



WFP Syria Country Brief

Highlights

- WFP delivered food assistance for 2.38 million people in 11 out of 14 governorates in Syria.
- WFP’s operations in the north-east have been suspended since 7 January due to disagreements between the Government of Syria and Kurdish authorities regarding the registration of NGOs. The suspension affected the distribution of live-saving food assistance for more than 300,000 people.
- Fighting in Idleb caused the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people since mid-December. Through its cross-border operation from Turkey, WFP provided ready-to-eat rations for more than 120,000 people in January.

WFP Assistance

Syria, Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TICSP)	Total Requirements (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
January-December 2018	796 m	114 m

* February – July 2018



WFP Syria’s Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TICSP) started on 01 January 2018 and is a one-year project. The TICSP follows the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 200988, which was initially designed as a two-year project. However, in line with WFP’s corporate approach and commitment to achieving Zero Hunger as part of the 2030 Agenda, WFP Syria changed its project type, embracing all activities and projects under one framework.

The new project will continue the same activities as the PRRO. Additionally, the activities will be expanded to also include the Logistics Cluster and Emergency Telecommunications Cluster, which provide logistics and telecommunications support, respectively, to the wider humanitarian community operating in Syria. The Clusters have so far been covered by Special Operation 200788 (more information on the clusters can be found here: [Syria Logistics Cluster](#) and [Syria ETC Cluster](#)). Overall, the new structure will present a clearer line of sight between WFP’s activities and results. The TICSP will subsequently be replaced by an ICSP (more information can be found [here](#)).

In 2017, WFP reached 3.74 million people on average with humanitarian food assistance in all 14 Syrian governorates each month. Under the general food assistance programme, households receive a family food ration consisting of rice, bulgur wheat, pulses and vegetable oil, among other items, designed to provide a daily caloric transfer of 1,500 kcal per person for one month. At the same time, WFP expanded livelihood activities in both rural and urban areas, focusing on asset rehabilitation and income-generation.

WFP implements activities to address the specific nutrition needs and education concerns of vulnerable groups. This includes programmes for the prevention of

acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies for children aged 6-23 months, a treatment for moderate acute malnutrition for pregnant and nursing women, as well as children aged 6-59 months, and a nutrition support to improve the dietary diversity of pregnant and nursing women.

Recognising the challenges in the education sector, WFP implements a school meals programme for pre- and primary schoolchildren to encourage enrolment and regular attendance in areas with a high number of internally displaced persons (IDPs), and low education and food security indicators. WFP has also designed a programme specifically targeting out-of-school children, providing an incentive to return to learning.

WFP Syria is working with 52 cooperating partners to implement its programme activities as of January 2018. WFP continues to review its partner base to ensure that partners have the technical skills to implement different activities, particularly for nutrition and livelihood. WFP also balances local and international partners in the implementation of programme activities.

WFP, together with FAO, co-leads the Food Security and Agriculture Sector. The Sector facilitates coordination of the food security response. For more information about the sector: www.fscluster.org/syria

In Numbers*

13.1m people in need

6.1m internally displaced persons

10.5m people in need of food assistance

*According to the 2018 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO)

People Assisted
January 2018
2.38m



Main Photo

Credit: ©WFP/Hussam Al-Saleh
Caption: Nadya in Lattakia is one of many women that have participated in WFP’s kitchen garden projects in 2017.



