



# WFP SYRIA EMERGENCY RESPONSE

## External Situation Report

27 December 2024

Hot meals distributions in Aleppo. ©WFP/Emad ETAKI

### Highlights

- Syria's ongoing transition highlights the urgency to respond to substantial unmet food security and humanitarian needs and simultaneously foster the recovery of individuals, communities and markets impacted by 14 years of conflict.
- WFP's priorities are to address acute food insecurity, including through uninterrupted access to bread for the most vulnerable and enhanced recovery of communities across Syria. In November 2024, 1.1 million people benefitted from WFP's regular programmes, in addition to 170,000 newly displaced people reached with emergency food assistance.
- WFP urgently requires USD 250 million to scale up emergency response and deliver food and nutrition assistance to up to 2.8 million people in the coming months. Flexible contributions are key to enable WFP to use any assistance modality and any corridor to reach those in need.

### IN NUMBERS



**1.1 million** people reached with WFP's regular programmes in November



**170,000 displaced** reached with emergency assistance across Syria since 27 November



**728,000** people displaced since 27 November, in addition to **7.2 million IDPs** (2024 HNO)



**3.1 million people** **severely food insecure before 27 November**, while an additional 12.4 million are food insecure (10 million) or at risk of falling into food insecurity (2024 HNO)



**US\$ 250 million** of flexible funding urgently needed to scale up emergency response

- **The protracted conflict has strained markets and public finances and further jeopardized Syria's fragile economy.** The former large-scale subsidy system faces interruptions across the country, which limits the most vulnerable people's access to bread, cooking gas, and diesel fuel, the prices of which increased tenfold, fivefold, and twofold respectively. Market functionality and liquidity remain fragile and unpredictable. These rising pressures could further exacerbate food insecurity.
- **Internal displacement** since 27 November have decreased slightly from one million to 728,000 people, but **population movements remain dynamic** due to continued fighting in the northeast and reported refugee returns from neighbouring countries. Overall, the prolonged conflict has left 7.2 million people internally across the country.
- **Food insecurity in Syria was already at alarming levels** prior to 27 November, with 3.1 million people severely food insecure, and an additional 12.4 million people food insecure or at risk of becoming so. However, only **30 percent of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) was funded in 2024**. This forces humanitarian activities to focus on the most vulnerable and leaves many Syrians at risk of further destitution.

### WFP RESPONSE

- WFP is focused on **addressing acute food insecurity**, including **access to bread**, and reducing humanitarian needs through **recovery programmes**.

### SITUATION UPDATE

- Syria's transition is challenged by **insecurity and social tensions, disrupted livelihoods, fragile markets, dynamic population movements, and substantial unmet humanitarian needs**. Lawlessness of the early days of the transition has largely subsided, but social tensions remain high, and active fighting persists in the north and northeast of Syria, which threatens lives, livelihoods and essential infrastructure.

- WFP plans to provide **urgent, needs-based and targeted food and nutrition assistance to 2.8 million food insecure people**, including 1.6 million newly displaced people and returnees.
- In November 2024, WFP reached **over 1.1 million unique individuals across its activities** – of which 285,000 beneficiaries reached through cash-based transfers worth USD 4.8 million. These included 870,000 people reached with targeted food assistance programme; 498,000 school children targeted with school feeding; 175,500 children and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWG) who received malnutrition prevention assistance; 147,000 children and PBWGs received malnutrition treatment.
- In addition, since 27 November, **WFP reached 170,000 newly displaced people** - with hot and fresh meals, ready-to-eat rations, food baskets, and date bars - across all of Syria. This included Aleppo, Idlib, Homs, Raqqa, al-Hasakah, Damascus, Rural Damascus, Tartous and Latakia.
- At the same time, WFP continues to **explore the most efficient ways to provide affordable bread** to millions of Syrians who can no longer afford it. Bread is critical to the Syrian diet and constitutes an important part of the caloric intake for the most vulnerable.
- Livelihoods assistance to affected communities is critical to reduce humanitarian needs. In collaboration with partners, WFP **plans to promote the recovery of communities** through enhanced access to water and productive assets and strengthened critical value chains and social assistance platforms.

## HUMANITARIAN ACCESS & CAPACITY

- Caretaker authorities have provided reassurances for the continuity of operations, including safe access to people in need and required clearances for cooperating partners. **Guided by the humanitarian principles**, WFP engages with all relevant parties to ensure access to affected communities and the safe movement of staff and supplies.
- WFP continues to **optimize and augment its operational capacities**. To ensure uninterrupted and cost-efficient supply across Syria, WFP plans to expand the use of the Turkish corridor and test new routes from Iraq for the northeast, alongside the continued use of established corridors from Syrian ports, Jordan and Lebanon.
- **Due to lawlessness in the aftermath of 27 November, some of WFP's warehouses were breached**, which resulted in the loss of commodities. Assessments are underway to confirm the extent of

these losses. **Access to all warehouses has been restored.**

- WFP currently has an **in-country stock** of 70,141 food rations that cover the needs of 350,700 individuals, and 10,611 MT of mixed food commodities including nutrition supplies. WFP continues to source additional food through available open corridors.

## CLUSTERS AND COMMON SERVICES

### Food Security Sector (FSS)

- Given the new operational environment in Syria and the potential for increased mobility across the entire territory, **the role of the Whole-of-Syria Food Security Sector is even more critical to ensure coordination**, identify gaps and minimize duplication.
- WFP supports the **localization** approach, including through partnerships between international organizations and local NGOs, who have well established relationships with their communities to operate in those same communities where they are known and trusted.
- NGOs who seek to scale up operations in parts of Syria where they were not previously working **are urged to coordinate with the FSS** to enable a single comprehensive overview of assistance, minimize gaps and duplication.

### Logistics Cluster

- WFP plans to increase the capacity of the **Logistics Cluster** with support from the Global Logistics Cluster to provide on demand services to partners and explore the best and most efficient ways to augment service delivery.

### Emergency Telecommunications Cluster

- The **Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)** supports the humanitarian community and UN Hubs through the provision of connectivity services and Security Communications across Syria, including to boost the bandwidth of VSAT connections and supply additional communications equipment.

## FUNDING REQUIREMENT

- Based on preliminary estimates, **WFP urgently requires USD 250 million to scale up emergency response** and deliver food and nutrition assistance to up to 2.8 million people.
- Flexible contributions are key to enable WFP to use any assistance modality and any corridor to reach those in need. **All activities to assist Syrians in this critical period remain underfunded.**