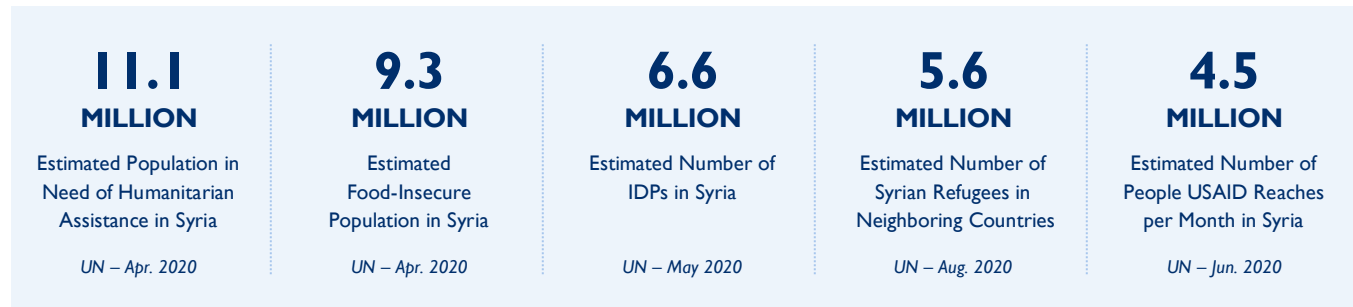


Syria – Complex Emergency

AUGUST 12, 2020

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- The UN Security Council passes Resolution 2533 on July 11, extending authorization for Bab al-Hawa, one of two previously authorized UN cross-border points between Turkey and northwest Syria for one year.
- Health actors record a fourfold increase in confirmed COVID-19 cases across Syria from July to August, including among vulnerable populations in northern Syria.
- USAID/BHA and State/PRM partners continue to provide life-saving food, health, nutrition, protection, shelter, and WASH assistance in Syria and for Syrians in neighboring countries.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Syria Response in FYs 2012–2020	USAID/BHA ^{1,2}	\$5,658,545,084
	State/PRM ³	\$5,644,463,006
Total		\$11,303,008,090⁴

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 6

¹ USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

² Total USAID/BHA funding includes non-food humanitarian assistance from the former Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance and emergency food assistance from the former Office of Food for Peace.

³ U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

⁴ Total does not include supplemental FY 2020 funding through USAID/BHA and State/PRM for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) preparedness and response activities.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

UNSC Partially Renews UN Cross-Border Authorization for Syria

On July 11, the UN Security Council (UNSC) partially renewed the cross-border authorization that enables UN agencies to deliver aid into Syria from neighboring countries. The resolution that passed, UNSC Resolution 2533, allows UN agencies to continue operating cross-border through Turkey's Bab al-Hawa (BaH) crossing for one year, while removing UN authorization for Turkey's Bab al-Salama (BaS) crossing. Through BaH, UN agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have reached nearly 1.8 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Idlib Governorate with humanitarian assistance, while UN agencies and NGOs have reached an estimated additional 1.3 million people, including at least 800,000 IDPs in northern Aleppo Governorate through BaS, the UN reports. Despite additional access challenges, the UN and NGOs are adapting activities to continue delivering assistance to vulnerable populations previously reached by the UN through BaS.

Vulnerable populations in opposition-held areas of northwest Syria do not receive cross-line assistance from Syrian Arab Republic Government (SARG)-held areas and must rely exclusively on cross-border assistance from UN agencies, NGOs, and other humanitarian actors. As such, the lack of UN access to BaS creates logistical, operational, and security challenges for humanitarian actors, the UN reports, placing additional strain on organizations using the BaH crossing to reach populations previously accessed through BaS. However, NGOs, including USAID/BHA partners, do not require UNSC authorization to deliver assistance cross-border, and can largely continue operations via BaS.

Health Actors Monitor Significant Increase in COVID-19 Cases Across Syria

From early July to August, health actors recorded a fourfold increase in confirmed COVID-19 cases across Syria, rising from approximately 300 to more than 1,300 confirmed cases countrywide. As of August 11, the SARG Ministry of Health had confirmed 1,327 cases, including 53 resultant deaths, in SARG-held areas. Additionally, as of August 12, health actors had confirmed 47 COVID-19 cases in opposition-held areas of Aleppo and Idlib, following the northwest region's first reported case on July 9, according to the Early Warning, Alert, and Response Network, a disease surveillance system comprising local health authorities, the UN World Health Organization (WHO), and other health stakeholders. As of August 12, the Syria-based Kurdish Self Administration had confirmed 144 cases in northeast Syria's Aleppo, Dayr az Zawr, Al Hasakah, and Ar Raqqa governorates, including seven deaths. Several confirmed cases are medical staff in Al Hasakah's Al Hol camp, which hosted approximately 64,700 people as of early August, more than 50 percent of whom are children younger than 12 years of age.

