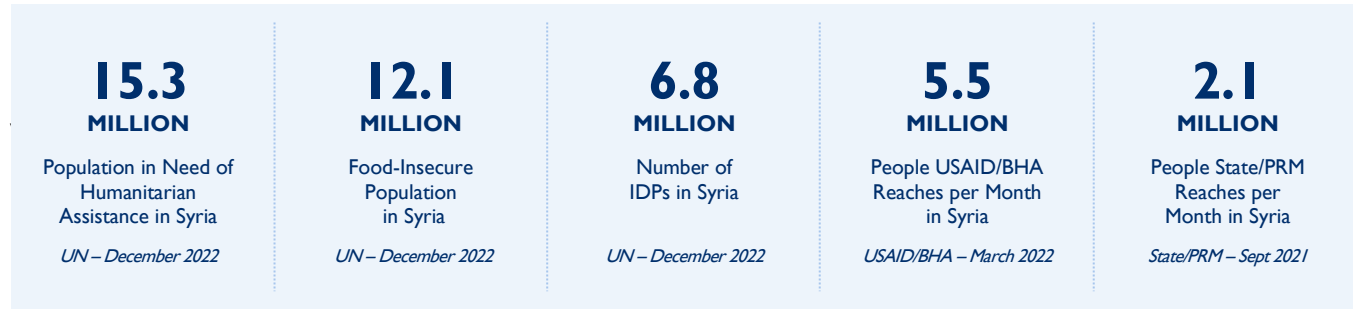


# Syria – Complex Emergency

MAY 5, 2023

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Earthquake-affected IDPs in northern Syria temporarily sheltering at displacement sites face limited access to basic services, while 265,000 people remain in need of shelter support.
- The average price for the standard food basket in Syria increased 75 percent between March 2022 and 2023 due to currency depreciation, heightened energy costs, war in Ukraine, and other factors.
- UN agencies—including USG partners—have delivered more than 2,000 truckloads of relief items cross-border from Türkiye to Syria since the early February earthquakes.



<b>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING</b> For the Syria Regional Crisis Response in FYs 2012–2023	USAID/BHA <sup>1</sup>	<b>\$8,166,929,129</b>
	State/PRM <sup>2</sup>	<b>\$7,791,400,271</b>
<b>Total<sup>3</sup></b>		<b>\$15,958,329,400</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> U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

<sup>3</sup> 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

### **Earthquake-Affected IDPs Require Shelter Support, Face Limited Access to Basic Services at Displacement Sites**

Approximately 265,000 people in northern Syria that were displaced or secondarily displaced due to the earthquakes that struck southern Türkiye in early February remained in need of safe and dignified shelter as of late April, the UN reports. Although the number of collective displacement sites for internally displaced persons (IDPs) has decreased since the earthquakes, an estimated 205 collective sites across Syria continue to shelter earthquake-displaced individuals as of mid-April. A late March assessment of 110 shelters by the Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian camp coordination and management activities, comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders—found that nine collective displacement shelters hosting a combined 3,500 individuals in Aleppo Governorate faced severe gaps in access to basic services, including food and safe drinking water. Approximately 70 additional collective shelters across northwest Syria—hosting an estimated 50,000 individuals—faced moderate service gaps. Despite continued efforts to assess humanitarian needs at collective centers, the rapid establishment and closure of many collective IDP sites is hindering efforts to collect data on the needs of earthquake-affected populations in Syria, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

In response to heightened shelter and other humanitarian needs resulting from the earthquakes, humanitarian actors—including USAID/BHA partners—provided emergency relief supplies to more than 1 million earthquake-affected individuals, including tents to nearly 112,000 people and emergency shelter kits—comprising plastic sheeting and other equipment used to erect or repair temporary shelters—to more than 17,000 individuals across northwest Syria between early February and mid-April, according to the UN. Additionally, humanitarian agencies distributed ready-to-eat rations to approximately 1.1 million people residing in collective shelters in Aleppo, Hamah, and Latakia governorates during the same period.

