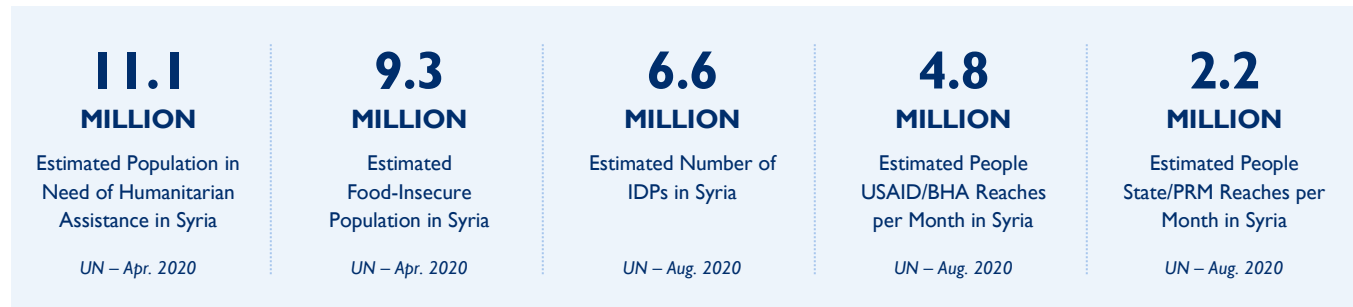


# Syria – Complex Emergency

SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Health actors record a more than threefold increase in confirmed COVID-19 cases across Syria during August, including among vulnerable displaced populations in northern Syria.
- UN agencies experience challenges delivering cross-border shipments to areas of northwest Syria following UN Security Council Resolution 2533 and the loss of the Bab al-Salama border crossing.
- 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.



<b>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING</b> For the Syria Response in FYs 2012–2020	USAID/BHA <sup>1,2</sup>	\$5,658,545,084
	State/PRM <sup>3</sup>	\$5,644,463,006
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$11,303,008,090<sup>4</sup></b>

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

<sup>1</sup> USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

<sup>4</sup> 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

### Health Actors Track Rising COVID-19 Cases Across Syria

During August, health actors recorded a more than threefold increase in confirmed COVID-19 cases across Syria, rising to more than 4,300 cases countrywide as of September 11. Health actors continue to report that the majority of cases are in Syrian Arab Republic Government (SARG)-held areas, where the SARG Ministry of Health (MoH) has confirmed 3,351 cases—including 143 resultant deaths—as of September 9. Damascus, Latakia, Rif Damascus, and SARG-held areas of Aleppo governorates are among the most affected, although the MoH has reported cases widely across SARG-held territory. Humanitarian agencies and international media continue to report the actual number of cases in SARG-held areas is likely much higher than official estimates.

Additionally, as of September 11, health actors had confirmed 170 COVID-19 cases and three related deaths in opposition-held areas of Aleppo and Idlib governorates, 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 September 10, the Self Administration of Northeast Syria had confirmed 783 cases in northeast Syria's Aleppo, Dayr az Zawr, Al Hasakah, and Ar Raqqa governorates, including 42 deaths. Health agencies also continue to respond to potential transmission in Al Hasakah's Al Hol camp, where several medical staff and one camp resident had tested positive for COVID-19 as of early September. The camp hosts nearly 65,000 people, 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 internally displaced person (IDP) population residing in congested camps with poor water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) conditions and limited access to health care services. The continued increase in cases, particularly those with unknown or untraceable exposure, represents potential widespread community transmission across the country, the UN reports. The UN and other relief actors report that a continued lack of adequate COVID-19 testing and response capacity, as well as a widespread easing of COVID-19 preventative measures, could exacerbate transmission countrywide.

### UN Cross-Border Shipments Face Challenges After Loss of Bab al-Salama

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 approved resolution, UNSC Resolution 2533, allows UN agencies to continue cross-border operations through Turkey's Bab al-Hawa (BaH) crossing for one year, while removing UN authorization for Turkey's Bab al-Salama (BaS) crossing. BaS previously allowed UN agencies to access a population of approximately 1.3 million people—including at least 800,000 IDPs—in northern Aleppo, the UN reports. While non-governmental organizations (NGOs) do not require UNSC authorization to deliver assistance cross-border, UN agencies must adapt operations in the coming months to reach populations in northern Aleppo through the sole remaining UNSC-authorized crossing at BaH.

In late July, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) completed the first UN cross-border shipment of commodities through BaH to areas of northern Aleppo previously accessed by BaS. The transit—which would have taken two hours to reach Aleppo's Al Bab sub-district through BaS—took approximately 11 hours from BaH due to lack of approvals by actors along the route and poor road conditions, according to the UN. In response, the UN is working to negotiate with local actors in

northwest Syria to ensure the unimpeded flow of goods. UN agencies also note the need for significant road repairs along the route before the onset of winter weather, which is expected to further worsen road conditions.