January 2018

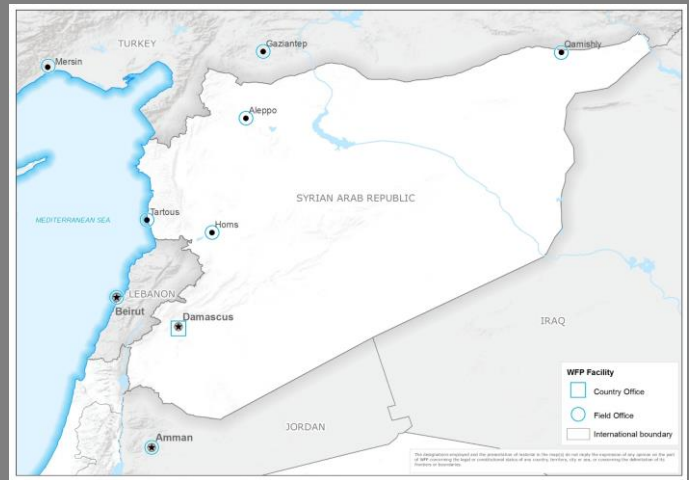
Operational Updates

- In January, WFP delivered food assistance for 2.38 million people in 11 out of 14 Syrian governorates; 30 percent of the food assistance was delivered through the cross-border operations from Jordan and Turkey. No inter-agency convoys to besieged and hard-to-reach areas took place in January.
- WFP's dispatches fell below planned levels due to the suspension of operations in north-eastern Syria, where the United Nations humanitarian operations have been on hold since 7 January. This is due to disagreements between the Government of Syria and the Kurdish Self-Administration (KSA) with regards to whom have the authority to register NGOs operating in the area. WFP was unable to reach more than 300,000 people in Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa and Deir Ezzor governorates. Amongst its partners, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) has been the sole exception and distributed food assistance for 54,000 people in Al-Hasakeh city and surrounding rural areas.
- In north-western Syria, the security and humanitarian situation deteriorated fast. Hostilities between the government forces and non-state armed groups took place in southern and south-eastern rural Idleb and south-western rural Aleppo. The fighting caused the displacement of more than 270,000 people (including secondary displacement) since 15 December. The IDPs face a dire situation, with many staying in open areas under harsh winter conditions. WFP has provided life-saving assistance through ready-to-eat (RTE) rations to more than 120,000 people. At the same time, regular food distributions in parts of Idleb were affected by the fighting and caused the temporary suspension of distributions on several occasions. Additionally, food distributions in Sanjar and Abul Thohur in eastern Idleb for 25,000 people remained suspended since early January.
- On 20 January, Turkey launched an air and ground offensive, 'Operation Olive Branch', into Afrin, which is controlled by the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG). Clashes in the area have triggered the displacement of 5,000 people within Afrin, caused the loss of numerous lives and damaged civilian infrastructure. While no displaced people have crossed into Aleppo or Idleb governorate, WFP has prepositioned RTEs and nutrition supplies to be able to respond immediately if required.
- On 20 January, due to the deteriorating security situation, the United Nations suspended cross-border operations from Turkey through the Bab al Hawa and the Bab al Salam border crossings. The operations through Bab al Hawa resumed on 31 January. Operations through Bab al Salam remain on hold.

WFP Livelihoods Projects

- Throughout 2017, WFP implemented 15 different livelihood activities, benefitting 107,500 people in nine governorates. The projects included rehabilitation of bakeries, support to household agricultural production, beekeeping, as well as vocational skills training.
- With the changing role of women as a result of the prolonged conflict in Syria, WFP has increasingly included women in the projects. In 2017, women represented 45 percent of the participants, mainly participating in bee-keeping and kitchen gardens activities, as well as vocational skills trainings.

Country Background & Strategy



The crisis in Syria has entered its seventh year. The conflict has taken a devastating toll on the lives of the Syrian people and resulted in the largest displacement crises since World War II.

Soaring food and fuel prices, stagnant salaries, loss of livelihoods and reduced food production have led to widespread food insecurity across the country, with 6.5 million people unable to meet their food needs and a further 4 million people at risk of food insecurity. The most vulnerable people live in hard-to-reach and besieged areas. In the ten besieged areas, home to 420,000 people, all inhabitants are food-insecure, and access to assistance is intermittent. Households headed by women tend to utilise more negative coping mechanisms than those headed by men; however, due to the prolonged conflict, many households have exhausted all assets.

Prior to the conflict, Syria was on track to reach the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), but the human development gains have been dramatically reversed. Syria now ranks 149 out of 188 countries in the 2015 Human Development Index (HDI), putting the country in the low human development category, with access to essential services, including healthcare, safe water, and education, being severely disrupted.

In response to the alarming situation, WFP has been providing food assistance to the most vulnerable families in the country. The activities contribute towards achieving WFP's Strategic Objective 1, end hunger by protecting access to food, Strategic Objective 2, improve nutrition, and Strategic Objective 4, support Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) implementation. In this sense, WFP's activities also adhere to the objectives of SDG by contributing directly to an eradication of extreme hunger (SDG2).

WFP has been active in Syria since 1964.

Donors

Five largest donors to WFP Syria in 2017 ranked by contributions: Germany, United States, European Commission, Canada, and United Kingdom.

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Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/syria