



World Food Programme

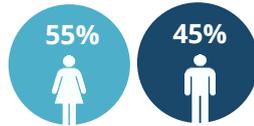
WFP Syria Situation Report #7

July 2020



4.6 million people assisted

July 2020 (based on dispatches)



WFP Syria Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP)

| | |
|--|---|
| 2020 Syrian Arab Republic Humanitarian Response Plan | Overall: USD 3.82 billion |
| | WFP share: USD 1.07 billion |
| WFP Net Funding Requirement (August 2020 – January 2021) WFP Syria Interim Country Strategic Plan | USD 300 million <i>As of 11 August 2020</i> |

In Numbers

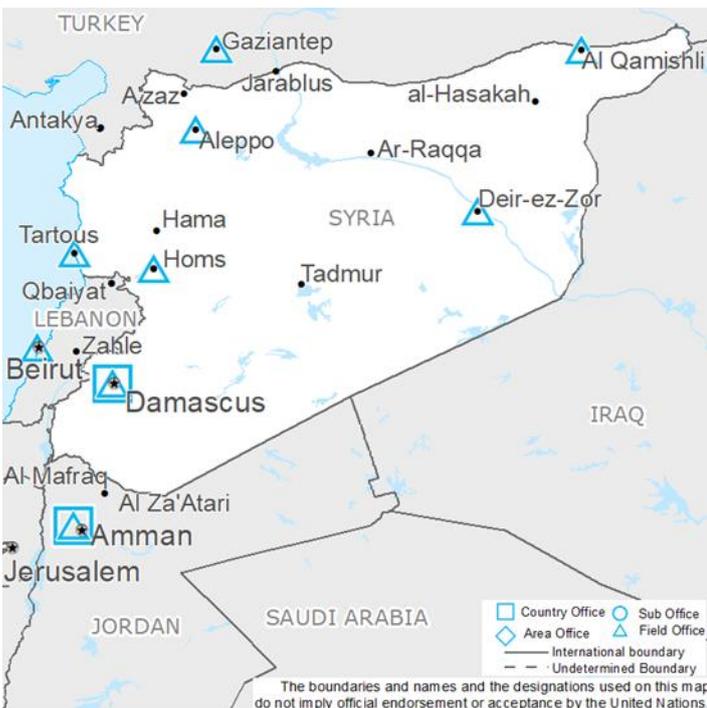
6.7 million people internally displaced

9.3 million people food insecure

2.2 million people at risk of food insecurity

Highlights

- WFP dispatched assistance sufficient for 4.6 million people across all activities in Syria in July.
- The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Syria more than doubled in July.
- Supporting the national COVID-19 response, WFP in July commenced an institutional feeding project in cooperation with WHO, whereby WFP is providing food to vulnerable people in COVID-19 quarantine centres.
- WFP in July started the piloting of cash-based transfers as a transfer modality in the General Food Assistance programme.
- The UN Security Council passed [Resolution 2533 \(2020\)](#), authorizing the continued cross-border delivery of humanitarian aid from Turkey for one year through the Bab al-Hawa border crossing only.



Contact info: Lauren LePage (lauren.lepage@wfp.org)
Country Director: Corinne Fleischer
 Further information: www1.wfp.org/countries/syrian-arab-republic

Situation Update

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

- The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Syria increased by 180 percent in July. As of 01 August, 780 cases of COVID-19 had been confirmed in Syria, with 43 related deaths.
- In response to the growing number of cases, WFP further reduced the number of staff reporting to the offices, both at the country office in Damascus and at all field offices. WFP is also providing all staff and their families with personal protective equipment, including masks, gloves, hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes.

Economic Situation

- The rate of food price growth slowed significantly in July, linked to a strengthening of the value of the Syrian pound (SYP). The average price of the WFP reference food basket increased by just three percent from June to July (compared to an increase of 48 percent from May to June). However, the average price of the WFP reference food basket now stands at 22.8 times the five-year pre-crisis average; still more than twice as high as at the previous peak at the height of the Syrian crisis in 2016.

