

# WHOLE OF SYRIA FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE SECTOR

## MONTHLY INSIDER

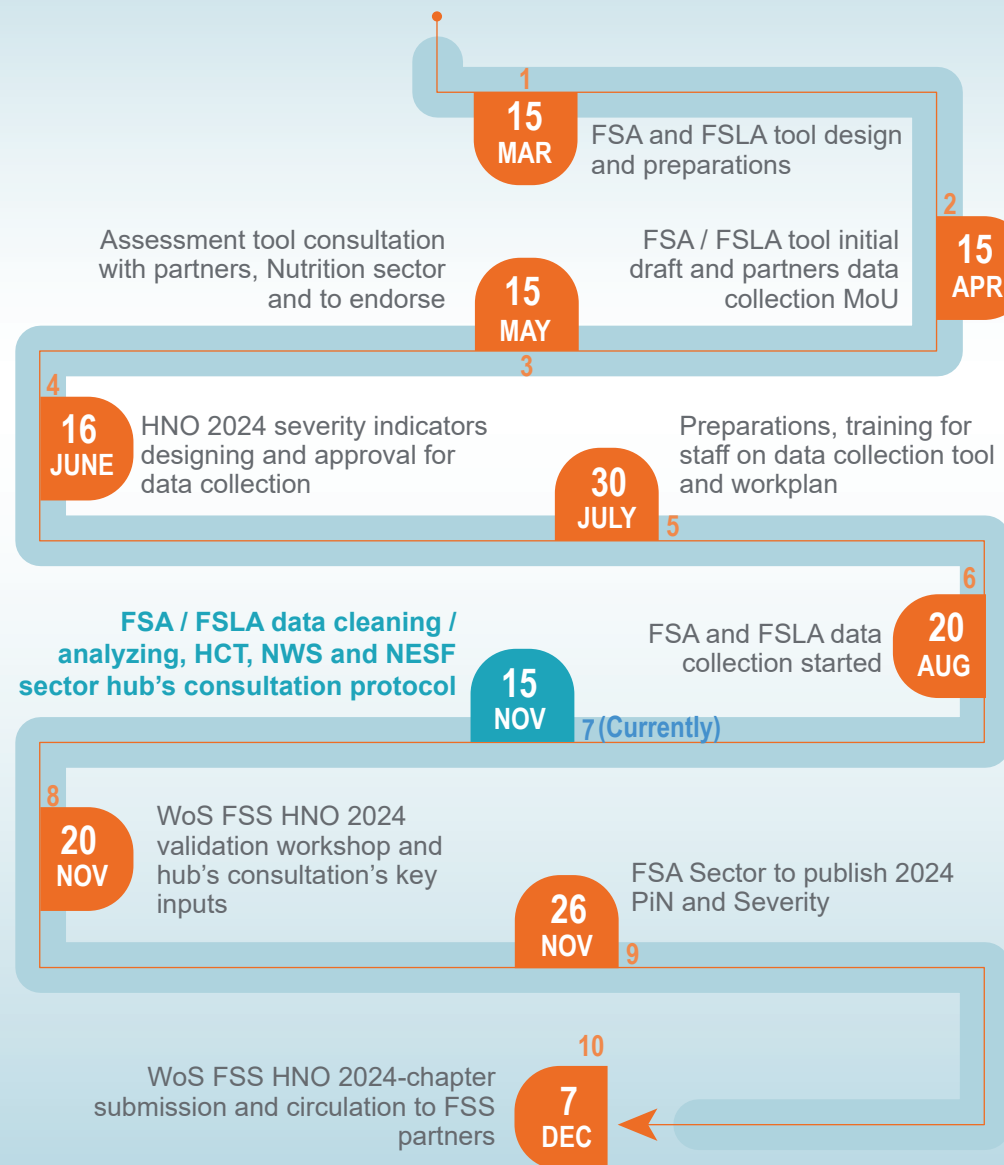
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### KEY UPDATES

