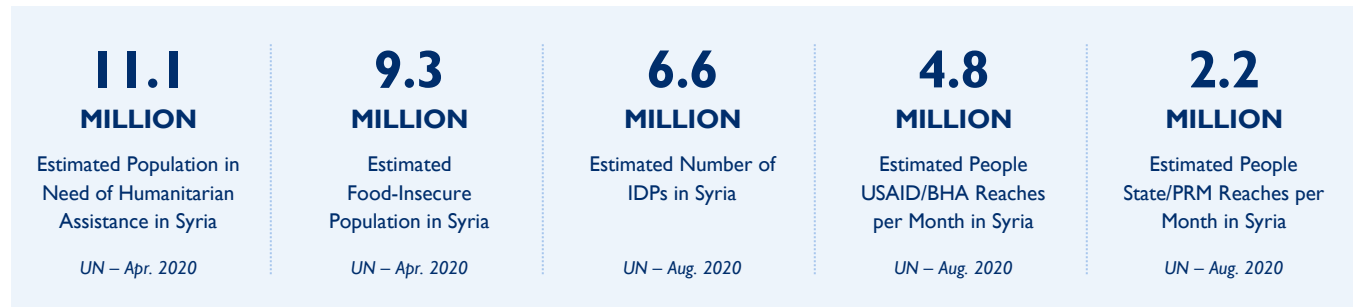


Syria – Complex Emergency

SEPTEMBER 29, 2020

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- USG announces more than \$720 million in new humanitarian funding to respond to the Syria crisis, for a total of more than \$1.5 billion since October 2019.
- Relief actors report rising food insecurity and malnutrition amid Syria’s ongoing economic crisis and large-scale displacement. In northwest Syria alone, 4.3 million people are in need of food security and livelihoods assistance.
- As confirmed COVID-19 cases continue to rise countrywide, humanitarian agencies warn of lack of testing and response capacity.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Syria Response in FYs 2012–2020	USAID/BHA ^{1,2}	\$6,077,778,800
	State/PRM ³	\$5,926,093,122
Total		\$12,003,871,922⁴

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

USG Announces More Than \$720 Million in Funding for Syria Response

During the UN General Assembly on September 24, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Stephen Biegun announced more than \$720 million in additional U.S. Government (USG) humanitarian assistance for the Syria crisis. The funding will support the provision of emergency food, health, livelihood, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other vulnerable populations in Syria, as well as Syrian refugees in the region. The new assistance is part of more than \$1.5 billion in funding since October 2019 to support the Syria complex emergency response, as well as more than \$140 million specifically for regional coronavirus disease (COVID-19) preparedness and response efforts. Since the start of the crisis in 2012, the USG has provided more than \$12 billion in humanitarian assistance to help Syrians in need.

Lack of Response Capacity Amid Worsening COVID-19 Outbreak

Health actors had confirmed more than 6,500 COVID-19 cases across Syria as of September 29. Health organizations continue to report the majority of cases originate in Syrian Arab Republic Government (SARG)-held areas, where the SARG Ministry of Health had confirmed 4,102 cases—including 194 resultant deaths—as of September 28, although the actual number of cases is likely much higher, according to humanitarian agencies and international media. Additionally, as of September 29, health actors had confirmed 906 COVID-19 cases and six related deaths in opposition-held areas of Aleppo and Idlib governorates. As of September 28, the Self Administration of Northeast Syria had confirmed 1,497 cases, including 62 deaths, in northeast Syria's Aleppo, Dayr az Zawr, Al Hasakah, and Ar Raqqa governorates. The continued increase in cases, particularly those with unknown or untraceable exposure, likely reflects widespread community transmission across the country, the UN reports. The risk for COVID-19 spread in Syria remains high due to fragile health care systems, high levels of population displacement, densely crowded IDP settlements, and logistical difficulties implementing COVID-19 preparedness, mitigation, testing, and response measures across varying areas of control. 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.

In Northwest Syria, Food Insecurity Remains a Crisis

The average price of the UN World Food Program (WFP) reference food basket—the cost for a group of essential food commodities, including bread, lentils, rice, and oil—decreased 3 percent from July to August, representing the first decrease since July 2019. However, as of August, food prices remained 22 times higher than the five-year pre-crisis average, WFP reports. Months of steep Syrian Pound depreciation amid Syria's ongoing economic crisis had caused the price of basic food items to increase by approximately 240 percent countrywide from June 2019 to June 2020. Food price increases—combined with protracted conflict, prolonged large-scale internal displacement, and the economic consequences of COVID-19-related restrictions—have resulted in a sharp increase in food insecurity, particularly in opposition-held areas of northwest Syria, where a June UN survey found that more than 70 percent of households reported incomes insufficient to meet daily food needs. According to the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian food security and livelihoods activities, comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders, including USAID/BHA partners—4.3 million people in northwest Syria are in need of food security and livelihoods assistance as of September; this figure is approximately the total population of northwest Syria. Of the total, 3.7 million are food-insecure and approximately 615,000 are at risk of

food insecurity and in need of livelihoods support.