### **Significant Needs in Northwest Syria Amid Ceasefire**

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 September, media report. However, throughout the month of August relief actors continued to record hostilities along conflict frontlines, including artillery shelling and several instances of airstrikes. From March to July, an estimated 220,000 IDPs—or approximately 23 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 741,000 people remain displaced. As of early September, a total of 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, according to the UN. Despite the relative improvement in security, approximately 2.8 million people in the region remain in need of humanitarian assistance, the UN reports.

### **Water Supply Disruptions Continue to Jeopardize 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, the UN reports. From February to August, service disruptions impeded the water supply at Alouk at least 13 times, primarily due to interference from parties controlling the station, according to the UN. In response to water shortages, humanitarian agencies were providing daily water trucking deliveries to approximately 170,000 people in Al Hasakah governorate as of late August, 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.

## 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), 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, provision of 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 prevention 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 Syria. From January to July 2020, these UNHCR centers have provided medical consultations to nearly 132,000 individuals and coordinated community-based health programs for 38,000 individuals. UNHCR is also working to provide personal protective equipment and sanitation supplies to community centers, distribution sites, and health facilities in Syria.

### WASH

USAID/BHA supports 12 partners, as well as 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.



**630,000**

Number of People Reached by State/PRM-Supported Protection Assistance in Syria from Jan. to Jul. 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 property issues; legal counseling and assistance; case management; and referrals. UNHCR manages over 100 community centers countrywide and has trained over 2,600 outreach volunteers on protection issues. From January to July 2020, UNHCR provided protection services to nearly 630,000 people across 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.



**1.5 Million**

People Reached by State/PRM-Supported Relief Commodities in Northwest Syria from Jan. to Jul. 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 July 2020, UNHCR's cross-border assistance reached approximately 1.5 million people with relief commodities and 760,000 people with shelter assistance in northwest Syria. Across the country, UNHCR and partners have reached nearly 2.5 million people with core relief commodities and more than 1 million 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 2020<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>SYRIA</b>			
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
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
<b>TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING IN SYRIA IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$73,612,539</b>
Food Assistance <sup>2</sup>			

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
<b>TOTAL FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING IN SYRIA IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$191,539,622</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN SYRIA IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$265,152,161</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
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
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN SYRIA IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$97,700,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN SYRIA IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$362,852,161</b>

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

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
Food Assistance			
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers	Egypt	\$17,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN EGYPT IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$17,000,000</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
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
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN EGYPT IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$8,100,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN EGYPT IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$25,100,000</b>
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
Food Assistance			
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food	Iraq	\$3,262,298
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN IRAQ IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$3,262,298</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
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
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN IRAQ IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$19,438,609</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN IRAQ IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$22,700,907</b>
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
Food Assistance			
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers	Jordan	\$63,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN JORDAN IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$63,000,000</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
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
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN JORDAN IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$58,500,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN JORDAN IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$121,500,000</b>
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
Food Assistance			
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers	Lebanon	\$72,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN LEBANON IN 2020</b>			<b>\$72,000,000</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
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
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN LEBANON IN 2020</b>			<b>\$120,400,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN LEBANON IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$192,400,000</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			



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

<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN TURKEY IN 2020</b>			<b>\$78,011,622</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN TURKEY IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$78,011,622</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
UNHCR	Cash-Based Programming, Education, Health, Livelihoods, Protection	Regional	\$1,500,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$1,500,000</b>
<b>TOTAL REGIONAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$1,500,000</b>

#### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2020<sup>3</sup>

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

#### FUNDING FOR SYRIA REGIONAL COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE<sup>4</sup>

<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
Non-Food Assistance			
NGOs	ERMS, HCIM, Health, MPCA, WASH	Syria	\$19,091,985
UNICEF	Health, Nutrition, WASH	Syria	\$5,900,000
<b>TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING</b>			<b>\$24,991,985</b>
Food Assistance			
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers, Complementary Services	Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon	\$32,350,000
<b>TOTAL FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING</b>			<b>\$32,350,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$57,341,985</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
Implementing Partner	Health, WASH	Jordan, Syria	\$6,730,000

NGO	Cash-Based Programming, Relief Commodities	Turkey	\$727,723
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
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$63,695,723</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS &amp; RESPONSE FOR SYRIANS IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$121,037,708</b>

#### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2020<sup>5</sup>

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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

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

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

<sup>4</sup> Figures represent supplemental International Disaster Assistance (IDA) and Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) funding committed for COVID-19 preparedness and response activities as of September 11, 2020.

<sup>5</sup> 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).