



World Food Programme

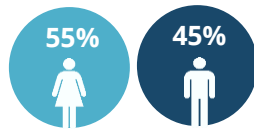
WFP Syria Situation Report #9

September 2020



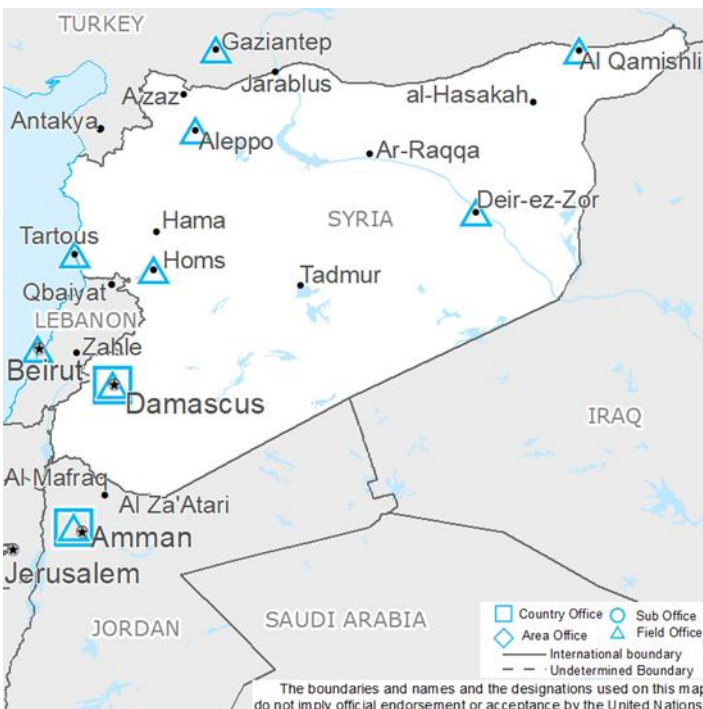
4.9 million people assisted

September 2020 (based on dispatches)



WFP Syria Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP)

2020 Syrian Arab Republic Humanitarian Response Plan	Overall requirement: USD 3.82 billion
	WFP share: USD 1.07 billion
WFP 6-Month Net Funding Requirement (October 2020 – March 2021)	USD 303.4 m As of 12 October 2020
WFP Syria 2019-2020 Interim Country Strategic Plan (November 2018)	
Interim Country Strategic Plan Revision 02 (June 2020)	



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 Further information: www1.wfp.org/countries/syrian-arab-republic

In Numbers

6.7 million people internally displaced

9.3 million people food insecure

2.2 million people at risk of food insecurity

Highlights

- WFP dispatched assistance for 4.9 million people across all activities in Syria in September.
- Schools across government-controlled areas of Syria re-opened on 13 September. As such, WFP resumed some in-school School Feeding activities.
- The economic deterioration in Syria continued in September, with severe shortages of fuel impacting commercial activities and increasing transportation costs, combined with shortages of wheat flour and bread.
- WFP data shows that the food security situation continued to deteriorate, with a doubling in the percentage of household reporting inadequate food consumption in just one year.
- The security situation in north-western Syria deteriorated significantly in September, with reports of the heaviest airstrikes since the 06 March Russian-Turkish ceasefire.

Situation Update

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

- The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Syria increased by 55 percent in September. As of 30 September, 4,200 cases of COVID-19 had been confirmed in Syria, with 200 related deaths.
- The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in north-western Syria increased dramatically in September: As of 30 September, 1,072 cases of COVID-19 had been confirmed, a 13-fold increase over the course of the month. The Health Cluster, led by the World Health Organization (WHO), warned against a steep increase in cases among not only civilians but also humanitarian workers, and humanitarian organizations were requested to limit border-crossings to the degree possible.

Economic Situation

- The economic situation continues to deteriorate, with significant impacts on the food security of Syrian families, according to WFP mobile Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping (mVAM) [data](#) covering the

month of September. More than half (54 percent) of surveyed households reported inadequate (poor and borderline) food consumption levels in September 2020, a 26 percent increase from August, and double the level reported in September 2019. 18 percent of households reported poor food consumption in September 2020, a five percentage-point increase from August 2020.

- Beyond food, 46 percent of interviewed households reported not being able to purchase necessary medicines, primarily due to lack of financial resources (67 percent) and shortage of medicines in pharmacies (30 percent).
- Severe fuel shortages were reported across Syria in September, impacting commercial activities and increasing transportation costs. Wheat flour shortages were also reported, leading to a shortage of bread in bakeries in several areas across the country (particularly affecting southern Syria, especially Dar'a, Rural Damascus and Damascus governorates) in September.

North-Western Syria

- The security situation in north-western Syria deteriorated significantly in September. Heavy airstrikes were reported across the frontlines of southern Idlib governorate over the course of the month with reportedly the highest frequency of airstrikes since the [06 March Turkish-Russian ceasefire agreement](#).
- As a result of the growing insecurity, sporadic population displacement was reported on several occasions from the areas of the southern Idlib governorate front lines. WFP continued to monitor population movement through its cooperating partners and has sufficient ready-to-eat rations in place inside north-western Syria to respond should the need arise.
- WFP reached 1.3 million people in north-western Syria under the August GFA distribution cycle. WFP also assisted 4,800 children with nutrition assistance.

North-Eastern Syria

- The security situation in north-eastern Syria remained volatile and unpredictable in September. Clashes between the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and Turkish-backed forces were reported multiple areas of Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa governorate.

