

Interim Country Strategic Plan Revision

Date of this revision: 24 December 2025

Syria interim country strategic plan, Revision 03

	Current	Change	Revised
Duration	January 2022– December 2025	extension by 12 months	January 2022– December 2026
Beneficiaries	10,982,101	1,630,762	12,625,363
Total cost (USD)	4 873 838 657	- 89 649 946	4 784 188 711

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY FOR APPROVAL: ED

1. RATIONALE

1. In December 2024, significant political and administrative changes reshaped governance structures in Syria, prompting a major shift in the operating environment. Despite being in a recovery transition, the country continues to face a protracted and severe food security and nutrition crisis driven by ongoing economic decline, mass displacement and critical shortfalls in humanitarian funding. Between November 2024 and May 2025, an estimated 14.56 million people were food insecure, of whom 9.1 million were classified as acutely food insecure, including 1.3 million severely food insecure.¹ Acute malnutrition among children under five has risen sharply, from 1.7 percent in 2019 to 4.8 percent in 2023,² surpassing emergency thresholds in some areas.³ Over 2.45 million children are out of school, with more than a million at risk of dropping out due to economic hardship, child labour, early marriage, displacement, and the widespread destruction of education infrastructure.⁴
2. Revision 03 of the Syria ICSP (2023–2025) extends the current ICSP by one year to the end of 2026, aligning with the forthcoming United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2027–2031). In addition, reflecting tighter resourcing, the revision reduces the overall budget by USD 89.6 million, reducing requirements in 2025 while extending activities into 2026 and thereby adding new beneficiaries.

2. CHANGES

Strategic orientation

3. There is no change in the strategic orientation of the ICSP.

¹ [Syria | Food Security Cluster](#)

² <https://www.emro.who.int/syria/news/saif-defies-severe-acute-malnutrition-with-medical-complications-in-syria.html>

³ [3.7 Nutrition | Syrian Arab Republic Humanitarian Response Priorities – January-June 2025 | Humanitarian Action](#) An estimated 416,000 children in north-west and north-east Syria are at high risk of malnutrition, particularly wasting. [WFP \(April 2025\)](#) states that child malnutrition rates in Syria have risen from 1.7% in 2019 to 4.8%, with some coastal areas reaching 14%, which is three times the global emergency threshold. Maternal malnutrition is also high, averaging 7% and up to 19% in some areas.

⁴ [Syrian Arab Republic: Humanitarian Response Priorities – January to June 2025 \(March 2025\)](#)

ICSP outcomes

Targeting approach and beneficiary analysis:

4. Overall, WFP will target an additional 1.6 million beneficiaries under the ICSP.
5. Under outcome 01 - activity 01 (GFA), WFP will reduce the overall planned number of people assisted from 4.5 million in 2024 to 3 million in 2025 due to funding constraints. Guided by food security assessments and malnutrition data, WFP has reoriented its targeting under TFA to prioritise 1.52 million of the most food-insecure and malnourished populations, with a projected 5 percent increase in 2026 to reach 1.65 million people. This is supported by two approaches - *Anmu* and *Mueel*⁵ - introduced in 2024 to enhance the targeting, prioritisation, efficiency, and accountability of WFP assistance. These approaches consider the groups most vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition, including vulnerable returnees to Syria and internally displaced persons (IDPs) returning to their areas of origin. At the same time, the annual contingency for ready to eat rations for sudden-onset emergencies has been halved to 250,000 people due to funding constraints.
6. With the restructuring of the bread subsidy by the new Government, and in partnership with the Ministry of Economy and Industry, WFP will operate an emergency interim safety net by providing fortified wheat flour⁶ to selected bakeries through the bread subsidy project, enabling bread to be sold at a regulated, reduced price. Targeting hunger hotspots and areas affected by community tensions or security challenges, the intervention aims to stabilise the bread value chain and support access for 2 million people per month. In sudden-onset emergencies, WFP in partnership with the government will also temporarily supply wheat flour as an emergency response and social cohesion intervention. This intervention forms part of a broader transition strategy linking emergency food access to emerging government-led safety-net mechanisms.
7. Under activity 02 (school feeding), due to funding constraints WFP will scale down its target to 313,000 children in 2025 and 2026, including 38,000 out-of-school children - a reduction from the previously planned target of 780,000 children for 2025. In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, WFP will prioritise areas with the highest concentrations of returnees (including IDP returns) and food insecurity.
8. Under outcome 02 - activity 03 (livelihoods), in 2025 WFP will, in line with projected increases in funding and the shifting operational environment, plan to reach up to 133,000 beneficiaries in 2026. In addition, backed by a risk insurance policy,⁷ WFP will assist 24,500 smallholder farmers in eight drought-affected governorates with high levels of food insecurity. Support will be provided through cash assistance, with the aim of safeguarding food security, reducing reliance on negative coping strategies and enhancing household resilience to weather-related shocks.
9. Under activity 04 (social safety nets), WFP will redesign its approach to safety nets in response to the evolving context, with a renewed focus on strategic partnerships and national capacity

