



WHOLE OF SYRIA (WoS) FOOD SECURITY SECTOR



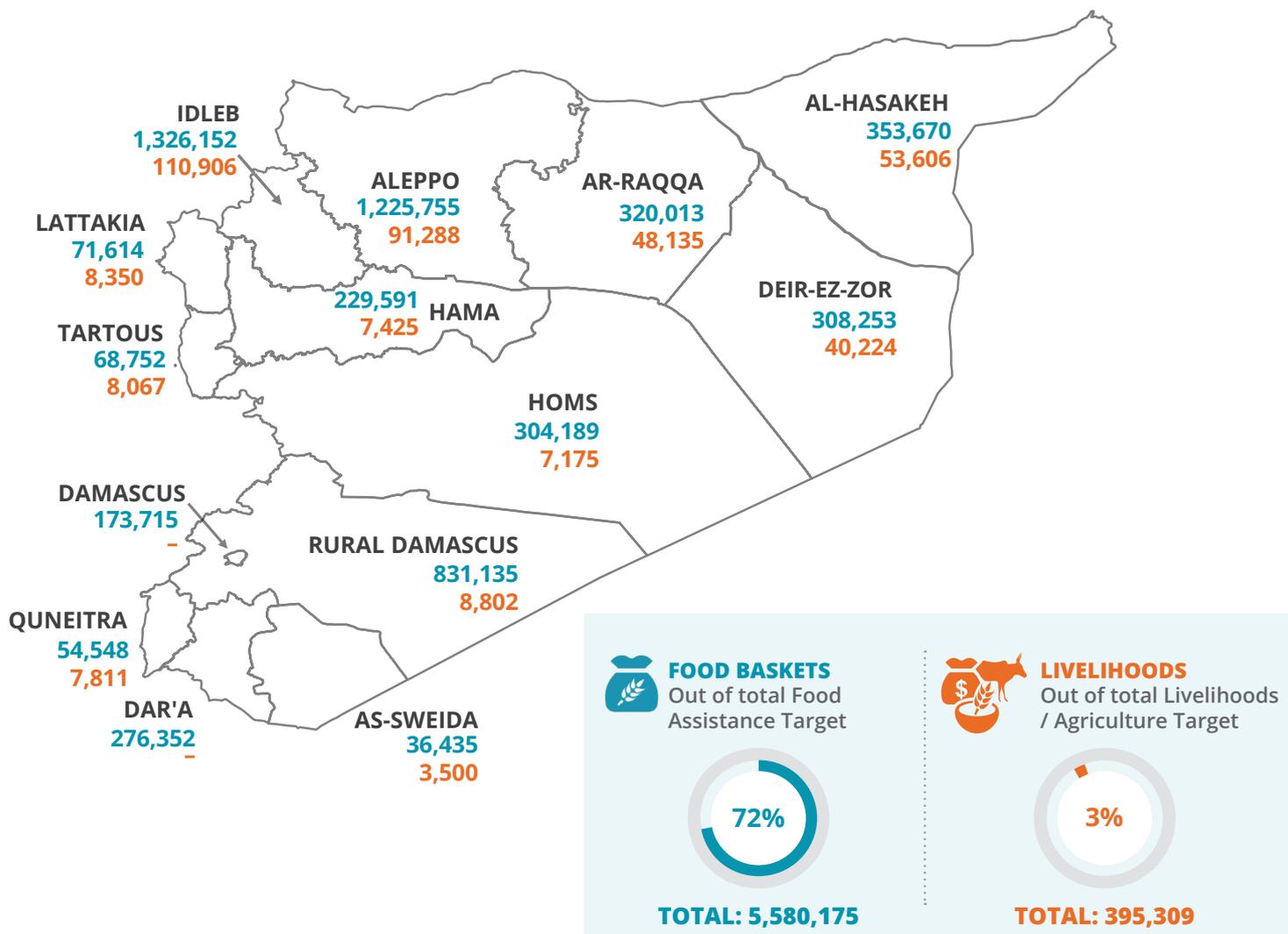
Photo: Space of Peace

WHOLE OF SYRIA FOOD SECURITY SECTOR

SITUATION REPORT

FIRST QUARTER
2021

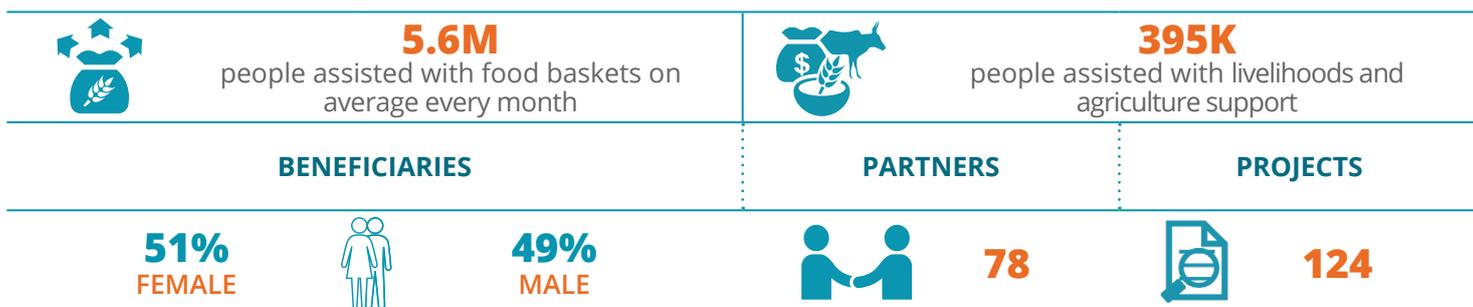
TOTAL PEOPLE REACHED ACROSS SYRIA



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 5.6 million people on average in the in the first quarter of 2021 with food baskets across all 14 Syrian governorates. This includes food assistance on average every month reaching 2 million people dispatched through the cross-border operation from Syria Cross-Border HLG and NES NGO Forum, assisting areas not accessible from Syria HCT¹.



In addition to regular food basket distribution, over 1 million people benefitted through the distribution of Emergency Food Rations (EFRs), with 1 million (97%) of the people supported through Syria Cross-Border HLG. EFR support includes emergency cash assistance, cooked meals, ready to eat rations and emergency.



Through emergency agriculture assistance, livelihoods, and resilience activities under sector objectives 2 and 3, FSS WoS partners across all hubs had reached over 395,000 people (65,885 HHs). Across the different hubs, partners from Syria Cross-Border HLG reached 177,419 people (29,570 HHs) and from NES NGO Forum partners reached 113,983 people (18,997 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.

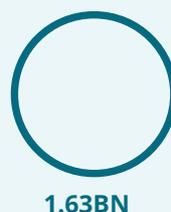


Cash and voucher support: In Q1 2021 FSS partners assisted on average 582,000 people with cash and vouchers monthly through food baskets and with a total of 116,294 people cumulatively with agriculture and livelihood support.

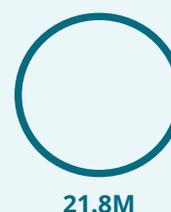
FSS REACH 3 MONTH TREND 2021



FSS FUNDING HRP 2021



FSS FUNDING FOR COVID-19 2021 (Funding integrated into HRP 2021)



Requested
Funded



SITUATION OVERVIEW

- The crisis in Syria has entered 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.
- The situation in Syria has drastically deteriorated with an estimated **14.2 million** people in need of some form of food and agriculture assistance, representing **68.6%** of the total population; Based on a countrywide assessment of **36,484** households and technical reviews and consultations, at least **12.4 million** people are estimated to be food insecure, of which **1.3 million** people are considered severely food insecure. Furthermore, all **1.7 million**¹ people living in camps are deemed to be 100% food insecure, and **1.8 million** people are estimated to be at risk² of food insecurity³.
- The results show 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.
- The focus on assessment and monitoring activities has been on Food Security & Livelihood (FSLA) reassessment of 13 Sub-districts in North West Syria (NWS) to ascertain a more accurate picture of the food insecurity situation in these areas.

