



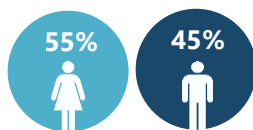
WFP Syria Situation Report #4

April 2021



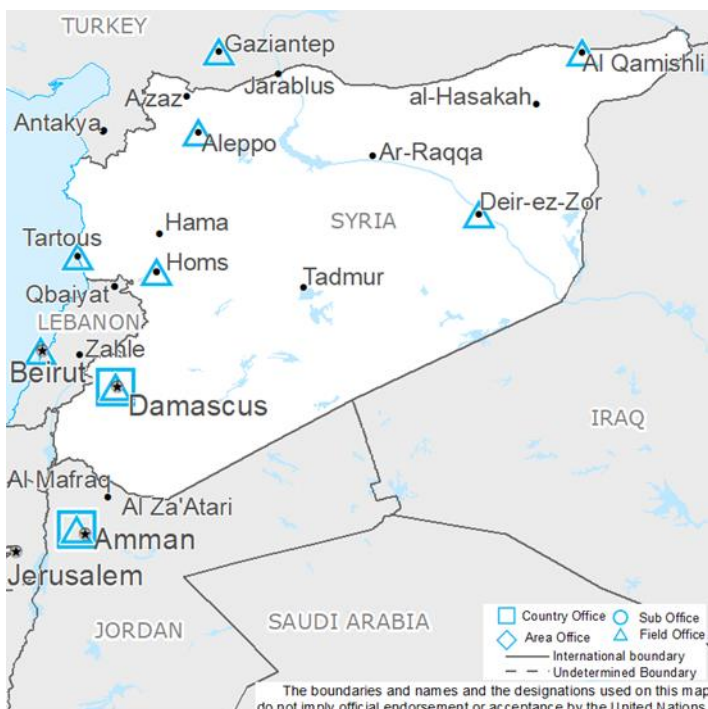
4.6 million people assisted

April 2021 (based on dispatches)



WFP Syria Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP)

<p>2021 Syrian Arab Republic Humanitarian Response Plan</p>	Overall requirement: USD 4.2 billion
	WFP share: USD 1.16 billion
<p>WFP 6-Month Net Funding Requirement (May 2021 – October 2021)</p> <p>USD 477.2 m As of 22 April 2021</p> <p>WFP Syria 2019-2021 Interim Country Strategic Plan (November 2018)</p> <p>Interim Country Strategic Plan Revision 04 (April 2020)</p>	



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Further information: www1.wfp.org/countries/syrian-arab-republic

Photo: A beneficiary from southern rural Aleppo with WFP food assistance. ©WFP/ Zuha Akkash

In Numbers

12.4 million people food insecure

1.3 million severely food insecure

6.7 million people internally displaced

Highlights

- WFP dispatched humanitarian assistance sufficient for an estimated 4.6 million people across all activities in Syria in April.
- In north-eastern Syria, clashes broke out in Qamishli city on 20 April between pro-government and Kurdish-led forces, displacing some 15-20,000 people. WFP is distributing emergency food assistance to displaced families.
- The Central Bank of Syria officially devalued the Syrian pound (SYP) for the first time since July 2020, from SYP 1,256 to SYP 2,512 to the US dollar.
- WFP food security data from April indicate that two out of five surveyed households (43 percent) reported poor food consumption in April 2021, more than double the level recorded in April 2020.
- In response to a surge in COVID-19 cases in Syria, the Ministry of Education announced the early end of the school year as of 05 April. WFP in-school School Feeding programme has since been suspended as a result.

Situation Update

Economic situation

- The economic situation in Syria continued to deteriorate in April. The Central Bank of Syria on 15 April officially devalued the Syrian pound (SYP) from SYP 1,256 to SYP 2,512 to the US dollar. This is the first official devaluation of the Syrian pound since July 2020.
- The value of the Syrian pound on the informal market stabilized somewhat in April at around SYP 3,000/USD 1, after dipping to a record low of SYP 4,700/USD 1 in mid-March. However, any potential impact of the currency value stabilization on food prices is yet to be seen. WFP continues to monitor food prices in markets across all areas of Syria on a monthly basis.