- A WFP Syria COVID-19 Socio-Economic Impact Assessment Study, COVID-19 found that over the period where COVID-19 mitigation measures remained in effect (roughly mid-March to end-May 2020), supply chains were disrupted, and food prices saw significant growth, exacerbating the already severe effects of the Lebanese financial crisis. As a result, food security has worsened compared to previous years across Syria.
- Based on the current trends it is expected that a period of further economic contraction lies ahead, with reduced production, increased poverty rates and further food security deterioration.

North-Western Syria

- Following the deterioration seen in June, the security situation in north-western Syria remained volatile in July, with airstrikes and artillery shelling reported across multiple areas, centered on southern Idlib governorate.
- On 12 July, the UN Security Council passed [Resolution 2533 \(2020\)](#), authorizing the continued cross-border delivery of humanitarian assistance across the border from Turkey to Syria for one year through the Bab al-Hawa crossing only. This effectively shut down cross-border operation at the Bab al-Salaam border crossing which has accounted for 22 percent of all WFP cross-border deliveries so far this year.
- Thanks to the pre-positioning of food completed by WFP ahead of the 10 July expiration of the previous cross-border resolution, there were no interruptions in the provision of assistance inside north-western Syria.
- WFP and the Logistics Cluster have finalized a plan for the enhancement of the capacity of the remaining Bab al-Hawa border crossing hub, which will be expanded to cover the entire transshipment requirement for deliveries to north-western Syria.
- WFP reached 1.3 million people in north-western Syria under the July GFA distribution cycle. WFP also assisted 62,900 children with nutrition assistance.

North-Eastern Syria

- In July, WFP completed distributions of two months' worth of food rations in the IDP camps of north-eastern Syria. WFP continued its COVID-19 mitigation measures to ensure the safety and security of staff and beneficiaries while limiting COVID-19 exposure risk.
- WFP delivered food for 822,200 people across the north-eastern governorates of Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa and Deir Ezzor in June.

Southern Syria

- The security situation in southern Syria remained volatile in July, with multiple security incidents reported in Dar'a governorate over the course of the month.

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

WFP Response

- WFP dispatched humanitarian assistance sufficient for an estimated 4.6 million people across all activities in Syria in July.
- A total of USD 2.9 million in cash-based transfers (CBT) was distributed to 176,500 WFP beneficiaries across three activities: Nutrition (Malnutrition prevention - support to pregnant and lactating women and girls), Livelihoods and Resilience, and School Feeding (support to out-of-school children).
- As part of the COVID-19 response, WFP is supporting UNICEF and UNFPA with the provision of hygiene items through WFP's CBT programmes. In July, a total of USD 23,733 from UNFPA were distributed to 10,600 pregnant and lactating women through WFP's CBT delivery mechanism.

General Food Assistance (GFA) Programme

- In July, WFP dispatched GFA sufficient for some 4.6 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 1.4 million people areas of Idlib and Aleppo governorate inaccessible from inside Syria.
- WFP in July started piloting the use of cash-based transfers (CBT) as a transfer modality in the GFA programme. Electronic SCOPE cards were distributed to 6,750 beneficiaries in Damascus and Rural Damascus governorate, with beneficiaries receiving a partial entitlement through the CBT. Some food items will be provided in-kind to avoid market disruptions, and to mitigate risks related to high prices and inflation.
- Working with UNICEF, soap is included in all WFP GFA food rations, as well as drawing kits to children in 250,000 families across UNICEF-targeted areas.

Livelihood and Resilience Programme

- In July, WFP reached some 64,000 people under its livelihood and resilience projects across Rural Damascus, Dar'a, Quneitra, As-Sweida, Aleppo, Homs, Hama, Latakia, Tartous and Deir Ezzor governorates.
- As part of the COVID-19 response, WFP has made hygiene items available to beneficiaries of the Livelihoods and Resilience programme receiving 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 July, affecting the provision of assistance to close to one million children.

