



SAVING
LIVES
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LIVES

MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL ESCALATION EMERGENCY RESPONSE Situation Report #6 09 April 2026

IN NUMBERS



440,000 displaced people assisted in **Lebanon** with food and cash to date.



85,000 displaced people received date bars at **Syria** crossings.



33,500 refugees in settlement supported with food and cash assistance in **Iran**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- WFP welcomes the announcement of a two-week ceasefire. While this development may temporarily ease conditions, the situation remains uncertain, with high risk on humanitarian access and supply chains, particularly through critical maritime chokepoints in the region where further disruption could rapidly constrain food deliveries, raise transport costs, and impede life-saving assistance across the region.
- In Iran, WFP has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Iranian Red Crescent Society to strengthen coordination and cooperation in support of the humanitarian response to the ongoing crisis.
- In Lebanon, despite repeated rejection or no response (approximately 75 percent) to deconfliction requests for inter-agency convoys to southern villages, the Logistics Cluster, with the support of WFP, has successfully facilitated eight convoys so far, assisting almost 40,000 affected people in hard-to-reach areas. Ensuring safe, reliable humanitarian access, including effective deconfliction mechanisms, is urgent to respond effectively to growing humanitarian needs.

Global Food Insecurity Impact

- Since the onset of the conflict, market pressures continue to intensify across conflict-affected areas, with sharp increases in food and fuel prices driven by access constraints and supply disruptions, rapidly exacerbating pre-existing economic vulnerabilities.
- Domestic price pressures intensified unevenly across the Middle East and North Africa region. According to WFP assessments, Gaza experienced a sharp wheat flour price increase (115 percent) by the end of March, compared to the pre-onset period; alongside a fuel price rise by 24 percent by early April, reflecting severe supply constraints, limited market functioning, and restricted entry of goods.
- In contrast, the costs of the Syria food Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) and the Iran food basket increased only slightly (around 9 percent since the crisis onset), while fuel prices rose in Syria (+7 percent). Overall, food price movements remain contained, although continued instability risks amplifying pressures over time.
- Fuel prices also increased in neighboring countries, notably Jordan and Egypt (16 percent each), pointing to broader regional pressures on energy markets, while prices in Iraq remained broadly stable.
- Rising fuel costs are increasing transport and distribution expenses, with spillover effects on food prices and livelihoods. Overall, these pressures continue to erode purchasing power - particularly in conflict-affected areas - heightening risks to household food access and affordability.

- Following the two-weeks ceasefire announcement, global prices show short-term easing but sustained crisis-era pressure: Brent oil and gas prices fell sharply (-13.3 percent and -14.9 percent) yet remain significantly higher since the onset. Agricultural inputs remain elevated, with urea prices still over 50 percent above pre-crisis levels despite minor daily declines, while wheat and grains show only modest cumulative changes. Overall, volatility persists, implying continued cost risks for food production, transport, and humanitarian supply chains despite recent market corrections.
- At the global level, if the crisis persists, WFP had estimated an [additional](#) 45 million additional people to be pushed into acute food insecurity, including 5.2 million people across twelve countries in the Middle East and North Africa region.
- In Eastern and Southern Africa, an additional 17.7 million people could fall into acute food insecurity, a 17 percent increase over pre-crisis projections. Disruption of the Strait of Hormuz has already increased fuel, freight and insurance costs sharply, at a time when countries are already under pressure from conflict, displacement, climate shocks, and weak currencies.
- In West and Central Africa, spillover effects are expected to sharply worsen food security, potentially adding 10.4 million people (21 percent) to acute food insecurity, driven by heavy reliance on imported fuel, cereals, and fertilizers, alongside anticipated reductions in cultivated area and agricultural yields during the 2026 wet season.

Supply Chain Implications

- Since late February, logistics operations within and transiting through Iran and across the wider region have faced significant disruptions due to administrative restrictions, infrastructure damage, regulatory delays, and regional spillover effects.
- Airspace closures and unpredictable flight permissions have reduced airlift capacity, while damage to transport and fuel infrastructure has increased lead times and constrained last-mile delivery.
- More volatile border procedures have caused delays along overland corridors. Rising and withdrawn insurance coverage is further limiting operational scale-up. While supply

chains are not fully interrupted, reduced predictability, higher costs (15-20 percent for WFP operations), localized bottlenecks, fuel risks, and major telecommunications disruptions—particularly in Iran—are complicating coordination and preparedness efforts.

