



WFP Syria Country Brief

Highlights

- The [Annual Report](#) for the Syria operation was released in February.
- WFP delivered food assistance for 3.5 million people. In total, 30 percent of the assistance was delivered to high-conflict areas through cross-border, cross-line and air deliveries.
- UN organized peace talks took place in Geneva, but no major breakthroughs were observed.
- An increase in fighting in Dar'a governorate has resulted in new displacements as well as a halt to cross-border activities from Jordan for the majority of February.
- Funding is urgently needed for both the PRRO and the SO in order to avoid any gaps in coverage.

WFP Assistance

Assistance to the population affected by conflict in Syria PRRO 200988 (Jan 2017 – Dec 2018)	Total Requirements (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
	1.7 b	121 m

* March – August 2017, including confirmed pledges.

GENDER MARKER 2A  PRRO 200988

The Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) started on 1 January 2017 and is a two year project. The PRRO replaces the EMOP, which was in place since 2011. Throughout the two years, WFP will provide assistance to 5.74 million people, and will gradually shift from humanitarian food assistance to recovery and livelihood activities.

In 2017, WFP will target up to five million people with humanitarian food assistance in all 14 Syrian governorates, subject to access availability. Under this programme, people are targeted each month with a family food ration consisting of, among others, rice, bulgur wheat, pasta, and pulses, providing 1,700 kcal per day for one month. At the same time, WFP will target up to 400,000 people with livelihood activities in both rural and urban areas focusing on asset rehabilitation and income generation.

WFP will continue to implement complementary 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 increase the dietary diversity of pregnant and nursing women. Furthermore, a school meals programme for pre- and primary school aged children to encourage enrolment and regular attendance in areas with a high number of IDPs, low food security and education indicators. WFP has also designed a programme specifically targeting out of school children providing an incentive to return to learning.

In February, WFP Syria worked with 49 cooperating partners to implement its programme activities. WFP continues to review its partner base in order to ensure that partners have the technical skills to implement nutrition and livelihood activities. Moreover, WFP also balances local and international partners in its programme activities.

WFP co-leads the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster, together with FAO. The Cluster, active in Syria since 2013, guide strategic decision-making, plan and develop strategies and facilitate coordination among food sector members in order to ensure a coordinated and comprehensive response. For more information about the sector: 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)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
	37.6 m	6.6 m

* March – August 2017

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. The cluster started airlifts to Al-Hasakeh governorate in July 2016. For more information: www.logcluster.org/ops/syr12a 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

3.5 m
People Assisted
February 2017



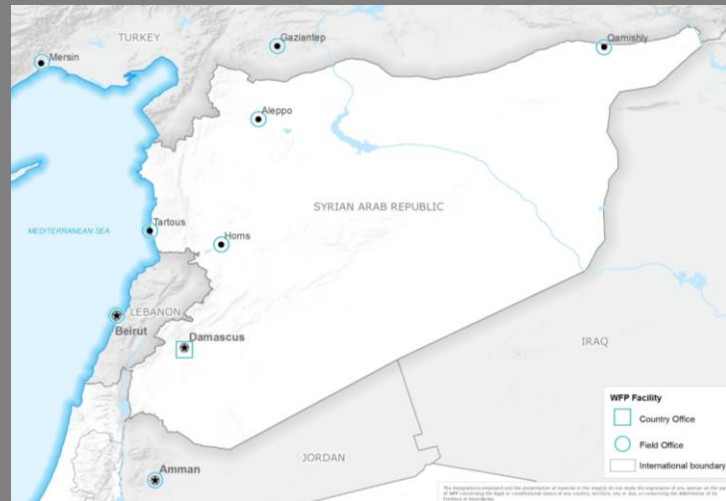
Operational Updates

- WFP provided food assistance for 3.5 million people in 13 out of the 14 Syrian governorates in February. Of these, 626,000 people in opposition-held areas of Dar'a, Quneitra, Aleppo, Idleb and Hama governorates were reached with food assistance by cross-border partners operating from Turkey and Jordan (18 percent of total deliveries).
- During the month, WFP participated in two inter-agency convoys to hard-to-reach areas in Homs governorate, Talbiseh (84,000 people) and Ar-Rastan (107,500 people). Observations from WFP staff joining the Ar-Rastan convoy noted that the price of bread, an essential staple in the Syrian diet, was seven times higher than Homs city and that current capacity of bakeries is only covering 50 percent of needs.
- Air operations to Deir Ezzor city and Al-Hasakeh governorate continued during the reporting period. By the end of February, a total of 345 humanitarian airlifts had been completed to Al-Hasakeh and 45 percent of the volume transported were inter-agency cargo.
- UN-led peace talks took place in Geneva during the last week of February and concluded on 3 March without any significant breakthroughs.
- As of early March, approximately 17,000 people have been displaced from the rebel-held part of Dar'a city in the governorate of Dar'a due to heavy clashes between government forces and armed opposition groups in early February. The majority of the displaced families sought refuge in surrounding farmlands and other rural areas. So far, WFP has provided ready-to-eat rations to more than half of the displaced people and WFP partners started a rapid needs assessment to determine needs. This is part of an overall increase in unrest in Dar'a governorate, where heavy fighting between armed opposition groups and ISIL-affiliated armed groups in south-western rural Dar'a (Yarmouk Valley) escalated. This led to additional displacement and WFP has provided ready-to-eat rations for 8,600 people in several locations.
- Due to the deteriorating security situation in the south, cross-border deliveries from Jordan were on hold for most of the month of February. However, deliveries resumed as of early March.
- Since November 2016, WFP has progressively scaled up its response in Aleppo city in parallel with a rising rate of returnees to the formerly besieged neighbourhoods and the subsequent growing humanitarian needs. By the end of February, WFP has provided ready-to-eat parcels (RTE) for about 80,000 returnees and IDPs in the eastern parts of the city through ten new food distribution points, as well as food rations and RTEs for 11,000 IDPs who sought refuge in the western parts of the city. WFP also scaled up its bread assistance providing 108,000 IDPs and returnees in eastern parts of the city with fresh bread each day. In addition, daily bread distributions reached 14,000 people in Jibreen IDP shelter and the Kurdish controlled neighbourhood of Sheikh Maqsoud.
- WFP Syria will transition to an Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) as of 1 January 2018. The ICSP will be mapped to the activities and priorities outlined in the PRRO for 2018.

Challenges

- There is an urgent need for funding for PRRO 200988. WFP is currently distributing a reduced food basket and additional measures may be applied. The Logistics Cluster, part of Special Operation 200788, requires urgent funding in order to continue the provision of logistics services to the humanitarian community including inter-agency convoys and airlifts.

Country Background & Strategy



The violent conflict in Syria has now lasted for almost six years. The conflict has taken a devastating toll on the lives of the Syrian people and has created one of the largest humanitarian crises since World War II. Over half of the pre-crisis country's population, more than 11 million - were forced to abandon their homes and 13.5 million people in Syria are in need of humanitarian assistance including 5.8 million children.

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. Prior to the conflict, Syria was on track to reach the 2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDG), but the human development gains have been dramatically reversed. Between 2009 and 2014, Syria dropped from 107 to 134 in the Human Development Index ranking, 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: European Commission, Canada, Germany, Saudi Arabia and USA

Contact info: wfp.damascus@wfp.org

Country Director: Jakob Kern

Further information: www.wfp.org/syria

cdn.wfp.org/syriainfo/syria.html