Health actors remain particularly concerned by the spread of COVID-19 in northern Syria due to the weak health care system and large IDP population residing in congested camps with poor water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) conditions and limited access to health care services. The increase in cases countrywide, particularly those with unknown or untraceable exposure, represents potential widespread community transmission in parts of Syria, the UN reports. In response to the recent rise in cases, health authorities, particularly in northern Syria, have revised COVID-19 mitigation measures and re-imposed movement restrictions in some areas.

USAID/BHA and State/PRM Partners Continue COVID-19 Response Efforts

Humanitarian actors, including USAID/BHA and State/PRM partners, continue to support COVID-19 mitigation and response efforts in Syria, including through health and WASH activities. USAID/BHA partners are supporting health facilities with COVID-19 isolation and treatment services, enhancing

water supply and sanitation infrastructure at IDP sites, increasing water trucking to IDP sites to allow for additional handwashing, and providing essential medical equipment to health facilities. USAID/BHA partners are also providing risk awareness sessions, distributing cash assistance and essential hygiene supplies, establishing mobile medical units, and supporting infection prevention and control measures countrywide.

In addition, State/PRM partners are protecting IDPs and host community members in Syria from the direct and indirect impacts of COVID-19 by supporting community-led health and protection initiatives; undertaking awareness campaigns on risk, prevention, and hygiene promotion; providing medical consultations and distributing information at community clinics; scaling up life-saving protection activities; and distributing relief, shelter, and WASH items.

Despite Sporadic Hostilities, Northwest Ceasefire Reportedly Holds

A ceasefire—negotiated by the Government of Turkey and the Government of the Russian Federation—went into effect in northwest Syria on March 6 and largely continued to hold as of early August, media report. Relief actors recorded an increase in hostilities along conflict frontlines from June to August, including artillery shelling and sporadic airstrikes. Frequent improvised explosive device (IED) attacks continue to endanger civilians, the UN reports, including approximately 15 IED attacks in northern Aleppo and Idlib from July 2 to 19, resulting in the deaths of at least 22 people and injuring nearly 130 others; additional IED, explosive remnants of war, and landmine incidents continued in early August. Intermittent airstrikes also continue to affect several areas of Aleppo and Idlib.

From March to late June, an estimated 204,000 IDPs—or approximately 20 percent—of the 961,000 people displaced from December 2019 to March 2020 had returned to areas of origin in northwest Syria following the relative improvement in security conditions since the ceasefire began; approximately 756,000 people remain displaced, the UN reports. The majority of people returned to areas of eastern and southern Idlib, where more than 70 percent of shelters are destroyed, resulting in overcrowding of available living accommodations, according to the UN. As of late July, approximately 2.7 million people in northwest Syria were displaced, representing nearly 70 percent of the area’s current population of 4.1 million people.

Water Supply Disruptions Jeopardize Vulnerable Populations in Northeast

Populations in northeast Syria continue to face the risk of water shortages due to frequent service disruptions at the Alouk water station, located near Al Hasakah’s Ras al-Ain city. The water station supports an estimated 470,000 people in the governorate’s Al Hasakah and Tell Tamer cities and surrounding areas, including Al Hol camp, the UN reports. From February to July, the water supply at Alouk was interrupted at least 12 times, primarily due to interference from parties controlling the station, according to the UN. In late July, a 65 percent reduction in the rate of water flowing from the Euphrates River also negatively affected the electrical and water supply across Al Hasakah, where power outages now occur for up to 12 hours per day, the UN reports. The unreliable water supply in northeast Syria increases the risk of COVID-19 transmission, as additional water is needed for COVID-19 mitigation measures such as more frequent cleaning and handwashing.

Al Hol camp is particularly susceptible to water supply disruptions, as Alouk station provides approximately 50 percent of the camp’s water. The interference at Alouk station and reduction in water flow from the Euphrates River has led to severe water shortages and resultant protests in Al Hol in recent weeks, according to the UN.