- In response, WFP-led Logistics Cluster has developed a [regional concept of operations](#) and established a regional coordination cell to support system-wide coordination through joint analysis and information-sharing, consolidating data on routes, corridors, borders, airspace, and evolving logistics constraints to inform operational planning by humanitarian actors.
- WFP continues to agilely adjust its end-to-end transport chains, from procurement to final delivery, by deploying alternative sea routes, ports, and overland corridors.

WFP Response

- WFP continues to support affected people across the Middle East, leveraging contingency planning and pre-positioned food stocks; amid escalating needs, critically low funding and pre-existing unmet humanitarian demands.

Iran

- So far, markets remain functional in Iran with food availability stabilizing by the end of March; according to the Statistical Center of Iran, food inflation reached 112.7 percent in March 2026, significantly eroding household purchasing power, particularly among vulnerable groups. WFP assessment indicated an increase by 141 percent year-on-year in Iran's basic food basket, 9 percent since the onset of the crisis.
- WFP operations continue without interruption, assisting 33,424 refugees across 20 settlements with food and cash including daily bread through WFP-supported bakeries and wheat flour distributions supporting home-based baking in smaller locations. School feeding continues through take-home rations for around 9,000 school children.
- As part of its support of the humanitarian response to the ongoing crisis, WFP has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) to strengthen coordination and a Field Level Agreement is under development to

operationalize the partnership and enable timely and effective scale-up of joint activities.

Lebanon

- In March, **WFP reached 440,000 conflict-affected people with food and cash assistance in shelters and across communities.** Of those:
 - WFP provided food assistance to 103,500 displaced people in 440 shelters across Lebanon, covering more than 75 percent of the people staying in shelters. This includes the distribution of 2.3 million hot meals, and thousands of light Ready-to-Eat (RTEs), packs of bread, food parcels and snacks.
 - Outside shelters, WFP provided food assistance to 31,200 conflict-affected people in host communities or hard-to-reach areas.
- This week, the Logistics Cluster successfully facilitated, with the support of WFP, four convoys of a total of 26 trucks on behalf of seven organizations, to Tyre, Saida, Hasbaya and Ain Ebel border village, delivering vital humanitarian aid, including WFP's food parcels, to 26,700 conflict-affected people.
- **Since the escalation, eight convoys, including six requiring deconfliction approval, have been completed, assisting almost 40,000 affected people in hard-to-reach areas.** However, only six of the 23 convoys requiring deconfliction requests have been completed due to repeated rejection or no response. This has prevented nearly three-quarters of planned missions from proceeding, severely constraining humanitarian access to reach populations in conflict-affected areas.
- The current emergency is unfolding against an already underfunded operation, with only 35 percent of WFP's regular requirements resourced, and assistance already reduced or suspended due to funding shortfalls. Humanitarian needs are rapidly outpacing initial planning assumptions. WFP requires immediate, flexible, and front-loaded funding at scale to sustain and expand assistance in a highly fluid operational environment.

Syria

- As of 7 April, more than 248,800 people crossed into Syria from Lebanon since the escalation, including over 211,000 Syrians and nearly 38,000 Lebanese. Among the Syrians, more than 58,000 have expressed an intention to return permanently (UNHCR). Most crossings occurred through Masnaa-Jdeidet Yabous and Al Qaa-Joussieh.
- On 7 April, Lebanon authorities reopened the Masnaa border crossing with Syria after a closure on 4 April prompted by strike threats. During the closure, traffic was diverted to alternative crossings resulting in increased congestion as movement was concentrated along fewer routes. On 9 April, WFP resumed its assistance at Masnaa.
- Overall, **WFP continued its response, distributing date-bars to over 85,000 Syrian returnees and Lebanese arrivals** at both Jousieh and Jdeidet Yabous border crossings.
- Following the announcement of a two-week ceasefire between the US and Iran, and the Syrian authorities' decision to reopen Syrian airspace, including Damascus airport, UNHAS is expected to resume its operations on the Damascus-Aleppo-Damascus route on 13 April.
- For the next six months (April-September 2026), **WFP Syria requires USD 186 million to sustain its regular operations.**

Afghanistan

- About 77,100 refugees have [returned](#) to Afghanistan from Iran since 28 February.
- Despite severe funding shortfalls, WFP is prepared to scale up support for increased returns. In light of the intensified conflict along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border and the broader Middle East escalation, **WFP urgently requires USD 15.2 million to assist 320,000 people** - 140,000 IDPs and 180,000 returnees from Iran - through food and nutrition support.

Contacts

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