



World Food Programme

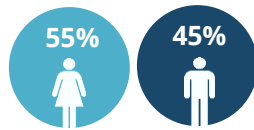
WFP Syria Situation Report #8

August 2020



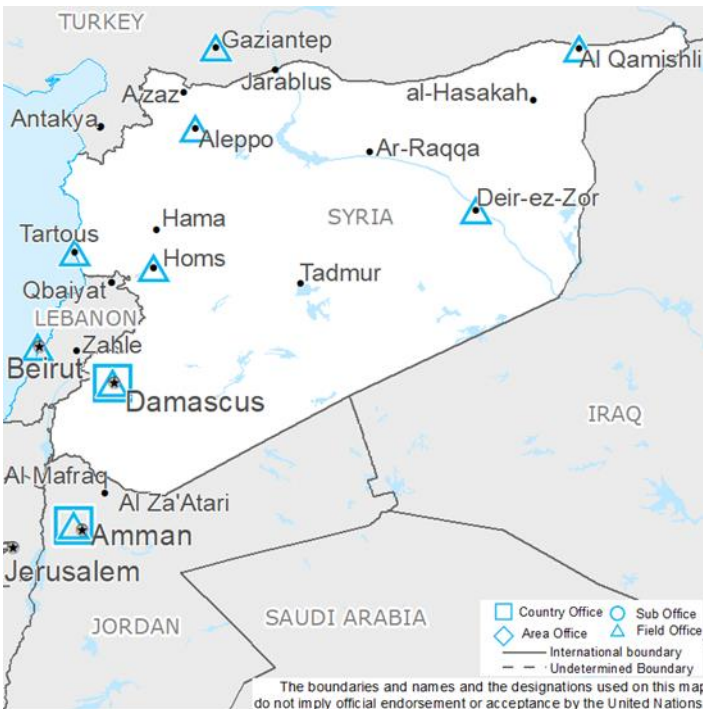
4.9 million people assisted

August 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 <i>(September 2020 – February 2021)</i>	USD 312.4 m <i>As of 11 September 2020</i>
WFP Syria 2019-2020 Interim Country Strategic Plan <i>(November 2018)</i>	
Interim Country Strategic Plan Revision 02 <i>(June 2020)</i>	



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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 August.
- The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Syria increased by 247 percent over the course of August.
- Under the COVID-19 Institutional Feeding Programme, WFP in cooperation with WHO, had provided food assistance to some 10,800 people in quarantine centres in six Syrian governorates by the end of August.
- An inter-agency multi-sectoral assessment mission was deployed to Al-Hol camp to assess humanitarian needs and gaps on 24-25 August following the death of eight children in the camp.
- An explosion at Beirut Port on 04 August caused extensive damage to the city and the WFP Lebanon Country Office, including the Syria Corridor Office.

Situation Update

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

- The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Syria increased by 247 percent in August. As of 31 August, 2,703 cases of COVID-19 had been confirmed in Syria, with 109 related deaths.
- As part of the Health Sector-led response to COVID-19 in Syria, WFP, in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) had by the end of August provided food assistance to some 10,800 people in quarantine centres in Aleppo, Deir Ezzor, Homs, Latakia, Rural Damascus, and Tartous governorate. Under COVID-19 Institutional Feeding programme, WFP is providing food assistance to vulnerable Syrians in COVID-19 quarantine centres.

Economic Situation

- Based on the latest available Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) data, food prices remained relatively stable in August, following the stabilization seen in July linked to stabilization of the SYP/USD informal exchange rate. For the first time since August 2019, the average price of the WFP reference food basket

reports a decrease of three percent from July to August. However, the average price of the WFP reference food basket in August stood at 22 times the five-year pre-crisis average; and still more than twice as high as the previous peak at the height of the Syrian crisis in 2016.

Beirut Port Explosion

- On 04 August, an explosion at a warehouse at Beirut Port caused extensive material damage to parts of the port and its infrastructure, as well as widespread damage across the city. The WFP Lebanon Country Office, including the Syria Corridor Office, was severely damaged in the blast, and nine WFP staff were injured.
- Beirut functions as a key strategic corridor for commodities bound for Syria, and Beirut Port accounts for 30 percent of incoming shipments bound for WFP's operation in Syria.
- As the container terminal at Beirut Port was left largely undamaged by the explosions and was re-opened by the Port Authority of Beirut on 07 August, no significant impacts of the explosion on the food pipeline to, or the provision of food assistance in, Syria.
- In response to the explosion, WFP Syria deployed five staff to Beirut to support the WFP Lebanon Country Office with port operations, warehouse management, as well as to assist in the establishment of temporary logistics capacity at the port through erecting mobile storage units.

North-Western Syria

- The security situation in north-western Syria remained volatile in August, with artillery shelling and rocket attacks reported across multiple areas, centred on southern Idlib governorate south of the M4 highway.
- WFP and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in August commenced a partnership to increase outreach on COVID-19-related health messaging in order to reduce the risk of COVID-19 to beneficiaries. WFP is also working in close coordination with WHO to improve awareness on COVID-19 through WHO health teams at food distribution points.
- WFP reached 1.3 million people in north-western Syria under the August GFA distribution cycle. WFP also assisted 66,300 children with nutrition assistance.

North-Eastern Syria

- The United Nations on 24-25 August conducted a multi-sectoral assessment mission in Al-Hol camp (Al-Hasakeh governorate) following the [deaths](#) of eight children in the camp between 06-10 August. WFP participated in the mission with staff from its Nutrition unit, together with staff from UNICEF, UNHCR, UNFPA and WHO. Mission participants from Damascus travelled to Qamishli (Al-Hasakeh governorate) on the recently

established and WFP-operated UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS). The assessment report is expected to be finalized over the course of September.