⁵In terms of geographic targeting, for MUEEL, WFP uses food security and nutrition data to select sub-districts with highest food and nutrition insecurity, refined by conflict sensitivity, urban/rural context, access, and sector coverage. For ANMU, WFP prioritises sub-districts with high GAM, maternal malnutrition and food insecurity as well as areas with high numbers of at risk children under 2 and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWG). At household level, *Anmu* applies a nutrition-first approach, targeting households with malnourished PBWG and children under the age of two who are malnourished or at-risk. *Mueel* applies a community-based targeting model to prioritise those most vulnerable to severe food insecurity, for example children under five/PBWG, households with people with disabilities or older persons without caregivers, female-headed households with many dependents, and those with no/unstable income.

⁶ This uses the standard WFP fortification premix, applied through the regular supply chain and in line with WFP food quality specifications.

⁷ The drought triggered a USD7.9 million payout.

strengthening. WFP will partner with other UN entities⁸ and the World Bank to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MOSAL) to redesign national safety net programmes.⁹ As part of this effort, with the aim of supporting children and their mothers during the critical first 1,000 days, WFP, in partnership with MOSAL, will introduce nutrition-sensitive cash transfers¹⁰ that target households with malnourished children under two, with an additional layer of prioritisation based on verifiable social-economic vulnerability indicators. The programme is designed to ensure eventual handover to MOSAL and institutionalization in the national social protection system.

10. Under activity 05 (malnutrition prevention), WFP will reduce the number of beneficiaries due to funding constraints, shifting toward integrated and layered programming. Prevention efforts will focus on households already enrolled in food assistance, allowing for more efficient use of resources and improved targeting of vulnerable groups.¹¹ In 2025, WFP plans to reach 234,000 people per month, down from the originally planned 358,064, with a 5 percent increase planned in 2026.
11. Under activity 06 (management of acute malnutrition), WFP will adjust coverage in line with available resources, reaching 90,000 children under 5 and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls with nutritional supplementation in 2025 and 2026, compared to the previously planned target for 2025 of 133,000. To mitigate the impact of reduced coverage, WFP will continue advocating with donors for additional resources to restore and expand nutritional supplementation as funding permits.

Transfer modalities:

12. Under activity 01, wheat flour distributions for the bread subsidy project are based on 1kg of flour per household per day. Under activity 03 - the macro-insurance project, smallholder farmer households will receive USD 100 per month for up to three months in line with cash working group guidance for non-emergency cash assistance. Based on recommendations from the cash working group, under activity 04, WFP will provide targeted households with an average CBT value of USD 100 per month for twelve months, including a nutrition cash top-up. In the event of a shock, the transfer value will be increased by USD 50 per month to help households absorb and manage the impact.

Country office capacity:

13. During 2024 and 2025, the Syria country office undertook an organisational alignment exercise to better reflect its strategic and operational priorities, as well as current and projected funding levels. This process led to the establishment of three Area Offices, a reduction in logistics and warehousing staffing and an optimised programme structure to better support country office objectives and direction. The country office continues to regularly review its organisational structure to ensure profiles are aligned with emerging or reinforced priorities, allowing for greater agility in responding to Syria's shifting context and resource landscape.

⁸ This includes UNICEF and the International Labour Organization.

⁹ This includes coordination with partners to develop a roadmap toward a unified beneficiary registry.

¹⁰ These transfers are designed as a temporary measure, with a view to eventual handover to government-led social protection systems.

¹¹ This approach aligns with the [WFP Strategy to improve diets and address malnutrition 2024 - 2030](#)

Supply Chain and service provision:

14. In response to changing operational needs and funding constraints, WFP will implement reduced warehousing capacity to optimize fixed costs while ensuring coverage. WFP will adjust its sourcing and delivery strategies - shifting toward regional procurement from Türkiye and reducing reliance on international shipping to minimize logistical complexity and improve cost-efficiencies.

Risk Management:

15. Amid worsening economic hardship and funding constraints, reduced assistance has increased the risk of community tensions, negative coping and protection concerns. Risk analysis and mitigation actions take into account WFP's integrated context analysis and risk assessment (2024), and include protection informed TFA,¹² which also builds on evidence from WFP's Impact of Cuts on Syrians series¹³ which further guides targeting and advocacy.
16. Heightened fiduciary and diversion risks are addressed through reinforced oversight and controls in line with corporate standards, enhanced beneficiary awareness and anti-fraud measures, and local partner capacity strengthening through training. Regular senior management engagement with relevant national and local-level authorities supports risk mitigation, including diversion risks. Staff and beneficiary safety remain paramount; updated security protocols, evacuation and continuity plans, and ongoing security assessments inform adjustments to WFP's footprint and staff presence to support safe delivery.

