



# WFP Syria Country Brief

## Highlights

- WFP delivered food assistance for 2.7 million people in all 14 governorates in Syria.
- The humanitarian and security situation deteriorated significantly in Eastern Ghouta, Idlib, northern Hama and western Aleppo, as well as Dar'á and Quneitra governorates.
- The United Nations calls on all parties to facilitate unconditional, unimpeded, and sustained access to all people in need throughout the country.
- In Deir Ezzor City, which was accessed by WFP for the first time since the lifting of the siege, the food security situation remains difficult.

## 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	134 m

\* March – August 2018

### GENDER MARKER 2A

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 project continues 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 February 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](http://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**  
February 2018  
**2.7 m**



**Main** Credit: ©WFP/Marwa Awad

**Photo** Caption: As part of its mission to Deir Ezzor City, WFP met with families who had lived under siege for more than three years.



**February 2018**

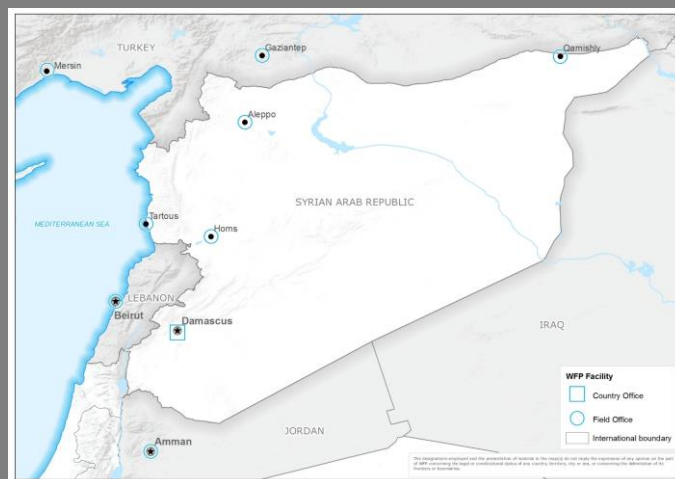
## Operational Updates

- In February, WFP delivered food assistance for 2.7 million people in all 14 Syrian governorates; 24 percent of the food assistance was delivered through the cross-border operations from Jordan and Turkey.
- WFP participated in one inter-agency convoy to Nashabiyeh in Eastern Ghouta, delivering food and nutrition assistance for 7,200 people – a mere 2 percent of the total population of almost 400,000. Conflict escalated significantly in February, with dire effect on the public and health infrastructure and the humanitarian situation. Due to insecurity and lack of approvals, WFP and other humanitarian actors face severe access restrictions. The 30-day ceasefire called for under United Nations Security Council Resolution 2401 (24 February), still has to be implemented by the parties to the conflict.
- In north-eastern Syria, WFP's operations resumed at the beginning of February, following a temporary agreement between the Government of Syria and the Kurdish Self-Administration for the registration of NGOs in the area. The agreement will be in place for two months, and work is currently under way to identify a more sustainable solution. The United Nations continues its advocacy efforts to ensure sustainable humanitarian assistance can be provided in the affected Al-Hasakeh, Deir Ezzor and Ar-Raqqa governorates. There, WFP assists more than 350,000 people with food and nutrition assistance on a monthly basis.
- In north-western Syria, conflict escalated on several fronts. Clashes between the Government of Syria and non-state armed groups (NSAG) in Idleb governorate have resulted in the displacement of some 385,000 people since December (including secondary displacement). Furthermore, fighting intensified between different NSAGs in the third week of February, affecting Idleb, west Aleppo and northern Hama governorates. WFP's operations have been significantly impacted by the deteriorating security situation, causing the suspension of food assistance to 72,500 people in south Idleb and parts of north-west Hama, as well as temporary disruptions to food distributions in camps in northern Idleb governorate. In response to displacement, WFP assisted nearly 30,000 people with ready-to-eat (RTE) rations in Idleb and Aleppo.
- The Turkish offensive to Afrin district has led to a deteriorating humanitarian and security situation, with an estimated 35,000-50,000 people displaced within Afrin. Some 5,500 people have arrived in Aleppo city and surroundings. WFP, in coordination with partners, provided RTEs for 4,200 people. Due to the deteriorating security situation, the humanitarian cross-border operations from Turkey through Bab al-Salam remained suspended until mid-February, while operations through Bab Al-Hawa were again suspended from 27 February.

## WFP Mission to Deir Ezzor

- WFP conducted the first mission by any United Nations agency in Syria to the formerly besieged Deir Ezzor City. Mission members met with families who lived under siege for three and a half years, and visited the only functioning market in the city. Food availability and access is still restricted, as food prices are very high and families have exhausted all their assets. Large parts of the city remain uninhabitable. Click [here](#) to access WFP's Deir Ezzor city assessment report.
- WFP's daily high-altitude airdrops of food and other humanitarian items to formerly besieged parts of Deir Ezzor City had been in place for over a year and provided the only lifeline for some 100,000 people.

## 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 2018 ranked by contributions: Germany, United States, Canada, United Kingdom, and European Commission.

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