



World Food
Programme

WFP Syria Situation Report #5

May 2020



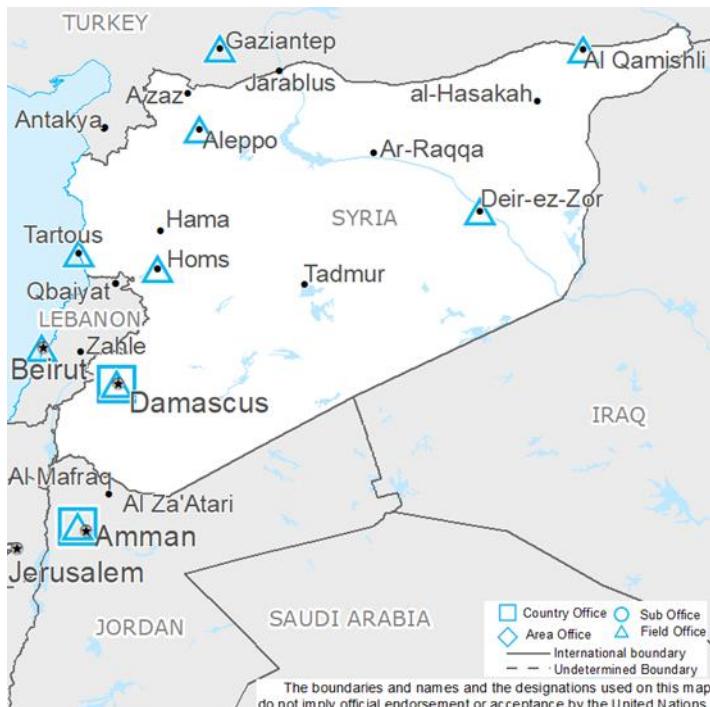
4.3 million people assisted

May 2020 (based on dispatches)



WFP Syria Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP)

2020 Syrian Arab Republic Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)	Overall: USD 3.8 billion (est.)
WFP Net Funding Requirement (June 2020 – November 2020)	USD 985 million
WFP Syria Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP)	USD 197 million



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Further information: www1.wfp.org/countries/syrian-arab-republic

In Numbers

6.7 million people internally displaced

9.3 million people food insecure

2.2 million people at risk of food insecurity

Highlights

- In May, WFP dispatched assistance sufficient for an estimated 4.3 million people across its activities in Syria.
- As of 31 May, 126 cases of COVID-19 had been confirmed in Syria, with five related deaths.
- Syrian authorities continued lifting COVID-19-related restrictions in May, with most previously instituted mitigation measures lifted by the end of the month.
- Food prices continued to increase in May, with the cost of the WFP reference food basket by the end of the month at the highest levels ever recorded since the start of the crisis in 2011.
- The Logistics Cluster in May facilitated the transhipment of 1,781 trucks cross-border from Turkey to areas of Syria inaccessible from inside Syria in May, the highest number recorded since the cross-border operation began in 2014.

Situation Update

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

- As of 31 May, 126 cases of COVID-19 had been confirmed in Syria, with five related deaths (Ministry of Health Syria).
- Syrian authorities continued to ease COVID-19-related restrictions in May. Mosques and churches were allowed to re-open as of 08 May, and public transportation resumed services on 11 May. Further, the nationwide nightly curfew and the restrictions on inter-governorate travel were lifted as of 26 May. On 31 May, parks, bars, restaurants, as well as cultural centres, theatres and cinemas (at a maximum of 30 percent capacity) were allowed to re-open subject to appropriate measures, including social distancing.

Economic Situation

- Food prices in Syria continues to soar. Overall, average food prices in May were 11 percent higher than in April, and the price of the WFP national average food basket had by the end of April increased by 133 percent compared to May 2019 levels, reaching the highest levels

recorded since the start of the crisis at close to 16 times the five-year pre-crisis average.

North-Western Syria

- While the 06 March ceasefire in north-western Syria continued to hold in May, civilians were affected by a deteriorating security situation spurred by inter-faction fighting between non-state armed groups, and tensions between armed groups and the civilian population remained high.
- Over the course of the month, some 41,000 people were displaced across north-western Syria, according to the UNHCR-led Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster. However, 74,000 IDPs were reported as returning to their places or origin. As of the end of May, the total number of IDPs in north-western Syria stood at 2.7 million.
- WFP reached 1.3 million people in north-western Syria under the May GFA distribution cycle and reached 196,500 people with emergency food assistance through ready-to-eat rations (RTEs).
- In anticipation of the 10 July expiry of the Security Council resolution which authorizes cross-border operations, WFP will pre-position up to three months of stocks.

North-Eastern Syria

- In May, WFP continued distributions of two months' worth of food rations at a time in IDP camps of north-eastern Syria, with May and June rations distributed in one round that started in mid-May. WFP adapted its response modality to ensure staff and beneficiaries safety and limit COVID-19 exposure risk.

Southern Syria

- The security situation in southern Syria continued to deteriorate in May. The western countryside of Dar'a governorate, specifically the Al Yarmouk valley and Ash Shajara areas become inaccessible due to insecurity. In response, WFP revised its May distribution plan in Dar'a governorate as some of the locations in the aforementioned areas are highly insecure. WFP's current programmes in the rest of Dar'a governorate proceeded normally.
- In May, WFP conducted three monitoring visits to Dar'a governorate, eight monitoring visits to Rural Damascus governorate, five monitoring visits in Damascus city, and three monitoring visits to Quneitra governorate in May, including a visit with the Country Director on 20 May 2020.

