

Syria – Complex Emergency

NOVEMBER 15, 2022

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<p>14.6 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Population in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Syria</p> <p><i>UN – February 2022</i></p>	<p>12 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Food-Insecure Population in Syria</p> <p><i>UN – February 2022</i></p>	<p>6.7 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of IDPs in Syria</p> <p><i>UN – March 2022</i></p>	<p>5.5 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated People USAID/BHA Reaches per Month in Syria</p> <p><i>USAID/BHA – March 2022</i></p>	<p>2.1 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated People State/PRM Reaches per Month in Syria</p> <p><i>State/PRM – Sept 2021</i></p>
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- A November 6 SARG attack on Idlib city resulted in at least 9 fatalities, injury to 75 people, and displacement of at least 400 households.
- The UN provided humanitarian assistance through cross-line convoys to Idlib and RAATA in late October.
- Health actors recorded more than 35,600 cases of acute watery diarrhea, a proxy for suspected cholera, across all 14 governorates as of November 9.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Syria Response in FYs 2012–2022	USAID/BHA ¹	\$8,066,929,129
	State/PRM ²	\$7,791,400,271
	Total³	\$15,858,329,400

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

² U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

³ FY 2023 funding for the Syria Complex Emergency will be included in future products when committed/obligated. For information on the U.S. Government's funding toward the response in FY 2022, refer to Syria Fact Sheet #11 released on September 30, 2022, available on the USAID website at <https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work>.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

SARG Attack in Idlib Results in Civilian Fatalities, Further Displacement

Syrian Arab Republic Government (SARG) forces attacked opposition-held Idlib Governorate's Idlib city on November 6; while SARG forces launched an estimated 30 rockets toward internally displaced persons (IDP) camps, Government of the Russian Federation (GoRF) warplanes conducted concurrent airstrikes in the area, international media reports. The attack, involving airstrikes and shelling, resulted in at least nine civilian fatalities—including four children—and injury of at least 75 people. Furthermore, the attack destroyed hundreds of settlement homes in three IDP camps supported by humanitarian organizations, according to the UN. The UN estimates that at least 400 households are newly displaced due to the attack. Moreover, there have been at least 121 civilian fatalities and 210 injuries due to hostilities in the area to date in 2022, the UN reports.

In a joint statement on November 6, the Director of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Middle East and North Africa Bureau Ayman Gharaibeh, the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Syria Crisis Muhannad Hadi, and the Acting UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Syria Sundipto Mukerjee condemned the attack. The November 6 attack represents the latest violation of the 2020 truce between the Government of Turkey (GoT) and the GoRF meant to end Russian-supported Syrian government offensives in Idlib. The UN continues to advocate for all parties to the conflict to prioritize measures safeguarding the safety and security of civilians and civilian infrastructure, and adherence to international humanitarian law.

UN Delivers Critical Humanitarian Supplies Through Cross-Line Delivery

On October 22, the UN dispatched an 18-truck cross-line convoy carrying humanitarian assistance from SARG-held Aleppo to opposition-held Sarmada town in Idlib. The convoy transported UN World Food Program (WFP) food and nutrition commodities sufficient to provide approximately 43,500 individuals with critical assistance for one month. The convoy also included six trucks carrying an estimated 14,690 cubic feet of relief commodities, such as blankets, dignity kits, hygiene kits, medical supplies, nutrition items, and plastic sheets, from UNHCR, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), and the UN World Health Organization (WHO). The trucks arrived in Sarmada on October 22 and returned to Aleppo on October 23 without issues. This is the eighth cross-line humanitarian delivery overall, and the third cross-line delivery since the July 12 passage of UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2642 renewing UN cross-border access to the northwest from Turkey.

The UN also facilitated a cross-line convoy to Ras al Ain–Tel Abyad area (RAATA) from Al Hasakah's Qamishli city, under Self Administration of Northeast Syria (SANES) control on October 27, representing the first aid delivery into RAATA since 2019 when GoT and affiliated non-state armed groups took control. The convoy included critical cholera and other health supplies amid the worsening cholera outbreak and ongoing spread of the parasitic disease leishmaniasis in the area. USAID/BHA advocacy and coordination helped facilitate approvals for the humanitarian convoy.

Cholera Continues to Impact Vulnerable Populations, Strains Health System

Since the SARG Ministry of Health declared a cholera outbreak in Aleppo Governorate following laboratory confirmation of the disease on September 10, the outbreak continued to spread to other areas of Syria in the subsequent weeks. Between August 25 and November 9, health actors recorded nearly 35,600 cases of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) representing an increase of more than 29,600 AWD cases deaths since September 23; there have also been at least 85 cholera-related deaths in nine

of Syria's 14 governorates and laboratory testing had confirmed more than 1,300 total cholera cases across Aleppo, Ar Raqqa, and Dayr Az Zawr governorates as of October 29, WHO reports. However, the number of cases is likely underreported due to limited testing capacity, according to the UN. The UN uses AWD as an indicator for the likely presence of cholera in areas where a cholera outbreak has been declared or is suspected. Laboratory testing to confirm suspected cases is a significant constraint in Syria, as not all governorates have capable microbiology labs to conduct tests, WHO reports.

