

WFP SYRIA EMERGENCY RESPONSE

External Situation Report

31 August 2025

WFP and SARC trucks carrying food and relief supplies to vulnerable populations in As-Sweida and Dar'a amid growing humanitarian needs. © WFP cooperating partner

Highlights

- **As Syria seeks recovery, overlapping crises continue to erode resilience.** Severe drought and renewed wildfires have devastated agriculture and worsened food insecurity. Ongoing insecurity and sectarian tensions fuel displacement, straining host communities. Combined with drought and economic decline, these challenges highlight Syria's fragile situation and the growing uncertainty for its population.
- **WFP has the capacity, footprint, and access to help Syrian communities recover** through highly prioritized emergency and resilience interventions, focused on the most severely food-insecure. So far in 2025, WFP has reached 5.2 million people across all its activities in Syria, including targeted emergency food assistance, school meals, nutrition and livelihood interventions. Additionally, 2 million people benefit from daily, fortified bread sold at a subsidized price in hunger hotspots - a vital lifeline for many families, and a key measure for social cohesion.
- **WFP needs USD 132 million over the next six months to sustain its activities** - including emergency food assistance, school meals, nutrition programmes, support to the bread value chain, and recovery efforts. Should WFP not be able to secure USD 50 million immediately, it will be forced to suspend its daily subsidized bread assistance in October, putting more than 2 million people at immediate risk.

IN NUMBERS



5.2 million

people reached in 2025, so far. This includes 3.5 million people reached on a monthly basis with WFP's regular programmes, as well as through the subsidized bread project



7.4 million

people remained displaced within Syria as of the end of 2024, and more than

4.5 million

are registered as refugees in neighbouring countries



2.5 million

people – 1.7 million IDPs and 780,000 refugees - returned to their areas of origin since 8 December 2024. Up to 3.5 million are anticipated to return to Syria by the end of 2025 (UNHCR)



Over half of the population is food insecure. Of these,

nearly **3 million**

people are projected to be severely food insecure



USD 132 million

required to implement all activities for the next six months. WFP needs USD 50 million by September to avoid a pipeline break in October

- **The humanitarian situation in southern Syria has deteriorated sharply** since the escalation of hostilities in As-Sweida Governorate in mid July. Significant displacement across As-Sweida, Dar'a and Rural Damascus, coupled with widespread violence and extensive damage, has severely undermined prospects for recovery. The majority of internally displaced people (IDPs) are living among host communities, placing an immense strain on already scarce resources. Those displaced and living in shelters face profound uncertainty, as many have lost their homes and remain fearful of returning.
- **Renewed wildfires swept through the Latakia and Hama countryside for several days** in August, following major fires along the Syrian coast in July. Despite successful firefighting efforts, the fires caused extensive damage to agricultural lands and natural forests, posing a serious threat to the livelihoods of already vulnerable communities.

WFP RESPONSE

- **Across the entire country, WFP assisted over 5.2 million people in 2025, including 3.5 million people reached monthly** through a highly prioritized response plan focused on those facing the most severe food insecurity. This includes 1.5 million people reached with emergency food assistance, school meals, nutrition and livelihoods interventions, as well as 2 million people benefitting from daily, fortified

bread sold at a subsidized price in Syria's most food-insecure areas.

- In early August, **WFP launched a one-off blanket emergency food assistance intervention targeting the entire population of As-Sweida** - close to 600,000 people – and affected families in neighbouring Dar'a and Rural Damascus. The operation is conducted in close coordination with Syrian authorities and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) - WFP's key partner on the ground and builds upon ongoing emergency food assistance efforts since the onset of the crisis in southern Syria. By the end of August, WFP reached over 485,000 people with ready-to-eat rations (RTEs) for newly displaced people, food baskets for displaced and host families, preventive nutritional supplements for children under two, as well as fortified date bars, and biscuits enriched with proteins, vitamins and minerals.
- **Simultaneously, WFP has supplied 1,500 MT of fortified wheat flour to local bakeries** in affected areas, ensuring sustained daily access to fresh fortified bread for the entire population in As-Sweida, as well as displaced people in Dar'a.
- **WFP is providing emergency food assistance to those displaced by the wildfires in Lattakia**, reaching over 49,000 people with RTEs, food baskets and preventative nutrition supplies. Additionally, WFP has conducted field visits and assessments in preparation for scaling up resilience-building efforts in fire-affected areas. Planned interventions include the rehabilitation of water infrastructure and bakeries to support recovery and strengthen community resilience.
- **WFP works closely with Syrian authorities, UN partner agencies, and International Financial Institutions (IFIs) – including the World Bank - to strengthen social safety net systems.** As part of these efforts, WFP supports vulnerable farmers with a combination of cash and food assistance to help mitigate the impact of ongoing drought-like conditions, with resources primarily from a climate macro-insurance scheme. Registration is ongoing, targeting 30,000 farmer households across eight governorates most severely affected by drought. Distributions are anticipated to begin in early September.
- In collaboration with the Syrian government, and in line with WFP's role as the UN lead for social protection, WFP is launching Syria's first nutrition-sensitive social protection transfers, known as **Transitional-Anmu (T-ANMU)**. This initiative aligns with the government's strategic transition from a universal subsidy system to a targeted cash assistance approach. Through T-ANMU, WFP is establishing the groundwork for a national 1,000-day programme aimed at safeguarding the human capital development of Syria's next generation. The pilot phase is expected to be launched in mid-September, providing multi-

purpose cash transfers to 11,000 vulnerable individuals.

