



WHOLE OF SYRIA (WoS) FOOD SECURITY SECTOR



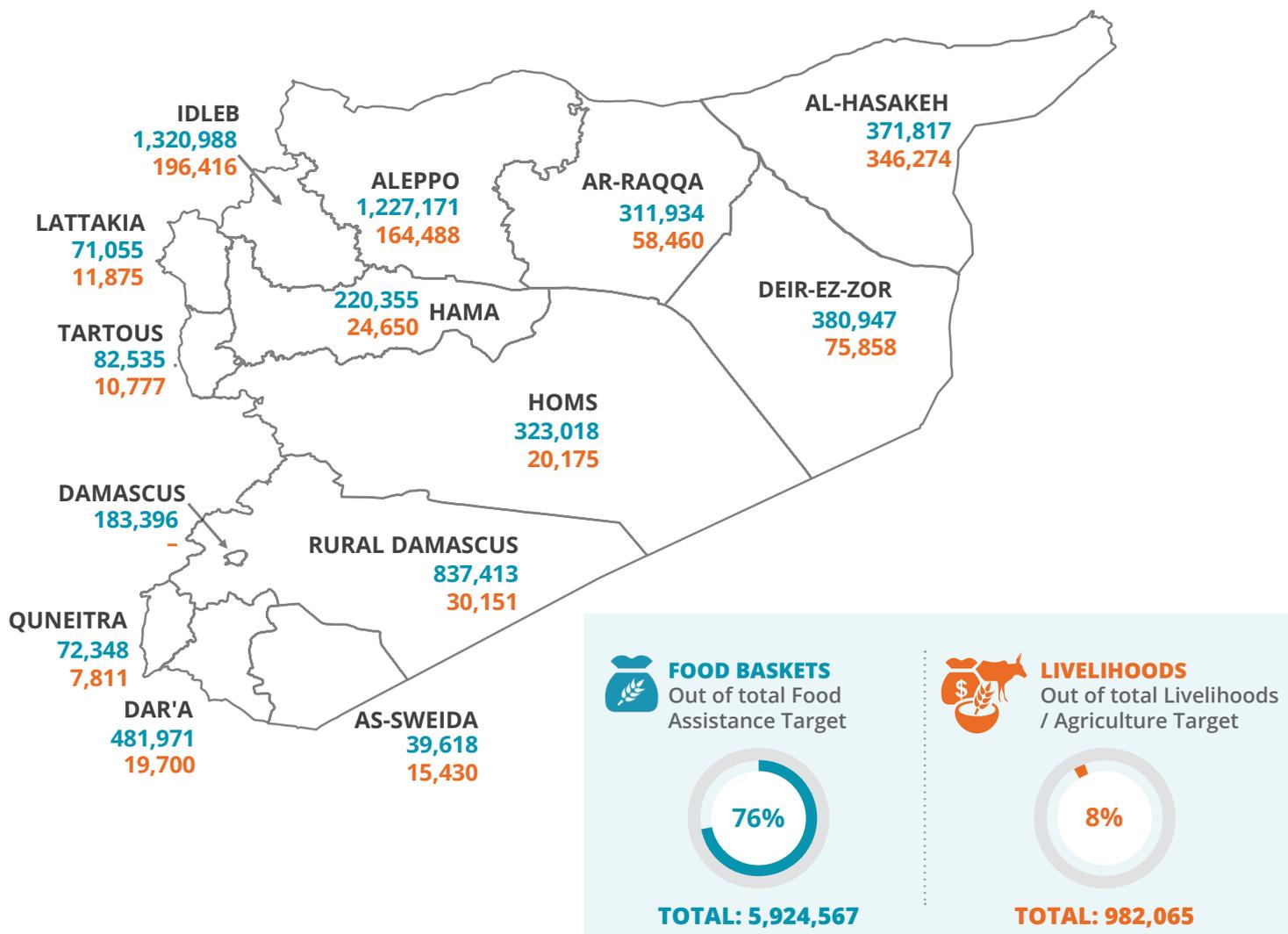
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WHOLE OF SYRIA FOOD SECURITY SECTOR