Food Security Situation

- The food security situation in Syria remains at critical levels, according to the latest WFP mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) [data](#) from April 2021. While the national average rate of inadequate food consumption (poor and borderline combined) decreased

by 16 percent from March to April 2021, it remains almost 50 percent higher than the national average level recorded in April 2020. More than two out of five interviewed households in Syria (43 percent) reported poor food consumption in April 2021, more than double the level recorded in April 2020.

- The monthly decrease in inadequate food consumption levels in April is likely due to the observance of the holy month of Ramadan when families' access to food improves as the community and charities increase their assistance to vulnerable families.

COVID-19 Pandemic

- Approximately 60,082 COVID-19 cases and 2,770 deaths have been confirmed across all areas of Syria as of the end of April. This includes 22,513 cases and 1,572 deaths in government-controlled areas, 21,896 cases and 641 deaths in north-western Syria, and 15,673 cases and 557 deaths in north-eastern Syria.
- The first batch of 203,000 AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine doses [arrived](#) in Damascus on 22 April. This first batch, allocated to Syria from the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access Facility (COVAX), will be allocated to frontline health workers, including health workers in north-eastern Syria. In coordination with GAVI (The Vaccine Alliance), the World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) are providing technical assistance to Syrian authorities in preparation to launch the national vaccination campaign. Simultaneously, a separate batch of 53,800 doses for north-western Syria has been shipped through the WHO and UNICEF offices in Gaziantep, Turkey.

North-Western Syria

- The security situation in north-western Syria remained volatile in April, with fighting between government forces and non-state armed groups continued from multiple areas of southern Idlib and north-western Aleppo governorates.
- In anticipation of the 10 July expiry of the Security Council resolution which authorizes cross-border operations, WFP in April started the pre-positioning of food rations. WFP plans to pre-position up to three months of stocks.

North-eastern Syria

- On 20 April, clashes broke out in multiple neighborhoods of Qamishli city (Al-Hasakeh governorate) between the pro-government National Defense Forces (NDF) militia and Kurdish Internal Security Forces (ISF, also known as the Asayish). The clashes reportedly broke out following the arrest of an NDF commander by the ISF and lasted for several days until a ceasefire agreement came into effect on 24 April. According to the agreement, the NDF left the Tai neighborhood of Qamishli city (which was heavily impacted by the clashes) leaving it under the control of the

ISF.

- Following the fighting, WFP's cooperating partner reported the displacement of 15-20,000 people from Qamishli city to several villages in the rural Qamishli area. In response, WFP on 24 April initiated an immediate response through its cooperating partners, providing General Food Assistance (GFA) rations sufficient for 8,500 people. Distributions for the remaining IDPs will continue over the month of May. Other UN agencies, including UNHCR, have distributed NFI and WASH items.

Coastal Syria

- Severe fuel shortages continued to affect beneficiaries' ability to reach WFP food and voucher distribution points as well as other services, due to the increasing prices of public transportation in the coastal governorates in April.

Southern Syria

- Fuel shortages continued to impact WFP operations, and as a result, WFP was unable to complete dispatches of GFA food rations to some 13,500 people in Dar'a and Damascus under the April dispatch cycle. WFP extended the April dispatch cycle to allow for the completion of all planned dispatches.

