



# WFP Syria Country Brief

## Highlights

- WFP delivered food assistance for 3.3 million people in all 14 governorates in Syria.
- WFP took part in three inter-agency convoys delivering food assistance for 34,000 people in hard-to-reach locations.
- A fourth de-escalation zone was established in Idlib governorate and parts of Hama and Aleppo.
- The siege on Deir Ezzor City has been lifted enabling the resumption of land access. WFP delivered fortified wheat flour and nutrition supplies.
- The UN estimates that almost three million people in need live in hard-to-reach areas, including 420,000 people in ten besieged locations.

## WFP Assistance

Assistance to the population affected by conflict in Syria PRRO 200988 (Jan 2017 – Dec 2018)	Total Requirements (in USD)	Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
	1.7 b	189.9 m

\* At current rate of implementation with a reduced number of beneficiaries until the end of 2017, and as per needs-based plan for January-March 2018.

**GENDER MARKER** PRRO 200988

The Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) started on 1 January 2017 and is a two-year project. The PRRO replaced the EMOP, which had been in place since 2011. The PRRO maintains a strong relief component and envisages a gradual shift from humanitarian food assistance to recovery and livelihood activities.

In 2017, WFP reached over four million people with humanitarian food assistance in all 14 Syrian governorates. Under this programme, each month households receive a family food ration consisting of rice, bulgur wheat, pulses and vegetable oil, among other items, designed to provide a daily caloric transfer of 1,500 kcal per person for one month.

At the same time, WFP is expanding livelihood activities in both rural and urban areas focusing on asset rehabilitation and income generation.

WFP continues to implement activities to address the specific nutrition needs and education concerns of vulnerable groups. This includes a programme for the prevention of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies for children aged 6-23 months, a treatment programme for acute malnutrition for pregnant and nursing women as well as children aged 6-59 months, and a nutrition support programme aiming to improve the dietary diversity of pregnant and nursing women.

Furthermore, WFP implements a school meals programme for pre- and primary schoolchildren to encourage enrolment and regular attendance in areas with a high number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and low food security indicators. WFP has also designed a programme specifically targeting out-of-school children providing an incentive to return to learning.

WFP Syria is working with 56 cooperating partners to implement its programme activities. WFP continues to review its partner base to ensure that partners have the

technical skills to implement different activities, particularly nutrition and livelihood activities.

Moreover, WFP also balances local and international partners in the implementation of programme activities.

WFP co-leads the Food Security and Agriculture Sector, together with FAO. The Sector guides strategic decision-making, plans and develops strategies and facilitates coordination among food sector members to ensure a coordinated and comprehensive response. For more information about the sector: [www.fscluster.org/syria](http://www.fscluster.org/syria)

Logistics and Telecommunications Augmentation and Coordination to Support Humanitarian Operations in Syria SO 200788 (Jan. 2015 – Dec. 2017)	Total Requirements (in USD)	Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
	37.6 m	-

\*Net Funding requirements until the end of 2017, including confirmed pledges and solid forecasts

Through a separately funded Special Operation, WFP provides logistics and telecommunications support to the wider humanitarian community operating in Syria through the Logistics Cluster as well as the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster, both activated in 2013. The Logistics Cluster coordinates inter-agency convoys and facilitates other services such as warehousing and transport. Between July 2016 and June 2017, the Cluster implemented airlifts to Al-Hasakeh governorate. For more information:

[www.logcluster.org/ops/syr12a](http://www.logcluster.org/ops/syr12a)

[www.etcluster.org/countries/syria](http://www.etcluster.org/countries/syria)

