



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



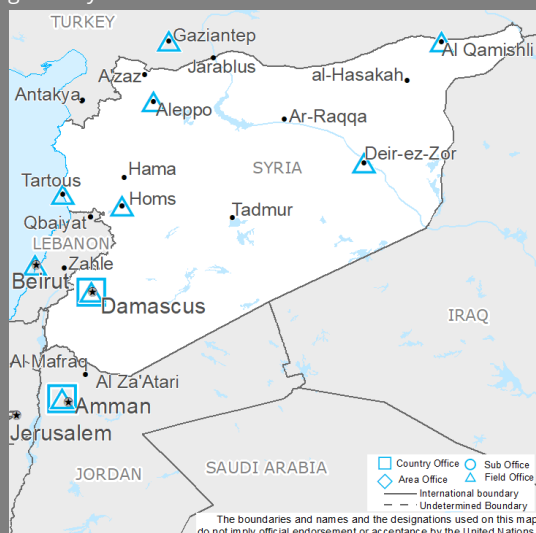
WFP Syria Country Brief January 2023

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.



Population: **21.7 million**

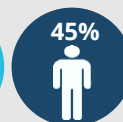
2019 Human Development Index:
151 out of 188

Income Level: **Low-income**

Chronic malnutrition: **553,000 children
between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

5.6 m people assisted
in January 2023¹



29,733 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 3.55 m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 670.4 m six months (February – July 2023)
net funding requirements

Operational Updates

- On 9 January, the UN Security Council voted unanimously to [extend](#) the UN's cross-border aid authorization through the Bab al-Hawa border crossing from Turkey into north-western Syria for another six months (until 10 July 2023). The resolution permits UN agencies to use the crossing to deliver humanitarian assistance into north-western Syria. WFP reaches some 1.4 million people in north-western Syria through this border crossing.
- In January, WFP delivered food and nutrition assistance to 5.6 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 Türkiye to areas of Idlib and western rural Aleppo governorates not accessible from inside Syria.
- The tenth crossline convoy was completed on 8 January, going from government-controlled Aleppo city to opposition-controlled Sarmada city in north-western Syria. The convoy carried food and nutrition items to enable WFP to reach its monthly target. It also carried humanitarian assistance for other UN agencies.
- In December, the monthly average price of WFP's standard reference food basket increased by 12 percent compared to November 2022, reaching SYP 425,585 (≈USD 141 at the official exchange rate of SYP 3,015/USD), almost double compared to the same time last year, according to the latest [WFP Syria Market Price Watch Bulletin](#).
- Fuel shortage continues to impact WFP operations, with distributions delayed, some dispatches to remote and rural areas cancelled, and some field missions rescheduled particularly to rural parts of Syria.

¹ Calculated estimates based on commodities dispatched for all activities. Excludes activity beneficiary overlap.

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2022-2023)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Percentage Funded
2.87 billion	970.6 million	33.9 %
2023 Requirements (in USD)	2023 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (February – July 2023)
1.5 billion	970.6 million	670.4 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.

Monitoring

- In January, WFP and third-party monitoring (TPM) companies conducted 785 on-site monitoring (OSM) visits across all 14 governorates to monitor GFA distributions, Livelihoods, cash-based transfers redemption sites as well as schools and health clinics. WFP monitors conducted 26 percent of the OSM visits. The remaining visits were conducted by TPMs in areas not accessible by WFP staff.
- Majority of WFP offices reduced monitoring activities due to fuel shortage WFP partially mitigated this reduction in physical presence through monitoring phone calls to beneficiaries.

Challenges

- WFP requires USD 670.4 million through July 2023 to implement the Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) for Syria.

Updates from the field: WFP at 60

- On 25 January, the WFP Executive Director [visited](#) Syria. From Damascus, he appealed to the world to invest in the Syrian people and communities to get them on their feet and off food assistance. The Executive Director visited Al Nashabiyeh subdistrict in Duma in Eastern Ghota, Rural Damascus where WFP is rehabilitating irrigation canals as part of a [livelihood project](#) to enable [farmers and their community](#) to grow wheat and other food in their lands.
- The Executive Director also hosted the corporate commemoration of WFP 60th anniversary with an all-employee event from Damascus. He paid tribute to all WFP employees for their commitment to supporting millions across the globe.

Donors

The largest donors to WFP Syria so far in 2023

Germany, Canada, USA, Ireland, Japan and the CERF