



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
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LIVES

# WFP Syria Country Brief

August 2021

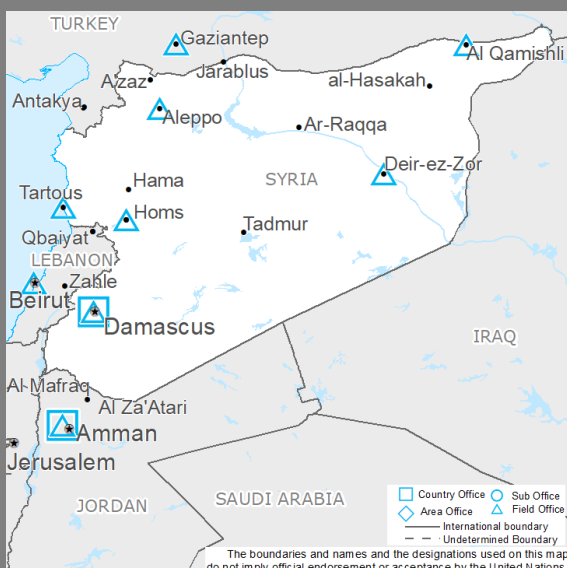


## Operational Context

Since 2011, WFP has been providing food, nutrition and livelihoods assistance to crisis-affected Syrian families in the country. WFP has been active in Syria since 1964. The conflict in Syria is taking a devastating toll on the lives of the Syrian people. As of early 2021, 12.4 million people are food insecure in Syria; the highest number ever recorded.

Since late 2019, the humanitarian situation has deteriorated to levels not previously seen in the country's recent history: Protracted displacement, soaring food and fuel prices, stagnant salaries, loss of livelihoods and reduced food production have led to widespread food insecurity.

Currently, WFP is implementing its activities under the 2019-2021 Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP). WFP is preparing its next two-year ICSP (2022-2023), under which WFP plans to continue its large-scale provision of unconditional food assistance, refocus its education and nutrition activities, and expand its activities aimed at strengthening livelihoods, boosting household resilience, and restoring food systems.



Population: **21.2 million**

2019 Human Development Index:  
**151 out of 189**

Income Level: **Low-income**

Chronic malnutrition: **81,700**  
children between 6-59 months

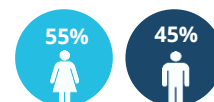
## In Numbers

**40,680 mt** of food assistance delivered

**US\$ 1.8 m** in cash-based transfers made

**US\$ 480 m** six-month net funding requirement (September 2021 – February 2022, as of 23 August 2021)

**5 m people assisted** in August 2021  
(based on dispatches)



## Operational Updates

- In August, WFP delivered food and nutrition assistance to 5 million people across its general food assistance (GFA), school feeding, nutrition, and livelihoods, resilience and social safety nets activities in Syria.
- WFP dispatched GFA to some 4.97 million people across all 14 Syrian governorates. Of this, 25 percent was delivered through the cross-border operation from Turkey to areas of Idlib and western rural Aleppo governorates not accessible from inside Syria.
- Food prices remained relatively stable across Syria in July 2021, according to the latest WFP [data](#), with just a one percent increase from June. The relative stability is primarily linked to government's increased efforts in controlling market prices and exchange rates. However, food prices in July remain 93 percent higher than one year ago.
- Meanwhile, food insecurity persisted across the country, according to the latest WFP [data](#). In July 2021, close to half of households surveyed reported inadequate food consumption. The national average rate of inadequate food consumption increased by three percentage points from June 2021 and up by 15 percent compared to July 2020.
- The humanitarian situation in Dar'a al Balad (Dar'a governorate) deteriorated significantly in August as a result of the ongoing fighting and deteriorating security situation, with reports indicating critical shortages of bread, fuel, and electricity. WFP continued its emergency distributions of ready-to-eat rations (RTEs) for those displaced by the conflict. Meanwhile, WFP's regular general food assistance distribution plan for August to some 450,000 people across Dar'a governorate has been put on hold by relevant authorities due to security concerns and was

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Photo Caption: General Food Assistance Distribution in north-western Syria ©WFP Cooperating Partner

## Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2021)

Total Requirement (in US\$)	2021 Available Contributions
<b>3.08 billion</b>	<b>624.7 million</b>
2021 Requirement	Six-month Net Funding Requirement (September 2021 – February 2022, as of 23 August)
<b>1.27 billion</b>	<b>480 million</b>

### Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Food insecure populations affected by the crisis, including host communities, IDPs and returnees, in all governorates, have access to life-saving food to meet their basic food needs all year round.