- In lieu of the in-school provision of assistance, a ration of 20 fortified snacks (date bars) was distributed with the GFA ration to some 300,000 households in sub-districts where children are usually receiving date bars in school.
- 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 July supported some 45,800 out-of-school children in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs, Hama, Qamishli, Tartous, Lattakia and Aleppo governorates.
- Syrian authorities on 26 July announced the re-opening of schools as of 01 September. As such, WFP is preparing to re-start its in-school School Feeding programme in October, taking all necessary precautions in line with WFP’s COVID-19 prevention and mitigation SOPs.

Nutrition Programme

- In July, WFP dispatched nutrition products for the prevention of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies for 186,200 children and pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWG). This includes 60,100 PLWG who received nutrition support through CBT to purchase fresh food from 108 WFP-contracted shops.
- WFP dispatched nutrition products sufficient for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition for 8,200 children and PLWG for one month.

Clusters and Common Services

Food Security Sector

- Food Security Sector partners, including WFP, completed the submission of project proposals for the Syria Humanitarian Fund first Standard Allocation in July, which amounts to USD 9 million for the Food Security Sector.
- Consultations were held in July with the Government of Syria to seek approval for the 2020 Food Security Assessment (FSA) which will inform the 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO). Similar arrangements are in place to ensure the completion of data collection in cross-border locations (covered by the Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment (FSLA)).

Logistics Cluster

- Facilitating the cross-border operation from Turkey, the WFP-led Logistics Cluster transshipped 403 Syrian trucks from Turkey in July. A total of 4,831 mt of Food Security, Nutrition, Shelter, Health, Education and WASH items were transshipped on behalf of WFP, FAO, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNFPA, WHO and IOM.
- The Logistics Cluster facilitated the storage of 1,473 m³ of humanitarian goods in its storage facilities in Rural Damascus governorate and Qamishli (Al-Hasakeh governorate) on behalf of UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO and Première Urgence Internationale.

United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- Following the arrival of the WFP-charted aircraft in late June, the first UNHAS Syria flight took place on 02 July on the Damascus-Qamishli-Damascus-route.
- In July, UNHAS Syria completed eight rotations on the Damascus-Qamishli-Damascus-route, transporting 83 passengers from WFP, FAO, UNICEF, UNHCR, OCHA, UNFPA, UNDP, UNDSS and ICRC.

Resourcing Update

- WFP requires USD 300 million to keep operations running at current levels through January 2021. Without indications from donors of at least USD 200 million by August, WFP will be forced to make substantial reductions in the ration size and number of beneficiaries effective as of October.

Contacts

- **WFP Representative and Country Director:**
Corinne FLEISCHER
- **Operational Information Management Officer:**
Daniel JOHANSEN (daniel.johansen@wfp.org)
- **Food Security and Agriculture Sector Coordinator:**
Kenneth ANYANZO (kenneth.anyanzo@wfp.org)
- **Logistics Cluster Coordinator:**
Christophe MORARD (christophe.morard@wfp.org)

For further information, visit the [WFP Syria website](#). See also the [WFP Syria 2019 Annual Country Report](#).

WFP Syria Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2020)

| | 2020 Requirement (in USD) | 6-Month Net Funding Requirement (August 2020 - January 2021) | People Assisted (July 2020 dispatches) | Female | Male |
|--|---------------------------|--|--|-----------|-----------|
| ICSP (January 2019 – December 2020) | 1.07 billion | 300 million | 4,636,790 | | |
| Activity 1: General Food Assistance | | | 4,579,795 | 2,518,887 | 2,060,908 |
| Activity 2: School Feeding | | | 45,826 | 22,455 | 23,371 |
| Activity 3: Livelihoods and Resilience | | | 64,000 | 35,200 | 28,800 |
| Activity 4: Prevention of Acute Malnutrition | | | 186,185 | 124,400 | 61,800 |
| Activity 5: Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition | | | 8,210 | 4,844 | 3,366 |