

WFP SYRIA EMERGENCY RESPONSE

External Situation Report

September 2025

Displaced kids having a healthy meal thanks to WFP assistance. © WFP/ Hussam Al-Saleh

Highlights

- **Despite immense challenges, Syria's path from crisis to recovery remains within reach.** Achieving peace and resilience depends on sustained humanitarian support that restores food security and livelihoods, empowering millions to rebuild their lives with hope and dignity.
- **WFP has the capacity, footprint, and access to help Syrian communities recover** through highly prioritized emergency and resilience interventions, focused on the most severely food insecure. Each month, WFP supports 3.5 million people across Syria – 1.2 million receiving targeted emergency food assistance, 2 million accessing fortified bread at subsidized price, and the remainder through school meals and nutrition activities. WFP stands ready to scale up operations as funding permits.
- **WFP urgently requires USD 84 million over the next six months to sustain all its activities**. Without additional funding secured by December, WFP will be forced to reduce assistance across all programmes in January 2026, including suspending support for more than 2 million people who rely on daily subsidized bread. This would deepen hunger, fuel social tensions, destabilize fragile return areas, and undermine recovery efforts.

IN NUMBERS

5.5 million people reached in 2025, including 3.5 million reached monthly with WFP's regular programmes, as well as through the subsidized bread project

7.4 million people remained displaced within Syria as of the end of 2024, and more than **4.5 million** are registered as refugees in neighbouring countries

2.8 million people – 1.8 million IDPs and 1 million refugees - returned to their areas of origin since 8 December 2024. Up to 3.5 million are anticipated to return to Syria by the end of 2025 (UNHCR)

Over half of the population is food insecure. Of these, nearly **3 million** people are projected to be **severely food insecure**

USD 84 million required to implement all activities for the next six months. Without additional funds, WFP will be forced to reduce assistance across all programmes in January 2026, including suspending subsidized bread project for more than 2 million people.

WFP RESPONSE

- **In 2025, WFP reached 5.5 million people in Syria.** WFP reaches 3.5 million people monthly, prioritizing those facing the most severe food insecurity. This includes 1.2 million people receiving targeted emergency food assistance, 2 million people benefiting from daily fortified bread sold at subsidized price, and the remainder supported through livelihoods, school meals and nutrition programmes. Efforts are underway to scale up targeted assistance to 1.6 million people, funding permitting.
- Since violence erupted in As-Sweida governorate in mid-July, and through key coordination with local authorities and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, **WFP has provided emergency food and nutrition assistance to over 770,000 people across As-Sweida, Dar'a, Quneitra and Rural Damascus**. The assistance included one-off blanket food and nutrition distributions throughout As-Sweida governorate – with a second round currently under review, depending on funding availability and ongoing monitoring findings. Additionally, WFP has supplied 2,855 mt of fortified wheat flour for bread production in the affected areas.
- **A recent WFP assessment found a sharp deterioration in food security in As-Sweida following the surge in violence.** Inadequate food consumption rates more than doubled, rising from 28 percent in June to 60 percent in August, with poor food consumption alone quadrupling to 36 percent in July

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before slightly improving in August as humanitarian access resumed. Adequate food consumption rates dramatically declined from 72 percent in June to just 40 percent by August. Market analysis indicated a 40 percent increase in the cost of living between July and August (measured by the WFP-tracked Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB)), driven by inflation in essential goods. WFP's support for bakeries allows families to purchase bread at a subsidized price, easing some pressure on vulnerable households.

- **WFP has positioned itself as a key actor in Syria's social protection sector,** collaborating closely with Syrian authorities, UN agencies, and International Financial Institutions (IFIs) – including the World Bank - to strengthen social safety net systems. Key initiatives include providing cash and food assistance to 30,000 vulnerable farmer households across eight drought-affected governorates through a climate macro-insurance scheme, in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, with distributions starting in mid-October upon the completion of registration. Additionally, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour and WFP are launching Syria's first nutrition-sensitive social protection transfer programme, **Transitional-Anmu (T-ANMU)**, piloting multi-purpose cash transfers to 11,000 vulnerable individuals starting October, while laying the groundwork for a national 1,000-day programme aimed at protecting the human capital development of the country's next generation.

- **WFP is coordinating with the Ministry of Education to redesign the school feeding programme** for the current academic year, aiming to maximize its impact on long-term educational and health outcomes of Syria's youngest generation.

- Provided enough funds are made available, WFP is ready to **scale up early recovery efforts, with a focus on food value chains and agricultural livelihoods**. Since 2020, WFP has restored access to water for 50,000 hectares of agricultural land and rehabilitated 25 bakeries. By the end of 2026, WFP plans to restore an additional 29 bakeries and four silos. WFP is also leading efforts with the Syrian authorities to rebuild Syria's **wheat flour fortification and salt iodization** systems.

