



World Food Programme

WFP Syria Situation Report #10

October 2020



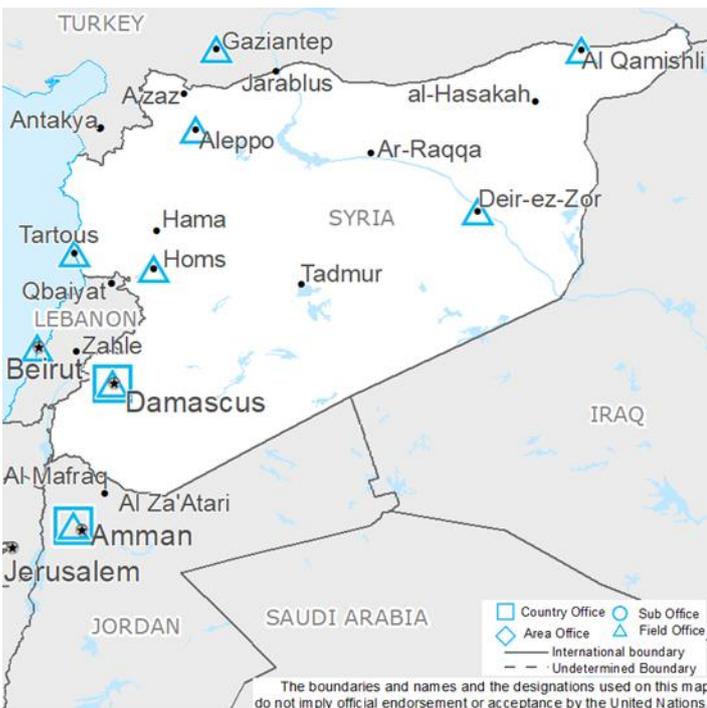
4.7 million people assisted

October 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 (November 2020 – April 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)	



Contact info: Lauren LePage (lauren.lepage@wfp.org)

Country Director: Corinne Fleischer

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 4.7 million people across all activities in Syria in October.
- WFP on 22 October released a [study](#) outlining the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in Syria, which has significantly exacerbated the already dire humanitarian situation in the country.
- WFP resumed the in-school component of its School Feeding activity in October, and the activity is now fully operational for the first time since schools closed in March 2020.
- The number of COVID-19 cases in north-western Syria increased a dramatic five-fold in October, far outpacing the entire rest of the country. Close to 18,000 cases had been confirmed across Syria as of early November.

Situation Update

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

- The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in government-controlled areas of Syria continues to increase. As of 04 November, 5,964 cases of COVID-19 had been confirmed in Syria, with 301 related deaths.
- The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in densely populated north-western Syria continued to grow dramatically in October, with the number of cases increasing by more than five-fold over the course of the month. As of 03 November, 7,059 cases of COVID-19 and 42 deaths had been confirmed.

Economic Situation

- The latest WFP data covering the month of September and released in October show that food prices in Syria remained stable in September. The average price of the WFP reference food basket in September was SYP 83,715. The observed stability can mainly be attributed to the relatively stable informal SYP/USD exchange rate, as well as availability of food from the country's main harvest. Despite the stability seen, food prices in September were 91 percent higher than just six months ago, and 229 percent higher than in September 2019. Food prices remain at levels approximately 22 times higher than the five-year pre-crisis average.

- Fuel shortages continued across the country in October, with reports of lines of cars stretching for several kilometres from petrol stations waiting to refill. On 19 October, the Ministry of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection announced that it was increasing the price of a litre of subsidised industrial and commercial diesel fuel by 120 percent (from SYP 296 to SYP 650) and increasing the price of a litre of 95 octane gasoline further by an additional 24 percent (from SYP 850 to SYP 1,050). This is the second recent price increase, and the price of 95 octane petrol has now increased by 133 percent in less than two weeks (from SYP 450 to SYP 1,050).

North-Western Syria

- The security situation in north-western Syria remained volatile in October. Airstrikes and artillery shelling were reported across multiple areas along the frontlines of southern Idlib governorate over the course of the month.
- Multiple attacks by suspected Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) fighters was reported from northern rural Aleppo governorate in October. Further, in the city of Harim (north-eastern Idlib governorate), clashes were reported between ISIL-affiliated fighters and the Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) non-state armed group.

