



World Food Programme

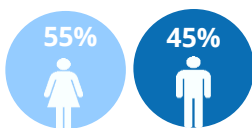
WFP Syria Situation Report #1

January 2023



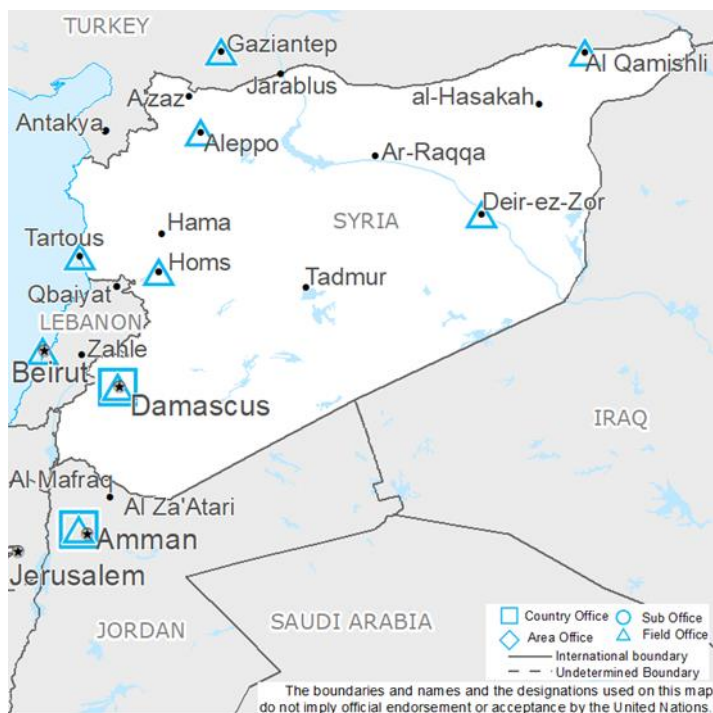
5.6 million people assisted*

January 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>(February 2023 – July 2023)</i>	US\$ 670.4 m
WFP Syria 2022-2023 Interim Country Strategic Plan <i>(November 2021)</i>	



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In Numbers

12.1 million people food insecure

2.7 million severely food insecure

6.8 million people internally displaced

Highlights

- WFP dispatched humanitarian assistance sufficient for 5.6 million people across Syria in January.
- By December 2022, the national average price of a WFP reference food basket reached a new record high of SYP 425,585 (≈USD 141 at the official exchange rate of SYP 3,015/USD), almost double the price compared to the same time last year.
- The tenth cross-line convoy was completed on 8 January, going from government-controlled Aleppo city to opposition-controlled Sarmada city in north-western Syria.

WFP at 60

- On 25 January, the WFP Executive Director [visited](#) Syria. From Damascus, he appealed to the world to invest in the Syrian people and communities to get them on their feet and off food assistance. The Executive Director visited Al Nashabiyeh subdistrict in Duma in Eastern Ghota, Rural Damascus where WFP is rehabilitating irrigation canals as part of a [livelihood project](#) to enable [farmers and their community](#) to grow wheat and other food in their lands.

Situation Update

Humanitarian Situation

- According to the [2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview](#), 15.3 million people inside Syria are in need of humanitarian assistance in 2023, a 5 percent increase (700,000 people) from 2022. The food security situation in Syria has worsened since last year. At least 12.1 million people (55 percent of the population) are estimated to be food insecure. These includes all 2 million people living in camps, who are considered fully dependent on humanitarian assistance. Additionally, 2.9 million people are at risk of sliding into food insecurity if the crisis continues to worsen.
- In December 2022, the monthly average price of the WFP's standard reference food basket increased by 12 percent compared to the previous month, reaching SYP 425,585 (≈USD 141 at the official exchange rate of SYP 3,015/USD)

and almost doubled compared to the same time last year, according to the latest [WFP Syria Market Price Watch Bulletin](#). The cost of the basket across the country increased four times within two years and was thirteen times more than three years ago.

Fuel Crisis

- The unprecedented fuel crisis, which is manifested in expensive and low supplies of fuel continues to impact WFP operations. Some WFP distributions are delayed, some dispatches to remote and rural areas are cancelled, and some field missions are rescheduled. Also, some offices have insufficient electricity to fully operate.

Crossline deliveries in North-western Syria

- The tenth cross-line convoy was completed on 8 January, going from government-controlled Aleppo city to opposition-controlled Sarmada city in north-western Syria. The convoy carried food rations and nutrition items to enable WFP to reach its monthly target (refer to number of people the food was for rather than WFP target). It also carried humanitarian assistance for other UN agencies.

North-Eastern Syria

- WFP conducted a community engagement training for WFP partners in north eastern Syria to improve the communication channels with the affected population, and reiterate the importance of community feedback mechanisms.

