



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Syria Country Brief

February 2021



In Numbers

53,520 mt of food assistance delivered

US\$ 3.1 m in cash-based transfers made

US\$ 398.5 m 6-month net funding requirement
(March 2021 – August 2021, as of 26 February 2021)

4.7 m people assisted in February 2021
(based on dispatches)

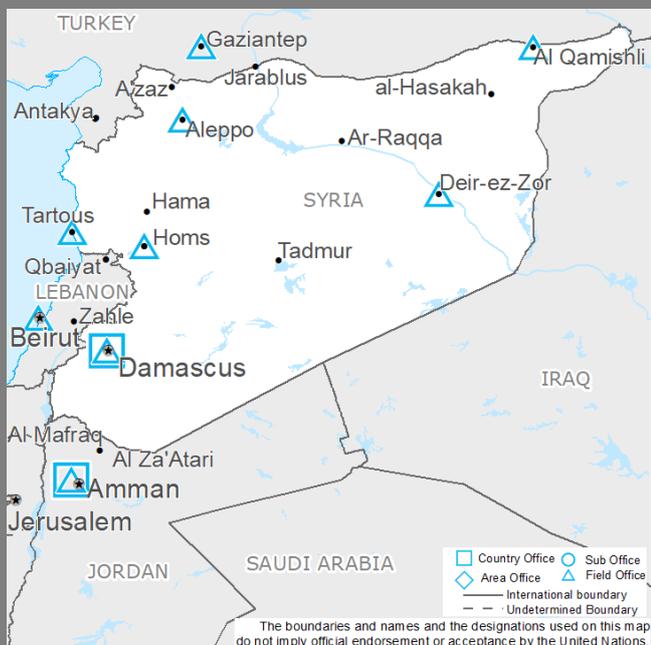


Operational Context

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.

Since late 2019, the humanitarian situation has deteriorated to levels not previously seen in the country's recent history: Protracted displacement, soaring food and fuel prices, stagnant salaries, loss of livelihoods and reduced food production have led to widespread food insecurity. As of early 2021, 12.4 million people are food insecure in Syria; the highest number ever recorded.

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. Currently, WFP is implementing its activities under the 2019-2021 Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP).



Population: 20.8 million	2019 Human Development Index: 151 out of 189
Income Level: Low-income	Chronic malnutrition: 81,700 children between 6-59 months

Operational Updates

- In February, WFP delivered food and nutrition assistance to 4.8 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 4.7 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.
- Food prices in Syria continue to rise, according to the latest WFP data released in February. The nationwide average price of WFP's standard reference food basket increased by eight percent from December to January, reaching a new record high of SYP 121,066. Prices have now increased by 40 percent in just six months (from July 2020), by 222 percent year-on-year, and by 376 percent since October 2019. The increase in food prices is mainly attributed to the continued depreciation of the SYP/USD exchange rate in the informal market as well as the continuing fuel shortages across the country.
- WFP Syria is currently conducting a countrywide household-level Vulnerability Needs Review (VNR) exercise to enhance its beneficiary targeting through a better understanding of beneficiary needs, improving the organization's accountability to affected populations.
- By end-February, 1,200 enumerators from WFP's cooperating partners had been trained on the VNR tool, with trainings still ongoing. Data collection for the VNR exercise started on 01 March and by the end of the VNR exercise, WFP aims to have interviewed more than one million households to

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Photo Caption: Leila, a child living in an IDP camp in Dana (Idlib governorate), just received WFP-provided nutrition product. ©WFP's Cooperating Partner

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2021)	
Total Requirement (in US\$)	2021 Available Contributions
2.97 billion	338.5 million
2021 Requirement	Six-month Net Funding Requirement (March 2021 – August 2021, as of 26 February)
1.16 billion	398.5 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).

update its beneficiary vulnerability database.

- A humanitarian worker was killed, and two others injured in an explosion in the Turkish-controlled city of Al-Bab in northern Aleppo governorate on 16 February. In response, the UN Deputy Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Syria Crisis, Mark Cutts, [issued](#) a statement, condemning the attack.
- WFP and its cooperating partners continued to respond to the needs of people affected by the floods in north-western Syria and had by the end of February provided ready-to-eat rations (RTEs) to some 75,200 people since the start of the emergency response.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

- Approximately 45,020 COVID-19 cases and 1,746 deaths have been confirmed across all areas of Syria as of 24 February. This includes 15,282 cases and 1,004 deaths reported in government-controlled areas; 21,136 cases and 426 deaths reported in north-western Syria, and 8,602 cases and 316 deaths reported in north-eastern Syria as of the end of February.
- As of the end of February, WFP, in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO), has provided food assistance to 14,400 people in COVID-19 quarantine centres across six Syrian governorates.

Monitoring

- In January, WFP and third-party monitoring (TPM) companies conducted 780 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 208 checklists, equivalent to 27 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\$ 398.5 million to sustain operations through August 2021.

Donors

The largest donors to WFP Syria so far in 2021 ranked by contributions: Germany, Canada, Japan, Norway, and Ireland.