



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Syria Country Brief

June 2021



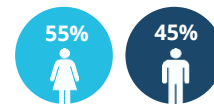
## In Numbers

**45,106 mt** of food assistance delivered

**US\$ 2.4 m** in cash-based transfers made

**US\$ 472.8 m** six-month net funding requirement *(July 2021 – December 2021, as of 22 June 2021)*

**4.9 m people assisted** in June 2021  
(based on dispatches)

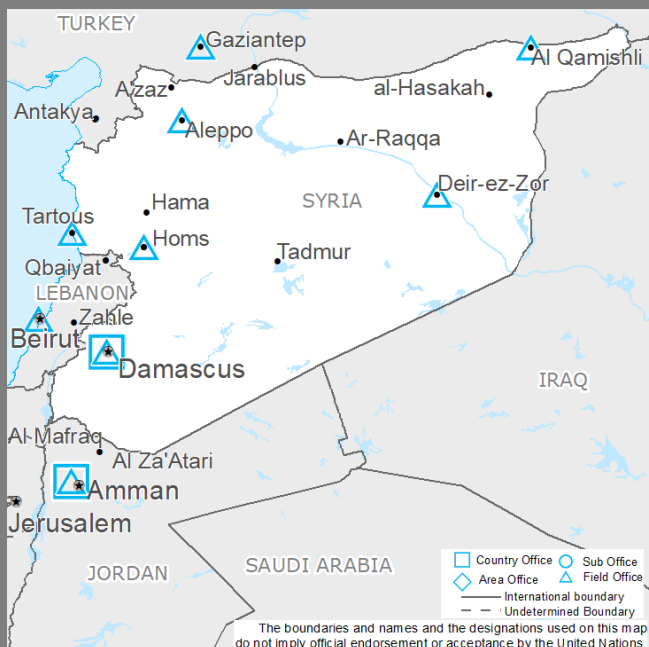


## Operational Context

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.

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. As of early 2021, 12.4 million people are food insecure in Syria; the highest number ever recorded.

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. Currently, WFP is implementing its activities under the 2019-2021 Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP).



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

## Operational Updates

- In June, WFP delivered food and nutrition assistance to 4.9 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 4.8 million people across all 14 Syrian governorates. Of this, 28 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 decreased across Syria for the second consecutive month, according to the latest [WFP data](#) released in June, linked to a strengthening and stabilization of the value of the Syrian pound on the informal exchange market. Food prices decreased by five percent from April to May 2021, reaching 167,842 Syrian pounds (SYP). However, despite the slight decrease, food prices in Syria in May remained 69 percent higher than six months earlier and had increased by 197 percent year-on-year.
- According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) first [Euphrates Water Crisis & Drought Outlook](#) analysis, Syria currently ranks seventh on a global risk index of 191 countries most at risk of a "humanitarian or natural disaster event that could overwhelm response capacity", partly due to the ongoing drought which is hindering adequate preparedness measures. Poor precipitation during the 2020/2021 winter season, as well as the months critical for crop development (January-April), have negatively impacted several governorates in the north-east, with Al-Hasakeh governorate typically noted as the breadbasket of the country, particularly affected.
- The security situation in north-western Syria deteriorated significantly in June, with a reported

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Photo Caption: A focus group discussion session with GFA beneficiaries in southern rural Aleppo governorate ©WFP/ Zuha Akkash

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2021)	
Total Requirement (in US\$)	2021 Available Contributions
<b>3.08 billion</b>	<b>537.4 million</b>
2021 Requirement	Six-month Net Funding Requirement (July 2021 – December 2021, as of 22 June)
<b>1.27 billion</b>	<b>472.8 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).

uptick in airstrikes and clashes along the frontlines of Idlib governorate. More than 11,600 people reportedly displaced from the Jabal Zawiya-area of Idlib governorate from 10-22 June due to hostilities, according to the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) cluster.

- WFP had by early July completed the pre-positioning exercise ahead of the 10 July of the UN Security Council resolution which authorises the cross-border operation from Turkey to north-western Syria. Food commodities sufficient for the months of July, August and September are now in place in warehouses inside north-western Syria.
- In southern Syria, increased tensions were reported in June from Dar'a Al Balad (Dar'a governorate), with most of the roads leading to the area closed by authorities since 01 June due to insecurity. With only one accessible route to the area, WFP operations have so far not been affected and planned distributions in the area are proceeding as planned.

## COVID-19 Pandemic

- Approximately 69,559 COVID-19 cases and 3,346 deaths have been confirmed across all areas of Syria as of 30 June. This includes 25,515 cases and 1,876 deaths in government-controlled areas, 25,534 cases and 707 deaths in north-western Syria, and 18,510 cases and 763 deaths in north-eastern Syria.
- As of the end of June, WFP, in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO), has provided food assistance to some 16,600 people in COVID-19 quarantine centres across six Syrian governorates.

## Monitoring

- In June, WFP and third-party monitoring (TPM) companies conducted 1,256 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 215 checklists, equivalent to 17 percent direct WFP monitoring coverage. Ten 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\$ 472.8 million to sustain operations through December 2021.

## Donors

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