



WFP Syria Country Brief

Highlights

- WFP delivered food assistance for 3.56 million people in all 14 governorates in Syria.
- WFP took part in five inter-agency convoys carrying food assistance for 199,000 people in hard-to-reach and besieged locations. As part of the convoys, WFP reached Kafr Batna in Eastern Ghouta for the first time since June 2016.
- On 17 October, the Syrian Democratic Forces gained control of Ar-Raqqa City, following months of intense fighting. WFP, together with humanitarian partners, stands ready to resume assistance inside the city, once access becomes available. WFP already provides food assistance for up to 185,000 people on a monthly basis as part of its Ar-Raqqa response.

WFP Assistance

Assistance to the population affected by conflict in Syria PRRO 200988 (Jan 2017 – Dec 2018)	Total Requirements (in USD)	6-months Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
	1.7 b	180.5 m

* Net funding requirements for November 2017 – April 2018

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 replaced the Emergency Operation (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 has reached on average 3.8 million people with humanitarian food assistance in all 14 Syrian governorates each month. 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 programmes for the prevention of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies for children aged 6-23 months, a treatment for moderate acute malnutrition for pregnant and nursing women, as well as children aged 6-59 months, and a nutrition support 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 on nutrition and livelihood.

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

WFP, together with FAO, co-leads the Food Security and Agriculture Sector. The Sector facilitates coordination of the food security 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)	Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
	37.6 m	0 m

*Net funding requirements for November 2017 – December 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. Between July 2016 and June 2017, the Cluster implemented airlifts to Al-Hasakeh governorate. 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

3.56 m
People Assisted
October 2017



Main Photo

Credit: © WFP/Dima Al Humsi
Caption: People in besieged Kafr Batna face a severe shortage of food, living mainly on boiled corn which costs USD 0.30 per cob.



October 2017

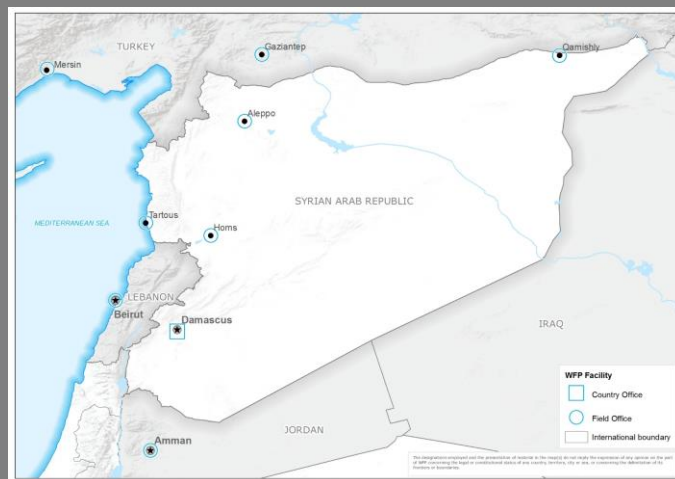
Operational Updates

- In October, WFP delivered food assistance for 3.56 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 five cross-line inter-agency convoys, delivering food assistance and nutrition supplies for 199,000 people in 13 hard-to-reach and besieged locations in Homs, Damascus and Rural Damascus.
- As part of the convoys, WFP reached the areas of Kafr Batna and Saqba in the besieged area of Eastern Ghouta for the first time since June 2016, delivering food and nutrition assistance for 40,000 people. [WFP's rapid food security and market assessment](#) found a dire food security situation in Kafr Batna, with people resorting to severe coping strategies.
- In southern Syria, through the cross-border operation from Jordan, WFP has expanded its school meals programme to reach parts of Dara'a and Quneitra governorates, which are under opposition control. The project covers 8,200 students at 25 UNICEF-supported schools, which have been selected in areas with high concentration of displaced people and where enrolment and attendance indicators are low. Countrywide, WFP plans to target up to 500,000 students in 10 governorates during the first half of the 2017/2018 school year.
- In the second half of October, the security situation in Quneitra and western parts of Dara'a governorate severely deteriorated due to an escalation in fighting between ISIL-affiliated groups and armed opposition groups. This has forced WFP to temporarily suspend food distributions in the area for two weeks. Insecurity has also led to a frequent closure of the main road normally used for WFP's cross-border operations from Jordan. By early November, operations are expected to return back to normal.
- During the month of October, the situation in Deir Ezzor governorate remained of great concern as fighting between government forces and ISIL continued. This has resulted in the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people, mainly to formal and informal IDP camps in Deir Ezzor and neighbouring Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa governorates. While many remained cut off from humanitarian assistance due to ISIL presence and continued fighting, WFP has been able to respond to the needs of 66,000 people with emergency food assistance.
- Fighting in several parts of Idlib, including in western Idlib's Jishr-Ash-Shugur, as well as in eastern Abul Thohur, has forced WFP to suspend its activities for several days. In spite of the very volatile security situation in the governorate, IDPs continued to arrive from other conflict hotspots, such as southeast rural Hama and Deir Ezzor. Through its cross-border operation from Turkey, WFP was able to assist IDPs from Deir Ezzor, Ar-Raqqa, Hama and Idlib governorates through the distribution of ready-to-eat rations (RTEs), reaching a total of 34,435 people. WFP maintained stocks of RTEs to be able to respond quickly to new displacements.

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. WFP also urgently requires USD 180.5 million for its operation for the next six months. Given the supply chain lead times, contributions received by early November will ensure arrival of commodities for February distributions onwards.
- WFP Syria** Country Brief - October 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 2 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 utilise more negative coping mechanisms than those headed by men; however, 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