

Highlights

- **The security situation in Syria is the most fragile it has been in years, now further worsened by the crisis in Lebanon.** Over three million are severely food insecure; malnutrition indicators continue to worsen, and coping mechanisms are close to exhaustion.
- **Following the escalation of hostilities in Lebanon, WFP has scaled up its emergency response to assist 255,000 people with food at the borders, as well as inside Syria.** WFP was on the ground within hours, providing food assistance to those arriving at the borders and host centres, as well as to Syrian families and communities hosting those displaced.
- **WFP requires USD 54.4 million to reach 480,000 people until the end of March 2025. In addition, WFP still requires USD 20 million per month for the pre-existing emergency assistance** to reach a reduced target of 1 million people (one-third of Syria's severely food-insecure population in 2024), and maintain school meals, nutrition, and early recovery programming. Support is critical as WFP is currently diverting in-country food commodities to support the emergency and urgently requires new contributions to replenish this vital stock.

IN NUMBERS



707,000 people in August
491,000 people in September

received WFP emergency food, school feeding and nutrition assistance



7.2 million people are Internally Displaced (2024 HNO)



470,000 people fled Lebanon to Syria between 23 September and end of October



3.1 million people are **severely** food insecure. In total, 12.9 million are food insecure or at risk of falling into food insecurity (2024 HNO)



USD 494 million required for ICSP activities until April 2025, in addition to **USD 54.4 million** to reach 480,000 Lebanese and Syrians until March 2025

SITUATION UPDATE

- Since 23 September, **hundreds of thousands of people were forced to cross into Syria** amid escalating hostilities in Lebanon; the majority are Syrian nationals. Many are being hosted by Syrian families and communities that are already vulnerable.
- Meanwhile, **families in Syria continue to struggle to meet their basic needs.** The cost of living tripled in Syria over the past two years; today the minimum wage buys less than a fifth of a family's basic food needs, and only a tenth of a household's essential needs - as assessed through the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB).

WFP OPERATIONS



Emergency Food Assistance

- Through the regular programme, WFP reached **694,445 people in August and 452,880 people in September** with emergency food assistance across the country, including 171,000 beneficiaries reached through cash-based transfers, equivalent to USD 4.9 million.
- In addition, in response to the recent **influx of displaced people arriving from Lebanon**, WFP was able to respond within hours - benefitting from its historical footprint and access capabilities. WFP provided date bars and fresh meals at the borders,

while delivering food rations, hot meals and ready-to-eat rations to those in need in host centers, and among hosting communities. WFP will continue to leverage all modalities and expertise to respond to this crisis.

- **WFP's digital beneficiary registration¹ for the new highly-targeted programme which consists of two parts:** Mu'eel (the bread winner) and Anmu (I grow), continued across Syria. Registration is expected to be completed by the end of 2024. Mu'eel targets female, elderly, and disability headed households; 'Anmu' targets nutritionally vulnerable households with children under two.



School Meals

- In September, with the start of the 2024-2025 academic year, WFP gradually resumed its school meals activities and reached **over 72,000 children** with fresh meals in Aleppo, Deir Ezzor and Rural Damascus governorates.
- Children re-enrolled in formal education after prolonged absence are being registered to receive WFP electronic **value vouchers** starting in October.



Nutrition

- **WFP's prevention of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies interventions** reached 236,200 children under two and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWGs) in August and 148,000 in September.
- **Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition interventions** reached 26,800 children under five, and PBWGs across the country in August, and 27,500 in September.



Contributing to Resilience Building

- Under the rehabilitation of **bakeries**, WFP completed the rehabilitation of Al-Tebni bakery in Deir Ezzor, currently providing daily fresh bread to over 26,000 people on a daily basis. The rehabilitation of three other bakeries affected by the February 2023 earthquakes is ongoing, with completion expected by December 2024.
- Under the rehabilitation of **communal agrarian assets**, In the east of Syria, Deir Ezzor, WFP rehabilitates the Al-Shmatieh sheep market, while working on the second phase of the Sector 5 project, where WFP rehabilitates the drainage system to ensure sustainable use of soil and water. In the northeast of Syria, al-Hasakeh, WFP is working on the installation and rehabilitation of water pumping sets and water dams.