¹² See supra n. 10.

¹³ [The Impacts of the Cuts on WFP Beneficiaries in Syria April 2025 report](#) documents deteriorating coping and increased protection risks following reductions. A further mixed-methods study on the 2024–2025 cuts/retargeting is being finalised (publication end-2025).

Beneficiary analysis¹⁴

		TABLE 1: BENEFICIARIES BY ICSP OUTCOME							
ICSP Outcome	Activity	Output		2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
1	1	1	Current	8,300,000	8,300,000	4,499,179	4,499,179	-	8,300,000
			Increase/decrease	-	-	-	-1,569,402	3,037,987	1,540,103
			Revised	8,300,000	8,300,000	4,499,179	2,929,777	3,037,987	9,840,103
	2	5	Current	809,000	856,000	936,000	936,000	-	1 478 600
			Increase/decrease	-	-	-	-560,400	375,600	-34,800
			Revised	809,000	856,000	936,000	375,600	375,600	1,443,800
2	3	6	Current	500,000	750,000	200,000	200,000	-	1,650,000
			Increase/decrease	-	-	-	-67,000	133,004	66,004
			Revised	500,000	750,000	200,000	133,000	133,004	1,716,004
	4	9	Current	-	-	62,500	62,500	-	125,000
			Increase/decrease	-	-	-	-	12,500	-50,000
			Revised	-	-	62,500	62,500	12,500	75,000
3	5	10	Current	398,800	398,800	235,335	235,335	-	616,168
			Increase/decrease	-	-	-	-80,402	154933	18,632
			Revised	398,800	398,800	235,335	154,933	154,933	634,800
		11	Current	200,000	200,000	122,729	122,729	-	403,412
			Increase/decrease	-	-	-	-43,521	79,208	-83,126
			Revised	200,000	200,000	122,729	79,208	79,208	320,286
	6	14	Current	50,000	50,000	437,091	437,091	-	974,182
			Increase/decrease	-	-	-	-347,091	90,000	-257,091
			Revised	50,000	50,000	437,091	90,000	90,000	717,091
Total beneficiaries (without overlap)			Current	9,108,150	9,374,600	5,257,824	5,257,824	-	10,982,101
			Increase/decrease	-	-	-	-1,950,527	3,415,511	1,630,762
			Revised	9,108,150	9,374,600	5,257,824	3,307,297	3,415,511	12,625,363

¹⁴ Table 1 reports unique beneficiaries by year after applying overlap assumptions within and between activities and across sub-activities. Consequently, table totals are not the simple sum of activity subtotals. Narrative figures refer to activity beneficiary numbers and are not necessarily directly comparable with annual unique totals depending on the overlap assumptions for the activity.

3. COST BREAKDOWN

17. The decrease in the budget is under ICSP outcome 01, reflecting the reduction in the targeted number of beneficiaries under activity 1 (GFA) in 2025. For all other activities, the decreases in 2025 have been offset by the extension in time in 2026, resulting in minimal overall increases under outcomes 2 – 4.

TABLE 2: COST BREAKDOWN OF THE REVISION ONLY (USD)					
ICSP Outcome	1	2	3	4	TOTAL
Focus Area	Crisis Response	Resilience Building	Resilience Building	Crisis Response	
Transfer	- 176 512 586	15 284 147	29 965 763	1 848 445	- 129 414 231
Implementation	22 652 903	467 013	6 657 904	3 984	29 781 803
Direct support costs					15 409 372
Subtotal					- 84 223 056
Indirect support costs					- 5 426 890
TOTAL					- 89 649 946

TABLE 3: OVERALL ICSP COST BREAKDOWN, AFTER REVISION (USD)					
ICSP Outcome	1	2	3	4	TOTAL
Focus Area	Crisis Response	Resilience Building	Resilience Building	Crisis Response	
Transfer	3 244 309 835	394 175 479	456 554 422	118 500 418	4 213 540 154
Implementation	142 905 248	9 262 940	19 927 497	704 869	172 800 554
Direct support costs	84 092 128	9 462 444	13 606 792	2 684 208	109 845 572
Subtotal	3 471 307 211	412 900 863	490 088 712	121 889 495	4 496 186 281
Indirect support costs	225 634 969	26 838 556	31 855 766	3 673 140	288 002 431
TOTAL	3 696 942 180	439 739 419	521 944 478	125 562 635	4 784 188 711