



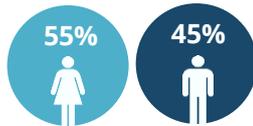
# WFP Syria Situation Report #5

May 2021



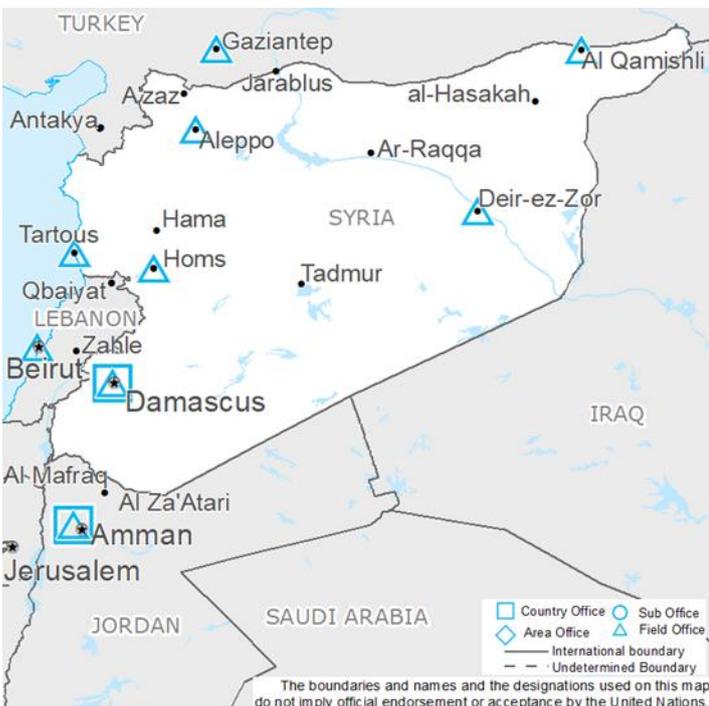
**4.7 million people assisted**

May 2021 (based on dispatches)



WFP Syria Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP)

<b>2021 Syrian Arab Republic Humanitarian Response Plan</b>	Overall requirement: USD 4.2 billion
	WFP share: <b>USD 1.27 billion</b>
<b>WFP 6-Month Net Funding Requirement</b> (June 2021 – November 2021) <a href="#">WFP Syria 2019-2021 Interim Country Strategic Plan</a> (November 2018) <a href="#">Interim Country Strategic Plan Revision 04</a> (April 2020)	<b>USD 515.2 m</b> As of 21 May 2021



**Contact info:** Lauren LePage ([lauren.lepage@wfp.org](mailto:lauren.lepage@wfp.org))  
**Country Director:** Sean O'Brien  
 Further information: [www1.wfp.org/countries/syrian-arab-republic](http://www1.wfp.org/countries/syrian-arab-republic)

## In Numbers

**12.4 million** people food insecure

**1.3 million** severely food insecure

**6.7 million** people internally displaced

## Highlights

- WFP dispatched humanitarian assistance sufficient for an estimated 4.7 million people across all activities in Syria in May.
- For the first time since August 2019, food prices in Syria decreased month-on-month; dropping by two percent from March to April 2021, primarily linked to a significant strengthening of the Syrian pound.
- In May, the national average rate of poor and borderline food consumption decreased for the second consecutive month, according to WFP [data](#).
- The full [Syrian Arab Republic 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview](#) (HNO) was released by OCHA on 06 May. In total, some 13.4 million people in Syria need humanitarian assistance: a 21 percent increase from 2020.

## Situation Update

### Economic situation

- For the first time since August 2019, the nationwide average price of the WFP standard reference food basket in Syria decreased month-on-month, according to the latest [WFP Syria Market Price Watch Bulletin](#). Food prices decreased by two percent from March to April 2021, reaching 176,471 Syrian pounds (SYP). The decrease is linked to a strengthening of the value of Syrian pound following the official devaluation of the currency in mid-April.
- However, this masks significant differences at governorate-level: While eight governorates saw decreasing food prices, six governorates saw a continued increase in food prices, including most governorates of southern Syria (except Quneitra).

