



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Syria Country Brief

April 2021

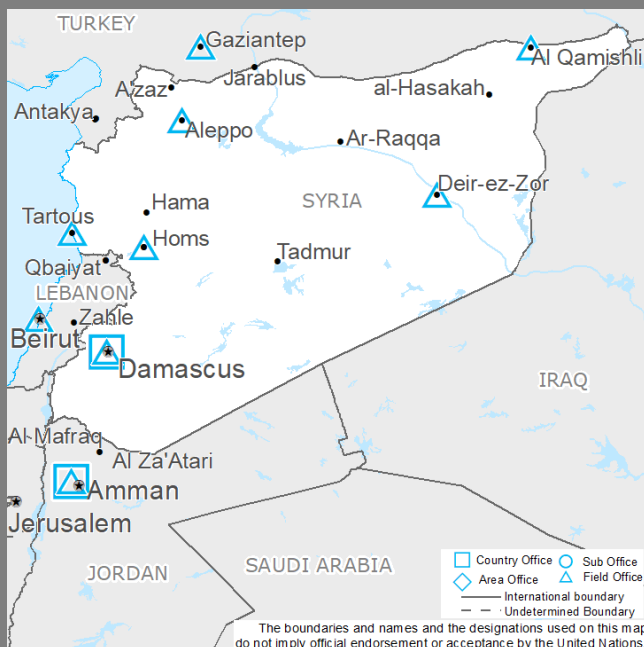


Operational Context

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).



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:
151 out of 189

Income Level: **Low-income**

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

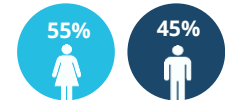
In Numbers

49,329 mt of food assistance delivered

US\$ 2.2 m in cash-based transfers made

US\$ 477.2 m six-month net funding requirement (May 2021 – October 2021, as of 22 April 2021)

4.6 m people assisted in April 2021
(based on dispatches)



Operational Updates

- In April, WFP delivered food and nutrition assistance to 4.6 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, 25 percent was delivered through the cross-border operation from Turkey to areas of Idlib and western rural Aleppo governorates not accessible from inside Syria.
- On 15 April, the Central Bank of Syria officially devalued the Syrian pound (SYP) from SYP 1,256 (since July 2020) to SYP 2,512 to the US dollar. Meanwhile, the informal exchange rate has stabilized somewhat in April at around SYP 3,000/USD 1, after dipping to a record low of SYP 4,700/USD 1 in mid-March. The impact of the currency stabilization on food prices is yet to be seen. WFP continues to monitor market prices across Syria on a monthly basis.
- The ongoing fuel crisis continued to impact WFP's operations in April. Fuel shortages are hampering transporter trucking capacity, delaying dispatches and forcing WFP to extend the dispatch cycle beyond the calendar month. The increasing transportation costs are affecting beneficiary access to the distribution sites. Other activities that require fuel, such as food distributions, monitoring, and data collection have also been affected.
- In north-eastern Syria, clashes broke out in Qamishli city (Al-Hasakeh governorate) on 20 April between pro-government and Kurdish-led forces, displacing some 15-20,000 people to villages in the rural Qamishli area. An inter-agency rapid assessment was conducted in response, and WFP started emergency food distributions to displaced

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Photo Caption: A beneficiary from southern rural Aleppo with WFP food assistance. ©WFP/ Zuha Akkash

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2021)

Total Requirement (in US\$)	2021 Available Contributions
3.08 billion	413.4 million
2021 Requirement	Six-month Net Funding Requirement (May 2021 – October 2021, as of 22 April)
1.27 billion	477.2 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).

families through GFA rations and ready-to-eat rations (RTEs).

- In response to a surge in COVID-19 cases in Syria in March, the Ministry of Education on 03 April announced the early end of the school year, with the closure of all primary schools and kindergartens as of 05 April. As a result, the in-school components of WFP's School Feeding activity has been suspended. To ensure assistance continuity, WFP will distribute the remaining commodities to students when they come to collect their end-of-year results.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

- Approximately 60,082 COVID-19 cases and 2,770 deaths have been confirmed across all areas of Syria as of end of April. This includes 22,513 cases and 1,572 deaths in government-controlled areas, 21,896 cases and 641 deaths in north-western Syria, and 15,673 cases and 557 deaths in north-eastern Syria.
- The first batch of 203,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses from the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access Facility (COVAX) [arrived](#) in Damascus on 22 April. This first batch will be allocated to frontline health workers, including health workers in north-eastern Syria. Simultaneously, a separate batch of 53,800 doses for north-western Syria has been shipped through the WHO and UNICEF offices in Gaziantep, Turkey.
- As of the end of April, WFP, in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO), has provided food assistance to more than 15,800 people in COVID-19 quarantine centres across six Syrian governorates.

Monitoring

- In April, WFP and third-party monitoring (TPM) companies conducted 798 on-site monitoring (OSM) checklists across all 14 governorates to monitor GFA distributions, bread distributions, livelihoods activities, nutrition activities, cash-based transfer (CBT) redemptions and warehouses.
- Of the OSM checklists conducted, WFP monitors conducted 223 checklists, equivalent to 28 percent direct WFP monitoring coverage. Eleven percent of the checklists were conducted jointly with TPM. 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\$ 477.2 million to sustain operations through October 2021.

Donors

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