WFP Response

- WFP dispatched humanitarian assistance sufficient for an estimated 4.6 million people across all activities in Syria in April.
- A total of USD 2.2 million in cash-based transfers (CBT) was distributed to 167,200 WFP beneficiaries across four activities: The GFA CBT pilot; School Feeding (support to out-of-school children); Malnutrition Prevention (support to pregnant and lactating women); and Livelihoods, Resilience and Social Safety Nets.
- In response to COVID-19, and under agreement with UNFPA, CBT top-ups at a total value of USD 382,100 were distributed, allowing the households of the 68,200 pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWG) assisted by WFP to purchase hygiene items (benefitting some 341,200 people).
- As part of the Health Sector-led response to COVID-19 in Syria, WFP, in cooperation with WHO has so far provided food assistance to more than 15,800 people in ten quarantine and ten isolation centres in Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Latakia, Tartous, and Rural Damascus governorates. The project is funded through the Syria Country-Based Pooled Fund (CBPF).

General Food Assistance (GFA) Programme

- In April, WFP dispatched GFA sufficient for some 4.6 million people across all 14 Syrian governorates.
- Cross-border deliveries from Turkey accounted for 25 percent of the total WFP general food assistance dispatched. This includes food rations for some 1.1 million

people areas of Idlib and Aleppo governorate inaccessible from inside Syria.

Livelihoods, Resilience and Social Safety Nets

- WFP reached some 50,700 people under its livelihoods, resilience and social safety-nets-projects across Rural Damascus, Dar'a, Quneitra, As-Sweida, Homs, Hama, Ar-Raqqa, Al-Hasakeh, Aleppo, Lattakia, Tartous and Deir Ezzor governorates.

School Feeding Programme

- In response to a sharp increase in COVID-19 cases in Syria, the Ministry of Education on 03 April announced the early end of the school year, with the closure of all primary schools and kindergartens across government-controlled areas as of 05 April.
- As a result of school closures, the in-school components of WFP's School Feeding activity has been suspended. The remaining stocks of fortified date bars that had already been delivered to schools will be distributed to children when they come to collect their end-of-year results.
- WFP reached 29,500 children with fresh meals in Aleppo governorate before school closures.
- WFP supported 49,713 out-of-school children with food vouchers in Aleppo, Homs, Hama, Dar'a, Al-Hasakeh, Quneitra, Deir Ezzor, Latakia, Tartous, Damascus and Rural Damascus.

Nutrition Programme

- WFP dispatched nutrition products for the prevention of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies for 260,900 PLWG. This includes 68,200 PLWG who received nutrition support through CBT to purchase fresh food from WFP-contracted shops.
- WFP dispatched nutrition products sufficient for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition for 11,200 children and PLWG for one month.

Clusters and Common Services

Logistics Cluster

- Facilitating the cross-border operation from Turkey, the WFP-led Logistics Cluster transhipped 1,028 Syrian trucks from Turkey in April. A total of 25,263 mt of Health, WASH, food, nutrition and Shelter items were transhipped on behalf of WFP, IOM, UNHCR, WHO and UNICEF.

United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- In April, UNHAS Syria completed 16 rotations on its two routes from Damascus to Qamishli and Aleppo, transporting 157 passengers and 2.34 mt of light cargo. Of the passengers transported on both routes, 61 percent were UN staff, and 39 percent were staff from national and international non-governmental organisations.
- In April, the WFP-led Logistics Cluster facilitated the storage of 1,037 m³ of newly received humanitarian goods in its storage facilities in Rural Damascus, Homs and Qamishli governorates on behalf of WHO and UNFPA.

Resourcing Update

- WFP requires USD 477.2 million to keep operations running at current levels through October 2021.

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For further information, visit the [WFP Syria website](#).

WFP Syria Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2021)

	2021 Requirement (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirement (May 2021 - October 2021)	People Assisted (April 2021 dispatches)	Female	Male
ICSP (January 2019 – December 2021)	1.16 billion	477.2 million	4,938,265		
Activity 1: General Food Assistance			4,555,825	2,505,704	2,050,121
Activity 2: School Feeding			79,213	38,814	40,399
Activity 3: Livelihoods and Resilience			50,675	27,871	22,804
Activity 4: Prevention of Acute Malnutrition			260,900	166,494	94,406
Activity 5: Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition			11,195	6,605	4,590