

WFP SYRIA EMERGENCY RESPONSE

External Situation Report

24 July 2025

Highlights

- **As Syria advances its recovery, revived sectarian violence, coupled with the worst drought in decades and catastrophic wildfires, are causing large displacement, deteriorating Syria's humanitarian situation and exacerbating food insecurity.** Persistent insecurity and economic hardship continue to further hinder progress. Restoring food and nutrition security is key to lasting stability and recovery in Syria. Urgent humanitarian assistance and long-term resilience efforts are crucial to save lives, foster peace, and enable the safe, voluntary, and dignified return of refugees and displaced persons.
- **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. WFP reaches 1.5 million people with targeted emergency food assistance, school meals, nutrition and livelihood interventions, and is currently responding to the recent emergencies in As-Sweida and Lattakia. In addition, WFP supports 2 million people to access 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 100 million over the next six months to sustain all its activities** - including emergency food assistance, school meals, nutrition programs, support to the bread value chain, and recovery efforts. However, should WFP be unable to secure USD 50 million by August 2025, it will be forced to suspend its daily subsidized bread assistance in September, putting more than 2 million people at immediate risk.

IN NUMBERS



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 remain displaced within Syria, and more than **4.5 million** are registered as refugees in neighbouring countries



Over **2 million** people - 1.47 million IDPs and 600,000 refugees - returned to their areas of origin since 27 November 2024. Up to 3.5 million are anticipated to return to Syria by the end of 2025 (UNHCR)



Over half of the population (23.7 million) is food insecure. Of these, nearly **3 million** people are projected to be **severely food insecure**



USD 100 million required to implement all activities for the next six months. WFP needs USD 50 million by August to avoid a pipeline break in September

Humanitarian Situation

- **Major airstrikes in Damascus and revived sectarian violence in As-Sweida** have sharply deteriorated Syria's humanitarian situation. Deadly clashes have resulted in heavy casualties, mass displacement, and growing fears of food and water shortages in As-Sweida - where humanitarian access remains limited. WFP is providing emergency food assistance and support to those displaced, as well as to hosting families.
- **At the same time, devastating wildfires have ravaged northern rural Lattakia, and spreading as far as Hama and Idlib**, since early July, destroying over 15,000 hectares of farmland and crops - key income sources for local families - severely threatening local livelihoods and food security. The fires have displaced thousands of people and affected more than 14,000 people across 72 communities, with many seeking shelter in nearby villages or Lattakia city.

WFP RESPONSE

- **WFP is operational across Syria, reaching 3.5 million people monthly** across all its activities - through a highly prioritized response plan focusing on those facing the most severe levels of food insecurity.

This includes 1.5 million people reached with targeted emergency food assistance, school meals, nutrition and livelihood interventions, and 2 million people benefitting 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 has launched an emergency response to assist those affected by recent violence in As-Sweida and resulting displacement to nearby areas.** Through the Syrian Arab Red crescent (SARC), WFP provided ready-to-eat rations (RTEs) for 20,000 displaced people across As-Sweida, Dar'a and Rural Damascus, as well as food rations for 5,000 in host communities in As-Sweida. WFP also supported four bakeries in Dar'a and As-Sweida with 80 mt of wheat flour to produce daily fortified bread for those displaced.
- **WFP has also provided emergency support to those affected by recent wildfires** and distributed RTEs for over 10,000 people so far. Following this immediate assistance, and funding permitting, eligible household will be integrated into an expansion of WFP's regular programmes. WFP is also exploring options to support early recovery and resilience-building activities in fire-affected areas.
- **WFP continues to advance efforts to strengthen social safety net systems in Syria.** 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 upcoming pilot phase will provide cash transfers to 110,000 vulnerable individuals.
- WFP has also developed a **macro insurance programme** to support vulnerable farmers affected by climate change, particularly prolonged drought conditions. The programme is supported by a climate risk insurance policy initiated in early 2025, which triggered a US\$7.9 million payout, and aims to safeguard food security and livelihoods, reduce reliance on negative coping strategies, and build resilience to withstand the impact of Syria's worst drought in five decades. WFP will support 30,000 farmer households across eight governorates most severely affected by drought with a combination of cash and food assistance.
- 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 position itself as a key partner of choice for the Syrian Government.** WFP already established a partnership with the Ministry of Economy and Industry for the subsidized bread project and recently signed a strategic agreement with the same Ministry to strengthen the overall food value chain in Syria. WFP also signed an agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture to advance the macro insurance programme.
- WFP is working closely with UNHCR and UNICEF to coordinate a comprehensive response for voluntary returns of **Syrian refugees**, particularly those in need of assistance. Under a recent data sharing agreement with UNHCR, eligible referred returnees will be enrolled in WFP's assistance programme.
- Preparations and trainings are underway for the **annual Food Security Assessment (FSA)**, which will be conducted in coordination and collaboration with FAO and the Syrian authorities, including the Planning and Statistical Commission (PSC). The assessment will incorporate the **Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)** for the first time. WFP is awaiting authorities' green light to launch the exercise.