Humanitarian Agencies Caution of Rising Malnutrition in Syria

As food insecurity persists, humanitarian agencies are tracking rising levels of chronic malnutrition among children and acute malnutrition among pregnant and lactating women (PLW), particularly in northern Syria, according to USAID/BHA partner the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF). According to an August UN nutrition report, approximately 10 percent of PLW in northwest Syria were acutely malnourished, while the prevalence of chronic malnutrition among children ages six to 59 months had risen from 19 percent in May 2019 to more than 30 percent in May 2020. As of mid-September, humanitarian agencies warned of continued shortages of malnutrition treatment supplies, as well as the potential for nutrition conditions to worsen in the coming months due to dysfunctional markets, limited livelihood opportunities, low purchasing power, and disrupted access to health services amid Syria’s COVID-19 outbreak.

KEY FIGURES



5.9 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 2020

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

USAID/BHA supports the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNICEF, WFP, and 18 NGOs to provide emergency food and nutrition assistance to vulnerable populations within Syria and to Syrian refugees in neighboring countries. Within Syria, USAID/BHA partners provide monthly food rations, such as beans, bread, canned goods, grains, and oil; wheat flour and yeast to bakeries; food vouchers; cash for food; and emergency nutritional products. USAID/BHA-funded assistance also supports the provision of food vouchers, cash for food, and emergency nutrition for Syrian refugees in neighboring countries. WFP and USAID/BHA-funded NGO partners provide monthly food assistance to more than 5.9 million Syrians, including more than 4.8 million people inside Syria and 1.1 million refugees across Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey.

HEALTH

USAID/BHA funds 11 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 promoting effective infection prevention and control practices. USAID/BHA partners have also adapted programming to incorporate physical 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.



14

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

WASH

USAID/BHA supports 12 NGO 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 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 January to July 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 more than 100 community centers countrywide and has trained more than 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's 15 protection partners, including UNICEF, 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.

SHELTER AND RELIEF COMMODITIES

USAID/BHA supports 13 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.



1.5 Million

People Reached by
State/PRM-Supported
Relief Commodities in
Northwest Syria From
January to July 2020

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 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 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 opposition-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 UN Security Council (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 Bab al-Hawa 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	Agriculture and Food Security; Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS); Monitoring and Evaluation; Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA); Protection; Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM); Health; Humanitarian Policy, Studies, Analysis, or Applications; Nutrition; WASH; Shelter and Settlements	Syria	\$197,748,574
IOM	MPCA, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Syria	\$19,000,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIM	Syria	\$4,000,000
UNICEF	HCIM, Health, WASH, Nutrition, Protection	Syria	\$12,251,803
Program Support		Syria	\$931,287

TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING IN SYRIA IN FY 2020			\$233,931,664
Food Assistance ²			
NGOs	Cash Transfers for Food; Food Vouchers; Local, Regional, and International Procurement (LRIP); Complementary Services	Syria	\$189,264,015
WFP	Food Vouchers, LRIP, Nutrition, Complementary Services	Syria	\$235,000,000
TOTAL FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING IN SYRIA IN FY 2020			\$424,264,015
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN SYRIA IN FY 2020			\$658,195,679
STATE/PRM			
Implementing Partners	Capacity Building, Cash-Based Programming, Education, Emergency Food Assistance, Health, Protection, Livelihoods, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Syria	\$33,000,000
UNHCR	Camp Coordination and Camp Management, Health, Livelihoods, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Syria	\$104,910,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN SYRIA IN FY 2020			\$137,910,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN SYRIA IN FY 2020			\$796,105,679

