

Situation Report – July 2024

Highlights

- **The security situation remains fragile and exacerbates humanitarian needs.**
- **The cost of living continues to place extreme pressure on Syrian families.** The minimum wage covers only a fifth of the basic food needs and only a tenth of the overall household requirements as assessed through the Minimum Expenditure Basket.
- In Syria, 3 million people are severely food insecure; their acute needs continue to deepen. **WFP requires US\$30 million per month** to reach one million people with emergency food assistance, and maintain school meals, nutrition, and early recovery

In Numbers (*HNO 2024)



326,400 people received WFP emergency food, school feeding and nutrition assistance



7.2 million people are Internally Displaced*



3 million people are severely food insecure. An additional 12.4 million are food insecure or at risk of falling into food insecurity*



WFP requires **US\$30 million per month** to reach 1 million people with emergency food assistance, and maintain school meals, nutrition, and early recovery programming

Situation Update

- **The cost of living in Syria continued to surge unabated.** According to WFP market price monitoring, in July, prices were 80 percent higher compared to the same time period in 2023.
- **The minimum wage covers only a fifth of a family's basic food needs**, and only a tenth of what a household requires to meet their essential needs - as assessed through the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB).
- The significant **reduction in WFP assistance since the beginning of the year has increased harmful coping mechanisms** among food-insecure households as WFP data showed.

WFP Operations



Emergency Food Assistance

- WFP reached nearly 309,000 people with emergency food assistance across the country in July, including 14,396 beneficiaries reached through cash-based transfers equivalent to USD 329,394.
- **Digital beneficiary registration¹ for the new highly targeted emergency interventions**, Mu'eel (*the bread winner*) and Anmu (*I grow*), continued across the country, significantly enhancing assurance that beneficiaries are unique and eligible. 'Mu'eel' targets female, elderly, and disability headed households; 'Anmu' targets nutritionally vulnerable households with children under two.
- Despite strict targeting and prioritization, **in 2024 WFP will only be able to support one-third of the severely food-insecure population across Syria.**



School Meals

- In line with WFP's larger prioritisation exercise, **WFP's fortified date bar programme for the 2024/2025 academic year will prioritise sub-districts with the highest food insecurity rates** as per 2023 food security assessment (FSA) findings.
- School meal activities were paused in July due to the summer school break, with resumption expected in September. **WFP provided fortified date bars to over 5,000 children enrolled in non-formal education** programmes in camps in northeast Syria.

¹ In line with global assurance project, WFP Syria is driving major changes in beneficiary registration and verification and is scaling up progressively as quality permits. In parallel, WFP Syria is also working on periodic rather than monthly distributions to ensure people in need not yet registered are still receiving support. By the fall, WFP expects regular monthly distribution to the full targeted caseload, unless donor funding requires careful pipeline management for a slightly lower caseload to receive assistance over longer time.

Nutrition

- In July, **WFP's prevention of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies interventions** reached 200,900 children under two, and 300 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWGs).
- Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition interventions** reached 31,350 children under five, and PBWGs across the country.

Contributing to Resilience Building

- WFP started the second phase of rehabilitating the drainage system of Sector 5 (Deir Ezzor)**, as part of a wider initiative to enhance the area's irrigation system to increase wheat production and promote sustainable soil use and management.

Monitoring

- WFP and contracted third-party monitoring companies (TPM) conducted **814 on-site monitoring visits and 521 post-distribution monitoring interviews** across all governorates in Syria.
- WFP successfully addressed 4,105 cases received through its Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM) helplines.** Most calls were requests for information and assistance.

Operational challenges

- UN agencies, including WFP, have **not received approvals to conduct missions to As-Sweida governorate since December 2023.** This is linked to the continuation of instability and unrest in the governorate.
- Tensions amongst the population continue to be reported following months without food assistance. **Few NGOs faced incidents of robbery.**
- Due to security concerns linked to the ongoing hostilities in Gaza, **the UN Security Management Team (SMT) in Lebanon temporarily suspended UN Syria personnel transit via Beirut.** WFP Syria travellers are currently using the Amman corridor.

Clusters and Common Services

Food Security Sector

- The **Whole of Syria response has been affected by a sharp reduction in funding since the beginning of 2024.** As of July 2024, 91 partners secured only 15.6 percent of the 2024 funding requirements according to OCHA's Fund Tracking System. This compares to USD 78.1million secured in 2023 in the same period.
- In July, **the Food Security and Agriculture Sector conducted a food price review in the local markets.** Accordingly, the sector recommended partners to increase the transfer value for voucher and cash assistance by 49 percent, compared to last update conducted in October 2023. The Sector is currently working on the revision of the MEB, in close collaboration with the Cash Working Group.

Logistics Cluster

- The Logistics Cluster transhipped 136 trucks carrying 2,948 MT of humanitarian relief items through Bab al-Hawa border crossing on behalf of three UN agencies.
- Customs fees at Bab al-Hawa border increased from 700 TL (USD 21) to 800 TL (USD 24) for each truck. All UN partners have been informed through the Logistics Cluster.

UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- UNHAS Syria conducted 16 flights from Damascus to Aleppo and Qamishli, transporting 421 passengers and 1.35 MT of light cargo on behalf of 30 humanitarian organisations.

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WFP Syria Interim Country Strategic Plan (2022-2025)

	2024 Requirement (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirement (September 2024 – February 2025)	People Assisted (July 2024) *	Female	Male
ICSP (January 2022– December 2025)	1 billion	493 million			
Activity 1: Targeted Food Assistance			308,948	160,035	148,913
Activity 2: School Feeding			5,017	2,383	2,634
Activity 3: Livelihoods and Resilience			0**	0	0
Activity 4: Prevention of Acute Malnutrition			201,201	98,935	102,266
Activity 5: Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition			31,350	16,104	15,246

* Note that per-activity assistance figures cannot be summed due to overlap between activities. Monthly distribution figures are estimates and subject to change pending final beneficiary reconciliation. ** No projects were completed in July.