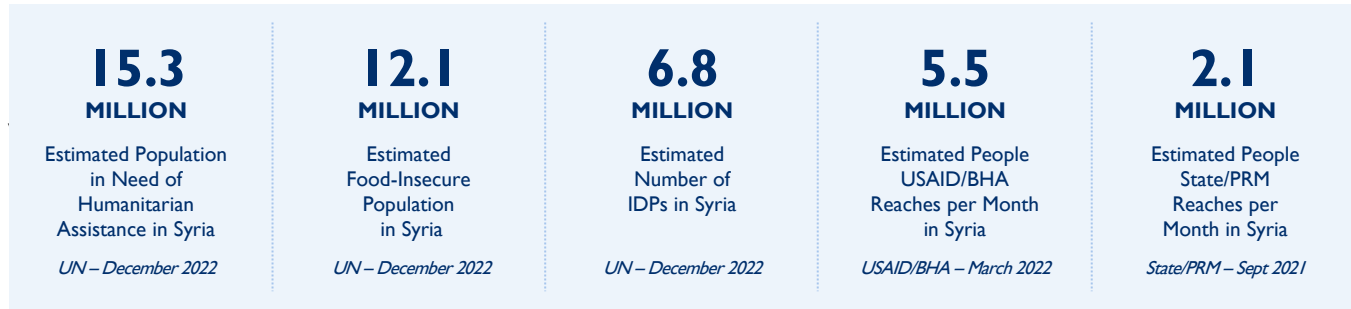


Syria – Complex Emergency

APRIL 7, 2023

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- A strong windstorm in central and northwest Syria on March 29 resulted in seven deaths, as well as widespread damage and destruction of camps and shelters for earthquake-affected individuals and IDPs.
- The UN projects a continued increase in the number of cholera cases—particularly in earthquake-affected areas of northwest Syria—throughout 2023 amid significant funding gaps for WASH sector response efforts.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING	USAID/BHA ¹	\$8,166,929,129
For the Syria Regional Crisis Response in FYs 2012–2023	State/PRM ²	\$7,791,400,271
		Total³ \$15,958,329,400

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 7

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 The total USG funding for the Syria regional crisis response does not include funding for the 2023 earthquake response, which is reported separately.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Windstorm Exacerbates Humanitarian Needs in Earthquake-Affected Areas

A strong windstorm—with wind speeds exceeding 60 miles per hour—resulted in the deaths of seven people, including two children, and injury to several others due to falling debris in central and northwest Syria on March 29, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The winds also caused widespread destruction of camps and shelters hosting internally displaced persons (IDPs) in northwest Syria, including newly constructed shelters for earthquake-affected individuals. Relief actors assessed the damage caused to shelters across 15 IDP camps on March 29, reporting that the storm had uprooted more than 100 tents and partially damaged others in sites assessed in Aleppo and Idlib governorates. In total, the windstorm damaged an estimated 1,000 tents across all affected areas, according to the UN. Furthermore, the severe weather conditions damaged agricultural lands and critical infrastructure, including electrical towers and roads, according to a humanitarian organization. In response, humanitarian actors had reinstalled tents, removed rubble and secured the crumbling walls, and transported injured people to hospitals for treatment, as of March 30.

As many as 800,000 people are currently living in tents in northwest Syria, making them vulnerable to fires and adverse weather events, according to the UN. Relief actors report that many of the shelters constructed prior to the earthquake are worn or damaged due to years of harsh weather conditions. The windstorm, in addition to recent heavy rainfall and floods in northwest Syria between March 17 and 19, resulted in damage to more than 3,000 tents in earthquake-affected areas of the region. The Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster—the coordinating body responsible for ensuring IDPs have equitable access to assistance, protection, and services in displacement sites, comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders—reported an urgent need for emergency food parcels, relief supplies, and tents.