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	\$20,500,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN EGYPT IN FY 2020			\$20,500,000
STATE/PRM			
Implementing Partners	Child Protection, Education, Health, Mental Health, Livelihoods, Protection, Psychosocial Assistance	Egypt	\$1,772,905
UNHCR	Cash-Based Programming, Education, Health, Livelihoods, Mental Health, Protection, Relief Commodities	Egypt	\$12,410,000
UNICEF	Cash-Based Programming, Child Protection, Education, Gender-Based Violence Prevention, Health, Nutrition, Youth Programs	Egypt	\$2,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN EGYPT IN FY 2020			\$16,182,905
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN EGYPT IN FY 2020			\$36,682,905
USAID/BHA			
Food Assistance			
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food	Iraq	\$9,952,496

TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN IRAQ IN FY 2020			\$9,952,496
STATE/PRM			
Implementing Partners	Gender-Based Violence Protection, Health, Livelihoods, Mental Health, Protection, Psychosocial Assistance, WASH	Iraq	\$6,264,193
IOM	Durable Solutions, Education, Information Coordination, Livelihoods, Social Cohesion	Iraq	\$1,838,609
UNHCR	Camp Coordination and Camp Management, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements	Iraq	\$30,810,000
UNICEF	Child Protection, Education, Nutrition, WASH	Iraq	\$1,600,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN IRAQ IN FY 2020			\$40,512,802
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN IRAQ IN FY 2020			\$50,465,298
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 Partners	Capacity Building, Cash-Based Programming, Health, Protection, Livelihoods, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Jordan	\$19,844,419
International Labor Organization (ILO)	Livelihoods	Jordan	\$2,491,223
IOM	Cash-Based Programming, Transportation	Jordan	\$3,500,000
UNHCR	Camp Coordination and Camp Management, Cash-Based Programming, Education, Health, Livelihoods, Mental Health, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Jordan	\$66,080,000
UNICEF	Cash-Based Programming, Child Protection, Education, Gender-Based Violence Prevention, Health, Nutrition, WASH, Youth Programs	Jordan	\$25,540,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN JORDAN IN FY 2020			\$117,455,642
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN JORDAN IN FY 2020			\$180,455,642
USAID/BHA			
Food Assistance			
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers	Lebanon	\$80,000,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN LEBANON IN 2020			\$80,000,000
STATE/PRM			
Implementing Partners	Cash-Based Programming, Education, Gender-Based Violence Prevention, Health, Protection, Livelihoods, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Lebanon	\$19,246,000

UNHCR	Cash-Based Programming, Education, Health, Livelihoods, Mental Health, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Lebanon	\$117,700,000
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UNICEF	Cash-Based Programming, Child Protection, Education, Gender-Based Violence Prevention, Health, Nutrition, WASH, Youth Programs	Lebanon	\$78,100,000
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TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN LEBANON IN 2020			\$215,046,000
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TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN LEBANON IN FY 2020			\$295,046,000
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USAID/BHA			
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WFP	Food Vouchers	Turkey	\$8,000,000
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TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN TURKEY IN FY 2020			\$8,000,000
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STATE/PRM			
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Implementing Partners	Capacity Building, Education, Health, Livelihoods, Mental Health, Protection, Psychosocial Assistance, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements	Turkey	\$20,977,490
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ILO	Livelihoods	Turkey	\$9,345,508
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IOM	Capacity Building, Cash-Based Programming, Education, Health, Livelihoods, Protection, Psychosocial Support, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements	Turkey	\$11,200,000
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UNHCR	Capacity Building, Cash-Based Programming, Education, Gender-Based Violence Prevention, Health, Livelihoods, Mental Health, Protection, Relief Commodities, WASH	Turkey	\$55,620,000
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UNICEF	Cash-Based Programming, Child Protection, Education, Gender-Based Violence Prevention, Health, Nutrition, WASH, Youth Programs	Turkey	\$39,530,000
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TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN TURKEY IN 2020			\$136,672,998
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TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN TURKEY IN FY 2020			\$144,672,998
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STATE/PRM			
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UNHCR	Cash-Based Programming, Education, Health, Livelihoods, Protection	Regional	\$1,500,000
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TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$1,500,000
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TOTAL REGIONAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2020			\$1,500,000
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USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2020³

TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2020			\$839,648,175
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TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2020			\$665,280,347
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TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FY 2020			\$1,504,928,522
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FUNDING FOR SYRIA REGIONAL COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE¹			
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	\$6,730,000
NGOs	Cash-Based Programming, Relief Commodities	Lebanon, Turkey	\$1,087,723
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	\$23,120,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$83,285,723
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE FOR SYRIANS IN FY 2020			\$140,627,708

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	\$6,077,778,800
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2020	\$5,926,093,122
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2020	\$12,003,871,922

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 29, 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 September 29, 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
- Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at reliefweb.int.

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)