AGRICULTURE SEASONAL PERFORMANCE AND LIVELIHOODS

- **Rainfall:** The 2020/2021 agricultural season was characterized by delayed onset of rainfall by at least 2 months in all governorates since the rainfall started in the beginning of November 2020. By the end of April 2021, the cumulative rainfall for the current season which starts from September 2020 to end of April 2021, was weak to very weak in the North-Eastern governorates and the Eastern regions especially in Deir-er-Zor. In April 2021, the precipitation was good and slightly higher than averages in Quneitra and the coastal governorates, and weak to very weak in the rest of the governorates (i.e., 30 – 80% below the average), especially in Deir-er-Zor. The unfavorable agro-climatic conditions that prevailed during the 2020/2021 season are likely to affect agricultural production and the sector and FAO are closely monitoring the situation and conducting further assessments.
- **Temperature:** The erratic rainfall in 2020/2021 was accompanied by a rise in temperature, going over the LTA in most governorates especially in March and April 2021. The elevated temperatures could have potentially reduced the time-period between flowering and physiological maturity, and possibly resulting in a reduction in individual grain weight.
- **Euphrates River Flow:** Based on the erratic rainfall received during the 2020/2021 agricultural season, the river flow levels have decreased to critical levels. The reduced water flow from 500 cubic meters/second to just around 200 cubic meters/second in the river threatens the livelihoods and income of farmers in Deir-er-Zor, Ar-Raqqa and parts of Aleppo.
- **Desert Locust Outbreak:** In mid-April 2021, there were reports of infestation by desert locust (DL) in Syria and the infestation was seen firstly in two areas: on the Eastern side of the Euphrates River and the adjacent Western side of the Euphrates River. In late April 2021, swarms of desert locusts were also seen in some areas in Dar'a, Sweida and Rural Damascus governorates, with small groups seen in East Aleppo. Through localized spraying with pesticides, the problematic insect was kept under control. Additionally, FAO and the sector continues to monitor the situation.
- **Crop production estimates:** FAO is conducting a Rapid Assessment on Agricultural Production to quantify the output from the 2020/2021 agricultural season with expected results in August. However, the 2020/2021 season is not looking promising, based on the above agro-meteorological constraints, coupled with the fuel shortages that have limited farmer's ability to irrigate their crops. There was general limited availability of bread and wheat flour observed in Aleppo, Dara and Hasakeh governorates.

