

Situation Report – February 2024

Highlights

- WFP assisted 818,200 people across Syria in February, including 38,200 people through cash-based transfers. School meals activities accounted for over 80 percent of the assistance provided in February, while consultations to inform the targeting of the new emergency food assistance programme are ongoing.
- The price of subsidized bread price doubled in February adding more hardship for vulnerable families.
- WFP's new hotline for non-government-controlled areas of northwest Syria became fully operational in February.

In Numbers



818,200 people in Syria received WFP assistance in February 2024.



7.2 million Internally Displaced People (2024 [HNO](#)).



12.9 million people are food insecure, including 3.1 million who are severely food insecure (2024 [HNO](#)).



WFP requires USD 450 million for the next 6 months across all its activities in Syria.

WFP Operations

General Food Assistance (GFA)

- WFP provided in-kind food assistance to 109,250 people living in six camps in Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa and Deir Ezzor governorates in northeast Syria.
- WFP launched a winterization emergency response for 175,000 people living in non-government-controlled parts of Idlib and Aleppo. WFP reached 9,350 people in February with further distributions planned in March.
- WFP continued community consultations to identify the most vulnerable people to be targeted by the new emergency food assistance interventions set to launch in the second quarter of 2024.



School Meals

- WFP reached 445,460 schoolchildren in 1,496 schools across the country and 6,829 schoolchildren enrolled in self-learning programmes in three camps in northeast Syria with fortified date bars.
- WFP resumed the provision of fresh meals to 67,632 schoolchildren in 93 schools in Aleppo, Deir Ezzor and Rural Damascus governorates as well as two centres supporting children with disabilities in Aleppo and Deir Ezzor.
- WFP provided cash-based assistance to 37,600 vulnerable schoolchildren enrolled in formal schools (Curriculum B) across the Country. In addition, 614 children receiving non-formal education in Dar'a governorate were assisted.



Nutrition

- As WFP's activities preventing acute malnutrition and

Situation Update

- The cost of living in Syria more than doubled compared to one year ago and increased by more than four folds in the past two years, as measured by the cost of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) as of February 2024. Currency devaluations, fuel shortages, reductions in subsidies, and the earthquakes' impact contributed to the decline in living standards in 2023.
- The cost of WFP's reference food basket also increased by 97 percent in the past 12 months. Despite a 50 percent increase in minimum wage in February, it still can only cover 28 percent of a family's food needs.
- In February, the price of subsidized bread doubled, which will add more hardship for families that rely on bread as the most affordable source of food.

micronutrient deficiencies are linked to the GFA, these activities will have a reduced reach until the new emergency food assistance interventions are launched in the second quarter of 2024. In February, WFP reached 9,900 children (6-23 months) in the six camps in northeast Syria where GFA continues and through a new approach via Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) clinics across the country.

- Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition reached 34,600 children (6-59 months) and pregnant and breastfeeding women across the country.

Building Resilience

- WFP completed the rehabilitation of Hanano bakery in Aleppo governorate, with this completing its plan to rehabilitate eight earthquake-affected bakeries. On average, a bakery provides subsidized bread for 40,000 people.
- WFP completed the rehabilitation of the agriculture irrigation schemes in Nashabiyeh, Rural Damascus, securing irrigation water for 3,050 hectares of land, providing an income source for 17,500 people.

Clusters and Common Services

Food Security Sector

- The Food Security Sector reached 915,800 people with regular food baskets and another 4.3 million people with bread and flour distribution in January 2024. In addition, 59,000 were reached through ready-to-eat rations, cooked meals, and emergency food baskets.

Logistics Cluster

- On 11 February, the host government extended its authorization for the UN to use the Bab al-Salam and Al-Ra'ee border crossings to deliver humanitarian assistance to non-government-controlled areas of north-west Syria from Türkiye, until 13 May. The UN will also continue to use Bab al-Hawa border crossing until 13 July as per the last authorization extension.
- In February, the cluster transhipped 41 trucks carrying humanitarian relief items through Bab Al-Hawa border crossing on behalf of five UN agencies.

UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- In February, UNHAS Syria conducted eight flights from Damascus to Aleppo and Qamishli, transporting 197 passengers and 0.6 mt of light cargo on behalf of 24 humanitarian organisations.
- On 12 February, a flight to Aleppo was cancelled following an airstrike to Aleppo International Airport.
- On 7 February, a flight from Damascus to Qamishli was forced to return due to a minor technical problem.

Monitoring

- WFP and third-party monitoring companies (TPM) conducted 1,100 on-site monitoring visits and 870 post-distribution monitoring interviews across all governorates in Syria.
- In February, WFP processed 9,154 cases received through WFP's community feedback mechanism (CFM) helplines, including 159 from the new helpline for the non-government-controlled parts of northwest Syria that is fully operational as of 12 February. The majority of calls were requests for information and assistance.

Operational challenges

- Since November 2023, UN agencies, including WFP, have not received approvals to conduct missions to As-Sweida governorate, due to ongoing civil unrest. Lack of approvals could eventually impact WFP operations.
- According to a study by the Logistics Cluster in Syria, the impact of attacks targeting commercial vessels in Bab al-Mandab strait in the Red Sea have increased global shipping rates by 30 percent and prolonged marine journey for up to three weeks. UN agencies in Syria, including WFP, are experiencing delays in shipments to Lattakia port, as well as increased shipping costs.

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WFP.org/Syria

WFP Syria Interim Country Strategic Plan (2022-2025)					
	2024 Requirement (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirement (March 2024 - August 2024)	People Assisted (February 2024) *	Female	Male
ICSP (January 2022- December 2025)	1 billion	449.7 million	818,220		
Activity 1: General Food Assistance			118,600	61,435	57,165
Activity 2: School Feeding			667,141	316,892	350,249
Activity 3: Livelihoods and Resilience			0 **	0	0
Activity 4: Prevention of Acute Malnutrition			9,936	3,577	3,709
Activity 5: Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition			34,562	17,754	16,808

* The total unique beneficiaries-figure represents the total number of beneficiaries reached across all activities, excluding overlaps between beneficiaries in camps of northeast Syria who were assisted through more than one activity. 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.