- WFP is collaborating with UNHCR to support **the voluntary return and reintegration of vulnerable Syrian refugees and displaced persons** through immediate food assistance and inclusion into the planned expansion of WFP's targeted food assistance programme, where the people returning meet vulnerability criteria.

- WFP and the Planning and Statistics Commission launched Syria's 2025 **Food Security Assessment** (FSA). Trainings for frontline data collectors are currently underway, with data collection set to begin upon their completion. The 2025 FSA will – for the first time – incorporate the **Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)** and will be carried out in close collaboration with FAO and the Syrian Government – results are expected by the end of 2025.

- **WFP has established itself as a** trusted partner for the Syrian Government through strategic partnerships with various ministries, including the subsidized bread project and strengthening the food value chain with the Ministry of Economy and Industry, the macro insurance programme with the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, and the Food Security Assessment with the Planning and Statistical Commission. Additional partnerships are planned.

Supply Chain

- **WFP Syria's optimized supply corridors strategy ensures a continuous and cost-efficient delivery of commodities into Syria.** Considering the recent economic changes and shifts in the exchange rate in 2025, **WFP is strengthening local procurement of key commodities**, supporting the local economy and reducing costs. As policy shifts enabled direct imports from Türkiye, WFP has expanded its use of the Turkish corridor, achieving significant cost savings and improved supply chain efficiency. WFP has also secured access via Iraq as a contingency measure.

- **WFP maintains a robust logistics network,** with an average of 782 monthly truck movements via contracts with 26 transport companies, ensuring efficient food delivery to vulnerable populations across the country. WFP also has a network of 285 WFP-contracted retailers, allowing beneficiaries to redeem their cash (CBT) assistance.

- **WFP leverages six WFP-contracted warehouses**, strategically located across six governorates, with a total storage space of over 82,000 sqm. This allows WFP to store its supplies for use in case of emergencies. This network is also available for use by other humanitarian partners.

- WFP maintains an **in-country stock of monthly food rations** sufficient to sustain operations until the end of the year. WFP also has enough **RTEs** to support 22,000 people for one week, in addition to **Fortified Biscuits** and **Date Bars.**

OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

- WFP's ability to respond to Syria's overlapping crises has been significantly constrained by **increasing humanitarian needs coupled with funding shortfalls.**

- **Economic challenges continue to significantly undermine food security in Syria.** Even with the recent wage increase, today's minimum income still falls far short – meeting only about one-third of a family's essential needs and just over half of its food

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requirements – underscoring a great need for economic reforms and enhanced social safety nets to achieve economic stability and food security.

- **Syria faces critical environmental crises, that could compound its needs, destroy livelihoods and erode resilience.** Devastating wildfires have ravaged vast agricultural lands in Lattakia, while a historic drought threatens up to 75 percent – approximately 2.7 million metric – of the country's wheat crop, sufficient to feed around 16 million people for one year.
- **Liquidity challenges related to local currency persist.** To address this, the UN community in Syria is implementing a temporary solution that enables direct payments in US Dollar.

FUNDING REQUIREMENT

- **WFP urgently needs USD 84 million over the next six months (October 2025 – March 2026) to sustain all its activities**. Without additional funds by December 2025, WFP will face a pipeline break in January 2026 across all programmes. This would include the suspension of the subsidized bread assistance project, putting more than 2 million people at immediate risk. Such a scenario would deepen hunger, fuel social tensions, destabilize fragile return areas, and undermine recovery efforts.

CLUSTERS AND COMMON SERVICES

Food Security Sector (FSS)

The Food Security Sector continues its efforts to enhance coordination among partners across Syria.

Emergency Telecommunications Sector

The Emergency Telecommunications (ETC) supports the humanitarian community and UN Hubs through the provision of connectivity services and Security Communications across Syria.

Logistics Sector

The Logistics Sector facilitates the transshipment of humanitarian aid from Türkiye into Syria through all three operational border crossings, which are open for humanitarian access until early February 2026. Since the beginning of 2025, over 2,500 UN aid trucks have crossed into Syria; WFP accounts for 86 percent of these deliveries.

UNHAS

UNHAS provides safe and reliable transportation for 72 humanitarian agencies in Syria, operating two weekly flights between Damascus and Aleppo. Operations are planned to expand to Qamishli and Deir Ezzor, contingent upon the reopening of their airports.



A Syrian man buys subsidized bread from a WFP-rehabilitated bakery in Aleppo. © WFP/ Zuha Akkash

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