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. Successive shocks in the form of the global COVID-19 pandemic, unabated economic decline, fuel and food crises, and most recently the cholera outbreak, have played a significant role in the deterioration of the humanitarian situation. As of late 2021, 12 million people, 55 percent of the population, are 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 October, WFP delivered food and nutrition assistance to 5.5 million people across all 14 Syrian governorates through its general food assistance (GFA), school feeding, nutrition, livelihoods, resilience and social safety nets activities. This includes food delivered through the cross-border operation from Turkey to areas of Idlib and western rural Aleppo governorates not accessible from inside Syria.

- The eighth cross-line convoy was completed on 22 October, going from government-controlled Aleppo city 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. It also carried humanitarian assistance for other UN agencies. On 29 October, WFP completed distributions of these items, reaching 38,125 beneficiaries in 54 locations in non-government-controlled areas of north-western Syria.

- In October, WFP launched the fresh school meals project in Rural Damascus and Damascus governorates – the first such initiative in southern and central Syria for children attending public primary schools. The aim is to diversify school meals, improve the health and nutrition status of children, and incentivize families to send their children to school. WFP is reaching 6,000 children with the aim to scale up to 25,000 children in the coming weeks.

- On 26 October, the first group of 511 Syrian refugees arrived in Syrian through Lebanon’s self-declared “voluntary returns” scheme announced in July. The Lebanese government plans to arrange the return of 15,000 refugees monthly. WFP is monitoring the situation in both Lebanon and Syria.
WFP Country Strategy

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2022-2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirements (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Percentage Funded</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.87 billion</td>
<td>720 million</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<th>Requirements (in USD)</th>
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<th>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (November 2022 - April 2023)</th>
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<td>2022</td>
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1.37 billion               720 million                  858.4 m

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 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.

- By the end of the third quarter of 2022, the national average price of a WFP reference food basket reached a new record high of SYP 329,526 (≈USD 109), up 40 percent since the onset of the crisis in Ukraine in February, and 77 percent since last year. Price increases are influenced by supply chain disruptions and uncertainties, as well as the depreciation of the local currency on the parallel market.

**Monitoring**

- In October, WFP and third-party monitoring (TPM) companies conducted 1,098 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. The remaining visits were conducted by TPMs in areas not accessible by WFP staff.

**Challenges**

- WFP requires USD 858.4 million through April 2023 to implement the Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) for Syria.

**Updates from the field: Livelihood irrigation system project in East Maskaneh, Aleppo governorate**

- Building on its area-based approach, WFP signed a field-level agreement with the International Center for Agriculture Research in the Dry Area (ICARDA) to clean 600 km of drainage canals in East Maskaneh, Aleppo governorate. So far, cleaning activities were completed in two main drainage canals and four farm canals – 308 km of drainage canals (51 percent of the plan). In areas where the cleaning activities were completed, farmers have started to see the direct impact on their land as the drainage water level went down and the salinity started to fade away. The project is expected to be completed by the end of November 2022.

- WFP Syria’s Livelihoods and Resilience Strategy aims to protect and restore livelihoods and food security and contribute to the early recovery of Syrians impacted by vulnerabilities, at the same time creating durable assets for the benefits of the wider community.

**Donors**

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