### **As Food Prices Continue to Increase Across Syria, USAID/BHA Partners Respond with Cash and Food Aid**

In March, the average national price of the standard food basket—a group of essential food commodities including bread, lentils, rice, sugar, and oil—reached approximately \$113, marking a 75 percent increase since March 2022 and a threefold increase since March 2021, according to the UN World Food Program (WFP). The standard food basket price has increased by as much as 91 percent in some governorates since March 2022, with food security actors citing the Government of Russian Federation invasion of Ukraine, the heightened cost and shortage of energy, the depreciation of the Syrian pound, economic crisis in neighboring Lebanon, and the aftermath of the February earthquakes as some of the primary driving factors. Furthermore, the cost of the Minimum Expenditure Basket—the average cost of goods and services that a five-member household requires to meet basic needs for one month—reached approximately \$298 by March, representing a nearly 80 percent increase compared to March 2022. The aftermath of the February earthquakes is expected to continue affecting the costs of food and other essential items, particularly in the worst-affected governorates of Aleppo, Hamah, Idlib, Latakia, and Tartus, according to WFP.

To mitigate potential or heightened food insecurity among Syria's most vulnerable populations, a USAID/BHA NGO partner delivered emergency in-kind food assistance, cash-based transfers, and food vouchers to populations in northern Syria—including Aleppo, Ar Raqqah, and Idlib governorates—during March. The NGO distributed more than 1 million packs of bread produced by local bakeries, benefitting approximately 117,000 people. In Aleppo and Idlib, the partner distributed food vouchers to more than

119,000 individuals across nearly 60 locations, of which nearly 20 were IDP camps. Meanwhile, in Aleppo and Ar Raqqa, the NGO provided electronic food vouchers to more than 93,000 additional individuals. During March, relief actors reached more than 181,000 earthquake-affected people with emergency food assistance in addition to regularly planned general food assistance.

## **UN Delivers More Than 2,000 Truckloads of Aid Cross-Border into Northwest Syria Since February Earthquakes**

Since the February 6 earthquakes, UN agencies—including U.S. Government (USG) partners—had transported more than 2,000 trucks carrying critical relief commodities from Türkiye to northwestern Syria as of early May, the UN reports. The total includes approximately 1,700 trucks that have delivered aid through the Bab al-Hawa border crossing point (BCP), nearly 280 trucks that have crossed through the Bab al-Salama BCP, and more than 60 trucks that have crossed through the Al Ra'ee BCP, according to the UN. Seven UN agencies—including the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UNHCR, UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), WFP, and UN World Health Organization (WHO)—transported commodities including in-kind food assistance, pharmaceuticals, and other relief items. As of April 25, more than 275,000 earthquake-affected people had received emergency tents and relief supplies delivered through the cross-border convoys.

### **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 UNICEF, 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 1.4 million people in Syrian Arab Republic Government (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 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 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 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, Hamah, Latakia, and Tartus 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, Hamah, south Idlib, Latakia, and

Tartus 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 to or the 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 2023<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>JORDAN</b>			
USAID/BHA			
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers	Jordan	\$55,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN JORDAN</b>			<b>\$55,000,000</b>

<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN JORDAN IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$55,000,000</b>
<b>LEBANON<sup>2</sup></b>			
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
WFP	Food Vouchers	Lebanon	\$45,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN LEBANON</b>			<b>\$45,000,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN LEBANON IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$45,000,000</b>

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

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

#### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2023<sup>3</sup>

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

#### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA EARTHQUAKES RESPONSE IN FY 2023<sup>4</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
IOM	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); Protection; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Aleppo, Idlib	\$7,500,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Affected Areas	\$15,000,000
UNICEF	Health, Protection, WASH	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, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Affected Areas	\$41,000,000
	Program Support		\$18,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$80,018,000</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
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

<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>		<b>\$22,900,000</b>
	<b>DoD<sup>5</sup></b>	
	In-Kind Relief Commodities	Affected Areas
		<b>\$4,475,623</b>
<b>TOTAL DoD FUNDING</b>		<b>\$4,475,623</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA EARTHQUAKES RESPONSE IN FY 2023</b>		<b>\$107,393,623</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 April 7, 2023.

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

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

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

<sup>5</sup>U.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)