



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Syria Country Brief

September 2020

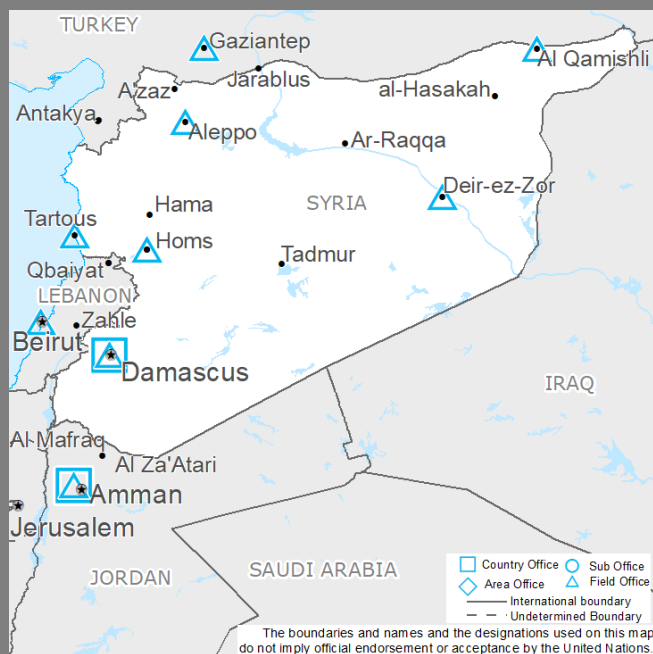


Operational Context

The conflict in Syria is taking a devastating toll on the lives of the Syrian people. As of August 2020, some 6.7 million Syrians are internally displaced and 5.6 million are registered as refugees outside of the country in the largest displacement crisis since World War II.

Since late 2019, the humanitarian situation has deteriorated to levels not previously seen in the country's recent history: Soaring food and fuel prices, stagnant salaries, loss of livelihoods and reduced food production have led to widespread food insecurity. As of 2020, WFP estimates that 9.3 million people are food insecure in Syria with a further 2.2 million people at risk of food insecurity.

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.



Population: **20.8 million**

2019 Human Development Index:
154 out of 189

Income Level: **Low-income**

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

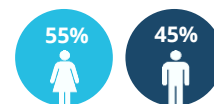
In Numbers

52,266 mt of food assistance delivered

US\$ 2.1 m in cash-based transfers made

US\$ 364.1 m 6-month net funding requirement (October 2020 – March 2021, as of 25 September 2020)

4.9 m people assisted in September 2020 (based on dispatches)



Operational Updates

- In September, WFP delivered food and nutrition assistance to 4.9 million people across its General Food Assistance (GFA), School Feeding, Nutrition, and Livelihoods, Resilience and Social Safety Nets-activities in Syria.
- WFP dispatched GFA to some 4.9 million people across all 14 Syrian governorates. 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.
- As in previous months, all GFA rations distributed in September included one UNICEF-provided bar of soap. WFP also continued to support UNICEF and UNFPA with the provision of hygiene items through WFPs CBT programmes. Hygiene items are also available to beneficiaries of the Livelihoods and Resilience programme receiving CBT.
- Schools across government-controlled areas of Syria re-opened on 13 September, with 3.7 million children returning to schools. In response, WFP on 20 September resumed its provision of fresh meals to some 30,000 school children across public schools in eastern Aleppo city. The in-school provision of school snacks is set to resume in October targeting 600,000 students across the country.
- Over the month of September, severe fuel shortages were reported across Syria, impacting commercial activities and increasing transportation costs. Wheat flour shortages were also reported, leading to a shortage of bread in bakeries in several areas across the country (particularly affecting southern Syria, especially Dar'a, Rural Damascus and Damascus governorates) in September.

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Photo Caption: Boy with WFP-provided commodities in north-western Syria. © WFP/Cooperating Partner

| Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2020) | |
|--|--|
| Total Requirement (in USD) | 2020 Available Contributions |
| 1.81 billion | 646.2 million |
| 2020 Requirement | Six-month Net Funding Requirement (October 2020 – March 2021, as of 25 September) |
| 1.07 billion | 364.1 million |

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:**
1. 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.
 2. 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:**
3. 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:**
4. Prevention of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies in children aged 6–23 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls.
 5. 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:**
6. Provide coordination, information management, capacity development and shared logistics services to sector partners that face logistics gaps.
 7. Provide shared ICT services, emergency telecommunications coordination and information technology (IT) emergency preparedness training to humanitarian organizations in common operational areas.
 8. Provide technical assistance and support services to humanitarian partners.
 9. Provide passenger and light cargo services to the humanitarian community (United Nations Humanitarian Air Service, UNHAS).

- In Dar'a, the shortage of wheat flour caused many bakeries to shut down or to operate at only 50 percent capacity. In Rural Damascus governorate, people reportedly queued for up to four hours to receive bread from public bakeries.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

- The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Syria continued to rise, albeit at a declining rate. The number of confirmed cases increased by 55 percent over the course of September. As of 30 September, the Ministry of Health in Syria had confirmed a total of 4,200 cases of COVID-19, with 200 related deaths.
- 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 11,100 people in COVID-19 quarantine centres across seven Syrian governorates.
- WFP Syria Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) in September finalized a study on the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 in Syria and the effect this has had on the food security situation in the country. Since the onset of COVID-19, supply chains have been disrupted, food prices have soared, and food security indicators have worsened across the board compared to previous years. The report is expected to be published in October.

Monitoring

- In September, WFP and third-party monitoring (TPM) companies conducted 945 on-site monitoring (OSM) checklists across all 14 governorates to monitor GFA distributions, bread distributions, livelihoods-activities, nutrition activities, CBT redemptions and warehouses.
- Of the OSM checklists conducted, WFP monitors conducted 279 checklists, equivalent to 30 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\$ 364.1 million to sustain operations through March 2021. WFP's operation in Syria has a critical funding gap of US\$ 140 million (September to June 2021) to be able to continue to provide General Food Assistance activities to 4.8 million people each month. With a four-month lead time to import food into Syria, the timing of contributions is critical.

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).