SITUATION REPORT

SECOND QUARTER
2021

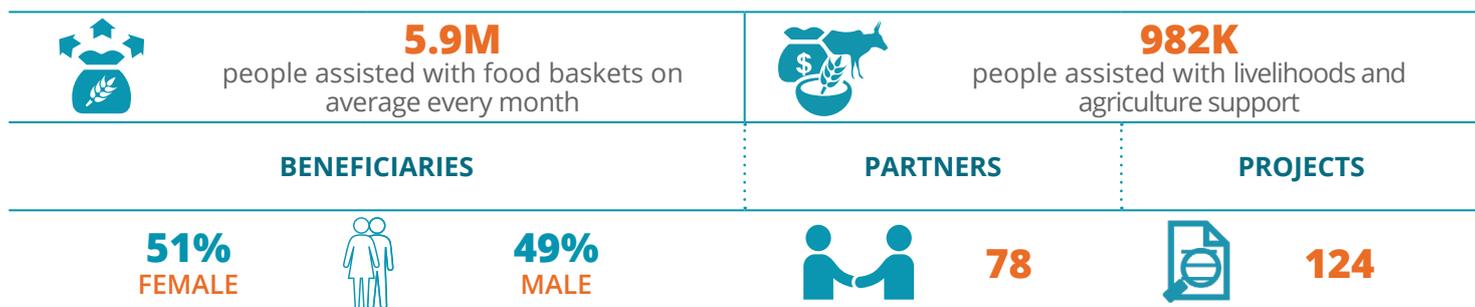
TOTAL PEOPLE REACHED ACROSS SYRIA



14.2 MILLION PEOPLE IN NEED



PEOPLE REACHED



MODALITIES



CASH



VOUCHERS



IN-KIND



TRAINING



SERVICES

HIGHLIGHTS



The Whole of Syria (WoS) Food Security Sector reached **5.9 million** people on average in the first half of 2021 with food baskets across all 14 Syrian governorates. This includes food assistance on average every month reaching **2.2 million** people through the cross-border operation from Syria Cross-Border HLG and NES NGO Forum, for assisted areas not accessible from Syria HCT¹.



In addition to regular food basket support, over **3.2 million** people have benefitted from the distribution of Emergency Food Rations (EFRs²), with **3 million (95%)** of the people supported in Northwest Syria through Syria Cross-Border HLG.

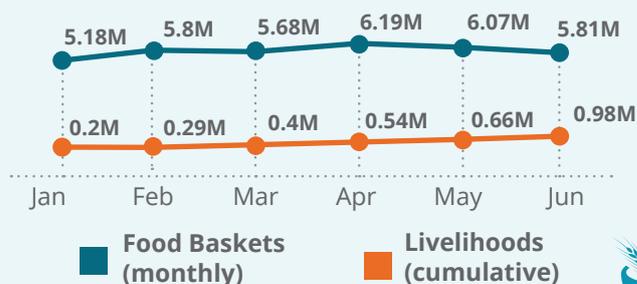


Through emergency agriculture assistance, livelihoods, and resilience activities as per sector objectives 2 and 3, food security partners at WoS level have reached **over 982,000 people (162,678 HHs)**. Across the different hubs, partners from Syria Cross-Border HLG reached 297,861 people (49,644 HHs) while from NES NGO Forum, partners reached **417,187 people (69,531 HHs)**. Support provided was to enhance self-reliance of affected households by protecting and building productive assets and restoring or creating income generating opportunities to save and sustain lives.



Cash and voucher support: In the first half of 2021, FSS partners supported on average **642,472 people** with cash and vouchers monthly through food baskets with Cross-Border HLG supporting **439,826 people**, NES NGO Forum supporting **130,873 people** and Syria HCT supporting **71,773 people**. A total of **179,938 people** cumulatively with agriculture and livelihood support with Cross-Border HLG supporting **75,827 people**, NES NGO Forum supporting **72,036 people** and Syria HCT supporting **32,075 people**.