UN Continues Cross-Border Transport of Relief Items for Earthquake-Affected People

As of March 31, the UN and its humanitarian partners had sent more than 1,200 trucks from Türkiye into northwest Syria to deliver assistance—including cholera treatment kits, food, hygiene and dignity kits, medical supplies, shelter materials, winter supplies, and other life-saving items—to earthquake-affected people since the earthquakes struck on February 9. Approximately 900 of the 1,200 trucks passed through the Bab al-Hawa border crossing, while an estimated 270 trucks transported relief commodities through al Ra'ee and Bab al-Salam border crossing points during the same period, following Syrian Arab Republic Government (SARG) President Bashar al-Assad's decision on February 13 to grant the UN access to the two additional crossing points to address earthquake-related humanitarian needs.

Poor WASH Conditions Continue to Contribute to Cholera Outbreak Across Syria

Inadequate access and disruptions to water, hygiene, and sanitation (WASH) services continue to put populations at risk of contracting waterborne diseases, including cholera. Health actors recorded approximately 105,959 cases of acute watery diarrhea—or suspected cholera cases—across Syria between August 25, 2022, when the outbreak began, and March 19, 2023, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) reports. While reports of suspected cases have generally decreased gradually since reaching a peak in October 2022, the UN projects an increase in the number of cholera cases throughout 2023 due to inconsistent access to safe drinking water resulting from structural damage to water treatment plants and pumping stations across Syria. The most affected governorates to date are

located in northwest Syria, with approximately 34,000 cases reported in Idlib, 27,000 cases reported in Aleppo, 21,000 cases reported in Dayr az Zawr, and 19,000 cases reported in Ar Raqqa as of April 3. People sheltering in collective centers in northwest Syria following the earthquakes face a heightened risk of cholera due to overcrowding, inadequate access to WASH facilities, and water shortages.

In response to the ongoing cholera outbreak in Syria, WHO continues to work with the Health and WASH clusters—the coordinating bodies for humanitarian health and WASH activities—to coordinate cholera response efforts. Across earthquake-affected areas, WHO has fully restored infectious disease surveillance systems and laboratory capacity and expanded disease surveillance to cover emergency shelters in earthquake-affected areas. Furthermore, WHO continues to transport cholera supplies, including testing and treatment kits, to at-risk areas as of March 20. Despite this progress, lack of funding continues to threaten the continuity of cholera response operations in northwest and other regions of Syria, according to the UN. Currently, the 2023 Syria Humanitarian Response Plan has only been funded by nearly 6 percent and the UN anticipates significant funding gaps for WASH sector response efforts.

KEY FIGURES



6.6 Million

Number of people reached with monthly food assistance and cash transfers in Syria and neighboring countries

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

USAID/BHA supports the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the UN World Food Program (WFP), and 15 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 Türkiye as part of their complex emergency response. State/PRM supports UNICEF to monitor, identify, and respond to cases of malnutrition in refugee populations throughout Türkiye, as well as support awareness campaigns on breastfeeding and best practices to prevent chronic malnutrition.

Moreover, WFP and five USAID/BHA NGO partners have responded to meet food assistance needs for earthquake-affected populations. WFP had reached approximately 1.2 million people in SARG- and opposition-held areas of northwest Syria with general food assistance rations and cash transfers, as well as 800,000 earthquake-affected people with ready-to-eat rations—portable food rations designed to meet the food needs of a family of five for five days—and hot meals as of March 13.



5 Million

Number of people
USAID/BHA reached
with health assistance in
FY 2022

HEALTH

USAID/BHA funds 11 partners, including the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF, and WHO, to provide critical health assistance in Syria through activities such as 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. Moreover, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, and seven NGOs are delivering critical health services to earthquake-affected populations in Syria, including delivery of medical supplies, deployment of mobile health and nutrition teams to provide health services, and dispatch of mobile medical units and surgical teams to treat trauma injuries and provide mental health and psychosocial support (PSS) at temporary shelters housing displaced populations.

Moreover, 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.



15

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

WASH

USAID/BHA supports 12 NGO partners, as well as the International Organization for Migration (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 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 cholera and 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.



242

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

PROTECTION

State/PRM partner UNHCR provides comprehensive protection services—including facilitating community-based protection interventions, identifying protection cases, providing educational services for parents and children, and providing referrals to legal aid services—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 90 community centers and more than 30 satellite centers across all 14 governorates in Syria to provide PSS, legal counseling, and case management and referrals throughout 2022. 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.

