

Situation Report – March 2024

Highlights

- WFP assisted 735,000 people across Syria in March, including 38,150 people through cash-based transfers. School meals activities accounted for 76 percent of the assistance provided in March, while coordination to start the new emergency food assistance interventions are ongoing.
- Despite a slight decrease in March, food prices remained 87 percent higher than one year ago. Families earning a minimum wage can only buy 29 percent of their food needs.

In Numbers



735,000 people in Syria received WFP assistance in March 2024.



7.2 million Internally Displaced People (2024 [HNO](#)).



12.9 million people are food insecure, including 3.1 million who are severely food insecure (2024 [HNO](#)).



WFP requires USD 463 million for the next 6 months across all its activities in Syria.

agreements with cooperating partners. Affected beneficiaries are planned to receive a two-months' worth of food rations in April.

- WFP continued the winterization emergency response launched in February and has so far reached 116,700 people in northwest Syria.
- WFP continued to engage all relevant authorities to obtain the required approvals to operationalize the newly designed emergency food assistance interventions across the country, including beneficiary registration and the signature of new field level agreements with cooperating partners. Since January 2024, WFP has conducted consultations with communities across the country to agree on and validate the targeting criteria. The new emergency food assistance interventions are set to launch in the second quarter of 2024.



School Meals

- WFP provided fortified date bars to 452,000 schoolchildren across the country, including 6,700 children enrolled in self-learning programmes in three camps in northeast Syria.
- WFP provided fresh meals to 71,000 schoolchildren in Aleppo, Deir Ezzor and Rural Damascus governorates.
- WFP provided cash-based assistance to 37,535 vulnerable schoolchildren who enrolled back in school (Curriculum B) across the country, as well as to 614 children receiving non-formal education in Dar'a governorate.

Situation Update

- The cost of WFP's reference food basket witnessed a slight decrease of three percentage points in March, driven by the relatively stable exchange rate and prices over the month. However, food prices remain 87 percent higher compared to one year ago. Despite the recent 50 percent increase in minimum wage, it still can only cover 29 percent of a family's food needs.

WFP Operations

General Food Assistance (GFA)

- WFP reached 17,350 people living in two of the six camps supported by WFP in northeast Syria. In the remaining four camps, assistance was disrupted in March due to delays in extending field-level

Nutrition

- As WFP's malnutrition prevention activities are linked to the GFA, these activities will have a reduced reach until the new emergency food assistance interventions are launched in the second quarter of 2024. In March, WFP reached 40,200 children (6-23 months) through a new approach via Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) clinics across the country, in two camps in northeast Syria, and through the winterization response in northwest Syria.
- Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition reached 12,900 children (6-59 months) and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls across the country.

Building Resilience

- WFP completed the rehabilitation of Al Harir irrigation schemes in Dar'a city, Dar'a governorate. The project will secure irrigation water for 7,000 hectares of agricultural land, providing an income source for 16,000 farmer households.

Clusters and Common Services

Food Security Sector

- The Food Security Sector reached 938,000 people with regular food baskets and another 1.9 million people with bread and flour distribution in February 2024. In addition, 179,600 people were reached through ready-to-eat rations, cooked meals, and emergency food baskets.

Logistics Cluster

- In March, the cluster transhipped 28 trucks carrying 423 mt of humanitarian relief items through Bab Al-Hawa border crossing between Türkiye and northwest Syria on behalf of five UN agencies.

UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- In March, UNHAS Syria conducted 15 flights from Damascus to Aleppo and Qamishli, transporting 366 passengers and 1.35 mt of light cargo on behalf of 29 humanitarian organisations.
- On 18 March, a flight from Damascus to Aleppo with 32 passengers on board had to return due to weather conditions.

Monitoring

- WFP and third-party monitoring companies (TPM) conducted 935 on-site monitoring visits and 627 post-distribution monitoring interviews across all governorates in Syria.
- In March, WFP processed 5,900 cases received through WFP's community feedback mechanism helplines, including 155 from the new helpline for the non-government-controlled parts of northwest Syria. The majority of calls were requests for information and assistance.

Operational challenges

- Since November 2023, UN agencies, including WFP, have not received approvals to conduct missions to As-Sweida governorate, due to ongoing civil unrest.

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WFP.org/Syria

WFP Syria Interim Country Strategic Plan (2022-2025)

	2024 Requirement (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirement (April 2024 – September 2024)	People Assisted (March 2024) *	Female	Male
ICSP (January 2022– December 2025)	1 billion	462.5 million	735,179		
Activity 1: General Food Assistance			124,715	64,602	60,113
Activity 2: School Feeding			561,114	274,946	294,585
Activity 3: Livelihoods and Resilience			0**	0	0
Activity 4: Prevention of Acute Malnutrition			40,206	19,741	20,465
Activity 5: Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition			12,862	6,255	6,607

* The total unique beneficiaries-figure represents the total number of beneficiaries reached across all activities, excluding overlaps between beneficiaries in camps of northeast Syria who were assisted through more than one activity. 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.