Operational Updates

- In March, WFP dispatched commodities sufficient for 4.7 million people across its General Food Assistance (GFA), School Feeding, Nutrition, and Livelihoods and Resilience-activities in Syria.

- WFP dispatched GFA sufficient for some 4.5 million people across all 14 Syrian governorates. Of this, 27 percent was delivered through the cross-border operation from Turkey to areas of Idlib and western rural Aleppo governorates not accessible from inside Syria, sufficient for some 1.2 million people.

- As of 22 March, the UNHCR-led Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster reported more than 939,000 people displaced in north-western Syria since 01 December 2019. In response, WFP assisted 83,100 newly displaced people with ready-to-eat rations in March. In addition, the emergency GFA implementation guidelines enabled WFP to assist 1.8 million people across the north-west with general food assistance in March; for the second consecutive month, a new record for the number of people reached in a single month in north-western Syria.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

- On 22 March, the Syrian Ministry of Health recorded the first confirmed COVID-19 case in Syria. As of the end of March, ten cases and two deaths had been confirmed.

- In response to the pandemic, and to protect its staff and beneficiaries, WFP Syria put in place several contingency measures, including physical measures at distributions, revised distribution procedures, and postponement of some planned activities. In addition, WFP Syria instituted a work-from-home modality for all non-critical staff in all offices as a COVID-19 contingency measure.
WFP Country Strategy

**Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019–2020)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>2020 Available Contributions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.72 bn</td>
<td>340 m</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2020 Requirement</th>
<th>Six-month Net Funding Requirement April 2020 – September 2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>985 m</td>
<td>238 m</td>
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</table>

**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.

- As all schools countrywide were closed by authorities on 15 March to prevent the spread of COVID-19, WFP’s school feeding-activities nationwide were suspended, affecting the provision of assistance to more than one million children.

**Monitoring**

- In response to COVID-19, WFP adapted its guidance for distribution monitoring in March. Monitoring in close contact with beneficiaries was scaled down and a new checklist for distributions was developed by the CO Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)-unit to ensure partners are taking all necessary health and hygiene measures.

- In March, WFP and third-party monitoring (TPM) companies conducted 593 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 198 checklists, equivalent to 33 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**

- WFP requires USD 247 million to sustain operations through September 2020. Due to funding constraints, and to stretch available resources, WFP has been forced to slightly reduce the caloric value of the GFA food basket in north-western Syria starting in April. Without additional funding, further reductions can be expected.

- The Security Council resolution which authorises the cross-border operation (Resolution 2504 (2020)) expires on 10 July 2020. The cross-border operation is critical for the United Nations to adequately assist millions of civilians in need of humanitarian assistance in Syria’s north-west.

- The Syrian economy is deteriorating, with a depreciating currency and rapidly increasing food prices. These trends are compounded by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, including panic buying in markets and government measures such as movement restrictions.

**Donors**

The largest donors to WFP Syria in 2020 ranked by contributions: Germany, Canada, UN Country Based Pooled Fund, Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), Japan.