- WFP delivered food for 989,400 people across the north-eastern governorates of Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa and Deir Ezzor in August.

Southern Syria

- In August, WFP commended the distributions of ready-to-eat rations (RTEs) in the town of Ras Al-Ma'ara (Rural Damascus governorate), which was previously on full lockdown due to multiple confirmed cases of COVID-19. Following a rapid needs assessment conducted in July which found a sharply deteriorating humanitarian situation in the town while under lockdown, WFP dispatched 2,800 RTEs (sufficient for approximately 14,000 people) to the town. The response is being conducted under an emergency response plan designed to ensure that vulnerable people outside WFP's regular beneficiary caseload in locations locked down due to COVID-19 do not slip further into food insecurity.
- WFP delivered food for 1.3 million people across the southern governorates of As-Sweida, Dar'a, Damascus, Rural Damascus, and Quneitra in August.

WFP Response

- WFP dispatched humanitarian assistance sufficient for an estimated 4.9 million people across all activities in Syria in August.
- A total of USD 3.2 million in cash-based transfers (CBT) was distributed to 168,800 WFP beneficiaries across four activities: General Food Assistance (GFA-CBT pilot); Malnutrition Prevention (support to pregnant and lactating women), Livelihoods, Resilience and Social Safety Nets; and School Feeding (support to out-of-school children).
- In response to COVID-19, and under agreement with UNFPA, CBT top-ups at a total value of USD 18,838 were distributed in August, allowing 8,410 pregnant and lactating women and girls to purchase hygiene items.

General Food Assistance (GFA) Programme

- In August, WFP dispatched GFA sufficient for some 4.8 million people across all 14 Syrian governorates.
- Cross-border deliveries from Turkey accounted for 29 percent of the total WFP general food assistance dispatched. This includes food rations for some 1.4 million people areas of Idlib and Aleppo governorate inaccessible from inside Syria.
- Working with UNICEF, soap is included in all WFP GFA food rations, as well as drawing kits for children in families across UNICEF-targeted areas.

Livelihoods, Resilience and Social Safety Nets

- In August, WFP reached some 51,450 people under its livelihood and resilience projects across Rural Damascus, Dar'a, Quneitra, As-Sweida, Homs, Hama, Lattakia, Tartous and Deir Ezzor governorates.
- As part of the COVID-10 response, WFP continue to make hygiene items available to beneficiaries of the Livelihoods and Resilience programme receiveing CBT.

School Feeding Programme

- As a result of the closure of all schools to curb the spread of COVID-19, WFP's in-school School Feeding activities remained suspended in August, affecting the provision of assistance to close to one million children.
- WFP in August provided support to students coming from areas that are not under government control to sit for national exams. A total of 1,500 students were supported with RTEs, bread and fortified snacks.
- The support through CBT/e-vouchers to out-of-school children enrolled in the UNICEF-supported "Curriculum B" accelerated learning programme remained operational, and WFP in August supported some 45,900 out-of-school children in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs, Hama, Qamishli, Tartous, Lattakia and Aleppo governorates.

Nutrition Programme

- In August, WFP dispatched nutrition products for the prevention of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies for 165,400 children and pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWG). This includes 60,000 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 3,580 children and PLWG for one month.

Clusters and Common Services

Food Security Sector

- The Food Security Sector completed the review of 12 proposals for the Syria Humanitarian Fund (SHF) first

Standard Allocation which has a funding envelope of USD 9 million. Seven proposals were recommended for funding, including WFP's GFA programme in Ar-Raqqa governorate.

- The Food Security Sector, in consultation with WFP VAM, is finalizing the household questionnaire for the 2020 Food Security Assessment (FSA) and the Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment (FSLA) which will inform the 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). Data collection is expected to commence between the third and fourth week of September.

Logistics Cluster

- Facilitating the cross-border operation from Turkey, the WFP-led Logistics Cluster transshipped 176 Syrian trucks from Turkey in August. A total of 4,239 mt of Food Security, Health, Education and WASH items were transshipped on behalf of WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNFPA, and IOM.
- The Logistics Cluster facilitated the storage of 1,195.8 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 August, UNHAS Syria completed six rotations on the Damascus-Qamishli-Damascus-route, transporting 77 passengers; 60 percent were UN staff, 25 percent were staff from international organisations and 15 percent were staff from national organizations.

Resourcing Update

- WFP requires USD 312.4 million to keep operations running at current levels through February 2021. WFP's GFA activity in Syria has a critical funding gap of USD 205 million (September 2020 to June 2021) to be able to maintain assistance to 4.8 million people per month. With a four-month lead time to import food into Syria, the timeliness of contributions is critical for WFP's operation in Syria.

WFP Syria Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2020)

	2020 Requirement (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirement (September 2020 - February 2021)	People Assisted (August 2020 dispatches)	Female	Male
ICSP (January 2019 – December 2020)	1.07 billion	312.4 million	4,866,677		
Activity 1: General Food Assistance			4,818,745	2,650,310	2,168,435
Activity 2: School Feeding			45,898	22,490	23,408
Activity 3: Livelihoods and Resilience			51,450	28,298	23,153
Activity 4: Prevention of Acute Malnutrition			165,417	113,800	51,617
Activity 5: Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition			3,580	2,112	1,468