

Situation Report 8 - August 2023

WFP/Hussam Al Saleh

Highlights

- WFP assisted 3.5 million people across Syria in August, including through cash-based transfers worth USD 2 million to 170,700 beneficiaries.
- Food prices in August reached a new record high with the national average price of WFP's reference food basket increased by 41 percent compared to July.
- WFP resumed food distributions in non-government-controlled part of Idlib governorate, which were on hold since July, and to more than 15,000 people in Mahmoudli and Twahina camps, Ar-Raqqa governorate, which were suspended since April.
- WFP urgently requires USD 143 million to continue assisting a prioritized caseload of 3.4 million people with general food assistance each month until March 2024, including USD 49 million until the end of 2023.

In Numbers



3.5 million people in Syria received WFP assistance in August 2023.



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



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



WFP requires a USD 143 million to continue assisting a prioritized caseload of 3.4 million people with emergency food assistance for the next six months.

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Photo credit: © WFP/Hussam Al Saleh - WFP's GFA beneficiary in Rural Damascus.

Situation Update

- The Government of Syria doubled the minimum wage to SYP 185,940 (≈ USD 22 at the official rate), the first of such raise since December 2021. The government also increased the prices of subsidized petrol by 167 percent and subsidized diesel by 186 percent. WFP is reviewing field level agreements with cooperating partners considering increased operational costs.
- Food prices in August reached a new record high. The national average price of WFP's reference food basket increased by 41 percent compared to July (SYP 830,773 ≈ USD 98), reflecting the impact of the significant local currency depreciation and the increased prices of fuel. The new minimum wage could only buy one-fifth of the essential food for a family of five people.
- Following the reduction of 40 percent in the level of general food assistance across the country starting in July due to funding shortfalls. WFP launched the appeal mechanism for people affected by the reduction. This represents the first ever self-appeal collection process that is directly implemented by WFP worldwide.
- The cross-border delivery of humanitarian assistance into north-west Syria from Türkiye through the Bab Al-Hawa border crossing remained suspended since the expiration of the

UN Security Council authorization on 10 July. The UN continued negotiations with all stakeholders to resume operations.

- WFP and its partners started collecting data for the Food Security Assessment (FSA) in the governorates of Aleppo, Homs, Hama, Tartous, Latakia, Deir Ezzor and Ar-Raqqa. The Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment (FSLA) in northwest and northeast Syria is expected to begin mid-September. Once completed, the data will feed into the 2024 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO).

WFP Operations



General Food Assistance (GFA)

- In August, WFP reached 3.5 million people across Syria with in-kind and cash-based general food assistance:
 - WFP distributed 20,570 mt of food assistance to 3.3 million people.
 - A total of 170,700 people received cash-based assistance for a total value of USD 2 million.



School Meals Programme

- While regular schools are on summer break until September, WFP provided cash-based assistance to 174 school children receiving non-formal education in Dar'a during summer.



Building Resilience

- In August, WFP completed the installation of a medium-voltage electrical line at Al-Twaineh water pumping station in Hama governorate which was out of service due to the absence of electrical power. The station is expected to pump water enough to irrigate 3,000 hectares of agricultural lands.
- WFP also completed the establishment of a rainwater harvesting concrete tank in Al-Dai village in Tartous governorate. The tank has the capacity to hold up to 10,000 cubic meters of water that will increase the productivity of 200-300 hectares of cultivated land and provide a source of water during the dry summer months.
- As of August, WFP has rehabilitated six out of the planned eight earthquake-affected bakeries in Aleppo, Hama, Latakia and Tartous governorates. Rehabilitation of two others is

ongoing. On average, one bakery provides subsidized bread for 40,000 people a day.



Nutrition

- In August, WFP's prevention of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies interventions reached 95,000 children (6-23 months) and 34,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWG) who received vouchers to purchase food from WFP-contracted shops. Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition interventions reached 39,000 children (6-59 months) and PBWGs.

Clusters and Common Services



Food Security Sector

- The Food Security Sector reached 6.4 million people with food baskets and another 2.8 million people with bread and wheat flour distribution in August. In addition, the sector's emergency response reached 123,000 people with ready-to-eat rations, cooked meals, and emergency food baskets.
- The sector has reached 1.2 million people with livelihoods interventions in 2023.



Logistics Cluster

- The Logistics Cluster continued to facilitate the cross-border operation from Türkiye into northwest Syria. In August, the cluster transhipped over 164 trucks carrying 1,485 mt of humanitarian relief items through Bab Al Salam and Al Ra'ee border crossings carrying humanitarian supplies on behalf of IOM, UNICEF, UNHCR and WHO.



Emergency Telecommunications Cluster

- The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) installed two VHF base radios at two WFP warehouses in Aleppo and replaced a faulty power supply inverter in the Homs UN hub to fully restore solar power supply to all network equipment.

UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- In August, UNHAS conducted 11 flights transporting 353 passengers and 1.08 mt of light cargo on behalf of humanitarian organizations.
- One flight on the Damascus-Aleppo route was cancelled due to a security incident on 28 May that resulted in the closure of the Aleppo airport. Flights resumed on 31 August.



Monitoring

- WFP and contracted third-party monitoring companies (TPM) conducted 300 on-site monitoring visits and 1,500 post-distribution monitoring interviews across all governorates.
- WFP received more than 19,000 calls to its community feedback mechanism (CFM) helpline, which provides a direct channel for beneficiaries to interface directly with WFP.

Operational challenges

- On 28 August, WFP resumed in-kind food distributions in non-government-controlled part of Idlib governorate that were on hold since July due to tensions about the recent reduction in the level of WFP assistance and corresponding enhanced targeting of assistance.
- WFP resumed in-kind food assistance to more than 15,000 people in Mahmoudli and Twahina IDP camps in Ar-Raqqa governorate. Assistance had been on hold since April due to a conflict of

jurisdiction between local and central authorities regarding a cooperating partner.

- Intense in-fighting between the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and the Deir Ezzor Military Council (DMC), supported by Arab tribes, disrupted WFP food dispatches and oversight missions to SDF-held areas in Deir Ezzor. WFP supports 85,600 people in these areas with in-kind food assistance each month, including 12,750 IDPs in Abo Khashab camp.
- WFP and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) conducted a rapid needs assessment mission to the Kurdish-controlled neighborhood of Shaikh Maqsoud in Aleppo, where more than 21,000 people have not received their monthly food assistance since January due to lack of approvals. WFP continues to advocate for approval while exploring alternative ways to resume assistance.



Funding

- Following the reduction of the level of general food assistance by 40 percent, WFP urgently requires USD 143 million to continue assisting a prioritized caseload of 3.4 million people each month for the next 6 months (until end of March 2024), including USD 49 million to cover remaining gap until the end of 2023. Beneficiaries will continue receiving half of the Sphere standard ration size, except for those in camp settings in northeast Syria who receive full rations. Funding is urgently required due to the long lead times of up to 6 months to bring food commodities inside the country.

WFP Syria Interim Country Strategic Plan (2022-2023)

	2023 Requirement (in US\$)	6-Month Net Funding Requirement (September 2023 - February 2024)	People Assisted (August 2023 distributions) *	Female	Male
ICSP (January 2022- December 2023)	1.5 billion	701.7 million	3,519,214		
Activity 1: General Food Assistance			3,499,718	1,812,854	1,686,864
Activity 2: School Feeding			174	83	91
Activity 3: Livelihoods and Resilience			0**	0	0
Activity 4: Prevention of Acute Malnutrition			129,461	80,979	48,482
Activity 5: Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition			38,871	19,967	18,904

* 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.

** 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.