



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Syria Country Brief

October 2020

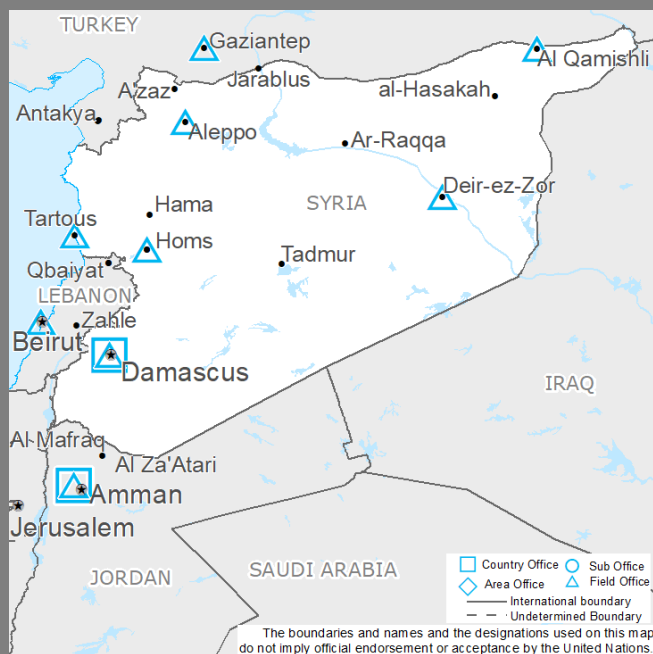


Operational Context

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.



The boundaries and names and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

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

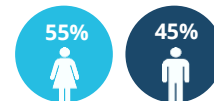
In Numbers

52,320 mt of food assistance delivered

US\$ 2.2 m in cash-based transfers made

US\$ 303.4 m 6-month net funding requirement
(November 2020 – April 2021, as of 12 October 2020)

4.7 m people assisted in October 2020
(based on dispatches)



Operational Updates

- In October, WFP delivered food and nutrition assistance to 4.7 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 4.6 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 in previous months, all GFA rations distributed in October 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.
- Following the re-opening of schools across government-controlled areas in September, WFP resumed the in-school component of its School Feeding activity in October, which was suspended since March 2020.
- Massive wildfires across western Syria affected the coastal governorates of Tartous and Latakia in October. Reports indicate that extensive areas of forests and farmland were burned completely, with as many as 25,000 people displaced by the fires. In response, WFP provided emergency food assistance through the provision of ready-to-eat rations (RTEs sufficient for 7,500 people in Tartous and 15,000 people in Latakia).
- Severe fuel shortages continued across the country in October. As the fuel crisis shows no signs of abating, the Ministry of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection on 19 October increased the price of a litre of subsidised industrial and

Contact info: wfp.damascus@wfp.org
Country Director: Corinne FLEISCHER
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/Syria

Photo Caption: WFP engineers visiting a bakery rehabilitation-site in Aleppo. © WFP/Hussam Al Saleh

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	2020 Available Contributions
1.81 billion	672 million
2020 Requirement	Six-month Net Funding Requirement (November 2020 – April 2021, as of 12 October)
1.07 billion	303.4 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).

commercial diesel fuel by 120 percent and increased the price of a litre of 95 octane gasoline further by an additional 24 percent; the second recent price increase.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

- The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in government-controlled areas continued to increase over the course of October. As of 04 November, the Ministry of Health in Syria had confirmed a total of 5,964 cases of COVID-19, with 301 related deaths.
- In north-western Syria, COVID-19 continues to spread extremely rapidly, and the number of cases more than quadrupled over the course of October. As of 03 November, 7,059 cases and 130 deaths had been confirmed.
- 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 11,800 people in COVID-19 quarantine centres across six Syrian governorates.
- WFP in October released a [study](#) outlining the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in Syria, which has significantly exacerbated the already dire humanitarian situation in the country.

Monitoring

- In October, WFP and third-party monitoring (TPM) companies conducted 1,096 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 219 checklists, equivalent to 20 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\$ 303.4 million to sustain operations through April 2021.

Donors

The largest donors to WFP Syria so far in 2020 ranked by contributions: Germany, USA, Russian Federation, Canada, and UN Country Based Pooled Funds.