- Provided enough funds are made available, WFP is ready to **scale up early recovery efforts, with a focus on food value chains and agricultural livelihoods**. Since 2020, WFP has rehabilitated 25 bakeries and restored access to water for 50,000 hectares of agricultural land. WFP is also leading efforts with the Syrian authorities to rebuild Syria's **wheat flour fortification and salt iodization** systems.
- WFP continues to collaborate closely with UNHCR to support vulnerable **Syrian refugees** returning to Syria and has established cross-country registration and verification mechanisms to allow their identification. In addition to providing immediate food assistance, WFP is integrating eligible returnees into an expansion of its targeted food assistance programme.
- WFP recently signed an agreement with the Syrian authorities to commence the **annual Food Security Assessment (FSA)**, which will – for the first time – incorporate the **Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)**. The assessment will be carried out in close collaboration with FAO and the Syrian Government, including the Planning and Statistical Commission (PSC).
- **WFP has established itself as a key partner of choice for the Syrian Government through strategic collaborations** with multiple ministries. These include partnerships for the subsidized bread project and strengthening the food value chain with the Ministry of Economy and Industry, the macro insurance programme with the Ministry of Agriculture, and the recent Food Security Assessment (FSA) with the Planning and Statistical Commission. Additional partnerships are planned.

Supply Chain

- **WFP Syria's optimized supply corridors strategy ensures a continuous and cost-efficient delivery of commodities into Syria.** Considering the recent economic changes and shifts in the exchange rate in 2025, **WFP is strengthening local procurement of key commodities**, supporting the local economy and reducing costs. As policy shifts enabled direct imports from Türkiye, WFP has expanded its use of the Turkish corridor, achieving significant cost savings and improved supply chain efficiency. WFP has also secured access via Iraq as a contingency measure.
- **WFP maintains a robust logistics network**, with an average of 782 monthly truck movements via contracts with 26 transport companies, ensuring efficient food delivery to vulnerable populations across the country. WFP also has a network of 285 WFP-contracted retailers, allowing beneficiaries to redeem their cash (CBT) assistance.

- **WFP leverages six WFP-contracted warehouses**, strategically located across six governorates, with a total storage space of over 82,000 sqm. This allows WFP to store its supplies for use in case of emergencies. This network is also available for use by other humanitarian partners.
- WFP maintains an **in-country stock of food rations** sufficient to sustain operations until the end of the year. WFP also has enough **RTEs** to support 74,000 people for one week, in addition to **Fortified Biscuits** and **Date Bars**.

OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

- WFP's ability to respond to Syria's overlapping crises has been significantly constrained by **increasing humanitarian needs coupled with funding shortfalls**.
- **Economic challenges continue to significantly undermine food security in Syria**. As of June 2025, the cost of living – measured by the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) – has decreased by 22 percent compared to last year, yet remains 49 percent higher than two years ago. In July, the Syrian Government raised public sector salaries by 200 percent, which still only covers 37 percent of a family's essential monthly needs and 59 percent of its food requirements.
- **Syria is facing a critical humanitarian and environmental crisis as wildfires destroyed vast areas of forests and farmland in northern rural Lattakia**. In July, wildfires **burned** over 16,000 hectares of woodland and farmland in Lattakia, destroying farmers' livelihoods and harvests and deepening food insecurity in already vulnerable communities. Immediate humanitarian assistance and coordinated long-term recovery efforts are urgently needed to support these communities.
- **Syria is experiencing its worst drought since 1989**, putting up to 75 percent of its wheat crop - approximately 2.7 million metric tons - at risk of failure. This amount of wheat could have fed around 16 million people for one year, further exacerbating the already critical food security situation.
- **Liquidity challenges persist**, as international banks remain unable to fully engage with Syria. WFP is implementing a new USD Fresh Cash Solution supported by the UN Secretariat Treasury Department, which will enable direct USD payments to WFP-contracted retailers, partners and vendors across the majority of the operation.

FUNDING REQUIREMENT

- **WFP needs USD 132 million over the next six months (September 2025 to February 2026) to sustain all activities**. However, without USD 50 million, it will be forced to suspend subsidized bread assistance in October, putting more than 2 million people at immediate risk. Such a suspension would deepen hunger, fuel social tensions, destabilizing fragile return areas, and undermining recovery.

CLUSTERS AND COMMON SERVICES

Food Security Sector (FSS)

The Food Security Sector continues its efforts to enhance coordination among partners across Syria.

Emergency Telecommunications Cluster

The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) supports the humanitarian community and UN Hubs through the provision of connectivity services and Security Communications across Syria.

Logistics Cluster

The Logistics Cluster is facilitating the transshipment of humanitarian aid from Türkiye into Syria through all three operational border crossings, which are open for humanitarian access until early February 2026. Since January 2025, over 2,100 UN aid trucks have crossed into Syria, more than double the total number for all of 2024. WFP accounts for 85 percent of these deliveries.

UNHAS

UNHAS is operational between Damascus and Aleppo, with two weekly flights. Flights to Qamishli remain suspended pending the airport's reopening.