

SYRIA

COUNTRY BRIEF
October 2026

- **620,945** people assisted in September
- **3,550 mt** food dispatched in September
- **USD 5.85 M** cash transferred in September
- **USD 202.1 M** required (October 2026 – March 2027)
- **3.65 M** returnees have arrived in Syria since December 2024 (UNHCR, 2025)

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Syria remains at a critical juncture, with 7.2 million people facing acute food insecurity, including 700,000 experiencing severe food insecurity.
- Rising living costs are projected to push an additional 250,000 people into food insecurity, while increasing return movements continue to place pressure on already overstretched services, livelihoods and social protection systems.
- Funding constraints have forced WFP to reduce food assistance from 1.3 million to 650,000 people, prioritizing only the most vulnerable. WFP urgently requires USD 202.1 million over the next six months to restore assistance to 1.3 million people and sustain nutrition, livelihoods, and social protection programmes.

Reporting period: September 2026

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- WFP is positioning its assistance as a catalyst for Syria's stability and recovery by integrating food, nutrition, livelihoods, and social protection support to strengthen local economies, enhance resilience, reduce aid dependency, and enable a gradual transition from humanitarian assistance to sustainable recovery and development.
- The Government's September fuel price increases (diesel +40 percent, gasoline +26 percent, and gas +9 percent), driven by rising global supply and transportation costs and the temporary shutdown of the Banias Refinery for rehabilitation and capacity expansion, sparked economically driven protests and transport strikes across multiple governorates.
- Increased fuel and transport costs are expected to raise food and essential commodity prices, potentially pushing an additional 250,000 people into food insecurity on top of the 7.2 million already facing acute food insecurity.
- In September, the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) increased by 3 percent to SYP 42,575, representing a 22 percent rise compared to Q3 2025. This increase is placing additional pressure on transfer values and creating difficult trade-offs between preserving beneficiaries' purchasing power and sustaining programme coverage amid funding constraints.
- During the reporting month, political and economic normalization advanced with the integration of former Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) structures

Photo Caption: WFP beneficiaries of irrigation and agricultural restoration projects in Quneitra, southern Syria. ©WFP/Hussam Alsaleh

into state institutions reshaping governance and security arrangements in northeast Syria. This development could create opportunities to strengthen administrative coordination, facilitate humanitarian access, coordination, and enhance engagement with national authorities over time. WFP continues to strengthen security monitoring and access negotiations to manage transitional risks and ensure uninterrupted assistance delivery.

- As Syria advances its "No Camps" vision and promotes a transition from emergency assistance to durable solutions for displacement, the Government has highlighted recovery investments in key return areas and support for voluntary, safe and sustainable returns. At the same time, significant humanitarian needs persist. According to UNHCR, 1.8 million refugee returnees and 2 million IDPs have returned to their areas of origin since December 2024, while 5.5 million people remain internally displaced, including nearly 797,000 individuals in displacement sites facing heightened protection risks. WFP continues to closely monitor population movements and return dynamics across northwest and northeast Syria to assess emerging needs and adapt support for returnees and displaced populations.
- Syria removal from the U.S. State Sponsors of Terrorism list and the resumption of Visa and Mastercard international payment services marked a significant step toward economic reintegration, banking sector recovery and increased trade and investment opportunities.
- Syria's expanding air connectivity continued to support tourism recovery, business travel, investment, and broader economic reintegration. By September, 16 airlines were serving Damascus, while Aleppo added new regional and international routes. According to the Syrian Civil Aviation Authority (GACA), passenger traffic at Damascus Airport rose from approximately 148,000 in May to over 243,000 in July 2026, reflecting strong growth in travel demand. Tourism indicators remained positive, with 3.52 million visitors recorded in the first half of 2026, including 719,000 foreign tourists, reflecting significant growth compared to 2025 and supporting broader economic recovery efforts.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Targeted Food Assistance

- In September, WFP reached 620,945 beneficiaries with targeted food and cash assistance. This forms part of a reduced emergency food assistance programme aimed at reaching 1.3 million people, following a nearly 50 per cent reduction in operational coverage due to funding shortfall.

Nutrition and Social Protection

- WFP continued to address malnutrition through an integrated nutrition interventions, reaching 20,381 children under two with nutrient supplements for the prevention of acute malnutrition (80 percent of the monthly plan), 27,520 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWG) through cash-based transfers (99 percent of the monthly plan), and 14,066 beneficiaries, including 9,363 children and 4,703 PBWGs, with treatment for acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies.
- WFP participated in the Social Protection and National Social Registry Consultation Workshop in Amman (21-24 September), jointly organized by the World Bank, UNICEF, ILO and WFP to support the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour. The workshop advanced planning for Syria's National Social Protection System, Social Registry and future Cash Transfer Programme, bringing together government and development partners to review findings, agree on implementation priorities and institutional arrangements, and inform the design of future delivery systems.

Resilience and Livelihood Support

- WFP continues to scale up food systems recovery and livelihood support, completing 75 recovery interventions and implementing 22 additional projects across bakeries, silos, mills, irrigation networks, and agricultural infrastructure since 2025, helping restore local production capacity and improve access to lower priced bread at local levels.
- The rehabilitation of the Afamia pumping station in Hama governorate, alongside eleven pumping stations on the Euphrates River in Deir ez-Zor governorate, is enhancing irrigation for more than 7,434 hectares of farmland. Combined with flagship aquatic weed removal of 22 km on the Orontes and Euphrates rivers, wildfire recovery efforts in Lattakia

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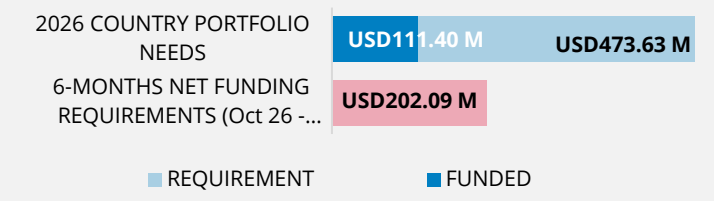
governorate, and market support initiatives, these interventions are strengthening food security, livelihoods, and climate resilience across Syria.

Partnerships Milestones

- WFP continued engagements with partners through high-level advocacy, bilateral outreach and global engagement platforms to mobilize resources and strengthen partnerships in support of Syria's transition and recovery.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2022-2026)



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