



World Food Programme

WFP SYRIA

Situation Report #3



WFP/Husam ALSALEH

Highlights

- Syria marked **12 years of conflict in March amid an urgent need for increased humanitarian assistance** as the country grapples with the devastating impact of recent earthquakes.
- **12.1 million people, more than 50 percent the population, were food insecure** and an additional 2.9 million were at risk of sliding into hunger prior to the earthquake.
- In March, **WFP assisted 6.4 million** people across Syria and transferred USD 4.5 million through cash-based transfer to more than 347,200 people.
- WFP **continued to provide life-saving food assistance to earthquake-affected populations** in government and non-government-controlled areas of Aleppo, Idlib, Latakia, Hama and Homs governorates.
- Insufficient levels of funding **for WFP in Syria threatens to curtail assistance** when people need it most. WFP urgently requires a minimum of USD 280 million to assist 5.5 million people each month for the rest of 2023. This includes USD 80 million required to assist 800,000 earthquake affected people until the end of the year.

IN NUMBERS



WFP plans to assist **5.5 million people with General Food Assistance each month**. In March WFP assisted **6.4 million people**.



12.1 million people are food insecure in Syria.



5.5 million Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR in the region.



6.8 million Internally Displaced People (IDPs).



USD 773.3 million WFP six-month net funding requirement between April and September 2023.

Situation Update

- The earthquake-affected governorates of Aleppo, Idleb, Homs, and Latakia remain disaster areas. Displacement continues as the safety check for damaged buildings is ongoing. Some buildings need to be repaired so it is safe for people to return, while some others must be demolished due to severe damage.
- In February, the monthly average price of WFP's standard reference food basket was 116 percent more expensive than a year earlier, reaching SYP 500,000 (≈USD 111) according to the WFP Syria Market Price Watch Bulletin. Food in Syria has doubled the price compared to a year ago and is thirteen times more expensive than three years ago. An average monthly wage in Syria currently covers about a quarter of a family's food needs.
- WFP is tightening the targeting of its General Food Assistance programme based on 1.2 million household assessments in government-controlled areas. While families deemed ineligible to receive WFP food assistance can dispute the findings, emerging tensions are exposing the operation to a heightened level of risk with demonstrations, security incidents, and growing hostility against WFP and partners.

- WFP completed data collection for the Beneficiary enhanced System for Targeting (BeST) in non-government-controlled areas of northwest Syria. Data verification is ongoing.

WFP Operations

WFP Earthquake Response

- Phase 1 of WFP's earthquake response continued. By the end of March, WFP had provided 694,500 meals to people staying in temporary shelters and had distributed ready-to-eat (RTE) rations sufficient to 198,000 affected people.



General Food Assistance (GFA)

- **In March, WFP distributed food rations sufficient for 6.2 million people** across all 14 governorates in Syria. This included food distributed through the cross-border operation from Türkiye to areas of Idlib and Aleppo governorates that are not accessible from inside Syria.



Resilience and Safety Nets

- As part of WFP's support to the bread value chain, WFP assessed ten bakeries that were damaged by the earthquake. Of these, WFP will rehabilitate seven of these bakeries across the affected governorates. **Each USD 1 invested in rehabilitation of bakeries can reduce the annual cost of WFP food assistance by USD 3.**
- **WFP and FAO collaborated to revive livelihoods in rural Dara'a governorate as part of the EU Joint Programme.** Some 900 farmers and animal keepers received green fodder seeds and veterinary inputs to improve their animals' health, and fertilizers and drip irrigation nets to enhance agriculture production and enforce sustainable agricultural and irrigation practices.
- Within the same WFP/FAO collaboration framework, WFP is rehabilitating Al-Jalad pastoral incubator, aiming to restore access to pastureland for animal grazing.



School Meals Programme

- Schools in the affected governorates reopened in March following a temporary closure in February due to the earthquake, as some were used as temporary shelters.

