



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Syria Country Brief

March 2022

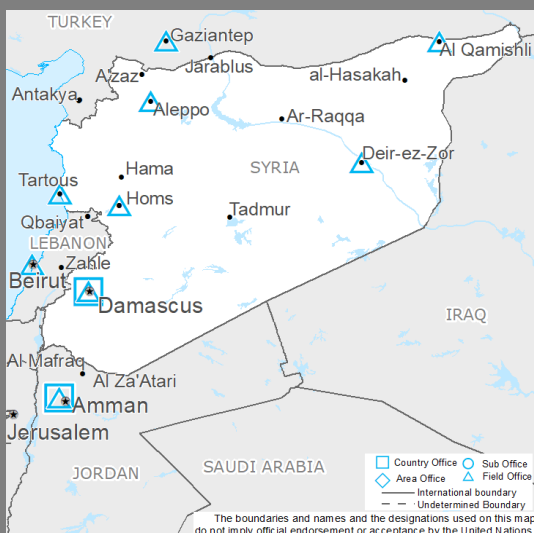


Operational Context

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 coronavirus disease 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

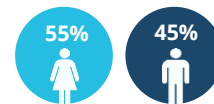
In Numbers

36,600 mt of food assistance delivered

US\$ 3.4 m in cash-based transfers made

US\$ 515.2 m six-month net funding requirement (April 2022 – September 2022)

5.8 m people assisted in March 2022
(based on dispatches)



Operational Updates

- In March, WFP delivered food and nutrition assistance to 5.8 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 5.7 million people across all 14 Syrian governorates. Of this, 26 percent was delivered through the cross-border operation from Turkey to areas of Idlib and western rural Aleppo governorates not accessible from inside Syria.
- The crisis in Syria marked its eleventh anniversary on 15 March. As the crisis enters its twelfth year, the [United Nations Secretary General emphasised](#) that the destruction of basic infrastructure has deepened the economic crisis, pushing humanitarian needs to their highest levels since the conflict began. Millions of internally displaced and refugees live in the most difficult circumstances and struggle to survive.
- The third cross-line convoy to Sarmada city, Idlib governorate was completed on 30 March, with items offloaded at WFP warehouses. The convoy was led by OCHA as part of their OCHA managed inter-agency crossline plans.
- WFP began incorporating mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) screening as part of its nutrition support to pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWGs) programme to increase early identification and treatment of acute malnutrition. All PLWGs accessing nutrition support distribution centers are screened, and if they are identified to have acute malnutrition, they are referred to the nearby CMAM center for an in-depth analysis and provision of required treatment.
- WFP is also supporting in the implementation of a Nutrition Assessment for School-aged children (6-12 years of age) within public schools. This is the first

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Photo Caption: WFP's cooperating partner volunteer screening a child using the mid upper arm circumference method
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Interim Country Strategic Plan (2022-2023)	
Total Requirement (in US\$)	2022 Available Contributions
2.87 billion	349 million
2022 Requirement	Six-month Net Funding Requirement (April –September 2022)
1.37 billion	515.2 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.

time this group's nutritional status has ever been assessed, and is critical to understanding their nutritional status and the impact the 11-year long crisis had on the children born during the crisis.

Monitoring

- In March, WFP and third-party monitoring (TPM) companies conducted 1,547 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 27 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\$ 515.2 million to sustain operations through September 2022.

Voices from the field

Samah is a volunteer at a WFP cooperating partner's nutrition clinic in As-Sweida governorate, southern Syria. The clinic has been operating for over four years now, providing nutrition services to all people coming to the clinic. Further, a mobile team conducts monthly visits to the rural areas and the internally displaced people camps in the governorate.

"Recently, we have noticed that some of the children that we previously screened and were fine have declined and became moderately malnourished" says Samah. "In January alone we had over 60 cases identified through the clinic and the mobile team, and most of these cases were children." she adds.

"The economic situation, inflation, and lack of job opportunities in the governorate are the main reasons for this increase in the malnourished cases. You can easily recognize a malnourished case in the market or the public transportations" says Samah. "I am a mother myself; I consider all children like mine, and I can't ignore any case I come across at any time or place. I always keep the measurement tool with me and use it once I have a doubt about a case in order to refer them to the clinic."

Donors

The largest donors to WFP Syria so far in 2022 ranked by contributions: Germany, European Commission, Ireland, Japan, Switzerland.