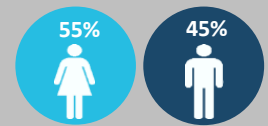




## WFP Syria Country Brief May 2019

### In Numbers

3.5m people assisted  
in May 2019



49,888 mt of food assistance delivered

US\$ 2.3m in cash-based transfers made

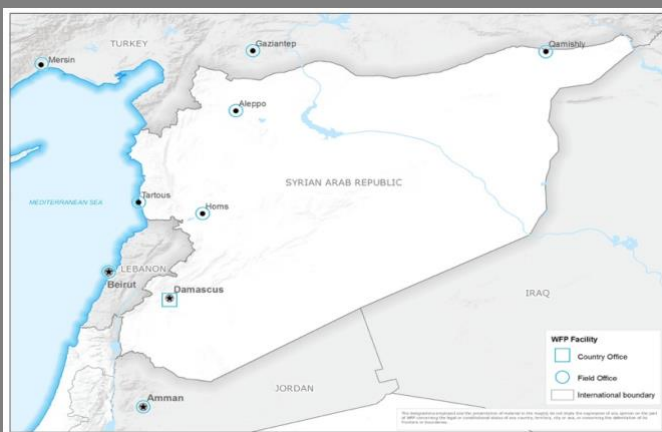
US\$ 217.8m six-month net funding requirement (July – December 2019)

### 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: Low-income

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

### Operational Updates

- In May, WFP delivered General Food Assistance (GFA) for 3.5 million people across all 14 Syrian governorates. Of this, 19 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 351,000 people across 62 locations defined by the United Nations as [hard-to-reach](#).
- The security situation in north-western Syria deteriorated significantly in May, with increased fighting reported between government forces and non-state armed groups. The recent surge in conflict displaced some 270,000 over the first three weeks of May alone, mainly towards the Dana sub-district of northern Idlib governorate. In May, WFP assisted more than 190,000 people with ready-to-eat rations (RTEs) that cover household food needs for five days. In addition to the emergency food assistance, WFP targeted nearly 700,000 people across the north-west with general food assistance (GFA) in May.
- Should the situation in the north-west deteriorate further, WFP remains ready to respond with strategic stocks of RTEs, food rations as well as nutrition supplies pre-positioned inside Idlib governorate, in other hubs inside Syria, as well as in Turkey.
- Insecurity remains prevalent in Aleppo governorate impacted by the deteriorating security situation in the north-west. Reports indicate increasing rates of mortar shelling by the Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) non-state armed group on several areas of Aleppo governorate. WFP missions and field visits to southern rural Aleppo were suspended in many occasions, and staff were advised to avoid the targeted areas. Beyond these security measures, WFP operations in Aleppo are proceeding as usual and all WFP staff are safe and accounted for.
- At least 18,000 acres of farmland in northern Syria burned in recent weeks (as of 26 May). While the cause is still unknown, the potential impacts of the fires on the longer-term food security situation in an already vulnerable area are severe, and WFP is currently assessing the situation together with its partners, including FAO.
- The outflux from the Rukban Settlement continued in May, with some 5,700 people arriving at collective shelters in

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019–2020)	
Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
<b>1.39bn</b>	<b>338.5m</b>
2019 Requirement (in USD)	Six-month Net Funding Requirement (in USD) (July–December 2019)
<b>737.8m</b>	<b>217.8m</b>

**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.

Homs. Since 24 March, 13,360 (32 percent of the total pre-outflux settlement population of 41,700) have left the settlement. WFP, through its cooperating partner, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), provides assistance through RTEs to all arrivals at the collective shelters. The humanitarian community in Syria continues to advocate for a third convoy to assist the 29,000 people that remain in the settlement.

**Monitoring**

- In May, WFP and third-party monitoring (TPM) companies conducted 333 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 103 checklists, equivalent to 31 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.