## In Numbers

13.5 m in need of humanitarian assistance

6.3 m internally displaced people

9 m people in need of food assistance

3.3 m  
People Assisted  
September 2017



## Operational Updates

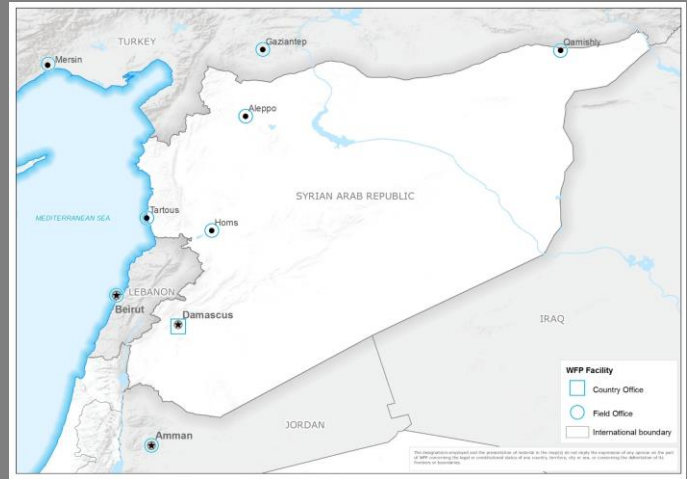
- In September, WFP delivered food assistance for 3.3 million people in all 14 Syrian governorates; 22 percent of the food assistance was delivered through cross-border operations from Jordan and Turkey and inter-agency convoys to besieged and hard-to-reach areas.
- WFP took part in three cross-line inter-agency convoys, delivering food assistance and nutrition supplies for 34,000 people in six hard-to-reach and besieged locations in Idleb, Damascus and Rural Damascus governorates including 2,000 people in the besieged area of Yarmouk in Damascus reached by WFP for the first time since the start of the conflict.
- On 5 September, government forces managed to break the siege on Deir Ezzor City, which had been encircled by ISIL since mid-2014. Land access to Deir Ezzor was secured in early September, which prompted WFP to discontinue its airdrop operation. Between April 2016 and August 2017, the airdrop operation provided life-saving food assistance for over 100,000 people. As land access to Deir Ezzor City was re-established, WFP reached the city twice during the second half of September, providing wheat flour for 70,000 people and 25 mt of nutrition supplies for the prevention and treatment of malnutrition for 17,000 children.
- The UN is deeply concerned about the safety of over a million people as heavy fighting continues in Deir Ezzor governorate. An estimated 100,000 people have been displaced from rural areas of the governorate since late August. The affected people sought refuge in safer locations within Deir Ezzor as well as in neighbouring Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa governorates. Many remain out of humanitarian reach due to ISIL's presence and ongoing fighting. In September, WFP provided emergency food assistance for about 24,000 newly displaced people in Mabrouka and Areesha camps in Al-Hasakeh and in Ein Issa camp in northern Ar-Raqqa. Arrangements are underway to deliver additional food rations to these camps in early October.
- Following the sixth round of peace talks between the Government of Syria and representatives of Syrian opposition groups on 14-15 September in Astana, a fourth de-escalation zone, which covers Idleb governorate and parts of Aleppo and Hama governorates, was established. However, the security situation drastically deteriorated as heavy fighting between government forces and armed groups erupted in southern rural Idleb and northeast Hama on 19 September. The security situation forced WFP's partners to temporarily suspend food distributions for thousands of people in central and southern Idleb governorate. By the end of September, distributions had resumed in most of the affected areas.
- Following a review, the UN estimates that three million people in need live in hard-to-reach areas across the country, including 420,000 people in 10 besieged locations as of end September 2017. Compared to the previous months, the estimated number of people in hard-to-reach and besieged areas has decreased by 33 percent, from an estimated 4.5 million to three million, due to changing access patterns. While access has improved, the humanitarian needs remain high due to the long conflict and further exacerbated by high unemployment and poverty.

## Resourcing Update

- WFP is grateful to the donors who have contributed to the current operation. However, due to funding shortfalls until the end of the year, WFP is reducing the number of people assisted under the General Food Assistance programme to less than four million people. WFP also urgently requires USD 190 m for its operation during the next six months. Given the lead time, new contributions are required by early October to ensure timely arrival of commodities for January distributions onwards.

**WFP Syria** Country Brief - September 2017

## Country Background & Strategy



The crisis in Syria has entered its seventh year. The conflict has taken a devastating toll on the lives of the Syrian people and resulted in the largest humanitarian crises since World War II.

Soaring food and fuel prices, stagnant salaries, loss of livelihoods and reduced food production have led to widespread food insecurity across the country, with seven million people unable to meet their food needs and a further two million people at risk of food insecurity. The most vulnerable people live in hard-to-reach and besieged areas. In the ten besieged areas, home to 420,000 people, all inhabitants are food-insecure, and access to assistance is intermittent. Households headed by women tend to utilize more negative coping mechanisms than those headed by men, though due to the prolonged conflict many households have exhausted all assets.

Prior to the conflict, Syria was on track to reach the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), but the human development gains have been dramatically reversed. Syria now ranks 149 out of 188 countries in the 2015 Human Development Index (HDI), putting the country in the low human development category, with access to essential services, including healthcare, safe water, and education, being severely disrupted.

In response to the alarming situation, WFP has been providing food assistance to the most vulnerable families in the country. The activities contribute towards achieving WFP's Strategic Objective 1, saving lives and protecting livelihoods, through the provision of food, nutrition and livelihoods to those affected by the crisis. WFP's activities adhere to the objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) by contributing directly to an eradication of extreme hunger (SDG2).

WFP has been active in Syria since 1964.

## Donors

Five largest donors to WFP Syria in 2017 ranked by contributions: Germany, USA, European Commission, Canada, and United Kingdom.

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Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/syria](http://www.wfp.org/countries/syria)