



SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Syria Country Brief March 2019



In Numbers

3.1 m people assisted
in March 2019



47,173 mt of food assistance delivered

US\$ 2.0 m in cash-based transfers made

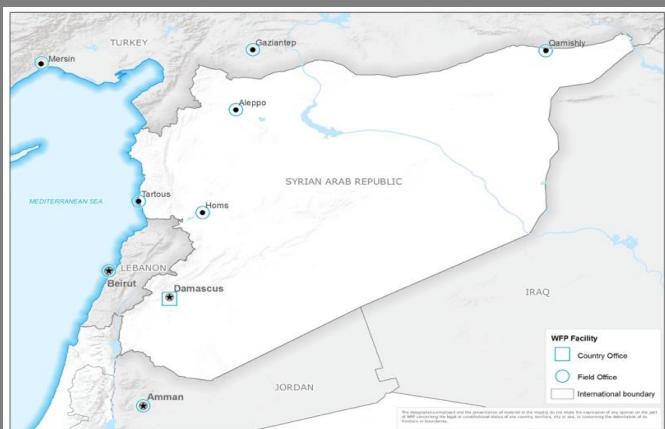
US\$ 146.0 m six-month net funding requirement
(April–September 2019)

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 5.7 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 2.5 million people at risk of food insecurity, according to the 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview. While 2018 has seen a significant change in conflict lines, some 1.2 million people in need remain in hard-to-reach areas with irregular access, leaving them 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**

Operational Updates

- In March, WFP delivered General Food Assistance (GFA) for 3.1 million people across all 14 Syrian governorates. Of this, 22 percent was delivered through the cross-border operation from Turkey to areas not accessible from inside Syria, including Idlib, northern Hama, and western rural Aleppo governorates. WFP delivered food assistance to some 251,000 people across 56 hard-to-reach locations.
- On 06-07 March, the United Nations in Syria completed an inter-agency convoy to Menbij town of Aleppo governorate, assisting 50,000 people with much needed humanitarian assistance, including WFP food rations, ready-to-eat rations (RTEs) and wheat flour, as well as commodities for the treatment and prevention of malnutrition.
- Anti-ISIL military operations in Deir Ezzor governorate, which began on 04 December, have reportedly come to an end, with the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) capturing the last ISIL-held area of Baghouz on 23 March. The prolonged operations displaced more than 63,000 people towards Al-Hole camp in Al-Hasakeh governorate which now hosts some 73,000 people. WFP provides food assistance to the entire camp population, including all new arrivals.
- The security situation in north-western Syria continued to deteriorate over the month of March, with reports of heavy shelling in areas of southern Idlib and northern Hama governorates. Approximately 100,000 people were displaced in March due to the significant increase in violence and insecurity. WFP covered the needs of the newly displaced people with RTEs.
- WFP remains ready to respond with pre-positioned stocks of RTEs as well as nutrition supplies both inside Idlib, in Turkey, and inside Syria should the situation in the north-west escalate further.

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Photo Caption: A child with WFP commodities in the Al-Hole camp in Al-Hasakeh governorate.
WFP/Nidal Al-Hammoud

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019–2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
1.39 bn	354.0 m
2019 Requirement (in USD)	Six-month Net Funding Requirement (in USD) (April–September 2019)
737.8 m	146.0 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 feeding 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.

Monitoring

- In March, WFP and third-party monitoring (TPM) companies conducted 682 on-site monitoring (OSM) checklists across all 14 governorates to monitor GFA distributions, bread distributions, school feeding activities, livelihood activities, nutrition activities, cash-based transfer redemptions and warehouses.
- Of the OSM checklists conducted, WFP monitors conducted 170 checklists, equivalent to 25 percent direct WFP monitoring coverage. The rest of the monitoring checklists were conducted by TPMs in areas not accessible to WFP staff due to the security situation, lack of approvals or temporary logistical constraints.

Challenges

- 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 continues to call on all parties to facilitate unconditional, unimpeded and sustained access to all people in need throughout the country.
- WFP Syria continues to implement 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

The largest donors to WFP Syria in 2019 ranked by contributions: Germany, Canada, Japan, Kuwait, Australia.