Untreated water from the Euphrates River remains the main source of cholera cases in northeast Syria, and chlorination along the river continues to be a challenge, relief actors report. In addition to providing water quality testing to 95 treatment and pumping stations along the Euphrates River, relief actors are chlorinating 850 water trucks per day at 45 locations along the Euphrates River to provide potable water to populations in need. The cumulative incidence rate of cholera since the start of the outbreak is 0.14 percent across Syria, representing an approximate 0.06 percent increase since mid-October.

KEY FIGURES



6.6 Million

Number of people USAID/BHA reaches with monthly food assistance in Syria and neighboring countries



5 Million

Number of people USAID/BHA reached with health assistance in FY 2021

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

USAID/BHA supports UNICEF, WFP, and 15 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) providing emergency food and nutrition assistance within Syria and to Syrian refugees in neighboring countries. In Syria, USAID/BHA partners provide vulnerable populations with cash transfers for food, emergency nutritional products, food vouchers, and monthly in-kind food rations while also distributing wheat flour and yeast to bakeries. USAID/BHA assistance also supports the provision of cash transfers for food and food vouchers for Syrian refugees. WFP and USAID/BHA-funded NGO partners provide monthly food assistance to more than 6.6 million Syrians, including more than 5.5 million people inside Syria and 1.1 million refugees across Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey. State/PRM supports UNICEF to monitor, identify, and respond to cases of malnutrition in refugee populations throughout Turkey, as well as support awareness campaigns on breastfeeding and best practices to prevent chronic malnutrition.

HEALTH

USAID/BHA funds 11 partners, including UNFPA, UNICEF, and WHO, to provide critical health assistance in Syria, cumulatively supporting approximately 480 health facilities. USAID/BHA supported activities include community-based health education, direct health services through mobile medical units, reproductive health services, the provision of equipment for health facilities, and training for Syrian medical workers. USAID/BHA is supporting additional NGOs to bolster coronavirus disease (COVID-19) response capacity in Syria by establishing primary health care services in areas with limited health infrastructure, providing equipment to intensive care and isolation facilities, and promoting effective infection prevention and control practices.

State/PRM partner UNHCR provides medical consultations and facilitates

community-based health programming through community clinics and health points in UNHCR-supported community centers in areas of Syria with minimally accessible health services. The UN agency also distributes masks and sanitation supplies to community centers throughout the country to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. To date in 2022, approximately 160,000 people received primary health services in UNHCR-supported health facilities. In addition, State/PRM supports UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO, and nine NGO partners to provide health assistance, including medical consultations, specialized health services, and vaccinations, for refugees in neighboring countries.



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

WASH

USAID/BHA supports 13 NGO partners, as well as the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UNICEF, to provide water, sanitation, and hygiene (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 handwashing stations and latrines—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. Furthermore, USAID/BHA is supporting NGOs to strengthen COVID-19 response activities by increasing water trucking frequency to communities and IDP sites, providing additional water for handwashing and cleaning, and distributing soap and other WASH commodities. State/PRM also supports partners—including one NGO in Iraq, one international organization in Jordan and Lebanon, and a third partner in Syria—to provide WASH assistance to Syrian refugees, as well as vulnerable populations inside Syria. With State/PRM support, UNHCR and partners repair WASH networks to improve sanitation services and enable the provision of safe drinking water in northwest Syria.



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Number of centers through which State/PRM provides protection assistance in Syria

PROTECTION

State/PRM partner UNHCR provides comprehensive protection services—including identifying protection cases, facilitating community-based protection interventions, providing referrals to legal aid services, and providing educational services for parents and children—for conflict-affected and displaced Syrians in both Syria and neighboring countries. With State/PRM funding, UNHCR engages 2,800 community outreach volunteers and supports approximately 120 mobile units and nearly 130 community centers and satellite centers throughout Syria to provide psychosocial support (PSS), legal counseling, and case management and referrals. UNHCR also supports community-led initiatives that aim to foster better community relations and support the needs of IDPs, returnees, and host communities. State/PRM also supports IOM, UNICEF, and NGO partners to provide protection assistance, including legal documentation and case management services, for Syrian refugees in neighboring countries.

USAID/BHA funds 13 protection partners, including IOM and UNFPA, to provide PSS, 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 gender-based violence survivors throughout Syria.



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Number of USG partners providing shelter and relief commodities in Syria and neighboring countries

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 northern Syria, USAID/BHA partners establish and maintain IDP camps, rehabilitate existing IDP camps and collective centers, and distribute emergency shelter items. State/PRM partner UNHCR supports the replacement of damaged tents for households in IDP camps in northeast Syria. State/PRM also supports IOM, UNHCR, and six NGO partners to provide shelter and relief commodities to refugees in neighboring countries.

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 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 (SDF) announced the capture of the last ISIS strongholds in Syria.
- On July 12, 2022, the UNSC adopted UNSC Resolution 2642, authorizing UN cross-border 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 six months, with a potential renewal in January for an additional six months—until July 10, 2023—subject to the issuance of a UN Secretary-General report detailing humanitarian needs in Syria and adoption of a new UNSC resolution. The resolution is a partial renewal of previous cross-border aid resolutions, beginning with UNSC Resolution 2165 on July 14, 2014, which authorized four border crossings from Iraq, Jordan, and Turkey.

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).

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