- Northern Syria Contingency planning:-** Contingency planning for any possible northern Syria conflict, including current capacity, response needs, and funding gaps has been determined and shared with leadership. Lastly, contingency planning
 **b) Deir-Ezzor Contingency planning** ongoing for the Food Security Sector response in terms of conflict events in NES particularly contingency planning for Deir Zour response, as well as mobilizing and coordinating with partners to respond to recent conflict in NWS. Current capacity, response needs, and funding gaps have been determined and shared with leadership.
 **c) Implications of regional conflict contingency planning** 3 possible scenarios
- The cost of living, as measured by the Minimum Expenditure Basket, reached 30 percent more in August 2023 compared to the previous month, a record high, to reach SYP 1,868,971 for a family of five. The cost of living has remained uncomfortably elevated, surged by 60 percent in 2023 alone, leading to erosion of wages as the minimum wage was only able to buy a tenth of the August MEB. The outlook is skewed to further upward trajectory in the cost of living as further cuts to fuel subsidies were made in early September 2023, in a continued move to restructure the subsidy program to allow a reduction in government's fiscal deficit.

## WOS FSA SECTOR 2024 HUMANITARIAN NEEDS OVERVIEW 2024 TIMELINE

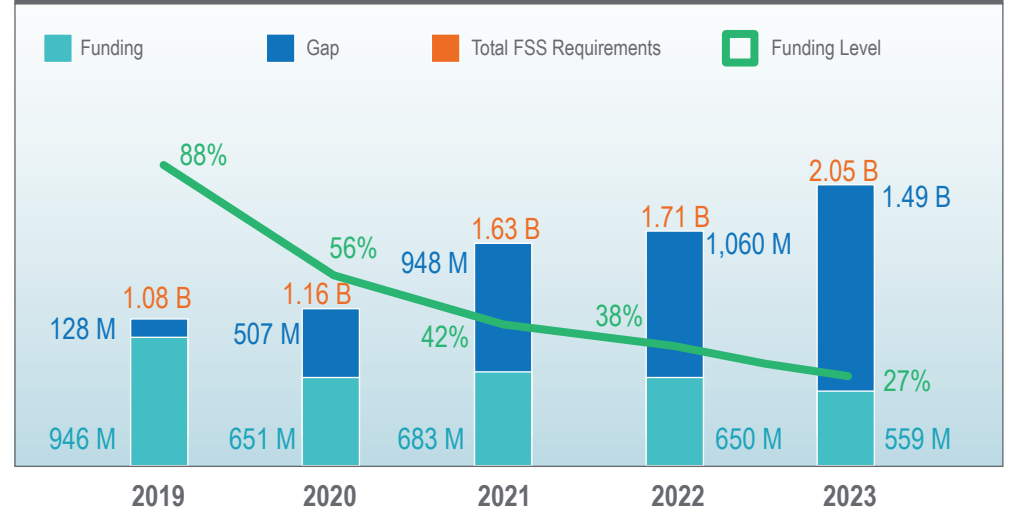


## FUNDING SITUATION AND ANALYSIS OF THE FOOD SECURITY SECTOR IN SYRIA

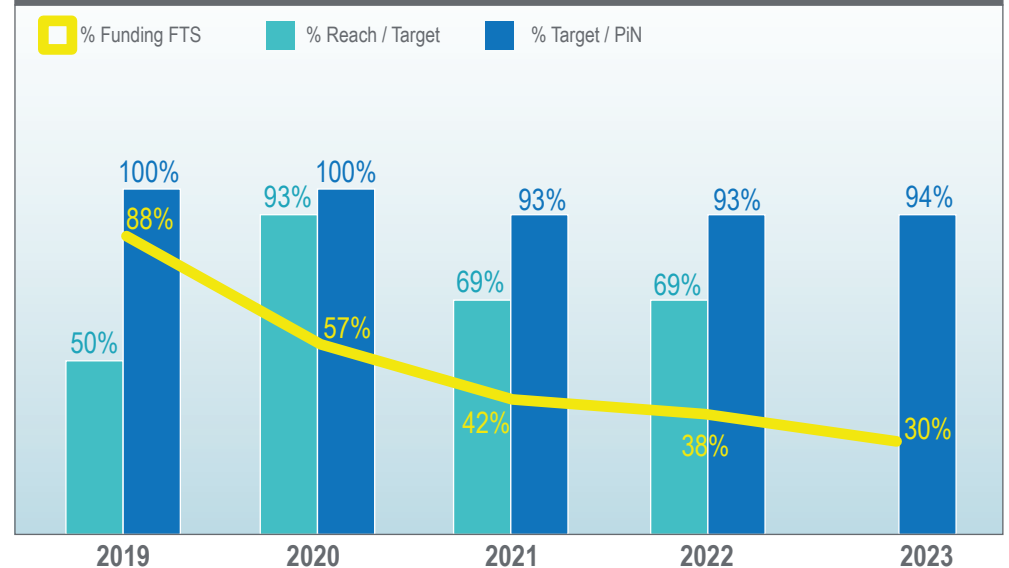
The Food Security and Agriculture Sector in Syria has recorded a significant funding reduction, not in line with the increase of needs and food insecurity that the sector stated in the Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023, and Humanitarian Response Plan 2023. While the food needs in Syria have been steadily increasing with 12.1 million people (close to 55 percent of the population) facing acute food insecurity and an additional 2.9 million at risk of sliding into food insecurity, funding for the FSS has been fluctuating over the past years (see GRAPH 1). In 2023, in the context of an unprecedented funding crisis, FSS requirements in Syria are so far only 27 percent covered. The