KEY FIGURES



5.5 Million

Number of People
USAID/BHA Reaches
with Monthly Food
Assistance in Syria and
Neighboring Countries



5 Million

Number of People
Reached by USAID/BHA-
Supported Health
Assistance during
FY 2019



14

Number of USAID/BHA
partners providing
critical WASH assistance
in Syria

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

USAID/BHA supports the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the UN World Food Program (WFP), and 18 NGOs to provide emergency food and nutrition assistance to vulnerable populations within Syria and to Syrian refugees in neighboring countries. USAID/BHA-supported assistance includes the provision of monthly food rations—such as beans, bread, canned goods, grains, and oil—within Syria; wheat flour and yeast to bakeries within Syria; food vouchers and cash for food within Syria and for Syrian refugees in neighboring countries; and emergency nutritional products both within Syria and for refugees in neighboring countries. WFP and USAID/BHA-funded NGO partners provide monthly food assistance to more than 5.5 million Syrians, including more than 4.5 million beneficiaries inside Syria and 1.1 million refugees across Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey.

HEALTH

USAID/BHA funds nine partners, including UNICEF, to provide life-saving health assistance in Syria. USAID/BHA-supported activities include community-based health education, direct health care services through mobile medical units, equipment for health care facilities, and training for Syrian medical workers. Additionally, USAID/BHA is supporting UNICEF and three NGOs to bolster COVID-19 health response capacity in Syria by establishing primary health care services in areas with limited health infrastructure, providing equipment to intensive care units and isolation facilities, and assisting effective infection and control practices. USAID/BHA partners have also adapted programming to incorporate social distancing and are disseminating public health and prevention messaging as part of COVID-19 mitigation efforts.

State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) provides medical consultations and facilitates community-based health programming at 11 community center clinics and 14 UNHCR-run primary health care facilities in Aleppo, Damascus, Hamah, Al Hasakah, Homs, and Rif Damascus governorates. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, UNHCR has provided more than 43,300 medical consultations across Syria.

WASH

USAID/BHA supports 12 partners, IOM, and UNICEF, to provide WASH assistance in Syria. USAID/BHA partners distribute essential hygiene items to vulnerable populations and enhance WASH facilities by rehabilitating small-scale sanitation and water systems, such as the construction of latrines and handwashing stations, in displacement camps and informal settlements. In northern Syria, USAID/BHA partners increase access to safe drinking water through emergency water trucking and the distribution of water

storage tanks and water treatment devices. Further, USAID/BHA is supporting UNICEF and four NGOs to bolster COVID-19 response capacity in Syria by increasing water trucking frequency to provide additional water for handwashing and cleaning and distributing additional soap and other WASH commodities to beneficiaries.



97,000

Number of People Reached by State/PRM-Supported Protection Assistance in Northwest Syria from Jan. to Jun. 2020

PROTECTION

State/PRM partner UNHCR identifies protection cases, provides referrals to legal aid services, and facilitates community-based protection interventions for conflict-affected and displaced Syrians. With State/PRM support, UNHCR also conducts psychosocial support sessions and awareness raising sessions on civil status documentation and housing; land and properties; legal counseling and assistance; case management; and referrals. From January to June 2020, UNHCR provided protection services to nearly 97,000 people in northwest Syria.

USAID/BHA protection partners, including UNICEF and eight NGOs, provide psychosocial support, learning and recreational opportunities, and case management and referral services for children at high risk of exploitation and abuse. USAID/BHA also supports safe spaces for women and girls, as well as medical supplies and specialized training for health staff to provide appropriate care for survivors of gender-based violence, throughout Syria.



1.3 Million

People Reached by State/PRM-Supported Relief Commodities in Northwest Syria from Jan. to Jun. 2020

SHELTER AND RELIEF COMMODITIES

USAID/BHA supports 11 partners, including IOM, to distribute shelter materials and basic household items and conduct shelter rehabilitation activities in Syria. In advance of and during the winter season, USAID/BHA partners distribute emergency shelter and relief items such as blankets, fuel, kitchen sets, plastic sheeting, sleeping mats, tents, and winter clothing. Additionally, in northern Syria, USAID/BHA partners establish and maintain IDP camps, rehabilitate existing IDP camps and collective centers, and distribute emergency shelter items.

