

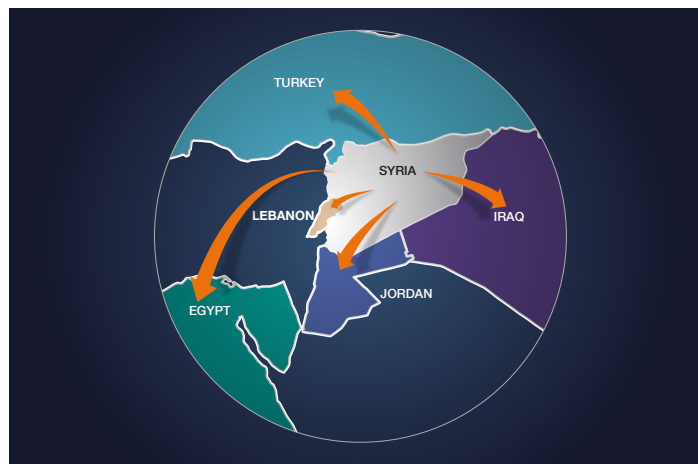
Syria Context

The ongoing conflict in Syria continues to be a devastating humanitarian crisis creating major displacement, damage to vital infrastructure, and an increase in the population's vulnerabilities and poverty levels. Syria has lost four decades of human development gains and fallen into extreme poverty since the onset of the conflict. Currently it is estimated that four out of every five Syrians are poor. As the crisis becomes increasingly protracted, its multi-dimensional consequences are harshly felt by individuals and communities throughout Syria. Not only has the conflict had a major humanitarian impact, but has also drastically eroded livelihoods and half the population are unemployed. This will have significant economic and social impacts on the current as well as future generations.



WFP's Livelihoods Strategy 2015-2017

The strategy envisages the introduction of programmes that focus on protecting and restoring livelihoods for moderately food insecure families, as well as continuing to provide life-saving relief to the most vulnerable and food insecure people.



WFP's Response to the Conflict

WFP has responded to the immediate needs of conflict affected Syrians since 2011, rapidly scaling up as the crisis spread and vulnerabilities increased. WFP provides monthly life-saving food assistance to vulnerable conflict-affected populations across all 14 Syrian governorates, currently targeting 4.25 million people on a monthly basis.

In recognition of the difficult nutrition situation in Syria, WFP has introduced nutrition interventions targeted at preventing acute malnutrition amongst children under five and the treatment of malnourished women and children. Moreover, a voucher based programme allow targeted pregnant and lactating women to procure fresh food in order to improve their dietary diversity.

WFP implements a school feeding programme in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and UNICEF to provide daily rations of fortified date bars to boost enrolment rates and regular attendance as well as increasing children's micronutrient intake.

In order to complement the humanitarian response, WFP is introducing livelihood programmes that will benefit 500,000 beneficiaries and seek to stem some of the detrimental impacts of the conflict. The livelihood interventions will build on existing programmes, partners and operational presence and will be implemented in close coordination with other actors.

Strengthening Local Markets

WFP has contributed to the strengthening of local markets and enhancing household purchasing power through cash-based transfers specifically used for purchasing fresh food to enhance dietary diversity. This has stimulated demand for local produce and has injected over USD 1.1 million into the local economy since 2014. With the planned expansion, USD 500,000 will be injected into the economy on average per month, yielding significant economic benefits for the local supply chain.

Objectives of the Livelihood and Resilience Strategy

The WFP Syria Livelihoods and Resilience Strategy aims to protect and restore livelihoods and food security for conflict affected Syrians through support to household livelihoods, rehabilitation of local economy and strengthening resilience to ongoing and future shocks.

The strategy takes a short to medium term view of actions which will enable affected Syrian households to protect, sustain and re-establish livelihoods within a longer term resilience building goal.

The strategy envisages three broad programme pillars:

1. Protecting, restoring and promoting household livelihood security through food production, assets rehabilitation and income generation;
2. Strengthening local markets and services through economic recovery projects; and
3. Supporting institutions and building an evidence base for food and nutrition security at all levels.

Ongoing and planned livelihoods projects include:

- Cooperation with **UNDP** on a 'Communal Kitchen' project has created employment for women in Al Hasakeh, while supporting those displaced and the local community. Such projects have the potential of supporting female-headed households who are increasingly assuming the breadwinner role.
- Work with **FAO** in the coastal areas of Syria to rehabilitate greenhouse production. Farmers will be provided with agricultural inputs. The objectives are to promote continued food production.
- In partnership with an INGO support small scale farming households in the north eastern part of the country with agricultural inputs and training on conservation agricultural practices. The objective is to sustain production on productive, arable land.



Incorporating Climate

Syria is heavily dependent on agriculture and remains vulnerable to recurrent droughts, pest infestations and other natural shocks. Given the intrinsic links between these shocks, the ongoing conflict and food insecurity, WFP envisages:

- supporting partners' efforts to update climate vulnerability analysis to understand the
- compounding factors linked to livelihoods and resilience;
- incorporating climate-sensitive programming throughout the planned livelihoods activities; and developing the capacities of WFP staff and partners to assess risk and design livelihoods programmes that incorporate disaster risk reduction principles.

Local Food Production

WFP is working with the private sector to enhance local production capacity for specialized nutritious food products. As a pilot initiative, WFP has signed a contract with a local company to produce fortified date bars for the school feeding programme, which is expected to create 15 jobs (50 percent women). Further expansion is envisaged in 2016 including other food types that can also be sold in the regular market. This project can boost local food value chains, create employment opportunities and sustain local industry.

