



World Food Programme

WFP SYRIA

# Situation Report 10 – October 2023

## Highlights

- WFP assisted 3.3 million people across Syria in October, including 201,500 people through cash-based transfers worth USD 2.8 million.
- Food prices in Syria have doubled since the start of 2023. Families earning a minimum wage can only afford 20 percent of their monthly food needs.
- Since 7 October, hostilities in Gaza and Israel have fuelled tensions across the region, with limited but impactful effect on Syria. WFP has suspended all non-critical missions and business continuity plans have been updated.
- UNHAS operation in Syria has been suspended since 12 October due to multiple airstrikes on Damascus and Aleppo airports. WFP is exploring options to resume operations.
- Due to funding shortfalls, WFP will end the general food assistance programme by December 2023. WFP requires a USD 593 million for the next 6 months to ensure the implementation of all its activities in Syria.

## In Numbers



**3.3 million people in Syria received WFP assistance in October 2023.**



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



**12.1 million people are food insecure in Syria** ([HNO](#)).



**WFP requires a USD 593 million** for the next 6 months to ensure the implementation of all its activities in Syria.

## Situation Update

- Food prices in Syria continued to surge. As of October, the cost of WFP's reference food basket for a family of five doubled since the start of 2023, reaching SYP 928,587 (≈ USD 81 at the October official exchange rate). The cost increased by 162 percent in the last 12 months and quadrupled in two years. Despite the increase of minimum wages in August, a family with a minimum wage can only afford 20 percent of its monthly food needs.
- In October, the Central Bank of Syria devalued the Syrian pound by 35 percent from 8,542 to 11,557 SYP/USD. This is the fourth devaluation in 2023. On the parallel market, the local currency has lost 53 percent of its value since the start of 2023, and 83 percent in three years.
- Since 7 October, hostilities in Gaza and Israel have fuelled tensions across the region, with limited, but an impactful effect on Syria. WFP suspended all non-critical missions in October and updated its business continuity plans.
- On 5 October, a "suicide drone" attack hit a ceremony at the military college in Homs city, resulting in many fatalities and injuries.

**WFP Representative and Country Director** Kenn Crossley  
**Senior Advisor:** Benjamin Florez ([benjamin.florez@wfp.org](mailto:benjamin.florez@wfp.org))  
**Operational Information Management Officers**  
Virginia Njiiri ([virginia.njiiri@wfp.org](mailto:virginia.njiiri@wfp.org)), Dani Barbara ([dani.barbara@wfp.org](mailto:dani.barbara@wfp.org))  
**Logistics Cluster** Ayad Naman ([ayad.naman@wfp.org](mailto:ayad.naman@wfp.org))  
**Food Security Sector** Mohie Alwahsh ([mohie.alwahsh@wfp.org](mailto:mohie.alwahsh@wfp.org))  
**Emergency Telecommunications Cluster** Elizabeth Millership ([elizabeth.millership@wfp.org](mailto:elizabeth.millership@wfp.org))  
[WFP.org/Syria](https://www.wfp.org/Syria)

Photo credit: © WFP/Hussam Al Saleh – A WFP-rehabilitated bakery in Dar'a governorate.

Consequently, a large-scale military escalation was reported along the frontlines surrounding Idlib and western Aleppo governorates, disrupting WFP operations in non-government-controlled parts of north-west Syria. As a consequence, more than 120,000 people were internally displaced.

## WFP Operations

### General Food Assistance (GFA)

- WFP reached 3.3 million people across Syria with in-kind and cash-based transfers:
  - WFP distributed 17,700 mt of food to 3 million people.
  - A total of 161,400 people received cash-based assistance for a total value of USD1.9 million.
- WFP provided RTEs for 3,525 people displaced by the increased insecurity in non-government-controlled areas of north-west Syria.
- WFP provided RTEs to 20,000 people displaced by the ongoing in-fighting in areas of Deir Ezzor governorate controlled by the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF).