Supply Chain

- **WFP Syria's optimized supply corridors strategy ensures a continuous and cost-efficient delivery of commodities into Syria.** While all routes are open, and as policy shifts enabled direct imports from Türkiye, WFP has been able to expand 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.
- 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. Additionally, WFP is prioritizing the use of Syrian ports for cost savings.
- **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 on six WFP-contracted warehouses**, strategically located across six Syrian governorates, with a total storage space of over 82,000 m². This allows WFP to store its food supplies to be used in case of emergencies. This network is also available for use by other humanitarian partners.

- Currently, WFP holds sufficient **in-country food rations** to sustain its emergency food assistance operation for two months. WFP also has enough **RTEs** in the country to be able to support 160,000 people for one week, in addition to stocks of **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 access constraints and funding shortfalls**.
- Syria is facing a critical humanitarian and environmental crisis as wildfires destroyed vast areas of forests and farmland in northern rural Latakia**. Farmers have lost their livelihoods and harvests, deepening food insecurity in already vulnerable communities. Immediate humanitarian assistance and coordinated long-term recovery efforts are urgently needed to support these communities and help them recover.
- Syria is experiencing its worst drought since 1989**, putting up to 75 percent of its wheat crop - approximately 2.7 million mt - 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 now implementing a new USD Fresh Cash Solution supported by the UN Secretariat Treasury Department's, which will enable direct USD payments to WFP-contracted retailers, partners and vendors across the majority of the operation. In the northeastern part of the country, alternative payment modalities will continue to be used.
- Sanctions relief** from the US, EU, as well as other countries has been an extremely welcomed development. Yet, the full positive effect on the Syrian economy will depend on sustained efforts to rebuild trade relations, attract investment, and implement structural reforms to achieve lasting growth and stability. The recent SWIFT's reactivation is a crucial enabler of Syria's economic recovery; however, its broader impact is yet to fully materialize.

FUNDING REQUIREMENT

- WFP requires USD 296 million to implement its targeted emergency and recovery interventions in 2025** - including emergency food assistance, school meals, nutrition programs, support to the bread value chain, and recovery efforts. Flexible contributions are key to enable WFP to use any assistance modality and corridor to reach those most in need.

- WFP needs **USD 100 million over the next six months** to sustain all its activities. However, should WFP be unable to secure **USD 50 million by August**, WFP will be forced to suspend its daily subsidized bread assistance in September, putting 2 million people at immediate risk.

CLUSTERS AND COMMON SERVICES

Food Security Sector (FSS)

The Food Security Sector continues its efforts in enhancing coordination among partners across all of 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 1,500 UN aid trucks have crossed into Syria, nearly double the total number for all of 2024. WFP accounts for 80 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.