MARKET ANALYSIS

- Across Syria the national average price of WFP's standard reference food basket increased by a dramatic 33 percent between February and March 2021, reaching SYP 180,792 (USD 145 at the official exchange rate of SYP 1,250/USD). On 22nd of March 2021, the Syria's Central Bank increased the UN preferential exchange rate from SYP 1,250/USD to SYP 2,500/USD, while maintaining the official exchange rate unchanged at SYP 1,250/USD⁴.
- Between February and March 2021, the national average price of subsidized bread increased by eight percent to reach SYP 119/bundle as a result of the increased fees charged by agents while the commercial bread price increased by three percent to reach SYP 1,690/ bundle⁵.
- On 15 March 2021, the Ministry of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection increased the formal butane gas cylinder price from SYP 3,000/refill to SYP 3,850/refill (up 28 percent m-o-m)⁵.
- In NWS region, the highest record to date on the regional Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) reached 422,032 SYP (USD 113) in March 2021. This represents an 85% long-term increase since September 2020⁵.
- In NES region, the highest record to date on the regional Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) reached 351,203 SYP (USD 90) in March 2021. This represents a 75% long-term increase since September 2020⁶.
- The high exchange rate of the dollar versus the Syrian pound (SYP), coupled with energy shortages and scarcity or limited availability and supply of electricity, gasoline, diesel, and gas, continues to affect the food and agriculture sector. This has and will have knock-on effects on mechanized agricultural operations and the harvesting of wheat and barley which is anticipated in May and June 2021, respectively. With the ongoing economic crisis, currency volatility, high production and transportation costs, food prices continue to increase.
- For more information, please visit the [WFP VAM page](#) and the [REACH resource centre](#).

¹ CCCM population updated data, August 2020.

² 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.

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

⁴ WFP Syria Price Bulletin, March 2021.

⁵ [REACH Northwest Syria Market Monitoring Exercise, March 2021](#)

⁶ [REACH Northeast Syria Market Monitoring Exercise, March 2021](#)

• FAO Agriculture Inputs and Commodity Bulletin 2021: <https://fscluster.org/syria>

HUB UPDATES

Syria Cross-Border HLG Coordinated Response

- The humanitarian situation in North West Syria remains critical, with the key focus on the upcoming UN Security Council resolution for UN cross-border resolution into Syria through Turkey. If the UNSC resolution will not be extended beyond July 2021, the food security situation in NWS will further deteriorate as a result of the block of the cross-border humanitarian assistance into the region.
- As per HNO 2021, 3.3 million people in NWS are food insecure (2.2 million in Idleb and 1 million in Aleppo Governorates), accounting for about 83% of the total population in the region.
- Between January and March 2021, FSL partners assisted on average 1.9 million people through monthly regular food baskets, which covers about 60% of the total acute needs and on average 2.2 million receive bread and wheat flour support monthly.
- Emergency support in Q1 2021 remained high across the region with a over 1 million people currently supported with emergency food assistance which includes cooked meals, emergency food baskets and ready to eat rations.
- The hub through monthly livelihood and agriculture assistance, has assisted in Q1 2021 around 30,000 HHs (177,000 people) through agriculture inputs, small-scale food production, IGAs, livestock asset restoration, animal treatment/vaccinations and infrastructure rehabilitation.

NES NGO Forum Coordinated Response

- As per HNO 2021, a total of 1.9 million people being 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.
- For Q1 in 2021, FSS partners assisted 110,000 people with regular food baskets and 330,000 people with bread and flour distributions on average every month.
- The situation in NES remains relatively unstable in Q1 2021 with a total of 30,000 people receiving emergency food assistance as compared to Q4 of 2020 where a total of 10,000 people received support in November only.
- With livelihood and agriculture assistance, the hub supported around 19,000 HHs (114,000 people) from Q1 2021 through agriculture inputs, small-scale food production, IGAs, livestock asset restoration and infrastructure rehabilitation.

Syria HCT Coordinated Response

- As per HNO 2021, a total of 7.2 million people being food insecure across Syria in government-controlled areas inside Syria accounting for about 53% of the total population in the region.

- Between January and March 2021, FSL partners assisted on average 3.6 million people through monthly regular food baskets, which covers about 49% of the total acute needs.
- The hub through monthly livelihood and agriculture assistance, has assisted in Q1 2021 around 17,300 HHs (104,000 people) through agriculture inputs, small-scale food production, IGAs, livestock asset restoration and infrastructure rehabilitation.

UPCOMING ASSESSMENTS

- **Outcome Monitoring for beneficiaries (OMI)** – data collection with FSS partners planned for June in North West Syria and for North East Syria at a planned date.
- **FSLA Reassessment** of 13 sub-districts in North West Syria conducted in April and report shared in June.
- **WoS Food Security assessments (FSLA)** – data collection planned for August 2020.

ONLINE RESOURCES



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



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