



SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



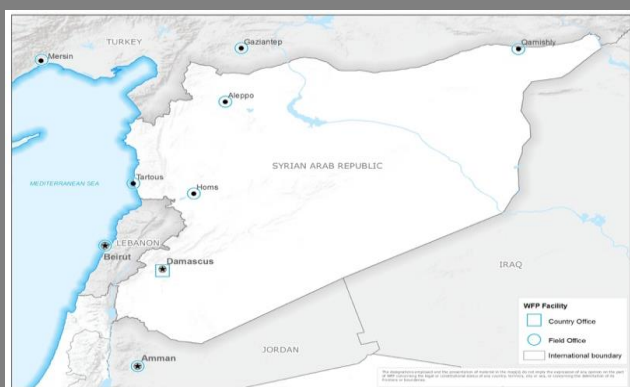
WFP Syria Country Brief April 2020

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 6.1 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 7.9 million people unable to meet their food needs and a further 1.9 million people at risk of food insecurity, according to the nationwide Food Security/Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment conducted by WFP in 2019.

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.



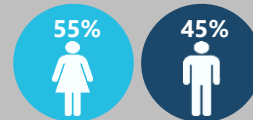
Population: **18 million**

2019 Human Development Index:
154 out of 189

Income Level: **Low-income**

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

In Numbers



5 m people assisted
in April 2020 (based on dispatches)

68,650 mt of food assistance delivered

US\$ 3m in cash-based transfers made

US\$ 283m six-months net funding requirement (May – October 2020)

Operational Updates

- In April, WFP delivered food and nutrition assistance to 5 million people across its General Food Assistance (GFA), School Feeding, Nutrition, and Livelihoods and Resilience-activities in Syria.
- WFP provided some 5 million people across all 14 Syrian governorates with GFA. Of this, 30 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 1.5 million people.
- As part of the COVID-19 response, WFP, in collaboration with UNICEF, included soap in the April GFA rations. WFP also provided all its staff and cooperating partners with personal protective equipment, including face masks, hand-sanitizers, gloves, disinfectant, as well as thermometers.
- Food prices continued to rise in April, increasing 16 percent from March. The price of the WFP national average food basket increased by 111 percent year-on-year, reaching the highest levels recorded since the start of the crisis.
- In April, WFP deactivated its emergency GFA implementation guidelines (that came into effect in February) in north-western Syria that witnessed significant IDP return movement in April as the 06 March ceasefire held. Furthermore, as population displacement had largely come to a halt, there were no distributions of ready-to-eat rations in north-western Syria in April.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

- As of 30 April, 43 cases of COVID-19 had been confirmed in Syria, with three related deaths (MoH Syria).
- In late April, Syrian authorities began lifting some COVID-19 restrictions. Shops and markets are allowed

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019–2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	2020 Available Contributions
1.72 bn	353.3 m
2020 Requirement	Six-month Net Funding Requirement May 2020 – October 2020
985 m	283 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.

to re-opened between 08:00 and 17:00 every day (as of 28 April). However, a nationwide 19:30 to 06:00 curfew remains in effect and public transportation remains suspended.

- Syrian authorities also lifted the travel restrictions between urban and rural areas within the same governorate (as of 29 April), easing WFP movement within governorates.
- As all schools countrywide remained closed in April, WFP’s school feeding-activities nationwide were suspended, affecting the provision of school meals to more than one million children.

Monitoring

- WFP maintained daily monitoring in April, using the new COVID-19-related monitoring checklist to ensure partners are taking all necessary health and hygiene measures while keeping minimum physical contact with beneficiaries.
- In April, WFP and third-party monitoring (TPM) companies conducted 704 on-site monitoring (OSM) checklists across all 14 governorates to monitor GFA distributions, bread distributions, school feeding activities, livelihood activities, nutrition activities, CBT redemptions and warehouses.
- Of the OSM checklists conducted, WFP monitors conducted 316 checklists, equivalent to 45 percent direct WFP monitoring coverage. The rest of the checklists were conducted by TPMs in areas not accessible to WFP due to the security situation, lack of approvals or temporary logistical constraints.

Challenges

- WFP requires USD 283 million to sustain operations through October 2020. Due to funding constraints, and to stretch available resources, WFP was 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 in the coming months.
- 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, UN Country Based Pooled Fund, Canada, Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), Norway.