



WHOLE OF SYRIA (WoS)
FOOD SECURITY
SECTOR



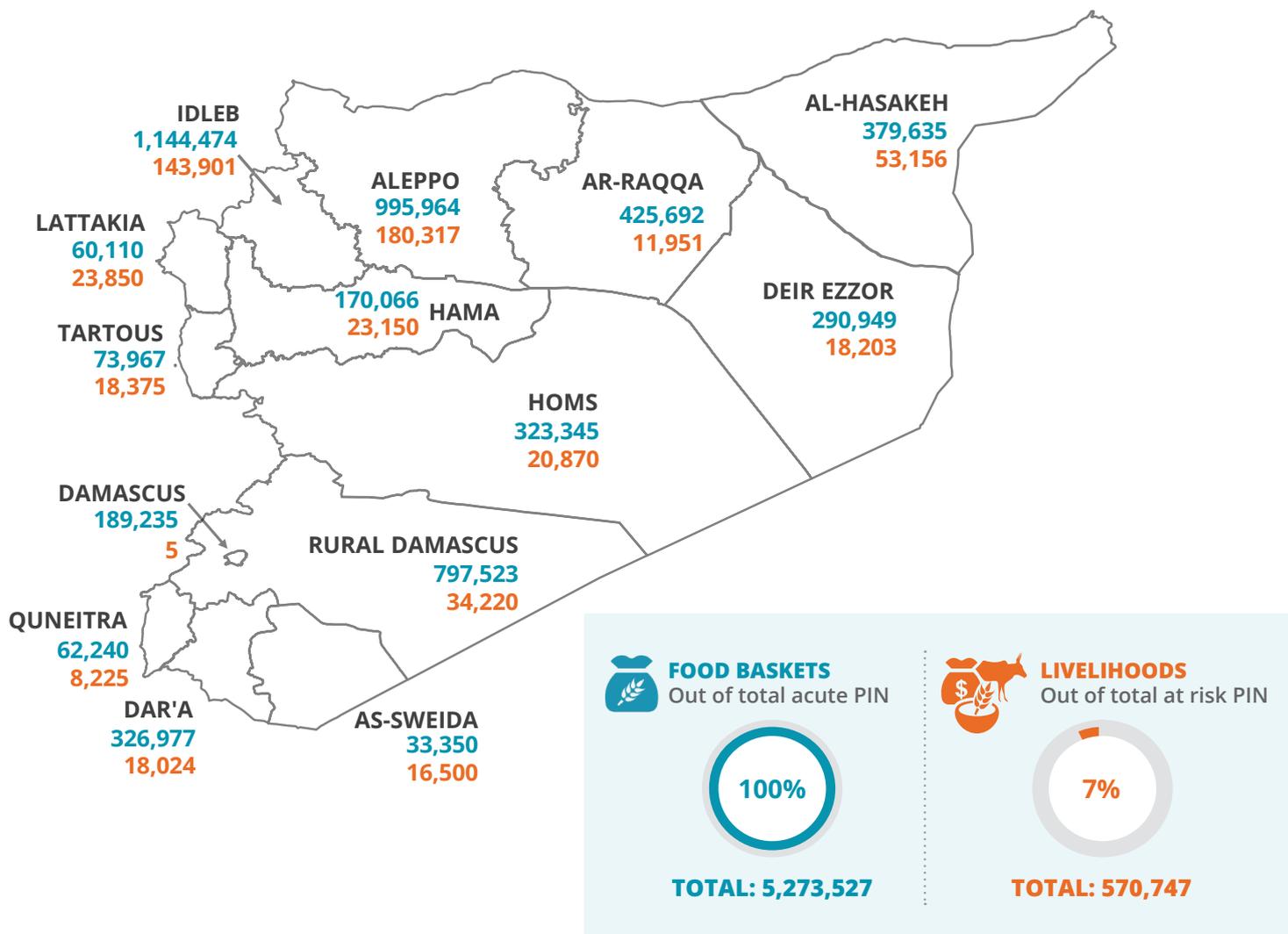
WHOLE OF SYRIA

FOOD SECURITY SECTOR

SITUATION REPORT

FIRST QUARTER
2020

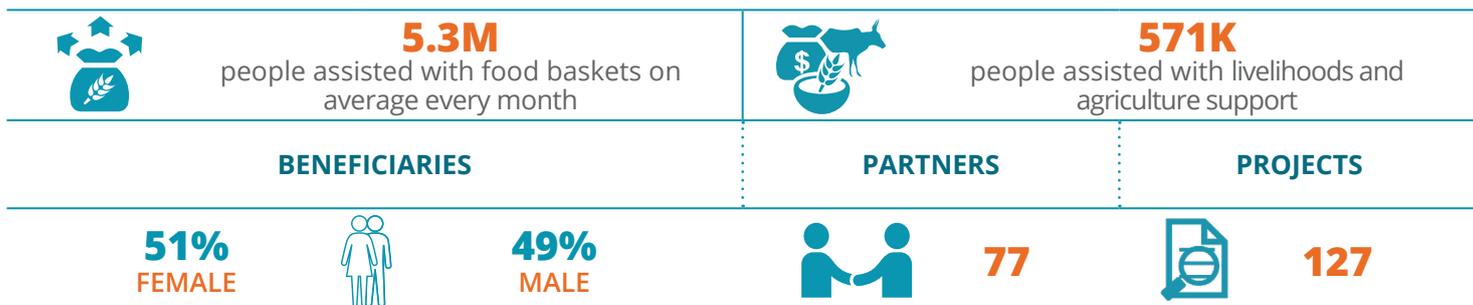
TOTAL PEOPLE REACHED ACROSS SYRIA



9.8 MILLION PEOPLE IN NEED



PEOPLE REACHED



MODALITIES



CASH



VOUCHERS



IN-KIND



TRAINING



SERVICES

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Food Security Sector reached **5.3M people with food baskets on average every month** in Q1 across all 14 Syrian governorates. This includes **food assistance for 1.7M people** dispatched via the cross-border operation from Turkey and Iraq to areas not accessible from inside Syria.
- In response to NWS emergency, FSS also distributed **RTERs to 907,971 people in total**.
- In Q1, **FSS reached 571K people** with agriculture and livelihoods support under sector objectives 2 and 3.
- By March, **FSS distributed cash and vouchers to 590K beneficiaries** for food and livelihoods support.

FSS REACH 3 MONTH TREND 2020



FSS FUNDING



FSS FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE (as of 18 August)



SITUATION OVERVIEW

- The humanitarian situation remains dire across northwest Syria. **Humanitarian needs continue to increase** in western Aleppo and southern Idleb governorates, where people are moving back after being displaced in recent hostilities.
- The deteriorating economic situation exacerbates humanitarian needs, as **the Syrian Pound reaches unprecedented lows, making vital goods such as food unaffordable for many**. Food prices continue to increase and have now more than doubled since October 2019, reaching the highest recorded levels since the start of the crisis.
- **Further scale up is required** for preparedness for COVID-19 and to meet the needs of the current displacement crisis.
- COVID-19 cases (as of March 2020): **0 in Northwest Syria (NWS), 3 in Northeast Syria (NES), 44 in Damascus**.
- FSS partners continue to adjust their ways of working to minimise disruption in the delivery of assistance while accommodating COVID-19 countermeasures.
- **Distribution methods have been adapted** to reduce face-to-face contact, and **awareness raising efforts** on COVID-19 risks and precautions remain widespread through both online and offline mediums. Virtualisation of in-person meetings and activities remains in place, including for coordination and for awareness raising.