### Food Security Situation

- The national average rate of poor and borderline food consumption decreased for the second consecutive month in May, according to the latest WFP [data](#). The monthly decrease in inadequate food consumption levels in May is believed to be associated with the holy

month of Ramadan and Eid Al-Fitr festivities, when vulnerable families have access to more assistance from charity organizations and *zakat* (a form of alms giving) provided as food or livestock.

- Despite the slight improvement in households' food consumption observed in May 2021, high levels of food insecurity persist across Syria: Nearly two out of five interviewed households (37 percent) reported poor or borderline food consumption in May 2021; a 61 percent increase compared to May 2020.

### COVID-19 Pandemic

- Approximately 66,019 COVID-19 cases and 3,180 deaths had been confirmed across all areas of Syria as of 02 June. This includes 24,559 cases and 1,778 deaths in government-controlled areas, 23,541 cases and 670 deaths in north-western Syria, and 17,919 cases and 732 deaths in north-eastern Syria.

### North-Western Syria

- The security situation in north-western Syria deteriorated in May, with reports of a notable uptick in airstrikes, artillery exchange and ground clashes along the frontlines of southern Idlib governorate.
- The pre-positioning exercise ahead of the 10 July expiration of the UN Security Council resolution which authorises the cross-border delivery of humanitarian assistance from Turkey to north-western Syria continued in May. By the end of the month, the pre-positioning of food commodities sufficient for July were almost completed, and pre-positioning August was at 27 percent. Pre-positioning for the September distribution cycle was set to commence in early June, with all pre-positioning set to be completed by 30 June.

### North-eastern Syria

- Attacks by elements of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) non-state armed group from multiple areas of north-eastern Syria continued to be reported in May, with multiple incidents reported in southern Al-Hasakeh governorate, focused on the town of Shaddadeh. At the same time, multiple ISIL attacks were reported from areas of eastern and western rural Deir Ezzor governorate. In response, Syrian government and Kurdish-led forces conducted security operations across several areas of the region.

### Costal Syria

- The coastal governorates witnessed an escalation of military operations in May, including in rural Latakia governorate. The incidence of armed conflict between government and non-state armed group forces increased along the frontlines in the north-eastern countryside of Latakia, with no changes to the areas of

control.

- In May, WFP field office staff observed significant tension at distribution sites, caused by non-beneficiaries asking for assistance, primarily at GFA food distribution points, as well as at livelihood registration and distribution sites. WFP remains concerned over this situation as it is causing crowding at the distribution sites, and it could affect distribution operations and impact the safety of beneficiaries as well as WFP and WFP cooperating partner staff.

### Southern Syria

- The situation in Dar'a governorate was unstable and precarious in May, with an increasing number of security incidents reported, including attacks on civilians, former non-state armed group members and members of reconciliation committees, and checkpoints.
- As a result of the significant increase in security incidents and due to the complexities on ground, WFP and its cooperating partner, the Syrian Arab Reb Crescent (SARC), paused planned dispatches and distributions of food rations to over 70,000 people in western Dar'a governorate in May. The dispatches and distributions resumed during the first week of June following an evaluation of the situation on the ground.

### WFP Response

- WFP dispatched humanitarian assistance sufficient for an estimated 4.7 million people across all activities in Syria in May.
- A total of USD 2.3 million in cash-based transfers (CBT) was distributed to 169,250 WFP beneficiaries across four activities: The GFA CBT pilot; School Feeding (support to out-of-school children); 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 369,850 were distributed, allowing the households of the 66,045 pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWG) assisted by WFP to purchase hygiene items (benefitting some 332,225 people).
- As part of the Health Sector-led response to COVID-19 in Syria, WFP, in cooperation WHO has so far provided food assistance to some 16,000 people in ten quarantine and ten isolation centres in Syria. The project is funded through the Syria Country-Based Pooled Fund (CBPF).

