



World Food Programme

WFP SYRIA

Situation Report 11 – November 2023

Highlights

- WFP assisted 3.4 million people across Syria in November, including 423,000 people through cash-based transfers worth USD 5 million.
- The cost of living nearly doubled in the first ten months of 2023 and quadrupled over a two-year period (as of October 2023), while wages remained stagnant. A family earning a minimum wage today can only afford one tenth of its monthly essential needs.
- Due to funding shortfalls, WFP will end the general food assistance programme in December 2023 and will replace it with a more refined and targeted alternative set of emergency food assistance interventions that focus on the most severely vulnerable households.
- WFP Syria requires USD 471 million for the next six months (January 2023 – June 2024) to ensure assistance to the most vulnerable people in Syria across all its activities.

In Numbers



3.4 million people in Syria received WFP assistance in November 2023.



6.8 million Internally Displaced People (IDPs), according to the 2023 Humanitarian Needs overview ([HNO](#)).



12.9 million people are food insecure in Syria (2024 [HNO](#)).



WFP requires a USD 471 million for the next 6 months to ensure the implementation of all its activities in Syria.

Situation Update

- The cost of living in Syria continued to surge, as demonstrated by the increasing cost of the minimum expenditure basket, which includes the minimum food and non-food items that a family requires to meet its essential needs. The cost of living nearly doubled in the first ten months of 2023 and quadrupled over a two-year period (as of October 2023), while wages remained stagnant. A family earning a minimum wage today can only afford one tenth of its monthly essential needs.
- Following the devaluation in October 2023, the Syrian pound experienced a five percent loss of its value on the parallel market by the third week of November. At the rate of 14,020 SYP/USD, the local currency depreciated by 56 percent since the beginning of this year, lost 75 percent of its value over two years, and 83 percent over three years.
- On 26 November, an airstrike hit Damascus international airport rendering it out of service. The airstrike took place on the first day that the airport was operational after being closed since 22 October. Since 12 October, airstrikes have hit

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Photo credit: © WFP/Zuha Akkash – Bana, a 7-month-old girl receiving WFP-provided nutrition supplement in Aleppo governorate.

Damascus and Aleppo international airports' runways repetitively.

- In November 2023, the Government of Syria extended permission for the United Nations to deliver humanitarian assistance to the non-government-controlled parts of northwest Syria from Türkiye via Bab Al-Salam and Al Ra'ee border crossings for three more months, until 13 February 2024. To date, more than 970 trucks carrying humanitarian assistance have crossed to northwest Syria via the two border crossings since their opening on 14 February 2023. Of these, 200 were WFP trucks.

WFP Operations

General Food Assistance (GFA)

- WFP reached 3.2 million people across Syria with in-kind and cash-based transfers:
 - WFP distributed 17,175 mt of food to 2.8 million people.
 - A total of 352,650 people received cash-based assistance for a total value of USD 3.4 million.

School Meals

- WFP reached 442,000 children with fortified date bars in 1,485 schools across the country. Furthermore, WFP reached 9,400 children enrolled in self-learning programme in camps in north-east Syria. WFP has temporarily reduced the feeding days from 5 to 3 per week due to supply chain challenges with the local production of fortified date bars.
- WFP provided fresh meals to some 58,000 children in Aleppo and Rural Damascus governorates in November. WFP will resume the provision of fresh meals in Deir Ezzor governorate, in December.
- WFP provided cash-based assistance to 22,900 school children enrolled in Curriculum B across the country, as well as to 370 school children receiving non-formal education in Dar'a governorate.

Building Resilience

- Following the procurement of 700 metric tons of yeast to support subsidized bread production at public bakeries in earthquake-affected governorates of Aleppo, Idlib, Latakia, Tartous

and Hama, WFP has so far distributed 471.75 mt, benefitting a total of 493 bakeries. The remaining quantities will be distributed over the upcoming months.

Nutrition

- WFP's prevention of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies interventions reached 123,000 children (6-23 months) and 47,400 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWG) who received vouchers to purchase food from WFP-contracted shops. Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition interventions reached 35,100 children (6-59 months) and PBWGs.

Clusters and Common Services

Food Security Sector

- The 2024 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) workshop took place from 20 to 22 of November in Amman, with more than 80 participants from 20 humanitarian agencies. The workshop involved detailed consultation and validation of the primary findings of the 2023 Food Security Assessment (FSA) in government-controlled areas and the Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment (FSLA) in non-government-controlled areas of north-west and north-east Syria, as well as validation of Food Security Sector's methodology and preliminary findings for the 2024 HNO.

Logistics Cluster

- The Logistics Cluster continued to facilitate the cross-border operation from Türkiye into northwest Syria. In November, the cluster transhipped over 175 trucks carrying 2,466 mt of humanitarian relief items through Bab Al-Hawa and Bab Al Salam border crossings on behalf of seven UN agencies.

UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- In November, UNHAS was able to conduct only one flight on its route Damascus – Qamishli – Damascus in the morning of the day that the Damascus airport was hit (26 November). UNHAS aircraft was not affected by the airstrike and all UNHAS staff were reported to be safe and accounted for.



Funding

- Due to funding shortfalls, WFP will end the large-scale nationwide general food assistance programme in December 2023 and will replace it with a more refined and targeted alternative set of emergency food assistance interventions that focus on the most severely vulnerable households. WFP communicated the news with the relevant authorities and cooperating partners in November. All other WFP programmes will continue on similar levels in 2024.
- WFP Syria requires USD 471 million for six months (January 2023 – June 2024) to ensure assistance to the most vulnerable people in Syria across all its activities.



Monitoring

- WFP and contracted third-party monitoring companies (TPM) conducted over 870 on-site monitoring visits and 1,300 post-distribution

monitoring interviews across all governorates in Syria.

- WFP registered over 12,800 cases through its community feedback mechanism (CFM) helpline, which provides a direct link between WFP and the affected population. Most of the cases received in November were related to the recent reduction of assistance.

Operational challenges

- UNHAS flights has been suspended since 12 October due to multiple airstrikes on Damascus and Aleppo airports, except for one flight from Damascus to Qamishli on 19 October. UNHAS normally conducts two flights (with return) from Damascus to Aleppo and two flights (with return) from Damascus to Qamishli every week, transporting an average of 33 passengers on each flight. WFP is exploring options to resume UNHAS operations and/or conduct interagency convoys.

WFP Syria Interim Country Strategic Plan (2022-2023)

	2023 Requirement (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirement (January 2024 – June 2024)	People Assisted (November 2023) *	Female	Male
ICSP (January 2022– December 2023)	1.5 billion	471 million	3,384,663		
Activity 1: General Food Assistance			3,181,200	1,647,862	1,533,338
Activity 2: School Feeding			532,327	252,855	279,472
Activity 3: Livelihoods and Resilience			0**	0	0
Activity 4: Prevention of Acute Malnutrition			170,608	107,915	62,693
Activity 5: Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition			34,297	17,618	16,679

* 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.

** As part of its livelihoods strategy, WFP is gradually phasing out household-level interventions and focusing more on communal asset rehabilitation. Thus, direct distribution of assistance is now implemented as a complementary activity to communal asset rehabilitation activities and when necessary.