Operational Context

The Syrian Arab Republic has faced a prolonged crisis since 2011, which has caused severe damage to the country’s economy 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 2022–2023 Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) 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 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.

Operational Updates

- In August, WFP delivered food and nutrition assistance to 5.9 million people across its general food assistance (GFA), school feeding, nutrition, livelihoods, resilience and social safety nets activities in Syria.
- WFP distributed GFA to some 5.89 million people across all 14 Syrian governorates including food delivered through the cross-border operation from Turkey to areas of Idlib and western rural Aleppo governorates not accessible from inside Syria.
- The sixth cross-line convoy was completed on 4-5 August, going from government held Aleppo city, Aleppo governorate, to opposition controlled Sarmada city in north-western Syria. The convoy carried food rations and nutrition items to enable WFP to reach its monthly target of 43,500 people.
- Prices in Syria continued to spike. In August, the Syrian government more than doubled fuel prices, with the cost of a litre of subsidised fuel increased to SYP 2,500 (USD 0.88 at the official exchange rate) from SYP 1,100 previously (USD 0.39 at the official exchange rate). This represents the third time this year that the government has raised the price of fuel.
- In July, the monthly average price of WFP's standard reference food basket marginally decreased by 2 percent compared to June 2022. This marks the fourth consecutive monthly decline according to the latest WFP data. Despite the recent mild declines, prices in July remain 33 percent higher than February 2022 (start of the Ukraine crisis) and 87 percent higher than the same time last year.
- The security situation in southern Syria continued to deteriorate in August. In Dar’a governorate, WFP had to pause its operations twice during August due to increased hostilities. It was also reported that farmers in Dar’a lost access to their lands due to insecurity. This has disrupted agricultural activities during the harvest.
WFP Country Strategy

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2022-2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Percentage Funded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.87 billion</td>
<td>565.6 million</td>
<td>20 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.37 billion</td>
<td>565.6 million</td>
<td>739.7 m</td>
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</tbody>
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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 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 provide:**
5. Nutrition assistance to prevent chronic and acute malnutrition.
6. 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 provide:**
7. Common logistics services to humanitarian partners.
8. Common emergency telecommunications services to humanitarian partners.
9. Humanitarian air services to humanitarian partners.
10. On-demand technical assistance and support services to humanitarian partners.
11. On-demand cash-based transfer services to humanitarian partners.

season which could incur both economic hardship and reduce the availability of food on the local market.

- WFP food dispatches to north-eastern Syria were stopped in August due to an alleged rice quality issue. This has been spurred by recent changes to food safety inspection requirements by local authorities. WFP placed all food distributions on hold until the issue was clarified; however, nutrition items were excepted. As a result of this, 650,000 people in need in north-eastern Syria did not receive their August food rations. WFP targets 765,000 beneficiaries in north-eastern Syria.

**Monitoring**

- In August, WFP and third-party monitoring (TPM) companies conducted 1,055 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 18 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$ 739.8 million through February 2023 to fully implement the Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) for Syria.

**Updates from the field: How much Bulgur can you buy with 350 Syrian Pounds?**

Bulgur is used in a variety of meat and vegetable Syrian dishes. Because of its affordable price, it used to be a popular source of nutrients among vulnerable Syrians. However, bulgur has experienced the highest price increase among the staples that WFP regularly monitors. This is due to wheat production shortfalls mainly resulting from drought.

Back in October 2019, you could buy 1,000 grams of bulgur with only SYP 350. As of June 2022, SYP 350 can get you 200 grams of Bulgur only.

Food prices in Syria have soared by over 500 percent in the last two years, pushing the basic needs out of reach for the 12 million food insecure people.

With food prices continuing to reach record highs, WFP's food assistance has never been so critical.

**Donors**

The largest donors to WFP Syria so far in 2022 ranked by contributions: USA, Germany, Canada, Japan and the European Commission.

WFP Syria Country Brief
August 2022