



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Syria Country Brief August 2019

In Numbers



4 m people assisted
in August 2019

49,454 mt of food assistance delivered

US\$ 1.6 m in cash-based transfers made

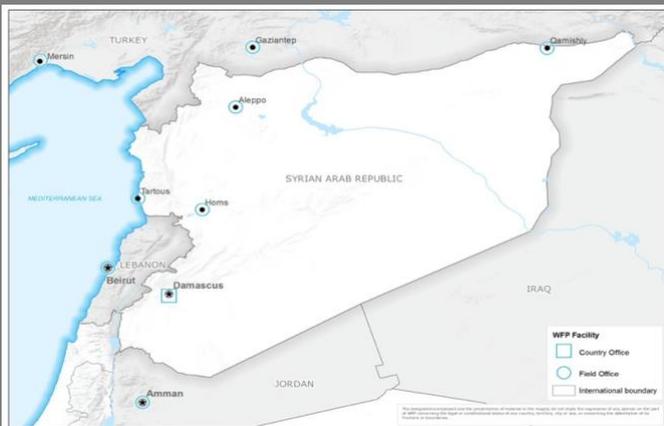
US\$ 162.5 m six-month net funding requirement
(September 2019 – February 2020)

Operational Context

The conflict in Syria has entered its ninth 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.

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.



Operational Updates

- In August, WFP delivered general food assistance (GFA) to 4 million people across all 14 Syrian governorates. Of this, 23 percent was delivered through the cross-border operation from Turkey to areas not accessible from inside Syria, including Idlib and western rural Aleppo governorates.
- Fighting between the Syrian government and non-state armed group forces continued in August, with the Syrian government reportedly establishing control over several areas of southern Idlib and northern Hama governorates. The recent surge in hostilities had at the end of August resulted in more than 630,000 displacements since 01 May 2019. The majority of the displaced are heading towards already densely populated areas of northern Idlib governorate.
- In response, WFP provided ready-to-eat rations to some 110,900 newly displaced people across north-western Syria in August, in addition to 917,000 people reached with GFA.
- WFP maintains strategic stocks pre-positioned inside Idlib governorate, in other hubs inside Syria, as well as in Turkey to respond to any further deterioration of the situation.
- In August, the United Nations in Syria conducted a third inter-agency assessment mission to the Rukban settlement (Rural Damascus governorate). The objective of the mission was to ascertain the number of people remaining in the settlement; register those that expressed a voluntary desire to leave; and collect data on preferred areas of destination, people's primary concerns as well as key needs.
- A three-month transitional emergency food assistance programme for newly accessible areas of Dar'a and Quneitra governorates commenced in July. So far, WFP has reached some 543,200 people over the first two months of the programme.

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

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Photo Caption: Distribution of food assistance in Idlib governorate.
Credit: @WFP Cooperating Partner.

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019–2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	2019 Available Contributions
1.39 bn	404.9 m
2019 Requirement	Six-month Net Funding Requirement (September 2019–February 2020)
737.8 m	162.5 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.

- Under the programme, WFP and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) plan to reach a total of 937,500 people by the end of September (810,000 people in Dar'a and 127,500 people in Quneitra governorate).

Monitoring

- In August, WFP and third-party monitoring (TPM) companies conducted 434 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 150 checklists, equivalent to 35 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 humanitarian assistance, assess needs and monitor operations remains a challenge. The United Nations continues to call on all parties to facilitate unconditional, unimpeded and sustained access to all people in need throughout the country.

Donors

The largest donors to WFP Syria in 2019 ranked by contributions: United States, Germany, European Commission, Canada, Kuwait.