



World Food Programme

# WFP Syria Situation Report #3

March 2021



**4.9 million people assisted**

March 2021 (based on dispatches)



WFP Syria Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP)

<b>2021 Syrian Arab Republic Humanitarian Response Plan</b>	Overall requirement: USD 4.2 billion
	WFP share: <b>USD 1.16 billion</b>
<b>WFP 6-Month Net Funding Requirement</b> (April 2021 – September 2021)	<b>USD 466.6 m</b> As of 22 March 2021
<a href="#">WFP Syria 2019-2021 Interim Country Strategic Plan</a> (November 2018)	
<a href="#">Interim Country Strategic Plan Revision 03</a> (December 2020)	

## In Numbers

**12.4 million** people food insecure

**1.3 million** severely food insecure

**6.7 million** people internally displaced

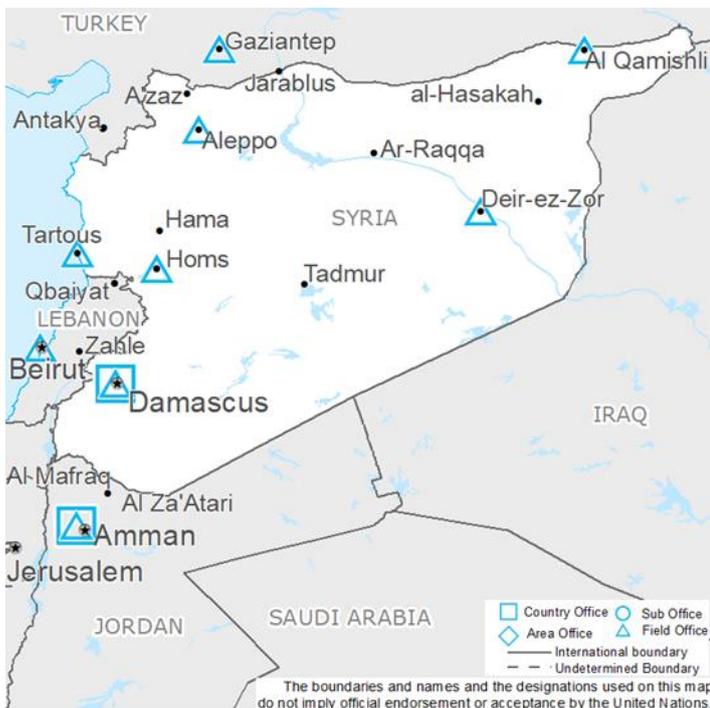
## Highlights

- WFP dispatched humanitarian assistance sufficient for an estimated 4.9 million people across all activities in Syria in March.
- The food security situation in Syria continues to deteriorate rapidly, with the latest WFP data showing a 72 percent year-on-year increase in rates of poor and borderline food consumption.
- Hostilities in north-western Syria spiked in March: A hospital was hit in shelling in western Aleppo governorate on 21 March, and in apparent retaliation, a rocket attack targeted Aleppo city – the first such attack in one year.
- The economic situation continued to deteriorate in March: The depreciation of the Syrian pound (SYP) accelerated, dipping to a record low of SYP 4,700/USD 1.
- Severe fuel shortages nationwide continued to impact WFP operations, including food distributions, monitoring, and data collection.

## Situation Update

### Economic situation

- The economic situation in Syria continued to deteriorate in March. The depreciation of the Syrian pound (SYP) spiraled over the first two weeks of March, dipping to a record low of SYP 4,700/USD 1 on 17 March before stabilizing around SYP 3,700/USD 1 by the end of the month. On 22 March, the Central Bank of Syria adjusted the exchange rate for UN agencies as well as some official imports to SYP 2,500/USD 1. The standard official exchange rate remained at SYP 1,250/USD 1.
- WFP operations continued to be affected by the fuel shortages in March. The WFP field office in Homs (covering Homs and Hama governorate) limited all field missions to critical mission only. Further, in several areas, transportation prices continued to increase significantly, with some WFP cooperating partners reporting delays to WFP operations that require fuel, including food distributions, monitoring, and data collection.



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Further information: [www1.wfp.org/countries/syrian-arab-republic](http://www1.wfp.org/countries/syrian-arab-republic)

Photo: Distribution of General Food Assistance in IDP camps in north-western Syria. ©WFP's Cooperating Partner

## Food Security Situation

- The food security situation in Syria is at critical levels and continues to deteriorate, according to the latest WFP [mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping \(mVAM\) data](#) covering the month of March. The national average rate of inadequate food consumption (poor and borderline combined) increased by 11 percent month-on-month (from February to March 2021) and 72 percent year-on-year (from March 2020 to March 2021). Nearly one out of five interviewed households in Syria (18 percent) reported poor food consumption in March 2021, more than double the level recorded in March 2020.
- Nine out of ten interviewed households reported applying at least one food-based coping mechanism to meet their food consumption needs, an increase of 11 percent since March 2020, with a higher proportion among female-headed households (95 percent) compared to male-headed households (89 percent). As food prices continued to skyrocket across Syria, almost 84 percent of interviewed households reported having already depleted their savings.

## COVID-19 Pandemic

- As of the end of March, approximately 50,406 COVID-19 cases and 2,284 deaths had been confirmed across all areas of Syria as of 01 April. This includes 18,909 cases and 1,265 deaths in government-controlled areas, 21,318 cases and 637 deaths in north-western Syria, and 10,179 cases and 382 deaths in north-eastern Syria.

