



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Syria Country Brief

November 2021

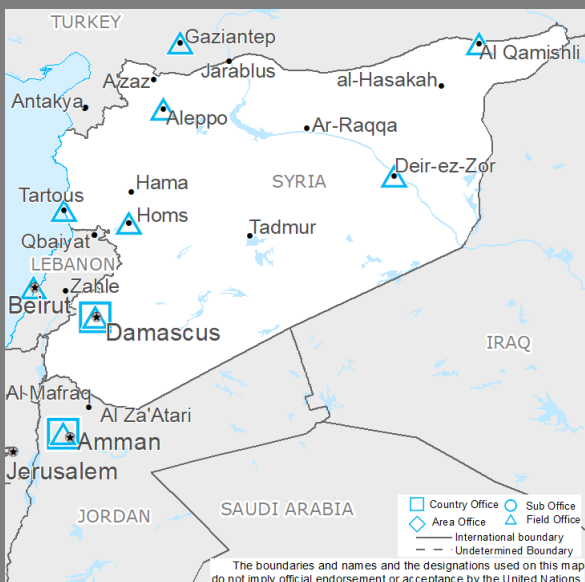


Operational Context

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 conflict in Syria is taking a devastating toll on the lives of the Syrian people. As of early 2021, 12.4 million people are food insecure in Syria; the highest number ever recorded.

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.

Currently, WFP is implementing its activities under the 2019-2021 Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP), and the new two-year ICSP (2022-2023) has been approved. In 2022, WFP plans to continue its large-scale provision of unconditional food assistance, refocus its education and nutrition activities, and expand its activities aimed at strengthening livelihoods, boosting household resilience, and restoring food systems.



Population: 21.2 million	2019 Human Development Index: 151 out of 189
Income Level: Low-income	Chronic malnutrition: 81,700 children between 6-59 months

In Numbers

44,697 mt of food assistance delivered

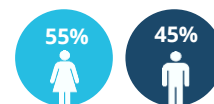
US\$ 2.3 m in cash-based transfers made

US\$ 527.8 m six-month net funding

requirement (December 2021 – May 2022, as of 22 November 2021)

5.7 m people assisted in November 2021

(based on dispatches)



Operational Updates

- In November, WFP delivered food and nutrition assistance to 5.7 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 5.5 million people across all 14 Syrian governorates. Of this, 24 percent was delivered through the cross-border operation from Turkey to areas of Idlib and western rural Aleppo governorates not accessible from inside Syria.
- WFP's Executive Director David Beasley [completed](#) a three-day visit to Syria in November, during which he met with vulnerable families receiving WFP food assistance in Aleppo. The Executive Director highlighted that "Conflict, climate change, Covid-19 and now the cost of living are pushing people beyond their limits". He also shared, "Mothers are telling me that with the upcoming winter they are caught between a rock and a hard place. They either feed their children, and let them freeze, or keep them warm and let them go hungry. They cannot afford both fuel and food."
- The economic situation in Syria continued to deteriorate. On 1 November, the Ministry of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection increased the price of subsidised cooking gas cylinders by 116 percent (from SYP 4,500 to SYP 9,700 or from US\$ 1.8 to US\$ 3.88 at the official exchange rate of SYP 2,500/US\$). The decision was taken to balance continued provision of this vital item with control of alternative market prices. Notably, the cost of a domestic gas cylinder to the state is SYP 30,000 (US\$ 12), thereby the new price to consumers receives a 68 percent state subsidy.

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2021)		
Total Requirement (in US\$)		2021 Available Contributions
3.08 billion		638.1 million
2021 Requirement	2022 Requirement	Six-month Net Funding Requirement (December 2021 – May 2022, as of 22 November)
1.27 billion	1.37 billion	527.8 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:**
- 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.
 - 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:**
- 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:**
- Prevention of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies in children aged 6–23 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls.
 - 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:**
- Provide coordination, information management, capacity development and shared logistics services to sector partners that face logistics gaps.
 - Provide shared ICT services, emergency telecommunications coordination and information technology (IT) emergency preparedness training to humanitarian organizations in common operational areas.
 - Provide technical assistance and support services to humanitarian partners.
 - Provide passenger and light cargo services to the humanitarian community (United Nations Humanitarian Air Service, UNHAS).

- WFP participated in several field missions across Syria's southern areas in November. Notable among which is the first UN mission to Dar'a al-Balad district of Dar'a governorate, which witnessed hostilities and displacements in July – August 2021. The mission observed heavy damage and destruction in the infrastructure including schools and clinics, and further deterioration in the living conditions of the people. The community listed food, shelter kits, and water tanks as their priority needs. WFP continues to support up to 33,500 people inside Dar'a al-Balad with GFA, and supports students with date bars among other activities.

COVID-19 Pandemic

- Some 177,456 Covid-19 cases and 6,279 deaths have been confirmed across all areas of Syria as of end-November. This includes 48,267 cases and 2,755 deaths in government-controlled areas, 92,229 cases and 2,244 deaths in north-western Syria. The central laboratory in north-eastern Syria where all Covid-19 tests are analysed is reportedly out of service due to missing materials, and the latest count was 36,960 cases and 1,478 deaths (as of 10 November).

Monitoring

- In November, WFP and third-party monitoring (TPM) companies conducted 1,798 on-site monitoring (OSM) visits across all 14 governorates to monitor GFA distributions, bread distributions, livelihoods activities, nutrition activities, cash-based transfer (CBT) redemptions and warehouses. Around 23 percent of the OSM visits were conducted directly by WFP monitors or jointly with TPM. The remaining visits were conducted by TPMs in areas not accessible to WFP staff.

Challenges

- WFP requires US\$ 527.8 million to sustain operations through May 2022.

Donors

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