Further, State/PRM support to UNHCR facilitates the distribution of relief commodity kits, hygiene kits, and tents to IDPs and host community members in Syria. From January to June 2020, UNHCR's cross-border assistance reached approximately 1.3 million people with relief commodities and nearly 770,000 people with shelter assistance in northwest Syria. Across the country, UNHCR and partners have reached nearly 2.1 million people with core relief commodities and more than 936,000 people with shelter assistance.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

Following the commencement of peaceful demonstrations against the SARG in March 2011, SARG President Bashar al-Assad pledged legislative reforms. However, reforms failed to materialize, and SARG forces loyal to President al-Assad responded to demonstrations with violence, leading armed opposition groups (AOGs) to retaliate. The escalation in conflict has led to widespread displacement and a humanitarian crisis within Syria and the region. Hostilities continue to date, as shifting frontlines and areas of control force IDPs into smaller and more congested areas, exacerbating humanitarian needs.

At a November 2012 meeting in Doha, Qatar, Syrian opposition factions formed an umbrella organization—the National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces, also known as the Syrian Coalition. The U.S. Government (USG) recognized the coalition as the legitimate representative of the Syrian people on December 11, 2012. On March 19, 2013, the Syrian Coalition established the Syrian Interim Government, which opposes the SARG and is based in decentralized locations throughout AOG-held areas of Syria. During 2014, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) captured significant areas of Syria, adding additional complexity to the multi-actor conflict. In March 2019, the Syrian Democratic Forces announced the capture of the last ISIS strongholds in Syria.

On July 11, 2020, the UNSC adopted UNSC Resolution 2533, authorizing UN cross-border and cross-line delivery of humanitarian aid to conflict-affected populations in Syria. The resolution permits the UN's use of Turkey's BaH crossing for the delivery of humanitarian assistance into Syria for one year, expiring in July 2021. The resolution is a partial renewal of previous cross-border aid resolutions, beginning with UNSC Resolution 2165 on July 14, 2014, which had authorized four border crossings from Turkey, Jordan, and Iraq.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2020¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
SYRIA			
USAID/BHA			
Non-Food Assistance			
NGOs	Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS); Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA); Protection; Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM); Health; Humanitarian Policy, Studies, Analysis, or Applications; Nutrition; WASH; Shelter and Settlements	Syria	\$62,612,539
IOM	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Syria	\$7,000,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIM	Syria	\$4,000,000
TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING IN SYRIA IN FY 2020			\$73,612,539

Food Assistance ²			
NGOs	Cash Transfers for Food; ERMS; Food Vouchers; Local, Regional, and International Procurement (LRIP); Complementary Services	Syria	\$11,539,622
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers, LRIP, Nutrition, Complementary Services	Syria	\$180,000,000
TOTAL FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING IN SYRIA IN FY 2020			\$191,539,622
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN SYRIA IN FY 2020			\$265,152,161
STATE/PRM			
Implementing Partner	Capacity Building, Cash-Based Programming, Education, Emergency Food Assistance, Health, Protection, Livelihoods, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Syria	\$28,700,000
UNHCR	Camp Coordination and Camp Management, Health, Livelihoods, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Syria	\$69,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN SYRIA IN FY 2020			\$97,700,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN SYRIA IN FY 2020			\$362,852,161

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR SYRIAN REFUGEE-HOSTING COUNTRIES IN FY 2020

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
Food Assistance			
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers	Egypt	\$17,000,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN EGYPT IN FY 2020			\$17,000,000
STATE/PRM			
UNHCR	Cash-Based Programming, Education, Health, Livelihoods, Mental Health, Protection, Relief Commodities	Egypt	\$6,700,000
UNICEF	Cash-Based Programming, Child Protection, Education, Gender-Based Violence Prevention, Health, Nutrition, Youth Programs	Egypt	\$1,400,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN EGYPT IN FY 2020			\$8,100,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN EGYPT IN FY 2020			\$25,100,000
USAID/BHA			
Food Assistance			
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food	Iraq	\$3,262,298
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN IRAQ IN FY 2020			\$3,262,298
STATE/PRM			