## North-Western Syria

- A spike in hostilities was reported in north-western Syria in late March, with hostilities between Government forces and their allies and non-state armed groups reported from multiple areas of Idlib and Aleppo governorate.
- On 21 March, a hospital was hit by shelling in western Aleppo governorate, and in apparent retaliation, a rocket attack targeted Aleppo city, killing two people – the first such attack in one year.
- In Idlib governorate, airstrikes near the Bab al-Hawa border crossing point damaged two warehouses belonging to two WFP cooperating partners and destroyed four trucks belonging to a WFP-contracted transporter. No staff were harmed, and no WFP commodities were lost in the incidents.

## North-eastern Syria

- On 28 March, Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) started a security clearance campaign in Al-Hol camp (Al-Hasakeh governorate) in response to recent unrest in the camp. The campaign resulted in the arrest

of 125 suspected elements of the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) non-state armed group, according to SDF. The campaign spurred significant unrest in the camp: Several facilities belonging to humanitarian organizations operating in the camp were impacted by looting and fires by camp residents.

- On recommendation from the United Nations Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS), all UN field missions to Al-Hol were suspended. As such, All WFP missions to the camp were temporarily suspended.
- WFP food distributions and malnutrition treatment activities were suspended as the operation began. However, Al-Hol camp management allowed operations to resume on 30 March, and WFP distributions resumed in early April.

## WFP Response

- WFP dispatched humanitarian assistance sufficient for an estimated 4.9 million people across all activities in Syria in March.
- A total of USD 1.7 million in cash-based transfers (CBT) was distributed to 151,700 WFP beneficiaries across four activities: The General Food Assistance (GFA) CBT pilot; School Feeding (support to out-of-school children); Malnutrition Prevention (support to pregnant and lactating women); and Livelihoods, Resilience and Social Safety Nets.
- In response to COVID-19, and under agreement with UNFPA, CBT top-ups at a total value of USD 394,100 were distributed, allowing the households of the 70,400 pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWG) assisted by WFP to purchase hygiene items (benefitting some 352,000 people).
- As part of the Health Sector-led response to COVID-19 in Syria, WFP, in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) had by the end of March provided food assistance to more than 15,000 people in ten quarantine and ten isolation centres in Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Latakia, Tartous, and Rural Damascus governorates. The project is funded through the Syria Country-Based Pooled Fund (CBPF).

## General Food Assistance (GFA) Programme

- In March, WFP dispatched GFA sufficient for some 4.8 million people across all 14 Syrian governorates.
- Cross-border deliveries from Turkey accounted for 28 percent of the total WFP general food assistance dispatched. This includes food rations for some 1.3 million people areas of Idlib and Aleppo governorate inaccessible from inside Syria.
- Data collection for WFP's Vulnerability Needs Review (VNR) began on 01 March, and by the end of the month,

61,200 interviews had been completed across Aleppo, Damascus, Rural Damascus, Hama, Homs, Latakia and Tartous governorates. Data collection is expected to start in the remaining governorates in April.

### Livelihoods, Resilience and Social Safety Nets

- WFP reached some 34,500 people under its livelihoods, resilience and social safety-nets-projects across Rural Damascus, Dar'a, Quneitra, As-Sweida, Homs, Hama, Ar-Raqqa, Al-Hasakeh, Aleppo, Latakia, Tartous and Deir Ezzor governorates.

### School Feeding Programme

- WFP assisted 508,100 children with in-school provision of fortified snacks, and reached 29,350 children with fresh meals in Aleppo governorate.
- WFP supported 44,165 out-of-school children with food vouchers in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Dar'a, Quneitra, Aleppo, Homs, Hama, Latakia, Tartous and Deir Ezzor.

### Nutrition Programme

- WFP dispatched nutrition products for the prevention of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies for 172,500 children and pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWG). This includes 70,400 PLWG who received nutrition support through CBT to purchase fresh food from WFP-contracted shops.
- WFP dispatched nutrition products sufficient for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition for 4,400 children and PLWG for one month.

## Clusters and Common Services

### Logistics Cluster

- Facilitating the cross-border operation from Turkey, the WFP-led Logistics Cluster transshipped 920 Syrian trucks from Turkey in March. A total of 21,785 mt of Health, WASH, food, and Shelter items were transshipped on behalf of WFP, IOM, UNHCR, WHO and UNICEF.

### United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- In March, UNHAS Syria completed 18 rotations on its two routes from Damascus to Qamishli and Aleppo, transporting 288 passengers and 3.58 mt of light cargo. Of the passengers transported on both routes, 58 percent were UN staff, and 42 percent were staff from national and international non-governmental organisations.

## Resourcing Update

- WFP requires USD 466.6 million to keep operations running at current levels through September 2021.

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

## WFP Syria Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2021)

	2021 Requirement (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirement (April 2021 - September 2021)	People Assisted (March 2021 dispatches)	Female	Male
<b>ICSP (January 2019 – December 2021)</b>	<b>1.16 billion</b>	<b>466.6 million</b>	<b>4,938,265</b>		
Activity 1: <b>General Food Assistance</b>			<b>4,785,270</b>	2,631,899	2,153,372
Activity 2: <b>School Feeding</b>			<b>581,575</b>	284,972	296,603
Activity 3: <b>Livelihoods and Resilience</b>			<b>34,480</b>	18,964	15,516
Activity 4: <b>Prevention of Acute Malnutrition</b>			<b>242,851</b>	158,341	84,510
Activity 5: <b>Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition</b>			<b>4,400</b>	2,596	1,804