



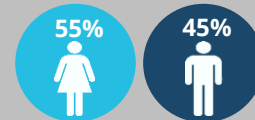
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Syria Country Brief May 2020

## In Numbers



**4.3 m people assisted**  
in May 2020 (based on dispatches)

**52,210 mt** of food assistance delivered

**US\$ 3 m** in cash-based transfers made

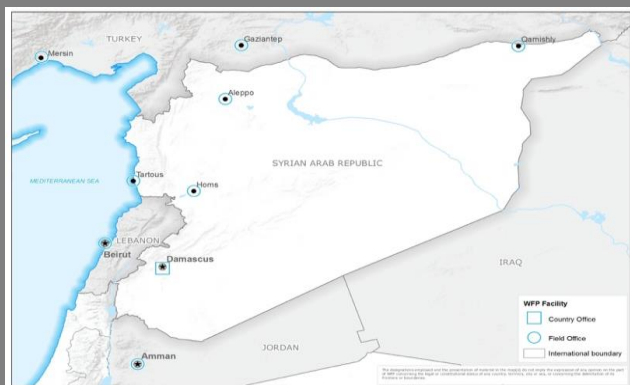
**US\$ 197 m** six-months net funding requirement (June 2020 – November 2020)

### 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 6.7 million Syrians are internally displaced and 5.5 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 9.3 million people unable to meet their food needs and a further 2.2 million people at risk of food insecurity, according to WFP Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM).

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: **20.4 million**

2019 Human Development Index: **154 out of 189**

Income Level: **Low-income**

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

### Operational Updates

- In May, WFP delivered food and nutrition assistance to 4.3 million people across its General Food Assistance (GFA), School Feeding, Nutrition, and Livelihoods and Resilience-activities in Syria.
- WFP provided some 4.2 million people across all 14 Syrian governorates with GFA. Of this, 23 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 nearly 1 million people. May cross-border dispatches were noticeably lower than in previous cycles as WFP cooperating partners were already sufficiently stocked with enough commodities (delivered under previous dispatch cycles) to reach a target of 1.5 million people in May.
- As part of the COVID-19 response, WFP in May continued its collaboration with UNICEF for the inclusion of soap in all the GFA rations, as well as drawing kits to children in 200,000 families across UNICEF-targeted areas.
- WFP started its support to UNICEF and UNFPA through the inclusion of hygiene items in the WFP's CBT programmes supporting pregnant and lactating women and girls and out-of-school children. WFP has also made hygiene items available to beneficiaries targeted with CBT support under its livelihoods programme.
- Food prices continued to soar in May, with the average nationwide price of the WFP reference food basket increasing by 11 percent from April. The price of the food basket had by the end of May increased by 133 percent year-on-year, reaching the highest levels recorded since the start of the crisis at 15.8 times the five-year pre-crisis average.
- WFP continued to assist affected populations in north-western Syria via the cross-border operation

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Photo Caption: Beneficiary of WFP Nutrition Programme/Aleppo.  
Credit: WFP/ Khudur AL-ISSA

## Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019–2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	2020 Available Contributions
<b>1.72 bn</b>	<b>1.13 bn</b>
2020 Requirement	Six-month Net Funding Requirement June 2020 - November 2020
<b>985 m</b>	<b>197 m</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.
- Provide passenger and light cargo services to the humanitarian community (United Nations Humanitarian Air Service, UNHAS).

from Turkey. In May, WFP reached 1.3 million people with GFA. WFP also assisted some 196,500 people with ready-to-eat rations (RTEs) in a one-off distribution round. In anticipation of the 10 July expiry of the Security Council resolution which authorizes cross-border operations, WFP will pre-position close to three months of stock.

- In May, WFP introduced a new distribution modality in IDP camps of north-eastern Syria to avoid crowding during distributions and limit COVID-19 exposure risk. Under the new modality, WFP is distributing two months' worth of food rations at a time, with May and June rations distributed in one round that started in mid-May.

### Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

- As of 31 May, the Ministry of Health in Syria has confirmed a total of 126 cases of COVID-19, with five related deaths.
- In May, the Syrian authorities continued to progressively relax COVID-19 preventive measures first imposed in mid-March, allowing the reopening of mosques, churches, universities and institutions. Markets are also allowed to reopen, as well as restaurants, gyms, swimming pools, theatres, cafes and public parks.
- Public transportation means also resumed their services for travel within and between governorates. Furthermore, the daily curfew has been lifted as of 26 May.

### Monitoring

- WFP maintained daily monitoring in May, 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 May, WFP and third-party monitoring (TPM) companies conducted 553 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 154 checklists, equivalent to 28 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 197 million to sustain operations through November 2020.
- 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.