Coastal Syria

- Massive wildfires across western Syria affected the coastal governorates of Tartous and Lattakia in October. Reports indicate that extensive areas of forests and farmland was burned completely, with as many as 25,000 people displaced by the fires. According to OCHA, up to 140,000 people have been affected through destruction and damage to homes and assets, including agricultural land.
- In Tartous governorate, WFP's cooperating partner assisted in the evacuation process, and WFP provided ready-to-eat rations (RTEs) for the emergency response sufficient for 7,500 people. In Lattakia governorate, WFP, through its cooperating partner, provided emergency food assistance through the provision of ready-to-eat rations (RTEs) sufficient for an initial 15,000 people, as well as 75,000 date bars.

WFP Response

- WFP dispatched humanitarian assistance sufficient for an estimated 4.7 million people across all activities in Syria in October.
- A total of USD 2.2 million in cash-based transfers (CBT) was distributed to 113,400 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 782,600 were distributed in October, allowing the households of the 69,900 PLWs assisted by WFP in October to purchase hygiene items (benefitting some 349,400 people).
- 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 October provided food assistance to some 11,800 people in 10 quarantine and 7 isolation centres in Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Lattakia, Tartous, and Rural Damascus governorates. The project is funded through the Syria Country-Based Pooled Fund (CBPF).

General Food Assistance (GFA) Programme

- In October, WFP dispatched GFA sufficient for some 4.6 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 1.35 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 October, WFP reached some 29,100 people under its livelihood and resilience projects across Rural Damascus, Dar'a, Quneitra, As-Sweida, Homs, Hama, Lattakia, Tartous and Deir Ezzor governorates.
- In Dar'a governorate, rehabilitation works started at Tishreen bakery in the town of Dar'a Al-Balad in October. The rehabilitation project is being carried out by WFP in cooperation with Première Urgence Internationale and is part of WFP's Farm-to-Bread value chain restoration concept.
- 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

- Following the re-opening of schools on 13 September, WFP resumed its in-school provision of fortified snacks, reaching 316,000 children in October.
- WFP reached some 29,700 school children with fresh meals in Aleppo city in October.
- No provision of CBT to out-of-school children was conducted in October, as WFP started the registration process of new out-of-school students in the UNICEF-supported "Curriculum B" accelerated learning programme.

Nutrition Programme

- In October, WFP dispatched nutrition products for the prevention of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies for 168,900 children and pregnant and lactating women (PLW). This includes 69,900 PLWG who received nutrition support through CBT to purchase fresh food from WFP-contracted shops.
- WFP dispatched nutrition products sufficient for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition for 5,400 children and PLWG for one month.

Clusters and Common Services

Food Security Sector

- Despite Food Security Sector (FSS) partner reaching a total of approximately 5.6 million people with food assistance each month, significant gaps remain. With the current increase in the number of food insecure people from 7.9 million to 9.3 million, the current assistance is reaching approximately 60 percent of those facing acute food insecurity with at least 40 percent of those in need of life-saving food assistance yet to be reached.
- The FSS in October prepared and submitted to OCHA the requested input/prioritization strategy for inclusion in the Syrian Humanitarian Fund (SHF) Second Standard funding allocation. The total amount available to be split among all sectors is USD 20 million. If approved, the FSS will use its portion of the allocation to address immediate food needs in underserved areas facing high levels of food insecurity as well as provision of agriculture and livestock input during the upcoming winter season.

Logistics Cluster

- Facilitating the cross-border operation from Turkey, the WFP-led Logistics Cluster transshipped 943 Syrian trucks from Turkey in October. A total of 22,814 mt of Food Security, Health, shelter and WASH items were transshipped on behalf of WFP, UNHCR, UNFPA, FAO, WHO, UNICEF, and IOM.

United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- In October, UNHAS Syria completed eight rotations on the Damascus-Qamishli-Damascus-route, transporting 156 passengers; 58 percent were UN staff, 38 percent were staff from national and international non-governmental organisations, and 4 percent were donor and diplomatic passengers.

Resourcing Update

- WFP requires USD 303.4 million to keep operations running at current levels through April 2021.

Contacts

- **WFP Representative and Country Director:**
Corinne FLEISCHER
- **Operational Information Management Officer:**
Dani Barbara (dani.barbara@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](#).

WFP Syria Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2020)

	2020 Requirement (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirement (November 2020 - April 2021)	People Assisted (October 2020 dispatches)	Female	Male
ICSP (January 2019 – December 2020)	1.07 billion	303.4 million	4,734,532		
Activity 1: General Food Assistance			4,577,845	2,517,815	2,060,030
Activity 2: School Feeding			345,675	169,381	176,294
Activity 3: Livelihoods and Resilience			29,110	16,011	13,100
Activity 4: Prevention of Acute Malnutrition			169,694	120,033	48,912
Activity 5: Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition			5,395	3,183	2,212