

## WFP Syria Country Brief



### WFP Assistance

**Syria, Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TICSP)**  
January-December 2018

Total Requirements (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
<b>796 m</b>	<b>263 m</b>

\*Net funding requirements for the first six months of 2018. Out of these, USD 105 million were shortfalls for general food assistance for the first quarter, which would no longer be mitigated by new contributions due to a lead time of 3-4 months. This leaves a shortfall of USD 158 million for the Syria operation to ensure continued assistance throughout the first half of 2018.

**GENDER MARKER** 2A  PRRO 200988

WFP's Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) for the Syria operation covering 2017-2018 with a budget of 1.7 billion has a large relief component and envisages a gradual shift from humanitarian food assistance to recovery and livelihood activities. However, in line with WFP's corporate approach and the focus on achieving Zero Hunger as part of the 2030 Agenda, WFP Syria will change 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 have the same activities as planned in the PRRO; however, the new structure will present a clearer line of sight between WFP's activities and results.

In 2017, WFP has reached on average 3.75 million people with humanitarian food assistance in all 14 Syrian governorates each month. Under this 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. 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

**Main Photo** Credit: ©WFP/Abdulrahman Najeh  
Caption: School children enjoying their fresh school meal in one of the elementary schools in eastern Aleppo City.

## Highlights

- WFP delivered food assistance for 3.5 million people in all 14 governorates in Syria.
- WFP took part in five inter-agency convoys carrying food assistance for 228,950 people in hard-to-reach and besieged locations.
- WFP and humanitarian partners had to temporarily suspend operations in north-eastern Syria following disagreements between the Government of Syria and Kurdish Authorities on the provision of humanitarian assistance.

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 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](http://www.fscluster.org/syria)

The TICSP will also embrace the currently separately funded Special Operation 200788, through which 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.

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

## In Numbers\*

**13.1 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**  
November 2017



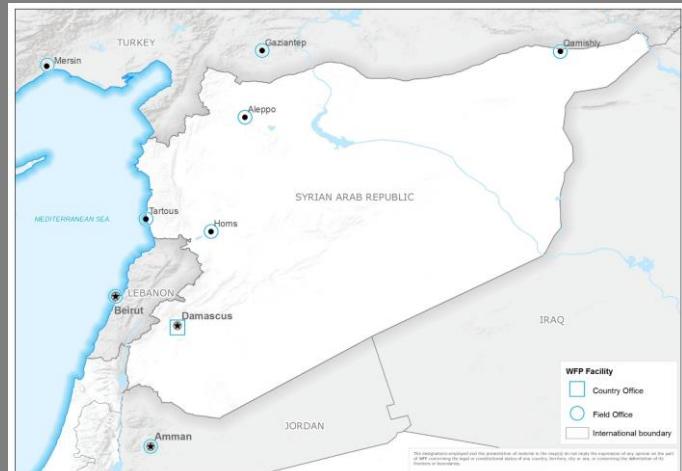
## Operational Updates

- In November, WFP delivered food assistance for 3.5 million people in all 14 Syrian governorates out of the planned 3.8 million; 24 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 228,950 people in five hard-to-reach and besieged locations in Hama, Homs, and Rural Damascus.
- As part of the convoys, WFP reached the besieged area of Eastern Ghouta twice, delivering food and nutrition assistance for 21,500 people in Duma and for 7,200 people in Nashabiyah. [WFP's assessment in Duma has found that the food security situation in the besieged area is of great concern](#), as people's food stocks are depleted, while they are facing skyrocketing food prices and lack of nutritious food in the market.
- In north-eastern Syria, humanitarian operations had to be suspended due to disagreements between the Government of Syria and Kurdish Authorities on the delivery and distribution of humanitarian assistance in Ar-Raqqa, Al-Hasakeh and Deir Ezzor governorates. After intense negotiation efforts, operations resumed on 24 November. On 28 November, WFP and humanitarian partners were once again requested to suspend food distributions in Al-Hasakeh governorate for a week due to local elections. While these frequent suspensions resulted in limited distributions of WFP's food assistance during November in Al-Hasakeh, where only 65,280 people out of a planned 192,000 people were reached, all planned food distributions were completed in Ar-Raqqa governorate and northern Deir Ezzor governorate towards the end of the month.
- Increased access has allowed WFP to reach the hard-to-reach area of Al-Bukamal in Deir Ezzor governorate at the Syrian-Iraqi border, delivering wheat flour for 10,000 people as part of a joint humanitarian convoy. Al-Bukamal was ISIL's last stronghold in Syria and last reached by WFP in mid-2014. WFP also delivered food rations and wheat flour for 68,000 people in the hard-to-reach areas of Sheikh Maqsoud in Aleppo City and Deir Hafir in eastern rural Aleppo.
- Heavy fighting between government and armed opposition groups occurred in north-eastern Hama governorate, forcing the displacement of thousands of people. In response, WFP distributed ready-to-eat (RTE) rations for some 6,600 IDPs that have sought shelter in Idlib and western rural Aleppo governorate. As part of the RTE distribution, WFP also reached 14,100 IDPs who have arrived from Deir Ezzor, Ar-Raqqa, and Al-Hasakeh governorates in the area.

## Fresh School Meals - Aleppo

- Building upon the successful pilot from spring 2017, on 26 November, WFP launched a fresh school meals activity in Aleppo City, targeting 10,000 school children at three elementary schools in cooperation with two partners. WFP is targeting schools in areas that were inaccessible to the UN from inside Syria between 2012 and 2016 and which now have a relatively high return rate.
- So far, WFP has provided 9,838 children with daily meals, consisting of one sandwich and a piece of fruit or vegetable, providing over 500 kcal. The programme employs 48 women, most of whom are IDPs, who prepare the fresh meals. WFP also provides fortified wheat flour to produce the sandwich bread that is baked every morning.

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