

Syria – Complex Emergency

JANUARY 13, 2023

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<p>15.3 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Population in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Syria</p> <p><i>UN – December 2022</i></p>	<p>12.1 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Food-Insecure Population in Syria</p> <p><i>UN – December 2022</i></p>	<p>6.8 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of IDPs in Syria</p> <p><i>UN – December 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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- The UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2672 on January 9, renewing UN authorization to provide cross-border humanitarian assistance into northwest Syria for six months.
- The number of Syrians in need of humanitarian assistance has risen to 15.3 million in 2023, a 5 percent increase from 2022, according to the UN.
- The UN provided humanitarian assistance through a cross-line convoy from Aleppo to Idlib on January 8.



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

UNSC Renews Authorization for UN Cross-Border Assistance into Syria for Six Months

The UN Security Council (UNSC) adopted Resolution 2672 on January 9, renewing UN authorization to provide cross-border humanitarian assistance into northwest Syria via Turkey's Bab al-Hawa border crossing until July 10, 2023, a six-month period. Resolution 2672 enables UN humanitarian assistance delivery into northwest Syria to continue, providing millions of Syrians with critical relief commodities, such as food assistance, coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccines, and medical, protection, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) supplies until July 2023. Bab al-Hawa is the only remaining crossing authorized for UN cross-border assistance into Syria, following the expiration of UN authorization to access Iraq's Al Yaroubia crossing into northeast Syria's Al Hasakah Governorate and Turkey's Bab al-Salama crossing into northwest Syria's Aleppo Governorate in January 2020 and July 2020, respectively.

UN cross-border assistance reached nearly 2.7 million Syrians each month in 2022, transporting commodities to provide emergency food assistance for 1.8 million people and nutrition assistance for 85,000, according to the UN. With the adoption of Resolution 2672, the UN Monitoring Mechanism—which works to verify humanitarian commodities at the border crossing point—is also permitted to continue.

15.3 Million Syrians in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in 2023

Syria faces escalating humanitarian needs in 2023; most notably, the estimated number of people in need has increased by nearly 5 percent from 2022 to 2023, now estimated at 15.3 million—the highest since the conflict began in 2011, according to the recently released UN 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) for Syria. Additionally, the HNO reports that with 6.8 million displaced people, Syria remains the country with the highest number of internally displaced persons (IDP) in the world, and more than 2 million people live in informal settlements and planned camps, a 5 percent increase since 2021. Moreover, every sub-district in Syria is experiencing some degree of humanitarian stress for the first time ever recorded, according to the UN.

Poor economic conditions drove additional needs with prices for basic commodities nearly doubling, and high inflation coupled with currency depreciation continues to severely limit the purchasing power of Syrians. The near collapse of basic services and critical infrastructure continues to decimate life-saving health services, with less than 60 percent of hospitals fully functional and Syrians experiencing widespread power outages, according to the 2023 HNO. Furthermore, public health and environmental shocks—including continuation of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, a cholera outbreak declared in September 2022, and severe drought—have compounded the existing humanitarian challenges resulting in seven out of ten people in Syria relying on humanitarian assistance, the UN reports.

UN Delivers Life-Saving Humanitarian Supplies Via Cross-Line Delivery

The UN dispatched an 18-truck cross-line convoy carrying humanitarian assistance from Syrian Arab Republic Government (SARG)-held Aleppo to opposition-held Sarmada town in Idlib Governorate on January 8. The convoy transported more than 530 metric tons of UN World Food Program (WFP) food and nutrition commodities sufficient to feed 43,500 people. The convoy also included trucks carrying humanitarian commodities from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Children's

Fund (UNICEF), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), and the UN World Health Organization (WHO). This is the tenth cross-line humanitarian convoy since July 2021.

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 2022

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 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. In 2022, more than 160,000 people received primary health services in UNHCR-supported health facilities. In November, UNHCR supported 22,500 IDPs and 2,130 refugees and asylum-seekers with primary health care services. Services were provided through 13 primary health care facilities supported by partners in Aleppo, Al Hasakah, Damascus, Hamah, Homs, and Rif Damascus governorates. In addition, nearly 300 refugees and asylum-seekers received secondary health

care services at hospitals. UNHCR also conducted neonatal homecare training for 40 female volunteers in Aleppo and Tartous governorates during November.

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 engaged a network of nearly 2,900 community outreach volunteers from diverse backgrounds and supported approximately 120 mobile units and approximately 90 community centers and more than 30 satellite centers across all 14 governorates in Syria to provide psychosocial support (PSS), legal counseling, and case management and referrals throughout 2022. With State/PRM funding, UNHCR engages 2,900 community outreach volunteers and supports approximately 120 mobile units and nearly 130 community centers and satellite centers across all 14 governorates in Syria to provide 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. In November, UNHCR approved nearly 230 new

community-led initiatives; the new initiatives will aim to support approximately 300,000 people in Aleppo, Damascus Dar'a, Homs, Latakia, Rif Damascus, and Tartous. 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.

SHELTER AND RELIEF COMMODITIES



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

State/PRM also supports IOM, UNHCR, and six NGO partners to provide shelter and relief commodities to refugees in neighboring countries. 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. As part of its emergency shelter response in 2022, UNHCR rehabilitated seven collective shelters and replaced 2,500 tents in camps. 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 January 9, the UNSC adopted UNSC Resolution 2762, reauthorizing UN cross-border delivery of humanitarian aid to conflict-affected populations in Syria for six months. The resolution permits the UN's use of Turkey's Bab al-Hawa crossing for the delivery of humanitarian assistance into Syria until July 10, 2023. 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)