



Highlights

- **Funding shortfalls will force WFP to remove assistance for up to 2.5 million people across Syria starting in July.**
- In April, **WFP assisted 5.2 million** people across Syria, including 358,000 people receiving cash-based assistance with a transfer value of USD 4.5 million.
- **WFP continued to provide life-saving food and nutrition assistance to earthquake-affected populations** in government and non-government-controlled areas of Aleppo, Idlib, Latakia, Hama and Homs governorates.
- The price of the standard reference food basket of staples increased by ten percent in the first quarter of 2023 – it is now almost four times the average wage of a schoolteacher.

IN NUMBERS



5.2 million people in Syria received WFP assistance in April 2023



12.1 million people are food insecure in Syria.



5.5 million Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR in the region.



6.8 million Internally Displaced People.



WFP requires a minimum of USD 180 million to sustain emergency food assistance at current levels.

- The first quarter of 2023 has seen the national average price of the standard reference food basket increase by ten percent, reaching Syrian Pounds (SYP) 511,623 as of March 2023 according to the WFP [Syria Market Price Watch Bulletin](#). This is almost four times the average wage of a schoolteacher (95,000 SYP).
- In early April 2023, the Central Bank of Syria devalued the Syrian pound by 31 percent to 6,532 SYP/USD. This was the fourth devaluation since April 2022 and the second in three months. **The local currency has plunged 48 percent in 12 months, 57 percent in two years, and 85 percent in three years.**

WFP Operations

Enhanced Beneficiary Targeting

- WFP is tightening the targeting of its General Food Assistance programme based on 1.2 million household assessments in government-controlled areas. While families deemed ineligible to receive WFP food assistance can dispute the findings, emerging tensions are exposing the operation to a heightened level of risk with demonstrations, security incidents, and growing hostility against WFP and partners.

- WFP has also conducted Vulnerability assessments in northwest Syria. Data verification is ongoing. Once this exercise is finalized by end of July, WFP plans to target households based on their food insecurity and vulnerability levels.

General Food Assistance (GFA)

- In April, WFP distributed 33,432 metric tons of food assistance sufficient for **5 million people** across all 14 Syrian governorates. These included 10,533 metric tons for **1.2 million people in northwest Syria**, through the cross-border operation from Türkiye, and 27,162.5 metric tons for **3.6 million people through regular deliveries from within Syria**. In addition, **195,000 people in northwest Syria received cash-based assistance** for a total value of USD 1.5 million.

WFP Earthquake Response

- WFP continued its emergency assistance to the earthquake affected population in government and non-government-controlled areas of Aleppo, Idlib, Latakia, Hama and Homs governorates.
- As of 30 April, WFP has provided **1.2 million meals** in shelters and has delivered **ready-to-eat rations enough for 500,000 people** for one week.
- WFP will **integrate up to 800,000 earthquake-affected people into its GFA programme** until the end of 2023. Most of them will receive cash-based food assistance.

Resilience and Safety Nets

- WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) collaborated in projects aiming to revive livelihoods in rural Dara'a governorate as part of the UN Joint Programme for Urban and Rural Resilience. Some **900 farmers and animal keepers received productive agricultural inputs and tools** to improve their animals' health and agriculture production.
- Under the same programme, WFP completed the rehabilitation of the Al-Jalad pastoral incubator in Dar'a governorate. The incubator will provide sustainable **grazing land for up to 2,000 heads of livestock**. Some **380 daily workers will receive support through employment** in this incubator.

School Meals Programme

- WFP school meals programme continues to help vulnerable children stay in school. In April, WFP **reached 649,000 school children** with fortified date bars, food vouchers and fresh meals across the country. These included **42,500 children** who received food vouchers worth **USD 642,000**.

Nutrition

- WFP's continued providing nutrition support to improve the health and well-being of vulnerable women and children amid rising malnutrition in Syria.
- WFP's prevention and treatment of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies interventions reached **115,100 children (6-23 months) and 46,500 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWG) who received cash vouchers** to purchase food from WFP-contracted shops.
- Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition interventions reached 4,000 children aged 6-59 months old, and PBWGs.

Clusters and Common Services

Food Security Sector

- In March, the Food Security Sector reached **7.3 million people with food baskets and another 3.2 million people with bread and flour distribution**. In addition, the sector's emergency response reached at least **1.2 people with ready-to-eat rations, cooked meals, and emergency food baskets**.
- The Sector has reached at least 577,600 people with livelihoods interventions since the beginning of 2023.

Logistics Cluster

- Facilitating the cross-border operation from Türkiye, the Logistics Cluster **transhipped 760 trucks carrying 16,620 mt of humanitarian relief items** through Bab al-Hawa, Bab al-Salam, and Al Ra'ee border crossings. The transhipments were made on behalf of WHO, IOM, UNHCR, UNFPA, UNICEF, and WFP.

UN Humanitarian Air Service

- The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) in Syria continues enabling humanitarians to travel safely between Damascus, Aleppo and Qamishli governorates. In April, UNHAS conducted **17 flights transporting 345 passengers and 1.4 mt of light cargo on behalf of 53 humanitarian organizations.**

Funding Situation

- WFP faces an unprecedented funding gap** worsened by rising food and operational costs. To sustain emergency food assistance at current levels until the end of the year, **WFP requires a minimum of USD 180 million.** This amount factors in high probability forecasts expected until December.

- Due to these funding shortfalls, **WFP will be forced to remove assistance for up to 2.5 million out of the 5.5 million food-insecure people it supports across the country each month with general 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 (May – October 2023)	People Assisted (April 2023 distribution)	Female	Male
ICSP (January 2022– December 2023)	1.49 billion	814.3 million			
Activity 1: General Food Assistance			5,047,730	2,614,724	2,433,006
Activity 2: School Feeding			648,746	308,154	340,592
Activity 3: Livelihoods and Resilience			1,900	984	984
Activity 4: Prevention of Acute Malnutrition			115,079	80,177	34,902
Activity 5: Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition			3,970	2,039	1,931