



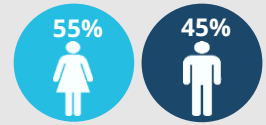
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Syria Country Brief March 2023

In Numbers



6.4 million people assisted in March 2023¹

40,444 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 4.5 million cash-based transfers

US\$ 773.3 million six months (April – September 2023) net funding requirements

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, the cholera outbreak, and most recently the earthquakes that hit the north and west of the country have played a significant role in the deterioration of the humanitarian situation. Prior to the earthquake, 12.1 million people (55 percent of the population) were estimated to be food insecure. Additionally, 2.9 million people were at risk of sliding into food insecurity if the crisis continued to worsen.

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) aims to respond 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**

Operational Updates

- In March, WFP distributed food and nutrition assistance to 6.4 million people across all 14 Syrian governorates through its general food assistance, school meals, nutrition, livelihoods, resilience, and social safety nets activities. This included food distributed through the cross-border operation from Türkiye to areas of Idlib and Aleppo governorates not accessible from inside Syria.
- On 8 March, WFP Syria marked the International Women's Day through an event themed "Embrace Equity". Similar events took place at field offices level.
- In February, the monthly average price of WFP's standard reference food basket was 116 percent more expensive than a year earlier, reaching SYP 500,000 (≈USD 111) according to the WFP Syria Market Price Watch Bulletin.

WFP Earthquake Response

- WFP continued to provide life-saving food assistance to people affected by the earthquake that impacted Syria. By the end of March, WFP had provided 694,500 meals to people staying in temporary shelters and had distributed ready-to-eat (RTE) rations sufficient to 198,000 people.
- Moreover, WFP assessed ten bakeries in the earthquake-affected governorates to determine the damages, priority, and type of intervention. Of these, WFP will rehabilitate seven of these bakeries. Each USD 1 invested in rehabilitation of bakeries can reduce the annual cost of WFP food assistance by USD 3.



Photo 1: © WFP/Hussam ALSALEH – cultivated land near WFP-rehabilitated irrigation system in east Maskaneh /Aleppo governorate

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

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Interim Country Strategic Plan (2022-2023)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Percentage Funded
2.87 billion	982.3 million	34.2 %
2023 Requirements (in USD)	2023 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (April – September 2023)
1.5 billion	249 million	773.3 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 March, WFP and third-party monitoring (TPM) companies conducted 1,100 onsite 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 24 percent of the OSM visits. The remaining visits were conducted by TPMs in areas not accessible by WFP staff.

Funding and Pipeline

- WFP Syria urgently requires a minimum of USD 280 million to maintain its emergency food assistance programme with reduced rations for 5.5 million people each month across Syria for the rest of 2023, including USD 80 million to support 800,000 people earthquake-affected.
- Without sufficient resources, WFP will be forced to reduce 45 percent of its current beneficiaries from July onwards – which would have a dire impact on nearly 2.5 million people who would stop receiving food assistance across the country.

2023 (Top five donors in March supporting WFP Syria's ICSP in alphabetical order): Canada, CERF, Germany, Japan and USA.

Stories from the field

In March, Syria marks the [12th year of the crisis](#) amid increasing needs and a worsening economic situation exacerbated by the earthquake. Syrians are now more vulnerable than ever before. Millions (15.3) need humanitarian assistance. [Saadouldin](#), a man in his seventies, described the toll that the crisis has taken on him.

“During 12 years of crisis, I lost my health and illness ravaged me, and living expenses became excessively high, and the income is almost dead”.