WFP Response

- WFP dispatched humanitarian assistance sufficient for an estimated 4.3 million people across all its activities in Syria in May.
- A total of USD 3 million in CBT was distributed to 146,700 beneficiaries across three activities: Nutrition (Malnutrition prevention - support to pregnant and lactating women and

girls), Livelihoods and Resilience, and School Feeding (support to out-of-school children).

- In May, WFP started its support to UNICEF and UNFPA through the inclusion of hygiene items in the WFP's CBT programmes supporting pregnant and lactating women and girls and out-of-school children. A total of USD 683,000 from both agencies were distributed to 169,500 beneficiaries. WFP has also made hygiene items available to beneficiaries targeted with CBT support under its livelihoods programme.

General Food Assistance Programme

- In May, WFP dispatched general food assistance (GFA) sufficient for some 4.2 million people across all 14 Syrian governorates.
- Cross-border deliveries from Turkey under [UN Security Council Resolution 2165](#) (2014, extended under [Resolution 2504](#) in January 2020), accounted for 23 percent of the total WFP general food assistance dispatched. This includes food rations for some 986,000 people in opposition-held Idlib governorate and opposition-held areas of Aleppo governorate inaccessible from inside Syria. May cross-border dispatches were noticeably lower than in previous cycles as WFP cooperating partners were already sufficiently stocked with enough commodities (delivered under previous dispatch cycles) to reach a target of 1.5 million people in May.
- In response to COVID-19, WFP continued to support its staff and cooperating partners with personal protective equipment that includes face masks, hand-sanitizers, gloves, disinfectant, as well as thermometers. WFP, working with UNICEF and UNFPA, also included soap in the GFA food rations, as well as drawing kits to children in 200,000 families across UNICEF-targeted areas.

Livelihood and Resilience Programme

- In May, WFP reached some 64,000 people under its livelihood and resilience projects across Rural Damascus, Dar'a, Quneitra, As-Sweida, Aleppo, Homs, Hama, Lattakia, Tartous and Deir Ezzor governorates.
- As part of WFP's "Farm-to-Bread"-strategy, WFP Livelihood Unit supported by Engineering Unit is proceeding with the rehabilitation of six bakeries, two in Dara', two in Aleppo governorate and two in Deir-Ezzor governorate.

School Feeding Programme

- As a result of the closure of all schools to curb the spread of COVID-19, WFP's School Feeding-programme remained suspended in May, affecting the provision of assistance to close to one million children.
- The only component of the School Feeding programme that remained operational in April was the support through CBT/e-vouchers to out-of-school children enrolled in the UNICEF-supported "Curriculum B" accelerated learning programme. Under this programme, WFP in May supported some 45,300 out-of-school children in Damascus, Rural

Damascus, Homs, Hama, Qamishli, Tartous, Lattakia and Aleppo governorates.

Nutrition Programme

- In May, WFP dispatched nutrition products for the prevention of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies for 121,800 children and pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWG) across Al-Hasakeh, Aleppo, Ar-Raqa, Damascus, Dar'a, Deir Ezzor, Hama, Homs, Rural Damascus, Lattakia and Tartous governorates. This includes 55,300 PLWG who received nutrition support through CBT to purchase fresh food, including dairy products, meat, fruits and vegetables, from 108 WFP-contracted shops.
- In May, WFP dispatched nutrition products sufficient for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition for 550 children and PLWG for one month in Al-Hasakeh, Aleppo and Damascus governorates.

Clusters and Common Services

Food Security Sector

- The Food Security Sector (FSS) in May completed a Wheat and Bread Value Chain Assessment in north-eastern Syria. The report is currently undergoing technical review and will be shared with WFP upon finalization. Another assessment specifically focusing on IDPs in north-western is planned in June/July 2020.
- The FSS is also participating in the preparation of the first Syria Humanitarian Fund (SHF) standard allocation paper with the aim of applying for funding to support partner activities. A draft strategy paper has been prepared by the FSS Coordinator and shared with partners for review and input.

Logistics Cluster

- Facilitating the cross-border operation from Turkey, the Logistics Cluster transshipped 1,781 Syrian trucks from Turkey in May, the highest number recorded in a single month since the cross-border operation began in 2014. A total of 43,250 mt of Food Security, Nutrition, Shelter, Health, Protection, Education and WASH items were transshipped on behalf of WFP, IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA, and WHO.
- In May, the WFP-led Logistics Cluster facilitated the storage of 1,348 m³ of newly received humanitarian goods in its storage facilities in Rural Damascus and Qamishli governorates on behalf of IMC, WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA.

Resourcing Update

- WFP urgently requires USD 179 million to keep operations running through November 2020.

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For further information, visit the [WFP Syria website](#).

See also the [WFP Syria 2019 Annual Country Report](#).

WFP Syria Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2020)

	2020 Requirement (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirement (June - November 2020)	People Assisted (Dispatches) (May 2020)	Female	Male
ICSP (January 2019 – December 2020)	984.9 m	179 m	4,270,172		
Activity 1: General Food Assistance			4,217,235	2,319,479	1,897,756
Activity 2: School Feeding			45,254	22,174	23,080
Activity 3: Livelihoods and Resilience			64,000	35,200	28,800
Activity 4: Nutrition - Prevention of Acute Malnutrition			121,322	88,989	32,333
Activity 5: Nutrition - Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition			550	325	226