last quarter of 2023 year some of the sector partners reported changes in funding with reduction, this has impacted the type of programming also the reach capacity, the sector is highlighting currently with partners and donors the importance of ensuring that any changes need to be made based on food security analysis and evidence, as well as, in consultation with the food security and agriculture sector to advise and to support in providing the recommendation needed by looking at the overall response versus needs.

FSS partners have collectively reached 4.3 people in need with food assistance/basket, as recorded in August 2023 5W's by the Food Security Sector, translated to an increase of reach and capacity recorded from July 2023. In relation to the 2022 year, the reach of people in need of food assistance overall has dropped significantly not due to capacity or access factors, the reach total has been affected due to funding constraints. The Food Security Sector and its partners continue to flag the huge impact of funding constraints and their effect on reaching the food insecure target for 2023 year, this would have implications that will be explained in the next report section.

GRAPH 1 : FSS Funding vs FSS Requirements (2019-2023)



GRAPH 2: People Targeted in Relation to People in Need and People Reached, and % Funding Received (2019 - 2023)



Hunger will increase and over 2 million people will not receive monthly food assistance. The current lack of funding is already having a negative impact on the recent food security and nutrition gains. For instance;- Since July, WFP had to reduce its monthly budget by 40 per cent which translates to 40 per cent less assistance provided to beneficiaries. While WFP provided assistance to an average of 5.5 million people per month in the first half of the year, now WFP can only assist an average of 3.3 million people per month. Unless the funding outlook changes, WFP will have to further reduce beneficiaries in January 2024.

**READ MORE HERE**

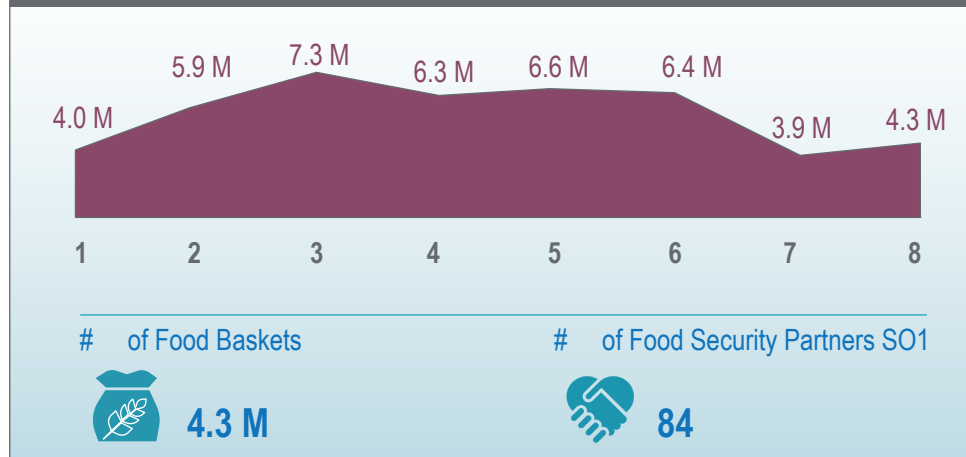
In the last three months nearly two million people have been added in the category of the population having insufficient food consumption based on the mVAM data (<https://hungermap.wfp.org/>).

