



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Syria Country Brief

December 2020



In Numbers

56,637 mt of food assistance delivered

US\$ 2.8 m in cash-based transfers made

US\$ 365.6 m 6-month net funding requirement
(January 2021 – June 2021, as of 08 January 2021)

5 m people assisted in December 2020
(based on dispatches)

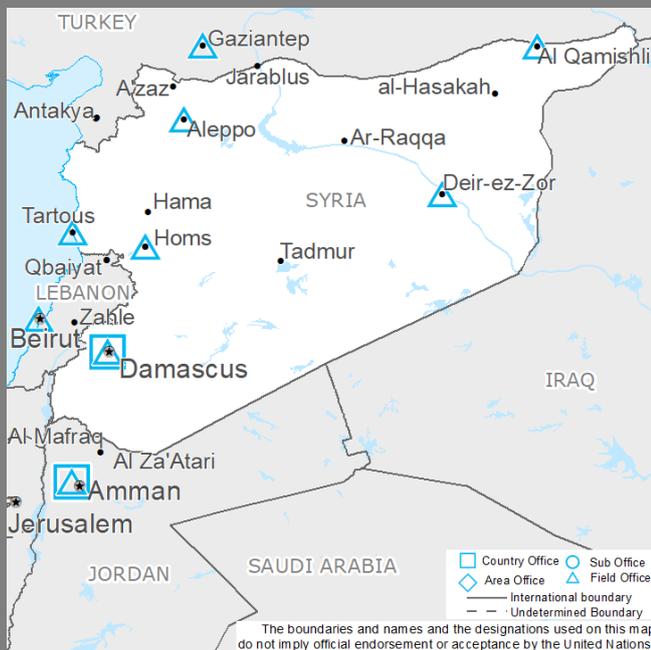


Operational Context

The conflict in Syria is taking a devastating toll on the lives of the Syrian people. As of August 2020, some 6.7 million Syrians are internally displaced and 5.6 million are registered as refugees outside of the country in the largest displacement crisis since World War II.

Since late 2019, the humanitarian situation has deteriorated to levels not previously seen in the country's recent history: Soaring food and fuel prices, stagnant salaries, loss of livelihoods and reduced food production have led to widespread food insecurity. As of 2020, WFP estimates that 9.3 million people are food insecure in Syria with a further 2.2 million people at risk of food insecurity.

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.



Population: 20.8 million	2019 Human Development Index: 151 out of 189
Income Level: Low-income	Chronic malnutrition: 81,700 children between 6-59 months

Operational Updates

- In December, 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 4.7 million people across all 14 Syrian governorates. Of this, 29 percent was delivered through the cross-border operation from Turkey to areas of Idlib and western rural Aleppo governorates not accessible from inside Syria.
- In light of winterization, WFP is distributing a double ready-to-eat-ration (RTE) for the families in north-western Syria that have been confirmed vulnerable through WFP assessment conducted using the beneficiary selection tool but could not be included in the regular WFP caseload due to funding constraints. The double RTE-distributions commenced in December and will continue for three months. In December, some 18,800 people received RTEs.
- In north-eastern Syria, the Kurdish authorities extended the partial lockdown imposed across all Kurdish-held areas (including Qamishli city, where WFP's field office is located) until 19 January 2021, due to an increase in the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases reported in the areas. WFP activities in the areas are continuing normally, taking all necessary precautions in line with the country office-developed COVID-19 mitigation measures and standard operating procedures.
- Food prices continued to increase in November, according to WFP data released in December. The nationwide average price of the WFP standard reference food basket increased by 13 percent from October, reaching SYP 99,243. Food prices

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Photo Caption: A beneficiary with WFP-provided bread bundle in Aleppo. © WFP/Sevim TURKMANI

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2021)

Total Requirement (in US\$)	2020 Available Contributions
1.81 billion	773.3 million
2020 Requirement	Six-month Net Funding Requirement (January – June 2021, as of 08 January)
1.07 billion	365.6 million

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).

had by the end of November increased by 75 percent in six months (since April), and 251 percent year-on-year.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

- Approximately 39,499 COVID-19 cases and 1,203 deaths have been confirmed across all areas of Syria. This includes 11,344 cases and 711 deaths reported in government-controlled areas as of 31 December; 20,131 cases and 221 deaths reported in north-western Syria as of 30 December, and 8,024 cases and 271 deaths reported in north-eastern Syria as of 30 December.
- To date, WFP, in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO), has provided food assistance to 13,950 people in COVID-19 quarantine centres across six Syrian governorates.

Monitoring

- In December, WFP and third-party monitoring (TPM) companies conducted 1,211 on-site monitoring (OSM) checklists across all 14 governorates to monitor GFA distributions, bread distributions, livelihoods-activities, nutrition activities, CBT redemptions and warehouses.
- Of the OSM checklists conducted, WFP monitors conducted 182 checklists, equivalent to 15 percent direct WFP monitoring coverage. 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\$ 365.6 million to sustain operations through June 2021.

Donors

The largest donors to WFP Syria so far in 2020 ranked by contributions: USA, Germany, Russian Federation, Canada, and UN Country Based Pooled Funds.