MARKET ANALYSIS

- Across Syria, **the national average price of a standard reference food basket in March 2020 was 43,774 Syrian Pound (SYP) – 63 US Dollar, increasing by 9 percent compared to February 2020**.
- The Syrian government COVID-19 mitigation measures implemented from mid-March 2020 onwards, induced **panic buying and impacted the price of food items**. Nationally, on average between the 3rd and 4th weeks of March, **the price of garlic increased by 200%, commercial bread increased by 101%, oranges and lemons by ~ 70%, potatoes by 36%, onions by 33%, rice by 24%, vegetable oil by 11%, and sugar by 6%**.
- By the end of March, **the official exchange rate between the SYP and the USD was officially devalued by 61 percent** from SYP 434/USD to SYP 700/USD. Moreover, **the national average informal exchange rate increased by 9 percent since February 2020** reaching SYP 1,129/USD nationally, 1,079 SYP/USD in NWS and 1,075 SYP/USD in NES.
- **Record Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) values were recorded in cross-border areas:**
 - In NWS, the regional median SMEB was recorded at 115,455 SYP/107 USD, of which the food component is 68% (79,182 SYP/73 USD).
 - In NES, the regional median SMEB was recorded at 112,558 SYP/105 USD, of which the food component is 72% (81,985 SYP/76 USD).
- For more information, please visit the [WFP VAM](#) page and the [REACH resource centre](#).

HUB UPDATES

Northwest Syria Hub

- Humanitarian response remains high, with **March 2020 on pace to be the month with the most UN shipments since the beginning of the cross-border operation.**
- The Food Security and Livelihoods Sector (FSL) continued to support the frontline emergency response in Q1 through Sector member coordination, the development and use of an emergency tracker database, as well as the organization of ad-hoc Strategic Advisory Group and cluster meetings.
- The frontline response includes the distribution of RTEs tailored for a household of 5 and the provision of cooked meals and emergency multi-purpose cash grants of USD 120-130 for each household to cover immediate food needs.
- From January to March 2020, FSL partners provided **one-off distributions of Emergency Food Baskets to 437,232 people, RTEs to 907,971 people, cash-based transfers to 148,000 people, and cooked meals to 687,883 people.** This is in addition to regular food assistance through Turkey hub which **reached a total of 1.5 million people on average.**
- FSL also provided **livelihoods and resilience-building activities for 278,677 people in Idleb and Aleppo.**
- Under the 2020 first allocations from the Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund, FSL Cluster members will scale up the response to assist the newly displaced people with cooked meals, RTEs, and food baskets **until September 2020.**

Northeast Syria Hub

- In early 2020, the situation in NES has been **relatively stable** in comparison to last quarter of 2019 when the NES emergency was at its highest.
- **The number of IDPs has dropped significantly** from the 139,000 IDPs in October 2019.
- In Q1 2020, **winter conditions continued to affect the situation of displaced families** living at the Areesha IDP camp, as well as other camps and informal sites.
- FSS assisted **every month on average 119,000 people with food baskets and 323,000 people with bread and flour distributions.** Additionally, **106,000 people received agriculture-based livelihoods inputs and assets restoration support in areas of return.**
- **85% of food baskets and 62% of total livelihoods assistance were delivered through cash and vouchers, the highest percentage across all hubs.**

Damascus Hub

- As government forces approach Idleb, FSS has responded by **providing assistance in newly accessible areas** from within Syria.
- In southern Syria, clashes erupted in Dar'a governorate between government forces and non-state armed groups in the cities of AnSanamayn and Jilin; the first of such incidents in the South since 2018.
- In Q1, **FSS dispatched food assistance covering 3.6 million people** across Dar'a, Damascus, Rural Damascus, As-Sweida, Homs, Hama, Tartous, Lattakia, and Quneitra.
- Additionally, **253,060 people received livelihoods assistance including income-generating opportunities** through WFP's integrated food assistance and livelihoods strategy.

UPCOMING ASSESSMENTS

- **Outcome Monitoring for beneficiaries (OMI)** – data collection with FSS partners planned for mid-August 2020.
- **NWS IDPs assessment with SREO** – results due end of August 2020.
- **WoS Food Security assessments (FSA/FSLA) with IMMAP** – data collection planned for late August 2020

ONLINE RESOURCES



All our latest products are available on the FSS Website: <https://fscluster.org/syria>



You can access the FSS COVID-19 gazette, by clicking this [link](#).



For further information, please contact: info.wos@fscluster.org