IOM	Durable Solutions, Education, Information Coordination, Livelihoods, Social Cohesion	Iraq	\$838,609
UNHCR	Camp Coordination and Camp Management, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements	Iraq	\$17,700,000
UNICEF	Child Protection, Education, Nutrition, WASH	Iraq	\$900,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN IRAQ IN FY 2020			\$19,438,609
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN IRAQ IN FY 2020			\$22,700,907
USAID/BHA			
Food Assistance			
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers	Jordan	\$63,000,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN JORDAN IN FY 2020			\$63,000,000
STATE/PRM			
Implementing Partner	Capacity Building, Cash-Based Programming, Health, Protection, Livelihoods, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Jordan	\$2,100,000
UNHCR	Camp Coordination and Camp Management, Cash-Based Programming, Education, Health, Livelihoods, Mental Health, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Jordan	\$39,400,000
UNICEF	Cash-Based Programming, Child Protection, Education, Gender-Based Violence Prevention, Health, Nutrition, WASH, Youth Programs	Jordan	\$17,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN JORDAN IN FY 2020			\$58,500,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN JORDAN IN FY 2020			\$121,500,000
USAID/BHA			
Food Assistance			
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers	Lebanon	\$72,000,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN LEBANON IN 2020			\$72,000,000
STATE/PRM			
Implementing Partner	Capacity Building, Cash-Based Programming, Health, Protection, Livelihoods, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Lebanon	\$6,000,000
UNHCR	Cash-Based Programming, Education, Health, Livelihoods, Mental Health, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Lebanon	\$68,200,000
UNICEF	Cash-Based Programming, Child Protection, Education, Gender-Based Violence Prevention, Health, Nutrition, WASH, Youth Programs	Lebanon	\$46,200,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN LEBANON IN 2020			\$120,400,000

TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN LEBANON IN FY 2020			\$192,400,000
STATE/PRM			
Implementing Partner	Capacity Building, Education, Health, Livelihoods, Mental Health, Protection, Psychosocial Assistance	Turkey	\$9,542,394
International Labor Organization	Livelihoods	Turkey	\$3,869,228
IOM	Cash-Based Programming, Education, Health, Livelihoods, Protection, Psychosocial Support, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements	Turkey	\$7,000,000
UNHCR	Capacity Building, Cash-Based Programming, Education, Gender-Based Violence Prevention, Health, Livelihoods, Mental Health, Protection, Relief Commodities, WASH	Turkey	\$31,300,000
UNICEF	Cash-Based Programming, Child Protection, Education, Gender-Based Violence Prevention, Health, Nutrition, WASH, Youth Programs	Turkey	\$26,300,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN TURKEY IN 2020			\$78,011,622
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN TURKEY IN FY 2020			\$78,011,622
STATE/PRM			
UNHCR	Cash-Based Programming, Education, Health, Livelihoods, Protection	Regional	\$1,500,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$1,500,000
TOTAL REGIONAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2020			\$1,500,000

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2020³

TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2020	\$420,414,459
TOTAL State/PRM FUNDING FOR SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2020	\$383,650,231
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FY 2020	\$804,064,690

FUNDING FOR SYRIA REGIONAL COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE⁴

USAID/BHA			
Non-Food Assistance			
NGOs	ERMS, HCIM, Health, MPCA, WASH	Syria	\$19,091,985
UNICEF	Health, Nutrition, WASH	Syria	\$5,900,000
TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING			\$24,991,985
Food Assistance			
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers, Complementary Services	Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon	\$32,350,000
TOTAL FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING			\$32,350,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$57,341,985
STATE/PRM			

Implementing Partner	Health, WASH	Jordan, Syria	\$5,240,000
IOM	Cash-Based Programming, Health, Logistics, Protection	Iraq, Jordan, Turkey	\$5,185,000
UNHCR	Cash-Based Programming, Health, Protection, Relief Commodities, WASH	Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey	\$47,163,000
UNICEF	Education, Health, Protection, Relief Commodities, WASH	Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon	\$3,890,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$61,478,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE FOR SYRIANS IN FY 2020			\$118,819,985

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2020⁵

TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2020	\$5,658,545,084
TOTAL State/PRM FUNDING FOR SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2020	\$5,644,463,006
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2020	\$11,303,008,090

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of July 2, 2020.

² USAID/BHA Food Assistance funding supports Syrian refugees, non-Syrian refugees, and host community members.

³ This total does not include supplemental FY 2020 funding for COVID-19 preparedness and response activities.

⁴ Figures represent supplemental International Disaster Assistance (IDA) and Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) funding committed for COVID-19 preparedness and response activities as of August 12, 2020.

⁵ This total does not include supplemental FY 2020 funding for COVID-19 preparedness and response activities.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [interaction.org](https://www.interaction.org).

USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.

More information can be found at:

- USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](https://www.cidi.org)
- Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://www.reliefweb.int).