- WFP-supported school meals programme reached **650,000 children with fortified date bars, food vouchers and fresh meals across the country:**

- Cash-based transfers: **43,000** out-of-school children with food vouchers.
- Fresh meals: **61,000** children in Deir Ezzor, Rural Damascus, and Aleppo.
- **WFP also reached 546,000** children with fortified date bars, including **81,500** additional children in Lattakia and Aleppo governorates to encourage them to return to schools after the earthquake.



Nutrition

- **WFP's prevention and treatment of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies reached 127,100 children (6-23 months) and pregnant and lactating women (PLWGs).** These included 49,300 PLWGs who received cash-based assistance to purchase food from WFP-contracted shops.
- WFP's treatment of moderate acute malnutrition activities reached 11,400 children and PLWGs.

Clusters and Common Services



Food Security Cluster

- **In February, the Food Security Sector reached 5.9 million people with regular food baskets and another 3.4 million people with bread and flour distribution.** In addition, the sector's emergency response reached more than 663,300 people with emergency response (ready-to-eat rations, cooked meals, and emergency food baskets).
- The cluster has reached at least 298,600 people with livelihoods interventions since the beginning of 2023.



Logistics Cluster

- Following the opening of two additional border crossings: Bab al-Salam and Al Ra'ee, between Türkiye and non-government-controlled areas of northwest Syria in mid-February, WFP transhipped the first two trucks through Al Ra'ee crossing point on 1 March into northwest Syria.

- Facilitating the cross-border operation from Türkiye, the Logistics Cluster transhipped 746 trucks carrying 14,767 mt of humanitarian relief items through the Bab al-Hawa, Bab al-Salam, and Al Ra'ee border crossings.



Emergency Telecommunications Cluster

- The ETC in Syria is working with WFP Türkiye and UN Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS) to support cross-border operations between southern Türkiye and northern Syria following the February earthquakes.



UN Humanitarian Air Service

- In March, **UNHAS conducted 14 flights on its two regular routes from Damascus to Qamishli and Aleppo**, transporting 517 passengers and 1.5 mt of light cargo on behalf of UN organizations, INGOs, Red Cross/Red Crescent, NGOs and donor missions.
- In March, four UNHAS flights were cancelled:** two to Aleppo due to airport closure following alleged airstrikes, and two to Qamishli due to weather conditions.



Funding Situation

- WFP Syria urgently requires a minimum of USD 280 million to maintain its emergency food assistance programme with reduced rations for 5.5 million people each month across Syria for the rest of 2023, including USD 80 million to support 800,000 people earthquake-affected until the end of the year.**

- Without sufficient resources, WFP will be forced to reduce 45 percent of its current beneficiaries from July onwards – which would have a dire impact on nearly 2.5 million people who would stop receiving food assistance each month across the country.

Operational Challenges:

- Crossline convoys remain on hold since the last convoy on 8 January due to lack of relevant approvals.
- Deliveries of food assistance to Kurdish-controlled Sheikh Maqsood area in Aleppo also remain on hold due to lack of relevant approvals.

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For further information, visit the [WFP Syria website](https://www.wfp.org/syria).

WFP Syria Interim Country Strategic Plan (2022-2023)

| | 2023 Requirement (in US\$) | 6-Month Net Funding Requirement (April – September 2023) | People Assisted (March 2023 distribution) | Female | Male |
|--|----------------------------|--|---|-----------|-----------|
| ICSP (January 2022– December 2023) | 1.49 billion | 773.3 million | | | |
| Activity 1: General Food Assistance | | | 6,203,298 | 3,213,308 | 2,989,990 |
| Activity 2: School Feeding | | | 649,717 | 308,616 | 341,101 |
| Activity 3: Livelihoods and Resilience | | | 7,148 | 3,703 | 3,445 |
| Activity 4: Prevention of Acute Malnutrition | | | 127,078 | 87,468 | 39,610 |
| Activity 5: Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition | | | 11,365 | 5,838 | 5,527 |