MONITORING

- In August and September, WFP and contracted third-party monitoring companies (TPM) conducted **1,964 on-site monitoring visits and 877 post-distribution monitoring interviews** across all governorates.
- **WFP monitors emergency food distributions in response to the influx from Lebanon** with surveys conducted at borders, host centres, communities, and kitchens.
- In line with the Global Assurance Project, **WFP and contracted TPM conducts household-level visit to verify the eligibility of beneficiaries registered** under the new targeted emergency programme, significantly enhancing assurance that beneficiaries are real, unique and eligible.

ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS

- **WFP successfully addressed over 16,000 cases received in August and September through its Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM) helplines.** Most calls were requests for information and assistance.
- The WFP helpline number and contact details are available at all assistance sites and feature in all WFP food rations.

OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

- UN agencies, including WFP, have **not received approvals to conduct missions to As-Sweida governorate since December 2023.** This is linked to the continuation of instability and unrest in the governorate.
- Following further escalation of hostilities in Gaza and Lebanon, **UN Syria personnel transit via Beirut remains suspended.** WFP Syria travellers are currently using the Amman corridor.
- **WFP is diverting in-country food rations to support the emergency response to displacements from Lebanon** and urgently requires new contributions to replenish this vital stock.

CLUSTERS AND COMMON SERVICES



Food Security Sector

- The **WFP-FAO led Food Security Sector has been engaged since the onset of the influx from Lebanon emergency**, coordinating closely with all partners to streamline the response and avoid assistance overlaps.

¹ In line with global assurance project, WFP Syria is driving major changes in beneficiary registration and verification. In parallel, WFP Syria implemented periodic rather than monthly distributions to ensure people in need not yet registered receive support. By the fall, WFP expects regular monthly distribution to the full targeted caseload, unless donor funding requires careful pipeline management for a slightly lower caseload to receive assistance over longer time.

Logistics Cluster

- During August and September, the **WFP-led Logistics Cluster transhipped 29 trucks** carrying 502 mt of humanitarian relief items through Bab al-Hawa and Bab al Salam border crossings on behalf of five UN agencies.
- The **Logistics Cluster has supported agencies since the onset of the influx emergency response** and is working to ensure adequate stock of fuel are made available to partners to sustain the emergency response.

UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- **UNHAS Syria conducted 30 flights in August and September from Damascus to Aleppo and Qamishli**, transporting 798 passengers and 2.6 mt of light cargo on behalf of 29 humanitarian organisations.

Voices from the field

Along with the WFP food rations they received returning to Syria, Salma and her family previously received WFP support as refugees in Lebanon. Salma suffers from rheumatoid arthritis and was among the elderly beneficiaries prioritised for WFP's assistance due to her inability to work due to various health ailments over the years. Her 68-year-old husband is also in fragile health; and her father-in-law is paralysed, while Salma herself suffers from rheumatoid arthritis.

"In Lebanon, our neighbours knew our struggles and supported us," Salma says. *In Syria, with so many vulnerable people, that's no longer possible. More than a dozen family members are packed into just two rooms of her sister's apartment.*

Salma is grateful for the WFP and other humanitarian assistance she receives – but it is stretched to cover so many mouths, it is not enough. The family eats only bread in the morning, she says, and drinks dirty tap water.

"Violence in Syria, violence in Lebanon, where do we go?" Salma asks. *"We must help each other survive this."*



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WFP Syria Interim Country Strategic Plan (2022-2025)						
	2024 Needs-based Planned Beneficiaries	2024 Implementation plan Beneficiaries	People Assisted* August 2024	People Assisted* September 2024	Female	Male
ICSP (January 2022– December 2025)	5,257,824	1,471,432	707,829	491,839	52%	48%
Activity 1: Targeted Food Assistance	4,499,179	1,000,000	694,445	452,880	51%	49%
Activity 2: School Feeding	961,000	615,550	0	72,078	49%	51%
Activity 3: Livelihoods and Resilience	200,000	125,000	0	26,700**	52%	48%
Activity 4: Prevention of Acute Malnutrition	395,564	235,000	235,913	148,243	70%	30%
Activity 5: Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition	437,564	261,978	26,768	27,463	82%	18%

* 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. ** This represents the number of indirect beneficiaries reached through livelihoods interventions, and therefore are not included in the total number of direct beneficiaries reached. As part of its livelihood 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.