Furthermore, UNHCR has provided 452,000 people with protection services across Syria since the February 6 earthquakes, including awareness-raising sessions on GBV services, child protection activities, legal assistance, and psychological first aid. Following the February earthquakes, the UNHCR-led Protection Cluster, the coordinating body for humanitarian protection activities, and its partners have carried out around nearly 534,000 protection interventions—mainly in Aleppo, Hama, Latakia, and Tartous governorates—including GBV activities, legal support for civil documentation and housing, land, and property issues, mental health and PSS, monitoring, referral and case management, and protection assistance to children, people with disabilities, and older persons.

USAID/BHA funds 14 protection partners, including IOM and UNFPA, to provide case management and referral services, learning and recreational opportunities, and PSS 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 GBV survivors throughout Syria.



17

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

SHELTER AND RELIEF COMMODITIES

USAID/BHA supports 10 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. In response to the February 6 earthquakes, UNHCR had facilitated the transport of more than 130 trucks with 13,000 emergency relief kits, 8,700 tents and 850 refugee housing units, reaching more than 48,000 people in SARG-held areas. UNHCR had distributed more than 35,000 emergency relief item kits reaching a total of 169,000 affected individuals in Aleppo, Hama, south Idlib, Latakia, and Tartous governorates, as of March 28. UNHCR has also distributed an estimated 120,000 relief items to affected families, including adult diapers, rubber boots, and winter clothing kits. 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 announced the capture of the last ISIS strongholds in Syria.
- On January 9, the UN Security Council (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 Türkiye'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 Türkiye.
- On February 6, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck central-southern Türkiye—near the border with Syria—at a depth of 11.1 miles. The earthquake and subsequent aftershocks resulted in at least 6,000 deaths and injury to more than 11,200 people in Syria as of March 24, as well as damage or destruction of at least 34,000 buildings. On February 13, SARG President Bashar al-Assad granted the UN access to two additional border crossings—al Ra'ee and Bab al-Salama—for aid deliveries from Türkiye to northwest Syria for three months.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR SYRIAN REFUGEE-HOSTING COUNTRIES IN FY 2023¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
JORDAN			
USAID/BHA			
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Vouchers	Jordan	\$55,000,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN JORDAN			\$55,000,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN JORDAN IN FY 2023			\$55,000,000
LEBANON²			
USAID/BHA			
WFP	Food Assistance—Vouchers	Lebanon	\$45,000,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN LEBANON			\$45,000,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN LEBANON IN FY 2023			\$45,000,000

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2023

TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSES IN FY 2023	\$100,000,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FY 2023	\$100,000,000

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2023³

TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2023	\$8,166,929,129
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2023	\$7,791,400,271
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2023	\$15,958,329,400

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA EARTHQUAKES RESPONSE IN FY 2023⁴

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
IOM	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); Protection; Shelter and Settlements; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)	Aleppo, Idlib	\$7,500,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Affected Areas	\$15,000,000
UNICEF	Health, WASH, Protection	Affected Areas	\$5,000,000
WFP	Food Assistance	Affected Areas	\$10,000,000
WHO	Health	Affected Areas	\$1,500,000

Implementing Partners	Agriculture, Health, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Food Assistance, HCIMA, Health, Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA), Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Affected Areas	\$41,000,000
	Program Support		\$18,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$80,018,000
STATE/PRM			
UNHCR	Camp Coordination and Camp Management, HCIMA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Affected Areas	\$11,800,000
Implementing Partners	Food Assistance, Health, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Affected Areas	\$11,100,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$22,900,000
DoD⁵			
	In-Kind Relief Commodities	Affected Areas	\$4,475,623
TOTAL DoD FUNDING			\$4,475,623
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA EARTHQUAKES RESPONSE IN FY 2023			\$107,393,623

¹Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of April 7, 2023.

²Funding for Lebanon is also reported in the Lebanon Complex Emergency Fact Sheet #2 dated January 20, 2023.

³The total USG funding for the Syria regional crisis response does not include funding for the 2023 earthquake response, which is reported separately.

⁴The USG earthquake response funding was previously reported in the USG Türkiye and Syria Earthquake Fact Sheets.

⁵U.S. Department of Defense (DoD)

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)