



WFP Syria Situation Report #2

February 2023

World Food Programme



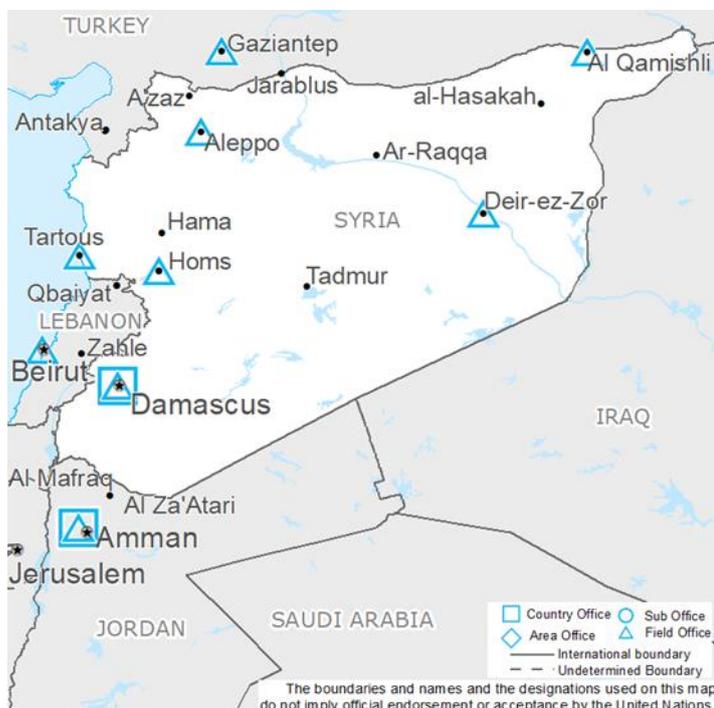
5.1 million people assisted*

February 2023



WFP Syria Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP)

2023 Syrian Arab Republic Humanitarian Response Plan	Overall requirement: US\$ 4.8 billion
	WFP share: US\$ 1.23 billion
WFP 6-Month Net Funding Requirement <i>(March – August 2023)</i>	US\$ 797.2 m
WFP Syria 2022-2023 Interim Country Strategic Plan <i>(November 2021)</i>	



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Photo credit: © WFP/Hussam ALSALEH – WFP hot meals - Aleppo/February 2023.

*This figure is based on actual distribution.

In Numbers

12.1 million people food insecure

2.7 million severely food insecure

6.8 million people internally displaced

Highlights

- A 7.7 magnitude earthquake hit Türkiye and northern Syria on 6 February. In Syria, the earthquake significantly affected Aleppo, Lattakia, Tartous, Homs and Hama governorates.
- In response to the earthquake, February, WFP provided life-saving food assistance as ready-to-eat rations enough for 205,000 people displaced by the earthquake, in addition to 368,000 hot meals and sandwiches.
- In addition, as part of its regular programmes, WFP distributed food and nutrition assistance sufficient for 5.1 million people in February, including assistance for 2.5 million people living in the most earthquake-affected areas.
- In January 2023, the national average price of a WFP reference food basket reached a new record high of SYP 463,742 (≈USD 102 at the official exchange rate of SYP 4,522/USD).
- WFP Syria urgently requires a minimum of USD 450 million to continue providing general food assistance for the rest of 2023 to 5.5 million people each month, including USD 150 million required to assist 800,000 earthquake affected people.

Situation Update

- On 6 February, a 7.7 magnitude earthquake hit northwest of Gaziantep, Türkiye, near the border with Syria. The earthquake was followed by aftershocks** including one with a magnitude of 6.7. A WFP staff based in Gaziantep was among the casualties. In Syria, the earthquake impacted Aleppo, Idlib, Tartous, Lattakia, Homs and Hama governorates, and resulted in thousands of injuries and deaths, as well as massive physical damage to infrastructure.
- On the evening of 20 February, another earthquake/aftershock hit the southern Türkiye and northern Syria region registering a 6.3 magnitude at the epicenter near Hatay.

WFP operations

- In the early morning hours of 6 February, WFP, through its partners was on the ground providing food support to the displaced people hosted in temporary shelters.

- By the end of February, **WFP provided** ready-to-eat (RTE) rations enough for 205,000 people and **368,000 meals to people displaced by the earthquake.**
- **In addition, WFP distributed food and nutrition assistance sufficient for 5.1 million people across Syria in February** and transferred **US\$ 4.2 million in cash-based transfers (CBT)** to more than 367,100 people. 2.5 million of these beneficiaries live in earthquake-affected areas.
 - **464,700 children with fortified date bars in 1,800 schools across the country.**
 - **37,500 out of school children with food vouchers** across the country.
 - **76,000 children in 113 schools with fresh meals** in Aleppo (32,200 for one day), Deir Ezzor, and Rural Damascus.
- Following the earthquake, schools were closed for 7 - 14 days in the most affected governorates due to structural damages and some schools being turned into temporary shelters for displaced families. Meals provided under the school feeding activity were distributed to the earthquake-affected people housed at collective shelters.

