.0m six months (February - July 2019) net funding requirement

3.6 m people assisted
in DECEMBER 2018



Operational Updates

- In December, WFP delivered food assistance for 3.6 million people in all 14 Syrian governorates, reaching 99 percent of the monthly target of 3.6 million people. Of this assistance, 16 percent was delivered through the cross-border operation from Turkey to areas in Idlib, northern Hama, and western rural Aleppo governorates.
- On 09 December, the United Nations, including WFP, started a one-off exceptional delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance from Jordan to Syria. A total of 369 trucks are involved in the six-week operation through the Jaber-Nassib border crossing. As of the end of December, a total of 196 trucks had successfully crossed to Jordan and returned, loaded with humanitarian supplies, including 181 trucks carrying WFP food supplies sufficient for 543,000 people.
- Plans have been developed by the United Nations in Syria, including WFP, in preparation for a possible Turkish military operation in northern Syria and the possible humanitarian implications. Preparedness efforts include a mapping of stocks and capacity of humanitarian actors, testing and confirming of alternative supply routes and pre-positioning of humanitarian supplies.
- Anti-ISIL military operations in Hajin sub-district of Deir Ezzor governorate continued in December, forcing civilians to flee the area and settle in nearby IDP camps. In response, WFP is distributing ready-to-eat rations (RTEs) to all newly displaced families in the camps and stands ready to respond to additional displacements through pre-positioned contingency stocks.
- Violence in the north-western demilitarized zone continued in December, resulting in population displacement from areas of southern Idlib governorate. WFP covered the needs of some 2,500 newly displaced families in Idlib and Aleppo governorates with RTEs. Should the situation deteriorate further, WFP stands ready to respond to the needs of 1 million people for one month with strategic and pre-positioned stocks of RTEs and food rations, as well as nutrition supplies for 150,000 children.

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

Syria Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2020)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Funding Requirements (in USD) (February – July 2019)
1.39 bn	76.2 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 round.

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:

- Provision of livelihood support through household- and communal-level asset creation through food assistance for assets (FFA) activities and enhanced human capital through food assistance for training (FFT).

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 3: Nutritionally vulnerable groups, especially children and pregnant and lactating women and girls, across the Syrian Arab Republic have reduced levels of malnutrition throughout the year.

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

- Prevention of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies in children aged 6–23 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls.
- Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition in children aged 6–59 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls.

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 the Syrian Arab Republic benefit from augmented logistics and emergency telecommunications capacity and services, enabling them to provide humanitarian assistance throughout the crisis.

Focus area: Crisis Response

Activities:

- Provide coordination, information management, capacity development and shared logistics services to sector partners that face logistics gaps.
- Provide shared ICT services, emergency telecommunications coordination and information technology (IT) emergency preparedness training to humanitarian organizations in common operational areas.
- Provide technical assistance and support services to humanitarian partners.

- In late December, flash floods caused by heavy rainfalls destroyed tents, food and non-food items in IDP camps in Aleppo and Idlib governorates. In response, WFP is planning to distribute RTEs to all affected families.

Monitoring

- In December, WFP and third-party monitoring (TPM) companies conducted 628 monitoring visits in all 14 governorates. In addition, 1,564 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 noted as one of the worst years of the Syrian conflict in terms of the escalation of hostilities and the humanitarian impact, as seen in areas such as Eastern Ghouta, southern Syria, Deir Ezzor and Idlib. A total of 1.5 million people were internally displaced from January to October 2018 alone. While conflict lines are shifting, humanitarian access to distribute relief assistance, assess needs and monitor remains a challenge, particularly in 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 in line with available and projected funding. Additional and timely funding is needed due to the long procurement lead time of up to four months.

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: ©WFP/Marwa Awad
Caption: Distribution of WFP food assistance in Hama governorate.