



WFP Syria Country Brief

Highlights

- WFP delivered food assistance for over 3 million people in all 14 governorates in Syria.
- WFP took part in two inter-agency convoys carrying food assistance for 60,000 people in several hard-to-reach locations in Homs and Hama governorates.
- WFP reached the hard-to-reach area of Al-Bukamal in south-east Deir Ezzor governorate for the second time since mid-November, delivering wheat flour for 15,000 people.

WFP Assistance

Syria, Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TICSP)	Total Requirements (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
January-December 2018	796 m	159 m

* February – July 2018

GENDER MARKER 2A

WFP's Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) for the Syria operation initially planned to cover 2017-2018 with a budget of 1.7 billion, featuring a large relief component and commencing a gradual shift from humanitarian food assistance to recovery and livelihood activities. In line with WFP's corporate approach and commitment to achieving Zero Hunger as part of the 2030 Agenda, WFP Syria is changing its project type from a PRRO to a transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TICSP), which will be in place for 12 months, from 1 January until 31 December 2018. It will subsequently be replaced by an ICSP (more information can be found [here](#)).

The new project will maintain the same activities as the PRRO. However, the activities will be expanded to also include the Logistics Cluster and Emergency Telecommunications Cluster, which provide logistics and telecommunications support, respectively, to the wider humanitarian community operating in Syria. The Clusters have so far been covered by Special Operation 200788 (more information on the clusters can be found here: [Syria Logistics Cluster](#) and [Syria ETC Cluster](#)). Overall, the new structure will present a clearer line of sight between WFP's activities and results.

In 2017, WFP reached 3.75 million people on average with humanitarian food assistance in all 14 Syrian governorates each month. Under the general food assistance programme, 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 expanded livelihood activities in both rural and urban areas, focusing on asset rehabilitation and income-generation.

WFP implements 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.

Recognising the challenges in the education sector, 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 education and 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 57 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 for nutrition and livelihood. 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

In Numbers*

13.1 m people in need

6.1 m internally displaced persons

10.5 m people in need of food assistance

*According to the 2018 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO)

People Assisted
December 2017
3.07 m



Operational Updates

In December, WFP delivered food assistance for over 3 million people in all 14 Syrian governorates out of the planned 3.3 million; 19 percent of the food assistance was delivered through the cross-border operations from Jordan and Turkey as well as inter-agency convoys to several hard-to-reach areas.

WFP took part in two cross-line inter-agency convoys, delivering food assistance and nutrition supplies for 60,000 people in six hard-to-reach locations in Hama and Homs governorates. In parallel, WFP also provided food assistance for 50,000 people in the hard-to-reach neighbourhood of Sheikh Maqsood in Aleppo City and for 6,750 people in the hard-to-reach area of Deir Hafir in eastern rural Aleppo.

WFP also reached the hard-to-reach area of Al-Bukamal in south-east Deir Ezzor governorate for the second time since mid-November, when government forces took control of the city, ending years of ISIL's control. WFP delivered fortified wheat flour sufficient to meet the needs of 15,000 people as part of a joint-humanitarian convoy, while food rations were provided by other humanitarian actors joining the convoy.

The security situation in north eastern rural Hama deteriorated due to continued fighting between government forces and non-state armed groups as well as between ISIL and non-state armed groups, forcing thousands of people to flee. Since early November, thousands of people sought refuge in central and southern parts of Idlib governorate. In response, WFP has provided food assistance for about 13,000 people, while other humanitarian partners responded to the needs of the remainder of IDPs.

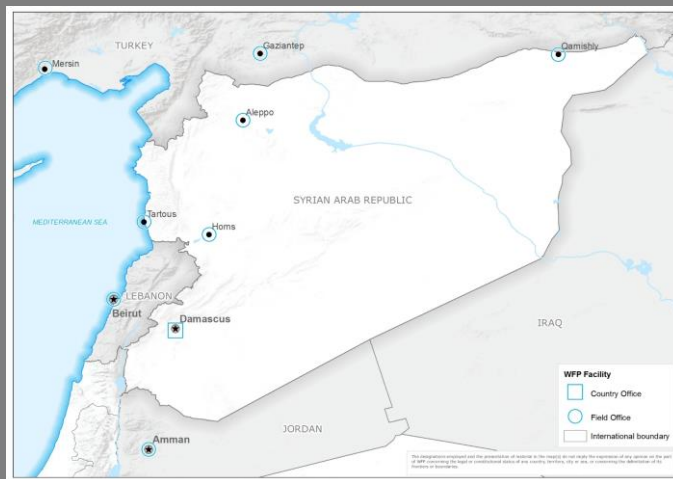
The United Nations conducted a mission to assess the humanitarian situation in Ar-Raqqa City, which was fully captured by the Syrian Democratic Forces in October from ISIL. A large scale demining activity enabled the return of thousands of IDP families. The assessment covered 12 neighbourhoods, where an estimated 6,800 families have recently returned and showed that local markets are functioning. However, food represents one of the most urgent needs and the majority of people do not have access to clean drinking water. WFP stands ready to reach the city with food assistance once the security situation permits.

Rehabilitating Bakeries in Aleppo City

Recognising the importance of bread in the Syrian diet, WFP completed the rehabilitation of four bakeries in areas of Aleppo City that were inaccessible to the United Nations from inside Syria between 2012 and 2016, and have observed a high return rate. WFP covered the cost of rehabilitating the bakeries' structure, bringing in new equipment and repairing the partially damaged equipment. The bakeries will meet the daily needs of 60,000 people in four neighbourhoods at an affordable price. Moreover, the bakeries will improve access to bread in areas, where over 300,000 people have returned since late 2016.



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 6.5 million people unable to meet their food needs and a further 4 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, end hunger by protecting access to food, Strategic Objective 2, improve nutrition, and Strategic Objective 4, support SDG implementation. In this sense, WFP's activities also 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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