While the mVAM provides levels of food insecurity on the general population, the substantial increase in prevalence of insufficient food consumption coincided with reduced numbers for WFP’s food assistance, cuts in fuel subsidies, and continued slide in the local currency against the dollar. These will likely exacerbate the upward trajectory in food insecurity.

For instance, as of September 2023, food prices, as measured by the WFP food basket cost, increased by 77 percent in the last three months while wages remained stagnant and could only account for one-fifth of the essential food a family need. Surging food prices are likely to take a toll on vulnerable households, and many others are likely to slide into poverty as food account for a significant proportion of their spending. Furthermore, high commodity prices on the global market, like fuel and gas, will likely limit the fiscal space on government transfers on food and energy.

**READ MORE HERE**

GRAPH 3 : # of Total Beneficiaries Assisted per Month



The FSS Partners during a joint mission in Maskana in Aleppo ©FAO Syria/2023



# FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE SECTOR STRATEGY 2024 OUTLINES

The Food Security and Agriculture Sector has been working on designing a sector strategy for 2024 year, in consultations with partners, including the 3 hubs (HLG, HCT and NESF), 5 key pillars that have been endorsed by partners which will guide a collective response to provide a common platform for food security and Agriculture Sector partners in whole of Syria, putting in place a harmonized approach to prioritization and targeting criteria for beneficiaries of food security programs within the framework of the FSA sector objectives and the integrated approach to the three lines of response. And more to share on the 2024 FSA Strategy in the next report.

## Food Security and Agriculture Sector Strategy 2024



**Prioritization** among the food insecure groups informed by the sector key assessments for 2024 HNO



**Targeting** the most food insecure and vulnerable households/individuals



**Coordination and communication** messaging through the Cluster to communities, WFP, local authorities



**Mainstreaming Accountability to Affected (AAP) population into the food security and agriculture Sector strategy 2024** Increase the inter agencies/clusters referrals for the most vulnerable households/individuals



**Area-Based Approach:-** Advocacy for IS, early recovery interventions to enhance food security, and community-level impact in the long term

## Sector Preps per hub and WoS



HCT, HLG, and NESF;- Hub Strategy and reduction workshop with ensuring consultation



Product to be delivered, strategy Guidance limited to 5 pages

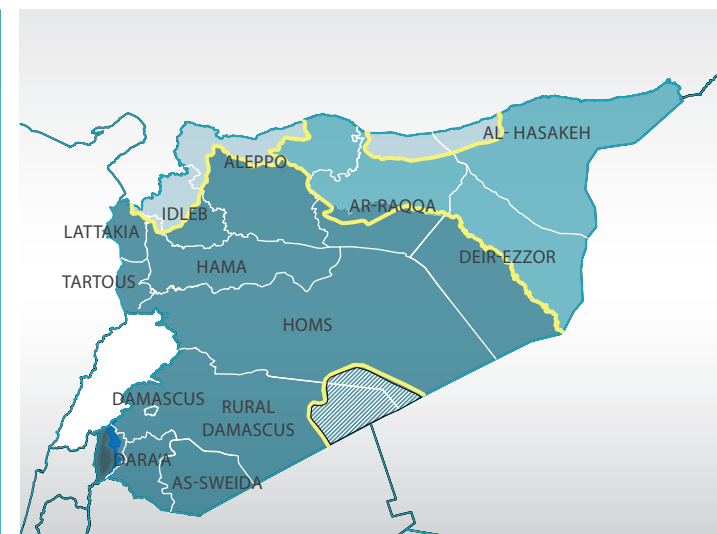


Timeline for final WoS consultation with partners, **BY MID-DECEMBER 2023**



Timeline for circulation and presenting to donors, and partners;- **BY MID-JANUARY 2024**

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