General Food Assistance (GFA)

- In February, WFP distributed monthly baskets sufficient for 4.9 million people across all 14 Syrian governorates. 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.

Livelihoods, Resilience and Social Safety Nets

- In response to the earthquake, WFP is coordinating with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour (MoSAL) regarding the social protection shock responsiveness systems. WFP is developing a data collection tool on needs in the earthquake-affected governorates to identify the gaps in the national social protection system.
- **Fourty bakeries were damaged by the earthquake in the affected areas. WFP assessed eight bakeries** in Aleppo, Tartous, and Latakia to determine the priority and the type of intervention needed. **WFP plans to start rehabilitation work during March.**
- In February, 450 farmers received fertilizers and drip irrigation nets, while 450 livestock keepers received fertilizers and fodder as part of the WFP intervention in Dar'a governorate. The technical inputs are distributed to farmers to improve agricultural productivity, support sustainable agricultural and irrigation practices, improve access to fodder, and reinforce sustainable agricultural and fertilizing practices.
- Working with the International Center for Agriculture Research in the Dry Area (ICARDA), WFP completed the rehabilitation of six metal gates within the irrigation project in East Maskaneh, rural Aleppo.

School Meals Programme

- In February, **WFP reached nearly 578,200 children through three interventions:**

Nutrition

- WFP's prevention and treatment of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies reached 190,300 children (6-23 months) and PLWGs. These included 52,000 PLWGs who received cash to purchase fresh food from WFP-contracted shops.
- WFP's treatment of moderate acute malnutrition activities reached 12,700 children and PLWGs.

Food Security Situation

- In January, the monthly average **price of the WFP's standard reference food basket doubled compared to the same time last year**, reaching SYP 463,742 (≈USD 102 at the official exchange rate of SYP 4,522/USD) for a family of five for a month, according to the January [WFP Syria Market Price Watch Bulletin](#). Three years ago, the food basket costed SYP 36,000. It has increased by a factor of thirteen since then.

Clusters and Common Services

Food Security Sector

- In January, the Food Security Sector reached 4 million people with regular food baskets and another 3 million people with bread and flour distribution. In addition, the sector's emergency response reached 193,800 people with emergency response (ready-to-eat rations, cooked meals, and emergency food baskets).

Logistics Cluster

- The opening of two additional border crossings into northwest Syria - Bab al-Salam and Al Ra'ee - improved humanitarian access. Facilitating the cross-border operation from Türkiye, the WFP-led Logistics Cluster transhipped 463 trucks carrying 7,838 mt of

humanitarian relief items through the three border crossings.

- In response to the earthquake, 231 WFP trucks have crossed into northwestern Syria through Bab al-Salam and Bab al-Hawa border crossings.

- Without sufficient resources, WFP will be forced to reduce 70 percent of its current beneficiaries from July onwards – which would have a dire impact on nearly 3.8 million people (including 900,000 people in northwestern Syria) who would stop receiving food assistance.

Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)

- Following the earthquake, the ETC in Syria immediately started engaging with humanitarians on the ground through its Information and Communication Team (ICT) Working Group to identify needs for common communications services and support the emergency response within Syria.
- The Cluster is prioritizing the deployment of a very-high frequency (VHF) radio network to provide coverage in rural Hama to support increased humanitarian activity in the area.

United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- In February, UNHAS Syria conducted 18 flights on its two regular routes from Damascus to Qamishli and Aleppo, transporting 372 passengers and 1.4 mt of light cargo on behalf of ten organizations (ICRC, UNHCR, UNICEF, NRC, WFP, Oxfam, UNDP, UNFPA, and Action against Hunger).

Funding Situation

- WFP Syria urgently requires a minimum of USD 450 million to maintain its regular emergency assistance programme for 5.5 million people each month across Syria for the rest of 2023, including USD 150 million to support 800,000 people affected by the earthquake .

WFP Syria Interim Country Strategic Plan (2022-2023)					
	2023 Requirement (in US\$)	6-Month Net Funding Requirement (March – August 2023)	People Assisted (February 2023 distribution)	Female	Male
ICSP (January 2022– December 2023)	1.49 billion	797.2 million			
Activity 1: General Food Assistance			4,919,591*	2,548,348	2,371,243
Activity 2: School Feeding			578,128*	274,611	303,517
Activity 3: Livelihoods and Resilience			4,500*	2,331	2,169
Activity 4: Prevention of Acute Malnutrition			190,291*	119,898	70,393
Activity 5: Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition			12,645*	6,495	6,150