Operational Context

The conflict in Syria is 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 5.6 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 9.3 million people food insecure and a further 2.2 million people at risk of food insecurity, according to WFP Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping.

Since 2011, WFP has been providing food, nutrition and livelihoods assistance to crisis-affected Syrian families in the country. WFP has been active in Syria since 1964.

Operational Updates

- In August, WFP delivered food and nutrition assistance to 4.9 million people across its General Food Assistance (GFA), School Feeding, Nutrition, and Livelihoods and Resilience-activities in Syria.
- WFP provided GFA to 4.8 million people across all 14 Syrian governorates. Of this, 29 percent was delivered through the cross-border operation from Turkey to areas of Idlib and western rural Aleppo governorates not accessible from inside Syria.
- As part of the Health Sector-led response to COVID-19 in Syria, WFP, in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) has to date provided food assistance to 10,800 people in 17 quarantine centres across Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Lattakia, Rural Damascus, and Tartous governorates. Under the COVID-19 Institutional Feeding programme, WFP is providing food assistance to vulnerable Syrians in COVID-19 quarantine centres.
- Following the deaths of eight children in Al-Hol camp (Al-Hasakeh governorate) in August, the United Nations on 24-25 August conducted a multi-sectoral assessment mission in the camp. WFP participated in the mission with staff from its Nutrition unit, together with staff from UNICEF, UNHCR, UNFPA and WHO. The assessment report is expected to be finalized by the second week of September.
- In north-western Syria, WFP distributed GFA to 1.3 million people with commodities delivered via the Logistics Cluster-facilitated cross-border operation from Turkey.
- Following the passing of UN Security Council Resolution 2533 (2020) on 11 July 2020 and the subsequent closure of the Bab al-Salam border crossing for the cross-border delivery of humanitarian assistance to north-western Syria,
WFP Country Strategy

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2020)

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<td>6. Provide coordination, information management, capacity development and shared logistics services to sector partners that face logistics gaps.</td>
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Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

- The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Syria increased by 247 percent in August. As of 31 August, the Ministry of Health in Syria had confirmed a total of 2,703 cases of COVID-19, with 109 related deaths.
- WFP Syria in August completed a full review of its programmatic COVID-19 mitigation guidelines and SOPs. The SOPs include guidelines on programme implementation, cooperating partner management, as well as the enforcement of protective measures; designed to reduce the risk to staff and beneficiaries while maintaining the provision of WFP assistance to the most vulnerable across Syria.

Monitoring

- In August, WFP and third-party monitoring (TPM) companies conducted 429 on-site monitoring (OSM) checklists across all 14 governorates to monitor GFA distributions, bread distributions, livelihood activities, nutrition activities, CBT redemptions and warehouses.
- Of the OSM checklists conducted, WFP monitors conducted 81 checklists, equivalent to 19 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 US$ 312 million to sustain operations through February 2021. WFP operation in Syria has a critical funding gap of US$ 205 million (September to June 2021) to be able to maintain its provision of general food assistance to 4.8 million people each month. With a four-month lead time to import food into Syria, the timing of contributions is critical.
- Food prices remained relatively stable in August – largely linked to the stabilization of the SYP/USD informal exchange rate, with food prices decreasing by three percent from July to August (compared to an increase of three percent from June to July). However, a basic basket of food still costs nearly 22 times the pre-crisis average.

Donors

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