Southern Syria

- The emerging shortage of bread in bakeries seen in September particularly affected southern Syria, especially in Dar'a, Rural Damascus and Damascus governorates, due to wheat flour shortages and electricity cuts, exacerbated by the ongoing fuel shortages. In Dar'a, a shortage of wheat flour caused many bakeries to shut down or to operate at only 50

percent capacity. In Rural Damascus governorate, people reportedly queued for up to four hours to receive bread from public bakeries.

- WFP delivered food for 1.3 million people across the southern governorates of As-Sweida, Dar'a, Damascus, Rural Damascus, and Quneitra in September.

WFP Response

- WFP dispatched humanitarian assistance sufficient for an estimated 4.9 million people across all activities in Syria in September.
- A total of USD 2.1 million in cash-based transfers (CBT) was distributed to 115,000 WFP beneficiaries across three activities: General Food Assistance (GFA-CBT pilot); Malnutrition Prevention (support to pregnant and lactating women), and Livelihoods, Resilience and Social Safety Nets.
- In response to COVID-19, and under agreement with UNFPA, CBT top-ups at a total value of USD 691,600 were distributed in September, allowing 308,750 people to purchase hygiene items.

General Food Assistance (GFA) Programme

- In September, WFP dispatched GFA sufficient for some 4.9 million people across all 14 Syrian governorates.
- Cross-border deliveries from Turkey accounted for 30 percent of the total WFP general food assistance dispatched. This includes food rations for some 1.5 million people areas of Idlib and Aleppo governorate inaccessible from inside Syria.
- Working with UNICEF, soap is included in all WFP GFA food rations.

Livelihoods, Resilience and Social Safety Nets

- In September, WFP reached some 39,500 people under its livelihood and resilience projects across Rural Damascus, Dar'a, Quneitra, As-Sweida, Homs, Hama, Latakia, Tartous and Deir Ezzor governorates.
- On 15 September, WFP launched a bakery rehabilitation project in the town of Dar'a Al-Balad, Dar'a governorate. Once the works are complete, the bakery will provide fresh bread to some 40,000 people. This project is being carried out by WFP in cooperation with Première Urgence Internationale.
- As part of the COVID-10 response, WFP continue to make hygiene items available to beneficiaries of the Livelihoods and Resilience programme receiving CBT.

School Feeding Programme

- All schools across government-controlled areas re-opened on 13 September, with 3.7 million students resuming in-school instruction across more than 13,000 schools.

- Following the re-opening of schools, WFP on 20 September resumed its in-school provision of fresh meals in to school children across public schools in eastern Aleppo city, reaching 24,400 children in September.
- No in-school snack (date bar) distributions were conducted by WFP in September except to some 3,200 children enrolled in UNICEF-supported self-learning sessions in Al-Hol camp. The in-school provision of school snacks is set to resume in October targeting 600,000 students across the country.
- No provision of CBT to out-of-school children was conducted in September, as WFP prepared for the registration of new out-of-school students in the UNICEF-supported “Curriculum B” accelerated learning programme.

Nutrition Programme

- In September, WFP dispatched nutrition products for the prevention of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies for 191,300 children and pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWG). This includes 60,500 PLWG who received nutrition support through CBT to purchase fresh food from 109 WFP-contracted shops.
- WFP dispatched nutrition products sufficient for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition for 15,500 children and PLWG for one month.

Clusters and Common Services

Food Security Sector

- The Food Security Sector (FSS) is in the process of preparing a strategy paper for the second standard allocation of the Syria Humanitarian Fund (SHF). The proposed strategy will focus on addressing both immediate food needs as well as agriculture and livelihood initiatives. The estimated allocation is approximately USD 25 million. Most recipient agencies of the SHF first standard allocation are currently receiving their disbursements in preparation for project implementation.

Logistics Cluster

- Facilitating the cross-border operation from Turkey, the WFP-led Logistics Cluster transshipped 845 Syrian trucks from Turkey in September. A total of 21,103 mt of Food Security, Health, Education and WASH items were transshipped on behalf of WFP, WHO, UNICEF, and IOM.
- The Logistics Cluster facilitated the storage of 2,319.5 m³ of humanitarian goods in its storage facilities in Rural Damascus governorate and Qamishli (Al-Hasakeh governorate) on behalf of UNFPA.

United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- In September, UNHAS Syria completed eight rotations on the Damascus-Qamishli-Damascus-route, transporting 142 passengers; 89 percent were UN staff, 11 percent were staff from national and international non-governmental organisations.

Resourcing Update

- WFP requires USD 364.1 million to keep operations running at current levels through March 2021. WFP’s GFA activity in Syria has a critical funding gap of USD 140 million (September 2020 to June 2021) to be able to maintain assistance at current levels. With a four-month lead time to import food into Syria, the timeliness of contributions is critical for WFP’s operation in Syria.

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For further information, visit the [WFP Syria website](#).

WFP Syria Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2020)

	2020 Requirement (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirement (October 2020 - March 2021)	People Assisted (August 2020 dispatches)	Female	Male
ICSP (January 2019 – December 2020)	1.07 billion	303.4 million	4,936,176		
Activity 1: General Food Assistance			4,895,225	2,692,374	2,202,851
Activity 2: School Feeding			29,650	14,529	15,122
Activity 3: Livelihoods and Resilience			39,525	21,739	17,786
Activity 4: Prevention of Acute Malnutrition			191,275	127,212	64,063
Activity 5: Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition			15,495	9,142	6,353