



World Food Programme

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# WFP Syria Country Brief

May 2021

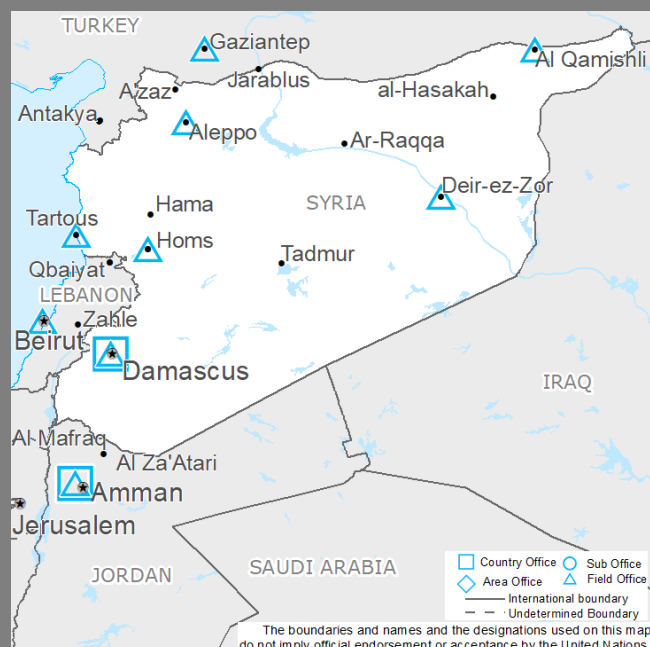


## Operational Context

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).



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

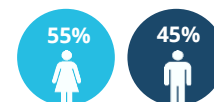
## In Numbers

**46,754 mt** of food assistance delivered

**US\$ 2.3 m** in cash-based transfers made

**US\$ 515.2 m** six-month net funding requirement *(June 2021 – November 2021, as of 22 May 2021)*

**4.7 m people assisted** in May 2021  
(based on dispatches)



## Operational Updates

- In May, 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 4.7 million people across all 14 Syrian governorates. Of this, 28 percent was delivered through the cross-border operation from Turkey to areas of Idlib and western rural Aleppo governorates not accessible from inside Syria.
- For the first time since August 2019, the nationwide average price of the WFP standard reference food basket in Syria decreased month-on-month, according to the latest [WFP data](#). Food prices decreased by two percent from March to April 2021, reaching 176,471 Syrian pounds (SYP). The decrease is linked to a strengthening of the value of Syrian pound.
- The national average rate of poor and borderline food consumption decreased for the second consecutive month in May, according to the latest WFP mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) [data](#). The monthly decrease in May is believed to be associated with the holy month of Ramadan and Eid Al-Fitr festivities, when households tend to eat more complete and better quality meals and vulnerable families have access to more assistance from charity organizations and the community.
- Despite the slight improvement in households' food consumption observed in May 2021, high levels of food insecurity persist across Syria: Nearly two out of five interviewed households (37 percent) reported poor or borderline food consumption in May 2021; a 61 percent increase compared to May 2020.

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**Photo Caption:** A pregnant mother of nine being registered to receive CBT support for pregnant and lactating women and girls.  
©WFP/ Zuha Akkash

## Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2021)

Total Requirement (in US\$)	2021 Available Contributions
<b>3.08 billion</b>	<b>418.9 million</b>
2021 Requirement	Six-month Net Funding Requirement (June 2021 – November 2021, as of 22 April)
<b>1.27 billion</b>	<b>515.2 million</b>

### 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).

- WFP, working with the Education Sector, is supporting Syrian students from areas outside of government control, as well as from Lebanon, providing food assistance as they arrive to sit for their national exams. As of 30 May, some 3,000 students have arrived at their designated accommodation centres in Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, Deir Ezzor, Hama and Rural Damascus where they will stay for the duration of the exam period (30 May and 21 June).
- The pre-positioning exercise ahead of the 10 July expiration of the UN Security Council resolution which authorises the cross-border operation from Turkey to north-western Syria continues. As of the end of May, the pre-positioning of food commodities sufficient for the month of July have been completed, and pre-positioning for the month of August is at 54 percent. Pre-positioning for the September is set to commence in early June, with the exercise set to be completed by 30 June.
- In southern Syria, a significant increase in security incidents in Dar'a governorate was reported in late May. As a result of the increased insecurity, and due to the complexities on ground, WFP in May was forced to pause planned dispatches and distributions of food rations to over 70,000 people in western Dar'a governorate for one week. The dispatches and distributions resumed during the first week of June following an evaluation of the situation on the ground.

## COVID-19 Pandemic

- Approximately 66,019 COVID-19 cases and 3,180 deaths had been confirmed across all areas of Syria as of 02 June. This includes 24,559 cases and 1,778 deaths in government-controlled areas, 23,541 cases and 670 deaths in north-western Syria, and 17,919 cases and 732 deaths in north-eastern Syria.
- As of the end of May, WFP, in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO), has provided food assistance to some 16,000 people in COVID-19 quarantine centres across six Syrian governorates.

## Monitoring

- In May, WFP and third-party monitoring (TPM) companies conducted 975 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 173 checklists, equivalent to 18 percent direct WFP monitoring coverage. Twelve percent of the checklists were conducted jointly with a 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.