



World Food Programme

## WFP SYRIA

# Situation Report 7 - July 2023

WFP/Hussam Al Saleh

## Highlights

- In July, WFP assisted 2.8 million people across all its programmes in Syria, through in-kind distribution and cash-based transfers.
- WFP disbursed cash-based transfers worth USD 3.7 million to 359,300 beneficiaries.
- In July, WFP discontinued food assistance to 2.5 out of the 5.5 million people who rely on WFP assistance each month, due to unprecedented funding shortfalls.
- The UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2672 authorizing the cross-border delivery of humanitarian assistance into north-west Syria from Türkiye through the Bab Al-Hawa border crossing was not renewed. WFP has enough food pre-positioned inside north-west Syria to ensure continued assistance in the short term.

## IN NUMBERS



**2.8 million people in Syria received WFP assistance in July 2023.**



**12.1 million people are food insecure in Syria, according to the 2023 Humanitarian Needs overview ([HNO](#)).**



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



**WFP requires a minimum of USD 155 million to resume monthly emergency food assistance to 2.5 million people each month with reduced rations.**

## Situation Update

- In July, WFP discontinued food assistance to 2.5 out of the 5.5 million people who rely on WFP assistance each month, due to unprecedented funding shortfalls. WFP used vulnerability assessments to prioritize the most in need for assistance. The decision was communicated to all affected beneficiaries through multiple channels. WFP developed an appeal mechanism that allows affected beneficiaries to have their cases re-examined. WFP continued to advocate for additional funding to sustain essential food assistance to vulnerable Syrians.
- In July, the national average price of WFP's standard reference food basket (SYP 588,666 ≈ USD 68.9 at the official exchange rate) increased by 11 percent compared to June. Food prices have nearly doubled in 12 months driven in large by the increased sugar prices, and more recently, the soaring rice prices due to the rice export ban by India, the world's leading rice exporter.
- The Central Bank of Syria devalued the Syrian pound by 31 percent in July, to SYP 8,542/USD.

Photo credit: © WFP/Hussam Al Saleh - WFP's nutrition support for children under two years old - As-Sweida governorate.

This was the third devaluation this year. On the parallel market, the local currency has lost 51 percent of its value in 2023, 69 percent in one year, and 83 percent in three years.

- The UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2672, authorizing the cross-border delivery of humanitarian assistance into north-west Syria from Türkiye through the Bab Al-Hawa border crossing expired on 10 July 2023. The Security Council failed to reach an agreement to renew it.

To avoid any interruption of assistance, WFP pre-positioned 25,000 metric tonnes of food and nutrition commodities inside north-west Syria prior the expiration of the authorization.

## WFP Operations

### General Food Assistance (GFA)

- In July, WFP reached 2.8 million people across Syria with in-kind and cash-based general food assistance:
  - WFP distributed 14,453 mt of food assistance to 2.5 million beneficiaries.
  - A total of 320,000 people received cash-based assistance for a total value of USD 2.7 million, including 192,000 people in northwest Syria.

### School Meals Programme

- While regular schools are on summer break until September, WFP's school meals programme continued to support vulnerable children who continued to receive education in summer.
- WFP reached 335 children registered in non-formal education in Dar'a governorate with food vouchers and provided fortified date bars to 9,000 children enrolled in self-education in IDP camps in northeast Syria.

### Resilience

- In July, WFP completed the rehabilitation and cleaning of irrigation canals in Maddan area, Ar-Raqqa governorate. The canals will irrigate up to 4,000 hectares of agricultural land. Under the same project, WFP provided on-field technical training to 270 farmers.
- WFP also completed the rehabilitation of three earthquake-affected bakeries in Hama and Aleppo governorates. The rehabilitation of five

others located in Aleppo, Latakia and Tartous continues. On average, one bakery provides subsidized bread for 40,000 people a day.