**Focus area:** Crisis Response

#### Activities:

1. Provision of general food assistance in the form of regular in-kind monthly food rations and ready-to-eat rations in the initial phase of displacement.
2. Provision of school feeding for pre- and primary school children in regular schools and CBT to out-of-school children enrolled in informal education or alternate learning opportunities.

### Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 2:** Food insecure families in urban and rural areas affected by the crisis are enabled to meet their basic food and nutrition needs and increase their self-reliance throughout the year.

**Focus area:** Resilience Building

#### Activities:

3. Provision of livelihood support through household- and communal-level asset creation through food assistance for assets (FFA) activities and enhanced human capital through food assistance for training (FFT).

### Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

**Strategic Outcome 3:** Nutritionally vulnerable groups, especially children and pregnant and lactating women and girls, across the Syrian Arab Republic have reduced levels of malnutrition throughout the year.

**Focus area:** Resilience Building

#### Activities:

4. Prevention of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies in children aged 6–23 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls.
5. Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition in children aged 6–59 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls.

### Strategic Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology, strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs

**Strategic Outcome 4:** Humanitarian partners across the Syrian Arab Republic benefit from augmented logistics and emergency telecommunications capacity and services, enabling them to provide humanitarian assistance throughout the crisis.

**Focus area:** Crisis Response

#### Activities:

6. Provide coordination, information management, capacity development and shared logistics services to sector partners that face logistics gaps.
7. Provide shared ICT services, emergency telecommunications coordination and information technology (IT) emergency preparedness training to humanitarian organizations in common operational areas.
8. Provide technical assistance and support services to humanitarian partners.
9. Provide passenger and light cargo services to the humanitarian community (United Nations Humanitarian Air Service, UNHAS).

later approved on 09 September.

- On 30 August, WFP successfully undertook a crossline delivery of food and nutrition assistance sufficient for 50,000 people in north-western Syria from within government-controlled areas. This is the first time in seven years humanitarian aid reaches north-western Syria from government-controlled areas.
- WFP revised the resource-based implementation plan in July to increase the target for General Food Assistance (GFA) by one million people - from 4.8 to 5.8 million people each month. This is in line with the results of the latest food security assessments. The implementation of this scale up started in August in areas under government control which entail 70 percent of the increased caseload and will be completed in October in north-western Syria which has the remaining 30 percent of the increased caseload. However, due to funding shortfalls, WFP had to cut rations across the operation. The currently planned ration is 1,100 kcals per person for assistance inside Syria and 1,300 kcals per person for the cross-border operation. WFP is nevertheless maintaining the current 2,100 kcals ration for beneficiaries residing in camps in north-eastern Syria (including Al-Hol camp).

## COVID-19 Pandemic

- Some 86,560 COVID-19 cases and 3,570 deaths have been confirmed across all areas of Syria as of end of August. This is a 22 percent increase in cases and a 5 percent increase in deaths since the end of July. This includes 28,045 cases and 2,018 deaths in government-controlled areas, 37,870 cases and 760 deaths in north-western Syria, and 20,649 cases and 788 deaths in north-eastern Syria.

## Monitoring

- In August, WFP and third-party monitoring (TPM) companies conducted 1,101 on-site monitoring (OSM) checklists across all 14 governorates to monitor GFA distributions, bread distributions, livelihoods activities, nutrition activities, cash-based transfer (CBT) redemptions and warehouses.
- Of the OSM checklists conducted, WFP monitors conducted 220 checklists, equivalent to 20 percent direct WFP monitoring coverage. Eight percent of the checklists were conducted jointly with a TPM. The rest of the checklists were conducted by TPMs in areas not accessible to WFP due to the security situation, lack of approvals or temporary logistical constraints.

## Challenges

- WFP requires US\$ 480 million to sustain operations through February 2022.

## Donors

**The largest donors to WFP Syria so far in 2021 ranked by contributions:** Germany, USA, Canada, Japan and Norway.