



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Syria Country Brief

February 2022



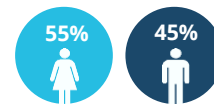
In Numbers

38,457 mt of food assistance delivered

US\$ 3.2 m in cash-based transfers made

US\$ 479 m six-month net funding requirement *(March 2022 – August 2022)*

5.5 m people assisted in February 2022
(based on dispatches)

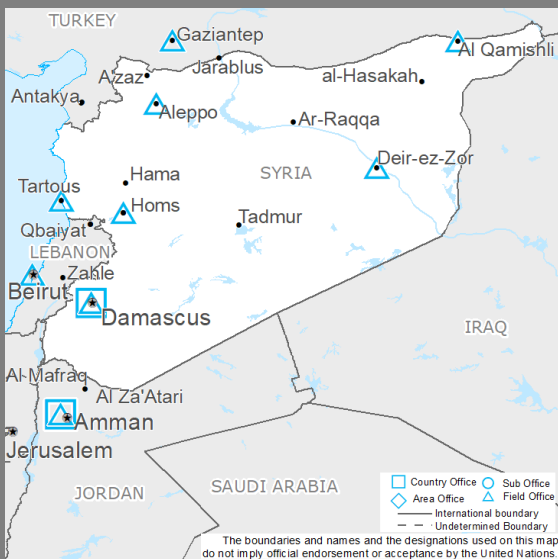


Operational Context

The Syrian Arab Republic has faced a prolonged crisis since 2011, which has caused severe damage to the country's economic and social fabric. Protracted crisis, economic collapse and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in the past two years further exposed the Syrian people to food insecurity and eroded their livelihoods. As of late 2021, 12 million people, 55 percent of the population, were food insecure.

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 new 2022–2023 Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP), which came into effect in January 2022, is aimed at responding to the growing food and nutrition needs, the severe deterioration of livelihoods and resilience, and the collapse of food systems. Under the new ICSP, WFP will 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: **21.7 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 5.5 million people across its general food assistance (GFA), school feeding, nutrition, livelihoods, resilience and social safety nets activities in Syria.
- WFP dispatched GFA to some 5.3 million people across all 14 Syrian governorates. Of this, 27 percent was delivered through the cross-border operation from Turkey to areas of Idlib and western rural Aleppo governorates not accessible from inside Syria.
- According to the results of the nationwide food security and livelihoods assessment, 12 million people, 55 percent of the total population of the country, are facing acute food insecurity, and 1.9 million people are at risk of sliding into food insecurity. The number of food insecure remains extremely high and 51 percent higher than 2019 levels – pre-financial crisis and the outbreak of COVID-19. The acute food-insecure figure includes 1.9 million people residing in camp settings who are considered fully dependent on humanitarian assistance.
- In February, WFP completed its emergency response to the severe winter weather conditions, which impacted tens of thousands of internally displaced people (IDPs) across north-western Syria. WFP reached more than 296,000 people with ready-to-eat rations since the emergency response started in December 2021.
- Hostilities subsided in the southern neighbourhoods of Al-Hasakeh city, north-eastern Syria, following the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) attack on Ghweiran prison, and the full and partial lockdowns imposed by Kurdish authorities across the north-east following the attack ended in February. Most of the 45,000 originally displaced returned to their homes. As part of the emergency response, WFP provided

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Photo Caption: 2-year-old Rana is so excited about receiving the food ration; her mother will make her some cookies with the food ration ingredients ©WFP/Hussam Al Saleh

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2022-2023)	
Total Requirement (in US\$)	2022 Available Contributions
2.87 billion	329 million
2022 Requirement	Six-month Net Funding Requirement (March -August 2022)
1.37 billion	479 million

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Food-insecure populations affected by the crisis, including host communities, internally displaced persons and returnees across all governorates in the Syrian Arab Republic, meet their basic food and nutrition needs all year round.
Focus area: Crisis Response

- Activities:**
1. Unconditional resource transfers to food-insecure households.
 2. Provide meals and cash-based transfers to school-age boys and girls attending formal and non-formal education centres.

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 2: Food-insecure communities in targeted areas are able to meet their food and nutrition needs throughout the year thanks to resilient livelihoods and restored access to basic services.
Focus area: Resilience Building

- Activities:**
3. Support diversified and sustainable livelihoods and food systems at the household, community and national levels.
 4. Provide technical assistance to strengthen national social safety nets.

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 3: Nutritionally vulnerable groups across the Syrian Arab Republic, especially boys, girls and pregnant and lactating women, have access to malnutrition prevention and treatment services throughout the year.
Focus area: Resilience Building

- Activities:**
5. Provide nutrition assistance to prevent chronic and acute malnutrition.
 6. Provide nutrition assistance to treat moderate acute malnutrition.

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 are enabled to assist crisis-affected populations all year long.
Focus area: Crisis Response

- Activities:**
7. Provide common logistics services to humanitarian partners.
 8. Provide common emergency telecommunications services to humanitarian partners.
 9. Provide humanitarian air services to humanitarian partners.
 10. Provide on-demand technical assistance and support services to humanitarian partners.
 11. Provide on-demand cash-based transfer services to humanitarian partners.

emergency food assistance to newly displaced families during the initial days of displacement, reaching some 12,800 people. WFP also provided general food baskets to IDP returnees in Ghweiran neighbourhood, reaching 37,400 people in February.

- In February, the monthly average price of WFP’s standard reference food basket increased by two percent compared to January 2022, according to the latest [WFP data](#). In February the nationwide average reference food basket price reached SYP 231,004 (USD 92.4 at the official exchange rate of SYP 2,500/USD), marking a new record high for the sixth consecutive month since WFP started price monitoring in 2013. The increase is mainly attributed to the ongoing fuel shortage countrywide, as well as to an increase in global food prices and inflation.

Monitoring

- In February, WFP and third-party monitoring (TPM) companies conducted 1,423 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 20 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 by WFP staff.

Challenges

- WFP requires US\$ 479 million to sustain operations through August 2022.

Voices from the field *(see cover photo)*

35-year-old Hana’a is a mother for two children, Ramiz, five years old, and Rana, two years old. Hana’a was displaced with her family from Aleppo in 2014 and lives in Mafa’aleh village in As-Sweida governorate ever since. “Every day is tougher than the one before. My husband earns SYP 120,000 (USD 34 at the official exchange rate of SYP 2,500/USD), and he spends one-third of that on transportation and another third on rent” said Hana’a trying to hide her tears. Hana’a had to leave her young children with her neighbours to find a job to assist her family, but opportunities were limited.

Maintaining a balanced diet is something Hana’a gave up on a long time ago; surviving is all that matters now. “I am extremely worried about my children’s health and growth; we cannot afford the very basic food items” says Hana’a. “We depend completely on the food ration we get from WFP, and when my children see it, they dance with joy as we are rarely able to buy them anything”, adds.

Donors

The largest donors to WFP Syria so far in 2022 ranked by contributions: Germany, Japan, UN Pooled Funds and Canada.