### School Meals

- WFP's school meals programme has fully resumed as of October, following the start of the 2023-2024 academic year in September.
- WFP reached 439,700 children with fortified date bars in 1,485 schools across the country. Furthermore, WFP reached 8,800 children enrolled in self-learning programme in camps in north-east Syria. WFP has temporarily reduced the feeding days from 5 to 3 per week due to supply chain challenges with the local production of fortified date bars.
- WFP provided fresh meals to some 34,000 children in Aleppo governorate in October. In Deir Ezzor and Rural Damascus governorates, WFP will resume the provision of fresh meals in November.
- WFP provided cash-based assistance to 12,250 school children enrolled in Curriculum B across the country, as well as to 155 school children receiving non-formal education in Dar'a governorate.

### Building Resilience

- In October, WFP completed the rehabilitation of an earthquake-affected bakery in Tartous governorate. This brings the total number of quake-affected bakeries rehabilitated so far to seven. On average, one bakery provides subsidized bread for 40,000 people a day.

### Nutrition

- WFP's prevention of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies interventions reached 116,550 children (6-23 months) and 27,650 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWG) who received vouchers to purchase food from WFP-contracted shops, for a total value of USD 667,000. Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition interventions reached 30,800 children (6-59 months) and PBWGs.

## Clusters and Common Services

### Food Security Sector

- The Food Security Sector reached 4.3 million people with food baskets and another 2.5 million people with bread and wheat flour distribution in September. In addition, the sector's emergency response reached 240,000 people with RTEs, cooked meals, and emergency food baskets. The sector has reached 1.8 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 October, the cluster transhipped over 155 trucks carrying 1,934 mt of humanitarian relief items through Bab Al-Hawa and Bab Al Salam border crossings on behalf of seven UN agencies.

### UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- In October, UNHAS conducted 11 flights from Damascus to Qamishli and Aleppo, transporting 361 passengers and 0.65 mt of light cargo on behalf of humanitarian organisations.
- UNHAS flights were suspended since 12 October due to multiple airstrikes on Damascus and Aleppo airports, except for one flight from

Damascus to Qamishli on 19 October. UNHAS normally conducts two flights (with return) from Damascus to Aleppo and two flights (with return) from Damascus to Qamishli every week, transporting an average of 33 passengers on each flight. WFP is exploring options to resume UNHAS operations and/or conduct interagency convoys.



## Funding

- Due to funding shortfalls, WFP will end the GFA programme in December 2023. WFP will iteratively launch a package of carefully targeted interventions, some of shorter duration but higher impact and longer-term value, to provide emergency food assistance in 2024.
- WFP needs USD 593 million<sup>1</sup> for the next 6 months (December 2023 – May 2024) to ensure the implementation of all its activities in Syria.

## Monitoring



- WFP and contracted third-party monitoring companies (TPM) conducted 900 on-site monitoring visits and 1,250 post-distribution monitoring interviews across all governorates in Syria.
- WFP registered over 16,900 cases through its community feedback mechanism (CFM) helpline, which directly links WFP and the affected population. Most of the cases received in October were related to the recent reduction of assistance.

## Operational challenges

- WFP's cooperating partners in non-government-controlled parts of north-west Syria suspended their activities for one week, while UN cross-border missions were suspended between 9 -13 October, due to increased insecurity following the 5 October attack on the military academy in Homs city. Further, one cooperating partner lost a staff member in Idlib as a result of intensified hostilities, while another cooperating partner's office in Idlib was impacted by a mortar shell, with no personal injuries reported.

### WFP Syria Interim Country Strategic Plan (2022-2023)

	2023 Requirement (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirement (November 2023 –April 2024)	People Assisted (October 2023) *	Female	Male
<b>ICSP</b> (January 2022– December 2023)	<b>1.5 billion</b>	<b>644.7 million</b>	<b>3,253,059</b>		
Activity 1: <b>General Food Assistance</b>			<b>3,202,970</b>	1,659,138	1,543,832
Activity 2: <b>School Feeding</b>			<b>99,094</b>	47,070	52,024
Activity 3: <b>Livelihoods and Resilience</b>			<b>0**</b>	0	0
Activity 4: <b>Prevention of Acute Malnutrition</b>			<b>144,009</b>	84,784	59,225
Activity 5: <b>Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition</b>			<b>30,812</b>	15,827	14,985

\* 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.

<sup>1</sup> Pending of the WFP Executive Board's approval of the budget revision extending the ICSP to 2024-2025.