FSS REACH 6 MONTH TREND 2021



FSS FUNDING FOR HRP 2021

(as of 03/09/2021 — COVID-19 funding integrated into HRP 2021)



SITUATION OVERVIEW

- As per HNO 2021, the situation in Syria has drastically deteriorated with an estimated **12.4 million** people are food insecure, of which 1.3 million people are considered severely food insecure. Furthermore, all **1.7 million** people³ living in camps are deemed to be 100% food insecure, and 1.8 million people are estimated to be at risk⁴ of food insecurity based on a countrywide assessment of **36,484** households and technical reviews and consultations.
- The assessment results showed a sharp increase from last year, with an increase of **4.5 million people** facing acute food insecurity in 2021 compared to 2020. Whereas in 2019, 39% of the total population was food insecure, that figure is now almost **60%** in 2020. The number of severely food insecure people has also increased from **3% (0.6 million)** of the population in 2019 to **6% (1.3 million)** in 2020.
- Noting that the Syrian crisis is currently at its 10th year with 2020 having seen the emergence of new and complex socioeconomic difficulties that are further exacerbating the food security and livelihood situation of families across the country. In Syria, life-threatening conditions are expected to intensify in the outlook period up to November 2021, as a result of worsening conflict or armed violence, economic decline, weather extremes and climate variability, often combined with humanitarian access constraints. Seasonal forecasts suggest, with moderate likelihood, another below average rainy season starting in September⁵.
- Additionally, fuel, water, and wheat shortages are reported across the country, disrupting basic services, and increasing the cost of essential goods. This affects the humanitarian response and functionality of health facilities, water systems, and agricultural assistance⁶.

AGRICULTURE SEASONAL PERFORMANCE AND LIVELIHOODS

- **Agriculture input prices:** As the 2020/2021 winter cropping season came to an end in June 2021, the continued increase in the prices of most agriculture inputs continues to exert significant pressure on Syrian families and vulnerable small-holder farmers. The most significant price increases for agriculture inputs observed from April – June 2021 by the sector and FAO include for Urea (i.e., top-dressing fertilizer) and Phosphate (i.e., basal fertilizer). A notable increase was also observed for livestock feed, particularly compound pellets and fodder. The price spikes can be attributed to the erratic rains which subsequently impacted vegetative growth and biomass accumulation of plants. The subsequent price increases on already exorbitant livestock feed prices will further limit livestock keepers' access to fodder for their animals, which will in-turn, affect nutrition and productivity within the livestock sector. The sector continues to scale-up support that addresses the prevailing and protracted economic hardships and the limited access to agricultural inputs for crop and livestock production by most Syrian families across the country.
- **2020/2021 season performance and crop production estimates:** By June 2021, most of the wheat and barley crop was still being harvested and the sector anticipates that harvesting will be fully completed by the end of July or early August 2021. Most of the wheat and barley crop was adversely impacted by the erratic rainfall and seasonal performance. The sector, through a 2020/2021 assessment on crop production (i.e., CFSAM-like assessment) being conducted by FAO, will be quantifying the 2020/2021 production levels and resultant losses caused by the seasonal challenges.
- **Euphrates water crisis:** The prevailing water scarcity, coupled with the current hot and dry conditions from April – June 2021, continues to be major challenge and concern for agriculture production in Syria.. The reduced water flow and discharge from the Euphrates River, reported in the first quarter of 2021, is worsening the already difficult situation for most farmers within the Euphrates River basin. The Euphrates River crisis in northern Syria will result in both short-, medium- and long-term impacts on food security and livelihoods for most vulnerable farmers, particularly crop producers and livestock keepers in Ar-Raqqa and Deir-er-Zor governorates. The Euphrates water crisis will most likely affect the availability and cost of most agriculture commodities within the local markets and the sector is closely monitoring the situation. During the period from April – June 2021, the sector was part of the Inter-sector Coordination (ISC) Euphrates crisis response planning exercise and the Syria HCT hub coordinated with the NES NGO forum in this regard⁷.