WFP Operations

- WFP dispatched food and nutrition assistance sufficient for 5.6 million people across Syria in January. Additionally, WFP transferred US\$ 3.6 million in cash-based transfers (CBT) to 365,600 WFP beneficiaries.

Vulnerability Needs Review (VNR) exercise:

- After WFP and partners completed the Vulnerability Needs Review (VNR) exercise in September 2022, implementation of the results started in mid-December and will continue across all governorates gradually. To recall, the VNR is a household level data collection and analysis conducted by WFP and partners to direct food assistance to the most vulnerable families in the country. In this regard, partners continue to make sensitization and awareness raising sessions through tailored communication packages shared by WFP.

General Food Assistance (GFA) Programme

- In January, WFP dispatched food sufficient for some 5.4 million people across all 14 Syrian governorates. This included food delivered through the cross-border operation from Türkiye to areas of Idlib and western rural

Aleppo governorates that are not accessible from inside Syria.

Livelihoods, Resilience and Social Safety Nets

- WFP uses a system-level approach to restore the productive capacity of key sectors, relevant for reducing food insecurity and enhancing livelihoods. Working with the International Center for Agriculture Research in the Dry Area (ICARDA) WFP cleaned 600 kilometers of drainage canals across Aleppo, and Al-Raqqa governorates during 2022. The project included implementation of other household activities that aimed at halting soil salinization and boosting soil productivity in addition to the rehabilitation of six metal gates within the same irrigation project.

School Meals Programme

- In January, WFP reached some 459,000 children with fortified date bars in 1,800 schools across the country. Of these, 11,900 children are part of UNICEF-supported self-learning programme in Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa camps governorates of northeast Syria.
- WFP also supported more than 34,370 out of school children with food vouchers in Al Hasakeh, Aleppo, Damascus, Dar'a, Deir Ezzor, Hama, Homs, Lattakia, Quneitra, As-Sweida, Rural Damascus, Raqqa and Tartous governorates.
- The fresh meals programme reached 30,000 children Rural Damascus schools.

Nutrition

- WFP prevention and treatment of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies, reached 169,200 children (6-23 months old) and Pregnant and Lactating Women and Girls (PLWGs). This includes more than 55,398 PLWGs who received cash to purchase fresh food from WFP-contracted shops.
- WFP's treatment of moderate acute malnutrition activities reached 9,200 children and PLWGs.

Clusters and Common Services

Food and Agriculture Sector

- The Food Security Sector reached 6.6 million people with regular food baskets and another 3 million people with bread and flour distribution in December. In addition, the sector's emergency response reached 92,200 people with emergency response with ready-to-eat rations, cooked meals, and emergency food baskets. Cumulatively, the cluster has reached at least 2.3 million people with livelihoods interventions since the beginning of the year.

Logistics Cluster

- Facilitating the cross-border operation from Türkiye, the WFP-led Logistics Cluster transhipped 92 trucks carrying 930 mt of humanitarian relief items from Türkiye in January

through the Bab al-Hawa border crossing. Due to operational challenges, distributions for January cycle are still ongoing.

**This figure is based on commodities dispatched. January cycle distributions are ongoing. Delays were caused by unavoidable operational challenges*

- The Cluster provided storage services in Aleppo and Kisweh warehouses, with a total of 31.7 mt of non-food items on behalf of UNFPA, WHO, UNICEF and UNHCR.

United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- In January, UNHAS Syria completed 16 flights on its two regular routes from Damascus to Qamishli and Aleppo, transporting 350 passengers and 2 mt of light cargo.

Resourcing Update

- WFP requires US\$ 670.4 million through July 2023 to implement the Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) for Syria. In addition, WFP Syria urgently requires **a minimum of USD 300 million to continue providing general food assistance for the rest of 2023**. Due to funding shortfalls, families are currently receiving reduced food rations. Should additional funding not be received on time, WFP would be forced to cut up to 70 percent of beneficiaries in July to avert a complete pipeline break. Nearly 3.8 million people (including 900,000 people in North-western Syria) could stop receiving food assistance.

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For further information, visit the [WFP Syria website](#).

WFP Syria Interim Country Strategic Plan (2022-2023)					
	2023 Requirement (in US\$)	6-Month Net Funding Requirement (February 2023 – July 2023)	People Assisted (January 2023 dispatches)	Female	Male
ICSP (January 2022– December 2023)	1.49 billion	670.4 million			
Activity 1: General Food Assistance			5,415,875*	2,762,096	2,653,779
Activity 2: School Feeding			523,292*	256,413	266,879
Activity 3: Livelihoods and Resilience			0	0	0
Activity 4: Prevention of Acute Malnutrition			169,278*	113,477	55,801
Activity 5: Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition			9,275*	5,055	4,220