



WFP Syria

COUNTRY BRIEF
March 2026

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Regional tensions drive increased arrivals into Syria, with continued spillover risks and localized disruptions.
- The cost of living continues to outpace income growth; despite policy measures seeking to enhance purchasing power, current wage levels meet only around one-third of basic household needs.
- Government-SDF integration progresses as WFP operations continue uninterrupted.
- In February, WFP assistance reached 6.8 million people across all activities.
- Over the next six months, WFP requires USD 186 million to sustain operations, at a time when recovery gains remain fragile.

IN NUMBERS



6.8 million people assisted in February 2026



48%
Male



52%
Female



23,054 mt food dispatched



USD 9.4M cash injected in local economy through cash-based transfers



USD 175M (April – September 2026) net funding requirements

Photo Caption & Credit: WFP rehabilitated a bakery in Ma'arat Al Nu'man, Idleb, restoring bread access for over 120,000 people with support from Germany. ©WFP/Zuha AKKASH

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Regional tensions have increased cross-border movements into Syria, with UNHCR reporting over 189,000 arrivals from Lebanon as of 25 March, including around 165,000 Syrians and over 24,000 Lebanese, of whom nearly 47,000 intend to return permanently.
- Missile interceptions over southern Syria, including Rural Damascus, Dar'a, and As Sweida, caused material damage and civilian casualties in As Sweida city. While WFP operations remained unaffected, risks persist. UNHAS flights remain suspended pending the reopening of Damascus airport. Separately, food distributions in Quneitra were temporarily disrupted due to Israeli operations in the south.
- In February 2026, the national average Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) reached SYP 24,000 up 2.2 percent month-on-month and 13 percent year-on-year, widening the gap with household incomes. In March, the Government introduced a 50 percent wage increase effective May, alongside sectoral incentives, tax exemptions, and debt settlement mechanisms. While aimed at improving purchasing power, wages still cover only about one third of basic needs, with impacts highly dependent on fiscal space, market supply, inflation trends, and the effectiveness of import restrictions intended to support domestic production.
- Implementation of the agreement between the government of Syria and the Syrian Democratic Forces continues, with gradual institutional, security, and legislative integration in the northeast, reflecting cautious but steady progress toward unified governance. In northeast Syria, WFP's regular activities and commodity dispatches continue without interruption under existing coordination mechanisms.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Targeted Food Assistance

- In February, WFP reached 1.2 million people with targeted food and cash assistance, while the second phase of the bread subsidy project continued across six governorates, supporting 5.3 million people with daily subsidized bread through over 300 bakeries.
- In March, WFP emergency responses included ready-to-eat meals for over 3,000 people in Ak-Burhan camp, hot meals for over 2,000 people returning from Al-Hasakeh to Afrin, and date bars for more than 58,000 Syrian returnees and Lebanese arrivals at border points amid ongoing regional escalation.

Nutrition

- In February, WFP's prevention of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies interventions reached 18,500 children under two, and 51,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls.
- In February, WFP dispatched 151 mt of nutrition curative supplies to partners' warehouses nationwide, sufficient for one month of treatment for 20,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls and 30,000 children under five with moderate acute malnutrition.

Social Protection

- WFP continues to drive progress on national social protection systems with Syrian counterparts. WFP provided financial and technical support for a Data Governance Workshop on Social Protection hosted by the Interministerial Committee on Social Protection, and in March for the launch of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor's strategic plan (2026–2028).
- Ongoing regional escalations have delayed the Transform Training (29 Mar–2 Apr) on social protection systems in Damascus, as travel constraints prevented master trainers from attending.
- Under T-ANMU, Syria's first nutrition-sensitive social protection programme that lays the foundation for a nationwide 1,000-day initiative to safeguard human capital and promote the health and well-being of future generations, WFP provided cash assistance to 8,600 individuals.

Resilience & Early Recovery

- WFP continues its dual track of life-saving assistance and recovery: in 2026, two silos were rehabilitated and 67 bakeries supported (7 rehabilitated, 60 equipped with generators), while Nile Flower phases I and cleared water hyacinth along 38 km of the Orontes River in Hama. Ongoing works include 15 bakeries, a water pumping station, and two silos, with plans to upgrade a market in Aleppo and rehabilitate wild-fires-affected irrigation systems in Lattakia.

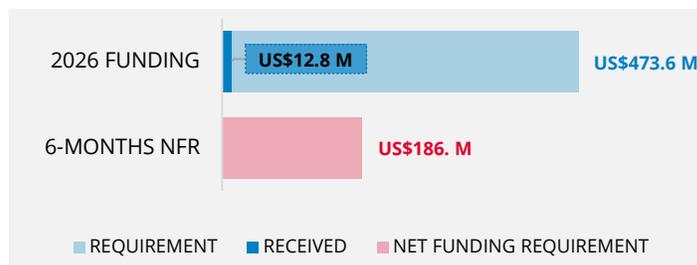
- WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture supported over 10,500 farmers in As-Sweida governorate to cultivate 13,500 hectares of land through phased provision of locally procured inputs, including wheat seeds and phosphate fertilizer in December and Urea in March.
- WFP continued its drought response, reaching over 5,500 farming households (29,700 people) in February, with the project set to support 150,000 people (30,000 households), across eight governorates through food and cash assistance linked to a climate macro-insurance scheme.

Partnerships

- During March, WFP continued to bolster its strategic partnerships, notably through signing an MoU with the Planning and Statistics Commission to launch the first Household Income, Expenditure and Consumption Survey since 2009 and renewing its strategic agreement with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent to strengthen nationwide emergency response capacity.
- These efforts build on ongoing collaboration across key programmes, including the support to the subsidized bread programme and fortification with the Ministry of Economy and Industry, macro-insurance and agricultural support with the Ministry of Agriculture, nutrition-sensitive social protection with Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor as well as food security assessments with the Planning and Statistics Commission.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Country Strategic Plan (2022-2026)



- WFP Syria urgently requires USD 186 million over the next six months (April–September 2026) to sustain hope for millions of Syrians. These funds will allow WFP to reach 1.6 million people with emergency food assistance and ensure 2 million people continue to access daily bread at a subsidized price.
- Without a minimum of USD 100 million secured by April 2026, the funding pipeline will break in May, forcing WFP to scale down its emergency food assistance and halt the bread subsidy project, which currently represents the country's only large-scale humanitarian social support system.