¹ Syria HCT Coordinated Response to designate humanitarian assistance delivered from areas controlled by the Government of Syria, including to North-East Syria; Syria Cross-Border HLG Coordinated Response to designate humanitarian assistance delivered cross-border from Turkey; and NES NGO Forum Coordinated Response to designate humanitarian assistance delivered by NGOs cross-border from Iraq or from areas of north-east Syria controlled by local authorities

² EFR support includes emergency cash assistance, cooked meals, ready to eat rations and emergency food baskets. Numbers indicated do not account

MARKET ANALYSIS

- The national average price of WFP's standard reference food basket decreased by one percent from May 2021, reaching SYP 165,932 (USD 66 at the official exchange rate of SYP 2,500/USD). Nevertheless, it remained 49 percent higher than in December 2020 (six months ago) and 102 percent higher compared to June 2020. The decrease in food basket price is the third month-on-month (m-o-m) decrease in a row since August 2020. The decrease is attributed towards greater government enforcements in monitoring market prices ensuring traders limit price increases. As per WFP Syria Price Bulletin issued in June 2021; the informal SYP/USD exchange rate continued its current relatively stable trend as it depreciated m-o-m by one percent, reaching SYP 3,156/USD. Moreover, compared to a year ago, the Syrian pound depreciated by 21 percent. The formal exchange rate and the UN operational rate have both remained unchanged m-o-m at SYP 2,500/USD⁸.
- According to the REACH – CWG marketing monitoring for June 2021; For Northeast Syria, in the month of June, the SMEB value was the highest recorded at 333,879 SYP (107 USD) in the market monitoring attributed to the protracted hyperinflation of the Syrian economy. The SMEB in USD is currently the highest since December 2019 with a 13% increase in the past 6 months⁹.
- Similarly, according to the REACH – CWG marketing monitoring for June 2021; In Northwest Syria, for the month of June, the SMEB value was the highest at 356,669 (112 USD) in the market monitoring exercise attributed to the protracted hyperinflation of the Syrian economy. The SMEB value for Northwest Syria has ranged between 112 – 116 USD, which remains the highest recorded range since June 2019 with a 7% increase in the past 6 months¹⁰.
- For more information, please visit the [WFP VAM](#) page and the [REACH resource centre](#).
- All our latest products are available at the FSS website: <https://fscluster.org/syria>

for double counting.³ Statistics based on the FSA/FSLA 2020 findings and an inclusive HNO 2021 validation process.

³ CCCM IDP Sites Integrated Monitoring Matrix, July 2021.

⁴ Those considered at risk of food insecurity are the 'worst off' in the moderately food secure category and may be falling into food insecurity if their livelihoods if not supported.

⁵ WFP and FAO. 2021. Hunger Hotspots. FAO-WFP early warnings on acute food insecurity: August to November 2021 outlook. Rome

⁶ ACAPS. 2021. Humanitarian Access Overview, July 2021. Geneva, ACAPS

⁷ [FAO Agriculture Input and Commodity Bulletins](#)

⁸ [WFP Syria Price Bulletin Issue no. 79: June 2021](#)