- In Deir Ezzor governorate, WFP provided livestock control fences for 200 livestock keepers.
- WFP also worked to strengthen the capacity of 270 farmers in Ar-Raqqa through on-field technical trainings, and a further 20 people in Deir Ezzor on food processing techniques.

### Nutrition

- WFP continued to support the health and nutritional well-being of vulnerable women and children in Syria amid rising rates of malnutrition.
- In July, WFP's prevention of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies interventions reached 121,200 children (6-23 months) and 39,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWG) who received vouchers to purchase food from WFP-contracted shops.
- Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition interventions reached 30,000 children (6-59 months) and PBWGs in July.

## Clusters and Common Services

### Food Security Sector

- In June, the Food Security Sector reached 6.4 million people with food baskets and another 2.6 million people with bread and flour distribution. In addition, the sector's emergency response reached 152,200 people with ready-to-eat rations, cooked meals, and emergency food baskets.
- The sector has reached 1.1 million people with livelihoods interventions in 2023.

### Logistics Cluster

- The WFP-led Logistics Cluster continued to facilitate the cross-border operation from Türkiye into northwest Syria. In July, the cluster transhipped over 442 trucks carrying 8,384 mt of humanitarian relief items through Bab Al Hawa (until 10 July), Bab Al Salam, and Al Ra'ee border crossings carrying food and non-food items on behalf of IOM, UNICEF, UNFPA WHO and WFP.

## Emergency Telecommunications Cluster

- In July, the WFP-led Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) successfully rehabilitated the ICT network in the UN hub in Homs, improving the availability and quality of internet connectivity services used by humanitarians at the location.
- The ETC conducted rehabilitation works in July in the UN hubs in Qamishli and Deir Ezzor to enhance the VHF radio network, upgrade Security Operations Centre (SOC) equipment, repair VHF radios in UN vehicles, and routine maintenance of the solar solution systems which powers the services.

## UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- In July, UNHAS conducted 14 flights transporting 615 passengers and 1.27 mt of light cargo on behalf of 29 humanitarian organizations.
- Since its launch in Syria, UNHAS transported over 13,500 humanitarian community members between Damascus, Qamishli and Aleppo and over 52 mt of light humanitarian cargo. On ad-hoc basis, UNHAS also performs security and medical evacuations, with 29 life-saving interventions completed since its launch.

## Funding Situation

- An unprecedented funding crisis in Syria forced WFP to remove assistance for 2.5 million out of the 5.5 million people who rely on general food assistance each month. Reductions of assistance started in July. All beneficiaries were already receiving half of the standard ration except for those in camp settings in northeast Syria who will continue receiving full rations.

- WFP urgently requires a minimum of USD 155 million to resume assistance at its previous level with reduced rations until the end of the year.

## Operational challenges

- At the end of July, local and central authorities in Kurdish-controlled areas of Ar-Raqqa governorate resolved their conflict regarding a cooperating partner who had its activities suspended since April. Accordingly, WFP assistance to 80,000 people, including 14,000 in Mahmoudli and Twahina camps, will be resumed in August.
- WFP had to reduce its assistance in Syria by 40 percent in July amidst unprecedented funding challenges, including in north-west Syria. Tensions about this reduction and corresponding enhanced targeting of assistance has triggered the halt of in-kind food distributions in most of north-west Syria in July.

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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 (August 2023 – January 2024)	People Assisted (July 2023 distributions)	Female	Male
<b>ICSP (January 2022– December 2023)</b>	<b>1.5 billion</b>	<b>752.7 million</b>	<b>2,795,365</b>		
Activity 1: <b>General Food Assistance</b>			<b>2,776,737</b>	1,438,350	1,338,387
Activity 2: <b>School Feeding</b>			<b>9,304</b>	4,419	4,885
Activity 3: <b>Livelihoods and Resilience</b>			<b>490</b>	254	236
Activity 4: <b>Prevention of Acute Malnutrition</b>			<b>160,282</b>	98,573	61,709
Activity 5: <b>Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition</b>			<b>29,763</b>	15,289	14,474