### General Food Assistance (GFA) Programme

- In May, WFP dispatched GFA sufficient for some 4.7 million people across all 14 Syrian governorates.
- Cross-border deliveries from Turkey accounted for 28 percent of the total WFP general food assistance

dispatched. This includes food rations for some 1.3 million people areas of Idlib and Aleppo governorate inaccessible from inside Syria.

### Livelihoods, Resilience and Social Safety Nets

- WFP reached some 48,600 people under its livelihoods, resilience and social safety-nets-projects across Rural Damascus, Dar'a, Quneitra, As-Sweida, Homs, Hama, Ar-Raqqa, Al-Hasakeh, Aleppo, Latakia, Tartous and Deir Ezzor governorates.

### School Feeding Programme

- WFP supported 56,800 out-of-school children with food vouchers in Aleppo, Homs, Hama, Dar'a, Al-Hasakeh, Quneitra, Deir Ezzor, Latakia, Tartous, Damascus and Rural Damascus.
- As an Education Sector partner, WFP in May started the provision of food assistance to Syrian students coming from areas of Syria outside of government control, as well as from Lebanon, to sit for their national exams. As of 30 May, some 3,000 students have arrived at their designated accommodation centres in Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, Deir Ezzor, Hama and Rural Damascus where they will stay for the duration of the exam period (30 May and 21 June).
- WFP is providing ready-to-eat rations, fortified date bars and covering the cost of bread to cover the food requirements of the students. WFP is also contributing to the Education Sector-provision of hot meals.
- As the school year had ended, no fortified snack nor fresh meal distributions were conducted in May.

### Nutrition Programme

- WFP dispatched nutrition products for the prevention of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies for 264,900 people. This includes 198,900 children and 66,000 PLWG who received CBT to purchase fresh food from WFP-contracted shops.

- WFP dispatched nutrition products sufficient for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition for 13,900 children and PLWG for one month.

## Clusters and Common Services

### Logistics Cluster

- Facilitating the cross-border operation from Turkey, the WFP-led Logistics Cluster transshipped 979 Syrian trucks from Turkey in May. A total of 23,729 mt of Health, WASH, food, nutrition and Shelter items were transshipped on behalf of WFP, IOM, UNHCR, WHO, UNFPA and UNICEF.
- In May, the WFP-led Logistics Cluster facilitated the storage of 250 m<sup>3</sup> of newly received humanitarian goods in its storage facilities in Rural Damascus, Homs and Qamishli on behalf of WHO.

### United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- In May, UNHAS Syria completed 16 rotations on its two routes from Damascus to Qamishli and Aleppo, transporting 257 passengers and 1.77 mt of light cargo. Of the passengers transported on both routes, 61 percent were UN staff, and 39 percent were staff from national and international non-governmental organisations.

## Resourcing Update

- WFP requires USD 515.2 million to keep operations running at current levels through November 2021.

## Contacts

- WFP Representative and Country Director:**  
Sean O'Brien
- Operational Information Management Officer:**  
Dani Barbara ([dani.barbara@wfp.org](mailto:dani.barbara@wfp.org))
- Logistics Cluster Coordinator:**  
Christophe MORARD ([christophe.morard@wfp.org](mailto:christophe.morard@wfp.org))

For further information, visit the [WFP Syria website](#).

## WFP Syria Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2021)

	2021 Requirement (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirement (June 2021 - November 2021)	People Assisted (May 2021 dispatches)	Female	Male
<b>ICSP (January 2019 – December 2021)</b>	<b>1.27 billion</b>	<b>515.2 million</b>	<b>4,748,746</b>		
Activity 1: <b>General Food Assistance</b>			<b>4,681,845</b>	2,575,015	2,106,830
Activity 2: <b>School Feeding</b>			<b>56,790</b>	27,827	28,963
Activity 3: <b>Livelihoods and Resilience</b>			<b>48,600</b>	26,730	21,870
Activity 4: <b>Prevention of Acute Malnutrition</b>			<b>264,935</b>	167,479	97,456
Activity 5: <b>Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition</b>			<b>13,885</b>	8,192	5,693