⁹ REACH – CWG: Northeast Syria Market Monitoring Exercise June 2021

¹⁰ REACH – CWG: Northwest Syria Market Monitoring Exercise June 2021

HUB UPDATES

Syria Cross-Border HLG Coordinated Response

- UNSC resolution (#2585) on humanitarian assistance in NWS was renewed on 9 July 2021. The renewal is for a period of six months for the border crossing at Bab al Hawa, with an extension of an additional six months subject to the issuance of the Secretary General's substantive report.
- From January to June 2021, on average, the FSL partners distributed food baskets to 2 million beneficiaries in Northwest Syria, according to the following breakdown: i) 1.4 million beneficiaries reached out by UN partners (i.e., 69% total number of beneficiaries); ii) 600,000 beneficiaries assisted by non-UN (i.e., 31% total number of beneficiaries). During the same period, on average, 20,000 persons with disabilities (1% out of the total average) have been assisted by FSL partners, with 2.3 million beneficiaries receiving bread and wheat flour on average every month through 29 cluster partners across 35 sub-districts in Northwest Syria.
- From January to June 2021, FSL Cluster partners has delivered support to 49,643 HHs (297,861 beneficiaries) on agriculture and livelihoods activities in Northwest Syria, with a remarkable progress for support to IDPs and host communities who were able to resume some crop cultivation thanks to funding by UN agencies and other donors. However, farmers and local communities in Northwest have been facing several challenges on agriculture and livelihood programs in Q2, due to the limited access to productive inputs and marketing constraints. Further a reduction of the cultivated land in spring vegetables was reported due to the lack of fuel. The outlook of the olive production is not good for this year, and even livestock is affected by low vaccination rate and limited availability of the fodder. FSL Cluster has been working to enhance the livelihoods activities and fundings from the SCHF (OCHA) to support wheat crop production and livestock, and income-generating activities which will kick off the third quarter of 2021.

NES NGO Forum Coordinated Response

- As per HNO 2021, a total of 1.9 million people in Northeast Syria are food insecure (291k in Aleppo, 647K in Al-Hasakeh, 411K in Ar-Raqqa, and 60K in Deir-ez-Zor Governorates), accounting for about 63% of the total population in the region.
- In the period January to June 2021, NES NGO Forum partners assisted on average 158,922 people monthly with regular food baskets and 332,103 people with bread and flour distributions on average every month.
- The situation in Northeast Syria remains relatively unstable in the first of 2021 with a total of 140,941 people receiving emergency food assistance as compared to Q1 of 2021 where a total of 30,000 people received support in the first three months.
- From January to June 2021, based on livelihood and agriculture assistance, hub partners supported 69,531 HHs (417,187 people) with agriculture inputs, small-scale food production, IGAs, livestock asset restoration and infrastructure rehabilitation.

Syria HCT Coordinated Response

- The Syria HCT hub partners reached 3.8 million people on average from Jan – June 2021 with food baskets across 14 governorates. In addition to regular food basket distribution, 3,163 people benefitted through the distribution of Emergency Food Rations (EFRs), particularly in Aleppo, Rural Damascus, Hama and Deir-ez-Zor governorates.
- Through emergency agriculture assistance, livelihoods, and resilience activities under sector objectives 2 and 3, Syria HCT hub partners reached 267,017 people (44,502 HHs). Support provided was to enhance self-reliance of affected households by providing, protecting, and building productive assets, including relevant training, and restoring or creating income generating opportunities to save and sustain lives and enhance income generation.
- From Jan – June 2021, hub partners assisted on average 72,000 people with monthly cash and voucher assistance for food baskets and reached a cumulative total of 32,075 with CVA for agriculture and livelihoods support.
- Following the launch of the SHF 2021 first standard allocation in June 2021, the SHF proposal review process was successfully and effectively completed for all FAS and multisector proposals submitted to the OCHA SHF team. The successful and funded projects will most likely be launched in August 2021.

UPCOMING ASSESSMENTS

- **Cross-border Food Security & Livelihood Assessment:** September 2021.
- **Syria Cross-border HLG 6th Outcome Monitoring Exercise June - August 2021:** data collection for Round 6 of OMI took place in June and July, where 3,300 beneficiary HH were surveyed by 24 partners in 31 subdistricts in NWS. Results to be available in August.
- **NES NGO Forum Sector Objective 1 Outcome Monitoring:** Preparatory work.
- **NES NGO Forum & Syria HLG Cross-border Sector Objective 2 Outcome Monitoring Exercise:** Discussions on potential monitoring exercise.

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